

Mill Creek Ruritan Club

24 Trees – 22 Volunteers – 71 Hours Volunteered

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at the Mill Creek Ruritan Club

Mill Creek Ruritan Club plants trees in style - with fresh, homemade Apple Butter!

Not only did Mill Creek Ruritan Club and River Road Sodbusters 4-H Club members plant 24 trees on the Ruritan Club's grounds in Purgittsville, WV, but they also enjoyed some fresh, homemade apple butter. Cooked by community members in outdoor kettles, the apple butter was the perfect way to start a great tree planting project!

This tree planting took place on Saturday, October 21 with a dedicated group and youth and adult volunteers.

Jeff Iliff from Cacapon Institute instructed all of the volunteers on proper planting techniques and

Alana Hartman from WVDEP engaged the volunteers in a discussion about the impact the project will have on local streams and protecting the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The youngest participant was 4 years old and really enjoyed planting his tree near the playground. The Ruritan Club President, J.W. See, commented after the planting was complete that the trees will immediately enhance the property because they are already so tall.

All of the trees were planted along Mill Creek to create a riparian forest buffer to protect the stream from erosion and



stormwater runoff pollution. Species planted include many flood-tolerant shade trees such as river birch, sweet gum, red maple, swamp white oak, sycamore, and many others. In total, 11 different species were planted as part of this project, adding to the diversity of tree species on the site.

This was a great project and something all of the volunteers will remember for years!

A word from the Project Leader, Trista See:

“My favorite part of the event was watching the kids, seeing them learn how to plant trees and get excited. For example, a couple of kids were collecting walnuts so they could re-plant them on the farm. They enjoyed the hands-on activity (they love to get dirty!) and knowing they will get to see the trees grow over the years.”



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at ctree@cacaponinstitute.org or by calling 540-335-0687.