



Riverheads Elementary

4th Graders Collect, Plant, and Grow Native Trees at School

Ninety 4th grade students at Riverheads Elementary School in Staunton, VA participated in the PHLOW Growing Native program again this fall. This season was the third time Cacapon Institute worked with lead teacher Luanne Leonard to provide both classroom education and hands on conservation with the school's 4th graders.



Cacapon Institute led students in four one-hour classroom education lessons to introduce students to watersheds, trees, and the role trees play in healthier streams. Students investigated

the internal and external structure of a tree along with the ability of riparian forest buffers to protect our streams.

Lessons connect to state standards with interactive activities that spark learning.

Students collected native acorns from their homes and neighborhoods to plant collectively and grow at the school in a tub grow-out station. Planting materials included recycled tree tubes, collected seeds, mulch, and soil.

The tub grow-out stations were transferred to the schoolyard where the students will continue to monitor the seeds throughout the school year. The seeds will sprout tiny seedlings which will be planted on campus and throughout the student's communities at the conclusion of the school year.

The Growing Native program is designed to inform students



of the critical importance of having trees in our communities to reduce the amount of pollution entering our streams, provide oxygen, and create habitat for wildlife.

