

It's Raining Classrooms! Rain Gardens for Learning at Claud E. Kitchens Outdoor School at Fairview

Educators Gather To Learn Rain Garden Basics and Installation

Cacapon Institute (CI) was awarded a Chesapeake Bay Trust Mini-Grant to facilitate the *It's Raining Classrooms! Rain Gardens for Learning* program in coordination with the Potomac Headwaters Leader of Watersheds (PHLOW) program. PHLOW is CI's robust education offerings at schools in MD, WV, and VA. The *It's Raining Classrooms!* program was created to

determination, native plant selection and layout, along with budgets and grant opportunities. The webinar audiences consisted of formal and non-formal educators from MD, WV, VA, SC, DE, and NJ.

In addition to the webinars, an hour-long presentation was offered at the Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education (MAEOE) Conference in February in Ocean City, MD. The presentation covered PHLOW educational lessons linked to rain garden installations and the NGSS Standards along with providing a basic introduction to rain garden installation.

CI partnered with Fairview Outdoor School to provide the hands-on Rain Garden Installation Workshop on Saturday, April 16th. Fairview Outdoor School had the ideal area that was suffering flooding and erosion issues, along with creating safety concerns during the winter. Following the Workshop the issues have been resolved and the Outdoor School has an educational resource that is used during the Washington County Public School week-long field trips on site.



This program served multiple purposes and resulted in many benefits. Educators walked away with education resources and an understanding of how to install rain gardens at their school, Fairview Outdoor School has resolved its flooding issues and has an outdoor learning area, there is a reduction of pollution entering the local stream system that eventually reaches the Chesapeake Bay, and finally the garden provides food and habitat to animals.



teach the teachers. Two webinars were offered leading up to the installation of a 350 square foot rain garden at Claud E. Kitchens Outdoor School at Fairview (Fairview Outdoor School) in Washington County, Maryland. The webinars were offered in December 2015 and April 2016 covering topics of basic rain garden function, site selection, size



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