

Environmental Field Day At Wakefield Farm

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — Over the years, blue skies and May sunshine have greeted nearly every first grade class taking an environmental field day trip to the Wakefield Farm in Friends Cove.

And so it was this year. Holding an environmental field day at the Wakefield Farm was the idea of Beverly Wakefield, a first-grade teacher at Bedford Elementary School who lives at the farm with her husband Jim, and Laura

Jackson, an environmental teacher at Bedford High School who teaches ninth grade students. Beverly's husband Jim and his brother Tom are partners in the 400-acre dairy farm. The two teachers decided that allowing some of the ninth grade students to join in the educational event by serving as teachers to the first-graders would be beneficial. "We decided it would be a great project for both age groups," explained Beverly. "I would bring my first graders to the farm where they could learn first-hand how the



From the left, first-grade teacher and dairy farmer wife Beverly Wakefield kneels to identify and explain some of the pond life in this first grader's sieve, while others scoop and look.



A ninth-grade student at Bedford High School, Bridgette Leach explains some of the types of pond life to these Bedford Elementary first-grade students.



This plastic sheet is laid out over top of the lawn and other items and slopes down hill. The first-grade students dump colored water onto it to demonstrate the concept of a watershed, and how all areas of the watershed affect the quality of the main receiving body of water. At this station, the Chesapeake Bay is the body of water of concern.



With two older students manning the station, a group of first-grade students dumps items into the Super-Duper Recycling Machine, and then receive items that can be made from recycled materials.

environment and farming relate. Laura would bring her older students to assist in teaching."

This year there were about 200 first grade students and about 70 ninth grade students.

It takes weeks to prepare the farm for the visit, which includes erecting a teepee.

(Turn to Page B31)



Magnets help these first graders learn how to tell the difference between aluminum cans and iron-based metal cans.



The station looks at stone tool points made by Native Americans and presents some techniques of archeology.