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Contact: Lindsay Tempinson
or Bob Lewis 301-862-3517

Second-Grade Students Visit St. Mary's River

Thirty-eight second-grade students from Chesapeake Public Charter School visited the St. Mary's River this morning, April 26, for an environmental field trip to learn first-hand about the river and the organisms that live in and around it.

The students visited several learning stations at the Great Mills Canoe & Kayak Launch that focused on rivers, forests, human impacts on the environment, and plants and animals, such as fish, frogs, aquatic insects, and trees. Members of the St. Mary's River Watershed Association and high school students from the James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center taught the second-grade students about the importance of a healthy watershed.

"Interaction with the natural world is stimulating for young people. They quickly become attracted to the beauty and the serene atmosphere. This triggers the imagination and students learn to be more creative and expressive. The calming effect of the field trip persists into the classroom where attention span lengthens and learning is enhanced. Appreciation for the natural world can only be achieved through awareness," said Bob Lewis, executive director of the St. Mary's River Watershed Association.

April is Environmental Education Month throughout Maryland. Environmental Education embraces appreciation of the natural world, knowledge of science, geography, history, economics and government, understanding of the wise use of the world's and Maryland's natural resources, and the development of skills necessary to participate responsibly in environmental decision-making and problem-solving.

For more information call 301-862-3517 or email info@stmarysriver.org. To learn more about the St. Mary's River, visit www.SMRWA.org.

Photo Caption 1: John Spinicchia, Natural Resources Management Program teacher at the James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center shows off a crayfish to second-grade students.

Photo Caption 2: Second-grade students from the Chesapeake Public Charter School learn about the many creatures that live in the St. Mary's River Watershed, such as crayfish, fish, frogs, and turtles.

Photo Caption 3: Second-grade students from the Chesapeake Public Charter School look on as high school students from the James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center demonstrate fish collection with a seine net in the St. Mary's River.

