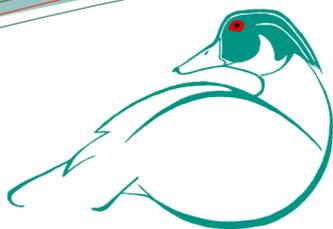


# WV Project CommuniTree

## 2014 Report



**Cacapon Institute**

**From the Cacapon River to the Potomac to the Chesapeake Bay we protect rivers and watersheds using science and education.**

Founded in 1985, CI has grown from a local watershed research and protection group to an organization reaching a broad audience across the Mid-Atlantic.

Our vision is a future where polluted watersheds are history. As educators we teach students first and then, through them, we reach the larger community. As problem solvers we find solutions and build partnerships to address environmental problems. As fact finders we research watershed issues of importance. As foresters we are creating healthy communities alive with trees.

We coordinate the [Potomac Watershed Partnership](#), working to protecting the lands and waters of the Potomac River Basin. CI is an active participant in the WV DEP Chesapeake Bay Program and contributes to the [EPA Chesapeake Bay Program's](#) Education and Forestry work groups in Annapolis.



West Virginia Project CommuniTree promotes tree plantings and education on public land through volunteerism in the Potomac Headwaters of West Virginia (Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton counties).

The program also focuses on enhancing urban tree canopy (UTC) and promoting awareness of watershed and riparian area needs such as stormwater management, improved water quality, buffer zone planting, and erosion prevention. CTree projects are entirely volunteer based and engage stakeholders in the process of making priority decisions within their respective communities.

CTree is a program of the [WV DEP Chesapeake Bay Program](#) including [WV Conservation Agency](#), [WV Division of Forestry](#), [E. Panhandle Planning and Development Council](#), and Cacapon Institute. We offer volunteers an opportunity to be engaged in on-the-ground actions throughout the Potomac Highlands.

We invite community organizations to apply for CTree and to organize, coordinate, and implement urban tree plantings. Groups are encouraged to apply bi-annually for CTree Kits for spring and fall plantings. CTree Kits include trees in a variety of species and stock sizes, tree tubes or cages for deer protection, and mulch to foster good root growth. Successful CTree applicants will receive technical assistance from CTree partners.



## Spring Awards

- Asbury United Methodist
- Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition
- City of Ranson
- East Hardy Middle School
- Elks Run Watershed Group
- Grant County Extension
- Hardy County Childcare
- Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority
- Jefferson County Parks & Recreation
- North Fork Elementary
- Orchard View Intermediate
- Riverside Design LLC
- Shepherd University
- Shepherdstown Community Club
- Sleepy Creek Watershed Association
- TA Lowery Elementary
- The Gallery HOA
- Washington High School
- WV Department of Natural Resources



## Fall Awards

- Apple Knolls HOA
- Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition
- Charles Town Middle
- Deerfield Village HOA
- Gateway Garden Club
- Izaak Walton League
- Mineral County FFA
- Shepherd University
- Shepherdstown Community Club
- Washington High School

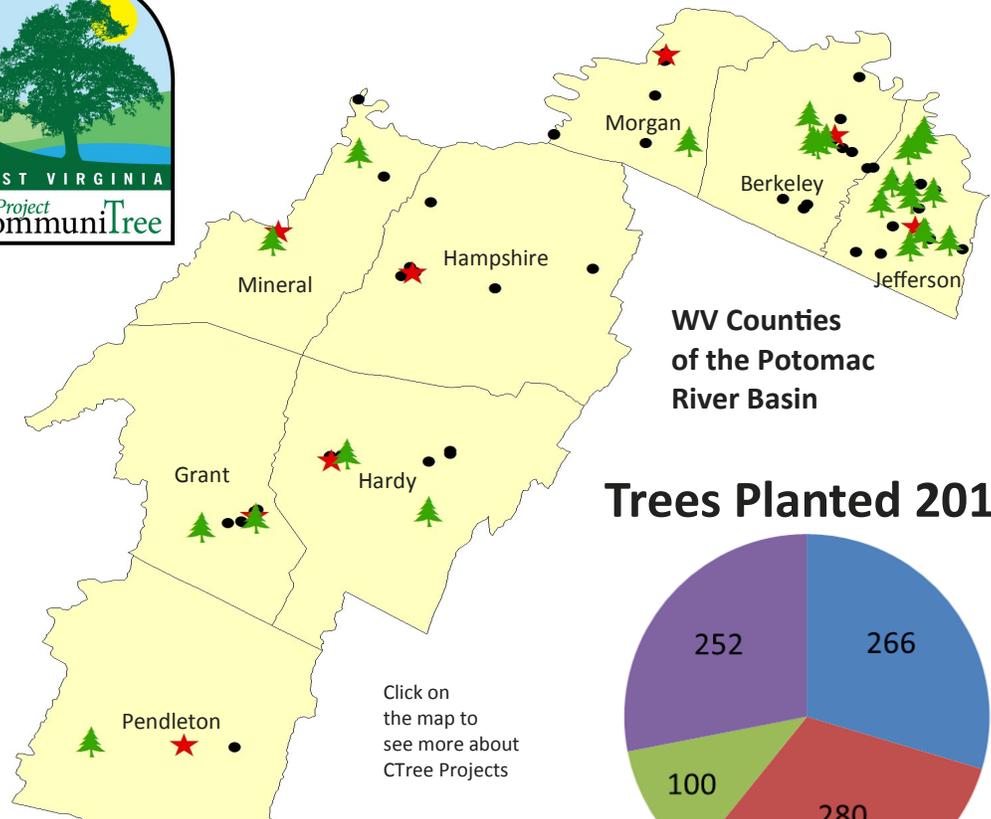
# *“Building Communities from the Roots Up”*

CTree builds communities from the roots up by engaging citizens in education and volunteerism. In 2014, CTree engaged volunteers in 29 urban tree plantings at schools, parks, road right-of-ways, churches, and other community spaces.

Together, more than 2,000 volunteers planted a total of 898 urban trees at planting sites across the Potomac Highlands. Teachers and students, adults and youth, seasoned volunteers and first-time tree planters came together in 2014 to plant native trees along their streets and in their communities. It was through their dedication and hard work CTree was able to succeed in 2014. Logging over 4,300 volunteer hours, these citizens exemplify “building communities from the roots up”!

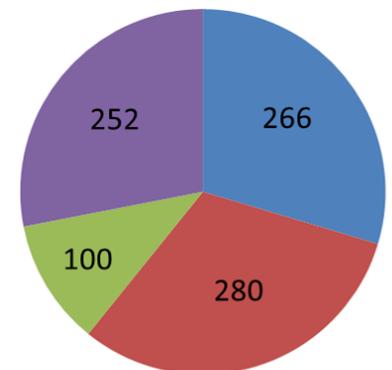
## 2014 Quick Facts

- 29 Tree Planting Events
- 898 Trees Planted
- 2,058 Volunteers
- 4,373 Volunteer Hours
- \$79,998 Volunteer Contribution



WV Counties of the Potomac River Basin

## Trees Planted 2014



## CTree Projects

- 🌲 2014 Projects (29)
- Past Projects (47)
- ★ County Seats

- Schools
- Community Sites
- DOH Right-of-Way
- Parks and Trails



## Volunteer Highlight

### Izaak Walton League



## Reflections on WV Project CommuniTree

A Greek proverb says “A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they’ll never enjoy.” While this inspires me to grab a shovel and a few saplings to leave my daughters a shady spot to play with their children, it also inspires thoughts about society, or even closer to home, community. Sharing an experience, a meal or a skill are stitches in our community quilt which becomes stronger with each memory created together.

Something as simple as planting trees can produce more than what appears on the surface. Yes, trees are beautiful, give us clean air and protect our water. But trees establish roots that grow into something more: a story, a friendship, a legacy. And like those stitches that keep our quilt from unraveling, these roots keep our communities from eroding, allowing us to blossom and grow. CommuniTree provides us with an opportunity to connect with each other and leave a lasting legacy for a future made in the shade.

*-Matt Pennington, Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator, Region 9  
Eastern Panhandle Planning and Development Council*

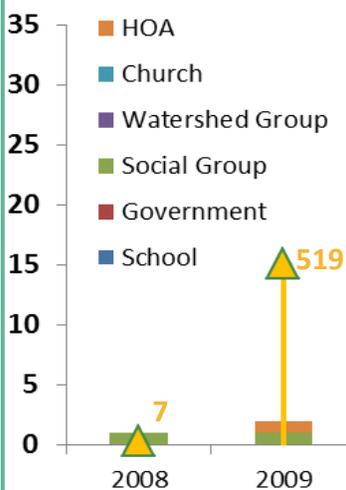
Fall 2014 was the third planting season the Leetown Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) was awarded a CTree Kit.

In their first CTree planting season, Spring 2012, IWLA planted 24 flowering trees at North Jefferson Elementary School. Next, in Fall 2012, they planted 12 shade trees along the Route 9 Bike Path. They continued their great work by volunteering at several projects and offered their expertise by assisting the Project Leader at TA Lowery Elementary.

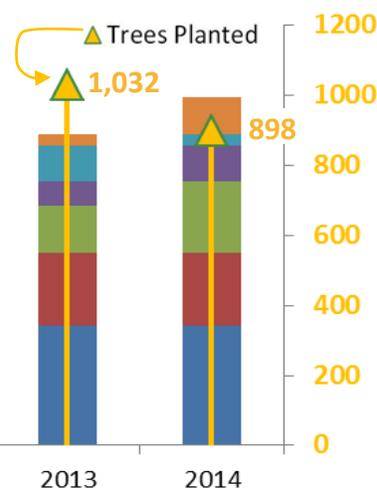
In Fall 2014 IWLA came full circle when they returned to N. Jefferson Elementary to work with students and plant 50 additional evergreen trees.

Congratulations IWLA. You are a CTree forest champion!

## CTree Awards



## Trees Planted





This report is a publication of Cacapon Institute. Visit [www.CacaponInstitute.Org](http://www.CacaponInstitute.Org) or contact:

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# See what our volunteers have to say about WV Project CommuniTree!

*"There is a real sense of satisfaction looking at all the trees we planted."*

**-Marla Blady, Apple Knolls HOA**

*"Students were able to feel that something that they did really mattered. They had helped a greater cause and made a whole school full of children very happy."*

**-Julie Sions, Mineral County FFA**

*"I was so pleased to see so many volunteers from as young as 3 years old to our adult 4-H leaders working together to complete this project."*

**-Kassidy Haslacker, Grant County Extension Service**

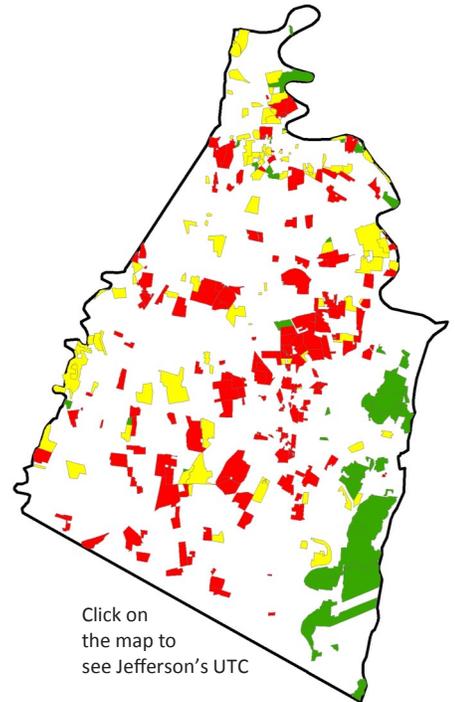
*"I think my students thoroughly enjoyed the planting and had a great time!"*

**-Katlin Thorsell, Washington High School**

*"Everyone who participated in the planting came away with a better understanding of how to plant trees and how important trees are in our landscape."*

**Billy Madert, Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority**

## West Virginia Urban Tree Canopy Assessment & Enhancement



Click on the map to see Jefferson's UTC

Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) is the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above. WV UTC Assessment & Enhancement is a collaborative project of the USDA Forest Service, WV Conservation Agency, Division of Forestry, Division of Highways, and Cacapon Institute.

We are working with local governments and volunteers to increase UTC by improving land management. Strategies include assessing UTC to determine high priority planting areas, setting UTC goals, and fostering tree planting initiatives. These strategies are increasing the public benefits of UTC including cleaner air, more shade, and less stormwater runoff pollution. CTree enhances UTC by working with communities to plant trees where they live—in their neighborhoods, parks, schoolyards, churchyards, and on the roadside. (Inset: Jefferson County subdivisions UTC. Red <33%, yellow <66%, green >66% canopy coverage.)

We are working on street tree inventories and UTC assessments with communities across the Potomac Basin. Please visit the [Forestry Tab at CacaponInstitute.Org](#) for more information.