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Director-at-Large - Rena Teuschler

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Presidents Message

Have you ever wished that the Environmental Education Association of Indiana's annual conference was held near you? Do you wish it was on a certain date, visited your site, or offered specific topics or program types?

We would like to offer you the chance to make those types of decisions for the 2007 Annual Conference. Your level of involvement could vary from Conference Committee Chair, to a member of the program committee, or all the way down to sharing ideas with the committee and presenting or volunteering at the event. Please consider this a personal invitation TO YOU!

The 2005 committee is doing a wonderful job on this year's conference. It's going to be a great event, and we even have registrations that arrived in May. They've set a record!

The 2006 committee is moving forward. The conference will be held October 13, 14 and 15 in the Muncie area. The theme is Refining Everyday Thinking with Environmental Education. Albert Einstein presented The Theory of Relativity; EEAI presents the Relativity of Nature. This committee is even working on a manual that will be passed on to each future conference committee. Instead of worrying over details and feeling overwhelmed by the task, the manual can serve committee members as a guideline to focus their efforts.

Two location suggestions for 2007 are near Prophetstown State Park in the Lafayette area, and in the Bloomington area. Ft. Wayne is also interested in attracting our business, but we'll want to delay returning to the

Pokagon area so soon. When you give me a call to say you would like to be involved, maybe you'll have an idea for yet another location. My phone number and email address is in the column to the left. I can't wait to hear from you!

You may have noticed that much of the progress of the EEAI organization is shifting towards a committee approach of involvement. As I first became involved in EEAI, most of the progress rested on the shoulders of a few members of the board and their shoulders were getting tired. With each invitation that the board and the committees put out, we see the numbers of active members of the organization growing, sharing their goals, and having fun instead of getting tired.

You will notice later in this newsletter that nominations are being accepted for awards and positions on the board. If you visit our (very attractive) website, you will see even more openings for involvement in committees. If conference planning isn't your "cup of tea", please choose another way to help make EEAI work for you.

Keep an eye on your mailboxes in August, we'll be mailing ballots to you and information about some prospective bylaws changes. A portion of the annual meeting at the conference will include voting on

Continued on page 2

New Faces & New Places Looking At EEAI

Rena Teuschler, Interpretive Naturalist at Upper Wabash Interpretive Services of Andrew, Indiana is the focus of EEAI "An Interview With You" for this issue! Rena is the new Board Member At Large for EEAI. Rena is a new face to EEAI as she first heard about it last year through her supervisors Marvin McNew and Teresa Rody. It has been just about a year now that Rena has been involved with EEAI. This fairly new face enjoys her new place and being surrounded by environmental

educators! Rena found the idea of formal and non-formal educators working together to educate others as well as each other really appealed to her. Rena has been bitten by the bug,

the Environmental Education Association of Indiana Bug! The bite has caused quite the infectious interest to spread throughout Rena. She now has gained more interest in formal education and would like to spread that interest of environmental awareness through her own programs as an interpretive naturalist! Rena feels good that there are people out there that also want to get the word out about environmental education! Education, Education, Education is the key word with Rena Teuschler! Rena believes that education is our only tool in making the environment, or in fact, anything in our world better. Part of improving one's views of the environment is by helping them understand how important it is to each and every one of us. Preaching earth-friendly practices is not enough. Putting such things as recycling into perspective is important so people know why we need to do these things

for our world. Rena sums it all up with one of her favorite quotes...

"In the end we will conserve only what we love;

We will love only what we understand; And we will understand only what we are taught"

—Baba Dioum

In the short of it all,

EDUCATION

is the key to anything that will be successful



Smokey Bear and Rena Teuschler

Continued from page 1

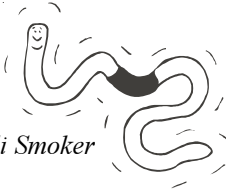
the possible changes in the bylaws. These proposed changes, approved by the board for your voting pleasure, involve moving additional responsibilities from single individual's efforts to committee control and then increasing office lengths to two years for president, president elect, and immediate past president. I personally feel these changes can increase involvement by more of the EEAI membership, and allow the individuals in the presidential positions time to learn more about their positions and carry out their goals. I hope you look forward to seeing these options in your mail in August and making your feelings known by returning your ballots for board members before the conference, and by voting at the conference about the bylaws, too. Wishing you a Wonderful Summer,

Teresa Rody

The strongest oak tree of the forest
Is not the one that is protected
From the storm
And hidden from the sun.
It's the one that stands
In the open
Where it is compelled to struggle for its
existence
Against the winds and rains
And the scorching sun."

Napeoleon Hill
1883-1970

Wonderful Worms Save The Soil



Submitted by: Kelli Smoker

What’s the big deal about a little ol’ worm? They are one of the biggest “Saviors of the Soil!” Earthworms are wonderful worms! Here’s a few fascinating facts about them:

- 1) 25 earthworms per square foot of soil equals 1 million earthworms per acre.
- 2) One earthworm can digest 36 tons of soil in one year-US Soil Conservation Office.
- 3) Bacteria in a worm’s gut help destroy harmful chemicals and breakdown organic wastes.
- 4) Worms neutralize soil ph.
- 5) Test have shown that crops grown in earthworm-inhabited soil increased yields from 25% to over 300% than in earthworm-free soil.
- 6) Worms stimulate the growth of microorganisms in the soil and some weeds seeds are destroyed by these microorganisms.
- 7) Earthworms improve water filtration rates and absorption rates helping the soil to drain better— Less runoff equals less watering and less erosion!
- 8) These worms bring up minerals from deep down in the soil subsurface that are often in short supply in the topsoil.
- 9) The burrows also allow roots to go down deeper and more easily into the soil getting nutrients that the plants could not ordinarily reach.
- 10) Analysis of earthworm castings shows that they are richer in nutrients than surrounding soil.

Now you have the scoop on the most wonderful poop!

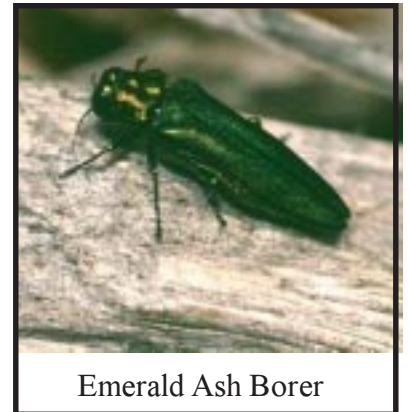


Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer is a non-native, wood-boring beetle that kills ash trees. The adult Emerald Ash Borer is usually bronze or golden green in color with darker, metallic emerald green wing covers. Males are larger than females but the adult insect is generally about half the diameter of a penny. Host trees include all varieties within the ash family, most commonly green, white and blue ash.

The Emerald Ash Borer is difficult to detect in newly infested trees. A host tree can take at least a year before showing any signs of damage. When a tree has been infested for at least one year, the D-shaped exit holes left by emerging adult beetles will be present on the branches and the trunk. A more obvious sign of infestation is noticeable when the tree begins to die from the top.

The spread of the Emerald Ash Borer can be stopped! Don’t move ash trees or ash firewood from infested areas. Areas where Emerald Ash Borer has been found are placed under quarantines to restrict the movement of ash trees and ash products, including firewood, logs, and nurse trees. It is against the law to move ash outside of the quarantined areas. Remember, Emerald Ash Borer is an excellent hitchhiker and would like nothing better than to find new places to feed and multiply.



Emerald Ash Borer



Damage to Ash Tree

For more information call:
1-866-663-9684
or visit
www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB

Rainbows



Grade: Kindergarten

Objective: To learn the colors of the rainbow, and observe a rainbow.

Materials: water faucet, hose, sunlight, a clear glass, white paper, crayons.

Introduction: Long ago, people believed that rainbows were magic. Some people believed that a rainbow was a bridge that appeared in the sky when the gods wanted to leave heaven and come to earth. Some believed that if you found the end of the rainbow where it touches the earth you would find a pot of gold. A rainbow is caused by sunlight shining on raindrops. To see a rainbow, you must have the sun behind you and rain falling in front of you. Sunlight looks white, but it is really made up of many colors. When sunlight enters a raindrop, it divides into various color spectrums. The rainbow reflects these colors, like a mirror. Many rays of sunlight, breaking up into their colors and reflecting off many drops of falling rain, make a shimmering, curved, colored rainbow.

Development:

Allow the children to fill a clear glass half full of water and place it on a piece of white paper. As the glass is tilted left and right spots of color appear. Let the children name the colors observed. Locate/find the colors that match crayons.

Evaluation/Assessment: The children will be able to name and match the colors in a rainbow with crayons.

Adaptations: Read the book- *I Know The Colors Of The Rainbow...* by Ella Jenkins

Bird Houses - Making a Book

Subject: Science, Language Arts

Grade Level: 1st-3rd

Objectives:

- To build students' concepts about the various places that birds live
- To have students visually represent and write about that concept
- To have students begin to view themselves as authors by writing a book.

Material Needed:

- White paper
- Construction paper
- Pencils, crayons, scissors and a stapler

Procedures:

1. Ask students questions: Have you seen bird nests? Where have you seen bird nests? Do you think some birds live in places other than nests?
2. After reading *Where Do Birds Live?* to the class, have the students brainstorm a list of places where birds live (nests, bird houses, trees, sides of

buildings, etc.). This list should be recorded by the teacher on the board or on chart paper.

3. Each child receives four pieces of white paper to be stapled together as a book, and two pieces of construction paper for the front and back.

4. On every page, students write a sentence about one place where a bird might live (example: "Some birds build their nests on our school building!" or "Birds moved into the birdhouse in our backyard.")

5. Students draw pictures on the opposite pages to illustrate their sentences.

6. On the front of the book, students write the title of the book and their name and draw a picture.

7. Students can volunteer to read their books to the class in the author's chair, or books can be shared with other classes or teachers in the school.



Craft Corner-----



Rainbow Streamers

Supplies needed:

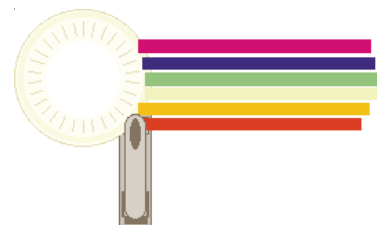
- Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple crepe paper streamers
- A paper plate for each child
- Scissors
- Stapler



1. Cut the center out of a paper plate.



2. Cut long pieces of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple crepe paper streamers.



3. Staple a rainbow of streamers onto the paper plate.

Treasurer Report



Wells Fargo Checking Account:
\$5,571.97

Beginning Balance: \$961.61

Deposits:	\$7,323.10
Expenses:	<u>\$2,712.74</u>
Current Balance:	\$5,571.97

Investment:	
EEAI Legacy Fund	\$7,574.95

Membership Report

Members

Life - 40
Individual - 63
Institution - 18
Family - 6
Student - 4
Total = 131

Member by Region

Region 1 - 20
Region 2 - 38
Region 3 - 40
Region 4 - 18
Region 5 - 11
out of state - 4
Total = 131

EEAI Needs You!

FAMILY: *Two adults sharing the same household and all dependents under the age of 18.* **\$ 30**

INDIVIDUAL: *Anyone 18 years of age or older.* **\$ 25**

INSTITUTION: *Two employees and/or volunteers of private or public industry, government agency, or other organization.* **\$ 50**

LIFE: *Anyone 18 years of age or older seeking lifetime membership.* **\$ 200**

STUDENT: *Full-time students, 18 years of age or older enrolled in an accredited college or university.* **\$ 10**

All memberships, except life, are renewed annually at the Annual Conference

Calling all NOMINATIONS! Needed by June 30th!

Not only will the EEAI Annual Conference at Red Mill County Park in October be an opportunity for fun, fellowship and education, but it is also a unique chance to acknowledge those in our environmental community who do a little bit more. EEAI has been recognizing different members of our community for over 20 years through the Howard Michaud Award and the Joe Wright Recognition of Excellence Award. Any individual can be nominated; they do not have to be a member of EEAI, for both of these awards. The Howard Michaud Award is given to an individual in recognition of their devotion, dedication, and contributions to environmental education over the years in the state of Indiana, while the Joe Wright Award is given in recognition of specific and current achievements of the individual. Please send nominations to Warren Gartner at projectwild@dnr.state.in.us or call him at (317)549-0348.

EEAI is looking for a few individuals to run for Board positions. This year the positions available are President Elect, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large.

Who can become a Board Member?
Active members who are in good standing are eligible to become board members.

How long is the Term?
President Elect spends one-year terms each as President Elect, President and Past President, making it a three year term. Treasurer is a three-year term. Member-at-Large is a three-year term.

Your Input Needed

The Creed Newsletter is your newsletter and we want to hear from you. Kelli and I can always use some advice, articles, poems, and anything else you might think other members of EEAI would like to hear about. Email me at natureniki@csinet.net or Kelli at kelli.smoker@in.nacdn.net if you have something to share.



Creed Reporter- Kelli Smoker

LaPorte County SWCD
100 Legacy Plaza Wst
LaPorte, IN 46350
219/362-6633 Ext. 3

How many Board Meetings do we have?

The board meets five to six times a year on Saturdays. Meeting places are determined by the Board Members. An annual Board Retreat is held in January each year.

Contact Warren Gartner by **June 30th** at projectwild@dnr.state.in.us or call him at (317)549-0348 if you are interested.



On The Wild Side

**2005 EEAI Conference
Red Mill County Park
October 7-9, 2005
Register by September 7th!**

**Visit www.eeai.org for
registration information.**

CREED DEADLINES

Copy deadlines for *CREED* are: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. To contribute an article, contact Niki Schmutte, 219/324-5855 or natureniki@csinet.net.

Information for this Creed was gathered from:
The Internet
World Book Encyclopedias
Nature Smart
Peterson Field Guides

WWW.EEAI.ORG

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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CREED

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