

**Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Hands on the Land Natural Resources Conservation Fair
Delaware Fairgrounds 2005
October 4, 5, 6, 7, 2005**



The Delaware County DEEP, *Hands on the Land* is an environmental education program designed to reach approximately 600 4th graders and their teachers. The daylong event will allow students to rotate through 6 different stations lasting 30 minutes a piece. The stations will teach the students about different environmental issues including composting, animal tracking, soil/water conservation, and (listed next will be the rest of the stations). The DEEP committee is dedicated to making this event a great teaching and learning experience for all involved therefore group size will be kept to 25 students or less. Each presenter will be provided with a volunteer assistant from the Delaware Area Career Center's pre-professional program.

Teachers of the participating classes will receive a packet of information prior to the event. Included in the teacher packet will be a summary of the days activities (including a description of each station), any pre-trip information that they may want to share with their students, information on how the students can pack a garbage free lunch, and photo releases to be sent home with the students. *Hands on the Land* will take place at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, this allows for the event to take place rain or shine due to the fact that there are three building available for our use.

Teaching our youth environmental appreciation and an understanding of our beautiful natural environment is the goal of the new alliance called the Delaware Environmental Education Partnership (DEEP). Our DEEP partners believes that everyone is delighted by the natural beauty of the environment, and by sharing environmental culture we hope that we can spark another generation to protect the planet and have a deep appreciation for our environment. The group is comprised of non-formal educators who have a passion about environmental appreciation. The following agencies comprise DEEP: Boys Scouts of America, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Delaware County Bird Club, Delaware General Health District, Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, Environmental Education Council of Ohio, Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District, Highbanks Metro Park, Ohio BlueBird Society, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio State University Cooperative Extension, Ohio Wildlife Center, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, and Stratford Ecological Center.

Our mission and a vision:

Mission

The Delaware Environmental Education Partnership works collaboratively to enhance environmental awareness, appreciation, stewardship, and responsibility by providing environmental education resources and learning opportunities for Delaware County land users of all ages.

Vision

DEEP strives to develop environmental stewards that understand their relationships with natural resources and make informed and responsible



decisions to conserve these resources in Delaware County and the rest of the world.

Our logo is:

Our goals and objectives for environmental education include:

- 1.) Continue to network and coordinate informal environmental educators in Delaware County.
- 2.) Coordinate environmental education programs, compile a resource list, and post resources on a web site.
- 3.) Contact all 4 school districts and become involved in the new teacher orientations in the fall. At the orientation we will introduce all the environmental educators that are part of the DEEP Committee and make the teachers aware of the programs available to Delaware County students.
- 4.) To look at the two pilot model projects in Ohio for environmental education for the students, including:
 - *Greater Cincinnati Environmental Education day
 - *Dayton-Children's water festival. All students come together for a day to learn about our resource, water in May. Information booths will be set-up for the students and teachers
- 5.) To promote a recycling program in the Schools. Contact Ohio Department of Health to ask for recommendations for recycling programs and waste management as part of the Health Department inspection program.
- 6.) To offer Environmental education programs to groups or populations including Ministers and Churches; Legislators; Township Trustees; City Council; Regional Planning; Industry; Universities; Day Cares; and Home Schools; Libraries.
- 7.) To obtain Department of Education approval of environmental Curriculums that DEEP offers
- 8.) To continue to work cooperatively in Delaware County to look for opportunities to promote environmental education learning opportunities.
- 9.) Provide a hands-on environmental education opportunity to Delaware County fourth graders that will help them to meet the Ohio Academic Content Standards.

Why is the project needed by the target audience?

In 1998 an environmental assessment survey was conducted in Delaware County, which determined the residents' concerns about the environment. Of the top seventeen concerns noted by our residents, the need to provide environmental education to our children was ranked as number three. Our residents stated that they wanted their children to have a better awareness and appreciation for the environment, and to be environmental steward upon graduation. Our DEEP committee is working in the schools and within the community to that end. Our DEEP committee decided to hold a natural resources conservation day in order to impact a larger audience on environmental education, appreciation and awareness. Our DEEP Committee selected the fourth grade students after review of the Ohio Academic Content Standards, they

felt that their environmental programs and information would have a greater impact on the age group.

The goals of this event are to:

- 1.) To educate and motivate students about becoming environmental stewards
- 2.) To provide an event that allows children to learn about the environment through a hands-on experience
- 3.) To provide an environmental education activity that will help teachers and students to meet Ohio Academic Content Standards (for many subjects including science)

The activities for this event are:

- 1.) Keep Delaware County Beautiful (KDCB) will provide a recycling presentation at the event. KDCB will use Pete's Packs, a plastic recycling kit, and other items to demonstrate to students several of Ohio's Academic Content Standards. KDCB staff will show the stages of PETE recycling and discuss plastic recycling in Ohio. KDCB's program will meet Ohio Academic Content Standards in the areas of Economics, Physical Science, and Science and Technology.
- 2.) Preservation Parks of Delaware County will be teach children through their *Animals Along the Olentangy* program. This program will help students to learn that animal tracking is still relevant in today's world. They will learn that from animal tracks biologist, naturalist, and other professionals can determine what kind of wildlife is in an area, the estimated population of different species, the kind of species, feeding/watering habits and the range that they inhabit. From the Ohio Academic Content Standards the children will learn (from Life Sciences, Diversity and Interdependence of Life) to describe how organisms interact with one another in various ways (e.g., many plants depend on animals for carrying pollen or dispersing seeds); (Scientific Inquiry, Doing Scientific Inquiry) the children will analyze a series of events and/or simple daily or seasonal cycles, describe the patterns and infer the next likely occurrence and learn how to describe how comparisons may not be fair when some conditions are not kept the same between experiments; (Scientific Ways of Knowing, Nature of Science) students will differentiate fact from opinion and explain that scientists do not rely on claims or conclusions unless they are backed by observations that can be confirmed, record the results and data from an investigation and make a reasonable explanation, and explain discrepancies in an investigation using evidence to support findings; (from Geography, Location) students will use maps to identify the location of major physical and human features of Ohio including: Rivers, Plains, etc.
- 3.) The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District – *Make a Splash, Don't be a Drip in Your Watershed*, this program will use aerial photos, maps, and an interactive model to discover what a watershed is, your watershed address, and how your actions have far-reaching and long-lasting watershed effects. This program will address Ohio Academic Content Standards from the areas of Science, Social Studies, and Technology.

- 4.) Ohio Wildlife Center will present the program *Amazing Adaptations: Ohio Wildlife*. Students will meet a few native species up close and learn how human activity impacts wildlife relative to animal's adaptations for their specific environment.
- 5.) Highbanks Metro Parks will present *Primitive Firemaking*. This program will teach 4th graders about the fire triangle. This program will meet Ohio Academic Content Standards in the areas of Physical Science and Science and Technology.
- 6.) The Columbus Zoo will present *Relationships in Nature*, which will teach the 4th graders about how organisms interact with one another in different ways. This program will meet Ohio Academic Content Standards in the areas of Life Sciences and Scientific Inquiry

COLLABORATION:

How will other organizations be involved in this project? (Attach letters documenting specific commitments from collaborators.)

Six organizations will be participating in the *Hands on the Land* Project as presenters. These organizations include: The Columbus Zoo, Keep Delaware County Beautiful, Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, Ohio Wildlife Center, Highbanks Metro Park, and Preservation Parks of Delaware County. Please see attached letters.

At least five additional organizations have volunteered support for the project through offering volunteers for the event or through serving on the planning committee. These organizations include: Grady Memorial Hospital, the Stratford Ecological Center, Delaware County OSU Extension, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Please see attached letters for more information.

The Delaware County Fair Board has committed to help with the project by allowing us to use the buildings and the Fairgrounds at no cost.

How will you determine the success of the project?

Students will be given a pre-test to complete before they attend the *Hands on the Land* event to determine their knowledge level. After the event each student will also be given a post-test. Scores will be compared to see if there was an increase in knowledge.

Teachers will be given a post-event evaluation to complete. This evaluation will be used to determine if we met the learning objectives that were set for the day and to make improvements on the program for future years. We will also use teacher evaluations to determine if the program met the Ohio Academic Content Standards and the academic needs of the students.

How will information and results be shared?

An electronic scrapbook including the grant, all print materials given to the teachers and students, advertisements, lesson plans, evaluation results, comments from the collaboration, and pictures from the event will be put together. This information will be shared with any group who would like to try to have a similar event.

