



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service Earth Team

Volunteer Showcase

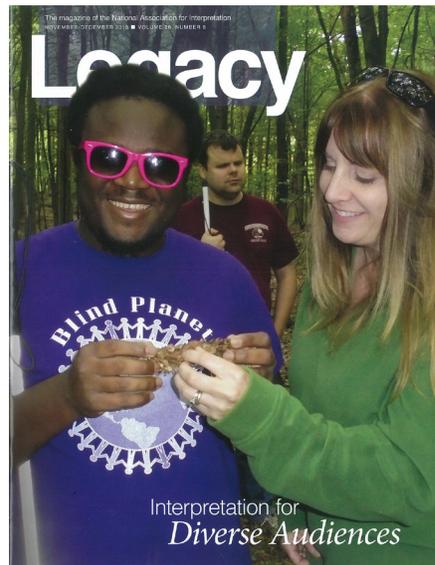
Earth Team Volunteer Teaches Students & Teachers

Maureen Stine's sense of wonder about the natural world and her wish to share that wonder with others was strong – even as a child in inner-city Chicago. Today, through NRCS' Earth Team volunteer program in Michigan, Stine is realizing that wish by providing environmental education to children and teachers.

With two decades of experience leading and developing environmental education and conservation programs, Maureen Stine's approach to multi-sensory nature exploration is interactive and dynamic. For example, Maureen coordinated a unique activity for a group of sight-challenged children by providing pelts from fur-bearing animals for them to touch and feel. So even though the children can't actually see an animal, they can experience what an animal feels like.

She excels at 'speaking the language of the student,' building alliances and understanding between classroom learning and the appreciation of the outdoors.

Maureen helps NRCS field office outreach efforts in the towns of Onaway, Petoskey, Alpena and Gaylord, connecting youth and teachers to the agency's work with local farmers and forestland owners. Maureen also promotes NRCS' Earth Team volunteer program to customers, volunteers and employees.



"Legacy" the national publication for The National Association of Interpretation, featured Michigan NRCS employee and Earth Team volunteer, Maureen Stine (right) on the cover. "Legacy" also included Maureen's story about a conservation camp for people who are blind or sight-impaired.

Maureen has partnered with local and state governments and other federal agencies to provide perspective on working together to protect, enhance and restore our natural resources. As part of her outreach efforts, she has worked with local Native American tribes to provide workshops and water quality testing.

Maureen always brings an inviting smile and effervescent enthusiasm to break down barriers with her audiences.

The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the National Earth Team Office at 888-526-3227 or visit:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/EarthTeam>

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