



# WES fifth grade class 'digs' educational rain garden

BY HEATHER GALE  
STAFF WRITER

The fifth grade classes at Waccamaw Elementary got their hands dirty this past week as they planted a new rain garden in the parking lot.

Wal-Mart, Waccamaw Nursery, Waccamaw Elementary and Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium (CWSEC) joined to donate and teach the students about plants, insects and stormwater by allowing them to plant a rain garden.

Conwayite Jarrett Lewis, 10, was very excited to get his hands dirty this past Thursday.

"I am very excited to be a part of this and glad to be in fifth grade right now," he said. "It is very cool and fun."

As a class, Lewis said they had to behave, learn and journal about the different things they were learning in order to participate in the building of the rain garden.

"We had to be ready to be out here," he said. "We have a lot to take care of and we can't forget to do something important."

Each student got a chance

to dig a hole, place a plant in the dirt or spread some mulch.

The students will then tend to the plants, add mulch when needed, study the insects and make predictions on how the plants will grow, said Erin Ellis, one of the fifth grade teachers behind the project.

Karen Fuss, coordinator of the CWSEC and environmental educator with CCU's Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies, said the idea behind the rain garden is to collect polluted run off from the parking lot.

"The students are also planting native South Carolina vegetation that will take up the pollutants and add aesthetic value to the area," she said.

Ellis and Kelly Spaulding headed up the project and worked closely with CWSEC to help the students experience hands on learning.

"We are trying to teach the students about the environment, ways to keep it safe, keep things healthy and to utilize what they have," Ellis said.

"Plus it is awesome to see

them getting their hands dirty and furthering their education," she said.

The rain garden can also be used as an outside classroom for all students, Principal Barbara Ammons said.

"Not only are the fifth graders going to be able to use the rain garden for learning, but all the grades will be able to come out and enjoy it," she said. "But the fifth graders will be in charge of taking care of the plants every year."

The Carolina Forest Wal-Mart donated more than \$4,200 to Waccamaw Elementary to cover the costs of the rain garden.

Waccamaw Nursery donated the native plants.

Scott Brisson, store manager of the Carolina Forest Wal-Mart, said they constantly, as a company, try to be in the community and the rain garden is a perfect opportunity to do just that.

"A Wal-Mart comes into the community with the community and we wouldn't be where we are without them," he said. "So we try to give back to say thanks and help the future generations."



HEATHER GALE / THE HORRY INDEPENDENT

Shawn Shelly, left, Krysta Shelly and Elizabeth Whaley help plant native South Carolina plants in a new rain garden at Waccamaw Elementary School this past week.



COURTESY

The L. W. Paul Living History Farm gears up to set tobacco and plant corn for the summer.

## Public invited to Paul Farm for old-fashion plowing, planting

The public is invited to enjoy a day of planting and plowing on a one-horse family farm, Saturday April 3 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m..

The L. W. Paul Living History Farm is gearing up the mule to set tobacco and plant corn for the summer.

The farm staff will recreate old days on the family farm. Traditional farm tools and techniques will be used to work and demonstrate.

The public is invited to try their hand at setting tobacco with hand setters and

cultivating crops.

A variety of activities and crafts will be available for all ages.

Events planned for the day are setting tobacco plants, planting a spring garden, daubing the tobacco barn, wood working, making lye soap, washing cloths, grinding grits and meal, sawing tobacco curing wood, blacksmith, shelling corn, quilting, cooking on a wood stove, milking a cow, spring cleaning, butter making, and

cleaning and tanning a Raccoon hide.

Children's games will be held and folks can enjoy music by local band Crystal River.

Food, snacks and gifts are available for purchase in the visitor's center. The L. W. Paul Living History Farm is located at 2279 Harris Shortcut Road off of U.S. 701 North.

This event is free and open to the public. For further information, please contact the Horry County Museum phone 915-5320, e-mail hcgmuseum@horrycounty.org. Or, call the L. W. Paul Living History Farm at 365-3596.

## Photographer Sam Wang to speak at Coastal today

Internationally acclaimed photographer Sam Wang will give a talk on his work today at 4 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the Thomas W/ and Robin W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts at Coastal Carolina University.

The event is free and open to the public.

"Returning Home: An Artist's Perspective of China Fifty Years Later" will be the topic of the talk sponsored by the University's Nancy Smith Distinguished Visitor Series.

Wang was born in China and grew up in Hong Kong. He studied art at Augustana College in South Dakota and earned an MFA in 1966 from the University of Iowa with a concentration in photography and a minor in painting.

He retired in 2006 with the title of Alumni Distinguished Professor of Art at

Clemson University, where he taught photography and "art with computer." He helped create the Digital Production Arts program that prepared students for the computer animation industry. For the last few years, he has also been teaching workshops and lecturing at art schools in Beijing, Nanjing and Hangzhou, China.

Wang's work has been exhibited and published widely. His photographs can be found in the South Carolina State Collection, the Coca Cola USA Photography Collection, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the Seattle Art Museum, Atelier p7 in Brussels and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, among many others.

For more information, contact visual arts professor Easton Selby at 843-349-6474.

## 2010 EASTER "EGG" STRAVAGANZA

- \* OVER 7,500 candy filled eggs hidden in the park
- \* Grand Prize Eggs (Brand New Bicycle)
- \* Mayors Eggs
- \* Inflatables
- \* Carnival Games
- \* Easter Bunny
- \* Fire Truck Rides



SATURDAY, MARCH 27

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

CONWAY RECREATION COMPLEX

(OFF MILL POND ROAD)

AGES	HUNT STARTS
1 - 2	11:00 am
3 - 4	11:15 am
5 - 7	11:30 am
8 - 10	11:45 am

GRAND PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED IN EACH AGE CATEGORY



Conway Parks and Recreation will hold it's annual Easter "Egg"stravaganza Saturday, March 27 at the Recreation Complex off of Mill Pond Road. The event is for youth ages 1-10. Activities will start at 10:00 am.

Presented by:



For questions or comments, please call 248-1740 or email: ashleysmith@cityofconway.com or visit us online: www.ConwayParksandRecreation.com Call the information hotline at 248-1744



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