VOLUNTEERS

helping people help the land

Earth Team Volunteer really "digs" dirt!

Emily Baer really digs dirt – both figuratively and literally! The recent Virginia Tech graduate has joined Soil Resource Scientist Jeannine Freyman on wetland determinations and other site visits. She also investigated soil ecosystem properties at five grazing farms and a food kitchen garden plot, sharing her test results at an Area II JED meeting.

Emily also worked with NRCS and the New River SWCD to develop a practical outline for soil education curriculum at New River Hill Farm in Grayson County. This project not only fulfilled requirements for her Civic Agriculture and Food Systems minor but also helped lay the bedrock for collaborative teaching & experiential learning on the farm with elementary, middle, and high school and university level lesson plans on soil texture, soil color, soil horizons, and soil life.

Emily also enjoys sharing her love of the soil. She helped train the Independence High School Envirothon team on soils and gave a presentation to a Blacksburg elementary school class that inspired a little boy to ask for a soil auger for Christmas!

Earth Team volunteer Emily Baer, Virginia Tech recent graduate, loves working with soil!

According to Jeannine, "Emily has great compassion for others and for conservation which, along with her many abilities, will make her an agent of change for the better in this wide world of ours! I am so glad to have worked with her as an Earth Team volunteer."

The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

NRCS Earth Team

If you are interested in volunteering, contact the National Earth Team office at (888) 526- 3227 or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/volunteers.

The United States Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity employer and provider.