



THE EETAP BULLETIN

An update of activities for advancing education
and environmental literacy
February 2008 Vol. 8 (4)

Participate in National EE Week April 13-19, 2008

As the nation's largest **teach**
environmental
education event, EE
Week promotes
understanding and
protection of the
natural world by
actively engaging K-
12th grade students
and educators in an
inspired week of
environmental
learning and service
before Earth Day.



Partners in EE Week have access to:

- Standards-based environmental education lessons and activities;
- Monthly electronic newsletters that highlight the latest EE curricula, professional development, and funding opportunities;
- Opportunities for online communication and knowledge-sharing with educators from across the country.

If you work with students in a school, park, nature center, zoo, museum, aquarium, or other educational setting, you can join EE Week's efforts and gain national recognition for your work.

To register, log on to www.EEWeek.org

Questions? Email EEWeek@neefusa.org or call (202) 261-6484

EETAP Activity Updates

This article completes the updates on activities EETAP is implementing. Previous issues of this Bulletin reported on 8 other activities.

Strengthening EE Training Networks

There are two different focus areas for this activity. The first is outreach for facilitators (faculty), non-formal educators, and secondary educators. The second is leadership development for state level coordinators.

Another aspect addressed successfully is outdoor classroom activity. Partner programs are highly supportive of quality education in the outdoors.

Long-term impact of this program shows that methods classes are likely to continue to be part of educator's curriculum.

Embedding workshops in larger institute's conferences has helped increase the number of educators reached.

Participating partners have exceeded the total number of educators that they proposed to reach through this activity.



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Leadership Conferences

PLT, WET, and WILD held their conferences in May/June 2007. The NAS conference was conducted in August 2007. These conferences provided an opportunity for state leaders to receive training on how to better implement their programs and build their capacity.

PLT has a model program initiative, which makes it possible for 9 mentors from different states to have professional development training. These mentors then help other states build capacity. Training is also provided on the self-assessment tool and development of action plans.

The Growing WILD initiative includes 4 states (AK, NY, SD, CA). Project WILD has been aligned to the CA Fish and Game conservation messages. It is hoped this will serve as a model that will be used in other states.

NAS did pass-through grants for non-formal educators using a competitive process. Unfortunately, a lot of applicants had to be turned down. NAS requires that the workshops use the supplementary curriculum resources produced by EETAP partners.

Expanding EE Certification Programs

NAAEE is working with three states (KY, TX and UT) to develop programs that can be accredited. The programs are

based on a set of core competencies from the Guidelines. Each state has used a different approach with respect to how applicants show they have met the core competencies.

Kentucky's program relies primarily on a series of courses that people take as a group. This approach includes a group project. At the completion of the courses the participants become certified. Because of the length of time this program has been in operation it has the largest number of certified educators.

Utah is using a mentoring approach. They have a small cadre of people that are training others.

Texas has the newest program. Participants demonstrate competencies by submitting videotapes and other required documentation.

NAAEE is focused on how to best determine if states have developed programs that will be sustainable. A set of requirements was established and reviewed. NOCA (The National Organization for Competency Assurance) has guided revisions of the requirements. They are also helping with the legal ramifications associated with accreditation.

An accreditation review panel has been established to evaluate applications. A training program for these persons will be developed soon.



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North Carolina and Missouri have been accrediting people for a number of years and these programs can provide some ideas for future developments in this activity. Georgia is also renewing their program.

A fee structure also needs to be developed.

Future discussion will focus on marketing the importance of certification. A CAC meeting was conducted at the 2007 NAAEE conference to do follow-up on this work.

NAAEE is examining how well this initiative is promoting capacity building in the states.

Reaching Tribal Communities with EE Training

The Native Waters program has gone to tribal communities to provide EE training. Workshops and introductions were conducted with PLT and WET coordinators.

Many Tribal communities prefer face-to-face meetings. They also want long-term commitments from individuals and programs.

Evaluations showed that they would like workshops to be more culturally inclusive and deal with local issues.

It is important to be invited into the community before scheduling a

workshop. It is important to recognize Tribal sovereignty. One is not just walking into a community, but a nation.

Ten communities in nine states held workshops – AK, ME, UT, CT, SD, MT, NV, CA and NE. It has been difficult to get state coordinators for workshops because of limited time or the remoteness of the communities.

Tribal leaders were hosted at the WET conference to foster networking and relationship building. The Tribal leaders attended sessions and presented their perspectives on environmental education and water resources to the conference participants.

Promoting Electronic Access to Quality EE and Developing Technology Tools for EE

EELink's goal is to disseminate information and drive action. EELink services include:

- Newsletters
- State technology help
- Job Reports
- Event Listing
- Resources

A more powerful search engine has been installed to help find information on the site.

A new news tool has been developed to assist with developing information on the site.



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Some challenges are time and making access to quality resources on the website easier.

The state technology component of this activity provides the framework and tools needed by state EE associations to establish and manage many of their association functions online. About 19 EE associations and EE related organizations are participating in this technology component.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

EXPLORE THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF EDUCATION AT ASCD CONFERENCES

Annual Conference and Exhibit Show

Reinventing Schools: Courageous Leadership for Positive Change
March 15–17, 2008
New Orleans, Louisiana

Pre-Conference Institutes

Three-Day: March 12–14, 2008

Two-Day: March 13–14, 2008

One-Day: March 14, 2008

ASCD is now accepting proposals for the 2009 Annual Conference & Exhibit Show in Orlando, Fla., March 14–16. Proposals are due **May 1, 2008**.

NSTA National Conferences

Have a good idea? Submit an online proposal for an NSTA conference and share your teaching experience! Visit <http://www.nsta.org/conferences> to submit your proposal for 2009 national conference (New Orleans, March 19–22). Proposals are due by April 15, 2008.

The 2008 National NSTA conference is scheduled for March 27-30 in Boston, MA.

EECOM 08

September 25-28

Gros Morne National Park
Newfoundland & Labrador

Reconnect Rethink Rejoice

Proposal Due by March 14, 2008

<http://www.eecom.org/>

2008 NAAEE Conference



October 15-18

Wichita, Kansas

(Click on above illustration for Details.)