

Conservation District & Others Teach Kindergarteners about Nature

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) was invited to Middleburg and West Snyder 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 mini-greenhouse with vegetable seeds planted into soil balls, a bag of bones from an owl pellet, a bird call, and other activity books inside a draw string backpack.



Above: Tim Hornberger, SCCD Resource Conservation Technician (seated at far left), asks students what plants need to grow, and one of the answers is soil. Below: Renee Swineford, SCCD Administrative Assistant (standing at far right), shows students how to make their own bird calls.





Lauren Maguire, SCCD Watershed Specialist, coordinated both educational activities held on the mornings of April 26 and May 6, 2019. Several of her fellow SCCD colleagues, a local aquatics scientist, and individuals from USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Penn State Extension and PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources' (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry helped with the five activities. Approximately 160 kindergarteners from both schools participated.

Left: Laurent Maguire, SCCD Watershed Specialist, gives a presentation on birds of prey, specifically owls on what they eat. Each student was given a an owl pellet, which consist of regurgitated food items such as bones, fur and feathers that cannot be digested and are coughed back out.

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@snydercd.org.

Check what else we do with education our youth, as well as the general public, by visiting our website at www.snyderconservation.org, specifically our [Education & Youth](#), [Meetings & Workshops](#) and [Envirothon](#) web pages.



Above Left: Mike Bilger, Local Aquatics Biologist (standing), shows students a crayfish on a projection screen. Above Right: Barry Spangler, SCCD Ag. Conservation Technician (sitting in front of students), reads a story about the adventures of Sammy, a soil particle. Below: Kathy Weller, Penn State Extension Snyder County 4-H Coordinator, shows students a mallard duck drake mount.





Above Left: Shane Eia, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician, Middleburg Field Office (standing), holds an owl mount while students begin to open their owl pellets. Above Right: Students look at a Norway spruce tree seedling held by Jeff Osborne, DCNR Bureau of Forestry Service Forester (sitting at far right), during his presentation.

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*
- *Jeff Osborne, DCNR Bureau of Forestry Service Forester, Bald Eagle Forest, Laurelton*
- *Dale Ronk, DCNR Bureau of Forestry Forest Technician, Bald Eagle Forest, Laurelton*
- *Kathy Weller, 4-H Coordinator, Snyder County, Penn State Extension*
- *Mike Bilger, Local Aquatic Ecology Scientist, Susquehanna University*

Version: 5-22-2019

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