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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **National Wildlife Federation Seeks Volunteers to be Certified as Habitat Stewards**

*Cleveland, OH* – This Spring, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), with the support of the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), and local natural resource professionals are looking for dedicated individuals to train as Certified Habitat Steward Volunteers.

**Registration fee is \$40.00 per person and includes an instruction manual and numerous resource materials, several classes of instruction and certification upon completion. The training is taking place at the Brooklyn Community Center in Brooklyn, OH on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm – 9:00pm. Field trips will take place on two Saturdays – April 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am – 3:00pm (locations TBD). Registration due by March 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District office at 216/524-6580 x22 or email [aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org). For more information, visit our website at [www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org).**

At the workshops, NWF will teach attendees how to help people in the community create and restore wildlife habitats in backyards, schoolyards, and other private and public areas. NWF will provide training to become a Habitat Steward volunteer – no prior experience necessary. Subjects to be included in the sessions are: habitat, landscaping, native plants, trees, birds, reptiles, and more, all taught by experts in interactive sessions. Additionally, attendees will work to curb invasive plants and learn about rain gardens, rain barrels, and stormwater pollution prevention. Attendees must participate in all 24 hours of training for certification. Helping to develop habitat sites, creating your own habitat, and assisting with educational or other events will count towards the 30 hours of volunteer time required after the training.

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