

Orchard View Intermediate



Students Pot One Year Old Native Trees to Grow at School

Orchard View Intermediate School, Martinsburg, WV, began participating in Cacapon Institute's Potomac Headwaters Leaders of Watersheds Growing Native project in Spring 2015, one year ago. Growing Native focuses on growing native tree species at

planted trees in mobile pots on their Potomac Valley Audubon Society watershed field trip at Poor House Farm, Martinsburg, WV.

Students rotated to different stations throughout the day exploring different concepts learned in the classroom and experiencing a day in nature.

Over the span of two days, 225 students potted 75 native tree whips (1 year-old trees) with Cacapon Institute staff. Students reviewed the role trees play within our environment to reduce pollution, create habitat, and food resources for wildlife and

humans. Students were introduced to three native tree species and identify key characteristics of them. Species included: American hornbeam, common hackberry, and American beech.

The trees were transported to the school's fenced grow-out station where they will continue



to grow over the next year. When mature, the trees are dispersed to the community for planting. These trees will aid in the reduction of stormwater runoff pollution, the top cause of river pollution.



schools. Students participate in classroom educational lessons that cover topics of tree structure, species identification, and the role trees play in watershed health.

The 4th grade, now 5th grade, students established the first set of trees growing at the school during the spring 2014 season. This spring the current 4th grade students

