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Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2006 4:41 PM
To: pabiodiv@webmail.upb.pitt.edu
Subject: PABIODIV: Join Us to Restore Nature to a Significant Southwestern PA Site

Join Us to Restore Nature!

St. Michael- Natural Biodiversity, a local non-profit organization, has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation to host their Habitat Stewards volunteer program that assists communities by participating in the restoration of a wildlife habitat either in their backyards or in a public area. Our Habitat Stewards will be working together with local volunteers on their first project this spring at the Park of 1889 in St. Michael, Cambria County, PA. Our organization has been focused on conserving the native biodiversity in the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin and all of southwestern PA since 2000. For nearly six years, we have been working to control invasive species, such as, Japanese knotweed, tree-of-heaven, crown vetch, as well as other invasive plants with the support of local citizen action.

To make this project a success, we need additional volunteers to lend a hand. We are inviting the public to join us on May 12th and 13th from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at the Park of 1889 Campground in St. Michael, PA. It is a great opportunity to give back to your community as well as improve the aesthetic and environmental diversity of the area.

Volunteers will be planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers as well as performing invasive species removal. This area was chosen due to the proposed campground construction and nearby resources, such as, Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center, Johnstown Flood National Memorial and the Miner's Memorial Museum.

Our goals for the project are ecology (to improve and maintain the habitat for wildlife and visitors), education (use of interpretative trails, signage, brochures and programs), history (incorporation the site's natural history into the plantings), privacy (creation of privacy barriers through the placement of shrubs and bushes), and art (aesthetic improvement of the site).

For more information or to RSVP for a spot, please contact Kristen Hironimus at (814) 532-5049 or khironimus@naturalbiodiversity.org by Tuesday, May 9th. The restoration sessions will take place rain or shine, so people are advised to dress appropriately and come prepared with long pants, boots/sneakers, sunscreen, bug spray and work gloves. Tools and instruction, as well lunch and refreshments, will be provided.

If you would like additional information on our other continuing projects and volunteer opportunities, check our website at <http://www.naturalbiodiversity.org/>

The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Listserve is intended to promote discussion of biodiversity issues in the state. It is moderated by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership (PBP) following guidelines posted at <http://www.pabiodiversity.org/listserve.html>. The opinions expressed in messages are those of the authors and NOT the PBP. To unsubscribe, send the message UNSUBSCRIBE PABIODIV to majordomo@webmail.upb.pitt.edu.
