

# \$1000 GRANT AWARDED TO LITTLE KESWICK SCHOOL

*By Dr. Mark Kindler*

Anyone who has visited Little Keswick School remembers the small pond with its bridge and two fountains, and has heard tales of the great fish and large turtles it hides. How does such a small body of water support such a variety of life, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and water fowl? And an even bigger question, how does our peaceful pond influence a huge body of water, the Chesapeake Bay?

These questions and many more will be answered by the students in Group D this year as part of their science class. The class will engage in a hands-on water quality sampling from the in and out flow of the campus stream to understand their part of the larger Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Students will also take two field trips to the Appalachian Trail in the Shenandoah National Park to experience the height of land in the watershed, and to Williamsburg, Virginia to observe the watershed emptying into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Watershed Project is made possible by a grant written and acquired by John Gillette. John is in the process of taking classes at the University of Virginia towards teacher certification. His interest in the outdoors and concern about the environment led him to apply for the grant. John is a seasoned outdoorsman who has hiked the entire Appalachian Trail – three times. (That's over 2000 miles each time) We are fortunate to have John as a classroom aide for Group D at our school.



John chose to work with the LKS science class as one of his class requirements. He has a personal interest in the fact that we are part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and wanted to explore what water quality means to our community. The hands-on experience is a way to work on problems using scientific methods, observation, and the ability to assess the health of the environment on a small scale. The information and data found can then be generalized how it affects the larger community, namely the health of the Chesapeake Bay. 🌲