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Volume XXV

Number 3

Winter 2006-07

Winter is a GREAT time to get started! Recipe for a School Land Lab



Partly in response to publication of Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, many schools may be considering how to make better use of outdoor learning areas. A lot of great resources are easily accessible in Ohio and nationwide, so no need

to reinvent the wheel! Here are some how-to suggestions, Web links, and funding sources, compiled by the Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education.

Ingredients:

- 1 – great idea
- 1 – underutilized area on the school grounds, or in a nearby park.
- 1 – enthusiastic teacher, parent, or student, to get the project rolling.
- 1 – support committee of enthusiastic teachers, parents, students, neighbors and administrators
- 1 – copy, *Habitats for Learning: A planning guide for using and developing school land labs*, Downloadable from http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/oeef_publications.html
- 1 – copy, *Twenty/Twenty Activities and Projects for WILD School Sites*, available in WILD school site workshops sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife .
- 1 – list of Web-based resources (attached)
- 1 – list of potential funding sources (attached)

Directions:

Use the existing site to meet some of your current educational objectives. Identify potential learning opportunities.

Involve your students in conducting an *inventory* of soil and topographic features, plant, animal, and habitat resources on the site. Involve students in researching what laws, ordinances and school regulations apply to the site. Project WILD's *Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife* is an excellent resource on how to do this.

Cont on page 4...

EECO's 25th Annual Winter Conference

Winter Snow

February 2-4



Are you looking for a way to recharge and renew as the school year reaches the half way mark? Join us at the beautiful Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center for a weekend of learning and fun. This

conference offers both formal and non-formal educators the opportunity to gain practical, hands-on ideas and resources for bringing the outdoors into your teachings while incorporating academic content standards.

One semester of graduate credit is available through Ashland University. Attendance at all scheduled events and an on-site reflection are required for credit. A certificate of attendance is available. \$249 graduate credit fee is payable at the workshop.

To register online: www.eeco-online.org

For a complete list of conference activities, concurrent sessions, descriptions and registration forms, visit www.cvnpa.org (click on the "what's up" link to "special events") or call 800-642-3297.

A word from the President...



David Wright

Remember that wry smile you'd get, or that extra little rhythm in your walk, or that self-congratulatory pat of your own back when you'd done something dynamic and cool for someone else, or for some cause you believed in? It was when the altruistic you met the pragmatic you, and they got along great. Baby-

face's song "This Is For The Cool In You" defines exactly who you are at that point in time.

Over the past few years I've seen that same upbeat and positive attitude on the faces of countless numbers of EECO folk. People like Chuck McClaugherty, a former President of EECO and our current Treasurer and Birding Guru. Chuck runs the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center at Mt. Union College.

I've seen it in Laura Busby, EECO's immediate Past-President and Education Director at The Wilds, and Dave Irvine, another former EECO President and Director of Education at Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (and a mentor of mine).

I've seen that strong sense of purpose and accomplishment in the actions of Carol Ward, Park Naturalist at Cleveland Lakefront State Park, and Pat Weigel, who teaches AP Environmental Science at Chagrin Falls High School, and Angela Manuszak at Miami Conservancy District, Becky Thompson at Holden Arboretum, Courtney Myers at FFA Camp Muskingum, Bridgid Foster at Caledonia Elementary School, Jon Cline at Case Western Reserve University, Nelson Strong at ODNR who puts together this newsletter, Charleen Race at Mt. Union who is our EECO Webmaster...and

so many others. I have had the honor of seeing these people give of themselves to *volunteer*. They also happen to be leaders – in their fields and in EECO.

EECO is a volunteer organization made up of members and colleagues like you and me. In fact, all environmental educators are essentially volunteers for the Earth. None of us are expecting to sip Mai Tai's at the end of the day. We're in a protracted campaign to create an environmentally literate world. True, that old paradigm that there is a zero sum trade off between thinking capitably and acting environmentally has finally shifted, as groups like Entrepreneurs for Sustainability, Green Building Coalition and Great Lakes Brewery have shown. Still, the vast majority of EE folk are in this because we – pardon the pun – give a hoot.

EECO by definition needs your volunteerism and leadership. It's a strategic imperative that we harness the energy and expertise of each leader among our membership. You know who you are: But we may not. So give Brenda Metcalf a call or come to Winter

Snow at CVEEC. We need your creative thinking and innovative ideas. We're seeking people who want to put their skills to the test, their energies toward new endeavors. Maybe you've got the perfect methodology to implement. We recently implemented new sections for members—Business, Industry & Trade Organizations; Government Agencies; Pre-K, Elementary and Secondary Ed; Environmental & Community Organizations; Higher Education; Research; Environmental & Outdoor Education, and there are committees for development or communications or programming. Our Board of Directors meetings are always open. EECO is a sunshine operation. You're invited to contact us, work with us, and help us drive EECO toward the best organization it can be. This is an open invitation with no time limit. This is your EECO.

EECO leads in facilitating environmental education that fosters global Stewardship and a sustainable future for all Ohioans.

Have an event you'd like to promote
To the EECO membership?
Send information on date, time, title and topic,
along with a brief summary and contact information to?

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Regional Highlights

Get to know Region 9

EECO has a regional structure that aids in educating citizens throughout Ohio. Currently, we follow the same 12-region structure as the Ohio Department of Education. Each region has at least one Regional Director who works on behalf of EECO to coordinate EE in that Region. As a regular feature of the EECO Newsletter we will be highlighting the regions and learning what exciting things each has to offer!



Patty Rickard is the Naturalist at the John T. Huston – Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center near Alliance Ohio. She has held this position since 1993. She is responsible for overseeing all public and school programs provided at the center. Additionally, as naturalist, she provides content resources for volunteers and staff relative to programs and responds to natural history inquiries. Her duties also include the promotion of environmental education and interpretation regionally. She accomplishes this in part as the EECO regional coordinator for Region 9.

Patty is a facilitator for Project Wild and PLT and many other EE programs. Because of her background and skills, Patty is able to provide professional development training for formal and non-formal educators on behalf of EECO. As Regional Director for Region 9 these past six years, Patty has focused on High School

Education as her area of emphasis. Currently, her region has begun to focus on providing training in Environmental Education Curricula to Pre-Service Education Students from Mount Union College. During the next year in Region 9 the plan is to educate at least 50 college students in Project Wild.

Patty has always had a love of animals. She has a geriatric horse, and has been involved in several canine rescues, providing a foster home for dogs.

Patty loves things medieval. She has long been interested in natural dyes and the colors of her labors are beautiful to behold. She and her son are regular participants in the Pennsic Wars. Every summer they travel in time to the Middle Ages and join thousands of other creative anachronists in western Pennsylvania for nearly two weeks in the pre-1600's.

If you are working in region 9, give Patty a call. She's always open to new Environmental Education partnerships and ideas!

Online courses in EE offered

Fundamentals of Environmental Education

10-week online course, February 5 – April 20, 2007 by University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Appropriate for classroom teachers and non-formal educators who work with students and/or teachers. Participants may obtain three undergrad or graduate credits. All students, regardless of location, are eligible for the in-state tuition rate. Also offered at a reduced cost for those not interested in obtaining college credit.

The online course was developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) and national EE experts. It provides the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate quality environmental education into classroom instruction. Participants discuss the history, definition, goals of environmental education; develop an understanding of professional roles and instructional methods; and interact with other educators from across the country.

Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation

11-week on-line course (February 19 – May 4, 2007) offered by University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Designed to assist environmental educators and natural resource professionals in evaluating education programs. Participants will develop and apply skills in designing evaluation tools such as surveys and interview and focus group guides.

Developed as a cooperative effort between the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) at UW-Stevens Point and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Conservation Training Center. Participants may obtain three undergraduate or grad credits from UW-Stevens Point. All participants are eligible for the in-state tuition rate. Course also offered as a non-credit workshop for those not seeking college credit. The preference **registration deadline** is **January 19, 2007**.

To learn more, visit the course Web site: <http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/rwilke/eetap/>
or contact Angela Lemar (Angela.Lemar@uwsp.edu) for a registration form.
To learn more about EETAP visit the EETAP website at <http://www.eetap.org/>

Cont. from page 1...

Recruit a support committee of neighbors, parents, students, teachers and administrators. Don't forget the grounds crew, so they know not to mow down the butterfly garden! Don't forget the neighbors, who may be using the site and who can help protect against vandalism after hours and during school vacations. Request a copy of the *Habitats for Learning* video from oeef@epa.state.oh.us, it's a good tool for explaining to the PTO and others just how valuable outside learning can be.

Enhance the existing site as needs arise: e.g., attend to poison ivy, pick up litter, mulch muddy areas, hang a bird feeder.

Check out what others have done. There is a listing of Web-based resources (below, continued on page 4 of the Partnership insert) in this newsletter and also on the OEEF Web site. The Michigan State University's 4-H children's garden is a wonderful source of inspiration and ideas, and some existing school land labs around Ohio have developed great Web sites. If there's no room on the school grounds, contact your local parks. The City of Toledo Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry developed school land labs in city parks, and a terrific "Park It!" curriculum. Contact Dennis Garvin at 419/936-2876 for advice.

Develop a long-range plan that matches site development with the overall curriculum. Check out the integrated and subject-specific activities for science, math, social



studies, language arts, art and music, health and physical education in *Habitats for Learning*. Keep notes on how and why you did what you did for a Land Lab User's Manual.

Collaborate with local agencies and organizations. All 88 Ohio counties have a soil and water conservation district (SWCD) office. They can provide soils information about your county, and most can provide on-site evaluation and suggestions. Many SWCDs have education coordinators who can assist with a multitude of activities and lessons gear to the state science standards, and a number of them even have their own land labs. Other local resources might include the county Cooperative Extension Service office, nature centers, state, county, or municipal park staff, ODNR Division of Forestry and Division of Wildlife professionals, Master Gardeners, and others.

Seek donations of materials and labor from parents, students, local businesses, and even Eagle Scouts. **Apply for grants** if needed, from some of the sources in the list of funding sources below.

Measure, dig, plant, observe, and season with changing weather, wildlife, and vegetation. Complete the User's Manual for new teachers and students coming to the school.

Enjoy!

You can find many **Web Resources on Outdoor Classrooms and Wildlife Gardens** at http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/oeef_publications.html

Web Resources on Outdoor Classrooms and Wildlife Gardens

ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation for information about how to contact your county SWCD office
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/soilandwater/>

4-H Garden at Michigan State University
<http://4hgarden.msu.edu/tour/overview.html>

Chester Elementary land lab near Wooster, Ohio
www.northwestern-wayne.k12.oh.us/Chester/Landlab/main2.html

Classroom Feeder Watch at Cornell <http://birds.cornell.edu/cfw/>

Granny's Garden School <http://www.grannysgardenschool.com/>

Identifying Ohio trees, from Ohio Public Library Information Network and Ohio Historical Society, <http://www.oplin.org/tree/>

Journey North <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/index.html>

Monarch Watch at University of Kansas www.monarchwatch.org

National Audubon Society – education resources for bird watching and habitat www.audubon.org/educate/

National Gardening Association, (includes grants),
www.kidsgardening.com

National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitats
www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats/

National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitats
www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/

North Carolina's Environmental Education Garden
www.ee.enr.state.nc.us/garden/gardenbackground.htm

Ohio Division of Wildlife, wildlife diversity resources
www.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/resources/default.htm

Project WILD grants and resources for Wild School Sites
<http://www.projectwild.org/WILDschoolSites.htm>
and www.dnr.ohio.gov/wildlife/Resources/wildschools/default.htm

Raptors in the City (includes Cleveland peregrines)
<http://raptorsinthecity.homestead.com/index.html>

Sandusky Plains Environmental Education Center at Elgin High School (Marion County)
www.intelligent-web-design.com/SPEEC/index.htm

Save the Date!

40th Annual EECO Conference

"A Golden Path to a Healthy Planet"

April 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2007

Aullwood Audubon Center, Dayton, Ohio



EECO is pleased to announce the 40th Annual Conference at the **Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm** near Dayton, April 26-29, 2007. A special professional development forum will be held on Thursday (see below). The conference theme will be divided into four strands. There will be field trips, concurrent workshops, good food, entertainment, plenty of networking and a lot of FUN. Mark your calendar NOW!



Watch the EECO website <http://www.eeco-online.org> for more information!

Start the 2007 Annual Conference at our 1st Environmental Issues Forum

Business professionals, attorneys, interested citizens, public employees, and educators are invited to participate in a unique one-day event where people affecting and affected by four different current environmental issues will gather to share ideas in an open forum.

The four issue tracks are:

- Modern Agricultural Realities: Confined Animal Feeding Operations
- Air Quality: Ozone and Fine Particulate Non-attainment
- Sustainability in Construction: Green Building
- Reducing runoff pollution through Low Impact Development

Experts representing different perspectives on each issue will participate in a half-day information-sharing session. Organizers are also offering a half-day site tour that underscores at least in part the southwest Ohio response to each issue.

The Environmental Issues Forum will take place on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at the Aullwood Audubon Center. Watch for detailed information in the EECO Annual Conference registration material and online at www.EECO-online.org

Call for Presenters

NAAEE 36th Annual Conference



Come to the Coast

November 14-17 2007

Virginia Beach, Virginia

To view the proposal submission and review process, and to submit your proposal(s), visit our Web site:

<http://www.naaee.org/cfp2007>

Submissions will be accepted

November 20, 2006 – January 31, 2007

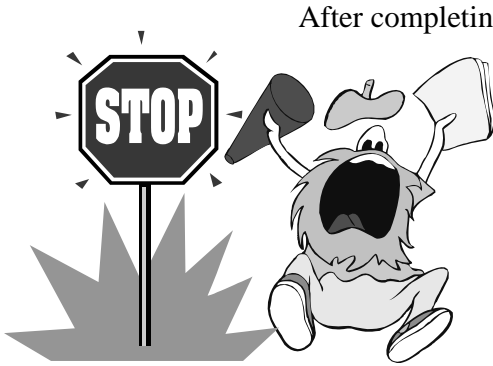
Online submissions only

Stop the Madness!

Developing Effective Education Programs To Keep Your Sanity

By Angela Manuszak

Do your environmental education programs make a difference? Sure, your students smile at you and you get to experience their “ah ha” moments with some regularity, but what about take-it-to-the-bank proof? You’re really busy, but does that mean you’re really successful? What if you’re really busy doing the wrong things?



After completing several courses and conferences, I have experienced a series of epiphanies about my work as an environmental educator. I am no longer satisfied with running around madly, not knowing if my programs have a positive impact on environmental literacy, behavior change, or environmental improvement. Over my 11- year career, the satisfaction of making learners smile has faded. I now want all of my programs to be better focused, more aligned to our organizational mission, and more valuable.

As a result, I have been developing and implementing a two-year strategic education plan that prioritizes the education programming presented by The Miami Conservancy District (MCD). By sharing the process for creating this plan and some of the results, I hope to inspire you to move with me toward a more fulfilling day in this profession.

The process can be divided into the following steps:

- **Define large goal categories**
- **Research target audience**
- **Create a key message**
- **Define measurable objectives**
- **Use strategies and tactics that work**
- **Amplify impact with partnerships**
- **Measure, evaluate, adjust, smile, and report!**
- **Find and fit in adjoining pieces of the puzzle**

The entire article, in pdf format, can be found on the Miami Conservancy Web site:

<http://www.miamiconservancy.org/resources/additional.asp> - scroll down to EDUCATION

Angela Manuszak is the education coordinator for The Miami Conservancy District (MCD), a regional agency in the Great Miami River Watershed. MCD provides unfailing flood protection, preserves water resources, and promotes river-based recreation. Angela has a bachelor’s degree in education and is working toward her master’s in environmental education and communication at Wright State University.

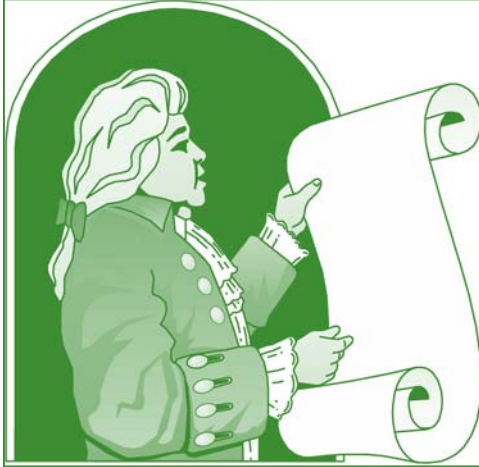
Mt. Union College Nature Center is Flying WILD!

Flying WILD is a new program of the Council for Environmental Education (CEE) that introduces students to bird conservation through standards-based classroom activities and environmental stewardship projects.

Sponsors for Flying WILD include the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and ConocoPhillips. In 2005, Flying WILD became one of the partnering programs that make up the EETAP network. With the support of EETAP funding, CEE is building a grassroots distribution network of City Partner organizations that provide Flying WILD training and materials.

Flying WILD recently welcomed a new City Partner, the Mt. Union College Nature Center, representing the Akron, Canton and Youngstown area of northeast Ohio. Project WILD Coordinators are also implementing Flying WILD introductory workshops in 23 states. For more information about Flying WILD, visit www.flyingwild.org.

HEAR YE!



****January 20, 2007 – FLOWING WATERS** – As an essential natural resource, water has shaped the societies found in Ohio. Explore ways to teach about water that follows the academic standards for social studies K-5. \$15

January 26 – **Science and Civics Facilitator Training** – at ODNR Division of Wildlife office, 2045 Morse Rd., Bldg G, Columbus, 9am—4pm. There is no cost and lunch will be provided. You must be a certified Project WILD Facilitator to attend, or you have to agree to attend the upcoming Project WILD Facilitator Training, which is tentatively scheduled for March 30-31, 2007 at Hueston Woods State Park. That training will cost \$50. Contact Jen Dennison, Wildlife Education Coordinator, 800-WILDLIFE or 614-265-6316. jen.dennison@dnr.state.oh.us

****February 3 – LEOPOLD EDUCATION PROJECT** – Conservationist Aldo Leopold’s writings teach land ethics and responsibility. They are the basis of this national program curriculum for grades 6–12. The interdisciplinary activities provide direct experience with the natural world while instilling land ethics for tomorrow’s stewards. Pheasants Forever

covers part of the cost of the materials. \$5

****February 24 – SCIENCE THROUGH THE ARTS** – Find out how to tap into students’ creativity as they explore the natural world around them. Activities that use art and music will reinforce important scientific concepts following the academic standards for grades K-5. \$15

****March 10 – HIDDEN WETLANDS** – Explore temporary spring pools and the fascinating life cycles found there. Using science academic standards for 3-5 grades, discover ways to bring this local resource alive in your classroom. \$15

****All Workshops are held on Saturdays, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.** at Highbanks Metro Park on the Delaware/Franklin County line 3 miles north of I-270 on Route 23.

A continental breakfast and beverages will be provided; participants need to bring their own lunch.

A Certificate of Attendance for CEUs will be provided and college credit through Ashland University is available.

For more information contact:

Suzan Jervey at Highbanks Metro Park, (614)846-9962 or Jervey@metroparks.net

Become an EECO MEMBER! Join a WINNING TEAM!

Name/Designated Representative _____
 Position/Title _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Please check if this is your work address.
 Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Fax _____
 E-mail _____
 Organization website _____

Membership category:

- Professional/Individual (\$35)
- Student/Senior Citizen (\$20)
- Organization (\$70) (please submit form for each of 3 designated members)
- Life (\$300)

I would like membership in the following section(s)*:

- Business, Industry & Trade Associations
- Environmental & Community-based Organizations
- Environmental Education & Outdoor Education Organizations
- Government Agency
- Higher Education
- Research
- Preschool, Elementary & Secondary Education

* EECO members may join one section at no additional cost to regular membership dues. Each additional section joined is \$5 per section. Visit www.eeco-online.org or call 740-653-2649 for more information about sections.



Membership dues amount: \$ _____
 Sections dues (note first section joined is free): \$ _____
 I would like to make an additional gift of: \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to EECO and mail this form to:
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 3936 Claridge Dr.
 Youngstown, OH 44511

You can also renew online at www.eeco-online.org

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For membership application, please contact Wendy Welsh, Membership Manager.
For information about EECO's programs and services,
Please contact Brenda Metcalf, Executive Director

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