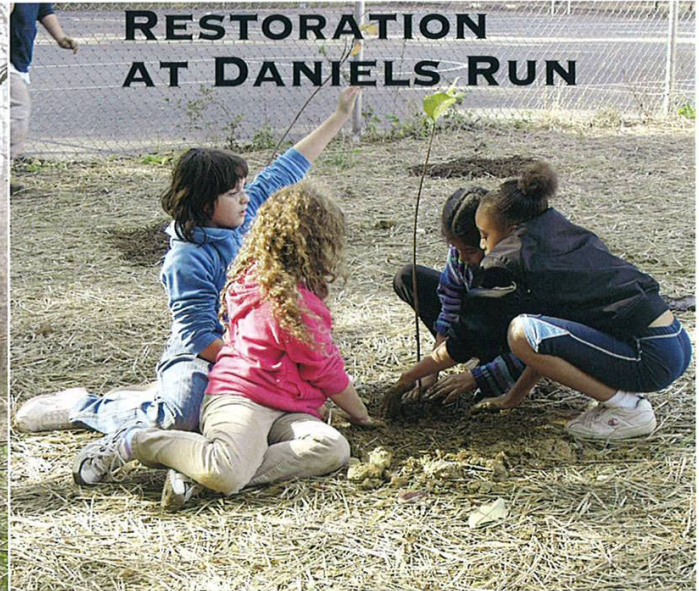




**GW COMMUNITY SCHOOL TAKES ON THE WEEDS**



**RESTORATION AT DANIELS RUN**



We're excited to connect with a group of energetic new partners for our work at Wilburdale Park, in the Annandale section of Fairfax County. Beginning last winter, students from the GW Community School, in Springfield, have been tangling with Wilburdale's jungle of invasive alien plants. At top left, the school's Director, Alexa Warden, takes on a bittersweet vine. At bottom left, GW Community students advance into a dense and very prickly patch of multiflora rose.

Students at Daniels Run Elementary School, in the City of Fairfax, are planting our nursery stock on their school grounds (top and middle right). The planting is part of an extensive environmental education and Bayscaping program organized at Daniels Run by Lands and Waters (see front page). Most of our little trees are doing well there, as you can see from the photo at right, which shows a blackgum seedling leafing out this spring.

In May, 165 volunteers from AOL participated in our second stream-buffer planting at Lake Fairfax Park, in the western section of Fairfax County (facing page, at top). The goal was partly to extend our first Lake Fairfax planting, done in spring 2005. The efficiency of the AOL volunteers was even more formidable than their turn-out: they worked so quickly that we ran out of planting stock before the event was over—at which point, they extracted a dumpster-load of invasive alien plants from the surrounding woods.

This spring, we hosted two outdoor meditation sessions at the Marie Butler Leven Preserve in McLean (facing page, inset). The sessions were presented as part of the Neighborhood Ecological Stewardship Training (NEST) program, organized by Sangha board member Joanna Cornell. We're hoping to schedule more outdoor sessions this fall.

In April, we celebrated Earth Day with the Vienna Moms Club (opposite, bottom) by organizing a stream-buffer planting at Roundtree Park. As with the Lake Fairfax planting, the Roundtree event was part of the Fairfax County stream-buffer restoration program, and in our opinion, if you're old enough to walk, you have a role to play in these plantings. We're very glad that the Vienna Moms agree!

