

CREED

Curriculum Resources for Environmental Education Development
September 2013 • Vol. 39, No. 2

**2013 EEAI Annual Conference:
Weaving the Threads of HOPE**

October 4 to 6, 2013

Camp Agnes S. McMillen • Fort Wayne, IN

President's Message

Greetings EEAI! I hope the summer has been enjoyable for everyone!

This is an exciting time of year for EEAI as we transition for fall and gear up for our 44th annual fall conference! The conference will be held October 4-6, 2013 at Camp Agnes S. McMillen in Fort Wayne. The conference committee has done a fantastic job of planning this year's conference for HOPE (Hands-on Activities, Our Successes, Positive Partnerships, and Encouraging Involvement). The conference weekend will include both new and familiar activities such as field trips, the song writing content, the silent auction, and professional development sessions for formal and nonformal educators. You will not want to miss attending the inspirational keynote presentations from Sean Hayes and Scott Russell Sanders with Carrie Newcomer! Please visit our website www.eeai.org to view the conference schedule and register. Online and mail in registration options are both available.

In addition to our conference plans, I also want to share several updates and highlights from board meetings and upcoming new initiatives. An exciting new initiative is underway to make stronger connections between EEAI and Envirothon in the upcoming year with the intention of bringing greater awareness about EEAI to formal educators. Envirothon is a competitive learning experience for high school students, which emphasizes studying natural resource problems and developing solutions in a team-based approach (http://www.iaswcd.org/district_tools/envirothon.html). Several EEAI members are currently active with Envirothon, which will make for a successful partnership. Brad Rody has agreed to represent EEAI while he also serves on the Indiana State Envirothon committee as Vice President. In addition to a board committee presence, EEAI will sponsor the event tshirts and will invite the state's winning team to participate in our annual conference. Envirothon coaches will also receive a discount to attend our annual meeting. Additional partnership opportunities and ideas will likely form as our partnership progresses. Please join me in formally welcoming Envirothon to the EEAI family!

The board continues to investigate and implement new communication strategies to strengthen our organization. One of these approaches is to finalize a draft strategic plan this summer and fall that will be sent to membership for comments and suggested edits. We will then finalize the plan with incorporated membership edits in 2014. We are also looking into membership support software and communication platforms that will allow for more efficient and effective ways to send and receive information. We hope to implement these changes in the coming year as well. As part of our endeavor to enhance communication, we now have a new Facebook organization page! Thank you to Sheryl McGlory for setting up the new page and managing the transition. Please 'Like' the new page as soon as possible as the old group page will be disabled soon. The transition to an organization page will allow for greater access to updates and events posted on Facebook.

Another fun new way to spread awareness about EEAI is to proudly display your EEAI logo gear! We now have our own store on Café Press (<http://www.cafepress.com/eeai>) with several EEAI items available for sale. You can find and share the store links on the EEAI website and Facebook page. A portion of the sale proceeds will come back to EEAI. Additionally, we will have a new batch of EEAI tshirts with our logo and an artistic graphic for sale at the annual conference this year (to clarify, these shirts are not available on the Café Press site). I look forward to seeing all of the new, creative ways the logo will appear during our annual conference!

To switch gears a bit from communication to membership engagement, I want to highlight two important calls for participation. All members should have received notification about the bylaws vote, which proposes to change the duration of board membership positions. The description for the proposed change is highlighted in the newsletter as well as instructions on how to participate through our inaugural voting process. Additionally, it is also time for elections and nominations! We have three board positions up for election this year, including Treasurer, Vice Presi-

dent, and a Director at Large position. Those currently in the positions (Paul McAfee, Bernadette de Leon, and Sheryl McGlory) have been nominated by the Board for reelection. Please contact Warren Gartner for approval of this slate.

Also, please nominate our best and brightest colleagues for the Howard Michaud Award and the Joe Wright Award. Nomination forms and descriptions are found in the newsletter for the awards.

Please contact me with questions or feedback. Our next board meeting will occur on Sunday, October 6 directly after the annual conference. Members are welcomed and encouraged to attend any and all board meetings. We will plan for our 2013-2014 board meetings as well. I look forward to seeing many at the October conference!

All the best!
Kara



Facebook Update *from the Board*

We are making the Facebook switch from a group to a page. Having a page for our organization will allow the page to appear as a suggestion when Facebook users “like” similar pages/organizations, as well as link this page to the EEAI website. We hope that this will enable us to reach a greater audience and share information more effectively. Board members will post updates on the page, and the public will still be able to create posts to share information through the page. To “like” us on Facebook, search for Environmental Education Association of Indiana – EEAI.

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president@eeai.org

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vicepresident@eeai.org

President Elect – Jabin Burnworth
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presidenelect@eeai.org

Secretary – Ann Niednagel
(317) 576-9943
secretary@eeai.org

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(260) 489-5032
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pastpresident@eeai.org

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director1@eeai.org

Director-at-Large –
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Association of
Indiana
www.eeai.org



One Man's Perspective: Feeling Charitable?

by Sam Carman

Views expressed are those of the author and are not endorsed or reviewed by EEAI.



It's dinner time and the phone rings. "Hello, this is Salvador from the Save The Rodents Foundation. Can you spare a few dollars?" So you write a check and send off your contribution. But how do you know your money will really improve the quality of life for your furry, gnawing friends?

The American Institute of Philanthropy (<http://www.charitywatch.org>) grades charities each quarter based upon program effectiveness and fundraising costs. They obtain information from the IRS, annual reports and audited financial statements, and consider such things as what is spent on direct mail, telemarketing and other solicitations, as well as administrative expenses. Based upon their analysis, a grade is assigned to each charity. At right is a recent list of some of the top-rated environmental organizations.

So does this mean that your check to Save the Rodents was money wasted? Not necessarily. It may still have ranked highly, but just not one at the top of the list; or it could be a charity (like EEAI) that is too small or otherwise does not meet the criteria to be included in the American Institute of Philanthropy's evaluation. In any case, the take-home message is to do your homework before making that donation!

Chesapeake Bay Foundation	B+
Conservation Fund	A+
Conservation International Foundation	A
Earth Island Institute	A
Earthjustice	A-
Earthworks	A+
Environmental Defense	A-
Friends of the Earth	A-
Greenpeace Fund	A-
Izaak Walton League of America	A-
Keep America Beautiful National Office	A-
League of Conservation Voters Ed. Fund	A+
National Audubon Society	B+
National Park Trust	A-
Natural Resources Defense Council	A-
Nature Conservancy	A-
Rainforest Action Network	A-
Rainforest Alliance	A
Resources for the Future	A
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	A
Sierra Club Foundation	A+
Student Conservation Association	A-
Trout Unlimited	A
Trust for Public Land	A
Union of Concerned Scientists	A-
Water.org	A-
Waterkeeper Alliance	B+
Wilderness Society	B+
World Resources Institute	A

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Grade</i>
African Wildlife Foundation	A-
Alaska Conservation Foundation	A+
American Bird Conservancy	A
American Forests	A-
Arbor Day Foundation	A-
Center for Biological Diversity	A

Your Vote Counts on EEAI Bylaw Changes

According to Article IX (Amendments), Section Two of our EEAI Bylaws, “These Bylaws may be amended by a mailed ballot (paper or electronic) to the total membership. A two-thirds favorable vote of respondents shall constitute approval provided a majority of the membership responds.”

In June 2013, the Board voted to have the membership vote on the following EEAI Bylaws change, which relates to the terms of three leadership positions that now require a six-year commitment from the person who serves as President – due to three 2-year terms as President Elect, President, and Immediate Past President.

Currently, Article VII – Nominations, Elections and Voting, Section 2 states, “The terms of the offices of the

President, President Elect, and Immediate Past President shall be for two years.” The Board proposes that the terms in the Bylaws be changed to read, “The term of the office of the President shall be for two years. The terms of the President Elect and Immediate Past President shall be for one year each.”

Please go to the survey site at www.surveymonkey.com/s/3NKBWG6 and enter the password vote2013 to access the survey. The vote deadline has been extended until September 29. If there are not enough online votes by the time of the annual meeting, then an in-person vote will be held at the annual meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bernadette de Leon at vicepresident@eeai.org or deleon@indiana.edu.



Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN) Update by Ann Niednagel

June was No Child Left Inside Month. What better month for ICAN to host its first Family Nature Club Training. In CREED’s spring issue Sarah Kempfer, ICAN’s organizer, wrote about EEAI’s initiative the Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN). I know I’m preaching to the choir when I discuss the fact that children today are spending less time outside and more time inside. This time is usually in front of some kind of screen. Sadly as I write this all three of my kiddos are inside in front of various screens. And so am I. However our family is working at balancing this screen time with time outside.

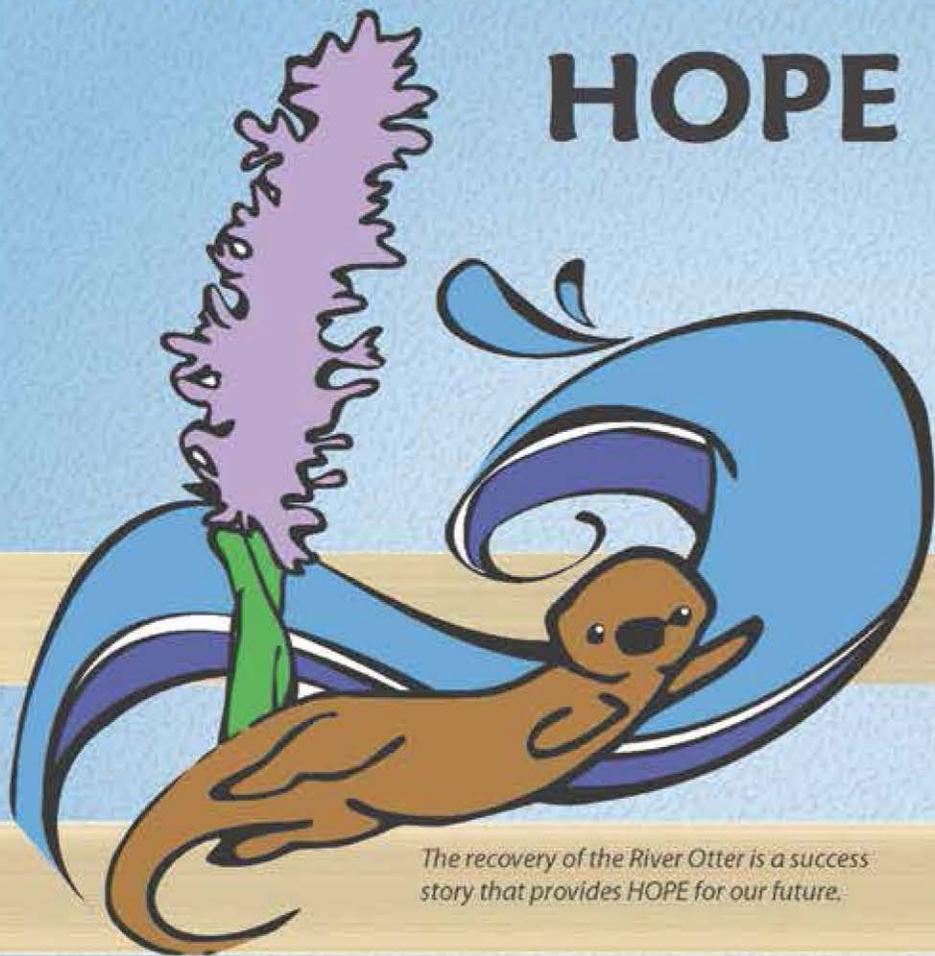
ICAN is working to help families, like mine, get outside. Working with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), ICAN is fostering the establishment of Family Nature Clubs in Central Indiana. In June, they hosted the first Family Nature Club Training. Family Nature Clubs allow families to get outside for unstruc-

tured playtime and exploration in the outdoors. They are organized by neighbors, friends, playgroups, churches and individuals. The clubs meet as often as they like, finding nature in urban and rural settings. The June training was well attended. ICAN committee members are following up with the attendees and have had positive feedback. Future trainings are being planned for Evansville, Bloomington, Indianapolis, and the Ft. Wayne areas. If you are interested in attending the training or just learning more please contact ICAN. You can find contact information on the website www.indianachildrenandnature.org.

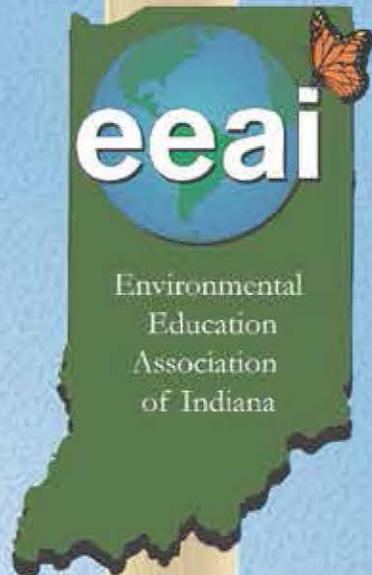
In addition to the trainings and website, ICAN plans to work with caregivers and the medical community to help spread the message that children need time in nature. Sarah Kempfer, ICAN’s organizer, is off to San Diego representing Indiana at the national grassroots gathering of C&NN, Children and Nature Network, childrenandnature.org. BON VOYAGE Sarah!

The 44th Annual EEAI Meeting

Weaving the Threads of **HOPE**



The recovery of the River Otter is a success story that provides HOPE for our future.



www.eeai.org

Hands-On Activities

Our Successes

Positive Partnerships

Encouraging Involvement

October 4 - 6, 2013

Camp Agnes S. McMillen

Located just north of Fort Wayne on a beautiful, wooded, natural area overlooking the scenic Cedar Creek.

Get inspired through a weekend of HOPEful sessions, field trips and activities including:

Teachers workshop
Inspiring sessions
Field trips

Song writing contest
Silent auction
Great food

Keynote Speaker

* Sean Hayes

* Scott Russell Sanders

- Duet with
Carrie Newcomer



Weaving the Threads of HOPE



EEAI "Hope Logo" by Mark Daniels Arts 2012

2013

www.eeai.org

EEAI Conference

October 4-6

Camp Agnes S. McMillen

www.girlscoutsnorthernindiana-michiana.org/mcmillen_camp

Please fill out the registration form below and make a copy for your records.

Online registration is available at www.eeai.org

Please print or type the following information

Name: _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

1. Membership (Required for conference attendance)

Select one:

- Student \$15.00
- Individual \$30.00
- Family \$45.00
- Organization (2) \$50.00
- Organization (4) \$90.00
- Life \$400.00
- Already a life member

2. Field Trips are included in the cost of registration.

Please mark 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice

- Canoeing the Cedar Creek
- Teachers Water Quality Workshop
- Little River Wetlands Project
- Heartland Restoration Services
- The Crucible of Fort Wayne

3. Conference Registration Fee:

You must pay the Registration Fee to participate. Full registration includes all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. Single day includes lunch & dinner.

Please check one (ages 12 and under are free)

- Full Registration \$180.00
- Student \$130.00
- Single day \$100.00 (student \$70.00)
- Friday Saturday
- Vegetarian meals

Lodging options on site: (Mark choice)

Indoor bunks are limited & must supply own bedding

- Indoor bunk bed \$20.00 both nights
- Indoor bunk bed \$10.00 one night
- Screened cot tent Free
- (4 cots per platform screened-in cabin tent)
- Bring your own tent Free

Please choose one of the following:

- Night Owl Turn in early

Lodging options off site:

- Baymont Inn
- 2881 E Dupont Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46825
- 260-490-8989
- (It is your responsibility to make lodging arrangements)

3. Total from this box = \$ _____

4. Total: Please add totals from membership in box 1 and registration in box 3.

Make checks payable to EEAI and send to:
Paul McAfee 6530 W. Wallen Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46818

4. Total = \$ _____

2013 EEAI Conference
Camp Agnes S. McMillen near Fort Wayne
October 4-6, 2013



Weaving the Threads of HOPE

Tentative Schedule

Friday, October 4

1:00pm – Registration Begins

2:00pm – Welcome

2:30pm – 3:45pm – HOPE Sessions

H - The Fun and Adventure of Teaching Outdoors

- *Liz Hincks, Little Rivers Wetlands Project*

O - Science2Go Bus

- *Matt McQueen, ETHOS*

P - Recycling Project Partners with Goodwill

- *Courtney Franke, Elkhart County Parks*

E - Indiana Master Naturalist Program (IMN): What is it?

- *Jody Heaston, IMN State Coordinator*

4:00pm – 6:00pm – Free Time

- zipline/climbing wall open
- hiking at ACRES properties
- visit Science2Go Bus

6:30pm – Keynotes: Paul Steury and Sean Hayes and Dinner

9:00pm – Campfire and Song-writing contest (hospitality lodge open)

Saturday, October 5

7:00am – Bird Hike

8:00am - Breakfast

8:45am – Announcements

9:00 – 10:15am – HOPE Sessions

H - Taking Science Outdoors: Explore the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies' North American Conservation Education Toolkit

- *Warren Gartner, Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife*

O - Measuring and Monitoring the Invasive Oriental Bittersweet

- *Jabin Burnworth, Manchester Jr/Sr High School*

P - E3 (Engaging, Equipping, Empowering) – Survival Skills for Life Program

- *Cheryl Mast, Amigo Centre*

E - Science or Politics? Why EEAI Needs to talk About Global Weirding

- *Paul Steury, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center*

10:30 – 11:45am – HOPE Sessions

H - Field Sketching: The Art of Observation

- *Mark Daniels, Mark Daniels Arts*

O - Ecopsychology: Radical Hope

- *Clark Mumaw, Project Nature Connect*

P – TBD

E - Indiana Children and Nature Network: What we have done and what I CAN do

- *Sarah Kempfer, Indiana Children and Nature Network*

12:00pm – Lunch

1:00-5:00pm – Field Trips

H – Canoeing Cedar Creek

O – Water Quality Teacher Workshop (on-site)

P – Little River Wetlands Project

E – Heartland Restoration Services

E – Historical Tour of Fort Wayne (handicap accessible)

6:00pm – Awards banquet and Auction

7:30pm – Scott Russell Sanders and Carrie Newcomer Concert

9:00pm – Campfire (hospitality lodge open)

Sunday, October 6

7:00am – Inspirational Hike

8:00am – Breakfast

8:45am – Announcements

9:00 – 10:15am – HOPE Sessions

H - Every Place Has a Story: Geology of the Cedar Creek Tunnel Valley

- *Dr. Larry Yoder, Assoc. Professor Emeritus, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College*

O - Back From the Brink: Wildlife Success Stories

- *Warren Gartner, IN Division of Fish & Wildlife*

P – The Benefit of Outdoor Classrooms for Children with Challenging Behaviors

- *Colleen Spano, Indiana Autism Society*

E – Soils in the Classroom

- *Scot Haley, Natural Resources Conservation Services*

10:30 – 11:45am – HOPE Sessions

H - Every Place Has a Story: Geology of the Cedar Creek Tunnel Valley, Cont.

- *Dr. Larry Yoder, Assoc. Professor Emeritus, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College*

O - Turning a Negative into a Positive

- *Panel of Veteran Educators*

P - Going Bats: An “Edutainment” Program

- *Bob Walton, Going Bats*

E – Phragmites Weaving

- *Dani Tippmann, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma*

12:00pm – Lunch & Farewell

Prepare for This Year’s First Annual Regional Competition!

All Members – help your region win an extra \$100 in supplies for tabling events this coming year! Here’s how:

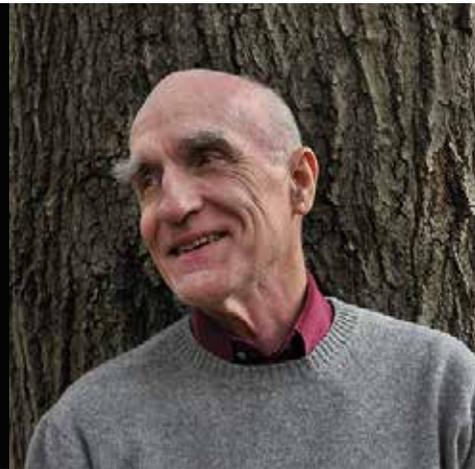
- 1) Attend the conference;
- 2) Bring items for the silent auction and for “Regional Baskets” that will be bid upon;
- 3) Get folks in your region to join EEAI and come to the conference;
- 4) Bring educational materials and photos to add to your region’s table display;
- 5) “Like” EEAI on Facebook and share that with your friends; and
- 6) Be ready to participate in some friendly competitions/events for your region at the conference.

NOTE: Point values will be adjusted for the population densities of each region so that you’re all on an even footing.

WILD HOPE

AN EVENING OF STORY AND SONG

WITH SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS AND CARRIE NEWCOMER



OCTOBER
5TH
7:30 PM

\$10 IF NOT
ATTENDING EEAI
CONFERENCE

MCMILLEN
GIRL SCOUT CAMP
17107 GRIFFIN RD.
HUNTERTOWN
INDIANA

CARRIE NEWCOMER IS A GRAMMY WINNING SONGWRITER, RECORDING ARTIST, PERFORMER AND EDUCATOR. IN RECENT YEARS SHE HAS BECOME A PROMINENT VOICE FOR PROGRESSIVE SPIRITUALITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE. HER ABILITY FOR SHARP OBSERVATION OF THE WORLD LEAD THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS TO RAVE, "SHE'S THE KIND OF ARTIST WHOSE MUSIC MAKES YOU STOP, THINK AND THEN SAY, 'THAT IS SO TRUE.'" CARRIE INTERNATIONALLY FACILITATES WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTS KEYNOTES ON THE TOPICS OF SONGWRITING, SPIRITUALITY & VOCATION.

SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS IS THE AUTHOR OF TWENTY BOOKS OF FICTION AND NONFICTION, INCLUDING, MOST RECENTLY, EARTH WORKS: COLLECTED ESSAYS, A PRIVATE HISTORY OF AWE AND A CONSERVATIONIST MANIFESTO. SCOTT'S POWERFULLY WRITTEN WORKS HAS INSPIRED ORION MAGAZINE TO STATE, "MORE THAN ANY OTHER WRITER OF HIS GENERATION, SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS HAS CONSISTENTLY, AND INSISTENTLY, ASKED HIS READERS TO CONSIDER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CITIZEN OF THE EARTH." HE IS CURRENTLY AT WORK ON A NOVEL, A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES, AND A BOOK ABOUT THE MEANING OF WEALTH.

Paul-itics with Paul Steury

Views expressed are those of the author and are not endorsed or reviewed by EEAI.

Hope and EEAI

The theme of this year's Environmental Education Association of Indiana's annual conference is weaving the webs of hope so I asked a bunch of my friends from diverse background, a variety of professions, from around the country and world what gives you hope for the future (from an environmental perspective)?

Here are some incredible answers!

Dinah Fuller, fifth grade teacher at Eastern Greene School District and EEAI member says "What gives me hope . . . children and their natural curiosity. I am so thankful to have a passion and an occupation that places me in a position to invite, enlighten, and model responsible behavior for young minds."

Jennifer Amstutz, EEAI Board Member and Kindergarten Teacher at Northern Wells Community Schools says "My hope for the future comes in the form of watching children, regardless of their age, taking the initiative to make things better for the world without being told to do so. Granted, they may have seen an adult do the same thing previously, but they have chosen to mimic them and understand at their level the importance of making a positive impact and being good stewards of what we have been given. I have only been with this new group of kiddos for nine days and without saying anything outright myself, they have picked up in the things they can do to help our earth. I had a boy comment that there were paper towels all over the floor....he was going to pick them up. Another child whispered to their classmate that their hands were probably clean and they had used enough water. They want to explore and learn about the natural things around them.

I could keep going on, but you get the point. Hope: I see it in the eyes of our future generations."

Mike Caywood, principal at Holland Elementary School in Fort Wayne and Merry Lea board member says "This doesn't exactly fit into the environmental category, but I would have to say that today's youth and young adults actually give me hope. All we ever hear about are those who create trouble. I see many who are highly interested in learning as much as possible so that they can give back. I

know of kids who volunteer their time to good causes. I am confident that there are high school and college students who will step up to the plate to solve the problems that we have created in the economy, with social issues, and even environmental issues."

Rick Kool, Associate Professor at Royal Roads University, School of Environment and Sustainability and the founder of their Master of Arts in Environmental Education and Communication says "I imagine that for most of human existence, our lives were a combination of high levels of certainty, with generations living into the future as their ancestors lived before them, and at times high levels of uncertainty, when biological or cultural disruptions altered, for a time, the relative stasis that was the norm for most of human existence on the planet. Humans have always had to face uncertainty, and have tended (I think) to approach uncertain futures with a sense that at some point, certainty will return and in truth, certainty usually did return (this is a punctuated equilibrium concept I guess, as promoted by Stephen Jay Gould).

So I know that as we are facing an uncertain future, and the scientific data is not encouraging in that regard, we are living within the bounds of what our species has had to deal with for tens of thousands of years.

So what gives me hope? I look to two spiritual teachers... JRR Tolkien wrote in Lord of the Rings about a highly uncertain time and about the responsibility that a hobbit had in that time of uncertainty. At one point, Frodo says "I wish the ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened." And then his teacher, Gandalf, responds "So do all who live to see such times, but that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." I have to believe that with the time that is given us, we will do what needs to be done.

And then Rabbi Tarfon, who taught, in the Talmud (Pirkei Avot), "It is not your responsibility to finish the work [of perfecting the world], but you are not free to desist from it either" (2:16). Both of these teachers are not talking about hope, but of responsibility regardless of one's hopefulness. It's not hope that we necessarily need, it is deeds... and from those, we are not free to desist."

Cliff Knapp, professor emeritus from Northern Illinois University who wrote an amazing amount of books revolving around environmental ethics and the classrooms says “What gives me hope is that as a teacher I believe in the power of learning and the ability of people to change their ways once they realize the damage certain activities do to the earth. I trust that they will do the right thing and take the high moral road to environmental health.”

Tom Marcinkowski, Florida Institute of Technology Associate Professor Department of Education and Interdisciplinary Studies who is researching environmental literacy for the North American Association of Environmental Education says “Given the number, interactive nature and complexity, geographic scale, and persistence (in time) of the environmental conditions and problems we face ... and by “we” I mean humans in all nations and on all continents ... the only way that “things will change” is if we human work together on three fronts: environmental protection (in the broadest sense, continuing to protect what we do have); environmental remediation (in the broadest sense, fixing these problems to the extent possible); and changing the manner in which we humans interact with the environment individually and collectively (in the broadest sense, shifting toward sustainable patterns in all areas of our lives).

If you accept this premise ... then the rest follows.

A number of different communities must assume leadership to advance that vision and those three “goals.” One of those is the EE community. Others include federal agencies involved in environmental protection and resource management, the scientific and research communities, the green/sustainable business community, and a wide range of others. We in EE have important roles to play (e.g., leadership on educational matters; cooperative on a wide range of other matters). Given the conditions and problems facing humanity ... it is imperative that those in the EE community come together to plan and work together ... as well as celebrate victories along these paths ... and nurture one another, because none of us can do this along ... or at least do it alone in a sustainable manner for very long. Annual conferences at the state, national, and international levels are one way in which we can come together to reaffirm this vision and these goals, the importance of our individual and collective recognition of the ongoing roles and contributions of EE as a field ... and of our individual and collec-

tive contributions to the field and to each other.”

Joe Heimlich, Ohio State University Environment and Natural Resources Associate Professor who researches the philosophy of environmental education says “What gives me hope is watching the unfolding of understanding—blending the affect and the cognitive and being fully in the present moment being connected to the physical space. Whether it’s a child, or a group of kids, or a young couple on a date, or a senior on a walk, that thrill of seeing the animal that is the human awakened from its ‘holding state’ in the techno-post-industrial separated from the world condition. When I see that in a classroom or on a zoo path, or in a nature center or the middle of a mall, I believe that we as a species will go on. If enough souls are awakened.

Krista Bailey, Assistant Director of the Indiana University at South Bend Center for Sustainability simply and beautifully stated “Seeds sprouting - Children learning and growing - The sun rising - New ideas and insights into anything - New friends - Renewed friendships – Spring.”

Tom Bensman, education director from Earth Charter Indiana, gave me three reasons:

1) Nature is wise and resilient (perhaps there is an element of redundancy there). As mucked up as things are, nothing is beyond remediation and restoration. Forgiveness is a powerful force in our times (as always), and as we forgive ourselves and each other and create a new way of relationship together---a new way of being on this Earth---the Earth will forgive also. Beauty (truth) reigns in the end.

2) The younger generation---those who have already begun to lead (generally, those in their mid-20s to mid-30s) and those in the process of finishing their “formal” education (generally, those in their mid-teens to mid-20s)---seem to be amazingly aware of our environmental/societal situation, and they are showing that they are ready, willing, and able to lead us down a more sustainable path. These young leaders and soon-to-be leaders are amazing!

3) The energy of our times is incredible. This statement applies equally to the fossil fuel energy that we continue to misuse---the renewable energy sources that we are learning to work with---the human energy alive at this time (ideas, convictions, efforts)---AND the universal energies that sustain us.

In fact, these three things give me more than hope for the future. They help me KNOW that a Beautiful Day is dawning---the Beloved Community is rising.

James English, a friend who moved to Nashville Tennessee to become the Academic Director for the Institute for Sustainable Practice and Associate Professor of Sustainability at Lipscomb University “From an academic point of view, there are a lot of new programs developing. Many Universities are understanding the importance of Sustainability/Env.Ed/Env.Sci program and developing academic programs, requiring majors in many fields (sometimes Gen Ed programs or QEP’s) to have a course or more in environmental issues. Though it’s kind of a chicken/egg thing, job advertisements that used to say: “Degree in Biology, Ecology, Chemistry... required” more often than not now say “Degree in Biology, Ecology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Sustainability, Natural Resources, etc. ... required.” So, I am heartened by the maturation and acceptance of these relatively new, applied, integrated fields.

Kathryn Aschliman, professor emeritus at Goshen College and preschool teacher says “I am hopeful when I think of the involvement of younger folks--not just us old long-range-view folks. But the young adults (like you) whose vocations are connected with living sustainably with their health and that of the universe in mind. And even more encouraging is the involvement of children--school gardens, community gardens in urban areas where children are included. They must be rescued from the grips of the digitalized age and restored to health and wholeness in the natural world using digitalization as a tool--not an all-consuming addiction.

Luke Gascho, executive director at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College says “My hope -- I am encouraged by the growing momentum of by people of all ages who are taking actions (large and small) that are making a difference. I’m also hopeful because of my grandchildren!”

Amy Fisher, my son Skye’s kindergarten teacher says “When my child doesn’t want to come in from playing outside, that gives me hope. When my child asks me to take a walk with him - that gives me hope!

Goshen College’s President Jim Brenneman from says “Beyond my theological commitments that argue that the good creator who gave us this universe unbidden by us, loves it even more than we do and will not let the world die without marshaling all of us to fight for its very survival -- is the very fact that, in spite of set backs and the vast complex nature of trying to save this home planet,

environmental education is moving more and more away from apocalyptic rhetoric that mostly immobilizes people out of fear and, instead, is showing the world how we can green the planet again by offering practical solutions in business, our homes, agriculture, the Industrial arts, in law and policy, and so many other ways. The mission of educators is to take what is known (our environmental reality) and help with creative alternative solutions to very complex problems that have to take into account the many strands and strata of life as we experience it. Environmental Education must be both visionary and incremental. Great Environmental Education will always give hope, drive hope forward, help us see the light at the end of very long tunnels and instill in us the light of hope so that hope in us will always die last.”

My Australian Environmental Education Professor friend Peta White says “I have to live and embody hope. I proactively live sustainably so that I can embody “doing what I can.” By practicing what I preach I help generate the discourses of possibility. I help create and reify the space that allows a different way of seeing/being in the world. I try to live with enough.... not the as much as I can get.. but enough. I work on compassion and sharing. I try to take my place within the ecosystem - not to dominate or take from it!

I love working with my colleagues and having those meaningful conversations with others.... that is why I step out to a conference! I get filled up by this good will, energy, and ideas... and then I come home to implement, follow-up, and to do what I can.... knowing that I helped make it so for others as well.

I find hope at the EEAI conference – and “having those meaningful conversations with others.” Gathering together with others that are doing good things for the state of



Indiana in schools, for the government, at nature centers – that’s what gives me hope! Hope to see you there on October 4!

EEAI Awards Nominations

Recognize Someone for Good Work in the Field of Environmental Education

Do you know an environmental educator who works hard, is innovative, and deserves to be recognized? Then nominate him/her for one of EEAI's awards to be presented at this year's annual meeting. Nominees do not have to be EEAI members. A list of past award winners is available on EEAI's website.

To nominate someone, just complete the most appropriate award nomination form (below and at right). Then send the nomination to Warren Gartner, Conservation Education Supervisor, Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife, 402 W. Washington, Rm. W 273, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or in an e-mail to wgartner@dnr.in.gov.

Environmental Education Association of Indiana Awards
Nomination Form
Howard Michaud Award

This Award is given to an individual in recognition of his or her long-term devotion, dedication, and contributions to environmental education in the state of Indiana.

Howard Michaud began his career as a biology teacher in northeast Indiana, working summers as the first chief naturalist for the Indiana Division of State Parks. He then became a professor of conservation at Purdue University, where he stayed from 1946 to 1971. He was a founding father and officer of many conservation education organizations, including EEAI, and has been recognized in "Leaders of American Conservation" and "Who's Who In America." Howard Michaud was also named the first recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt award for an outstanding career in education in 1993. Howard's contributions to conservation and environmental education have been an inspiration and model for all of those who follow.

Anyone who has made a long-time commitment in the field of environmental education can be nominated for this award. An individual does not need to be a member of EEAI to be nominated. Only one award is given each year.

Person making the nomination:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email _____

Person being nominated:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip. _____

Phone Number: _____ Email _____

Reason for nomination (use another page if necessary) :

Environmental Education Association of Indiana Awards
Nomination Form
Joe Wright Recognition of Excellence Award

Over the years, EEAI has given the Recognition of Excellence Awards to recognize specific achievements in the field of environmental education. Recipients of this award have been teachers, naturalists, education project coordinators, and natural resource agency personnel. In 1995 the name of this award was changed to the Joe Wright Recognition of Excellence Award, in honor of the retirement of Joe Wright, Conservation Education Consultant for the Indiana Department of Education (IDE). Joe Wright was the first recipient of this award.

Joe began his duties with IDE in 1968, and from that time on began stimulating interest and enthusiasm in teachers for conservation education. He was quick to offer encouragement and provide educational resources and expertise whenever asked. Joe's dedication to the environment is still strong, developing and delivering environmental programs as Grey Eagle.

Recipients of this award are recognized for current achievements in environmental education. They do not need to be a member of EEAI. At times more than one of these awards is given in a year.

Person making the nomination:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email _____

Person being nominated:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip. _____

Phone Number: _____ Email _____

Reason for nomination (use another page if necessary) :

GET INVOLVED IN EEAI!

Want to be active in raising the profile of Environmental Education in Indiana? Join a committee!!!!

New EEAI Committee Structure

Note: We will change the organizations bylaws this winter to reflect these changes, but are adopting this new structure now to better serve the organization. Further changes may occur as organizational planning continues.

Communication: website, listserv, CREED, publicity, marketing and history

Chair: Ann Niednagel (secretary@eeai.org)

Activities: programs and activities outside of the EEAI annual conference

Chair: Bernadette de Leon (bernie.deleon@gmail.com)

Conference: planning and administration of annual conference

Chairs 2013: Krista Daniels (krista@elkhartcountyparks.org) and

Tom Enright (parks@middleburyin.com)

Chair 2014: Paul McAfee (treasurer@eeai.org)

Membership: management of membership

Chair: Jabin Burnworth (jabinburnworth@gmail.com)

Finance: funding, annual budget, audits

Chair: Jan Sneddon (pastpresident@eeai.org)

Nominations/awards: manages nomination of board members and award recipients

Chair: Paul McAfee (pmcafee@toast.net)

Key Member: Warren Gartner (WGartner@dnr.in.gov)

Another way to be involved — attend quarterly Board meetings to participate in discussions governing EEAI.

Contact any of our board members (see page three) for more information.

Map of Regions



Regional Chairs

To improve networking and communications within our organization, EEAI members are organized into regions with each region having a Chair. If you have any questions, suggestions, events to report, lesson plans to share, or anything else you feel would be beneficial for other members to know, please pass it along to your Regional Chair. Here's who to contact and how to contact them:

Region 1: Niki Schmutte, Region1@eeai.org

Region 2: Brad Rody, Region2@eeai.org

Region 3: Paul Steury, Region3@eeai.org

Region 4: Sam Carman, Region4@eeai.org

Region 5: Warren Gartner, Region5@eeai.org

Region 6: Carissa Lovett, Region6@eeai.org

Region 7: Donna Stanley, Region7@eeai.org

Region 8: Ann Niednagel, Region8@eeai.org

Out of State: Bernadette de Leon, vicepresident@eeai.org

Active communications within regions can greatly increase the benefits you receive from being an EEAI member. PLEASE take advantage of it!