

CREED

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McCormick's Creek State Park
photo courtesy UltraDroid

President's Message from Kara Salazar

Greetings EEAI!

The 45th annual EEAI conference is almost here! Please join us as we convene at beautiful McCormick's Creek State Park September 26th through the 28th. The conference committee has developed an outstanding weekend program filled with inspirational keynotes, engaging sessions, and unique field trips designed to ignite discussion and spark personal reflection on the land ethic philosophy. The full agenda can be found on the 2014 conference website and in the CREED feature story. Also don't forget to read your homework assignment Aldo Leopold's essay "Thinking Like a Mountain" in *A Sand County Almanac* and to bring your talent to participate in the Paul Steury annual song contest.

There will be a transition in board positions upon the conclusion of the 2014 conference. We have two positions open for election, Secretary (current Ann Niednagel) and Director-at-Large (current Sheryl McGlory). I will move into the Past-President position for one year while Jabin Burnworth becomes the new EEAI President for the next two years. Sheryl McGlory will not run for re-election and Jan Sneddon is cycling off of the board after 10 years of service. There will be a two-hour board meeting on Sunday September 28 directly following the conference. All EEAI members are welcome to attend. The board meeting location information will be announced during the conference.

As I hope you have noticed, the new website format and features are live. We will continue to make upgrades to the site and will also integrate additional communication features including membership notifications and renewals and an e-newsletter format. We also continue to make progress on the draft three-year strategic action plan that will guide our collective efforts, benchmark our progress, and celebrate our successes. The draft plan will be sent out to membership this winter for feedback.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, EEAI has formed a new working group to support the development of university student chapters. Pur-

due's Student Chapter for Environmental Education (SCEE) is now an official university club and has helped to form foundational guidelines and procedures. Members of SCEE will attend the annual conference and will present a poster outlining their 2014-2015 activities. Dr. Rod Williams and I will convene an informal Q&A session at the annual conference during the Saturday lunch and invite those who are interested in learning more about forming student chapters to attend. Information and guidelines for forming university student chapters will be available on the EEAI website directly after the fall conference. Please contact me for more information or to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as EEAI President over these past two years! I have greatly enjoyed the experience and look forward to working with Jabin and the 2014-2015 board on new opportunities in this next year!

All the best!

Kara

Upcoming Meetings

2014-2015 meetings will be set during the September 28 meeting. The board typically meets six times per year, rotating between two-hour teleconference meetings and in person strategic planning meetings. All EEAI members are welcome to attend board meetings. Please contact Jabin to add specific agenda items to the board meetings or to propose new EEAI projects or ideas.

2015 Conference Preview

Great Lakes Literacy is the theme for the 2015 EEAI annual conference, which will be held September 25-27 at the Dunes Learning Center in Chesterton and various Northwest Indiana locations! This exciting conference will highlight programs and practices to engage youth and adults in science, arts, and literacy programs related to water resources, water quality, and environmental stewardship. Please save the date and check <http://eeai.org/> for updates!

Upcoming Board Elections

Past President: At our next annual meeting/conference, Jan Sneddon will cycle off the board; she has served for 10 years. Kara Salazar takes that position, as Jabin takes over the President's role.

The two available positions are secretary and director at large. A call for nominations went out via a Google form from EEAI's site, and voting will start August 25th and close September 24th

Secretary: Ann Niednagel has been nominated to continue to serve as secretary.

Director-at-Large: Natalie Haley has been nominated for the open director-at-large position.



photo at McCormick's Creek State Park
courtesy Bernadette deLeon

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No New Tires, Just New Treads *One Man's Perspective by Sam Carman*

On a warm June day in 1978, I was introduced to John Datena, Indiana's State Forester at the time. As I stood in his office as a candidate for the Division of Forestry's Youth Conservation Corps State Coordinator position, I knew that there was only one thing standing between me and the job. I had already gone through extensive interviews and was highly recommended for the position. But without Mr. Datena's approval, I'd be headed home to polish up my resume and fill out more applications.

John was silver-haired and distinguished, small in stature but with piercing eyes that could easily intimidate. Dressed sharply in a conservative gray suit, he was known for his traditional values and a demanding work ethic. I had three years of teaching experience with junior high school students and a master's degree in natural resources, so I felt confident; but this was a new ball game. As I stood before my final hurdle to becoming a DNR employee, the stomach butterflies were fluttering about in full force.

The interview began as one might expect, with small talk about family, interests, background, etc., then moved into the more meaty questions regarding personal philosophy about natural resource management. I don't remember much about the rest of the interview, but clearly remember the last question I was asked:

"If we were to hire you for this position, do you see yourself staying with us at least 3 years?"

"If I like it here," I replied, "I plan to make it my career."

Well, I guess I liked it pretty well. The past 35+ years with the Indiana Division of Forestry have afforded me opportunities I would have never experienced otherwise. It has taken me to many other states where I've learned how natural resources are managed under different conditions.

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

I've been in gold and silver mines in Montana, encountered alligators in Florida (and a scorpion in the shower!), spent time in the home of international black bear expert Lynn Rogers in Minnesota, worked with elders of the Quileute Indian Reservation in Washington, and had countless other adventures. I've traveled to places within Indiana that are awe-inspiring and largely unnoticed by the general population, and worked with some of the most fascinating, hard-working and dedicated people I've ever known. And the members of EEAI are certainly at the top of that list!

As of March 1st of this year, I left my career with DNR behind — I decided to retread. Most people use the word "retire", but I really don't need new tires; I'm just taking on some new tread. Unless circumstances change drastically, I don't see an easy chair in my future any time soon. I am a race relations/diversity facilitator as well as the chair of our county's Alliance for Diversity, so will be spending more time in that field as well as some other volunteer initiatives. I hope to spend more time with my music and woodworking (although that hasn't happened yet), and of course, with my two grandsons.

With regard to environmental education, I plan to continue writing this column for CREED and engaging with EEAI, particularly through my involvement with the Indiana Children & Nature Network. I was at Conner Prairie on Arbor Day and served as a judge for the state Envirothon finals in April, and there are several other things that are already on the calendar including EEAI's annual conference. (If it's not already on your calendar, what are you waiting for?) As those of us in environmental education know, it isn't a job but rather a passion and way of life. Whether you are on your first set of tires or "retreading" like me, what better way to see the world than outdoors!

ICAN Introductory Meeting *by Sarah Kempfer*

The Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN) introductory meeting held Tuesday March 11th was well attended with 60 attendees. The Nature Conservancy graciously donated their board room for us to host the event.

The meeting started with an introduction of ICAN and a presentation of the general importance of children having time outdoors. Our panelists, retired Indianapolis Police Department Sgt. James Todd, Family Counselor/teacher Lucy Appel, Pediatrician Dr. Craig Moorman and IMPD Officer William Payne each spoke about their experience of the need for children to be outside.



Panelists (from left) James Todd, Lucy Appel, Craig Moorman, and William Payne



Discussion time

The meeting adjourned after a lively discussion about changing the cultural trend of children being inside too much.

Many connections were made and new ideas presented to peruse. The DNR will have a YouTube video of the event on www.youtube.com/user/idnr/videos.

For more information on ICAN and how you can get involved visit our website at <http://www.IndianaChildrenAndNature.org>.



Indiana's Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has developed a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. Help your children experience the following activities. Check them off and have fun!

We believe that all Indiana children are entitled to experience these activities in the outdoors, regardless of ability:

1. Explore and play outdoors in a safe place.
2. Follow a trail and discover native plants, wildlife and history.
3. Experience traditional outdoor activities like fishing or hunting.
4. Discover and celebrate Indiana's past.
5. Camp out under the stars.
6. Climb a tree.
7. Visit a farm.
8. Plant a seed or a tree and watch it grow.
9. Splash and play in STREAMS, lakes and ponds.
10. Enjoy the outdoors using all the senses.
11. Ask questions, find answers and share nature with a friend

from ICAN website

Save the Date!

45th Annual EEAI Conference at McCormick's Creek State Park September 26-28, 2014



The theme this year is "Land Ethic." We felt that the time is right to have a discussion of the reason for Environmental Education. We will still learn a lot about techniques, resources, and status of EE, but we will also study some of Aldo Leopold's philosophy of a land ethic while learning what a land ethic is and developing our own land ethic.

Believe it or not, we all have a land ethic of some sort. For some, the important parts are the soils, plants and animals. For others, it's how much food can be grown on it. For others, it's how much monetary value it has. We'll be spending some time understanding our own land ethic and, perhaps most importantly, learning about others' land ethics too.



Keynote Speakers



Jerome Ringo
Former Chair, National Wildlife Federation



Buddy Huffaker
Executive Director, Aldo Leopold Foundation

45th Annual EEAI Conference Schedule

Friday

9:00-12:00 Leopold pre-conference workshop
1:00 Welcome
1:30 Leopold movie, A Green Fire
2:30 GENERAL SESSION: Land Ethic Panel discussion
3:30 Second session: 4 concurrent options
4:30 Free time to enjoy the park
6:00 Dinner (in restaurant)
7:00 First keynote - Jerome Ringo
8:30 Song contest and social time at CCC building

Saturday

7:30 Breakfast (in restaurant)
9:00 Second keynote - Buddy Huffaker
10:30 Third session: 4 concurrent options
11:30 Lunch (in restaurant)
1:00 Field trips
5:00 Optional: Replay Leopold movie
6:00 Awards dinner in Oak Room
7:30 Evening activities in CCC building

Sunday

7:30 Breakfast (in restaurant)
8:30 Fourth session: 4 concurrent options
9:30 General session in Oak Room
11:00 Time for checkout
11:30 Lunch & farewell (in Oak Room)

Member Jim Poyser has written an insightful story about our keynote speakers and our conference for the Indianapolis based free independent weekly news magazine - NUVO. You can check it out at <http://www.nuvo.net/indianapolis/race-poverty-and-climate-change/Content?oid=2893702#.U-TZSdrD-M->

Envirothon 2014

by Paul McAfee

The date was April 30, 2014. A hundred high school students from around the state, the best and the brightest, descended upon Purdue University Beck Agricultural Center on a bright, crisp day to find out who had the finest team of environmentalists in the state.

EEAI has partnered with the Indiana Envirothon to help the students get the best experience they can from this statewide contest. The Indiana Envirothon is part of an international contest for high school students. Each state gets to select a team of five students to go on to represent the state at an international contest.

Schools or youth organizations can pull together a team of five students to compete at one of six (seven this year) regional contests around the state. The top teams from each regional contest are then invited to compete at the state contest.

EEAI helps with the state contest by providing judges and t-shirts. We feel that it fits our mission very well and want to help promote it.

This past year's contest presented a very impressive bunch of teams from around the state. Each team had to do an outdoor activity, take a written test, and present a solution to an environmental problem that is defined by the national Envirothon. This past year's problem was Sustainable Agriculture. The students had to come up with a plan on how to create a sustainable farm.

There were some very interesting plans put together on sustainable farming! When all was said and done, the homeschool team from Gibson County won and represented Indiana at the 2014 Regional Stewardship Challenge at Loyola University in Woodstock, Illinois.

It was a great learning experience for all of the students across the state, probably summed up best by senior Tyler Pressley, who stated for the record:

"The Envirothon program has taught me more about environmental sciences than I had expected to learn. The knowledge I gained has made a positive impact on the way I think about conservation of natural resource and the environment. I focused my study on aquatics, and from this I have gained a deeper appreciation for the true value of clean, healthy, water. Through the Envirothon program I have had opportunities to learn more about the world we live in, and how the natural processes that keep us alive work. It has been a truly eye opening experience. I have had a fun time participating in Envirothon, and know all the things I have learned will be useful in the continual conservation of our natural resources"



EEAI provides t-shirts for participants in Envirothon. We plan to provide them again for the next four years.



photo of Envirothon 2014
courtesy Paul McAfee



Envirothon 2015 Preview

There will be a seventh regional contest in 2015.

Preliminary dates selected thus far:

NW: Mar 18, Red Mill Park, LaPorte

NC: Mar 11, Camp Buffalo, Monticello

NE: Mar 19, Peabody Library, Columbia City

EC: TBA, Terre Haute area

WC: Mar 18, Wabash Valley fairgrounds

SW: Mar 10, Camp Illiana, Washington

SC: TBA

STATE: April 29, Camp Illiana, Washington

Why Do People Act or Not Act?

Paul-itics with Paul Steury

Every year we jump on the Amtrak in Elkhart and take our Merry Lea environmental education graduate students on a “field trip” to our Nation’s Capitol. This past week we visited with Congressman Stutzman, Congresswoman Walorski, Senator Donnelly, Senator Stabenow from Michigan, Senator Whitehouse from Rhode Island and Congressman Sarbanes from Maryland) to ask them about what they think of environmental education, their opinions of climate change action plans, what they feel are the benefits of wind and solar versus coal and oil, and if they can help support small family farms grow our food.

We also met a variety of environmental organizations like the Natural Resource Defense Council to find out what they defend, the National Family Farm Coalition and their successes of helping family farms, WE ACT that works on environmental justice in the DC area, the Climate Reality Project that is working on educating the public about the strongly debated yet confirmed reality of climate change, and the North American Association of Environmental Education that is working on networking and unifying the environmental educators around the world. We also met with the Environmental Education office of the Environmental Protection Agency to hear their frustration of the lack of systemic change of the pressing issues, the Secretary of the Interior to find out how they lead 70,000 employees, the Council on Environmental Quality to discuss what the CEQ does as well as the First Lady’s office to hear about the success of the First Lady’s Let’s Move campaign and how they get kids outdoors!

The goal of the field trip is to integrate the classes the grad students take and their knowledge they’ve acquired while at Merry Lea to discover why environmental education is so political.

During the trip I was constantly contemplating the lack of concern for our planet.

Pondering the ecological footprint of that powerful city is frightening. The World Wildlife Fund says “The simplest way to define ecological footprint would be to call it the impact of human activities measured in terms of the area of biologically productive land and water required to

produce the goods consumed and to assimilate the wastes generated. More simply, it is the amount of the environment necessary to produce the goods and services necessary to support a particular lifestyle.” DC’s impact is enormous daily!

Senator Donnelly flies home every weekend to back home in Indiana. I know he’s thinking about the importance of family and his constituents but that alone uses an enormous amount of fuel, and according to Blueskymodel.org “a plane produces about 244 pounds of carbon dioxide each mile it flies. An average plane carries 218 passengers, so that’s about 1 pound of carbon dioxide per passenger per mile in the air.” From South Bend to Washington DC Dulles International Airport is around 600 miles, which then equals 1200 pounds of CO2 each weekend for Senator Donnelly’s home visit.

We were told by Chitra Kumar, Environment Protection Specialist from the CEQ (who is from Granger Indiana!) that the word “environment” is only used in two federal offices – the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council of Environmental Quality – and personally it feels like a dirty word at times - which is so ironic since the environment keeps us alive.

I cannot eat, drink or breathe money.

Why do we as citizens allow this insensitivity?

In a paper entitled “Mind the Gap” where they ponder the gap between attitude and behavior a researcher named Blake identifies three barriers to action: individuality, responsibility, and practicality.

Individual barriers are barriers lying within the person, having to do with attitude and temperament. He claims that these barriers are especially influential in people that do not have a strong environmental concern. Environmental concern is therefore outweighed by other conflicting attitudes. However, in our experience, even a strong environmental concern can be overcome by stronger desires and needs. For example, our need to fly from the US to visit our families in Europe each year overrides our feelings of responsibility about keeping our air travel to a minimum to minimize global warming. (The Donnelly factor)

Secondly people who don’t act pro-environmentally feel that they cannot influence the situation or should not have to take the responsibility for it. Blake points out that in the particular community he is describing, a lack of trust in the institution often stops people from acting pro-environmentally—since they are suspicious of local and national government, they are less willing to follow the prescribed actions.

The third barrier, practicality, Blake defines as the social and institutional constraints that prevent people from acting pro-environmentally regardless of their attitudes or intentions. Lack of time, lack of money, lack of information, lack of support from organizations a person is part of, and prioritization of the long list of things that muddy our day to day life.

This whole precious thing called life is complicated, tangled and “political” - which has many definitions. First gist people think of is governmental responsibility such as congress people, mayors, city council members but to me it also means accountability versus lack of accountability, knowledge and wisdom versus ignorance and stupidity, and action versus inaction.

Thinking and being “political” is imperative.

Most importantly to me - being “political” means talking over supper about what’s happening in this magnificent world of ours, globally or locally, and strategizing how you are going to an integral part of our web. Even if it is just letting Senator Donnelly that he only needs to come home every other weekend OR working with the Department of Education to make environmental education more of a priority or just talking with fellow EEAI-ers about legislative acts that might affect your profession and your Indiana!

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

Teacher Talk with John Brady

How can we, as educators, harness the excitement and willingness of kids to get outside? One of the easiest ways is to simply take them outside during classroom time.

On the first nice day of spring, I try to take my class outdoors, just for a breath of fresh air while teaching any content (math, English, science, art, social studies). I find taking students out into the sun, where they can feel the breeze and hear the birds, is a wonderful way to provide a sense of place and create a memorable learning experience. Sometimes my colleagues joke about my class as the one that is always outside or they consider it a less rigorous class. They are right, we are always outside, but learning outside has many benefits!

There are many experts and studies promoting getting kids outdoors. In an era of accountability and high stakes testing, having research supporting the best practice of taking students outdoors to learn is helpful when a principal or parent asks “Why are you taking the students outside?”

Here is a link to an article on “10 Reasons to Take Your Students Outside” by Tamra Willis found on the Children and Nature Network web page that includes links to research supporting the reasons: <http://childrenandnature.ning.com/group/natural-teachers/forum/topics/10-reasons-to-take-your-students-outside/>.

If you are a classroom educator and have cool lesson ideas or anecdotes to share, please submit them to eeai@eeai.org.



photo courtesy ICAN website

GET INVOLVED IN EEAI!

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

Communication: website, CREED

Chair: Ann Niednagel (secretary@eeai.org)

Key Members: Jabin Burnworth and David Garner (website); Bernadette de Leon and Sue Speichert (CREED)

Activities: programs and activities outside of the EEAI annual conference

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

Key Members: Regional chairs

Conference: planning and administration of annual conference

Chair 2014: Paul McAfee

Membership: management of membership

Chair: Jabin Burnworth (jabinburnworth@gmail.com)

Key Member: Krista Daniels

Finance: funding, annual budget

Chair: Jan Sneddon (pastpresident@eeai.org)

Key Member: Paul McAfee

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

Chair: Paul McAfee (pmcafee@toast.net)

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

Historian

Chair: Sam Carman (scarman@dnr.IN.gov)

Join Us!

EEAI 2014 Conference McCormick's Creek State Park Spencer, Indiana September 26-28, 2014

At the planning meeting for the 2014 EEAI annual conference, it was decided that there would not be a regional display competition at this year's conference. However, we are requesting that each region's members set up their display in a given area. Please bring pictures and materials that demonstrate the successes as well as challenges of environmental education in your region.

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: Open, 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!