

Schuyler 6th graders visit Millport club for Conservation Field Day program

Special to The Odessa File

MONTOUR FALLS, June 6 -- A total of 130 sixth-grade students from the Odessa-Montour and Watkins Glen School Districts attended a program, Conservation Field Day, on June 6 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, mammal wildlife, and the K-9 dog handler program, and they learned how to fish and to participate safely in archery.

The Field Day was organized by the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) with important assistance from the Millport Hunting and Fishing Club.



The two school districts and their 6th grade teachers, the Schuyler County Water Quality Coordinating Committee and a number of individuals, local businesses and organizations -- including Cotton Hanlon, the Watkins Glen Fire Department, the Schuyler County Sheriff's Department, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning, Tanglewood Nature Center, Chemung County SWCD and Schuyler County Cooperative Extension -- also helped make the program a success.



"Special thanks," said a spokesperson for the Schuyler SWCD, "are extended 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."

"This is the third year Conservation Field Day has been held at the Hunting Club and their generosity is deeply appreciated," added Rebecca Smith of the Soil and Water District. "This local club loves to help youth and adults learn more about the natural world."

For more information about Conservation Field Day or other Soil and Water District Programs, visit the



website www.schuylerswcd.com

Photos in text:

Top: Alyiah Bentley of Watkins Glen Central School shoots at the archery station. She hit the bullseye, and about the same time so did Watkins student Thomas Goltry-Koots.

Second: Dallas Johnson of Watkins Glen Central School caught a nice bluegill during the fishing station. The fish was released.

Bottom: Katy Adams and Victoria Brewster of Odessa-Montour Central School measure a tree diameter with Biltmore sticks at the forestry station taught by Bob O'Brien of Cotton Hanlon Inc.