

Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District

MWEE Teacher Training and Student Action Support Project

Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) Training for teachers and community environmental stewards. It was a team effort along with Prince William County Schools Office of Energy and Sustainability, Prince William County Schools Office of Facilities Services, and Envirocatalysts, LLC. Trainers were located at Windy Knoll Farm and at Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

The purpose of this training was to educate and help connect teachers with the resources in our community. County schoolteachers, Prince William Master Gardeners, and Merrimac Farm Master Naturalists learned about MWEEs, watersheds, natural resources, macroinvertebrates, and how their school fits in with all of those concepts. There were had discussions on how students can use the knowledge they learned at a MWEE event and what types of action projects they can implement. Teachers received materials and lesson plans to do these activities with their students. This project produced a measurably improved understanding of MWEE concepts. Teachers are already planning their MWEE events at their schools for the upcoming year. Many levels and subjects were influenced. Our participants represented educators teaching the following: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, Art K-5, Gifted K-5, HS Biology, HS Earth Science, K-5, SPED, STEM, Technology.

We are hugely appreciative to DCR for this opportunity to bring MWEEs to the classroom. This training was a great way to introduce teachers and community partners on how to host MWEEs at the students' schools and help them accomplish their projects locally.



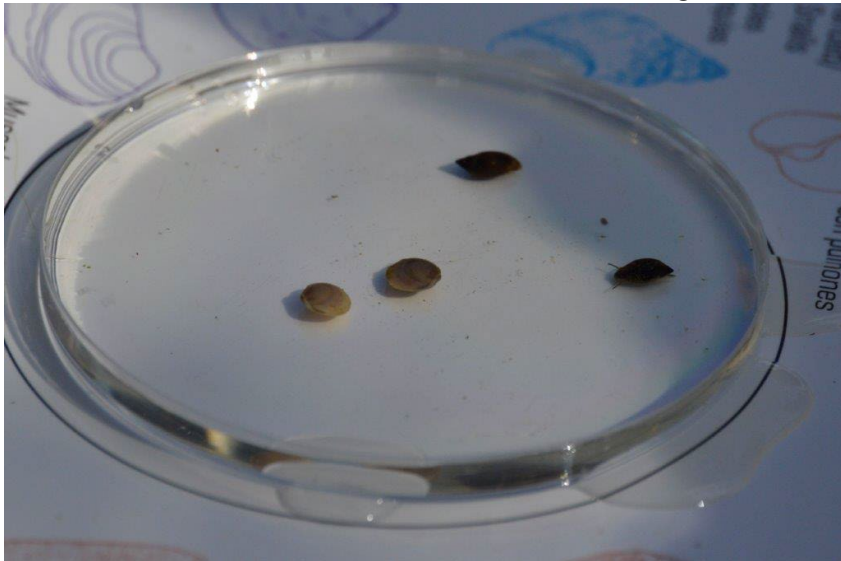
Icebreaker activity with Mix and Match macros



Presenting Enviroscape Watershed model



Collecting macros





Paper watershed model



Enjoying the baby lambs on the farm!

Enjoying the



Stormwater walk

looking for storm drains.



Pulling leaf packs out of the

pond (placed 3 weeks prior).







Mock macro collection activity



Food chain game



and use maps of school properties.

How to use county mapper



Will it soak in?





Many participants enjoyed sifting through the leaves to find macros. A few were hesitant but we talked about how to conceal any squeamish feelings towards critters so kids don't feel nervous as well.

