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International Coal Group Celebrates Arbor Day with Webster County Students

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The students got to know the environment near the Birch River Mine Complex.

Story by Sarah Kapis
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COWEN -- International Coal Group Eastern joined the Department of Environmental Protection and several other organizations on Thursday to give back to the Earth.

They invited some Webster County students to their Birch River Mining site to learn more about Arbor Day 2009.

Consulting Biologist Ben Faulkner waded into the Birch River with a net to make a point that the river is clean and the bugs living in it are healthy.

"Coal mining didn't have an effect on the stream," Faulkner said.

The river, located below the Birch River surface mine, is alive and well, he said.

The Webster County students learned about the environment in a number of ways including: planting 230 new trees on mined soil and getting a lesson on tree species from members of The American Chestnut Foundation.

The entire event was part of an annual observance of Arbor Day. The students will also plant Chestnut trees near their respective schools, in the future.

Click on the link for the full story.

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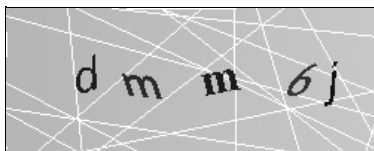
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