



THE EETAP BULLETIN

An update of activities for advancing education
and environmental literacy
April 2006 Vol. 6 (6)

TWO NEW ARTICLES HIGHLIGHT EE WORK

EETAP has completed two new articles on key initiatives in environmental education (EE). They highlight work by EETAP, its partners, and others in related areas within EE. The articles are written in a popular style to inform EE practitioners and other educators about programs and trends in EE and their significance for the field. EETAP has posted the articles in PDF format on its web site for educators to read and download. See below for a short description of each article and links for accessing.

http://eetap.org/pages/ee_articles.php

EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

Schools from Florida to Washington are using environmental education to find creative ways to address both state and national standards and economic performance pressures. They're demonstrating that important and engaging environmental themes can breathe life into academics while meeting the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act 2001.

Environmental education and education reform share many of the same goals, as exemplified in "Partners for Change," a richly descriptive article that illustrates

how environmental education can bring about systemic change.

Click below to read about four exemplary schools, working in especially effective partnerships with non-formal education organizations that are realizing lofty education goals—with the backing of teachers, administrators, and state education department officials. See how interdisciplinary, hands-on, project-based learning is replacing traditional, compartmentalized instruction at Clay County High School (Kentucky), Gove Elementary School (Florida), Hollywood Elementary School (Maryland), and Komachin Middle School (Washington).

<http://eetap.org/media/pdf/PartnersFIN AL 4 5 06.pdf>

EE PROGRAM PROFILES

What does excellence in environmental education look like? There are so many ways of delivering environmental education programs, and so many components to a comprehensive approach to EE. Click below to explore profiles of seven exemplary and varied efforts that illustrate the range and variation in environmental education.

Among the highlighted programs are:

- An integrated literacy-science program for kindergarten students
- Project-based learning on the prairie
- The high-school run business that grew from a weedy lot-turned-garden;



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- A wetlands restoration project that involves and benefits elementary and high school students
- A systemic approach to environmentally-based learning based on proven best practices in education
- Initiatives in two states to build capacity for and sustain environmental education

http://eetap.org/pages/article.ee_program_profiles.2006.04.php

EETAP ACTIVITY UPDATE

Meeting EE Training Needs through On-line Instruction

One of the objectives for this activity is to make the Fundamentals of EE course available to a larger number of students by offering it at a minimum of 4 other universities.

Fifteen faculty members applied to participate in the program and receive training on how to deliver the on-line course. The 6 faculty members selected have committed to offering the course this year through their universities. The universities represented include: Eastern Kentucky, Brenau, Montreat, Northern Illinois, Winston-Salem State, and Shepherd's College.

UW-SP is also working with NAAEE's Certification Advisory Council and states with certification programs to determine how the Fundamentals of EE and Applied EE Evaluation courses can help

meet certification needs. Rubrics have been developed based on state certification requirements that compared the courses and their outcomes. These rubrics also identify the competencies demonstrated by the people completing the courses. Similar rubrics will be developed based on the national certification requirements now being completed.

PROMOTING QUALITY EE THROUGH THE NATIONAL PROJECT FOR EXCELLENCE IN EE – GUIDELINE TRAINING

The main goal of this activity is to create a new cadre of Guidelines trainers. This will be accomplished through a train-the-trainer workshop to be conducted later this year. Participating states will bring up to four people to the workshop but all have requested permission to bring additional persons.

In conjunction with the workshop, another day is being added for participants interested in attending a materials review workshop.

Strengthening EE Training Networks

One goal of this activity is to provide additional leadership training to Project Learning Tree (PLT), Council for Environmental Education (CEE), Project WET (WET), and National Audubon Society (NAS) network coordinators. Most of this professional development will take place at upcoming coordinator



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conferences (see Calendar of Events for details).

The model program initiative is another part of Leadership Training. CEE is working with Project WILD and Flying WILD. Flying WILD's goal is to recruit at least 4 new city partners, orientate them, and train program facilitators. The Dallas Zoo recently conducted a training workshop for 19 educators. CEE will also be hosting a national bird education meeting near Austin, TX February 6-10, 2007 for administrators and educators. The final part of the leadership training component of this activity is to share Internet resources for coordinators on partners' sites.

Other outputs of this activity focus on 3 different audiences: middle and high school educators, non-formal educators, and pre-service educators. PLT and WILD have distributed requests for proposals to their states to work with these audiences. Within the effort to reach non-formal, middle, and high school educators is the target of reaching at least 10% of diverse or underserved participants or 20% of their students. The third audience is the pre-service faculty members working at colleges and universities to prepare future teachers.

Partners will make presentations about the successes and challenges of working with these audiences at national conferences.

Scholarships for On-Line EE Courses

EETAP will have scholarships available for the summer and fall 2006 offering of the "Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation" (AEEPE) online course and the fall 2006 offering of the "Fundamentals of EE" (FEE) online course. The summer AEEPE course will be held June 12 – August 25. The fall AEEPE course will be held September 18 – December 1, and the fall FEE course will be held September 11 – November 17.

These scholarships are available to those holding a leadership position in EE at the community or state level (e.g., directors of EE organizations, programs or nature centers; state program coordinators for PLT, WET or WILD; state EE association board members).

More information about these courses and scholarship qualifications can be found at:

www.uwsp.edu/natres/rwilke/eetap

ASCD Seeking Proposals for 2007 Conference

ASCD is now accepting proposals for sessions at next year's Annual Conference, which will be held March 17-19, 2007, in Anaheim, CA. The conference theme, "Valuing the Whole Child: Embracing a Global Vision" will include three strands:



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- [Policy and Advocacy to Support the Whole Child](#)
- [Transformation of the Education Professions](#)
- [Enriching Learning and Teaching](#)

Proposals that target one of the strands, make connections among the strands, and focus on excellent practice and outcomes are invited. To propose an Annual Conference session, go to the ASCD Web site at <http://www.ascd.org/> and submit your proposal online. If you wish to mail in your proposal, you may print a form from the web site. Completed forms must be submitted electronically or postmarked no later than May 1, 2006.

NAAEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT ON DRAFT STANDARDS

NAAEE is an organizational member of NCATE (www.ncate.org) and is in the process of writing Program Standards for the Initial Preparation of Environmental Educators for NCATE. The writing team has developed draft standards and rubrics. Now, the writing team needs to hear from you! This draft is posted on the NAAEE website at: http://naaee.org/pages/projects/inv_to_participate.html.

Please take the time to review the document and submit your comments by May 22, 2006.

Currently, NCATE has approved program standards for 20 different disciplines (e.g., elementary education, science education,

social studies education). In many states, the NCATE/state partnership agreement requires colleges and universities to address the NCATE program standards as part of the accreditation review process. Consequently, the development of NCATE Environmental Education Program Standards is an important effort for the environmental education community. These standards, when fully developed and approved, will impact environmental education in most colleges and universities that train teachers in this country.

For additional information about the project, please contact Bora Simmons (boras@niu.edu).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLT International Coordinators' Conference

Grains of Sand, Pearls of Wisdom
20th International Coordinators' Conference
Virginia Beach, Virginia
May 8 – 12, 2006

Project WET Annual Coordinators Conference

Fort William Henry Convention Center
Lake George, New York.
May 12 – 18, 2006



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2006 Project WILD International Coordinators' Conference and Business Meeting

New Orleans, Louisiana
May 31 - June 4, 2006

Project WILD celebrates "One Million
Educators Gone WILD!"

National Audubon Society's Education and Centers Leadership Conference

Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm
Dayton, Ohio
June 12-14, 2006

35TH NAAEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE October 10-14, 2006

Gathering at the Headwaters: Building EE in Society

The EE profession has much to offer society. As we strive for standards of excellence in our work, we must connect with a wider circle of people to win broader support for EE. To do so, we must demonstrate our relevance to today's challenges in both our education system and natural resource conservation. The 2006 conference will seek to examine the best of what EE has to offer in meeting those challenges and how we integrate environmental education concepts into all aspects of

society, instead of staying just on the water's edge. It is time to make not only ripples but some real waves.

For details visit

<http://www.naaee.org/conferences>

The N. S. Environmental Network presents the EECOM/IC 2006 Conference Salt of the Earth: Creating a Culture of Environmental Respect and Sustainability

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network [NSEN] presents the Annual Conference of the Canadian Network for Environment Education and Communication [EECOM] and Interpretation Canada [IC] October 19-22, 2006 at White Point Beach Lodge, on the south shore of Nova Scotia, Canada. For conference information visit <http://www.eecom.org/> or <http://www.interpcan.ca/> and follow the links.