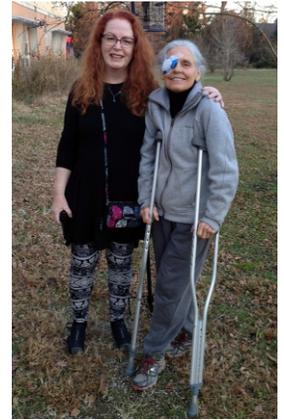


# Lands and Waters 2018

This year had its share of mishaps (mostly involving me). But our work never stopped thanks to the support of our partners and friends. It was difficult for me to stand by and watch others worked hard to make certain projects got completed and classes got taught.

Lands and Waters is a small organization and the people we work with are more than partners and volunteers they are committed friends. And because of them, I am able to say 2018 has been a great year for Lands and Waters and me. So, let's see some of the things we were able to accomplish. By the way, it's great to be on the mend!



Betsy Stickle and I after teaching Carlin Springs School

## *A Place to Learn, A Place to Play - The Living Classroom Daniels Run School*



Students, chemical testing, Daniels Run Stream

Creating living classrooms and encouraging their use is central to our mission. To help achieve this, we chose Daniels Run Elementary as our pilot school. Today, their large living classroom provides space for conservation projects and natural areas for students to visit. Here we test new programs, identify problems, and seek solutions. We learn as well as teach.



Students create a stormwater garden design with guidance from a GMU engineer student and I, Daniels Run School



Students solve spacial and math problems on table tops we designed for the literacy garden



Students measure an area for a conservation project



Students macroinvertebrate testing, Daniels Run Stream

## *New Fencing and a Natural Playground*

Living classrooms need defined boundaries to help teachers focus their students and help students set limits. For several years, Daniels Run's living classroom has needed a defined natural play area that was separate from areas under restoration. Teachers needed a new fence for the constructed wetland. Cost prevented doing these projects.



Student and volunteer weed paths in the literacy garden



First day, natural playground

This year, our partner Rebuilding Together and a great team from Navy Federal Credit Union came to the rescue. They provided all the skilled labor and guidance we needed. Our volunteers provided direction for work in the courtyards. The school and Fairfax City's School Board added their support. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Navy Federal Credit Union volunteers began early and worked late to complete these and other projects.



First day, natural playground



Volunteers build fence to define the natural playground



The Navy Federal Credit Union team of over 40 volunteers



Volunteer building new fence for the wetland

## *Environmental Clubs*



Students create art using natural materials to celebrate Days of the Dead, Carlin Springs School

One of our goals for the future is the expansion of our very popular after-school programs. After-school clubs give us more time and flexibility than we have in the classroom during regular school hours. The number of sessions in a program is determined by the focus or goal of the club. Clubs have fewer students, usually no more than 12. Teacher to student ratio is smaller with two teachers for each club. Thus, it is easier to tailor programs to meet the needs of students and the goals of the club.

Currently we offer fall, winter, spring, and occasionally summer programs to elementary schools. We plan to develop a greater variety of programs and expand into middle and high schools. This year we hosted nature clubs at Carlin Springs, rain garden clubs at Ft. Belvoir, and a Caring for our Watershed club at Daniels Run School.



Students gather mulch for a path in a wooded area for visiting during club. Carlin Springs School



Students calculate stormwater runoff volumes for their conservation project, Daniels Run



Betsy Stickle, one of our after school teachers, helps students gather mulch, Carlin Springs



Students investigate a wetland behind their campus to understand the impact of stormwater runoff, Ft. Belvoir

## *Partners and Volunteers*

There is not enough room in our letter to list all the ways volunteers and partners support our work. To name a few, they help design, implement, and maintain our conservation projects, help create new programs and improve established ones, and join us to teach. Our volunteer board provides guidance on current and future projects. This year, MOM'S Organic Market, Volunteer Fairfax, Rebuilding Together, and Metro Church joined Lands and Waters for volunteer workdays at Daniels Run and Carlin Springs Schools.



Volunteers, MOM'S Organic Market, Daniels Run,



Volunteer, MOM'S, Carlin Springs



Volunteers, Metro Church, Daniels Run

Your support made 2018 a very productive year. We have big plans for 2019. Please help us continue our work by making a contribution on line or snail mail.

Donate: <http://donate.landsandwaters.org>  
Visit our website at [www.landsandwaters.org](http://www.landsandwaters.org)

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**Thank You**  
**Happy Holidays**