

ODNR Employees Center of Secondary Education Program

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An interview with Sharon Lingle, geologist, is just one of several visitors will find in the Lake Erie: Coastal Management Module.



In the Sustainable Development: Water Module, visitors will find an interview with Jocelyn Henderson, describing her work in northwest Ohio to protect surface and ground water from becoming polluted by manure and sediment.



Lola Lewis, urban forester, discusses how she helps communities and neighborhoods plan, select, plant and take care of trees as part of her interview in the Sustainable Development: Land Module.

They design experiments, collect water samples and dissect fish; they collect, organize and represent data; they write informational documents and website pages.

These are just some of the everyday science-, math- and language arts-related activities conducted by employees of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Now, an exciting new website, Real World Learning, lets ODNR scientists, writers, researchers, naturalists, engineers, law enforcers and resource managers bring to life what they do and how they do it, and provides resources for developing lesson plans for secondary science, language arts and career education.

To visit the site, go to www.dnr.state.oh.us. Click on “Educational Resources”, then on “Real World Learning”. What you’ll notice right away is that the site is divided into six Resource Modules, including “Sustainable Development: Land” and “Outdoor Recreation”. By clicking on a module, you’ll be provided a menu of informative ODNR employee interviews. Each interview has associated with it a list of ODNR and other resources pertinent to the employee’s work.

Secondary teachers, particularly high school teachers, can also access the “Teacher Page”, which provides:

- An outline for generating either rich lesson plans or WebQuests. The outline is based on one commonly used to construct WebQuests, an increasingly popular instructional method for website-based learning.
- Links to sites devoted exclusively to WebQuests.

- Research topics for “Placed Based Activities”. These real-world based topics are designed to motivate and challenge students to engage actively with the outdoors and with others also participating in natural resource monitoring and conservation work. Suggestions are also provided for related Community Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Audits that students can carry out.

During this first year of evaluation and lesson plan development, ODNR invites EECO members to review the site and provide comment. The side bar of each page on the site includes a “Contact Us: Send us your comments” link.

Additionally, EECO educators are encouraged to team up with local secondary teachers to develop and submit a lesson plan for inclusion on the site. Finally, we hope that you will attend a session about this program at this year’s annual conference, titled “WebQuesting for Conservation and Outdoor Recreation.”