



# CREED

Curriculum Resources for Environmental Education Development  
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## Building Things

*Submitted by: Niki Schmutte, EEAI President*

Building things has always been something I have enjoyed. I used Legos when I was a child to create elaborate houses, moveable cars, and motorized bridges. Cards would be turned into a three-foot tower. My friends and I even tried to break the world's record for the most cards ever used. I can't remember if we were very close, but I do know it made one huge mess. The wintertime added a new dimension to my building techniques. I could be found digging snow forts and making snowmen.



Building things is still one of my favorite past times. As President of EEAI, I would like to build upon what others have already started. It takes a team to build a strong foundation that will last a lifetime. Together we can build partnerships, memberships, and financial stability. Please get involved and become

a part of the building process. Join the Board at its annual retreat in Michigan City, IN at the Beachwalk Resort. The retreat is January 23-25 and there is a \$35.00 fee for anyone wishing to spend the night. Contact me at (219) 324-5855 or natureniki@csinet.net if you wish to attend.

This winter, get out and build something. Whether it is a snowman, snow fort, partnership, or friendship, give it your all. One word of advice: if your snow fort starts to collapse, get out immediately.

Take care,  
Niki Schmutte

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## Think Globally, While Acting Culturally

Submitted by: Cathy Meyer, an EEAI member

**A**fter a fantastic experience at the October NAAEE conference in Anchorage, Alaska, I thought I should share the highlights of my week with EEAI.

**Monday:** Traveled by Northwest Airlines by way of Minneapolis. Uneventful, except the last 5 hours were long. With a 4-hour time difference Anchorage was on daylight savings time, so the sunset was similar to Indiana's.

I found a fellow conference attendee I recognized and we shared a cab ride to the Hotel Captain Cook. The Hotel was very elegant, with the doorman wearing a top hat.

**Tuesday:** Field trip to Seward for the Kenai coastal experience and learning about partnerships.

We start at the Public Lands Visitor Center in Anchorage, a visitors center shared with State Parks, Forest Service, National Parks, National Forests, and other agencies.

A topographic relief map of the state and animal mounts representing the state's various regions, was a good overview of what we would see throughout the week.

Traveling by bus, we stopped at Portage Glacier, once visible from the visitor center, but has retreated out-of-sight. It was raining hard, but some of us wanted to get out and walk anyway. Others watched a video. Along the road we saw dall sheep, a type of mountain sheep living high on the cliffs. The scenery was spectacular in the Chugach Mountains, with a few aspen and birch trees still showing gold and yellow leaves and

the lower vegetation all colors of red, brown, and rust.

Further along the Seward Scenic Highway, we passed more glaciers and stopped for a walk to Exit Glacier, connected to the Harding Icefield. Still raining, but we walked a trail to cross a silt-laden glacial river to its source and peer into the blue crevasses of the glacial ice.

Onward, to the Alaska Sea Life Center to see fishes, sea lions, sea otters, and seals. Built with Exxon money, the Center was given to the State following the Valdez disaster. On the way back to Anchorage, we saw belugas in Turnagain Arm, named by explorer Captain Cook.

**Wednesday:** Another bus ride down the Seward Highway and more looks at the glaciers. We saw dead salmon, which are almost done spawning.

Back at Seward, we board the Kenai Fjords tour boat for a wildlife tour. The trip takes 2 ½ hours, but I wish it had been longer.

After lunch onboard, I spent my time out on the deck in the wind watching for birds and other animals. We saw harlequin ducks, Stellar's sea lions, sea otters, mountain goats, bald eagles, and more glaciers. The rain stopped and the fog lifted, giving us good views of the mountains.

More time at the Sea Life Center, where I spent my time on the back deck with my spotting scope watching sea otters snack on crabs.

Back at the hotel, the conference was started with an opening reception and cakes sponsored by the

states. That took care of dinner! The speakers were entertaining and told us about some cultural differences we could all relate to.

**Thursday:** The opening speaker addressed the difference between matters of science and matters of faith and the place of each. He stressed the importance of expressing gratitude and appreciating inconvenience while contemplating what wealth and progress truly mean.

I attended several sessions during the day on state standards, diversity, and camp programming. That afternoon, I rented a bike and rode the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail.

On the 8-mile route, I saw ten moose and got a good look at the local vegetation. The shore varies in height due to the 1964 earthquake, which dropped some sections 30 feet. Mudflats of glacier sediment, are dangerous when exposed during low tide - people have died after sinking into them.

Dinner, Higher Education Chili, including beer, for those working in higher education, those who have higher education, or those who know higher education exists.

Later that night, I watched a film, the re-enactment of the Harriman Expedition. The original expedition took place in 1900 and was sponsored by a wealthy railroad tycoon. He gathered scientists and artists - John Muir, John Burroughs, Curtis, a Native American photographer - to travel with him to explore Alaska by boat. It was very well done and interesting.

**Friday:** Chupa McIntyre, the morning speaker, was a Yupik man who shared stories and songs about native culture and artifacts, with a lot of humor and drumming.

At lunchtime, I walked to the Anchorage Museum of Art and History, where the T. rex, Sue was featured. There were wonderful displays of native tools, clothing, kayaks, and homes and lots of outstanding artwork with Alaska subjects.

In the afternoon, I sat at a Marketplace table for Green Teacher magazine, my conference sponsor, and looked at nearby tables for information about various EE programs.

An evening at the Fly By Night Club with ANROE, Anchorage Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association was memorable. After a buffet dinner, we were entertained with music and songs poking fun at politics, people, and current events.

**Saturday:** The Saturday speaker had a more serious subject, the contamination of the Arctic food chain by persistent organic pollutants. These compounds are found in Arctic people's blood at levels eight times higher than blood levels of people near the great lakes. This was discovered when researchers, concerned about fish advisories in the great lakes, looked for a population, which had not been exposed to use as a control group. These chemicals that bio-accumulate threaten the traditional food sources and culture of the northern people.

*continued on page 4*

Scent Them Out

Even the best “trackers” may have trouble finding tracks on a trail during a hike. Creating a “trapless trapline” can bring the tracks to where you and your students can easily see and interpret them.

Supplies

Trapper’s lure scents  
(*coyote and fox work best*)

Outdoor Classroom Strategy

1. Clear the ground in a 5-foot diameter.
2. Poke a stick in center of clearing.
3. Put a drop or two of the scent on the stick so it can waft through the air.
4. Lightly sprinkle lime powder over the bare ground, if there isn’t snow.
5. Come back the following day to see tracks of animals that investigated the scent.

Prints & Tracks

Many times the words “print” and “track” are used interchangeable without really understanding their true definitions. In order to become a real tracker, one must learn the terminology of these words as well as others.

*Print:* An impression made by one foot.

*Track or Track Pattern:* A series of prints showing a sequence of steps.

*Trail:* A long line of tracks showing movement and behavior.

*Stride:* The distance between two consecutive prints.

*Straddle:* The width of a track pattern or trail.

*Depth:* How far the print sinks in.

*Leap:* The distance between sets of four prints made by hopping or bounding animal.

Supplies:

- Plain white sweatshirt, *pre-washed*
- 1-inch wide sponge brushes
- recycled small plastic margarine containers
- latex animal tracks or track stencils (*may be purchased from Acorn Naturalist*)
- wax paper or butcher paper
- plastic hangers
- black fabric marker
- plastic table covers or newspapers
- black screen printing ink or colorful fabric paints



Tracking Art

Preparation:

1. Lay sweatshirt flat on covered table.
2. Insert wax paper between layers of sweatshirt, to prevent paint and markers from bleeding through.
3. Pour paints into margarine containers.

Activity:

1. Using sponge brushes, apply screen printing ink or colorful fabric paints to tracks.
2. Carefully place track onto shirt and press firmly downward, *be sure not to wiggle the stamp.*
3. Raise track to reveal stamped track.

4. Repeat steps 1-3 for each track printed.

Final Touches:

1. Hang finished sweatshirt for 30 minutes to dry.
2. Wash all supplies immediately, using soap and water.
3. Once ink or paint has dried; each track should be “set”:
  - Set iron to medium heat.
  - Place wax paper with wax side down over tracks.
  - Iron over wax paper.
4. Make “washing instruction” tags for each sweatshirt: “*Wash separately, dry flat.*”

The Gray Fox

Introduction

A small wild canine, the gray fox moves as silently as a shadow among Hoosier woodlands. Sensitive ears and nostrils probe damp air currents for sounds and scents of prey. A pair of eyes equipped for nocturnal vision search for movement ahead on the forest floor.

Distribution & Abundance

Gray foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) were more numerous than red foxes when Indiana was first settled. As the land became cleared of timber, gray fox habitat was reduced. They do not inhabit open, cleared, cultivated farmland but prefer forests and brushy woodlands for their homes. The gray fox occurs in all counties of Indiana where suitable habitat exists. They are more common in the predominantly forested south central hills region of the state.

Reproduction

Gray foxes mate in January, and three to five pups are born during March through April. The gray fox uses a ground den less frequently than does the red fox, and may often use a hollow tree or log, or a burrow hidden in rock outcroppings. Gray foxes stay mated for a least one season and may remain together for life. Although the litters are small, they are well cared for, and survival of the young is high. The male brings food to the female when she is nursing, and when the pups begin to eat solid food, he assists her in catching and bringing food to them. The family group breaks up in early fall when the young have learned to hunt.

Food Habits

Gray foxes probably prefer to dine on meat, but when rabbits, mice,

poultry, and birds are not easily obtainable, a wide variety of vegetable matter is consumed. Persimmons, nuts, grasses, and large quantities of field corn supplement flesh.

Management

Gray foxes are recognized to be an important predator species in our wildlife community. Specialized habitat management is not needed for gray foxes other than the maintenance of adequate forestlands. They are protected from hunting and trapping during the breeding season and while rearing their young.



2004 Conference Submitted by: Paul McAfee, Past President

Our keynote speaker for the 2004 annual conference at Spring Mill State Park is Mary Smith from the National Audubon Society. I had heard through the grapevine that she gave a “dynamite” talk at the Utah Environmental Education Association conference. So I e-mailed her and told her that I heard she gave “dynamite” speeches and would she be interested in doing our conference. She e-mailed back and said that “dynamite” could have two opposite meanings, and if we were willing to risk it, she would be happy to be our keynote speaker. At that point I was sure that

she would be a great speaker and would provide an inspirational and humorous start to the conference.

Mary Smith hails from Arkansas and is the “Director of Field Support for Audubon Centers and Education”, although she wasn’t sure what her official title was until she looked it up. Her husband is the state director for the Arkansas field office of the National Audubon Society.

We are planning on having lots of great educational workshops and activities at Spring Mill next November 5-7. Put it on your calendars now.

## Don’t be a “Too Cool Fool” - Dress for the Weather

It’s winter, remember these quick tips to avoid being labeled a “Too Cool Fool”:



- Dress in layers. If you’re too warm, you can get cool by taking a layer off.
- Wear double layers, if possible.
- Thermal underwear, sweat pants or pajama bottoms under jeans add insulation.
- Plastic bags inside shoes help keep feet dry.
- Large garbage bags can be emergency rainwear.



Urban students often lack long-duration cold weather outdoor experiences. Appropriate attire can improve significantly on winter field experiences when the cartoon characters at the left are included in field trip information sent to teachers and parents.

A tip to teachers - the school’s lost and found may temporarily supply needed mittens, scarves, etc. for under-dressed students.

## 10 Minutes to Better Board Meetings

Much of the learning, planning and doing of this world happens in group meetings. Human beings are people who come together in groups to talk things over, to broaden individual perspective, and to develop a common purpose.

Boards can work well when there is a balance between a sense of solidarity and a focus on the task at hand. Board effectiveness is a mix of intelligence, creativity, and practicality. Since these qualities will probably be held by different members, it is interaction that makes the sum greater than the parts.

- Therefore meetings should:
- have clearly understood purposes;
  - allow individual perspectives to be expressed;
  - encourage participative decision-making;

- develop mutual responsibility for defining policies, goals and actions; and
- have clear and tangible outcomes.

The “10 Minutes to Better Board Meetings” by Norah Holmgren is a booklet designed to help you improve the quality of board meetings you attend, either as a leader or a participant, by offering guidelines for planning, participation, and leading. A checklist format makes the material easily readable and retrievable. If you are a member of a board, you are encouraged to read this booklet! *10 Minutes to Better Board Meetings*, Norah Holmgren. Available from National Center for Nonprofit Boards, 2000 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-4907.

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### Think Globally... continued from page 2

Later in the day, I had the chance to ride to the Eagle River Nature Center and look for birds along the trails. Some trails were closed due to bear activity. The Iditarod Trail passes through this park.

The Willow School Kids singing environmental songs followed the closing banquet. Cuter than the dickens.

Soul Man Sam and his blues band moved us to dance the night away.

**Sunday:** I had a final free day and arranged to rent a car and drive to Denali with a friend I had met at the conference.

We left early and headed north under cloudless skies. We stopped often and took pictures as Denali or Mt.

McKinley was more easily seen from the highways approaching the park than from within the park. We saw dog teams in training pulling four-wheelers, frosty trees, tundra, lakes, and a small brown butterfly.

Unfortunately, we did not see caribou in the park as others had, but it was a wonderful wild place.

**Monday:** Back to the airport for the long flight home. There was so much to see in this huge state, I feel I only got a glimpse.

Susan Fowler was the only Hoosier I saw, but I saw several folks I had met at other conferences. The next conference will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi.

*Submitted by: Paul Steury*

The Potawatomi Inn Front Desk receptionists didn't expect the craziness of a hundred environmental educators! October 17-19 one hundred and ten Environmental Education Association of Indiana members descended on Pokagon State Park for our 34<sup>th</sup> annual conference. The weather was perfect, the Banana Slug String Band from Santa Cruz, California was stimulating and invigorating, and the presenters awed participants with new curricula ideas, more information about their favorite natural history realm, or opened eyes to new perspectives and issues.

The Banana Slugs played three times ("Science, Song and Celebration", "Dirt Made My Lunch", and the Slug Community Stomp) offering musical ideas to spark your classroom or nature center and offered conceptual ideas that could be augmented by puppetry or dance or costume! The band got the audience to participate in hand gestures, dance, and sing alongs. And I was very impressed during the Community Stomp of how the dance floor was filled with the important participants between the ages of 9 months and 10 years!

I would like to thank all of the sponsors for their incredible support, Paul McAfee, Steuben County Communtiy Foundation,

Rent a Rambling Naturalist, State Park Inns, Webasto, Ancient Pathways, Eagle Lake Primitives, LaPorte County Parks, National Education Service, Leopold Education Project, Project Wet, the Slugs for their charisma and enchantment, the board for their backing of this endeavor, the presenters for their desire to educate the educators, to those who donated silent auction and raffle gifts and who donated their time to help out during the week-end, the friends who offered extra hugs and the EEAI members who participated in the event, and instruct and mentor the youth of Indiana which will have the daunting task of carrying on our environmental neglect and ignorance.

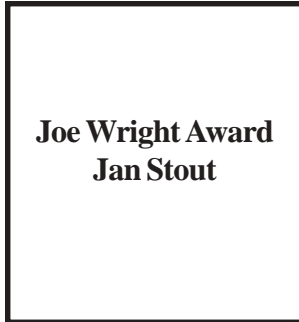
After being the president of EEAI for the past couple years and with my desire of continued active participation in the organization, I am flabbergasted by the amount of talent we possess and the amount of power we have in our future. I am proud to have had the honor to orchestrate this annual symphony and rekindle friendships and ignite new ones. May we all have strength and vigor to continue our critical work of producing environmental citizens and may we always remember to actualize science, song and celebration!

River of Words Poetry and Art Contest  
 Check out [www.eeai.org/events](http://www.eeai.org/events)  
 for all the info on this years contest.  
 This year we are in cohorts with Project Wet  
 and there will be prizes awarded.

**Award Winners**



**President's Award  
 Paul Steury**



**Joe Wright Award  
 Jan Stout**



**Joe Wright Award  
 Julie Leedy**



**Howard Michaud  
 Award  
 Ginger Murphy**



## Charitable & Educational Foundations

**Lowe's Home Improvement:** Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation supports community-based, grassroots organizations that address the issues of concern to local communities where Lowe's serves.

Two of Lowe's three primary areas of interest are community improvement and environmental initiatives that support the continued enhancement of the natural landscape.

For more information visit: [www.lowes.com/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLoves/givingGuidelines&topic=aboutLoves](http://www.lowes.com/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLoves/givingGuidelines&topic=aboutLoves).

**Target:** Target believes no one knows a community's needs better than the people who live and work there. That's why Target's local grant dollars are allocated by store leaders to hometown organizations. Target grantmaking focuses on the arts, education and on family violence prevention.

For more information, visit Target's Gift Giving website at: [http://target.com/common/page.jhtml?content=target\\_cg\\_local\\_giving](http://target.com/common/page.jhtml?content=target_cg_local_giving).

## CREED DEADLINES

Copy deadlines for *CREED* are: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. To contribute an article, contact Deborah Messenger at [dmessenger@dnr.state.in.us](mailto:dmessenger@dnr.state.in.us).

## Calendar of Events

January 4-7, 2004

### Annual Conference of Indiana SWCDs

*Location:* Indianapolis, IN

*Contact:* Deborah Messenger, 317/233-3872

January 24, 2004

### Project WILD - Wildlife in Winter

*Location:* Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis, IN

*Contact:* Warren Gartner, 317/594-0348 or [wgartner@dnr.state.in.us](mailto:wgartner@dnr.state.in.us)

February 18-30, 2004

### HASTI Convention

*Location:* Indianapolis, IN

*Contact:* 317/635-4755 or [www.hasti.org](http://www.hasti.org)

March 8-11, 2004

### NAI Region 4 Workshop

*Location:* Bradford Woods, Martinsville, IN

*Contact:* Amy Kress, [AKress@mcc.mccoak.org](mailto:AKress@mcc.mccoak.org)

April 21-22, 2004

### Camp Gallahue Environmental Workshop

*Location:* Brown County, IN

*Contact:* Hoosier Heartland RC&D, 317/290-3250

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c/o Deborah Messenger, CREED Co-Editor  
Environmental Education Association of Indiana

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