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Spring-Summer 2006



**Environmental Education Council of Ohio**

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April 7-8-9, 2006

# **TREE** - Tomorrow's Reality in Environmental Education

39th Annual EECO Conference

Join us in Cleveland for the premier Environmental Education event of the year!

Through a combination of speakers, entertainment, exhibits, field trips and workshop sessions participants will have the opportunity to learn, share, and experience today's best practices of EE. The conference theme will be divided into four strands to assure that the sessions will be valuable – and FUN – for all.

### **Conference Strands:**

#### **Green Building Design**

The role and development of environmentally friendly communities, buildings and grounds is of growing awareness and 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 its 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 education settings to understand the impact of humans on the environment and to appreciate relationships in nature.

#### **Administration of Environmental Education Programs**

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.

# A word from the President...



*Laura Busby*

EECO has an incredible conference slated for April 6 – 9 in Cleveland. TREE - Tomorrow's Reality in Environmental Education is one conference you won't want to miss! Take this opportunity to meet a broad array of environmental educators from business, K-12, higher education, nonformal EE, government, community organizations, and more. It will be the networking opportunity of the decade! The presentations are clustered around the timely conference strands

- Green building design
- Lake Erie watershed, natural history and Great Lakes basin
- Interpretation and education
- Administration of environmental education programs

The conference will also be an opportunity for you to learn about our new sections for members. As a part of our initiative to serve environmental educators from all venues, EECO is unveiling the following sections:

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

Another very important environmental education initiative will be presented at the conference in Cleveland. As our statewide strategic planning comes to a close, our next steps unfold before us. EECO, with the help of

numerous stakeholders representing the sections listed above, has developed a strategic plan that answers the question "What do we need to do for EE in Ohio? The plan can be found in the documents on the EECO Web site: [www.eeco-online.org](http://www.eeco-online.org). It is an ambitious plan and we will need collaborators to complete it. We are counting on YOU to take a look at the plan and help us with the areas that are of most interest to you and/or your organization. You may find you are already working on some aspect of it and this plan will provide you with a team to accomplish your goal!

EECO continues to pursue excellence in EE.

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

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We can only accomplish that goal by working with you and by addressing your needs. I look forward to seeing you at the conference. Please be sure to find me and say "hi." I want to grow my network, too!



# EECO Annual Conference High Lights

## FRIDAY Evening

### ● Eco-Mystery!

Learn about the Lake Erie Dead Zone. Throughout the weekend characters will provide clues to questions. Anyone answering all the questions correctly will be entered into a drawing for a kayak!

### ● Make-It-Take-It

Bring an easy to construct craft to share with others during Friday evening's festivities. Learn from other Make-It/Take-It artists/interpreters and take home cool educational crafts that you've made yourself.

● **Salsa in the City Reception**  
Salsa, chips, brew and EE-net-working in the city. Come and relax from the work week, and prepare for the big weekend.

### ● Silent Auction Begins

Bring your unusual, inspiring and valuable donations for the silent auction. We welcome all donations from the usual to the unique. Bring your auction item to the conference, or contact Kathleen Rocco, our Auctions Chair, at [krocco@cuyahoga-county.us](mailto:krocco@cuyahoga-county.us) or 216-443-3731.

## SATURDAY Evening

- Wine and Cheese Reception
- Annual Awards Banquet

### ● Live Auction

EECO past president Herb Broda reprises his dynamic role as our Auctioneer on Saturday night. This auction is for the biggies. Contact Kathleen Rocco, our Auctions Chair or bring your unique contribution with you to the conference.

### ● Live Entertainment

Kick up your heels, let down your hair with Toledo's Y3B Blues Band, Featuring Clark L. Brooks Jr. This award winning drummer brings his "Basic Blues Band" to Cleveland again. Brooks has played with Robert Junior Lockwood and many others.

## Registration Information

- Member registration by March 3 – \$155 (includes Conference Meals\*)
- Nonmember registration by March 3 – \$195 (includes Conference Meals\*)
- Member registration after March 3 – \$175 (includes Conference Meals\*)
- Nonmember registration after March 3 – \$215 (includes Conference Meals\*)
- Lodging – \$92/night (2 double beds)

● Register online today at [www.eeco-online.org](http://www.eeco-online.org)

\* does not include Friday Field Trip lunches

## Field Trips - Friday April 7th

### Mentor Marsh / Headlands Dunes (All Day)

8:30am – 3:30pm, Box lunch included in cost and naturalist fee, \$40

### Dike 14 Nature Preserve Environmental Education Collaborative

AM trip 8:30am – 11:30am OR PM trip 12:30pm – 3:30pm, \$30 includes a field guide

### Holden Arboretum (All Day)

9am – 4pm, Lunch included in cost, \$10

### Orchard Elementary School and Cuyahoga Valley National Park

(All Day) 9am – 4:30pm, Lunch provided at CVNP, \$30

### Look About Lodge

8:30am – 12:30pm, \$20

### Crown Point Ecology Center (All Day)

9am – 4pm, Lunch included, \$30

### Bus tour – Green Building sites

1:30pm – 5:30pm, \$20

### Bus tour of sites including Oberlin College (All Day)

9am – 5pm, Box lunch included, \$30

# Happy Silver Anniversary!

Nelson Strong, *EECO Newsletter*  
Editor



Sometimes you get so busy that special dates can get

(almost) overlooked – any card shop worth it's salt has more than a few “belated birthday” cards in the racks, and how many of us have had to make that last minute “but dear, I thought you’d love a basket of fruit for our anniversary” stop?

Well, in my haste to crank out this edition of your EECO Newsletter I very nearly missed the fact that this issue marks another important milestone in the Environmental Education Council of Ohio’s long and influential history. That’s right – it’s EECO Newsletter’s 25th Anniversary! At least according to the Volume numbering system I inherited when I was drafted – er – assumed the editorship in 1999. (And hats off to my predecessor, Beth Hahn, who guided this publication for 14 years before that.)

Now, your current editor was just a young sprout 25 years ago and has never seen the early editions of this epistle (back when EECO was known as the OCOEA – Ohio Conservation and Outdoor Education Association) but SOME of you (and you know who you are) probably have them tucked away somewhere. If you do,

maybe you would be willing to bring some copies of early editions to the 39th Annual Conference in Cleveland, April 7-8-9. We’ll arrange for a special place near the registration area where folks can leaf their way down memory lane.

EECO has a proud heritage and history, and we all have many, many friends and mentors who have appeared on the pages of this newsletter over the past two-and-a-half decades. It is a tangible “scrapbook” of our collective memory, and I count it an honor to be assisting in recording that history as we head into our next 25 years!

## Come join us for Three Days in the Woods...

...At the 5th annual



Language of Nature summer retreat and writing institute June 15-16-17 at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center in the heart of beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Whether you are a writer or language arts teacher looking to improve your understanding of nature, a naturalist looking to improve your writing skills, or someone looking for a few days of

quiet self-discovery and renewal, this one’s for YOU!

EECO, in partnership with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association, Ohio Arts Council, and the Ohio Environmental Education Fund will again sponsor this only-one-of-its-kind-in-Ohio workshop. This year’s 3-day workshop will also provide an integrated 6-hour Leopold Education Project workshop and materials.

The institute pairs writers and naturalists for in-depth nature study and writing exercises. Hikes, great food, fellowship, and beautiful scenery make this a memorable experience. The faculty will again include poet Terry Hermsen and naturalists Nelson Strong (ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation) and Pam Barnes (Cuyahoga Valley National Park).

Lodging, meals, materials, instruction all for one LOW price. Graduate credit is also available. Check [www.eeco-online.org](http://www.eeco-online.org) for more info



## Meet *Claytonia virginica*



Spring is sprung, the grass is riz...I wonder where the flowers is?"

The writer of that little ditty won't have to wait long for the spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), as it is one of the first harbingers of spring in the Ohio countryside. These little guys are known to just about everyone – even if they don't know them by name. Modest individually, they are dazzling en masse, often covering large grassy or woodland areas.

Spring beauty prefers scattered sunlight during the spring, moist conditions, and a rich loamy soil with plenty of organic matter. They are found in deciduous woodlands and along floodplains and will adapt to semi-shaded grassy areas (even lawns) – especially around tree trunks – if mowing is delayed a few weeks in the spring.

In the earliest days of spring these plants rise quickly from small corms, like a great many of our vernal-blooming domestic and wild flowers. Each flower is about ½" across when fully open and consists of 5 petals, 2 green sepals, 5 stamens with pink anthers, and a pistil with a tripartite (that's a fancy word for 3-part) style. The petals are white with fine pale-pink to dark-pink stripes. The flowers open up on warm sunny days, and close during cloudy weather and at night.

As the canopy leafs out and dense shade darkens the woodland floor in May and June, spring beauty's flowers fade and their tiny seeds are dispersed. Within a few weeks the above-ground plant dies back, leaving the underground tuber with its stored food to remain dormant in the soil until the following spring. Another common name – fairy-spuds – alludes to the tuber's resemblance to a miniature potato with many protruding eyes. The corms are eaten to some extent by voles and other small rodents. Native Americans and early European settlers also collected and ate the tiny 'taters.

Spring beauty is classified in the Portulacaceae or Purslane Family, which I'd either forgotten or simply didn't know when I started researching this little plant. Now, this revelation caused me just a bit of familial distress.

Portulacas (aka moss rose) are very pretty little plants for a sunny garden corner whose large, colorful flowers remind me of cactus blossoms.

But purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) is one of my favorite summer weeds to hate. It's a native of India and the Middle East that's hard to get rid of and – I think – absolutely ugly. However, I discovered in my reading that purslane is widely cultivated for food and has been for more than 2,000 years. It can be used raw in salads or cooked like spinach as a potherb, and – lo and behold – is very high in vitamins A, B1 and C, and contains more Omega-3 fatty acids than any other leafy vegetable plant currently known! Guess you really can't judge a book by its cover...

# HEAR YE!



## EE Enrichment Opportunities Opportunities for Spring and Summer 2006

April 7-9 – 39th Annual EECO Conference – TREE - Tomorrow's Reality in Environmental Education – Cleveland Hilton East, Beachwood, Ohio. speakers, entertainment, exhibits, field trips, workshop sessions, Make-It-Take-It, Silent Auction, wine and cheese reception, Awards Banquet – and MORE!!

April 16-22 – National Environmental Education Week – the single largest environmental education event in the U.S. Promote your event FREE by: becoming a partner, listing National EE Week on your Web site and providing a link, announcing National EE Week to your membership, and supporting participation in environmental education activities during the week and on Earth Day, April 22. Visit [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org) to find out more!

April 28-29 – Ohio Project WILD and Aquatic Wild – Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center. Project WILD and Aquatic Project WILD are international programs that provide interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education materials focusing on wildlife for K-12 classrooms, youth groups, nature centers, and more. Cost: \$50—covers food, lodging, materials and take-home items. To attend, you must agree to host at least one workshop within a year. More info and registration at: ODNR—Division of Wildlife, Project WILD Coordinator, 2045 Morse Rd. Bldg G, Columbus, OH 43229. e-mail [jen.dennison@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:jen.dennison@dnr.state.oh.us) for more information.

May 6 – State Science Day – Ohio State University. Competition for middle and high school students. Visit [www.ohiosci.org](http://www.ohiosci.org)

June 7-10 – Northwest Ohio Conservation Camp “Romp in the Swamp” (application deadline is May 24). 4-H Camp Palmer on Harrison Lake \$93.00 (includes meals, snacks, overnight room/board, insurance, nurse on duty, qualified staff); scholarships available in some counties, extra fees for camp photo (\$5), t-shirt (\$7), High Ropes Course (\$16). To register and for more information, contact the Wood SWCD at (419) 354-9050

June 15-16-17 – Three Days in the Woods – 5th annual Language of Nature summer retreat and writing institute at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center in the heart of beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Visit [www.EECO-Online.org](http://www.EECO-Online.org)  
For more info!

June 20-22 – Black Swamp Environmental Educator’s Extravaganza – sponsored by soil and water conservation districts of northwest Ohio. Contact Nicki Kale at [woodswcd@wcnnet.org](mailto:woodswcd@wcnnet.org) for more information.

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**  
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(614) 265-6779  
Fax: (614) 262-2064  
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# EECO Award Nomination Form, 2006

Awards will be presented during the 39th EECO Annual Conference at the Cleveland Hilton East in Beachwood, Ohio on April 8th 2006

Check one:

Finlay-Johnson Award - given to an EECO member for making a significant or outstanding contribution to EECO.

Christy Dixon Award - given to a young professional who has contributed significantly to environmental education in Ohio.

Outstanding Environmental Educator in the field of formal education - given to a preschool, elementary, middle school, high school or college teacher, administrator or curriculum specialist for outstanding contributions to environmental education in Ohio.

Outstanding Environmental Educator in the field of nonformal education - given to a nonformal educator for outstanding contributions to environmental education in Ohio.

Outstanding Volunteer Award - given to a volunteer who has made a significant or outstanding contribution to environmental education in Ohio.

Organization Award - given to a business or organization that has made a significant contribution to environmental education in Ohio.

Publications Award - given to a publication that has made a significant contribution to the public understanding of an environmental issue(s).

Ohio Alliance for the Environment Award – given to the business or industry that is dedicated to fostering a climate of cooperation for resolving environmental problems.

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for award consideration (additional information may be attached):

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Feel free to add a separate sheet with additional information that you believe the committee will want to know about your nominee.

Please return this form on or before March 6, 2006 to:

Phoebe Atkinson, 2006 EECO Annual Awards Committee Chairperson, The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44120

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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.

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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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