

Fort A.P. Hill celebrates Earth Day

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Members of the Fort A.P. Hill community got back to nature as they celebrated the 37th anniversary of Earth Day at Romenick Hall.

Visitors witnessed exhibits and demonstrations, and participated in ongoing environmental projects originating on Fort A.P. Hill, while learning how humans have impacted the local area.

They also learned what can be done to help the natural environment.

“Because human activities can have negative consequences on the environment, knowledge of former historical and prehistoric land-use patterns can allow for better land management practices,” said John J. Mullin, Fort A.P. Hill cultural resource manager.

“Ultimately, environmental conservation requires this type of land-use information to better manage both natural and cultural resources,” he added.

The displays at Romenick Hall helped inform the public of Fort A.P. Hill’s programs to help with forestry, recycling, environmental noise management archaeology along with its efforts to document and preserve environmental conditions of the post.

“Fort A.P. Hill’s Earth Day event is indicative of our excellent environmental program,” said Lt. Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, Fort A.P. Hill commander. “We realize what a fragile environment we live and work in, and do all we can to ensure we sustain the land for years to come.”



Beth Crockett, right, Directorate of Public Works, helps a child plant a tree Friday during the post Earth Day activities. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)



Children learn how to make pine cone bird feeders Friday at the Fort A.P. Hill Earth Day event. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

After spending time learning about local ecosystems, several participants planted trees to help the environment and give something back to “mother nature.”

“Planting these trees for future generations is what Earth Day is all about,” said Megan Davis, who came to Fort A.P. Hill to learn more about Earth Day. “I can’t think of a better way to give back. I just hope future generations will appreciate what they have and do the same thing.”

Earth Day began when Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, called for an environmental teach-in, or Earth Day, to be held on April 22, 1970 to start responding to widespread environmental degradation.

More than 20 million people around the world participated in the first Earth Day.

Many important laws were passed by Congress in the wake of the first Earth Day; including the Clean Air Act, Environmental Protection Agency, and laws to protect drinking water, wild lands and the ocean.

Earth Day is now observed each year in 175 countries.