



# CREED

Curriculum Resources for Professional Development

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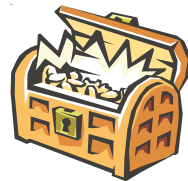
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Hello Members and Friends of EEAI,

The 2007 Annual Conference was a wonderful success due to the enthusiastic CSI committee as named – Mary Cutler, Darci Zolman, Carole Koos, Paul Steury, Carissa Lovett, Cathy Meyer, and Paul McAfee. If you weren't at the conference we're sorry you missed out on the fun, laughter, and bonding with nature; investigating nature, and science based research at McCormick's Creek State Park. We especially welcome the 33 first timers. After chatting with all, it sounds like we have added a very enthusiastic group to our membership. Our Keynote speakers Dr. Neal Haskell and Jack Gladstone were enthusiastically welcomed as were all of our session leaders. The sessions were full and everyone went away chatting about his or her learning's.



Brad Rody, PE and his 2008 conference committee launched the next conference, to be in Indianapolis at the Marten House. So Matey's keep a sharp eye out for more treasures to be yours if you attend November 14 – 16, 2008.

The presentation of award was a fun time as well. Look elsewhere in the Creed for these award winners. Keep in mind that our mission is to work cooperatively to promote opportunities that will educate, motivate, and inspire citizens of Indiana to conserve natural resources and meet the needs of our society while maintaining a healthy environment now and in the futures.

So till we meet again keep networking & communicating with groups and individuals in an effort to provide people the opportunities to share their knowledge, skills, and resources with others. If you haven't reserved your membership or know others that would like to join us please take a moment and invite them to join us.



Millie Redweik  
President

# One Man's Perspective

Submitted by: Sam Carman

"And now it's time to do the "Stewardship Semantic Shuffle" with your host and jargon jockey, Sam Carman."

Thank you, and welcome to "Stewardship Semantic Shuffle", where we wallow with words, opine opinions and use Legos of logic to construct conclusions—all from an environmental perspective. Our topic today comes to us from Mark Remark who asks, "Is 'taking action' the same as 'activism'?" Glad you queried the question, Mark.

To set the first Lego of logic in place, I've asked our panel of experts at the American Heritage Dictionary to weigh in on the subject by defining each term. They told me that "action" is "the state or process of doing". The term "activism" they define as "a theory or practice based on militant action". A red flag immediately arose, and I called for a clarification of their term "militant", which they told me means "aggressive, especially in the service of some cause".



So while "action" and "activism" certainly bear a resemblance, they are not synonymous. As the definition implies, activism involves a rather large element of crusading—trying to influence the opinions and behaviors of others. Taking action could involve activism, but not necessarily. Someone can take action and be a good environmental steward without consciously trying to influence others. A very simplistic example would be if I conserve energy by turning the thermostat down when I'm home by myself. No one observes the action I've taken and I don't tell anyone that I do it or that they should. I'm taking action and practicing good stewardship but am not being an activist. Conversely, one might be an activist while never taking any personal action. (The old adage "Practice what you preach" comes to mind.)

So until next time, keep taking appropriate actions that enable you to practice effective stewardship. And if you're going to be an activist, remember that it is impossible to assume a militant, crusading posture and still remain objective—education and activism don't mix!



## We need your help with EEAI at HASTI!

The EEAI will be presenting a session at the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers (HASTI) conference on Thursday, February 7, 2008 from 2:30 to 3:15. How can you get involved? We are looking for a few EEAI members to provide an EE activity at the session. This would involve providing a handout describing/explaining the activity and giving a brief (3 to 5 minutes) explanation during the session. If you would like to be a part of the team that is presenting this session, please contact Deb Sachs (phone: 317-883-1286 or e-mail: [cranialadventures@insightbb.com](mailto:cranialadventures@insightbb.com)) to let her know.

Don't feel like presenting? Here's another chance to contribute to EEAI! We are once again exhibiting at the HASTI conference and are looking for EEAI members to help staff the booth during the conference. If you can help out with a short stint at some point during the conference let Deb know. She'll arrange a staffing schedule to meet your needs. Exhibit hall dates and hours are as follows: Thursday, February 7, 2008, from 8:00a.m. to 6:30p.m. and Friday, February 8, 2008, from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.



# No Child Left Inside

Submitted by: Paul D Steury

Dear Environmental Education Association of Indiana,

"The No Child Left Inside Coalition is a national coalition of more than two dozen environmental and educational groups, representing hundreds of thousands of teachers, environmental educators and others. The Coalition was formed to alert Congress and the public to the need for our public schools to devote more resources and attention to environmental education.

The Coalition is working to support proposals by Rep. John Sarbanes of Maryland and Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island to include environmental education in the reauthorizations of the No Child Left Behind Act. The proposals would provide new funding for environmental education, particularly to develop rigorous standards, train teachers and to develop statewide environmental literacy plans. They also propose giving states that develop such environmental literacy plans access to additional funds.

Environmental education is critical now because of the complex environmental challenges confronting the nation and world, including human-induced climate change, air and water pollution and the loss of sensitive habitats. We will be passing these complicated problems on to future generations. We must give them a solid understanding of these problems and the basic tools to overcome them and make informed choices in their own lives. Our public schools should be doing a better job of providing this environmental education.

No Child Left Behind has added new accountability to our schools. But its strong focus on high-stakes tests has crowded out other subjects beyond math and reading. Across the country, teachers have been forced to cut back on the time they can devote to environmental education, in large part because the subjects covered in such instruction are typically not tested. Teachers have had to give up on field trips and other environmental explorations as schools devote more and more time to subjects that will be tested.

Environmental education must not be considered merely an optional topic. Understanding the environment is a critical need for our young people.

The legislators' proposals would provide new resources and incentives to states to enhance environmental education. They would not add any new tests or requirements on school systems. The new funding and incentives to expand environmental education will give states and school systems new tools to improve such offerings.

The proposals are not an either/or proposition. Environmental education can generally be incorporated into courses already being taught including science or social studies classes. The proposals will help establish relevant, rigorous standards for environmental-related instruction and will help train teachers to use the best methods to teach these topics.

Beyond the critical importance of teaching young people about the planet and its challenges, research has shown that environmental education leads to improved student performance. Students enjoy learning about the environment and become more engaged with their schoolwork."

With my bias as an environmental educator who loves to be politically active and works towards making my kids and friends quality of life, both currently and futuristically, as good as possible, including air and water quality as well as education. I feel this is an incredibly significant issue that needs to be addressed by us as soon as possible. By talking to our representatives and letting them know our support of HR 3036 / S1981.

Leave No Child Inside, we might create a better future for Environmental Education, Indiana, and EEAI!

For more information check out [www.eenclb.org](http://www.eenclb.org)

Used by permission from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

# Award Winners



Jules Erwin received both the Presidents Award and the Joe Wright Award. She continues to support EEAI in many different rolls. She received the Joe Wright Award for excellence in Environmental Education. Jules helped to education over 10,000 individuals through programs at the LaPorte County Parks Department. Woo Hoo!



Paul McAfee received the Joe Wright Award. Paul has provided leadership to EEAI for many years, both as an officer and on various committees. Serving multiple terms as an officer, he has planned conferences, leadership retreats, and was the driving force behind EEAI's Legacy Fund.



Amanda Smith, from Hamilton County Parks, received the Howard Michaud Award. She has really made a difference by educating the public about nature and our environment. She has dedicated herself to a long standing commitment to Environmental Education.



## EEAI Wants 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.*

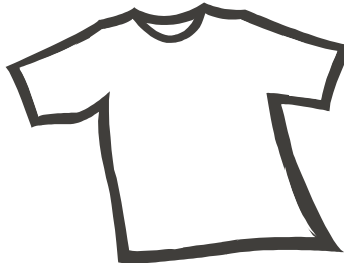
**\$ 10**

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

## Get Your EEAI Merchandise!

EEAI has cool items that can be purchased.

EEAI T-shirt in L or XL  
\$15.00



EEAI Water Bottles  
\$5.00

EEAI Patches  
\$1.00

Contact Deb Sachs by phone:  
317-883-1286 or e-mail:  
[cranialadventures@insightbb.com](mailto:cranialadventures@insightbb.com)  
If you want some EEAI merchandise.

## Membership Report

Individuals	70
Family	19
Institution	10
Life	42
Student	5
<hr/>	
Total	146

## NEW YEAR WISHES

May peace fill all the empty spaces around you  
And in you, may contentment answer all your wishes.

May comfort be yours, warm and soft like a sigh.  
And may the coming year show you that every day is really a first day, a new year.

Let abundance be your constant companion, so that you have much to share.

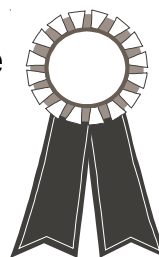
May mirth be near you always, like a lamp shining brightly on the many paths you travel.

— Author Unknown



## Calling all NOMINATIONS!!!!

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. For both of these awards, any individual can be nominated; they do not have to be a member of EEAI. 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 [wgartner@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:wgartner@dnr.IN.gov) or call him at (317)549-0348.





## 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](mailto:natureniki@csinet.net).

This newsletter is sponsored by the LaPorte County Parks Department.



Return Services Requested

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# CREED

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