



Lands and Waters 2016

Looking back over our work in 2016 helps me realize how important our supporters are to our organization. Without you, our partners, volunteers, and friends, we would be unable to continue and expand our educational programs or implement the conservation projects that accompany them. So, as you read this letter, look for mention of some of the wonderful people and organizations that have made our work possible. **And, a great big thanks to all of you!**



Kelly Wilson, left, volunteer leader VolunteerFest 2016



Jeanette with teachers

Professional Development

Taking students outside to enrich learning has finally become recognized as a valuable teaching tool. Many schools in our area now have living classrooms that support disciplines such as math, science, art, literature, and the environment. We advocated for outdoor education long before it became accepted and helped create some of the first living classrooms in our area.

Teaching outside is new for many teachers and students. It can be challenging. With funding from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, we are hosting professional training sessions to provide tools to make teaching in an outdoor setting enjoyable and successful.



Teachers acting like students



Cindy uses nature to inspire students to create art and poetry *Voices from the Land*

Nature Club, Carlin Springs School

This year Cindy Wackerbarth, Monarch Teachers Network, presented two outstanding programs to our club. Kris Unger identified and introduced the oldest tree on campus. He named her "Grandmother Tree". She's a regular club member now.



Students released monarchs, raised by Cindy *Teaching with Monarchs*



Planting seeds for salad day



We visited the "Grandmother Tree" almost every club day. Students explored beneath her, examined her acorns, collected her leaves, wrote poetry about her, even talked to her. She's a good friend now.



Volunteer Community Workdays

Each year, we host volunteer workdays to support our projects. One is VolunteerFest, a large event organized by our partner Volunteer Fairfax. In February, GMU students, as part of Fraternity and Sorority Service Saturday, worked in Daniels Run's gardens.



Preparing to plant, Daniels Run School, VolunteerFest



GMU students, Vegetable Garden Daniels Run School



Weeding Literacy Garden Daniels Run, VolunteerFest



Mulching vegetable garden Daniels Run, VolunteerFest



Weeding Literacy Garden, VolunteerFest

Follow the Water continues to engage and expand...



Philip Latosa
Stream cleanup
Accotink Creek

Through the efforts of Friends of Accotink Creek (FACC) and funding from Fairfax Water Authority, our Follow the Water Program is now in Little Run Elementary. Kris Unger and Philip Latasa have long assisted us with Follow the Water, supporting water testing, educational presentations, and providing valuable feedback on ways to expand and improve the program. This year they are the leaders of the program at Little Run and we are the assisting educators and advisors.



Kris Unger
Stream cleanup
Accotink Creek

A new school, a new opportunity, and a new twist to an old partnership



Little Run students going to Long Branch, their water testing site



George Kralovec, AAAS/Stem volunteer, retrieves macroinvertebrates collection bags. Students examining a bag's contents to find, identify, and record the number and types of macroinvertebrates they find.



Little Run students performing the chemical testing portion of the water quality analysis to complete their Stream Pollution Index analysis.

Daniels Run Elementary / Fairfax High School



Lori, macroinvertebrate testing, Daniels Run

Now's a good time to recognize our *Follow the Water's* lead teachers, Lori Huberman Hayes, Daniels Run Elementary, and Bradley Webster, AP Fairfax High School. It's a lot of work to run a program as intensive as this one. There's teaching, coordinating, organizing, and directing field studies. Through working closely with us, these two outstanding educators have learned the program and have taken over many of the program's components. Our support role and strong partnership with these schools continues but we are confident *Follow the Water* will remain part of their program even without our presence.



Bradley, chemical testing
Accotink Creek



Daniels Run students water quality testing
Daniels Run Stream



Fairfax High students water quality testing, Accotink Creek



Fairfax High student uses a probe to test, Accotink Creek



Fairfax students use nets to collect macroinvertebrates, Accotink Creek

We have great projects planned for 2017. Please help us continue our work by making a contribution to:

Lands and Waters
2909 Charing Cross Rd. #9
Falls Church, VA 22042

Donate: <http://donate.landsandwaters.org>