

SENSORY SAFARI EARTH DAY STYLE

By: Mike Drewnowski

When members of the East Ohio Northwest Penn Chapter were asked by Venango County outdoor writer Bob Meyers to participate in the local Earth Day festivities, we jumped at the chance. This would be the third time the chapter had participated and we figured it would be a fine place to showcase SCIF Sables, Safari -in- a- Box. Well over 800 elementary school students, teachers, and many home-schooled students attended the festivities along with members of the community, residents and staff of the Polk State School in Polk, Pennsylvania.

Chapter President, Amy Drewnowski and Chapter Board Member, Mike Drewnowski staffed the booth. Amy staffed the Safari-in- Box area informing the teachers how the box could be used in the classroom to give students hands on learning about wildlife. She also informed them about how they could acquire their very own Safari-in-a- Box or borrow one from the chapter.

I was kept busy answering questions about all of the other animals, hides, and sheds that were on display for the students to touch, hold and even hug. The touching and holding part was quite a novelty for the attendees. Other exhibitors had signs that said **DO NOT TOUCH** and ours said **PLEASE DO TOUCH**. The attendees were happy to get to touch some real hides and horns and mounted game animals. I spent most of my time explaining how hunters, by the act of hunting, help to promote conservation for both game and non-game species.

Both young and old were made well aware of the fact that hunters are the true stewards of wildlife. After talking about and touching the animals they all went away with a new respect for hunting as a conservation tool.