

Penn State Extension



Master Watershed Steward Program Lehigh & Northampton Counties

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Penn State Extension **Master Watershed Program** in Lehigh and Northampton Counties will be training a new class in spring of 2015. We are looking for individuals that have an interest in the environment, a willingness to learn more and most importantly, a strong desire to make a difference in the community. So whether you are a teacher, an accountant, a construction worker, a homemaker, a student, or have another background, **YOU** can become a Master Watershed Steward.

To become a certified Master Watershed Steward, you must complete 40 hours of training and fulfill 50 hours of volunteer service. After becoming certified, you can maintain your status by giving at least 20 volunteer hours and attending at least 10 hours of continuing education annually.

Master Watershed Stewards volunteer in the community to improve the health of our streams, rivers and other natural resources by:

- organizing educational events
- designing demonstration rain gardens
- working with municipal officials to plant native meadows
- organizing stream clean ups
- monitoring streams for bacteria
- teaching adults and children about the environment
- and in many other ways

The new training program will begin on Tuesday, March 10th and continue on subsequent Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. through mid-June held at partnering environmental organizations throughout the Lehigh Valley. The curriculum also features 3 hands-on Saturday field trips. **An information session will be held Wednesday, January 21st from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lehigh County Agricultural Center. For more information contact Erin Frederick at 610-391-9840 or elf145@psu.edu**

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Make a resolution to give back in 2015! Help protect our streams and rivers by becoming a Master Watershed Steward

The Penn State Master Watershed Steward Program in Lehigh and Northampton counties will be training a new class of volunteers this coming spring. The program, which serves as a model for counties across Pennsylvania, provides 40 hours of water and natural resource training for citizens that have an interest in the environment, a willingness to learn more and a strong desire to make a difference in the community. After training, volunteers are able to engage in a number of projects in the region to help protect our streams, rivers and wildlife habitat on an on-going basis. Examples of watershed projects and programs include designing and installing demonstration rain gardens or streamside plantings, and organizing educational workshops that address such topics as backyard conservation or homeowner stormwater management.

The new training program will begin on Tuesday, March 10 and continue on subsequent Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. through early June, and will be held at partnering environmental organizations throughout the Lehigh Valley. The curriculum also features three hands-on Saturday field trips

For more information about the Master Watershed Steward Program, costs and volunteer commitment, or to request an application for the 2015 training program, contact Erin Frederick by telephone at 610-391-9840 or by email at elf145@psu.edu or visit extension.psu.edu/Lehigh. An information session will be held Wednesday, January 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lehigh County Agricultural Center, 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown.

The 2015 Master Watershed Steward Program is a collaborative effort of Penn State Extension, the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, Northampton County Conservation District, Appalachian Mountain Club, Wildlands Conservancy, the Lehigh Gap Nature Center, the Nurture Nature Center, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

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