



CREED



Curriculum Resources for Environmental Education Development

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President's Message



In the last forty years, EEAI has evolved with the ever-changing personal and global EE issues that affect us all. This year's annual conference at Camp Mack contained a great diversity of sessions, wonderful speakers that were engaging and thought-provoking and who can forget the many wonderful songs created by our own members about fading our carbon footprint! The talents and knowledge of our membership continues to astound me with each annually chosen theme. I personally gained enough insight, motivation and resources to begin creating a plan for our family property and office to fade our carbon footprint in the most efficient way.

Let us not forget our award winners from the 2009 conference. The President's Award went to Niki Schmutte & the LaPorte Parks Department for all of the diligent work Niki does as CREED editor with the understanding and financial support the LaPorte County Parks Department. Niki has completed her long stint as a wonderful editor with this issue of the CREED and will be transitioning everything over to Nicole Messacar in 2010 as we go to an online version. The first of two Joe Wright Award winners is Laura Moyer of the LaPorte County Parks Department for her fantastic work with all ages of programming, her work with the 5th grade field days pond study and the ever-changing kiosks of educational materials which teach so many visitors every day. The second Joe Wright Awards winner is Alan Walus, General Manager of the Michigan City Sanitary District for his wonderful placed-based after-school program and other great EE work in the Michigan City Area Schools. This year's prestigious Howard Michaud Award goes to Mary Cutler, Tippecanoe County Naturalist, for her career-long dedication to EE as a leader in involvement and commitment to her position as naturalist as well as to EEAI and several other associated organizations which place high values in the education of our citizens to the natural world. Mary's dedication to Environmental Education is obvious to anyone who comes to know her through her extensive programming or through serving with her on any one of the many committees within EEAI in which she has served. Mary was also awarded a standing ovation from the entire conference upon receiving this recognition for her valued career. Congratulations to all of our award winners this year and remember that you can nominate someone any time of the year.



Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Thanks again to the 2009 committee for putting together every facet of yet another great conference. The 2010 conference is in full planning swing for November 5-7 with Shakamak State Park being selected as the site. The theme is "Turning Hoosiers Inside Out" where we will celebrate the great outdoors and the role environmental education plays in connecting us to our surroundings. Look for more information to come and mark your 2010 calendars now!

Many EEAI members are continuing to work with the Indiana EE Council to formulate the Indiana Environmental Literacy Plan as well as tasks such as formulating the formal and non-formal needs assessment, the state standards and working toward the creation of an executive director position for EEAI. If you are interested in helping in these endeavors, please contact Warren Gartner or myself at any time. This great task yet another way that EEAI will become the "go-to" group for EE in Indiana as we ready ourselves for the passing of the "No Child Left Inside" legislation. Please take a look at this legislation if you have not already done so and consider contacting your local legislators. Ask them to voice their support in voting "YES" to our children learning about and experiencing the world outside of the classroom walls.

EEAI has also changed our method of forwarding information by changing from the NAAEE list serve to Google Groups. Please take the time to register with Google Groups by going to <http://groups.google.com/group/eeai> where EEAI will be able to post many things and we as members will be able to network with each other much easier. Look for more great changes to come as the board of directors updates and advances our organization on many fronts. If you every have any ideas, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact myself or any other board member because we need to all work together to make EEAI the best it can be for all of our membership.

Have a great and safe holiday season.

Brad Rody

EEAI President



Niki Schmutte received the Presidents Award. She served on the EEAI board for 7 years and as CREED co-editor / editor for 9 years.

Laura Moyer received the Joe Wright Award for her achievements in Environmental Education. Her creative Kiosks have caught the eye of several park visitors.



Alan Walus received the Joe Wright Award for his Environmental Education work in the Michigan City Area Schools and his placed-based after-school program.

Mary Cutler received the Howard Michaud Award for her life long dedication to Environmental Education. In the last 25 years she has educated thousands of students.





One Man's Perspective

by Sam Carman

Environmental Education: The Road Seldom Taken

In 1994 the Indiana Conservation Education (ICE) working group, with the help of Purdue University, conducted a needs assessment of environmental education in Indiana and developed an environmental education implementation plan based on the results of that needs assessment. This year a subsequent study was conducted using an instrument very similar to that used in 1994, with the intent of determining the status of environmental education in Indiana's K-12 schools today compared to 1994, and to provide data for updating the state's EE implementation plan.

The study investigated the familiarity of Indiana teachers with EE pedagogy and curriculum, and identified what they perceived as barriers to implementing environmental education. I will outline briefly the methods used in the study, but my real intent of this article is to share the basic findings. Anyone wanting more detailed information about how the study was conducted and/or the results should contact me at scarman@dnr.in.gov.

To obtain a statistically significant sample size, 262 schools (both public and non-public) were randomly selected and the principals contacted about the study. They were asked to forward our Survey Monkey link to their teachers. It was strongly emphasized that we wanted a random sample, so participation was desired of all their staff—not just those teachers who might have an interest in environmental education, and that survey respondents would remain anonymous. Of the 262 schools contacted, teachers from 100 schools (38.2%) completed the survey. In total, 948 teachers participated in the study.

Survey results indicated that relatively few teachers integrate environmental education or natural resource management education into their curricula, regardless of the level/subject they teach. Both the 1994 survey and the current survey found that most teachers were unfamiliar with three of the most widely used national EE curricular programs (Project Learning Tree, Project WILD and Project WET), yet they stated a need for more supplemental curricular materials in order to integrate EE into their teaching. Many teachers felt that EE is not relevant to what they teach or that there is a lack of time in the school day, which demonstrates that teachers are largely unaware of how EE supplements provide the framework for cross-disciplinary instruction.

In today's era of standards-driven teaching, lack of time for non-mandated topics and investigations is often a complaint from educators wishing to enrich their teaching; yet, this study indicates that more than 65% of the respondents are not aware of the materials or training available to them—programs that are already correlated to state standards. **THE BOTTOM LINE:** Those of us involved with environmental education must be more active ambassadors for what we know (and research verifies) to be highly effective educational methods.



Letter from the Editor

As I sit here at my computer I am thinking about all of the great experiences I have gained from being a part of this organization. From the very beginning (during my teen years) as I sat at that registration table with Doug Waldman to Canoeing down the Elkhart River at the 2009 conference. Back as a teen, I couldn't have ever imagined that I would form such friendships and partnerships with those who I met. I have served as co-editor and then editor of this newsletter for the past 9 years. It has been a pleasure, but I believe it is time to pass it on to someone who is inspired with lots of new ideas. This is my last issue of the CREED and Nicole Messacar with the LaPorte County SWCD is becoming the new editor. You can contact her at 219/362-6633 or Nicole.Messacar@in.nacdnet.net. I am confident that she will take the newsletter to a new level and continue to produce a quality product.

Thank you for letting me serve as the editor of the CREED for all of these years. I am excited about what the future holds for the newsletter, as well as, the organization. I look forward to making several new friendships and partnerships. I will leave you with two words.....WOO HOO!

Take care, Niki Schmutte



We are looking for members to get involved by joining one of these committees.

Program Committee Members-- Jan is looking for committee members to assist her on the programming committee. If you are interested contact her at: jsneddon@earthforce.org

Publicity Committee-- Brad is looking for someone to be chair of this committee and is also looking for committee members. If you are interested contact Brad at: brody@dnr.IN.gov

Go to www.eeai.org to see other ways to get involved!

Membership Report

Total members right now = 172

Individual - 86

Institution - 13

Family - 11

Life - 44

Student/Senior - 18

Region 1 - 38

Region 2 - 37

Region 3 - 67

Region 4 - 18

Region 5 - 7

out of state - 5



This Is Winter



Early darkness - later dawn,
snowdrifts on Decembers lawn,
Frosty windows, glistening panes
Bits of ice and freezing rain,
Evening quiet - fires aglow
Diamonds sparkle on the snow.



Birds seek shelter in the pines
Waiting for spring's happy signs,
Precious bits of golden sun
Twilight hours when day is done,
Beauties all the world can see
This is winter - bold and free.



Paul-itics

Being Political for Environmental Education

by Paul Steury

According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation "The national crisis facing environmental education is compounded by a lack of funding. The National Environmental Education Act, the primary source of federal support for K-12 environmental education, provided only \$6.6 million last year, an average of only \$132,000 per state." (<http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=687>) The NCLI legislation will give moneys out to states that have a literacy plan which Indiana is pursuing through the Indiana Environmental Education Council headed up by Warren Gartner, Mary Hayes, and Sam Carman.

New findings from The Nielsen Company show kids aged 2-5 now spend more than 32 hours a week on average in front of a TV screen. The older segment of that group (ages 6-11) spend a little less time, about 28 hours per week watching TV, due in part that they are more likely to be attending school for longer hours. (http://blog.nielsen.com/nielsenwire/media_entertainment/tv-viewing-among-kids-at-an-eight-year-high/print/)

The No Child Left Inside Act (H.R. 3036), passed by the House on September 18, 2008 by a 293-109 vote. Sen. John (Jack) Reed [D-RI] introduced the Senate version, S. 866 but it's been tabled till another time....

If the Senate would just think about the student they would understand that this legislation would substantially strengthen No Child Left Behind which will then include:

- * Funding to train teachers to deliver high quality Environmental Education and utilize the local environment as an extension of the classroom.
- * Incentives for states to develop State Environmental Literacy Plans to insure that every student is prepared to understand the environmental challenges of the future.
- * Encouragement for teachers, administrators, and school systems to make time and resources available for environmental education for all students.
- * Environmental Education will be integrated across core subject areas.

So less time outside, more time in front of a television screen, and funding bogged down due to politics/NCLB - what should we do??

According to the Chesapeake Bay Education Summit summary Cap and Trade, which is emissions trading used to control pollution by providing economic incentives for achieving reductions in the emissions of pollutants, might include an Education for a Green Economy Fund which would receive revenue from the sale of allowances. This fund has the potential to set aside \$1 billion dollars a year, or 1% of the allowance revenues, for educational programs. If this fund passes, it has the potential to fully support NCLI, programs like NOAA, BWET (*Bay Watershed Education and Training*) and EPA EE grants programs.

So by talking to your representatives about working with Cap and Trade could multiply budgets for environmental education by over 300 times!!!

Please investigate this for yourself and, if so desired, talk to your Senator or Congressman about supporting this legislation to help increase our desired outcome of increasing environmental education!



This newsletter is sponsored
by the LaPorte County
Parks.



Return Services Requested

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