



PRESS RELEASE

Mason Elementary School Scores Gold/Earns Tree

MASON, NH-On Tuesday, October 21, Mason Elementary School students, teachers, staff and guests convened for a tree planting ceremony in the school courtyard. MES recently achieved the Team Earth Gold Award from NRRRA's School Recycling Club (the CLUB). They had to earn 100 recycling activity points and consistently recycle four items to earn a new tree for their school.

With the assistance of Babin Landscaping and funding from NH the Beautiful (NHtB), the CLUB was able to purchase a beautiful eight-foot flowering crabapple tree, which was planted in the school's courtyard. All of the students contributed a handful of dirt as part of the ceremony (see attached photos).



Babin Landscaping has been a long-time supporter of Mason Elementary projects and was

represented by David & Marci Babin, whose sons are students at MES. Representing NH the Beautiful at the ceremony was Paula Dow, Administrative Manager of NRRRA. Gwen Erley, NRRRA Programs Coordinator recognized the students' achievement of the first ever tree planting by the Team Earth Program, and the first Gold Award since 2008.

After planting was completed, NRRRA/NHtB representatives were given a tour of the school by Facility Manager Rick Griffith. Students in Mrs. Hooper's class sang two recycling songs while playing their Trash Can Band instruments, made entirely of recycled items.

PHOTO 1: Students of Mason Elementary assemble for tree planting ceremony (NRRRA courtesy photo).

PHOTO 2: Babin Landscaping selected and planted Mason Elementary crabapple tree (NRRRA courtesy photo).

PHOTO 3: Mason Elementary students help plant ceremonial tree (NRRRA courtesy photo).

Team Earth is a program developed to recognize CLUB members (and offer awards) for the great work they are doing in the world of school recycling. The Team Earth Awards have three levels of recognition: "Bronze", "Silver" and "Gold." The level of award is directly dependent on how proactive a school recycling Club is with regard to how many items it recycles, how actively it promotes its program, educating people on the importance of recycling, etc. For each recycling activity a Club undertakes it receives Team Earth points. It is through these points that a school can reach for the "Gold" and receive the highest level of school recycling recognition awarded.

The School Recycling Club (The CLUB) is a program for all schools in New England and is supported by NRRRA and NH the Beautiful. For students and teachers in grades K-12, the CLUB serves as a centralized organization to become more active in the world of recycling. The CLUB is a fun and innovative way to give kids encouragement, direction, and networking possibilities for school recycling programs. For more information visit www.schoolrecycling.net.

The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) is a proactive, non-profit organization that has worked for over 30 years with its membership to make their recycling programs strong, efficient and financially successful. For more information visit www.nrra.net.

New Hampshire the Beautiful, Inc. (NHtB) has been a longtime supporter of the NRRA School Club and environmental education in NH. NHtB is a private non-profit charitable trust founded in 1983 and supported by the soft drink, malt beverage, and grocery industries of New Hampshire. NHtB offers municipal recycling grants, recycling education grants (over \$2.5 million), recycling signs, anti-litter programs, and technical assistance. NHtB is a unique organization that represents a voluntarily-funded alternative to expensive legislation intended to achieve the same end results. For more information visit: www.nhthebeautiful.org.