



MAEOE Maryland Green Schools 2007



List of School Accomplishments

Bodkin Elementary-Anne Arundel County:

- Students created a no-mow zone to reduce rainwater runoff and attract wildlife
- They maintain a bog shared with a middle school using money from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The staff at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center helped them
- They helped restore another bog in the community
- They raised and released terrapins and provided data to a terrapin researcher
- They are planning a native plant meadow with assistance from the Long Point Garden Club and their school custodian

Catonsville Education Center at RICA, Baltimore City:

- Students studied, hatched and released Monarch butterflies
- They entered the River of Words contest, taking photos of their rain garden which they built with help from Living Classrooms Foundation
- They conducted water quality studies in the Gwynns Falls
- They planted trees in Carroll Park for Baltimore City's Urban Canopy project
- They held a "Shuv-unda Day" a whole school celebration when students sold those items "shoved unda their beds."

Century High School, Carroll County:

- Students set up on-site composting
- They identified and removed invasive species from their school grounds
- They grew and sold native plants to educate the community on why they should consider landscaping with native plants
- They grew and planted white turtle head plants to help restore habitat for the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly
- They partnered with Home Depot to install a garden and pond

Church Creek Elementary School, Harford County:

- The school set up a "No idle, no pollution zone" for parents picking up kids from school
- Students researched information about blue birds. Then they built houses for the birds using money earned from Abitibi for recycling paper.
- Then they did the same for a butterfly garden.
- They made jewelry to sell for funds to plant the garden.
- They investigated the source of trash in their "outback" and wrote letters to area merchants asking for help to clean up the area and to help keep it clean.

Churchville Elementary School, Harford County:

- Students generated posters for the restrooms as a reminder to conserve water
- They collected and analyzed how much trash was being thrown away and made graphs to display their information
- They conducted a schoolyard survey, found erosion problems, decided a rain garden would solve the problem and then wrote to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for money to install the rain garden.
- They earned an Excellence Award from the American Lung Association for their work on indoor air quality
- They partnered with Aberdeen Proving Ground to plant trees and shrubs to reduce erosion problems around their building.

Dunloggin Middle School, Howard County:

- Students planned a major stream restoration project. They removed invasive plant species, cleaned up debris and installed native plants to reduce erosion. They received a Disney Minnie Grant from Youth Service America to help with the project.
- The second phase includes developing wetlands to use as an outdoor education area. The MD Department of the Environment helped fund it and Howard County Parks and Recreation is providing expertise.
- They also received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for native grasses, trees, shrubs and to buy water quality monitoring equipment

Gilman Lower School, Baltimore City:

- Students kept nature journals to record what they observed
- They created a hydro-ponic garden
- After learning about composting at Echo Hill Outdoor Education Center, students planted and maintained their own garden
- They raised and released butterflies
- They collected and recycled cell phones and donated the money to Habitat for Humanity

Harford Day School, Harford County:

- Students started a Waste-less Wednesday to reduce solid waste generated at school
- They raised horseshoe crabs in partnership with the Aquatic Resources Education Program of the MD Department of Natural Resources.
- They changed their usual science fair to a “Green Summit” with a green focus
- They initiated an annual “car pool” week to save fuel and reduce emissions
- They conducted a Bio-blitz of a meadow at Eden Mill Nature Center

Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School, Harford County:

- Staff formed a Green School Professional Learning Community with 15 teachers joining
- The students hosted an “Art-full Earth Celebration” to showcase their art projects focused on the environment with assistance from the Master Gardeners of Harford County, the Harford County Office of Recycling and others.
- Students measured and analyzed how much water was being wasted by leaky faucets in the school. Then they wrote letters to the facilities staff explaining the problem and asking for help with a solution.
- They planted white turtlehead plants to restore habitat for the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly in partnership with Harford Glen Environmental Education Center
- Students created “junk bots” ---robots made from recycled materials.

John Carroll School, Harford County:

- Students investigated water usage before and after installing automatic flush toilets, water usage on the ball fields and changes in energy use at different times.
- They cleaned out and restored blue bird boxes
- They helped clean up the Bosely marsh, part of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in MD.
- They re-instituted a recycling program with Abitibi and greenschoolproject.org
- They hosted a “Make a Difference Day” with guest speakers from the community

Kennard Elementary School, Queen Anne’s County:

- Students testified before the state legislature on the Clean Car bill
- They raised SAV, terrapins, striped bass, yellow perch and butterflies
- They took first place for their age group in the World Series of Birding in Cape May for two years in a row!
- They conducted a raptor census for three years in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center
- Worked with Environmental Concern to develop a wetland on the school site

McDonogh Middle School, Baltimore County:

- Students researched types of bird feeders, their placement and food requirements and then made feeders to hang at home
- They kept tree journals and have made a dichotomous key for trees on their campus
- They made and posted signs saying “The Bay Starts Here” to remind people to think about what they pour down the drain

- They created sculptures from painted aluminum cans
- They made collage clocks decorated with images from old magazines and newspapers
- After meeting with MAEOE's Schoolyard Habitat coordinator, they reclaimed a mowed grassy area on campus and planted native species. The Brickman Group donated volunteer time and plants for the planting.

Mechanicsville Elementary School, Carroll County:

- Students completed a survey to find out how the school could improve on energy conservation. They put up signs to remind people to turn off computers and lights.
- They researched the amount of waste generated at lunch and launched a Waste-Free Lunch campaign
- After learning about Baltimore Checkerspot Butterflies at the Carroll County Outdoor School, they planned and planted a garden for checkerspots.
- They learned about bats, built bat boxes and parents installed them on school grounds

Mt. Harmony Elementary School, Calvert County:

- Students raised both terrapins and SAV in the classroom
- They conducted a schoolyard habitat assessment and then did the same at home!
- They held a tree planting ceremony with a Native American chief. Money for the trees came from the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth.
- They collected data on energy use in the school, graphed the data, and made suggestions for improvements. They earned recognition from Chespx, Calvert County's Environmental Education program.
- To improve water quality and reduce pollution from runoff, they installed three rain gardens on school grounds

Prettyboy Elementary School, Baltimore County:

- Students are restoring a 4 acre meadow by planting native species of wildflowers and grasses with a design by Ecosystem Recovery Institute and money from the Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Students planted 60 native trees
- They designed, built, painted and installed blue bird boxes in partnership with Hereford Middle School students, another Green School
- Students developed a presentation to perform at the 2007 GS ceremony at CCBC Catonsville.

Queen Anne School, Prince George's County:

- This school was recognized as one of the top 5 schools in the world for identifying and reporting land cover

- They have a certified Schoolyard Habitat with an outdoor classroom.
- They are working on a wetland/meadow restoration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Math students learned about volume and area by researching and designing birdhouses
- In partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, they grew wild celery

Reservoir High School, Howard County:

- At the school, a group called “Students Against Violating the Earth” leads their efforts
- They grew and planted 3 species of SAV in conjunction with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the MD DNR
- They created an energy efficiency lesson plan for 9th graders which was taught in all homerooms
- They raised money and planted a native plant garden
- They decorated 1,500 paper grocery bags with environmentally friendly messages. Bloom grocery store distributed the bags on Earth Day.

Robert Goddard French Immersion/Montessori School, Prince George’s County:

- Students presented a recycling skit to all classes to encourage everyone to reduce waste and reminded students about the Abitibi paper recycling project
- They worked with MAEOE’s Schoolyard Habitat Coordinator to plan and plant a rain garden
- They planted a “Peace” Garden for an Earth Day project with donated trees from Prince George’s County government and plants from Patuxent Nursery
- After a trip to North Bay, students wrote letters to their parents with suggestions as to how they could help in the effort to clean up the Bay

Rock Creek Forest Elementary School, Montgomery County:

- Because they are a blend of two schools: Spanish Immersion Magnet and Community English Program, they created a nature trail with bilingual signs
- They raised an organic childrens’ garden and used water from their rain barrels to sustain it
- They partnered with the Audubon Naturalist Society to hold “No-Waste Wednesdays”
- They planted and adopted trees for Arbor Day in partnership with the Potomac Conservancy
- They won a PLANT award from the MD Dept of Natural Resources Forest Service and a Schoolyard Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation

Rock Creek Valley Elementary School, Montgomery County:

- The school reduced energy consumption by 5 % and received awards from Montgomery County
- “Power Rangers” monitor and assist with recycling of paper, cans, glass, and plastic
- Students took walking field trips to learn more about their community
- They planted 43 trees to reduce erosion and prevent stormwater runoff. Staff at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center helped them.
- They gave away compact fluorescent light bulbs at the PTA’s International night

Ruxton Country School, Baltimore County:

- Teachers incorporated oil consumption and peak oil production into middle school math lessons
- The faculty had a “Green Party” and decorated mugs so that paper or Styrofoam coffee cups are no longer used. The headmaster gave each teacher a cloth napkin and napkin ring; paper napkins are no longer used
- They recycle paper with Abitibi and also recycle cans and glass. They even reuse their uniforms.
- Classes use their outdoor classroom for stream monitoring, nature journaling and other activities
- They partnered with Irvine Nature Center to clean up portions of the Gwynns Falls
- They participate with Johns Hopkins in an air pollution study

Saint Clare School, Baltimore County:

- Students completed an environmental inventory checklists and made contracts to become better environmental stewards
- They toured the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant to see first hand the need for water pollution prevention
- After a presentation by staff at the Maryland Department of the Environment, students conducted a Waste Free Lunch day
- Staff professional development activities included work with Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, Md Agricultural Education Foundation, University of Maryland, MAEOE and the National Aquarium in Baltimore.
- Energy conservation activities used workbooks donated by BGE. Students made posters highlighting alternative energies, listing pros and cons of each, and itemizing the common uses of energy.

St. James Academy, Baltimore County:

- They planted 15 acres (in warm and cool season grasses)
- The Pre-first grade students collected samples of “what’s in our air?”
- They sent a letter to the Baltimore Sun with reasons not to develop the land near Blackwater Wildlife Refuge
- Students learned about agriculture in Maryland through the bio-tech trailer from the MD Agricultural Education Foundation
- Lights-Out project involved students researching energy conservation, making imaginative light plate switches, and a conservation tip scavenger hunt

St Mary Elementary School, Anne Arundel County:

- A site review indicated the need to control water coming from the roof. Community partners, including the Spa Creek Conservancy, Keith Underwood, a consultant and McHale Landscaping provided information and assistance to install rain barrels and to plan and then plant a wetland.
- The school set up an HOV lane for parents picking up 3 or more students to encourage carpooling
- They read to find out which native plants certain butterflies like, then grew and planted them
- “Retriever Fever” encourages students and parents to recycle from home on Wednesdays
- Students created posters with environmentally friendly messages

Saint Paul’s School for Girls, Baltimore County:

- Students made bio-diesel fuel in chemistry class using waste vegetable oil from their cafeteria! Then they used the bio-diesel to run the school’s tractor.
- Students designed and continue to maintain a butterfly garden
- They monitor and maintain a trail of bluebird boxes
- They collect 20 oz soda bottles to sell to Terracycle which uses the bottles for fertilizer from worm castings (these are one of the gifts for all new MD Green Schools)
- They helped the Jones Falls Watershed Association with a stream clean up and planted trees with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

West Friendship Elementary School, Howard County:

- Students researched information about painted lady butterflies, then raised and released them into their garden
- They raised, monitored and released horseshoe crabs in partnership with the MD Department of Natural Resources
- During school day morning announcements they give tips for energy conservation, solid waste reduction and information on native plants

- After they saw a driver loading both garbage and recyclables into the same truck, students wrote letters to the company asking that the company honor their recycling program.

Westland Middle School, Montgomery County:

- They are a PLANT award winner from MD DNR
- They worked with the Potomac Conservancy on their Growing Native Nut collection project
- They removed invasive plants from a local park and planted native ferns on the banks of Little Falls stream
- They worked with the Audubon Naturalist Society to plan and conduct an array of environmental education activities and field trips
- Algebra students conducted research on an environmental issue of their choice, then plotted the data on a graph, and found an equation to best fit the data.
- The whole school participated in “Hoot” Day with activities based on the book by Carl Hiassen



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