

### **Conservation District & Others Teach Kindergarteners about Nature**

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) was invited to Middleburg Elementary School to coordinate and teach five kindergarten classes about several aspects of nature. The topics were as follows: soils, trees, song birds, birds of prey and aquatic life. Each student took home a tree, a magnifying glass, a flower pot with soil and marigold seeds, a bag of bones from an owl pellet, a bird call, a box to hold aquatic insects and other activity books inside a draw string backpack.

Jason Winey, SCCD Watershed Specialist, coordinated the event held on the morning of April 28, 2017. Several of his fellow SCCD colleagues and individuals from USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Susquehanna University, Penn State Extension, USDA-FSA (Farm Service Agency) and PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources' (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry helped with the five activities. Approximately 100 kindergarteners participated that day.

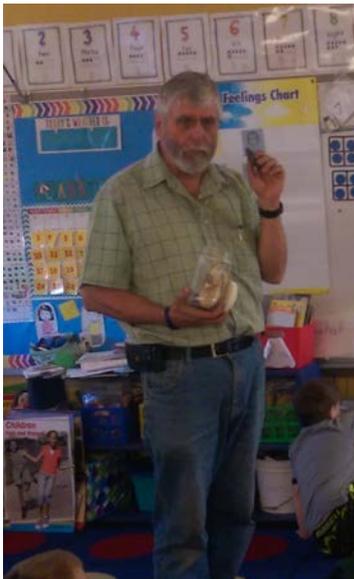


*Above Left: Shane Eia, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician, holds a mounted barn owl. Above Right: Craig Bingman (right, standing), SCCD District Manager, helps a student look at the contents of an opened owl pellet. Owl pellets consist of regurgitated food items such as bones, fir and feathers that cannot be digested and are coughed back out.*





*Above: Several kindergartners decorate their bird calls after learning about song birds and other non-predatory birds such as the ring-necked pheasant (adult male, bottom left), the mallard duck (adult male drake, bottom right) and ruffed grouse (somewhat visible behind duck).*



*Left: Mike Bilger, Aquatic Ecology Research Scientist at Susquehanna University, shows students actual specimens that live in our local fresh waters.*

SCCD has given presentations to young people in schools, at school sponsored events and at other events for many years. For more information regarding this event and other potential environmental educational opportunities for youngsters, call the Snyder County Conservation District at 570-837-3000 or email us at [sccd@ptd.net](mailto:sccd@ptd.net).

Check what else we do by visiting our website at [www.snyderconservation.org](http://www.snyderconservation.org).

*Note: A special thanks goes to these people from outside SCCD who helped out with this educational activity:*

- *Shane Eia, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician, Middleburg Field Office*
- *John Portzline, DCNR Bureau of Forestry Assistant Forester, Bald Eagle Forest, Laurelton*
- *Gerald Hoy, DCNR Bureau of Forestry Service Forester, Bald Eagle Forest, Laurelton*
- *Kathy Weller, 4-H Coordinator, Snyder County, Penn State Extension*
- *Mike Bilger, Aquatic Ecology Research Scientist, Susquehanna University*
- *Kelly DeLucy, FSA County Executive Director, Snyder-Union Office, Middleburg*

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