



# WINTER CREED

Curriculum Resources for Environmental Education Development

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## EEAI Members and Friends,

I watch snow accumulate on the windowsill outside as the winter winds are getting an early start this year. Another year is almost over and another wonderful EEA annual conference has snuck in just under the bell. As winter overtakes fall, we turn our thoughts to reflecting on the past year and looking to the future year with a hopeful optimism for our families, our nation and our world.

Many thanks again to the 2008 conference committee for all of their hard work in organizing an educational experience while reducing our carbon footprint through the use of reusable tableware, going paperless whenever possible, placing recycling containers throughout the facilities, etc. The 2009 conference committee, chaired by Krista Daniels, has taken this idea as their main theme and has already put together an award-winning lineup. Mark your calendars for November 6-8, 2009 to have a great conference held at Camp Mack in Milford Indiana. Also at this years' annual conference, a proposal was pitched and the 2010 conference is to be tentatively held at Shakamak State Park. The committee is already emerging with great ideas and is being chaired by Dinah Fuller. Contact Krista or Dinah if you would like to be involved at any level with either conference.

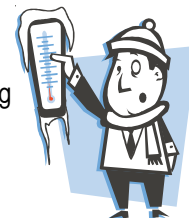
Many members have worked very diligently in 2008 to further EE in Indiana through the long list of programs, events and promotions in which EEA participated. I will be working to continue this forward momentum for EEA to stay at the forefront of EE in Indiana. With the help of our new president elect, Jan Sneddon, our great board of directors and the continued dedication of this membership, EEA will continue to build networks and partnerships with sister EE organizations in 2009 while continuing support of national issues such as the "No Child Left Inside" legislation and participating in various local and regional events throughout the state. If you know of an event in your area in which EEA should show the important relevance of environmental education, please contact myself or Jan Sneddon.

A light snow continues to fall gracefully between bouts of bright sunshine and the leaves crunch underfoot as I take yet another walk in the woods today & reflect on the many blessings in my life and a grin appears. I also think of the many in our community and across our nation who have many types of needs, so as the holiday season approaches and winter sets in, please consider volunteering whatever amount of your time you can find to help those in need around you. You will also find this kind of grin which appears effortlessly. My hope for you and your family is a safe and wonderful holiday season and that 2009 brings you great opportunities.

Your friend in EE,

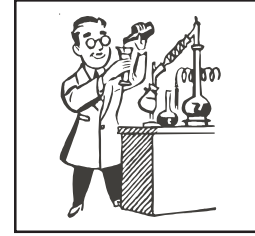
*Brad Rody*

Brad Rody CF, CWB  
EEAI Board President



# HASTI Fall Conference

Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. (HASTI) Fall Conference  
Professional Educators in Science: Preparing Future Leaders  
February 4-6, 2009  
Indiana Convention Center  
Indianapolis, Indiana



For almost 40 years HASTI has been a leader for teachers of science in Indiana. This year's conference will be another outstanding example of what has become the norm. There are over 250 Concurrent Sessions, 100 Science Education related Exhibitors, and 11 short courses planned.

## Feature Speakers:

- **Dr. Ann Cutler**, Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Indianapolis, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – 7 PM, *Parameters of Destruction: The Science of Flames and Explosions.*
- **Brian "Fox" Ellis**, Internationally renowned storyteller, author, and naturalist Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 AM, *Charles Darwin and the Voyage of the Beagle.*
- **Dr. Compton Tucker III**, Senior Earth Scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 AM, *Observing Climate with Satellites: Are We on Thin Ice?*

**Field Trips:** IU School of Medicine, Indiana State Department of Health Laboratory, Indiana State Department of Toxicology, behind the scenes at the Indianapolis Zoo, and The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

**Social:** Exclusive for HASTI attendees will be the Social at the Indiana State Museum at no additional charge.

The HASTI Conference involves educators of science from K – 16. Members and non-members are invited. Exhibit space is still available. For more information on registration, accommodations, and conference schedule please visit [www.hasti.org](http://www.hasti.org).

## 2008 Award Winners

### President's Award

**Deb Sachs** was recognized as the recipient of the 2008 President's Award. The recipient of the President's Award is selected by the current president in recognition of their assistance to the organization or contributions to the field of environmental education during the past year.

### Joe Wright Awards

**Amanda Wuestefeld** was a recipient of the Joe Wright award for outstanding achievements in environmental education. Amanda is the Hoosier Outdoor Heritage Coordinator for the Division of Fish & Wildlife and was a co-chair of the 2008 EEAI conference.

**Indiana Wildlife Federation** was a recipient of the Joe Wright award. They received it in recognition of their education efforts working with individuals, neighborhoods, communities, businesses, school yards and places of worship.

### Howard Michaud Award

This award is given to an individual in recognition of their long-term devotion, dedication, and contributions to environmental education in the state of Indiana. **Dr. Lenore P. Tedesco** was the recipient of this award for her commitment to improving and enhancing environmental education in Indiana. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

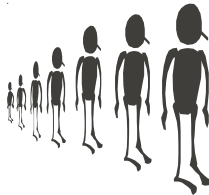
# One Man's Perspective: The Crystal Ball in Retrospect

by Sam Carman

In the January, 1981 issue of CREED, newsletter editor and founding member Howard Michaud wrote an article titled "Looking Ahead". The article was based on predictions made by the Council on Environmental Quality about what the environment would be like in the year 2000. Since that milestone has passed, I thought it might be interesting to see how some of those predictions panned out, and what that might mean for environmental educators.

## **Prediction 1. World population will grow from the current 4 billion to 6.35 billion.**

Outcome 1. Not far off. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's International Database, the world population in 2000 at mid-year was about 6.1 billion. By the way, world population today as I write this article is 6,715,449,140. If you want to check the latest numbers for the U.S. and world populations, go to <http://www.census.gov/main/www/popclock.html>.



## **Prediction 2. Arable land will increase only 4%, mounting to a decline per capita.**

Outcome 2. Roughly 3.7 billion acres of the world's cropland has been abandoned during the past 40 years because erosion has made it unproductive (Pimentel et al., 1995). The shortage of productive cropland, along with social factors like political unrest, economic insecurity and unequal food distribution, has led to food shortages and associated human malnutrition. (Source: "Impact of Population Growth on Food Supplies and Environment" by David Pimentel, et. al.)

## **Prediction 3. World oil production will have peaked.**

Outcome 3. Ooops—missed the barge on this one. World oil production in 1980 was 59.56 million barrels per day. By 2000, it had increased to 68.49 million barrels per day, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Database.

## **Prediction 4. Commercial timber supplies will have declined by 50%.**



Outcome 4. They were barking up the wrong tree on this one as well. The decrease in worldwide supply amounted to ½% while production increased just slightly. (Source: "The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 summary report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations")

Why was this forecast so far off? One factor was a slowdown in wood fiber consumption between 1980 and 2000, and there were several reasons for this stagnation. With the demise of the Soviet Empire in the early 1990s, the wood production of the world's second leading producer (and one of the least efficient) fell dramatically. The increase in global recycling of wood fiber also played a role, as did increased use of alternative materials such as brick, concrete, steel and aluminum. (Turning to these non-renewable alternatives will likely have consequences of their own down the road.) Finally, the rapid growth of electronic communications has greatly reduced the use of paper for traditional purposes.

So the crystal ball was clear in some respects, cloudy in others. Regardless of its accuracy, though, I think the closing words of Howard's article are still appropriate today:



"The kind of environment we have in the next decade will depend upon how well we understand the consequences of the choices we make in the management of resources and people. As teachers, our goal in environmental education should be to provide students with an awareness of the alternatives so that they make wise decisions for maintaining an environment fit for living."



# The Night Sky

by Niki Schmutte



As most of you know, the 2008 EEAI conference was the first one I have missed in over 15 years. I had to choose between the Indy conference and the Portland Conference. It was a tough decision and I even had to ponder it for about a second. Laura Moyer, Mary Culter, and I were fortunate to head to Portland Oregon and the NAI national conference. I had never been to Portland so that added to my over-all excitement.

I sat through several sessions on topics ranging from scat to environmental sustainability. One session in particular was about the night skies. I found it interesting and amazing that our night skies are slowly disappearing due to light pollution. Over 90% of all Americans live where the skies are affected by light pollution. Over half can't even see the Milky Way from their homes. There are three types of light pollution light trespass, over-illumination, and sky glow.

**Light trespass** occurs when unwanted light spills over beyond the boundary of the property on which a light is located to adjacent properties. Light trespass is often caused by high or poorly positioned lights.

**Over illumination** is the use of light well beyond what is required for a specific activity. Many places, both indoors and out, have lights on when people are not present. Think of office buildings that have lights on all night even though the buildings are virtually empty.

**Sky glow** is the bright 'glow' seen over many cities and towns in the evening. It is the result of the many electric lighting fixtures that shed light above urban areas.

Here is a map that shows light pollution from areas in the United States. Red represents the most light pollution and black is the least.

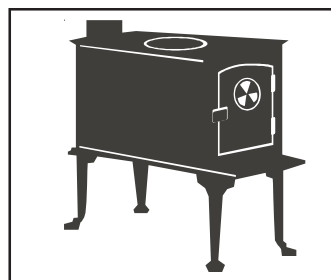


This was just one of the many excellent concurrent sessions I attended. If you ever have the opportunity to attend a national conference I recommend that you do.

**“The next time you are outside look up to the night sky and find out what you can see.”**



# Firewood Guide



Wood Variety	Rating	Heat Yield	Burn Difficulty	Split Difficulty	Smoke	Sparks	BTUs per Cord
Ash	Excellent	High	Easy	Hard	Light	No	25.9 Mil
Red Oak	Excellent	High	Easy	Hard	Light	No	21.7
White Oak	Excellent	High	Easy	Hard	Light	No	26.5
Beech	Excellent	High	Easy	Hard	Light	No	21.8
Birch	Excellent	High	Easy	Hard	Light	No	21.3
Hickory	Excellent	High	Easy	Hard	Light	No	30.8
Hard Maple	Excellent	High	Easy	Hard	Light	No	29.7
Pecan	Excellent	High	Easy	Hard	Light	No	
Dogwood	Excellent	High	Easy	Hard	Light	No	24.3
Soft Maple	Good	Medium	Easy	Hard	Light	No	19.1
Cherry	Good	Medium	Easy	Hard	Light	No	18.5
Walnut	Good	Medium	Easy	Hard	Light	No	20.3
Elm	Fair	Medium	Medium	Easy	Medium	No	23.8
Sycamore	Fair	Medium	Medium	Easy	Medium	No	18.5
Gum	Fair	Medium	Medium	Easy	Medium	No	18.1
Mesquite	Good	High	Medium	Easy	Medium	No	
Aspen	Fair	Low	Easy	Hard	Medium	No	14.5
Basswood	Fair	Low	Easy	Hard	Medium	No	12.6
Cottonwood	Fair	Low	Easy	Hard	Medium	No	12.2
Chestnut	Poor	Low	Easy	Hard	Medium	Yes	
Yellow Poplar	Poor	Low	Easy	Hard	Medium	Yes	16.0
Southern Yellow Pine	Good	High	Easy	Hard	Heavy	Yes	
Douglas Fir	Good	High	Easy	Hard	Heavy	Yes	21.4
Cypress	Fair	Medium	Medium	Hard	Medium	No	
Larch	Fair	Medium	Easy	Hard	Medium	Yes	20.8
Spruce	Poor	Low	Easy	Hard	Medium	Yes	15.9
Alder	Fair	Medium	Fair	Hard	Medium	Yes	17.6
Apple	Fair	Medium	Hard	Easy	Medium	Few	17.6
Madrone	Excellent	High	Hard	Easy	Light	No	30.0
Willow	Fair	Low	Hard	Hard	Fair	Fair	14.5



## Burning Tips



For firewood, use dry hardwood such as oak, cherry, hickory, maple. Split logs into into pieces about 4 inches on each side. Ideally allow it to dry for about one year before use.

To get a fire going use just enough softwood for kindling. Stack a few pieces of kindling below your hardwoods. Do not burn pine exclusively for firewood as pine quickly builds up creosote in your chimney, setting up conditions for a chimney fire.

Don't burn plastics or paper with color printing, such as junk mail, flyers, comics, magazines, gift wrap, etc. because they may give off toxic fumes.

Absolutely NEVER use flammable liquids in your fireplace or wood burning stove.





This newsletter is sponsored by the LaPorte County Parks.

Information for this CREED was gathered from:  
The Internet  
World Book 1998 Encyclopedias  
Nature Smart  
Peterson Field Guides

## CREED DEADLINES

Copy deadlines for *CREED* are: March 1, July 1, and November 1. To contribute an article, contact Niki Schmutte, 219/324-5855 or [natureniki@csinet.net](mailto:natureniki@csinet.net).

Articles can be no more than one page in length and will be added if room allows.

Return Services Requested

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# CREED

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