

Notes from Evergreen



7th grade students explore the EHC pond and identify its inhabitants during Spring 2012 field experiences.

Quarterly Update

- EHC hosts 7th graders and Head Start in Spring 2012 programs
- EHC completes work with over 300 college students in Fall 2011-Spring 2012
- EHC hosts Woodland Workshops and Wellness Open House

Three-year Environmental Literacy Grant

Allegany County Public Schools (ACPS) is the only county in the state of Maryland to have recently been awarded the Chesapeake Bay Trust three-year environmental literacy grant. This grant, in excess of \$100,000, will help fund the work of ACCEL (the Allegany County Collaboration for Environmental Literacy) which includes ACPS, the **Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) Foundation**, Frostburg State University, Allegany College of Maryland, HRDC Head Start, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. This partnership has developed and is implementing a comprehensive five year plan co-authored by ACPS and the EHC Foundation to improve student environmental literacy by 25% county-wide and become a model for environmental literacy across the state. This plan supports Maryland's new environmental literacy graduation requirement (the first in the nation) and will also strive to ensure that all students have at least one outdoor environmental education experience every school year (as mandated by the *Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature*).

The ACCEL plan, which is also aligned with the Maryland State Curriculum, builds upon **proven outdoor environmental education programs** such as those offered at the EHC, begins education efforts early **with preschool** (Head Start) children, provides **at least one meaningful outdoor experience per child per year** from preschool through grade twelve, “**raises the bar**” by using the scientific method and proven techniques to help students investigate and understand complex environmental issues, utilizes **assessment tools** such as topic-specific pre/post-tests, offers **field experience** (and science credentials) to college students who assist with outdoor experiences and create education materials as part of their course work, and includes a robust but flexible **professional development** program for educators.

For more information on this environmental education program or help make a difference through volunteering or donation, call us on 301-687-0664, email us at foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org, or visit our web site at www.evergreenheritagecenter.org.

IN THIS ISSUE:

3-YEAR E-LIT GRANT	1
HIGHER ED PROJECTS	2
OUTDOOR FUN	3
LOGGING DEMO	3
WELL DRILLING	4
HOST AN EVENT	4

‘Evergreen Education’ is in the June issue of Maryland Life magazine!

Experiential Learning for Over 300 College Students

This academic year, as part of a project to develop a “green” site plan for the Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC), over 300 students from Frostburg State University (FSU) and Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) participated in hands-on learning while working with environmental experts from various agencies including the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Geological Survey, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Students and their professors worked with these experts to collect data on EHC natural resources including its soil, vegetation, trees, water resources, and wildlife. Students also provided recommendations regarding a nature trail, a challenge course, a nature/discovery center, an outdoor pavilion, and outdoor learning stations that can be created at the EHC. In addition, students had the opportunity to participate in a project to drill a 400-foot well for testing of EHC below ground water resources (see page 4).

In total, 320 students gained real-world work experience and added a science credential to their resumes. They also learned about potential careers, made valuable contacts with professionals working in their chosen fields, and gained over 4269 hours of experiential learning. To share their research results, the participants also created educational posters on their findings that will be used with hundreds of children who participate in EHC environmental education field classes each year. The EHC Green Site Plan project was funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, Frostburg State University, the EHC Foundation, and their partners.



FSU students participate in tree planting and research the environmental and economic benefits of trees (left). ACM students trim dead limbs from a heritage evergreen tree (below).



Evergreen is on Facebook!

The Evergreen Heritage Center is proud to announce that we are now on Facebook! If you are a Facebook user, please check out our page and click “like” to see occasional updates, news, and interesting links. You can also post on our wall! www.facebook.com/evergreenheritage



Outdoor Fun at the Evergreen Heritage Center

On Sunday afternoon, May 6th, visitors to the Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) Open House, co-sponsored by the EHC Foundation and the Western Maryland Health System, learned how to plant and harvest a kitchen garden of delicious vegetables and herbs, what other plants and insects might live in the garden, and the importance of water and how to conserve it. Visitors also discovered outdoor activities that the whole family can enjoy, and were introduced to some of the visiting animals at Evergreen including the three bunnies shown in the photo with Elaine Raesly (left, manager of the EHC environmental education program), Katy Limpert (a Frostburg State University intern participating in an EHC service learning project), and Kelly Rodgers (EHC environmental instructor). Tours of the historic Evergreen Museum and Barn (both built in the late 1700s) were also available.



Logging Demonstration

On Saturday, May 12th, as one of the events of the 2012 Maryland Stewardship Project, the EHC Foundation, in partnership with the American Tree Farm System, hosted a two-hour logging demonstration. This activity, which was conducted by logger Matt Diehl and attended by landowners from across the State, educated attendees on how to fell and remove trees utilizing minimally invasive methods that help sustain a healthy forest. The demonstration was followed by a presentation on chainsaw safety by Matt Cecil of STIHL Inc., the #1 selling brand of gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment in America.



EHC Drills Test Water Well

At the end of February 2012, as part of the Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) Green Site Plan project, Wayne's Water N Wells drilled a 400 foot deep water well to support testing by the EHC Foundation and its partners. The well is located just uphill from our parking area and is marked with an informational sign.

Soil samples were collected throughout the drilling process and are now available for research and analysis by the EHC Foundation and its partners, including the Maryland and U.S. Geological Survey organizations.



Wayne's Water N Wells drilling rig in place at the Evergreen Heritage Center.

Looking for a New Venue?



Our secluded location eliminates distractions, yet is a short drive away. We are just outside Mount Savage, only 15 minutes from Frostburg and Cumberland. Our facility can accommodate your meeting or event for up to 50 people. Guests may enjoy tours of the historic Evergreen Museum, barn, and walking trail. Catering services are available upon request.

For more information, contact **Janice Keene** at 301-687-0664 or janicekeene@evergreenheritagecenter.org.

EVERGREEN HERITAGE CENTER

15603 Trimble Road NW
Mount Savage, MD 21545

EVERGREEN HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION

101 Braddock Heights
Frostburg, MD 21532
301-687-0664 (office)
703-326-0425 (cell)
foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org