



President's Message

Happy Summer, EEAI!

I write this on the first day of summer and the day after my little man, Ian, turned one year old (gasp!). We celebrated the last day of spring and his birthday by visiting Indiana Dunes State Park, hiking up and down dunes, touching Lake Michigan (or in Doug's case, *swimming!*) and swatting mosquitoes and biting flies. It was GREAT! And a birthday tradition we plan to continue –celebrating life and this planet's beauty.

Sadly, not everyone appreciates the natural world like my little family and my EEAI family. I picked up lots of trash on the lakeshore, not making a dent. Doug tried to calm me... "Baby, it's just ignorance," he said. And I could accept that and move on, knowing that I did my little part by picking up someone's ignorance evidence... except that I can't. Ignorance - the condition of being uneducated, unaware, or uninformed. To combat ignorance, you must educate, raise awareness, INFORM!

And that is what EEAI is all about! That's why this organization was founded! It's why I joined as a member so many years ago and why I bet many of you did, too! We do a great job given our small nature and our volunteer squadron of dedicated workhorses. But we have more to do! And I am convinced that the only way we can do that is to continue to build EEAI into a stronger, more vibrant organization.

I attended the NAAEE Affiliate Leaders' Summit this past April at which I helped to start the strategic planning process for NAAEE's Affiliate Network. I met people and gathered tools that will help us in our own efforts to write a strategic plan and a business plan, including a fundraising plan. The Indiana Environmental Education Council also met in April, and I proposed that the Council be enveloped into EEAI as a special projects committee to alleviate public confusion around the nature of EE work in Indiana. Attending members agreed! Work will continue on the three priority areas:

- 1) Indiana Environmental Literacy Plan – Chaired by Mary Hayes and Kara Salazar, this group has written draft guidelines, which are currently being edited and readied for public comment. EEAI recently submitted an EPA Region 5 EE grant requesting funds to diversify the IELP planning process and engage underserved communities in helping to shape the plan and work with us toward implementation.
- 2) Statewide EE Director - Chaired by Jan Sneddon and Paul McAfee. Once EEAI strategic planning is complete, we will create a job description and work to raise 2 years' salary.
- 3) Non-formal Environmental Education Assessment – we are currently seeking a chair for this working group!

I know YOU are a member of EEAI because you care about this planet and want to preserve its beauty for future generations. PLEASE consider being more active in that effort by joining one of the EEAI committees! There is such strength in numbers! And a strong EEAI will make Indiana a more beautiful place... for all of us!

Jan Sneddon

EEAI President

President—Jan Sneddon

(317) 257-1740

jsneddon@earthforce.org

Vice President—Ingrid Weiland

iweiland@indiana.edu

President Elect—Kara Salazar

(317) 278-8585

salazark@iupui.edu

Secretary—Sarah O'Hara

(260) 571-5789

seohara@hotmail.com

Treasurer—Paul McAfee

(260) 489-5032

pmcafee@toast.net

Past President—Brad Rody

(260) 782-0430

brody@dnr.IN.gov

Director-at-Large—Matt Jones

(260) 484-5848, ext. 111

matt.jones@one.usda.gov

Director-at-Large—Jennifer Amstutz

(260) 525-1146

Jennifer.Amstutz@nwcs.k12.in.us

Director-at-Large—Shannon Unger

(317) 524-7700

sbigam-unger@marian.edu

CREED Editor—Sam Carman

(317) 892-4239

scarman@tds.net

"The new creek bed is ditched straight as a ruler; it has been 'uncurled' by the county engineer to hurry the run-off. On the hill in the background are contoured strip-crops; they have been 'curled' by the erosion engineer to retard the run-off. The water must be confused by so much advice."

Prior to reading this passage written by Aldo Leopold when he penned his famous A Sand County Almanac in 1949, I was afraid that we in the Information Age had cornered the market on confusion. The avalanche of information we face daily from newspapers, television, radio, blogs, emails, tweets, yada-yada-yada is but the tip of the iceberg. Even watching the news on TV, you not only get the stories from the talking heads, but a text crawler at the bottom of the screen tries to fill you in on completely different stories at the same time. A click of a mouse uncorks an infinite universe called the Internet where, within seconds, we can become instant experts on how to pluck a turkey, where to get a great deal on a used ukulele, who received the Best Actor Academy Award for 1934 (Clark Gable) or where the coldest recorded temperature on Earth occurred (Vostok, Antarctica, July 21, 1983, -129 degrees F.). Anyone with a little time and access to the World Wide Web can quickly become very knowledgeable—or very confused.

A recent letter to the editor that appeared in our local paper is a great example. The letter's author was fed up with hearing about global warming and climate change. The whole thing just doesn't make any sense to him. After all, as he learned in high school, plants need carbon dioxide to grow. So the more carbon dioxide we can produce, the more plants we will have, which will give us more oxygen. What could be better? (I hope he doesn't use the same reasoning when taking prescription medication—if one pill is good, why not take a handful?)

This letter reminds me of a story I heard about a child who came home from school and chastised her parents for buying Ivory soap. It seems her class that day was talking about how the ivory trade was putting elephant populations in serious jeopardy. The child thought that her family should do its part to save the elephants by no longer buying Ivory soap.

As environmental educators, we must always be sure to prepare ourselves with the most accurate information we can; but beyond simply being accurate, we must also be careful to tailor our lesson to the audience and refine our message to a few clear, key points. Otherwise, like Leopold's water, our audience may end up "confused by so much advice".



Notice: Articles appearing with an author by-line are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or position of EEAI as an organization.

It's News to Us!

Our CREED newsletter is intended to be a compilation of news by, about and for our members (that's YOU!) Lots of great EE is going on out there, but no one will know about it unless you're willing to share. So PLEASE send submissions for the newsletter to an EEAI Board member, your EEAI regional chairperson, or to the CREED editor. Deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1.

WANTED

Editor for CREED Newsletter

One fairly easy way to take a very active role in EEAI is to be the editor of the CREED newsletter. It comes out 4 times per year and is all electronic now, so no trips to the post office are necessary. And best of all, you're the first to know all of the latest news! If you're willing to consider it and would like more information, contact our current interim editor Sam Carman at scarman@tds.net or call him at 317-892-4239.

Nomination Time

It's that time of year when we ask the members of EEAI to take a moment and consider serving our organization as a board member. You can nominate yourself or, with their permission, nominate another member whom you think would make a good board member. Nominations will be collected and a slate of candidates sent out prior to the fall annual meeting.

This year we only have one of three Director at Large positions needing to be filled. You can see job descriptions for these positions on the EEAI web site – www.eeai.org

Please send your nominations to Warren Gartner at wgartner@dnr.in.gov or mail them to NREC, 5785 Glenn Rd., Indianapolis IN 46216 by August 13.

It is also time to recognize fellow environmental educators by nominating them for our Howard Michaud and Joe Wright awards. Descriptions and past winners of the awards can be found on the EEAI website. The Howard Michaud Award is our top award, recognizing a long standing commitment to environmental education. The Joe Wright award recognizes excellence in environmental education for recent contributions to the field.

This is your chance to recognize someone in our field whose work you admire. A link to the nominations form is on EEAI's website– www.eeai.org. Please forward your nominations to Warren Gartner at wgartner@dnr.in.gov or mail to NREC, 5785 Glenn Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46126 by August 13.

Legacy Fund

We have a great opportunity this year. The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne has announced that it will match all donations up to \$10,000 this year by 100%! The EEAI board has approved and deposited \$1500 from our bank account, which adds \$3000 to the Legacy Fund. The board has pledged \$1000 themselves. This leaves a mere \$7500 to raise for a fully matched \$10,000.

Thanks to all who have contributed as of May 10:

Jennifer Amstutz

Matthew Benus

Sam and Deanna Carman

John and Gail Garner

Warren and Karen Gartner

Carissa Lovett

Kimberly McMunn and Thomas Vandenberg

Timothy and Ann Niednagel

Ryan and Sarah O'Hara

Deborah Sachs and Tammy Anderson

Roger and Kara Salazar

Tim and Susan Schultz

Doug and Mary Ellen Waldman

Fred and Jacquelyn Wooley

Darci and Don Zolman

Toodles, Ingrid! Welcome, Bernadette!

Ingrid Weiland, our wonderful EEAI Vice President, will be leaving us soon to embark a new journey... as faculty in the Dept of Early Childhood and Elementary Education at the University of Louisville! Ingrid has been an amazing presence on the EEAI Board and she will be greatly missed! Thank you for all of your energy and enthusiasm and effectiveness, Ingrid! Good luck and please keep in touch!

Bernadette de Leon is a doctoral candidate at Indiana University in Bloomington in the school of HPER. She has been approved by the EEAI Board to join and finish Ingrid's term as Vice President. We are stoked to have Bernadette join us! She will be heading our membership efforts. Can't wait to work with you, Bernadette!

Putting Together the Pieces ~ Solving the Environmental Puzzle

2011 EEAI Annual Conference

Please join us at beautiful [Turkey Run State Park](#) on September 16-18 to help "Solve the Environmental Puzzle".

*** Please note the earlier date this year, and be sure to register soon! ***

Threads:

- The Big Picture:** Sharing information about environmental topics, EE theory and research
- Bits and Pieces:** Learn "EE tricks of the trade" and secrets to making a successful program
- Interlocking Pieces:** Showcase of collaborative programs ~ discuss the value of partnerships

Keynotes:



Joe Peters: With a PhD in Forestry from North Carolina State, Joe has worked all around the globe consulting for and coordinating natural resource programs in Ecuador, Vietnam, Madagascar and a list way too long to put in this sentence. He is also an accomplished singer/songwriter. He is pairing up with Rena Brouwer to inspire us to greater heights in environmental education.

Rena Brouwer: In 2006, Rena was one of 10 Indiana artists selected by internationally known jurors for the Preserving Nature project, through the Central Indiana Land Trust. Her work was awarded Outstanding Watercolor from the collection of statewide art exhibited, and she continues to work with nature groups throughout Indiana to promote preservation of habitat through her art.



Trudi Volk: Executive director of The Center for Instruction, Staff Development and Evaluation (CISDE). Winner of NAAEE's Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Education Research Award in 1995. She is currently an investigator in the National Middle School Environmental Literacy Assessment Project.

Field trips:

Pine Hills Nature Preserve: A guided tour of Indiana's oldest Nature Preserve, a rugged and spectacular 480 acres near Shades State Park. Be prepared for a bit of a strenuous hiking over some beautiful terrain. The hike will be led by ecologists from Indiana's Division of Nature Preserves.

Wabashiki FWA: A guided tour of Indiana's newest Fish & Wildlife Area, 2400 acres along the Wabash River. This floodplain wetland restoration will have a tremendous benefit to fish, wildlife and water quality of the Wabash River, evident by abundant wildlife already present.

Newport Tallgrass Prairie: A guided tour of a portion of the decommissioned Newport Chemical Depot that has been restored to a tallgrass prairie occupying about 7,100 acres. More than 150 species of birds, 36 mammals, 32 fishes, 15 reptiles and 15 amphibians have been documented at this site!

Canoe Sugar Creek: Enjoy a leisurely trip down Sugar Creek, passing covered bridges and towering bluffs along densely forested stream banks. Many consider this one of the most beautiful streams in Indiana.

Visit our webpage for a registration form - <http://www.goshen.edu/eeai/conference2011/conference11.html>

What's Happening? Likeable Links to Exciting Events

The [DNR Events Calendar](#) lists a mix of outdoor events at DNR properties across the state.

The [Hoosier Outdoor Experience](#) is a weekend where you can come to Fort Harrison State Park and try out hundreds of outdoor activities at no charge:

[Becoming an Outdoors Woman](#) weekends are a resident program designed for women who want to learn new outdoors skills.

[State Parks Nature and History Interpretive Programs](#) are scheduled in our state parks all year long.

[State Parks and Reservoirs Special Events Calendar](#) lists a variety of holiday and other programs happening on our state parks and reservoirs.

[Division of Law Enforcement's Outdoor Education Calendar](#) lists upcoming hunter education, boater education and trapper education classes.



Support the Indiana Wildlife Federation and listen to some great tunes at “Devotion to Wildlife: Jennie DeVoe in Concert” on July 9 at West Park in Carmel. For more information go to www.indianawildlife.org.

For all of you gardeners, the [2011 Open Class Flower & Vegetable Show](#) will be held in conjunction with the Kekionga Festival in Adams county on August 25-27.

Attention bird watchers! The [Indiana Audubon Society's Fall Festival](#) will be held at Pokagon State Park from September 30 through October 2. This year's conference will feature renowned author Kenn Kaufman.

Come and get green at [Elkhart's EnviroFest](#) at Westfield Botanical Gardens on July 8 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. Enjoy exhibits, crafts, music and more. Contact the Elkhart Environmental Center at 574-293-5070.

Our friends at [Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center](#) are sponsoring a number of events over the next few months, including a prairie flowers hike, wilderness first aid course, and a nature photography workshop.

Go batty in Terre Haute as you attend the [5th Annual Bat Festival at Dobbs Park Nature Center](#) on August 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



GET INVOLVED IN EEAI!



Want to be active in raising the profile of Environmental Education in Indiana?

JOIN A COMMITTEE!!!!

New EEAI Committee Structure

Note: We will change the organizations bylaws this fall to reflect these changes, but are adopting this new structure now to better serve the organization. Further changes may occur as organizational planning continues.

Communication: website, listserv, CREED, publicity, marketing and history

Chairs: Sarah O'Hara (seohara@hotmail.com) & Matt Jones (matt.jones@IN.nacdnet.net)

Activities: programs and activities outside of the EEAI annual conference

Chair: Ingrid Weiland (iweiland@indiana.edu)

Conference: planning and administration of annual conference

Chair 2011: Paul McAfee (pmcafee@toast.net)

Chairs 2012: Kara Salazar (salazark@iupui.edu) & Jennifer Amstutz (Jennifer.Amstutz@nwcs.k12.in.us)

Membership: management of membership

Chair: Shannon Unger (sbigham-unger@marian.edu)

Finance: funding, annual budget, audits

Chair: Brad Rody (brody@dnr.in.gov)

Nominations/awards: manages nomination of board members & award recipients

Chair: Paul McAfee (pmcafee@toast.net)

Key Member: Warren Gartner (WGartner@dnr.in.gov)

Another way to be involved—attend quarterly Board meetings to participate in discussions governing EEAI. Contact any of our board members (see page one) for more information.

Get To Know Your Regional Chair

To improve networking and communications within our organization, EEAI members are organized into regions with each region having a Chair. If you have any questions, suggestions, events to report, lesson plans to share, or anything else you feel would be beneficial for other members to know, please pass it along to your Regional Chair. Here's who and how:

Region 1: Niki Schmutte, natureniki@csinet.net

Region 2: Nancy Brown, nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net

Region 3: Matt Jones, matt.jones@one.usda.gov

Region 4: Sam Carman, scarman@dnr.IN.gov

Region 5: Megan Bowman, gutierrez_megan@hotmail.com

Region 6: Carissa Lovett, carissa.lovett@terrehaute.in.gov

Region 7: Donna Stanley, donna_stanley@fws.gov

Region 8: Ann Niednagel, niednagel@sbcglobal.net

Active communications within regions can greatly increase the benefits you receive from being an EEAI member. PLEASE take advantage of it!

