



Sycamore Land Trust

Media Coverage

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Glenwood students ‘plant a pocket of prairie’

Not afraid to get their hands dirty, Glenwood Leadership Academy fifth graders Jen’Ashia Morris and Kamyra Henderson quickly grabbed a cup and searched for their seeds Wednesday morning.

Morris, 11, said planting the native Indiana grasses and wildflowers was her favorite lesson in this year’s new science program: “By George, It’s Science!”

“All we had to do was put water in it and make sure it had enough sunlight, but not too much water,” she said.

On Wednesday morning, Shane Gibson, environmental education director for Sycamore Land Trust, made his last visit of the school year to help students transplant seeds from mini greenhouses to cups to take home.

“These plants are great for pollinators,” Gibson said. “The activity supports their recent field trip to the Evansville Museum where they watched a movie on monarch butterfly migration.”

Kids planted about six different seeds, including milkweed, northern sea oats and cone flowers. After filling their cups, students transplanted excess seeds to some areas of the school yard.

“Every day they’d check their plants and water them,” Jessa Jines, Glenwood fifth grade teacher, said. “I’ve been real impressed with their interest and commitment to this project.”

Gibson said the kids read “Plant a Pocket of Prairie.”

“It said if you plant a pocket of prairie and if I do, small little habitats are going to add up. ... This is as good as I’ve seen plants look in two weeks,” he said.

Gibson visited students about eight times through “By George, It’s Science!” The yearlong program was created by Jennifer Roll, with the help of the Public Education Foundation, to honor Roll’s late father, George Hudock.

Throughout the school year, Glenwood fifth graders and Bosse High School students collaborated for a variety of activities and field trips aimed at cultivating a love for science.

“We made maple syrup and it was really good,” Henderson, 11, said. “It tasted like coffee.”

Planning involved Amy Hood at Bosse, as well as Jines and Stacey Hartz at Glenwood.

Jines said the first year went “exceptionally well.”

“The kids are so receptive to it and had so much fun,” she said. “They’ve not only fostered that love for science, but also really built relationships with these people.”

Funding for “By George, It’s Science!” has been secured for at least 10 years, PEF Executive Director Amy Walker said, with ongoing efforts to raise funds to endow it permanently.

Gibson said donations make it possible to offer Sycamore Land Trust's environmental education programs free to schools in 26 southern Indiana counties. To donate or schedule a program, email shane@sycamorelandtrust.org.