

Master Watershed Steward Program

Lehigh & Northampton Counties

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Penn State Master Watershed Steward program in Lehigh and Northampton Counties will be training a new class of volunteers this spring. We are looking for individuals that have a **keen interest in the environment**, a **willingness to learn more** and most importantly, a **strong desire to make a difference in the community**. Whether you are a teacher, an accountant, a construction worker, a homemaker, or retired, **YOU** can become a Master Watershed Steward!

To become a certified Master Watershed Steward, you must complete a minimum of **40 hours of training** and **fulfill 50 hours of volunteer service**. In subsequent years, you can maintain your Master Watershed Steward status by giving at least 20 additional volunteer hours and attending at least 10 hours of continuing education annually. Example projects include:

- Organizing and executing stream clean ups
- Designing and installing demonstration rain gardens
- Monitoring streams for bacteria
- Carrying out stream bank restoration projects
- Organizing educational and informational workshops addressing topics such as rain barrels, wildlife, pollution prevention, stormwater management, and invasive plant control.

The new training program will begin the week of March 12th and continue on subsequent Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. through mid-June. The curriculum also features 3 hands-on Saturday field trips and a Friday evening amphibian survey. Classes will be held at partnering environmental organizations throughout the Lehigh Valley.

An information session will be held **Wednesday, January 15th** from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Seidersville Hall, in the Lower Saucon Township Municipal Complex in Bethlehem. During this meeting we will give an overview of Penn State Extension and the Master Watershed Steward program. Those interested in becoming a Master Watershed Steward should contact Erin Frederick at 610-391-9840 or elf145@psu.edu for more information.

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