

Notes from Evergreen



Enjoy your Summer!

QUARTERLY UPDATE

- Barn renovations almost complete
- Barn Murder Mystery and Fall Harvest event planned for late Sept.
- Elementary Edibles surpasses program goals

The Evergreen Barn: A “New” Facility for the EHC

For the past several months, supported by funding from the Community Trust and France-Merrick Foundations, the Evergreen Heritage Center and Hillegas Construction Company have been working together to restore and renovate the historic Evergreen Barn. This work is almost complete and has resulted in a rustic timber venue that includes over 2500 square feet on the main level. The Barn’s stables, which encompass over 2000 square feet, will become an agricultural museum that will feature antiques and artifacts representing 200 years of Western MD farming history. The lower left photo shows the renovated barn surrounded by a light skiff of snow; the lower right photo shows the stables on the museum level.



For more information on renting the Barn for programs or events, call 301-687-0664 or email foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org.

***Elementary Edibles* Program Increases K-5 Healthy Eating**

Elementary Edibles, a hands-on education program developed by the EHC Foundation and its partners, focuses on food science and nutrition, teaching children where their food comes from and how it grows, with the goal of increasing food/ag literacy and influencing consumption of healthy foods. *Elementary Edibles* aligns with the **Maryland State Curriculum** and supports **National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes** (as developed by USDA and partners) that include teaching children about agriculture.

During this new *Elementary Edibles* program, which was piloted at South Penn Elementary in Cumberland, each participating grade grew a different vegetable, culminating in student/parent salad bar events (one per grade level). Kindergarten students planted radishes, 1st grade planted green onions, 2nd grade lettuce, 3rd grade spinach, 4th grade peas, and 5th grade herbs. All vegetables and herbs were grown in window box gardens in classrooms. **Grants/donations by the Rural Maryland Council and the American Wookmark, Wolfe, and DelFest Foundations funded this project**, including providing grow lights for those classrooms without adequate natural light and giving each teacher a selection of age-appropriate gardening books for their classrooms. During the project, children first learned about and tasted their vegetables. Then each class planted their vegetables, cared for their crops each day, and had a follow-up lesson to check on garden progress. Finally, at salad bar lunches, students and their parents had the opportunity to taste vegetables grown by all the grade levels.

Program results exceeded expectations:

- **Grade-Level-Wide Student Participation:** 439 South Penn Elementary School K-5 students (405 or 90% was the target) and all 22 of their teachers participated.
- **Parent Involvement:** An average of **81% of the parents participated in the salad bar lunch!** (35% was the target)
- **Increased Science Literacy:** **23 to 27% increase in science literacy** per 3rd to 5th grade pre/post-tests (25% was the target)
- **Increased Healthy Eating:** Approximately 50% of the students were willing to try new foods prior to the pilot. **100% were willing to try their vegetable/herb as a result of the pilot!** (a **100% increase** versus a target of 10%).
- **Quality Experiential Education:** **100% of the participating teachers rated the program as very good to excellent** for content, instruction, and program overall; 80% rated it as excellent for all three metrics.
- **Easily Replicated Program Methodology:** **90% of the teachers strongly agreed that *Elementary Edibles* is a doable program** that can be replicated at other schools.

The top left photo shows a 3rd grader voting that she loved tasting spinach, the top right photo shows 5th graders examining seeds before planting them, and the bottom photo shows kindergarten students lining up for their salad bar lunch.



We Host Events!

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 green facility can accommodate your meeting or event for up to 150 people. Guests may enjoy tours of the historic Evergreen Museum, barn, and walking trail. Catering services are also available.

For more information, contact 301-687-0664 or foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org.



The Museum's Remodeled Double Parlor

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