

Evergreen Heritage Center Learning Stations

Sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission

Purpose: The Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) Learning Station Project is developing the **first twelve of forty outdoor Learning Stations** defined in the FY2012 ARC-sponsored EHC “Green” Site Plan. These Stations, which focus on **forest ecology, soil and water conservation, climate change, and alternative energy solutions**, are being created and will be used by the EHC Foundation and its partners including Frostburg State University (FSU), Allegany College of Maryland (ACM), Allegany County Public Schools, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for education, job training, and research, as well as by the general public. These 12 outdoor Learning Stations are part of a five year plan developed by the Allegany County Collaboration for Environmental Literacy, which includes the Project partners as well as the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Allegany County Head Start, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT). Allegany County was the only Maryland county in 2012 funded under a multi-year grant from the CBT to implement its plan, which includes increasing student environmental literacy by at least 25% (as measured by pre/post-tests). Under this grant the EHC currently serves multiple grade levels County-wide and has achieved a 50% increase in student environmental literacy for over 1000 students this past academic year.

Results: This highly successfully ARC Project has achieved the following results:

- The Project developed twelve outdoor learning stations and **54 accompanying lessons** for elementary, middle, and high school students that can be used with the Learning Stations at the EHC, as well as in the classroom and the schoolyard. All lessons are available to educators online.
- 12 FSU and ACM classes participated in the Project, providing topical input, education resources, and recommendations on station design. In total, **217 FSU and ACM students**, including 33 student teachers, **gained 3346 hours of STEM job experience** and a valuable resume credential.
- In addition, **536 middle and high school students and 28 teachers participated in field testing** the Learning Stations and their lessons during EHC field trips and workshops.



*The **Chestnut Learning Station** explains the history of the chestnut tree, the blight that killed so many of these trees in the early 1900s, and the efforts of The American Chestnut Foundation, the EHC Foundation, and others to bring back this majestic tree. The top left photo shows the EHC chestnut orchard; the top right photo shows the EHC “Chestnut Circle”, a solid circle of logs 10 feet in diameter that represents the size of a typical chestnut tree. Standing on the Circle are two EHC instructors and Project consultants Julie Dieguez and Karen Kelly Mullin of The Wild Child, LLC, which developed the designs for the twelve EHC Learning Stations.*



Rain Garden Learning Station



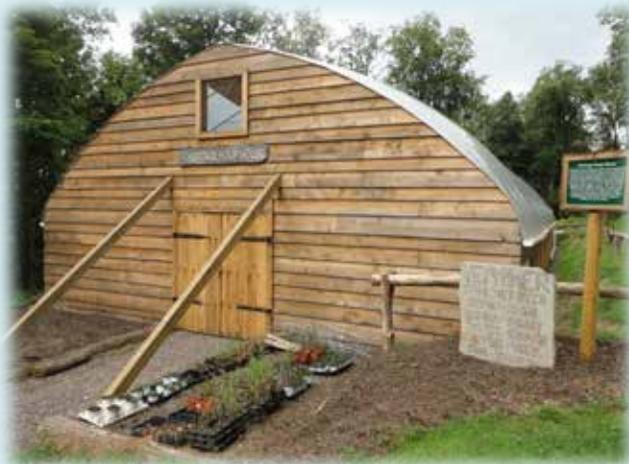
Spring House Learning Station



Forest Ecology Learning Station



Heritage Evergreens Learning Station



Hoop House Learning Station



Soil Pit Learning Station