



Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Potomack Intermediate School

On Monday, October 2, the Potomack Intermediate School Garden Club hosted the school's first ever CommuniTree planting.

Assisting the Garden Club on planting day were members of the local Master Gardeners, Shepherd University SNAP-ED staff, and parent volunteers.

The students were a mix of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, almost half of which are Garden Club members.

Before planting day, the students learned about the benefits of trees and the history of fruit trees in our area from Cacapon Institute's Watershed Education Specialist Connor Roessler and two representatives from the Mountain State Apple Harvest Court.

The 3rd grade students also participated in classroom educational activities about West Virginia history and the impact of agriculture on the area from their homeroom teachers.

All of the students had a great time learning about the correct methods for planting a tree and helping in all the steps of the process.

When asked if there were any Master Gardeners in attendance at the planting, several of the Garden Club students raised their hands!

It's great to see that they are confident in themselves as caretakers of trees and eager to continue to learn about protecting their environment.



The Martinsburg Journal ran an article about this planting which can be read [here](#).

The Garden Club is currently considering options for building upon their successes this season by potentially planting more trees in the future, as well as installing rain barrels to help water their trees in the coming summers.

We look forward to watching these fruit trees grow!

A word from the Project Leader, Emma McAllister:

"I think the volunteers and I benefitted from this project, because I learned things about tree care I did not originally know...I personally benefit from this project, because it provides me with an additional resource to teach my students about the environment, agriculture, WV history, the life cycle of a plant, and many more standards."



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