

Evergreen Heritage Center Heritage Hoop House

Sponsored by the Rural Maryland Council and USDA

To support their goal of **implementing and teaching best management practices in sustainable agriculture and forestry**, in 2013, the EHC Foundation and its partners built a “high tunnel” or “hoop house” style greenhouse, which will lengthen the growing cycle for seedlings and provide more favorable growing conditions than are typical for Western Maryland. This Project, which was subsidized by the Rural Maryland Council and the USDA Agricultural Management Assistance program, also demonstrates soil and water conservation via a **rain water collection and drip-line irrigation** system, as well as energy conservation via the **use of solar energy** to power the structure’s irrigation pump and its insulation system.

Project participants included **Allegany County Public Schools (ACPS)** students who tested EHC rain water which is being used for Hoop House irrigation and analyzed the soil at the Hoop House site. **Frostburg State University and Allegany College of Maryland** students also participated by helping to prepare the site and developing materials describing sustainable agriculture and forestry practices. The EHC and its partners will use the new Heritage Hoop House to support their agriculture, education, forestry, and research programs including growing native trees and plants that will replace invasive species, cultivating EHC heritage tree/plant species that are decreasing in numbers, growing plants to establish pollinator and wildlife habitats, and cultivating medicinal herbs.



The Heritage Hoop House: 2013



Installing the Hoops and Building the Wooden Ends



Adding the Roof and Trimming the Sides



Installing the Solar Panels and the Rain Water Collection System