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Late Summer, Fall 2005



Environmental Education Council of Ohio

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Help make EE more accessible in Ohio! Update your EECO Online Resource Directory entry!

NEED HELP? You can find a presentation on the web that can take you through the process one step at a time. This presentation was developed by EECO's webmaster, Charleen Race.

Use the following URL:

<http://raider.muc.edu/~mcclauca/OHEEDirectory.mht>

OR you can e-mail us at [EEDirectory @eeco-online.org](mailto:EEDirectory@eeco-online.org).

This on-line resource REPLACES the paper directory, last published in 2002. It is also linked to a National EE resource directory.

If you need to know your password or your user ID, simply e-mail the directory: [EEDirectory @eeco-online.org](mailto:EEDirectory@eeco-online.org).

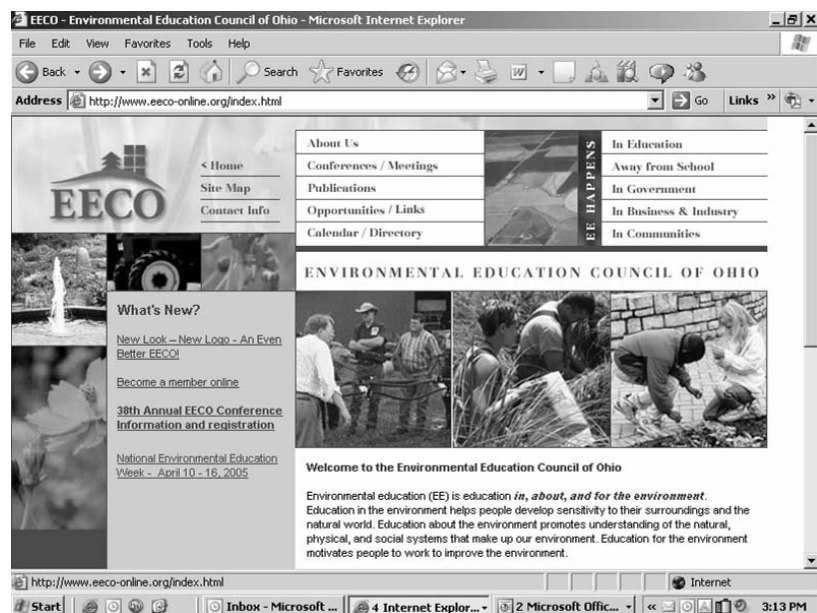
Do you know of an EE resource that should be listed? Tell them, or let us know! EECO wants to help people find environmental education resources easily.

Icons of Environmental Education

By Dave Todt

The loss of two icons of environmental education in Ohio this spring has me thinking about our heritage. Ruth Melvin and John Disinger both died in March, just as Ohio was emerging from the winter with signs of a new season. Ruth and John ushered new seasons into the lives of many of us through their gentle natures and optimistic determination to share the environment with friends, family, students, and colleagues.

Ruth was an early leader in the Ohio Conservation and Outdoor Education Association (OCOEA) which preceded EECO. She served as its president and received the first Educator of the Year Award (now the Finlay-Johnson Award). I didn't have the opportunity to meet Rachel Carson (born 1907) or Lucy Braun (born 1889), but I imagine that through Ruth Melvin (born 1909) I caught a glimpse of what her contemporaries were like. Ruth was passionate about her love of the Earth and the need to instill that caring love in future generations. She cared about people, too. I can remember her smiling, friendly demeanor at all OCOEA events. She brought many young people to environmental education. Rachel Carson has been called the



Continued on Page 5.

A word from the President...



Laura Busby

Time brings change. As I drive into the Wilds for work each morning, I have the pleasure of seeing some of our baby animals. They seem to grow almost daily! The baby rhino and giraffe that seemed

so small earlier in the spring, - well, relatively small - are getting much bigger (although they are still dwarfed by the adults).

Important changes continue to happen with EECO too. At our March, 2005 meeting, the EECO board approved a

new mission statement and a vision for our organization. The new mission is:

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

This is not significantly different from the previous one in content but it is more concise and clear. It is valuable to have a reaffirmation of our direction, especially in light of our current work on a strategic plan.

EECO did not have a vision statement before, so we crafted and approved one. This vision is how we hope Ohio will be in twenty years if we are successful in our mission. The new EECO vision is:

All Ohioans are environmentally literate and engage in decision-making that ensures sustainability for future generations.

We have a big task ahead of us to accomplish this, but we are “up for it”! As we embrace a broader constituency, it will be important for us to remain focused on these guiding doctrines of our organization.

One of the ways we are working toward serving a broad environmental education audience is by developing membership sections. These categories will allow members to self-select a section that most suits their professional interest. Sections will include: PreK – 12 Education,

Nonformal Education, Higher Education, Government Agencies, Environmental and Community-based Organizations, EE Research, and Business and Industry.

Mission Statement: EECO leads in facilitating environmental education that fosters global stewardship and a sustainable future for all Ohioans.

Another move to broaden our base is occurring in the planning for the 2006 conference that will be held in Cleveland. That conference will hold many new and exciting presentations for all environmental education constituencies. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters or on our fabulous Web site.

Lastly, we have begun the process to build on *Ohio EE 2000: A Strategic Plan for Environmental Education in Ohio* to generate an updated and revised plan for 2010. To do so, we are engaging stakeholders from all arenas and will be asking you, our members, for input too.

Anyone interested in helping with any of these initiatives is welcome. Just drop me a note at LauraBusby@juno.com and I'll get you started! You are all integral to our efforts to make change for the planet. I want to drive into the Wilds of the future knowing that the animals we manage will have a place left for them in the wild. Our efforts in Ohio can help to make that happen.

Excellence in EE

EECO annual meeting honors educators

Each year honors Ohioans who are making outstanding contributions in the field of environmental education. The following were honored during EECO's Annual Conference in Marietta. (Not pictured – Outstanding Volunteer Elizabeth Reeb, nominated by Vicki Kobli. Healthy Water-Healthy People was also selected for an Outstanding Publication Award.).



Bill Schultz (left) receives an Outstanding Environmental Educator in the Field of Nonformal Education award from EECO President Busby for his work in promoting Ohio PLT and forest education.



Lisa Huelskamp (left), coordinator for National Engineer's Week Future City Competition – Ohio Region, accepts an EECO Organization Award from nominator Carolyn Watkins.



Diane Cantrell, deputy chief for environmental education for ODNR's Division of Soil and Water Conservation accepts the President's Award for lifelong contributions to EE in Ohio from EECO President Laura Busby (right).



Paul Khacherian, program director for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association Environmental Education Center (left) accepts the Christy Dixon Award for young professionals who have contributed significantly to environmental education in Ohio from nominator Dave Irvine.



Teacher **Wanda Dingle** (left) accepts an Outstanding Environmental Educator in the Field of Formal Education from nominator Jeff Montavon, Scioto SWCD.



Carolyn Watkins (right) accepts the Finlay-Johnson Award for significant and outstanding contributions to EECO from EECO executive director Brenda Metcalf.

24th Ohio Prairie Conference August 5-7, OSU-Marion

Ohio has the longest series of statewide prairie conferences in the U.S. Held annually in an Ohio prairie area the conferences are aimed at all interest groups and knowledge levels. The value, beauty, history, biology, and human interest of Ohio's native grasslands are universal themes. An Ohio Prairie Conference is an informative and exciting way to become familiar with Ohio prairies.

The conference will feature a variety of field trips and lecture sessions.

This year, the Ohio Prairie Conference will feature events and information especially for educators. OPA wants Ohio's school students to have local prairie experiences — especially right on their local school grounds. OPA is working with the Peoria Nature Center in Illinois to develop an Ohio schoolyard prairie program. In Illinois, numerous schools now have authentic prairies, in which students identify plants, collect seeds, grow new prairie plants, and plant them either in the school prairie or in their own new prairies. Curriculum materials that connect the schoolyard prairies to state science and humanities instructional mandates are being adapted to Ohio.

Attend this informative session about the educational programs available to K-12 teachers. Seminars will include information about the Prairie Nature Center, The Marion Historical Society as well as curriculum from the ODNR and the Prairie School Project from Peoria, Illinois. Contact hours will be available for attendance. Find out more at <http://www.ohioprairie.org/>

Audubon Ohio offers scholarship June 2006 – Hog Island, Maine

The first annual statewide ornithology scholarship sponsored by the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) will provide an Ohio educator with field experience on birds and diverse habitats to incorporate into their own classrooms while achieving Ohio's academic standards. The scholarship is for the one-week ornithology camp, June 2006, at the Audubon Camp on Hog Island, Maine. Application deadline is October 1st, 2005.

The camp experience includes field experience watching birds in diverse habitats with opportunities to learn about breeding biology, migration, bird song, research, and conservation. Campers take bird walks around spruce-covered Hog Island and field trips off island to seabird colonies, freshwater and saltwater marshes, coastal beaches, upland barrens, and deciduous forests. All are linked to presentations and discussions, giving participants a richer understanding and appreciation of birds. Leaders include nationally known ornithologists Kenn Kaufman, Greg Budney, Scott Weidensaul, Steve Kress, and Bonnie Bochan. This session offers richly rewarding experiences for both novice and advanced birders. Plus, campers learn how-to techniques for leading bird walks, feeding birds, and gardening to attract birds. The overall experience is a great resource to enhance student science, reading and computational skills.

For an application and more information contact:
Delle Nadler, President, COAC,
P.O. Box 87,
Bath, Ohio 44210;
dee96921@yahoo.com;
330.869.0380.

New Web Site Aids Teachers in Preparing EE Lessons and Projects

Ohio educators using Project WET, Project WILD and Project Learning Tree concepts in their classrooms can now access a database of 450 activities that meet the new state science standards. The database, part of the "WET, WILD AND PLT - Correlations For All Three" Project, is available on the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Web site at ohiodnr.com/education/correlations

The database is designed to help formal classroom teachers and others create lesson plans and projects that meet the Ohio K-12 Science Academic Content Standards. It is searchable by grade level band, grade level, science academic content standard, benchmark, organizer, grade-level indicator and specific project book (WET, WILD, PLT). A limited number of hard copies of the Correlations guidebook are available to those who do not have Internet access.



Project WET, Project WILD and Project Learning Tree are national environmental education programs recognized for their value in applying practical, hands-on activities not only to the study of water, wildlife and forestry resources, but also to traditional subjects such as social studies, science and language arts.

Meet

Vernonia noveboracensis

You can thank Carolyn Watkins for this installment of “Meet _____.” Late last year she asked if I would feature *Vernonia noveboracensis* in an upcoming profile as she has some in her garden and is quite fond of it. Since it met the two most rigorous criteria for candidates for “Meet _____” (i.e., it’s a “native” American and I hadn’t decided on another candidate), I said “sure!”

Ironweed suffers the slings and arrows of an outrageously unfortunate name with style and grace – or at least boldness. No shrinking violet, this denizen of roadsides, pastures, and wet meadows is a striking component of nature’s riotous late summer-early autumn floral display, along with Joe Pye weed and a host of sunflowers, goldenrods, and asters.

Ironweed, like the other flowers mentioned above, is a



member of the composite family (or Compositae) or aster family (Asteraceae) of plants – all of which have heads composed of many florets (think dandelions and daisies). This is one of the largest (if not the largest) plant families, with some 23,000-26,000 species. The orchid family may or may not be larger, with roughly 25,000 described members – but maybe as many as 30,000.

Tall and robust, ironweed bears clusters of brilliant red-violet or purple flowers borne on a loosely branched, leafy stalk reaching heights up to 7 feet or more. The name ironweed relates either to the plant’s toughness or the fact that the stalk often stands through the winter – take your pick. If you aren’t familiar with ironweed, old pastures in late summer are a good place to make its acquaintance, as it is often the only tall plant standing; livestock do not count it a delicacy.

“mother” of the environmental movement because of her writing and influence. I would call Lucy Braun the “mother” of ecology – she was the first woman president of the Ohio Academy of Science (1933) and the first woman president of the Ecological Society of America (1950). To my way of thinking, that would make Ruth Melvin the “mother” of environmental education in Ohio. She will be missed, but her legacy carries forward and has become the responsibility of each of us.

John was around at the beginning of OCOEA, too. John’s contemporaries who founded OCOEA (John Thompson from Miami University, Carl Johnson from The Ohio State University, and Bob Finlay from the Ohio Department of Education) are the original icons of environmental education in Ohio. They worked with teachers during the summer at the Conservation Lab in the early 1960s. It was the “Lab Alumni” who originated OCOEA in 1967. John’s keen intellect and gentle persona were fixtures during the early days of OCOEA. John’s influence extends beyond EECO to the founding of the Ohio Alliance for the Environment and his leadership in the North American Association for Environmental Education. I have valued John’s friendship over the years – he always had a kind word and a remembrance to share. I also valued the products of his work - ERIC EE documents and his articles and opinions in the *Journal of Environmental Education*. His influence through his students will assure a lasting legacy.

EECO is a young organization with a bright future. We will be well served if we keep the vision and passion of icons like Ruth Melvin and John Disinger constantly in front of us.

“Language of Nature” resonates at Cuyahoga Valley NP

For those writers, teachers, and naturalists who participated in the 4th “Language of Nature” institute, June 20-24 was a FANTASTIC week, indeed! The Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center provided a tranquil yet inspiring backdrop for observing, contemplating, and writing about our relationship to nature and the environment.

EECO, in partnership with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association, Ohio Arts Council, EETAP, and the Ohio Environmental Education Fund, hosted this only-one-of-its-kind-in-Ohio workshop for K-12 language arts teachers and others interested in honing their naturalist skills and fine-tuning their prose and poetry writing.

The institute paired writers and naturalists with a small group of writers for in-depth nature study and writing exercises. Hikes, outdoor photography coaching, great food, and beautiful weather made for a memorable experience. The faculty included writers Terry Hermsen and Jeff Gundy, and naturalists Pam Barnes (Cuyahoga Valley National Park) and Nelson Strong (ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation).



Options are being explored for a 5th “Language of Nature” institute next June. Check this newsletter or EECO’s Web site - www.eeco-online.org - for details.

Last Child in the Woods:

Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder

A new book argues that children desperately need to be able to play in the woods — and that our culture’s sterile rejection of nature is harming them in body and soul.

Editor’s note: EECO newsletter certainly doesn’t try to feature or review every new book on EE or EE-related subjects...but this one caught your editor’s eye, especially since we ran an article on research into a possible link between ADHD and outdoor learning in the Winter 2004-05 edition of this newsletter...and because the editor fondly remembers his younger years spent exploring the fields, woods, and mud puddles in the wilds of frontier Parma...

The following is an excerpt by Sarah Karnasiewicz, an editorial fellow at Salon. You can read the entire article and interview at <http://www.salon.com/mwt/feature/2005/06/02/Louv/>

In the not-so-distant past, kids ruled the country’s woods and valleys — running in packs, building secret forts and treehouses, hunting frogs and fish, playing hide-and-seek behind tall grasses. But in the last 30 years, says journalist Richard Louv, children of the digital age have become increasingly alienated from the natural world, with disastrous implications, not only for their physical fitness, but also for their long-term mental and spiritual health.

In his new book, “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder,” Louv argues that sensationalist media coverage and paranoid parents have literally “scared children straight out of the woods and fields,” while promoting a litigious culture of fear that favors “safe” regimented sports over imaginative play. Well-meaning elementary school curricula may teach students everything there is to know about the Amazon rain forest’s endangered species, but do little to encourage kids’ personal relationship with the world outside their own doors. And advances in technology, while opening up a wealth of “virtual” experiences to the young, have made it easier and easier for children to spend less time outside.

Released in April of this year, “Last Child in the Woods” is published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill

HEAR YE!

EE Enrichment Opportunities for Late Summer, Autumn 2005



August 5-7 – 24th Ohio Prairie Conference - OSU-Marion. See page 4

August 12 – **Lessons in Field Ecology** at The Wilds (located in SE Ohio, 1½ hours from Columbus near the town of Cumberland). Come spend a day with us at the Wilds to learn firsthand how animals respond to a variety of ecosystem and habitat restoration practices. Cost: \$25.00 Includes tea and coffee for morning; lunch, and two sets of curricula materials, both Project Wild's "Science and Civics" and the Wilds own "Hands on the Land". We will explore both curricula, one in the morning

and one in the afternoon, and include a behind the scenes tour of the facility and animals living at the Wilds. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sponsored by Fairfield SWCD; Contact Vicki-kohli@oh.nacdnet.org

September 17 – **EECO Board Meeting** – for details, contact Brenda Metcalf at director@eeco-online.org

September 29 – **Green Building Expo** – Columbus Athenaeum, 32 North 4th Street, Columbus. The day-time event will feature various Green educational seminars and a trade show with the latest in Green products, systems, and lighting. In the evening, we will close out the day with a must-not-miss internationally recognized keynote speaker, William McDonough, author of "Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the way we make things," an international bestseller. The recipient of two US presidential honors and the National Design Award, McDonough is the former dean of architecture at the University of Virginia and co-chair of the China-US Center for Sustainable Development. For more info, contact Greg Faulkner at:

GAFaulkner@Columbus.gov

Sept 30-Oct 2 – **101 Conference** at YMCA Camp Kern, Oregonia. A weekend outdoor education workshop designed to provide teachers (classroom as well as nonformal and outdoor educators) with new activity ideas, inspiration, and a chance to meet other educators and "recharge." Registration (\$71) includes lodging, meals, all sessions. Contact Dave Moran to register at 1-800-255-53576 x 27 or dmoran@daytonymca.org

November 18 – Ohio Environmental Education Fund **Grant Writing Workshop**

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at **Kent State University, Salem Regional Campus**, 2491 State Route 45 South, Salem, OH (Columbiana County), co-sponsored by the Columbiana Soil and Water Conservation District and the Environmental Education Council of Ohio Region 12. Registration fee will cover lunch and materials. To register, contact Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education, oeef@epa.state.oh.us or (614) 644-2873.

January 6-7, 2006 – **EECO Board Retreat** – Location to be determined. Contact Brenda Metcalf for more info at director@eeco-online.org

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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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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