

Pocono Forest & Waters Conservation Landscape **SUCCESS STORY**

By: Western Wayne School
District

Western Wayne Middle School Environmental Education Camp

SUMMARY

This camp provided an opportunity for our students to engage in orienteering, fishing, biological and chemical water quality analysis, and a study of the flora and fauna at Varden. We conducted this camp in partnership with the staff of Promised Land State Park. Promised Land State Park administers the Varden Conservation Area and, as part of the camp, several Promised Land staff members spent the day instructing our students and they also provided some equipment for student use.

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

**Friends of the Varden
Conservation Area**
Leo Davidovich, Chairman
171 Bethel Hill Road
Susquehanna, PA 18847

Promised Land State Park
Alex M. Stout
Park Operations Manager
100 Lower Lake Road
Greentown, PA 18426



CHALLENGE

The overarching goal of the project is to develop a data warehouse in which our students can annually add data that describes the environmental health of the Varden Conservation Area. The idea is that collecting and warehousing data on water quality and flora and fauna over time will allow us to observe long-term trends whose fluctuations (or lack thereof) may indicate the overall environmental health of Varden. In essence, we're creating a way to make sure that the area stays environmentally healthy and diverse as Dr. Shaffer (the former owner and donor of the land) intended it to be.



Committed to the future of rural communities.

SOLUTION

Western Wayne Middle School students work to identify biotic factors that indicate environmental health in the Conservation Area with a focus on water quality, flora, and fauna. Once identified, these factors are placed into a cumulative database that can expand on an annual basis and ultimately be analyzed to determine trends that indicate environmental health, or lack thereof, at Varden. The student created database is the heart of this project. Students will be aided in the creation of this database by their teachers, personnel from Promised Land State Park, the Friends of the Varden Conservation Area, and the Information Technology Department of the Western Wayne School District.

RESULTS

Our database will be ready for spring of 2014. The monitoring equipment, geocaching equipment, and the database framework are purchased/completed. Students will participate in this camp in perpetuity and Mr. Shaffer's legacy and desire for an environmental sanctuary will be preserved with the help of this project and our students.

Contact

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