



GROWING NATIVE

2006 SEASON REPORT



"Trees don't 'just stand there' day after day, year after year. They are powerful structures that help our planet breathe life into all of us."

—Barbara Tufty, *Growing Native* Ambassador

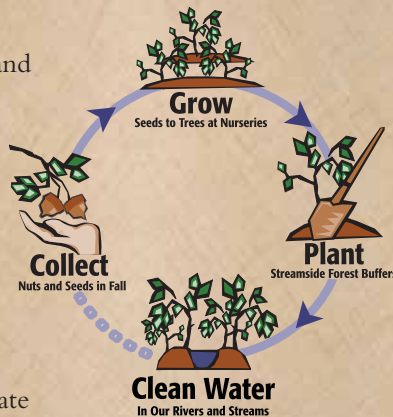
Program Overview

Every fall, schoolchildren and parents, scouts and leaders, and friends and neighbors in the Potomac River watershed collect seeds and nuts from native hardwood trees. The seeds collected this past fall will be planted in state nurseries; after one or two growing seasons, they will be transplanted along stream banks and other areas in the watershed. By helping at vital stages of the tree growth cycle, *Growing Native* volunteers help reforest woodlands and, ultimately, enhance the health of the Potomac River watershed.

Growing Native replenishes the native seedling stock at state nurseries in our community. Once established, these trees will reduce the amount of soil and fertilizers that pollute the river. The trees help keep the water cool, which provides better habitat for plants and wildlife. In addition, the program has economic value: This low-cost supply of native tree seeds saves the state foresters' time and money.

Since *Growing Native's* inception in 2001, nearly 30,000 volunteers collected more than 94,000 pounds of acorns, walnuts, and other hardwood tree seeds. These seeds have generated nearly 6 million seedlings that will be used to restore as many as 54,000 acres of sensitive streamside lands.

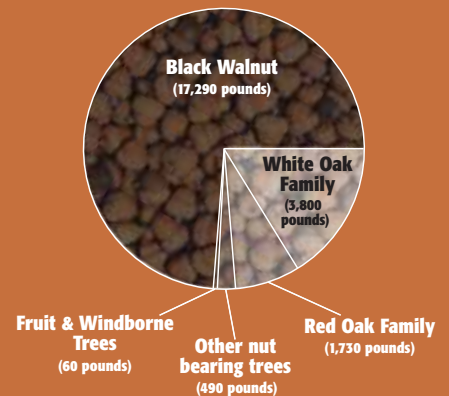
In addition to providing native tree stock, *Growing Native* builds public awareness of the important connection between healthy, forested lands and clean waters, and what individuals can do to protect them.



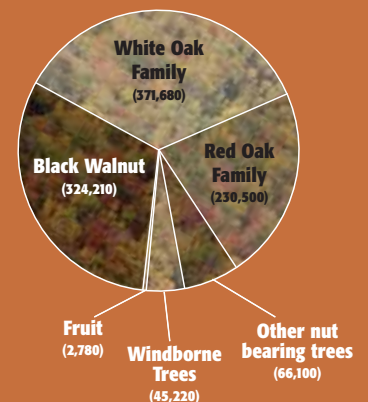
2006 Statistics

Volunteers:
6,000
Volunteer Hours:
12,000
Pounds of Seed Collected:
23,370
Number of Trees Generated:
1,040,490

Seed Species Collected:



Trees Species Generated:



2006 Season Achievements



Growing Native kiosk in Annapolis, Md. Photo courtesy of Sally Claggett.

Growing Native Kiosks

Program staff and partners installed 22 display kiosks (see photo) in the Potomac River watershed: four in West Virginia, one in the District of Columbia, five in Pennsylvania, seven in Maryland, and five in Virginia. *Growing Native* volunteers drop off their seeds and nuts at the kiosks. These kiosks educate visitors about *Growing Native*, and provide information about forested lands and clean water in the Potomac River watershed.

Growing Native Ambassador Trainings

The Potomac Basin now has 58 *Growing Native* Ambassadors, who organize collection events in their communities and assist with drop-off site coordination. Ambassadors also help identify seed collection sites throughout the watershed. Five Ambassador trainings were held in 2006: one in each watershed state and the District of Columbia.

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2006 Season Achievements (continued)

Boy Scout Online Booklet and Patches

Using our new “Go Nuts for Scouting” booklet, scouts can earn *Growing Native* patches and learn about activities that they can do to earn official scout badges. The booklet can be downloaded at www.growingnative.org.



Tree planting in Loudoun County, Va.

Grow-out Stations

Growing Native partners and schools reserved a portion of seeds they collected to create their own tree nurseries at grow-out stations. Grow-out stations are a safe place for pots of tree seeds to grow strong and healthy. Schools that sponsor a grow-out station give their teachers an excellent, and low-cost, way to enhance their curriculum and provide their students with hands-on educational opportunities.

Growing Native Materials

New outreach materials were available to volunteers, including pencils, nut and tree identification cards, “Nut Buddy” tree collector cards, and brochures.

2006 Volunteer and Partner Highlights

Growing Native is made possible by the efforts of volunteers and partners throughout the watershed. Some highlights are listed below:

- **Virginia.** Eastern Mennonite School secured a Virginia Naturally Partner Grant to establish a grow-out station. Volunteers planted 100 pots with five different tree species.
- **West Virginia.** Cacapon Institute is leading a project to work with four schools to develop grow-out stations. Students will ultimately produce an annual crop of 1,000 woody plants for watershed restoration.
- **Washington, D.C.** Casey Trees Endowment Fund hosted the largest *Growing Native* Ambassador training with more than 20 participants, including many of their citizen foresters.
- **Pennsylvania.** The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources helped to construct, house, and distribute the *Growing Native* kiosks. Special thanks to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, who helped to design and build the kiosks.
- **Maryland.** *Growing Native* extended its reach outside the Potomac River watershed by establishing a drop-off site and kiosk in Annapolis. Closer to home, Rock Creek Forest Elementary School and Windsor Knolls Middle School hosted a *Growing Native* kiosk at their campuses.

Looking Ahead to 2007

- *Growing Native* education outreach and curriculum development will assist educators in bringing *Growing Native* inside the classroom.
- Web site redesign will make it easier for volunteers to navigate and find the resources they need.
- Chesapeake Bay-wide presentations will promote the *Growing Native* project in the Bay area.
 - *Growing Native* will increase the number of grow-out stations and build new partnerships with schools in the watershed.
 - *Growing Native* will grow and build on past successes!



Photo courtesy of Sally Claggett



Growing Native is a project of the Potomac Watershed Partnership, which is managed by Potomac Conservancy, and made possible by the generous support of its partners and sponsors.

2006 Supporters



2006 Partners



Coordinated by Potomac Conservancy

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