The Program

The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program is made up of a group of citizens who share a passion for and want to conserve Michigan’s unique natural resources. Participants earn Conservation Stewards Program Certification by fulfilling the following requirements:

- Completion of the core curriculum (40 hours of in-class learning and field-based training).
- Completion of 40 hours of approved volunteer conservation service within one year.
- 8 hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer conservation service are required for annual recertification.

Program Partners

Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society
Michigan Natural Features Inventory
MSU Dept. of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies
Oakland County Parks & Recreation
Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Clinton River Watershed Council
E.L. Johnson Nature Center

Michigan Conservation Stewards Program

A great opportunity to learn about conservation and natural science in a community context and assume leadership roles through volunteering time, knowledge, and skills as a Conservation Steward.

February 23 to April 29, 2013

“Volunteers are rewarded with a larger voice on what work should be accomplished, because volunteers work on projects that are meaningful to them.”

- 2009 CSP Graduate

Introduction

The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program (CSP) is a collaborative effort among community-based volunteers, conservation organizations/agencies, and educational institutions throughout Michigan.

This collaboration provides a statewide network of dedicated, well-prepared volunteer Conservation Stewards who understand, promote, support, actively contribute to or lead significant conservation management activities on public and private lands.

These volunteers take part in informed, scientifically based conservation and resource management. Together volunteers work to sustain healthy ecosystems across Michigan.
Volunteer Conservation Service

Participants have the opportunity to earn volunteer hours through a local service Capstone project that begins during training and continues after course-work is completed. This project involves a variety of conservation organizations, agencies, and educational institutions.

Class Session Details

Weekday sessions are held on Monday evenings from 6-9 pm (except 4/29 session which runs 6-10 pm) at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, Bldg. 41W, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd., Waterford.

Saturday field sessions will be held from 9 am– 4 pm at E.L. Johnson Nature Center (Bloomfield Hills), Indian Springs Metro-park (White Lake) and Independence Oaks County Park (Clarkston).

Class Schedule

**Saturday, Feb 23:**
Introduction & Conservation Heritage

**Monday, February 25:**
Ecological Foundations

**Monday, March 4:**
Making Choices to Manage Our Natural Resources

**Monday, March 11:**
Forestlands Ecosystems and Management

**Monday, March 18:**
Grasslands Ecosystems and Management

**Saturday, March 23:**
Terrestrial Field Experience

**Monday, March 25:**
Wetlands Ecosystems and Management

**Monday, March 25:**
No Class on April 1

**Monday, April 8:**
Lake and Stream Ecosystems and Management

**Monday, April 15:**
Emerging Hot Ecosystem Topics

**Saturday, April 20:**
Aquatic Field Experience

**Monday, April 22:**
Putting it All Together: Volunteer Expo Night

**Monday, April 29:**
Capstone Project Presentations & Commencement/Recognition 6 to 10 pm

How to Register

To start the application process, complete the application packet and submit with check made payable to MSU Extension to:

MSU Extension Oakland County North Office Bldg, Bldg 26 East 1200 N Telegraph Road Pontiac, MI 48341-0416

**EARLY Registration FEE:**
$275 per participant, if application materials are received on or before February 1, 2013.

**LATE Registration FEE:**
$300 per participant, if application materials are received on or after February 2, 2013.

Registration fee covers materials, notebook, Saturday lunches, snacks and park permits when required. Limited scholarships may be available.

**Registration Deadline:** Last day to register is February 15, 2013.

**SPACE IS LIMITED!**
Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:**
Registration fee will be fully refunded if requested no later than three weeks before the first class. No refunds will be issued after this date.

"The best people in their fields are teaching this. Where do you get an opportunity to learn from people like that? How else will you get the information to the average citizen?" – CSP Graduate