



Students practice their newly learned archery skills at the Conservation Field Day.

Hunting club hosts education program

Special to The Odessa File

MILLPORT, June 8 -- More than 155 sixth-grade students from the Bradford, Odessa-Montour and Watkins Glen Central School Districts attended a program, *Conservation Field Day*, on June 7 at the Millport Hunting and Fishing Club.

The day-long program provided hands-on activities to stimulate youth to continue to explore and respect their natural surroundings and to remind them that there are many exciting things to do and learn in the out-of-doors. Students learned about floodplains, forestry, fire safety, birds of prey, and other wildlife, including mammals and insects, and they learned how to fish, and do archery safely.



The Field Day was organized by the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) with assistance from the Millport Hunting and Fishing Club. The three school districts and their sixth-grade teachers, the Schuyler County Water Quality Coordinating Committee and a number of local businesses and organizations -- including Cotton Hanlon, the Watkins Glen Fire Department, the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, Tanglewood Nature Center, the Chemung County SWCD and Schuyler County Cooperative Extension also helped make the program a success.

The Conservation District's Elaine Dalrymple issued special thanks to McIntyre's Bait and Tackle in Beaver Dams for the donation of worms for the fishing station and "to all the speakers who worked with the students."

"Many members of the Millport Hunting and Fishing Club helped to make this event a success," she said. "This is the second year Conservation Field Day has been held at their facility and their generosity is deeply appreciated. This local club loves to help youth enjoy nature."



For more information about Conservation Field Day or other Soil and Water District Programs, visit the website www.schuylerswcd.com

Photos in text:

Top: Laine Sullivan of Tanglewood Nature Center holds a Great Horned Owl. She explained the unique behavior of owls to the students.

Bottom: Rick Evans and Gary Neal, local certified archery instructors, explain the proper way to use a bow. (*Photos provided*)