

## **Eastern Panhandle Conservation District**

### **Second Annual Earth Day 5K and Fun Walk**

The weather was a perfect 70 degree day at Cacapon State Park on April 27, 2013. Forty-three runners and walkers participated in the second annual EPCD Earth Day 5K and 1 Mile Fun Walk. From the State Park entrance to the finish line near the Nature Center, runners were able to follow the paved drive that meandered through the Park's picturesque scenery and, at times, daunting hills.

After the race, participants had the option of learning about the tiny critters that live in our local waters with a demonstration by Cacapon Institute's Molly Barkman or learning how to ID trees with Division of Forestry's Ben Kunze. Raffle items included a Vera Bradley back pack from Steppin' Out Shoes and Such, located in Shepherdstown, a homemade canned goods basket, provided by Sue Lucas, and gift certificates from Road ID and Runner's Retreat, Winchester, VA. Event day photographs may be viewed and purchased at [www.sullivans-studio.com/sports.html](http://www.sullivans-studio.com/sports.html).

This year, the event had several sponsors including: EPCD, Chesapeake Bay Program, MVB Bank, CNB Bank, Reeds Pharmacy, Kitchen's Farm Market, Pizza Oven, Dawson's Home Center, Portals, Martins, Weis, Food Lion, and Road ID. Other sponsors include Progressive Printing who donated advertising materials and Logo Apparel who printed the event day t shirts. Two Rivers Treads also had a \$10 coupon to all participants. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of Cacapon State Park and Renee Fincham, Cacapon State Park Naturalist.

Event coordinators Heather Ishman, Education and Outreach Specialist and Suzy Lucas, Conservation Field Specialist, were thrilled with the event's success and are already planning for next year's race. All proceeds from the event benefit the high school students of the area to participate in the WV Envirothon Contest.