

Town of Centreville Sponsors Rain Barrel Painting Contest

At Kennard Elementary School

As part of the Town of Centreville's stormwater management effort to reduce stormwater runoff and to meet the goals of the Corsica River Watershed Restoration Strategy, the Town initiated a Rain Barrel Program and sponsored a rain barrel painting contest at Kennard Elementary School. The Town supplied six (6) rain barrels and painting supplies to the school and worked with the school to develop the rain barrel painting contest.

Four (4) students from Kennard's Advanced Ecology Club volunteered to be "Ambassadors" to promote the contest. They are: Daejour Phillips, Bailey Riggs, Aaron Rovenolt, and Eli Ensor. The "Ambassadors" distributed flyers and sign-up sheets, made announcements, and organized teams to paint the rain barrels. Although many students requested to participate, only ten (10) 3rd graders, ten (10) 4th graders, and ten (10) 5th graders were selected to work together on six (6) teams - five (5) students per team.

Over a period of eight (8) weeks, the students volunteered to stay after school and paint rain barrels. They sanded the rain barrels to prepare for painting, developed an environmental message and environmental name for their team, drew a sketch, and finally painted the rain barrel. In addition to demonstrating artistic creativity, the students learned about stormwater runoff, the benefits of using rain barrels, and how to work in a team. On June 1st, judging for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place was held and a pizza party was given to celebrate the students' achievements. Pizza was donated by Red Zone Pizzeria. The students who participated in the contest had lots of fun and learned about protecting the Corsica River and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Rain Barrel Program is a part of the Town's Corsica River Watershed Program marketing campaign to encourage a change in homeowner behavioral patterns to prevent watershed pollution by reducing nutrients and sediments to improve water quality in the Corsica River. For more information about the Town of Centreville's Corsica River Watershed Program, visit www.corsicariver.org.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund provided the Town of Centreville the grant money to purchase 200 rain barrels. Six of these rain barrels were donated to Kennard Elementary School. A rain barrel workshop was held on April 27, 2011. Approximately 60 people attended the event and purchased a barrel for \$10. Rain barrels will also be sold at the Corsica River Awareness Day on September 17, 2011 to be held at Bloomfield Farm. Per grant documents, rain barrels must be installed within the Corsica River Watershed.



The following students who participated are in the picture:

Patrick Fitzmaurice
Brook Gordon
Matthew Mariano
Joseph Henderson
Eli Ensor
Alex Zuella
Erin King
Mary Jo Hendrix
Madison Darrah
Bailey Riggs
Aaron Rovenolt
Elijah Bateman
Nicky Russ
Ally Stump
Mackenzie Eakle

Lauren Porter
Daejour Phillips
Miguel Mata
Elijah Bateman
Lilianne Morony
Corey Higdon
Madison Rogers
Kelson Wright
Claudia Leshinkskie
Jack Stevens