

Pleasant View Elementary School second graders took a field trip last month to help Anne Marie Clarke from the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District plant trees alongside Miller Creek off of Ambrose Rucker Road. Miller Creek is part of Amherst County's water supply watershed. It flows into Harris Creek upstream of the Elon water works. The trees they planted there will help keep the water in Miller Creek clean and healthy as it flows towards the taps of county water customers. Here's what Josh Noel, one of Mr. Strang's 2<sup>nd</sup> graders wrote about the trip:

*It was Mar. 24, 2010, a warm, sunny, spring day. We went to Miller Creek. We were planting trees. We were there to learn what water does to help people and animals and how trees stop bad stuff getting in the creek. We planted 37 trees with shovels, weed mats, hammers, staples, tubes, and wooden stakes. There were seventeen 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, 2 dads, 2 grandmas, 3 adult experts and one teacher.*

*Then we went to a reservoir. We saw through the metal grate to water going down. That was the water supply. It was loud and deep. I freaked out for a second because I was scared. Dan French, the director of the county's water authority, showed us around. Then we went on the school bus and rode to school. It was a great day.*

Anne Marie Clark has been working with landowners Jeff Bibb and Jan Komarnitzki for a couple of years to help them establish a 35 foot forested riparian buffer along Miller Creek as it flows through their property on the east side of Tobacco Row Mountain. She received a grant from the Department of Forestry's Water Quality Improvement Fund which supplied the trees and tree shelters. Jeff and Jan's interest in conservation is not limited to planting trees. In 2007 the Central Virginia Land Conservancy helped them place a conservation easement on their 200+ acres, forever preserving the rural character of their property.