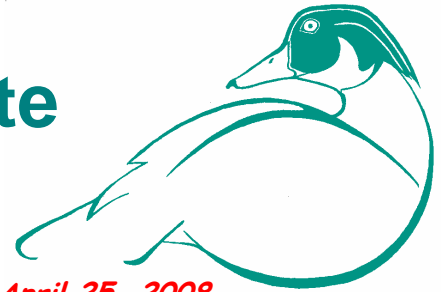


# Cacapon Institute

P.O. Box 68, High View WV 26808-9708  
(304) 856-1385 [ci@cacaponinstitute.org](mailto:ci@cacaponinstitute.org)  
[www.cacaponinstitute.org](http://www.cacaponinstitute.org)



***Stream Cleaner Environmental Forum March 31 - April 25, 2008***

*"The students are learning a great deal about our watershed. Something that I hadn't counted on is that they are learning life lessons on how to deal with people of different ages and abilities."*

Richard D. Newcomer, Science Teacher, Massanutten Regional Governor's School, VA

Cacapon Institute is pleased to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stream Cleaner Environmental Forum. Last year, 300 students from 19 classes in three states participated in the SCE Forum. This year your school could join them in what one teacher called a "life-changing opportunity!"

To see the lessons and format of the SCE Forum **click on the phone** at [www.cacaponinstitute.org/high.htm](http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/high.htm). To register, get more information, download this flyer, or sign up a school, click on the "Info & Sign Up" at the above web address. We encourage volunteers and natural resource professionals to suggest the SCE Forum to a school near you. Better yet, contact a teacher and become a partner in education by participating in the SCE Forum as a mentor on the importance of conservation and civic engagement in problem solving.

In the SCE Forum, students: explore the science and challenges of non point source pollution; role play as stakeholders to draft position papers that are then posted on the web; support or challenge their peers across the internet in a lively but moderated dialogue; and ultimately come together as a class to build a consensus solution that is acceptable to all stakeholder groups.

When coupled with an outdoor, hands-on experience, like a ceremonial tree planting for Arbor Day, or construction of a rain garden for Earth Day, the SCE Forum completes a [Meaningful Watershed Education Experience](#), a requirement in D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia schools. (Search "MWEE" at [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net))

We have technical resources available to help participating schools obtain funds to implement their own watershed stewardship project. Classes might plant a stream buffer, draft a stream management plan, control erosion problems, launch an education campaign, or other best management practices. Schools don't need to be near a stream because terrestrial projects like controlling rooftop and parking lot runoff also improve water quality.

The SCE Forum is open to up to 30 high school classes -- urban, suburban, or rural -- anywhere in the Chesapeake Bay watershed that has internet access. The lessons are available on line now and the interactive phase will run from March 31 – April 25, 2008. Teachers should plan on devoting at least 45-60 minutes of class time to the activity twice a week during the dialogue phase. The SCE Forum fosters critical thinking on real issues that are relevant to students' lives. It also teaches societal decision making in the context of watershed science and protecting rivers and watersheds. Our web site includes lesson plans and suggestions on using the SCE Forum for science, social studies, vocational agriculture, and language arts classes.

The peer-to-peer dialogue brings the lessons to life for participating students. Look what some past students had to say:

*"There are about 150 major rivers and streams that run into the Chesapeake drainage basin. It is our job to keep these rivers and streams clean, so that we don't lose the Bay forever. "*

**High School Stakeholder's Point of View, Petersburg, WV, Spring 2006**

*"Believe it or not this forum isn't just some stupid assignment your teacher decided to do because he/she didn't feel like making lesson plans. This is something you have the privilege to partake in ... It's real. We really are losing the Bay and fast.....So, grow up a little and actually put forth your best ideas because who knows, .... you just may save the Bay."*

**Seniors from Broadway High School, VA, addressing 9<sup>TH</sup> graders from Jefferson, WV, Spring 2007**

For more information or to sign up contact **Frank Rodgers** (304) 856-1385 or [frodgers@cacaponinstitut.org](mailto:frodgers@cacaponinstitut.org).  
The SCE Forum was profiled in the April 2007 Bay Journal: <http://www.bayjournal.com/article.cfm?article=3056>.

*The SCE Forum is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife, MARPAT, and Spring Creek Foundations, and the generous contributions of Cacapon Institute's members.*