

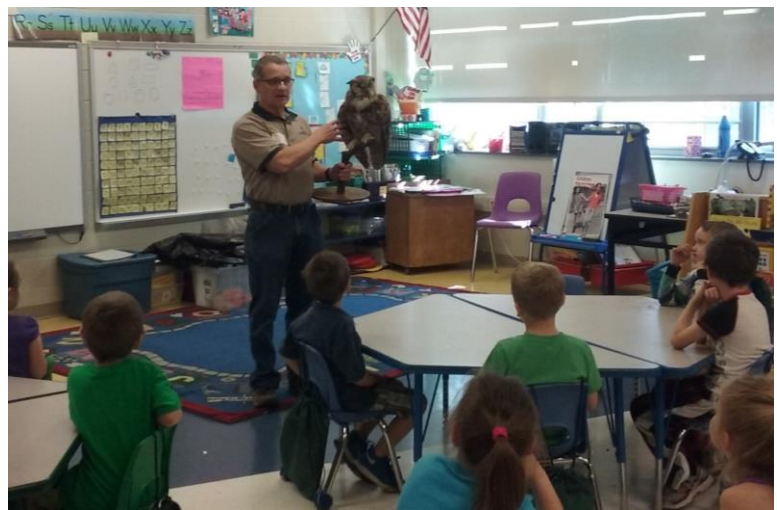
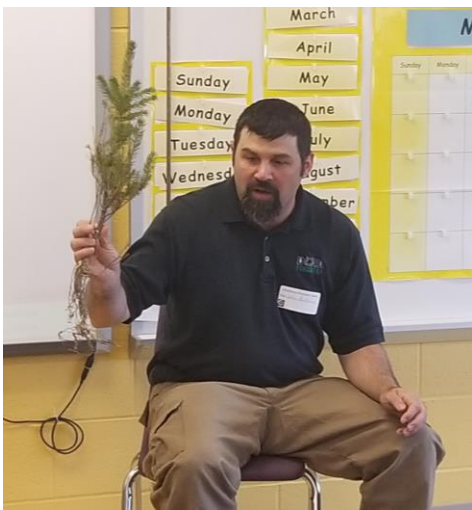
Conservation District & Others Teach Kindergarteners about Nature

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) was invited to West Snyder and Middleburg Elementary Schools to coordinate and teach kindergarten classes about several aspects of nature.

In both schools, the topics the students learned about were as follows: soils, trees, song & game birds and birds of prey. Middleburg Elementary students also listened to information about aquatic life.

Each student took home a tree, a flower pot with soil and flower seeds, a bag of bones from an owl pellet, a bird call, and other activity books inside a draw string backpack.

Jason Winey, SCCD Watershed Specialist, coordinated both educational activities held on the mornings of May 2 and May 3, 2018. 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 180 kindergarteners from both schools participated.



Above Left Photo: John Portzline, DCNR Assistant District Forester, Bald Eagle Forest, gives a presentation on the importance of trees. Above Right Photo: Craig Bingman (standing), SCCD District Manager, holds an barn owl mount in front of the students.

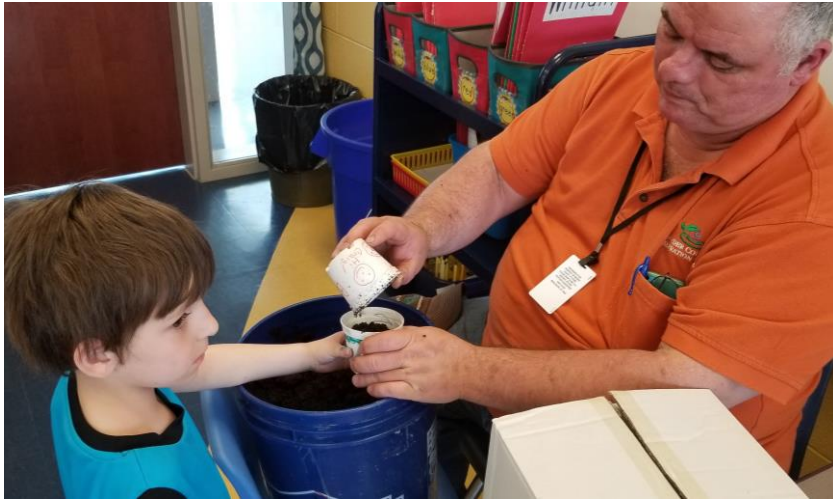




Above Left Photo: FSA County Executive Director Kelly DeLucy (sitting, far right), Snyder & Union Counties, helps students look at the contents from owl pellets they opened. Below Right Photo: Jason Winey (background, leaning), SCCD Watershed Specialist and Shane Eia (foreground, leaning), NRCS Civil Engineering Technician, Middleburg Field Office, held other students with their owl pellets. Owl pellets consist of regurgitated food items such as bones, fur and feathers that cannot be digested and are coughed back out.

Above Right Photo: Kathy Weller, Penn State Extension Snyder County 4-H Coordinator, shows off a ring-necked pheasant mount. Below Left Photo: Several kindergartners decorate their bird calls, with help from Renee Swineford (standing), SCCD Administrative Assistant, after learning about song and game birds and listening to their songs and calls.





Left Photo: A kindergartner receives potting soil from Chip Spatz, SCCD Nutrient Management Technician before seeds are placed in pots the students take home to grow.
Bottom Photo: Students learn the importance of soils from SCCD staff members Barry Spangler, Agricultural Conservation Technician (sitting on chair, background) and Tim Hornberger, Resource Conservation Technician (not shown).



SCCD has given presentations to young people in schools, at school sponsored events and at other events throughout its history. 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.

Check what else we do by visiting our website at 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 District 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*

Version: 5-16-2018

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