



# Teacher Opportunities

## **Volunteer & Paid Opportunities for Teachers**

Have time during the week? Want to teach outdoors and share your love of nature with children? Volunteer Guides are needed to teach school programs at Ashland Nature Center, Coverdale Farm or Abbott's Mill Nature Center. Part-time, paid Teacher-Naturalist positions are open year-round to teach school programs, scout programs, overnights, farm programs, and summer camps.

Contact David Pragoff, School and Group Programs Team Leader, at 302-239-2334, ext.133 or davidp@delawarenaturesociety.org for more information.

## **Graduate Teacher Courses**

Each summer the Delaware Nature Society offers graduate courses for school teachers through the University of Delaware. Programs are based at Ashland Nature Center. Classes are part of an Environmental Education Course of Study.

Contact Helen Fischel, Associate Director, Education, at 302-239-2334 ext. 114 or Helen@delawarenaturesociety.org.

## **District-wide programs**

DNS teaches environmental education programs for entire grade levels on a district-wide basis. Through contract programs, the district receives:

- Lessons that coincide with standards and science kits that are the outdoor extension of classroom work.
- Hands-on experiences provided by trained Teacher/Naturalists.
- A teacher in-service, taking teachers through the program that their students will experience and helping them to better prepare students and tie programs to curricula.

Contact David Pragoff, School and Group Programs Team Leader, at 302-239-2334, ext.133 or davidp@delawarenaturesociety.org.

## **Citizen Action – Service Learning**

Your class can help make a difference! Field study and outreach programs are great educational stepping stones that introduce students to the natural world and lead them down the pathway to environmental stewardship. Two stewardship programs are offered – Stream Adoption and Schoolyard Habitat – that can help your class make a difference.

*Stream Adoption* provides schools with the tools necessary to adopt and monitor their local stream. After attending certain field study programs, schools are eligible for a free on-site workshop that takes the students through the stream monitoring process step by step. Schools perform monitoring activities and submit Stream Adoption data sheets based on their findings. The data sheets are shared with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and are valuable tools for detecting and remedying pollution problems in our local waterways. Contact Judy Montgomery, School Overnight and Outreach Coordinator, at 302-239-2334, ext.127 or judym@delawarenaturesociety.org.

*Schoolyard Habitat* can help make your school grounds come alive! Outdoor, living classrooms, Schoolyard Habitats provide valuable sanctuaries for songbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife while offering enhanced hands-on cross-curricular learning opportunities, on-site “field trips,” and decreased grounds maintenance costs. The program provides official certification for school grounds that meet the basic needs of wildlife (food, water, cover, and places to raise young), while also taking measures to protect local water quality such as limiting the use of chemical fertilizer and pesticide inputs and reducing stormwater runoff. Contact John Harrod, Backyard Habitat Coordinator, at 302-239-2334 ext. 142 or john@delawarenaturesociety.org.

## **Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year Award**

Each year, The Delaware Nature Society honors outstanding Delaware public and private school teachers in the field of environmental education. Teachers may nominate themselves or be nominated by fellow teachers, principals, administrators, university instructors, officials of state natural resource agencies, Department of Education personnel and others. Recipients receive an original, personalized certificate of achievement, \$300 worth of Nature Society personal enrichment programs, a one-year membership to the Nature Society, and statewide recognition through press releases, our school brochure and our newsletter. Teachers and their principals will be honored at the Delaware Nature Society's Annual Meeting in April.

## **2008 Recipient: Beenu Gupta, Charter School of Wilmington**

For an application (deadline Feb. 6, 2009), contact David Pragoff, School and Group Programs Team Leader, at 302-239-2334, ext. 133 or davidp@delawarenaturesociety.org.

## **Partnership with ACEER Foundation**

DNS supports the ACEER Foundation's school sponsorship program ¡AMIGOS! a Partnership for Education. This unique program supports conservation through education in USA and Peruvian rainforest schools and is connected to the Birds of Two Worlds field study program offered through Ashland Nature Center. Contact Marguerite Gould, Director of Operations, ACEER Foundation mgould@wcupa.edu, 610-738-0477.