

THE DNR/DEQ RETIREES ASSOCIATION Newsletter

Educational Corner....Did you know?

SEEDS: Preparing People of All Ages for a Better Future

SEEDS loves to "get things done" and implements local solutions to global issues at the intersection of ecology, education, and design. Seeds is a nonprofit organization based in northern Michigan specializing in youth programs. Seeds can be found getting its hands dirty in a vast array of on-the-ground projects and is especially proud of its Youth Conservation Corps program. The SEEDS Youth Corps is one solution for two problems – underserved youth and ecological resilience. Local youth are hired by SEEDS to complete "green collar" jobs, such as building boardwalks, maintaining trails, removing invasive species, restoring historical sites, native plantings, small-scale agriculture and much more! Since the SEEDS Youth Conservation Corps program began in 2009, we have created 450 summer jobs for 16-24 year olds and distributed over \$300,000 in scholarships. In the 2017 season alone, SEEDS provided jobs to 47 youth who:

- * Constructed, restored, and maintained 32 miles of trail and built 3,000 feet of wetland boardwalk;
- * Restored five historic building sites, including the Burfiend Barn in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the historic Drake House in Oshtemo Township;
- * Improved over 1,200 acres of natural landscapes including planting 5,000 native plants and improving 8.5 miles of waterway and riparian habitats;
- * Recycled over one ton of used mattress material.

SEEDS has been investing in youth, the environment, and the Northern Michigan region for almost 20 years! To learn more about SEEDS and support their work, visit them online at www.ecoseeds.org or email hello@ecoseeds.org
SEEDS located in Traverse City Promotes Green Education!



Youth
Corps
Summer
2017



seeds