



Maryland Green Center Certification Awarded to Environmental Concern's Wetland Learning Center

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On May 29th Environmental Concern was honored to have been selected and certified as a *Maryland Green Center* by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. "In doing so, Environmental Concern's Wetland Learning Center, located in St. Michaels, Maryland, becomes the first *Maryland Green Center* on the whole of the Eastern Shore."

The award signifies that Environmental Concern has consistently provided high quality environmental education programs; supported the Maryland Green School Awards Program; and modeled conservation and environmental best management practices. Currently they are working with schools in almost all Eastern Shore Counties. Some recent highlights include:

- Creating a meadow with the kindergarteners and 1st graders at Easton's Dobson Elementary School
- The *Wetlands on Wheels* Mobile Classroom visited every Elementary School in Caroline County
- The addition of a schoolyard wetland habitat help to gain Green School Status for Sudlersville Elementary School in Queen Anne's County
- Regular teacher trainings help teachers gain confidence in presenting environmentally themed activities to their students.
- The traveling wetland education trunk is bringing the wonder of wetlands to students whose field trip budgets have been cut.

The base of operations is the Wetland Learning Center which is home to four constructed wetlands, a nature trail, and a working native plant nursery growing over 120 plant species. Every inch of the campus offers a teachable moment and everyone is a teacher. Nursery staff members give public tours of the facility and offer guidance on native species horticulture. Restoration specialists instruct landowners on the benefits of installing living shorelines. Educators both train professionals in the art of wetland education and develop dynamic, hands-on programming for area youth.

Unlike many environmental centers, EC's educational reach is not limited to its rural campus. Educators work with schools across Maryland to encourage a statewide appreciation of wetland ecosystems. Restoration crews restore and create habitats throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed while the native plant nursery will ship their wetland plants anywhere in Maryland and throughout the Mid-Atlantic. With both a 13-acre learning campus and a mobile curriculum and staff, Environmental Concern is a unique and powerful resource for educators, professionals, and the greater Eastern Shore Community. Come visit us in person or online at www.wetland.org