



Environmental Education Council of Ohio

Volume XXIV

Number 4

Autumn 2005

In This Issue

- Oceans as Pharmacies
- Winter Snow-Out We go!
- President's Message
- EECO 2006 Annual Conference
- Outdoor Classroom Grants
- Ohio's Natural Heritage
- OEE Partnership Insert
- Meet Sitta carolinensis
- Hear Ye!
- EE Opportunities for Winter 2005-2006

Of Porpoises and Pharmacies

It has been some time since I have taken the front page of your EECO Newsletter for myself, but I had one of those experiences this past summer that is just – well, downright jarring. It so clearly illustrates what is not right with the world today (at least one major thing that's not right) that I thought it criminal NOT to share it.



One day in late August I decided to check my e-mail, and along the way thought I'd catch a quick glance at the headlines on MSN. Always attuned to environmental news, I caught a glimpse of an article entitled, "Are sharks in danger of extinction?" by Juliet Eilperin of The Washington Post.

So I read it. In it, Eilperin relates that, "some (scientists) suspect the world is on the cusp of what Ellen Pikitch, executive director of the Pew Institute for Ocean Science, calls 'a gathering wave of ocean extinction.'"

The article goes on to discuss reasons for the concern, including over-fishing and the destruction of mangroves and other vital aquatic habitats, and notes:

Dozens of biologists believe the seas have reached a tipping point, with scores of species of ocean-dwelling fish, birds and mammals edging towards extinction. In the past 300 years, researchers have documented the global extinction of just 21 marine species — and 16 of those extinctions occurred since 1972.

"Doesn't sound too good," I thought, "but it's the same thing that's happening in just about every corner of the world."

Then I got the kick-in-the-head.

Ol' Man Winter is Coming!

So NOW is the time to mark your calendars for the annual "Winter Snow-- Out We Go" EECO regional workshop!! EECO will partner once again with the Cuyaboga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC) for this high-energy winter tradition.

"Winter Snow" will be held again at the CVEEC near Peninsula, Ohio. The event begins on the evening of February 3rd and ends the morning of February 5th. One-day registration is also available. Graduate workshop credit is possible for persons who attend the entire event and complete required tasks.

"Winter Snow" is intended for educators, and others who work with children in the outdoors. A big focus of Winter Snow is activities that utilize the beauty and uniqueness of the Winter environment. Many sessions, however, focus on general environmental education teaching techniques and resources. "Winter Snow" also emphasizes fellowship and networking with others who enjoy the outdoors. Come and join us!



For "Winter Snow" information please go to the Cuyaboga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA) Web site and click on "Education" and "Teacher Programs" <http://www.cvnpa.org>

A word from the President...



Laura Busby

Calling Environmental Professionals and Educators of all varieties – teachers, naturalists, conservation educators, business professionals, professors, environmental education researchers, and government workers – now is the time

to integrate environmental education (EE) into your curriculums, programs, trainings, and other educational endeavors. You'll find (or you may already know) that it dovetails very nicely with any topic you are teaching!

Want some ideas about how to go about integrating the environment into your curriculum? Or, how to make your environmental topic educational? Whether you are a seasoned

educator or just getting started, EECO is a great resource for you. Some ways EECO can help you grow in your profession and incorporate EE into your setting include the following resources:

Attend the wonderful **Winter Snow – Out We Go** conference held at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center on February 3-5. This is always a good time, with plenty of break-out sessions and lots of networking time...and it comes right when you can use a winter “pick-me-up.”

Attend **Tomorrow's Reality in Environmental Education (TREE)**, the annual EECO conference scheduled for April 6 – 9 in Cleveland. The conference is designed to reach many providers of environmental education – the traditional ones and other folks who may not consider themselves environmental educators at all. The strands for this conference include:

- ✿ GREEN BUILDING DESIGN
- ✿ LAKE ERIE WATERSHED, NATURAL HISTORY AND GREAT LAKES BASIN
- ✿ INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION
- ✿ ADMINISTRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

It will be a broad based conference for any and all environmental education professionals to remember for years to come!

Teachers and nonformal educators can visit the Ohio Department of Education Web site at http://www.ode.state.oh.us/academic_content_standards/ for details on **Ohio Academic Content Standards**. Develop your programs/curriculum around those standards, benchmarks and indicators by grade level. This is a must for working with school audiences!

Review the **EECO Guidelines for Best Practices** for your intended audiences. This document can be accessed online <http://www.eeco-online.org/publications/pdfs/beeps.pdf>. It

gives terrific suggestions, background and justification for many program types and styles.

Add your organization's information in the **EE Directory** and post your public events on the **EECO**

Web site calendar! See <http://www.eeco-online.org/calendar.html> for instructions on how you can do this or write EEDirectory@eeco-online.org. These services will allow you to get the word out about your organizations and programs in one “go to” location.

Contact your **regional director** to link up locally and/or regionally. Regional directors are dedicated professionals that are active in your local EE community. They can help you to network with other environmental organizations and find out about events and happenings in your own “backyard”. See <http://www.eeco-online.org/about/people.html> (scroll down) to find your region and your regional director's contact information.

Wow! EECO has a lot of ways for you to enhance your professional development, programs, and network! Take advantage of all EECO offers TODAY! I hope to see you at one or more of our upcoming events and challenge you to make your programming the best it can be!

EECO 39th Annual Conference

EECO annual conference - TREE - Tomorrow's Reality in Environmental Education

April 6 - 9 2006 - Cleveland Hilton East, Beachwood, Ohio

Who? Anyone and everyone interested in advancing environmental education in Ohio.

It's closer than you think! The EECO Annual Conference will be here before you've had a chance to break all of your New Year's resolutions! (Well, maybe not...)

In addition to our traditional networking, silent auction, fellowship and FUN, this year's conference will feature something for all EE interests.

Conference Strands

Green Building Design - The role and development of environmentally friendly communities, buildings and grounds is of growing importance to our sustainability. This strand is concerned with the implementation of green principles in the design, construction, maintenance, and educational use of buildings and associated green spaces.

Lake Erie Watershed, Natural History And Great Lakes Basin - Lake Erie and it's watershed, a part of the larger Great Lakes Basin, presents a unique environmental education opportunity for formal and non-formal education in Ohio. This strand is concerned with EE opportunities, natural history, and the science underlying this ecosystem and environment.

Interpretation And Education - Education and interpretation that connects people to the environment: using tools, technology and activities within both formal and non-formal educational settings to understand the impact of humans on the environment and to appreciate relationships in nature.

Administration Of Environmental Education Programs: Marketing, Funding And Creatively Administering Programs In Today's Context - The audience for this strand is administrators of nonprofit programs/organizations. School administrators, board members, those who want to develop administrative skills and others interested in creative management. Sessions might focus on public relations, marketing, financial development, grant writing, strategic planning or other administrative topics.

We still have openings for interactive, engaging, insightful and informative PRESENTERS who can draw on their expertise in environmental education to enrich our attendees and enhance our conference. For complete details, go to <http://www.eeco-online.org/> and click on "ANNOUNCEMENT: 39th Annual EECO Conference - Call for Presenters. The deadline has been extended to January 1...but don't delay!



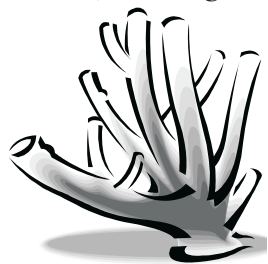
Of Porpoises and Pharmacies

Continued From Page 1.

Not three hours later I was sitting in a waiting room doing what I always do in waiting rooms – looking at whatever magazines they have. I picked up Newsweek's Special Edition – The Future of Medicine (Summer 2005) and turned to an article entitled, "Pharmacy Island," by Claudia Kalb.

"From the rainforest of the ocean floor," reads the subtitle, "researchers are scouring our planet for new ways to fight disease by tapping nature's own remedies."

"I'll be," I thought. "They'd better hurry."



The article notes that in spite of advances in modern medicine, millions

of people die every year from cancer, HIV, diabetes, and heart disease, and how "researchers are trekking through forests and diving deep into oceans to collect nature's loot." It goes on to quote George Miljanich of pharmaceutical maker Elan Corp., "There's literally a pharmaceutical gold mine there (in the world's oceans) to investigate."

Then, not three days later, I saw an Associated Press article which read, in part, "Coral reef ecosystems, among the oldest and most diverse forms of life, are declining in U.S. waters because of over-fishing, climate change, marine diseases, land-based pollution, storms and grounded ships.

"Such ecosystems 'clearly are beset by a wide array of significant threats,' the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a report Thursday" (August 18).

So what, you ask, has this to do with EECO? What has this to do

with my job? Quite simply, I believe, quite a lot. If, that is, you know (or might in the future know) someone who needs advanced medicines for any number of serious conditions.

Environmental educators understand the "webs" and "cycles" and "connectedness" of all things living and non-living. It is up to us to convey that understanding as clearly as possible to the largest possible audiences. Think globally and act locally, yes...and remember, it's all connected.

Educator's Edition of Ohio's Natural Heritage on CD-Rom

The Ohio Academy of Science recently reissued Ohio's Natural Heritage, the 336-page Ohioana Award-winning book on a CD-ROM for \$19.95. Many Ohio naturalists and science teachers will remember this wonderful resource, with a striking cover by Cincinnati wildlife artist Charley Harper.

Just released this summer is a new educator's edition of the CD ROM, which includes correlations to the state's Academic Content Standards for both science and social studies. The educator's edition, available for \$29.95, was developed with a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund.

Twenty-eight specialists invite the reader to survey the geologic forces that shaped the state, the colorful plant and animal life of its forests, prairies, hills, lakes and



streams, the first people in what is now Ohio, and many maps, drawings and photographs. It offers a gateway to anthropology, geology, climatology, and the whole study of living things. The Editor-in-Chief of Ohio's Natural Heritage is Michael

B. Lafferty, currently the science editor for The Columbus Dispatch.

The Educator's Edition, that also includes inquiry-based lesson plans for most of the chapters, may be ordered online at The Ohio Academy of Science,



www.ohiosci.org. Specify the Educator's Edition to receive the academic content standards correlations.

Outdoor Classroom Grant Opportunity

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper and National Geographic Explorer! classroom magazine are offering an outdoor classroom grant program to help schools improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. Public schools, grades K-12, can submit grant proposals to obtain funding for outdoor classroom projects. Grants up to \$2,000 will be awarded to at least 100 schools and grants up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom programs. Proposals are reviewed three times a year. Go to www.Lowes.com/outdoorclassroom for more information.



Help Make the Ohio EE Directory an Up-to-Date Tool

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency through the Office of Environmental Education, and the Environmental Education Council of Ohio have teamed up with EE-Link to provide an electronic directory of environmental education services and providers for the state of Ohio.

This REPLACES the paperback publications of previous years, which will no longer be published.

Currently there are over 800 entries in the directory, but unfortunately many of those entries are outdated and incorrect. The contact information is invalid and our attempts to mail or e-mail the organizations have been



“return to sender” or “bounced”. Lacking contact information or a staff of private investigators, we volunteers can’t locate many organizations. Thus, in order to have a useful directory, we will need to begin removing these listings from the directory, beginning January 1, 2006.

To avoid having your organization removed from the list, you can simply logon to the directory and update the information. There is no charge and the process will take only a few minutes. If you need your login or password, send an e-mail to EEDirectory@eeco-online.org. If you need help entering the information, there is a tutorial on the EECO Web site (www.eeco-online.org)

If your organization is removed before you can update your information, you are still welcome to submit your information, and of course organizations and resource providers that have been in the directory are welcome to submit new information for inclusion. Simply go to the directory through the EECO website and fill in the on-line forms.

Please help us create a tool that will serve both providers and users of environmental education resources.

Looking for a little Cross Pollination

If it works so well in nature, it’s gotta work well in environmental education, too, right? As you prepare to teach one EE activity, have you ever stumbled on a great resource from one of those other terrific curricula that are out there? Here’s an opportunity for all you educators and facilitators out there to share your tips.

For example, Carolyn Watkins at Ohio EPA was preparing a teacher workshop in Project WILD’s new Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife curriculum for high school. That program uses the federal Endangered Species Act as a case study for social studies students to learn all the steps of how-a-bill-becomes-a-law, and separation of powers. She found a wonderful companion activity in Project Learning Tree’s Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk program for secondary schools. PIT’s “Weighing the Options: A Look at Tradeoffs” includes a great section on cost/benefit analysis and ethical considerations in protecting endangered species. Facilitators, take note!

Dennis Clement, state coordinator for Healthy Water, Healthy People, finds that HWHP’s “There is No Point to This Pollution” provides a nice extension to two activities from Project WET: “A-mazing Water” and “Sum of the Parts.”

In another great example of cross-pollination, Projects WET, WILD, and Learning Tree in Ohio have been working together to train new facilitators, and to align their activities with the state’s new Academic Content Standards. (See <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/education/correlations/> for the results of their efforts.)

Share YOUR ideas for cross-pollination! E-mail your examples to dennis.clement@EPA.state.oh.us



Meet *Sitta Carolinensis* the White-breasted Nuthatch

If you have been to the Language of Nature workshop that EECO co-sponsors with the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (or any other nature writing workshop that I've been involved in, for that matter) you have no doubt had the pleasure of hearing (or hearing me talk about) the Greatful Dead's *Eyes of the World*, which extols the listener to "wake up to find out that you are the eyes of the world."

Near the beginning of the song we find the inspiration for this editions "Meet ____ ____."

*Right outside the lazy gate of winter's summer home
wondering where the nuthatch winters
Wings a mile long just carried the bird away*

And to end the Greatful Dead's wonderings (and maybe yours) the answer is...RIGHT HERE IN OHIO!! (and most everywhere else in America...). This species is a year-round resident throughout most of the United States and parts of Canada and Mexico.

The White-breasted Nuthatch has a short neck and broad shoulders, is blue-gray above, with a white belly and white patches on each side of the tail; undertail feathers are rust-colored. The male's cap is black, but the female's is dark gray. The bird measures 5-6" in length with a wingspread of 9 1/4-11 1/2".
(note: just shy of a mile long...)

White-breasted Nuthatches inhabit mature deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests. Nuthatches prefer to nest near open areas and forest edges, often setting up home near water, roads, orchards, or fields.

It's fun to watch these little woodland acrobats work their way down a tree trunk searching for grubs and insects in the bark crevices that other up-climbing tree foragers, such as the woodpecker, would miss. Sometimes they'll hang upside down, swinging from tiny branches.



You'll occasionally find the White-breasted hopping about on the ground under trees in search of nuts and insects. Their diet is about 65% plant materials during winter and about 100% animal foods during summer. Preferred plant materials include beechnuts, acorns, hickory nuts, sunflower seeds, and corn. Insect foods include ants, flies, grasshoppers, moths, cankerworms, caterpillars of gypsy moth, forest and tent caterpillars, weevils, wood-borers, tree hoppers, aphids, scale insects.

Nuthatches are cavity nesters, and their nest is often 15-50 feet up in large trees displaying a natural cavity or woodpecker's hole. Sometimes they will nest in a man-made bird box. Nest materials include shreds of bark, plant fibers, twigs, fur/hair and feathers. Just about anytime during April and May, as many as 8 eggs are laid. The eggs are white and spotted with browns, reds and gray, take 12 days to hatch, and are incubated by both sexes, but usually the female. The first young bird flies about 14 days after hatching. White-breasteds breed for life. So when you're out and about your favorite woods this fall, look for the acrobatic White-breasted Nuthatch...and remember, you ARE the eyes of the world...

Announcing Call for Presenters for the 39th Annual EECO Conference

*"TREE" Tomorrow's Reality in Environmental Education"
April 6-9, 2006 Cleveland Hilton East, Beachwood, Ohio
Please check our Web site <http://www.eeco-online.org> for further details.*

HEAR YE!



Environmental Education Opportunities for Winter and Spring 2006

December 8 – Peer Reviewer Training Workshop - Hocking SWCD, 148 North Homer Ave., Logan, Ohio 43138-1730. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information: Contact OEEF at oeef@epa.state.oh.us or by phone at (614) 644-2873

December 14 – Peer Reviewer Training Workshop - Cuyahoga SWCD, 6100 West Canal Road, Valley View, Ohio 44125. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information: Contact OEEF at oeef@epa.state.oh.us or by phone at (614) 644-2873

January 27 – Science and Civics – ODNR Division of Wildlife District 2 Office – 952 Lima Ave, Findlay. Learn the basics of this exciting new high school curriculum. A hot lunch will be provided. For info, contact Jen Dennison—Ohio Project WILD coordinator at 614-265-6316 or jen.dennison@dnr.state.oh.us

February 3-4-5 – “Winter Snow, Out We Go,” environmental educators’ annual conference at Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center, Peninsula. Visit www.eeco-online.org or www.cvnpa.org for more information.

February 16-17-18 – Science Education Council of Ohio Annual Conference, Akron. Visit www.secoonline.org for more information.

February 28-March 3 – Ecological Restoration – Gorman Heritage Farm – Evendale, Ohio. Workshop will focus on vegetation design concepts as they relate to watershed restoration, bio-structural work, and ecological improvements for streams, riparian zones, floodplains and wetlands. Cost: \$275. e-mail info@mill-creekrestoration.org

April 6-9 – Environmental Education Council of Ohio Annual Conference, Hilton Beachwood (east of Cleveland). Visit www.eeco-online.org/conferences for more information.

April 28-29 – Ohio Project WILD/Aquatic WILD facilitator workshop – Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center. Cost: \$50—covers food, lodging, materials and take-home items. To attend, you must agree to host at least one workshop within a year. Contact Jen Dennison—Ohio Project WILD coordinator at 614-265-6316 or jen.dennison@dnr.state.oh.us

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:

Nelson Strong
EECO Editor
557 Fallis Road
Columbus, OH 43214

(614) 265-6779
Fax: (614) 262-2064
e-mail: nws3@msn.com

EECO Officers & Staff

President

Laura Busby
(740) 638-2301
lbusby@thewilds.org

Vice President

David Wright
(216) 321-5935 (x233)
wright@shakerlakes.org

Treasurer

Charles McClagherty
(330) 823-8655
mcclauca@muc.edu

Secretary

Diana Hunn
(937) 229-3316
hunndm@muohlo.edu

Past President

David Irvine
(800) 642-3297
dirvine@cvnpa.org

Executive Director

Brenda Metcalf
P. O. Box 1004
Lancaster, OH 43130
(330) 322-3953
director@eeco-online.org

Publications/Editor

Nelson Strong
557 Fallis Rd.
Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 265-6779
Fax: (614) 262-2064
nws3@msn.com

Membership Manager

Wendy Welsh
3936 Claridge Dr.
Youngstown, OH 44511
(330) 792-2586
WenWelsh@yahoo.com

Board Members

Erv Ball
Gail Doyle
Louise Fleming
Scott Hoff

John Hollback
Leanne Jablonski
Marty McTigue
Joyce Meredith

Dave Moran
Mary Sheridan
Lynn White

Regional Directors

Region 1

Linda Pettit
Franklin Soil and Water Conservation
District
1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101
Columbus, OH 43215
Tel: 614/486-9613
Fax: 614/486-9614
lpettit@franklinswcd.org

Region 2

Bunny Rossnagel
Metro Parks of the Toledo Area
5100 W. Central Avenue
Toledo, OH 43615-2106
Tel: 419/407-9772
Fax: 419/407-9785
bunny.rossnagel@metroparkstoledo.com

Region 3

Dawn Wingate
OSU-Lima, Galvin Hall
4240 Campus Drive
Lima, OH 45804
Tel: 419/995-8437
wingate.2@osu.edu

Region 4

Donna Lewis
Boonshoft Museum of Discovery
2600 DeWeese Parkway
Dayton, OH 45414
937-275-7431 ext. 114
Fax - 937-275-5811
dlewis@boonshoftmuseum.org

Region 5

Sue Magness
Hamilton County Dept. of
Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45219-2660
Tel: 513/946-7736
Fax: 513/946-7779
sue.magness@hamilton-co.org

Region 6

Joanne Mudra
Richland County Solid Waste
1495 West Longview Ave. Suite 201
Mansfield, Ohio 44906
419-774-5861
Fax: 419-774-6330
jmudra@voyager.net

Region 7

Janet Ellsworth
606 Highridge Rd.
Lexington, Ohio 44904
Phone: 419-884-0818

Region 8

Jeff Montavon
Scioto Soil and Water
Conservation District
12167A State Route 104
Lucasville, OH 45648
Tel: 740/259-9231
Jeff.Montavon@oh.nacnet.net

Region 9

Dawn Wrench
Earth Day Coalition
3606 Bridge Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113
Tel: 216/281-6468x225
Fax: 216/281-5112
dwrench@earthdaycoalition.org

Region 9

Patty Rickard
Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center
1972 Clark Avenue.
Alliance, OH 44601
Tel: 330/823-7487
Fax: 330/823-8531
rickarpa@muc.edu

Region 10

Bonnie Dailey
Muskingum Valley Park District
P.O. Box 446
Zanesville, OH 43702
Tel: 740/455-8237
Fax: 740/455-7939
mvpd@rrohio.com

Region 11

Vicki Kohli
Fairfield Soil and Water
Conservation District
831 College Avenue, Suite B
Lancaster, OH 43130
Tel: 740/653-8154
Fax: 740/653-1135
vicki-kohli@oh.nacnet.org

Region 12

Cheryl Mattevi
831 Highland Ave.
Salem, OH 44460
Tel: 330.337.3956
c.mattevi@att.net

Internet — www.eeco-online.org

The EECO Newsletter is published four times per year for members of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, a non-profit organization.

Submit news articles, columns, or photos for deadlines: August 1, November 1, February 1, and May 1. Publication dates are: September 21, December 21, March 21, and June 21. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

The OEE/EECO Partnership insert and the dissemination of this newsletter is paid for by a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund.

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

Non-Profit
Presort Standard
U.S. Postage PAID
Marietta, OH
Permit No. #222

EECO NEWSLETTER
Nelson Strong, Editor
557 Fallis Rd.
Columbus, OH 43214