

Focus Newsletter

Do you know or are you a teacher or educator looking to improve and expand conservation education opportunities at your school? We might be able to help!

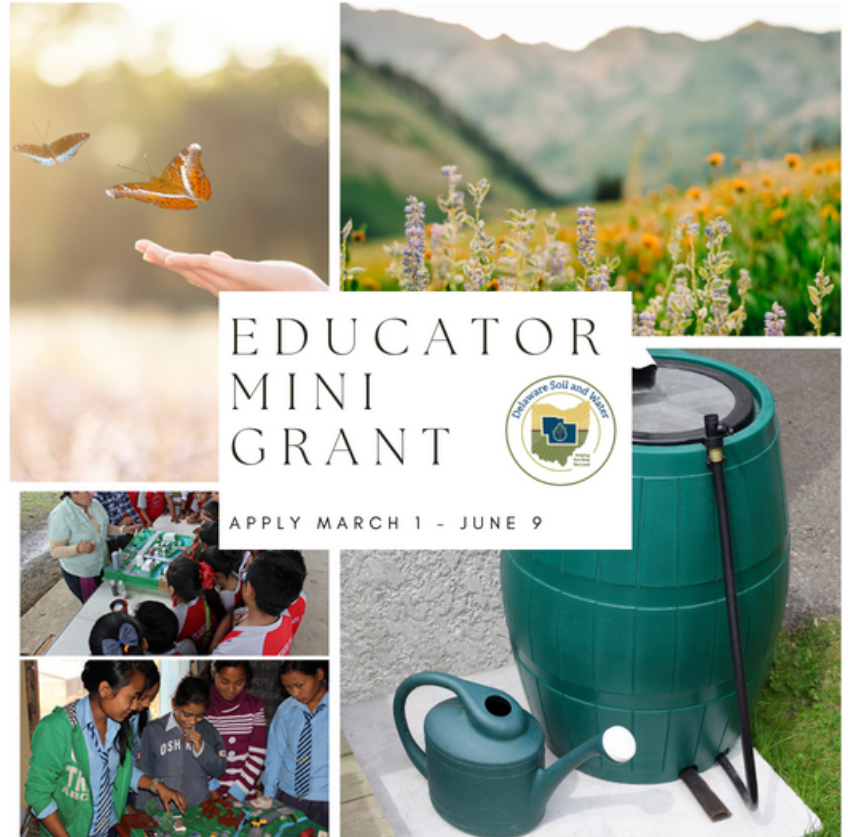
Our new Educator Mini-Grant program offers educators the chance to apply for 1 of 4 conservation education tools to be used in their classrooms or implemented at their schools. The application is available online from March 1 to June 9, 2024. All awards will be presented prior to September 1, 2024. The number of awards given will be subject to the funding availability.

One of the options that educators can request are butterfly release

kits. They can apply for up to 4 kits for their school/classroom. Each kit includes 5 caterpillars with food needed to grow into Painted Lady Butterflies, a mesh habitat, feeder and dropper, and journal. Another option for educators to apply for is an EnviroScape model. There are numerous model options to choose from and can be used in classrooms from preschool to advanced high school courses. Up to 2 rain barrel kits are an option that help collect and store rainwater from rooftops. The final option to choose from for this mini-grant program is up to 1-acre worth of Ohio blend wildflowers to be planted on or around school grounds. All of these come with sample lesson ideas and teachers are welcome to reach out to us for help in installation and planning if they so desire.

Only one application per education establishment will be accepted. Grant applications will be reviewed by Delaware SWCD staff with final approval of the Delaware SWCD Board of Supervisors.

More information on the guidelines about this mini-grant program as well as the online application can be found on our website at <https://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us/2023/03/15/2024-educators-mini-grant-application-opens/>. For questions or for more information feel free to reach out to Sarah Kidd, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, at skidd@co.delaware.oh.us.





Solar Eclipse Resources

On April 8, 2024 a solar eclipse will cross the majority of Delaware County. This event will likely increase tourism, interrupt traffic patterns, cause health and safety concerns, and disrupt the normal behaviors of wildlife, pets, and livestock animals.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to prepare for this rare celestial event by taking necessary precautions. Specialized viewing glasses will be essential to safeguard your eyes during the eclipse. Additionally, it is advisable to plan for potential travel delays and increased crowds in popular viewing areas. In order to minimize the impact on pets, it may be helpful to create safe spaces for them indoors during the eclipse.

By staying informed and making thoughtful preparations, everyone can safely enjoy the awe-inspiring moment when the moon briefly obscures the sun on Monday April 8, 2024.

Helpful links to more information on safety, and preparation:

- [OSU Preparing Farms for the Solar Eclipse](#)
- [Delaware County Solar Eclipse Planning Resources](#)
- [Ohio Emergency Management Agency Total Solar Eclipse](#)
- [Ohio Department of Agriculture Solar Eclipse Farmer and Landowner Guidance](#)

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

1610 State Route 521
Delaware, Ohio 43015
740-368-1921



Employee Highlight

Joey Hurford has been here at the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District for 10 years. Working primarily in the drainage maintenance department, his current duties include being the lead camera operator and team lead for the eastern part of the county's drainage maintenance program. In his free time, Joey enjoys operating the family farm, hunting and spending time with his wife, Carey and daughter, Maggie.

Camp Canopy Sponsorship

The Delaware Soil and Water conservation District is excited to once again offer one, full-ride (\$400) sponsorship to attend Camp Canopy. The camp, located at Camp Muskingum on Leesville Lake (Carroll County), will be held June 9-14, 2024. Camp Canopy is open to high school students entering their freshman year through seniors graduating in 2024. The application, will help the Delaware SWCD select a student for the sponsorship. The application must be received in our office by May 10, 2024.

Application:

<https://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us/2023/02/02/camp-canopy-2024-sponsorship-available/>



Delaware SWCD Scholarship

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District will award one (1) five-hundred-dollar (\$500.00) scholarship for the academic year 2024-2025.

Applicants must be a Delaware County resident, or have graduated or be graduating from one of the Delaware County public or private high schools. At the time of application, the applicant must have achieved at least a 2.5 grade average on a 4.0 scale.

Applicants must be entering his/her first year as a full-time or part-time student at a two or four-year accredited college, technical school or university, or entering his/her first year of Graduate school. Applicants must be pursuing a degree in agriculture, natural resources, or a similar environmental studies discipline.

Apply Today:

<https://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us/2024-scholarship-application-1/>

Rooted in Education



This year, through the Rooted in Education program, 7 schools requested 110 trees for their school grounds or to give to their students. Some of the schools that participated were:

- Olentangy Orange HS
- Buckeye Valley West Elementary
- Heritage Elementary
- Freedom Trail Elementary
- Dempsey Middle School



ERYTHRONIUM ALBIDUM

WHITE TROUT LILY

LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF SPRING? YOU MIGHT SEE SOME OF THESE THIS WEEK IN YOUR SEARCH FOR SPRING FLOWERS.

ERYTHRONIUM ALBIDUM, COMMONLY KNOWN AS WHITE TROUT LILY, IS A COMMON OHIO NATIVE FLOWER THAT CAN BE FOUND IN DELAWARE COUNTY. THIS PERENNIAL BLOOMS EARLY IN THE SPRING SEASON, AND IS COMMONLY FOUND IN CLUSTERS ON THE WOODLAND FLOOR. YOU WILL FIND THEM IN FULL TO PARTIAL SHADED AREAS.

Upcoming Events

March 1 - June 9 - Educators Mini-Grant Program accepting [applications](#)

April 16 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

April 16-18 - Tree Sale Pick Up, [Order Form](#)

May 3 - City of Powell Touch-A-Truck, 11AM-1PM

May 8 - Water Education at the Wornstaff Memorial Public Library, 6:30pm

May 10 - Last day to turn in [Camp Canopy Sponsorship Applications](#)

May 10 - Last day to apply for the [Delaware SWCD Scholarship](#)

May 21 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

June 8-9 - MORPC Riverfest at the Columbus Arts Festival

June 15 - Olentangy River Festival

June 18 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

June 21-22 - City of Powell Festival

Delaware
Soil and Water
Conservation District

