

Notes from Evergreen



Professional development allows teachers to explore the very things that they want their students to see.



Quarterly Update

- EHC hosts first Environmental Arts event
- EHC conducts workshops for dozens of landowners as part of the Maryland Stewardship Project
- EHC provides environmental education training for Maryland teachers

Meet an Artist, Make a Masterpiece

On Sunday September 9th, the Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) Foundation held its first Environmental Art event. Local artist and EHC Foundation Board Member Maggie Pratt hosted this event to raise funds for supplies for EHC education programs. Guests contributed donations as well as their beverage of choice and spent the afternoon with Maggie expressing their inner artist. Maggie gently led everyone through the creative process while they sipped their favorite libation. Attending budding artists were supplied with paints, brushes, easels, and canvas and modeled their art work on various outdoor paintings that were on display in the newly remodeled EHC Learning Center. After creating their masterpieces, participants took them home as a memento of a fun afternoon. The EHC Foundation plans to host future art events that will feature various local artists.

The photo on the left below shows Tracy Carney painting sunflowers. The photo on the right below shows the newly renovated Learning Center, where the event was held, featuring new hickory cabinets manufactured by American Woodmark here in Allegany County.



IN THIS ISSUE:	
ART EVENT	1
STEWARDSHIP PROJECT	2
TEACHER TRAININGS	3
HOST AN EVENT	4
2013 SCHEDULE PREVIEW	4

The 2012 Maryland Stewardship Project

This year dozens of Maryland landowners visited the Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) as part of the Maryland Stewardship Project to learn about the benefits of sustainable forestry and environmental stewardship. These workshops, funded in part by the American Tree Farm System, were provided in collaboration by the EHC Foundation, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Forests Association, the Allegany County Forestry Board, Frostburg State University, Allegany College of Maryland, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and the University of Maryland Extension. In total, the program included over 20 guest speakers and attendees learned about:

- **Woodland Stewardship:** What it means to be a woodland steward and the purpose and benefits of Forest Stewardship and Tree Farm Forest Certification.
- **Woodland Income:** How a forest can yield more than just timber, including wood art, furniture, maple syrup, and medicinal herbs.
- **Woodland Water Quality:** How trees and forests impact our water, the Chesapeake Bay, and our fish populations.
- **Wildlife Management:** How wildlife management can be an integral part of forest stewardship and the many varieties of wildlife that live in our local forests.
- **Woodland Recreation:** How our forests can provide a recreation retreat while showcasing responsible stewardship.
- **Forest Ecosystems:** What an ecosystem is, how it functions and changes, and how we know when it is healthy.

The Project also included a reforestation project during which students from Frostburg State University and youth from Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) planted trees procured from the DNR state nursery (150 trees and shrubs) as well as 105 trees provided by DJS. In addition, the Project provided a logging demonstration to illustrate how landowners can remove designated trees while protecting the forest ecosystem, and also included a pilot of "Focus on Forests", a curriculum developed by the American Forest Foundation. Participants in the pilot included 74 Allegany County Environmental Science students who field-tested various outdoor activities while also obtaining skills used daily by career foresters.



Reforestation project with new signage (left). Learning how to place bird boxes with Sarah Milbourne from DNR Park Service and Matt Diehl from EHC (right).

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



Professional Development at Evergreen

Understanding habitat through a simulation game, acting as bears to demonstrate how food resources limit populations, “migrating” across a field to show the importance of stopover habitat such as wetlands near the Chesapeake Bay... All of this could be a typical experience at Evergreen for—teachers? Yes! This summer area educators participated in a number of different professional development sessions to learn to implement environmental education activities in their classrooms and understand the new environmental literacy requirements. We were pleased to welcome educators from Allegany County Public Schools, Bishop Walsh school, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, the Jefferson School, Allegany County Afterschool Program, and Allegany County Juvenile Review Board.

In July, eleven teachers participated in a three-day professional development training in the award-winning, standards-based environmental education curricula Project WET (water focused), Project WILD (wildlife and ecosystem focused), and Project Learning Tree (forest focused). Each day, the teachers learned activities from one of these resource guides and spent time planning how to incorporate these lessons into their existing curriculum. The training was provided by Elaine Raesly, our environmental education program manager and certified facilitator for these programs.

Later in July, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation began their five-day Chesapeake Classrooms for Allegany County teachers at the EHC. This is the second year of this offering, which seeks to enhance the understanding of the connections between the western watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay. Teachers participated in a variety of local field experiences and ended with an overnight stay at the LEED-certified CBF Phillip Merrill Center and trip aboard CBF’s skipjack on the Chesapeake Bay.

In addition, two workshops were held as part of the Allegany-Garrett County Science Academy. One session focused on forest ecology and water testing using SPARK electronic meters. The other was a training in the Project WILD environmental education curriculum. The EHC will be providing more one day, three day, and five day environmental education training programs in 2013. For more information, contact foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org or call 301-687-0664.



Teachers examine trees for lichens, an indicator of air quality (above left). The Thicket Game demonstrates camouflage (above center). The interrelationship between habitat components of food, water, shelter, and space is acted out by teachers (right).

EHC Wish List



All EHC education programs are funded by grants and donations. We have generated a “Wish List” of items that our staff could put to good use in furthering our educational mission. Please contact us if you are interested in making a donation of any of these items below:

- Binoculars
- Field guides
- Dissecting microscopes
- GPS units
- Digital cameras
- Taxidermy mounts in good condition
- Fur pelts in good condition
- Seed starting supplies (plug trays, seed starting soil)
- Shovels
- Mulch
- Bird nest boxes
- Late-model laptop or netbook
- Gift cards to Walmart, Staples, Amazon.com



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)

2013 SCHEDULE PREVIEW

Join us for special themed programs in 2013 including:

- **Summer Science Camp:** week-long half-day programs where children ages 8 to 12 can learn where our food comes from plus how to plant, grow, maintain, and harvest a “kitchen” garden.
- **Weekend Workshops:** three-hour programs for families and adults featuring topics such as how to build a bird nest box, how to compost kitchen scraps, preparing food from local produce, and fun activities for families to take outdoors.
- **Heritage Tours:** where visitors can step back in time, learn about the early settlement of western Allegany County and tour the historic Evergreen Mansion and Barn, both originally build in the late 1700s.