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**CHARTER SCHOOL RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL  
EXCELLENCE AWARD**

*Green Woods Charter School Students Spend Year Immersed in Watershed Study*

**Philadelphia, PA-** Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today honored Green Woods Charter School for its commitment to environmental education.

“Green Woods has designed a standards-based curriculum around an outdoor learning laboratory that offers students a rare opportunity to learn first-hand that the things they do—and don’t do—can make a difference in the health of the environment,” said McGinty. “The fourth graders’ experience during the ‘Watershed Year’ provides the foundation for a lifetime of appreciation for the environment.”

Located on the grounds of the 340-acre Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Green Woods Charter School provides children in grades K-8 with the opportunity to be active, knowledgeable and conscientious young investigators by fostering a keen understanding of the interrelatedness and interdependence of local and global environments.

Working closely with The Schuylkill Center’s Land Restoration and Education departments, the fourth-grade undergoes a year-long study of the social, historical and environmental aspects of the local watershed. Each year culminates with a hands-on project—most recently, the class aided the Land Restoration staff in its restoration of Smith’s Run, a stream on The Schuylkill Center property that feeds directly into the Schuylkill River. The Smith Run Streambank Restoration was funded by the Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program administered by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

“The purpose of including Land Restoration in the students’ watershed education is to encourage them to reconnect with the natural environment through a hands-on experience. These kids are the next generation. They will be making the decisions that affect the future.” commented Fran Lawn, Director of Land Restoration.

DEP received 45 applications for the 2007 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence. The applications were evaluated according to overall environmental benefit, public service, economic impact, use of innovative technology, teamwork, and environmental education and outreach. Of the 12 award recipients, Green Woods Charter was the only school to be honored.

To learn more about the Governor’s Award, and to watch a video about the project, visit: <http://www.greenwoodscharter.org>. You can also learn more about The Schuylkill Center’s Environmental Education mission and programs at: <http://www.schuylkillcenter.org>.



Photo: Green Woods Charter School

***Secretary McGinty spends a moment exploring outside The Center with a young friend as Schuylkill Center Board President, John Howard looks on.***