

Experience Learning

16 Trees – 18 Volunteers – 86 Hours Volunteered

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Sweetwater Farm

Volunteers from Experience Learning and the Mountain Laurel Learning Cooperative had a great experience learning about trees and planting a mix of 24 fruit and edible trees at Sweetwater Farm in Sugar Grove on Friday, April 21.

Experience Learning is working towards making Sweetwater Farm a sustainable living and farming outdoor classroom. To foster this goal, they planted a mix of fruit trees (apples, plums, persimmon, and pear), nut trees (hazelnut and chestnut), and sugar maples for syrup.

Like all great projects, this wasn't just an opportunity to plant trees, but also to meet and interact. Volunteers received a farm tour, learned how to milk cows, and observed

adorable baby chicks and piglets.

To start the planting, Vicki Fenwick-Judy from Experience Learning gave a history of Sweetwater Farm, followed by Neil Gillies from Cacapon Institute and Rosey Santerre from Natural Resources

Conservation Service giving a tree planting demonstration.

It took the group approximately four hours to plant all of the trees correctly.

Once all of the trees were planted, the volunteers took in the view of their newly-planted trees and enjoyed a picnic in the grass.

The caretaker at Sweetwater Farm will be watering the



trees throughout the summer to ensure they survive so that they can produce fruit, nuts, and maple syrup in the future.

In total, 7 adults and 7 youth volunteered on planting day.

This was Experience Learning's first edible landscaping tree planting, and the kids were excited to plant and maintain trees that will one day grow edible treasures for people at the farm.

Great work, everyone!

A word from the Project Leader, Brian Kain:

"We had a wonderful group of volunteers that really made the day enjoyable. All of the youth were especially hard-working and were a pleasure to work with."



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at ctree@cacaponinstitute.org or by calling 540-335-0687.