

Teacher Naturalists Training



Take a hike

Do you like working with kids? Do you want to learn more about nature? The Warren County Conservation District is considering the possibility of holding a Teacher Naturalist training in the spring of 2012. This course will be one weekday for 8 – 10 weeks and consist of in-class and outdoor sessions. Session topics include agriculture, soils, forestry, and water. Now don't let the term "teacher naturalist" throw you.

You don't have to be a teacher

Do you want to learn more about



Help with crafts

to participate, nor do you need a degree in environmental studies. All you need is a love of learning, nature, and a desire to inspire our young ones to learn about, and take care of, this marvelous planet that is our home.

The Conservation District will expect volunteers who complete this training to help with summer conservation camps held the second and third weeks of July. There is also an opportunity to learn some in-class education programs available to local schools.

Currently the Conservation District is gauging interest for this program and training dates will be announced at a later time. If you feel you may want to participate in this worthwhile volunteer program contact the District's Watershed Specialist, Jean Gomory.



Go on a canoe trip

Warren County Dirt & Gravel Roads Program Overview

In Pennsylvania, non-point source pollution is responsible for 88% of all impaired streams. The dust and sediment pollution resulting from the poor maintenance of the more than 27,000 miles of dirt and gravel roads in the Commonwealth has been shown to be a large contributor to this pollution.

In order to minimize the negative environmental impacts from dirt and gravel roads, the Warren County Conservation District entered into an agreement in 1997 with the PA State Conservation Commission to coordinate the Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance Program (DGRP) in Warren County. The program makes up to \$4 million available state-wide to fund safe, efficient, and environmentally sound maintenance of dirt and gravel roads.

The DGRP funds are appropriated through the PA State Conservation Commission to County Conservation Districts. A local Quality Assurance Board, with representation from the District, PA Fish & Boat Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, determines which projects are funded through a simplified grant application process.

In 1998, the Conservation District completed an assessment of all dirt and gravel roads in Warren County. The assessment identified approximately 500 various sites which are causing sediment pollution to waters of the Commonwealth. Improvements funded under the program must be at a site listed from the assessment. Since the creation of the program in 1997, the Warren County Conservation District has funded the improvement of 100 work sites in 14 different municipalities, in Warren County, totaling over 2 Million Dollars. In 2011/2012 the District will receive an allocation of \$167,000 to fund Dirt & Gravel Road Projects in Warren County.

Following is a list of the Townships that have participated in the program: Brokenstraw, Columbus, Deerfield, Eldred, Elk, Farmington, Freehold, Mead, Pittsfield, Sheffield, Southwest, Spring Creek, Sugar Grove, and Triumph. For more information about the program and the different practices used you can visit The Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel