Around Crofton: Crofton Scouts take on water testing project for the Patuxent Riverkeeper

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Patuxent Riverkeeper, an organization that works to improve, protect and preserve the Patuxent River, recruited Crofton Boy Scout Troop 731 to help during the Patuxent River Water Quality Initiative.

The river covers 930 square miles of watershed and runs for 110 miles through nearly the entire length of the state of Maryland, according to the organization's Web site.

Subijoy Dutta of Crofton, a professional engineer with the Environmental Protection Agency, and executive director of Rivers of the World Foundation, is helping to oversee the project.

His 14-year-old son, Sanjit Dutta, is a member of the troop and a ninth-grader at South River High School.

"We learned about the quality of water and what lives in it," Sanjit said. He also enjoys math, running track and playing the cello and piano.

From left, Nathan Sewell, 16, Joe Percivall, 16, and Patrick Shea, 14, all of Crofton and members of Boy Scout Troop 731 use the "buddy system" to safely collect water samples off Conway Road as part of the Patuxent River Water Quality Initiative.