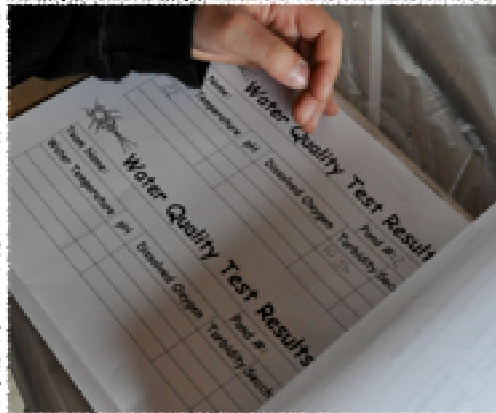


Peak At The Bay



Burtner Family Ponds

Fourth and fifth grade students participated in the Peak at the Bay after school program to learn about the Cub Run watershed. Mr. Darrell Schwalm, a regional trainer for Virginia Save our Streams and Earth Force volunteer, shared his knowledge of water quality and pond environments with the students at ponds next to the school. The students used water monitoring kits to read the pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and turbidity of the ponds. Mr. S lead the students through discussions of predictions and conclusions about water quality and pond ecosystems.

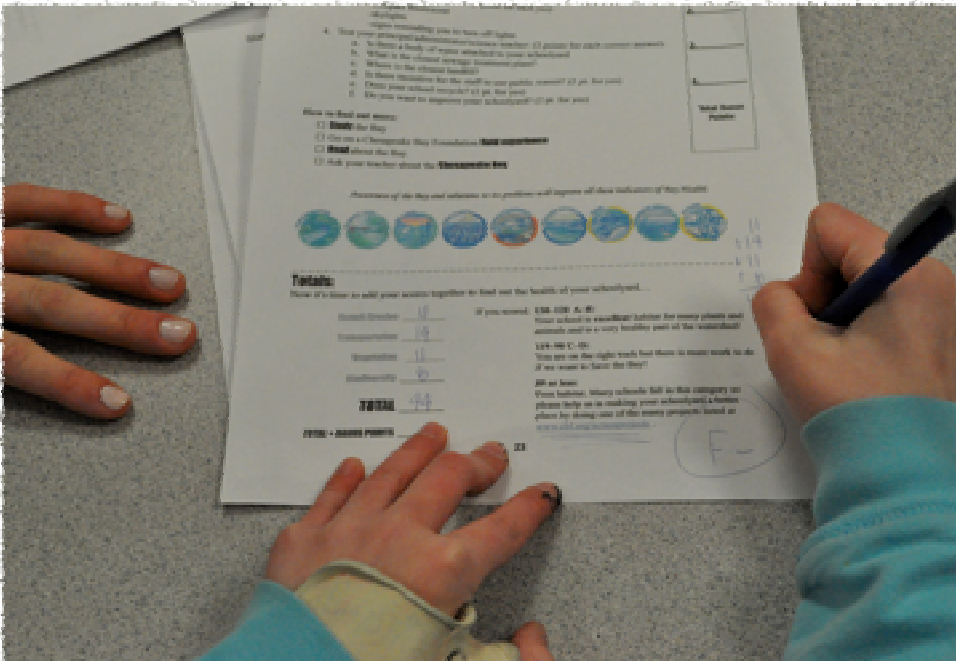
Peak at the Bay



Peak at the Bay students learned all about benthic macro invertebrates during a stream investigation at the Taylor Family farm. They used seine nets and leaf packs to capture the aquatic bugs for identification and determination of water quality. Sandy Greene and other environmental volunteers shared their knowledge with the group.



Peak At The Bay



The Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Students and their high school volunteers spent the first lab learning about the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Sandy Greene and Smith Coleman lead the students in understanding their watershed addresses, mapping, and the Chesapeake Bay Fieldscope website. The students used their engineering skills to make secchi disks from up-cycled CDs with parent volunteer, Brian Fortner. Darrell Schwalm braved the cold outside with students to discuss runoff and give Peak View Elementary an environmental report card.

Special thanks goes to the following

Peak View Elementary School and Staff

Smith Coleman-Challenge Teacher Rockingham County

Pure Water Forum - Grant funding

Paul Bugas - VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Pure Water Forum

Sandy Greene- VA Save our Streams

Darrell Schwalm - VA Save our Streams and Earth Force

Philip Davis - US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service

Fred Garst - GIS Specialist mapping USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Brian Fortner - Parent Volunteer

Nikki Gardner- Photographer

Spotwood High School Environmental Club

Tara Harradine- Spotwood High School Biology Teacher

Athyna Ischinger- Student Volunteer

Samantha Martinez- Student Volunteer

Daniel Phonelath - Student Volunteer

Sophia Scheikl - Student Volunteer

Anna Sipe - Student Volunteer

The Taylor Family

The Burtner Family

Brian Noland - Stream Volunteer

Parents and students for their dedication and contributions

Comments on Peak at the Bay - Parent Brian Fortner

The PAB program was fantastic, particularly because you were able to bring in professionals from the environmental field to discuss the Chesapeake Bay and clean water programs with our students, rather than the typical school-teacher led class. This exposure to professionals in the field provides a unique perspective for the students and shows them that there are real people doing important work in science. The hands-on approach to mapping a watershed, analyzing pond and stream health through insect population counts and water chemistry, as well as discussions of pollution concerns is a drastic and effective teaching tool, especially for an after-school program such as this when students are tired of book work.

The Chesapeake Bay, one of the largest estuaries in the world, is so close to our area and affected by what we do in the valley. It is invaluable as residents and students in the valley to understand that our actions affect an entire region. Your PAB program has introduced our younger students to this resource and also introduced them to how science can help us make important decisions for the future. I hope that you are able to continue offering these environmental classes.