



CREED

Curriculum Resources for
Environmental Education Development

Spring 2017

CREED features:



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- 2017 Conference
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A Letter from Ann

What have you done outside lately? Maple syrup making, hikes in the woods, shoveling snow? I try to get my daily outdoor time walking my dog Teddy.

When not walking I have been busy going to meetings and sharing information. EEAI is very active and if you are looking for something to do let me know. I accept all offers of help. What is EEAI doing? you ask. I'm here to share.

- 1) A group of interested people from across the state have been gathering quarterly as the Environmental Literacy Plan working group. Between the meetings we are writing and sharing information. There is a pending request to meet with Dr. McCormick of the Department of Education. We want to collect as many letters of support for this effort. Can you send us a letter of support?
- 2) December left two vacancies on the board so the board asked active members Alison Zajdel and Sarah Wolf to join the board. You can read more about each of them on the website under board members. And special thanks to Sarah for putting this newsletter together. Please welcome both Alison and Sarah! If you are interested in a position on the board, we will be having elections in October. Look for an email soon calling for nominations.
- 3) The board has been working on establishing an executive director position. Paul McAfee has put together a wonderful logistics model and we have job descriptions and a budget outlined. Now the large step of funding has begun. We are looking for funding sources and partnerships. If you have any suggestions or would like to be part of this committee, please contact me. Calling all grant writers who have time to help!!
- 4) Have you registered your Nature Play Days or are you still in the planning mode? We will have a kick off in Indianapolis on the monument on Friday, June 9th at lunch time. You can plan publicity in your part of the state too! Check out www.IndianaChildrenandNature.org Nature Play Days for more information or contact me.
- 5) And it is time to register for the conference! It's going to be a beauty. This year the conference will be at Waycross Camp and Conference Center, a place near and dear to my heart. I am pictured here in 1973. I have grown a bit since then but the Waycross hospitality has grown too. Please read on to learn more about the conference. And invite your friends!

Well my daffodils bloomed and were not deterred by the snow that fell the day after they bloomed. Spring will arrive ready or not.

Enjoy,

Ann Niednagel

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Have something that you would like to be included in The CREED?

The CREED is published seasonally. Submissions to CREED will be accepted at the discretion of the CREED board. Submission deadlines are the first Wednesday of March, June, September, and December. Email your articles to the EEAI secretary Sarah Wolf at swolf@hcparks.net and include "CREED submission" in the subject line.



EEAI Conference 2017 - Seeing the Forest and the Trees

Waycross Conference Center, October 13-15, 2017

To register for the conference, go to <http://www.eeai.org/2017-Register>

Spring has barely sprung, and we are asking you to think about fall! However, the simple act of blocking off October 13-15th on your calendar might lead to one of the most refreshing fall breaks you have ever had. Plan to join us at Waycross Conference Center and Camp in the beautiful woods of Brown County to learn and play with other environmental educators.

The theme of *Seeing the Forest and the Trees* allows for a program with three very broad branches: fundamentals, technology, and diversity. The fundamentals sessions will help attendees become familiar with the basic principles of EE, teaching methods, natural history, and the history of EE. The technology sessions will help attendees integrate modern technology with teaching methods about the environment. If you are using technology (such as phone apps, tablets, websites, GPS, databases, bat detectors, water monitoring tools, etc.) in innovative ways, share what is working to connect people with their environment. Finally, the diversity sessions will focus on inclusivity for people of all backgrounds, ages, and cultures in understanding and learning about the environment, as well as encouraging greater representation in the field of EE.

Rue Mapp, founder of Outdoor Afro (outdoorafro.org) will join us to discuss how we can increase diversity in our organization and the populations of Hoosiers we serve. As we plan with Rue, we are hoping that nearby Louisville and the Chicago/northwest Indiana Outdoor Afro groups will join us at least for her keynote address during lunch on Saturday. We welcome anyone's ideas on increasing diversity of those attending the conference and within the EEAI membership.

In addition to the call for working towards a more diverse organization, we are asking for at least one volunteer who will lead the Chautauqua, an educational/sharing event that Jim Poyser suggested and organized last year (see the article in this newsletter). Just like the original Chautauqua of the early 1900's, our 2016 event was so popular that we decided to hold the "Second Annual EEAI Chautauqua" at this year's conference. If you cannot organize the event, please consider having a table to share what your organization is doing in the realm of EE.

Seeing the Forest and the Trees is all about being able to see the detail and the big picture – if not

simultaneously, at least at different times or for different purposes. Whether you feel that you are a tiny acorn on the forest floor or a stand of sequoias, know that you fit into a diverse “whole” of EE in Indiana and beyond. Consider what you can bring to this conference and the organization that would strengthen the community and improve the educational ecosystem. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Conference Keynote Speaker: Rue Mapp

Rue Mapp is the Founder of [Outdoor Afro](#), a social community reconnecting African Americans with natural spaces through outdoor recreational activities. She oversees a carefully selected and trained national volunteer leadership team of 30 men and women who represent 16 cities around the US.



Through Outdoor Afro, her non-profit organization with offices in Oakland, CA, Rue, as CEO, shares opportunities to build a broader community and leadership in nature. Her important work has generated widespread national recognition and support.

Originally beginning in 2009 as a blog, Rue has since captured the attention and imagination of millions through a multi-media approach, grounded in personal connections and community organizing. From its grassroots beginning, now Outdoor Afro enjoys national sponsorship and is recognized by major organizations for the importance of diversity in the outdoors,

In 2010, Mapp was invited to the White House to participate in the America’s Great Outdoors Conference, and subsequently to take part in a think-tank to inform the launch of the First Lady’s “Let’s Move” initiative. She was appointed program officer for the Stewardship Council’s Foundation for Youth Investment to oversee its grant-making program from 2010-2012.

Since that time, Mapp’s work has been featured in publications including The Wall Street Journal, Backpacker Magazine, Ebony Magazine and Sunset Magazine and many others.

Rue’s ongoing work has been recognized with numerous Awards and Distinctions: The Root 100 as one of the most influential African Americans in the country, Outdoor Industry Inspiration Award, 2014 National Wildlife Federation Communication award (received alongside President Bill Clinton) and in May 2015, Family Circle Magazine selected Rue as one of America’s 20 Most Influential Moms.

Mapp remains in high demand to speak around the country and in Canada about her innovative approach that has successfully connected thousands, especially from the African American community, to nature and the benefits of spending more time outdoors.

She is proud to serve on the Board of Rails to Trails Conservancy and American Camp Association. Most recently, Rue was appointed to the California State Parks Commission by Governor Jerry Brown.

A graduate of UC Berkeley (with a Degree in Art History), Rue’s skills and background make her a unique voice via the programs she has instituted through OA and enlightened a diverse community to the wonders and benefits of the outdoors. Rue resides in Oakland CA, and is the proud mother of three active teenage children.

Chautauqua

By Jim Poyser

(Image below: Participants at the 2016 Conference Chautauqua come together under the “big tent” to share projects and ideas.)



The idea for EEAI's 2016 Conference Chautauqua came about due to a bad case of speaker fatigue. So many conferences, meetings, summits, feature a series of speakers, sharing their particular expertise and wisdom. Nothing wrong with that, except it can establish a speaker/audience dynamic that diminishes participation among conference-goers. The truth is, each and every participant has something to share to advance environmental education. So the Chautauqua was designed to give everyone who wanted it the opportunity to share their expertise with everyone else.

Here's how it worked: We sent out the call to all conference-goers. Everyone who said they wanted a table, got a table. In some cases, two different people/initiatives shared a table, if there was room.

Over the course of a couple hours, we had a tent-fest, where Chautauqua-goers were able to visit a number of — or ALL of — the tables. We had a structure to it, a set amount of time to commit to a particular table, instead of people wandering in and out, creating the opportunity for a short presentation and dynamic Q&A. At the end of that period, Chautauqua-goers would move on to another table, etc.

But there was plenty of loose, mingle-time for all tables to get attention.



[image above: Save the Bees, an Indianapolis-based project that seeks to make our state capital a bee-friendly city (<http://beepublic.com>), shared a table with Earth Charter Indiana (earthcharterindiana.org).]

March Madness is Over - Brackets Set for State Envirothon Competition!

By Darci Zolman

Eighty-five teams participated in seven Regional Envirothon Contests recently in March and brackets are set for the April State Envirothon Contest! Sixteen teams became eligible for this competition to be held on April 26 at Camp Illiana in Washington, IN.

While at the state contest, teams will be presenting their plans to address this year's Current Issue topic, which focuses on Agriculture Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship. Teams will also assess their knowledge on five written tests and one field test that cover Soils/Land Use, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife and Current Issue.

The winner of the state contest will represent Indiana at the North America NCF Contest at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, July 23-29.

To view Indiana Envirothon information, go to <http://wordpress.iaswcd.org/events-2/envirothon/> To learn more about the North America – NCF Envirothon, go to <https://www.envirothon.org/>

One Man's Perspective - In Their Own Words

By Sam Carman

Ephemeral.....what an interesting word! It is a word that intrigued me even before I knew what it meant. Much like its meaning, it trickles off the lips and is gone. It is a word that has a lyrical, mysterious sound, almost hinting of a magical quality. When applied to the natural environment, that may not be far from the truth.

We can thank the 16th century Greeks for the word, originating from *ephemeros* meaning lasting only a day. Today we tend to be a bit more expansive in its application, using it when referring to anything that is very temporary. While we in the EE realm usually use ephemeral when describing components of the natural environment, throughout history it has been used in many other ways. Eighteenth century author Denis Diderot used it to describe patriotism, saying, "Patriotism is an ephemeral motive that scarcely ever outlasts the particular threat to society that aroused it." (Diderot was clearly a man ahead of his time!) Theodore Dreiser described the circulation of magazines as being ephemeral; and the Los Angeles Times clearly hit the nail squarely on the head when describing social media postings as being ephemeral.

But let's get back to our use of the term when describing aspects of the natural environment. Most instances I've encountered of the term were in reference to either streams, insects or plants.

An ephemeral stream is typically defined as one that flows briefly immediately following local precipitation, and whose channel is always above the ground water reservoir. They might also be formed by snowmelt or a small spring-fed pond. They are usually part of the headwater system of rivers and make up the majority of the country's waters. They are rarely named or appear on maps, yet their health is critically important to the health of the entire river network and downstream communities. They recharge groundwater supplies, remove pollution, and provide fish and wildlife habitat. They transport sediment, water and nutrients, as well as providing connectivity within the watershed. The alluvial patterns that form as a result of ephemeral stream flow strongly influences the structure, productivity and distribution of biotic communities. Pretty powerful stuff for an event that might last less than a day!

The adult mayfly might be considered the Poster Child of ephemeral insects. Even the scientific name of its order (Ephemeroptera) speaks of its short-term existence. The mayfly typically hatches, matures, mates, and dies within the span of a few short hours.

Its life cycle begins with males forming a swarm above the water and females flying into the swarm to mate. The male grabs a passing female with its elongated front legs and the pair mate in flight. (OK, I said their life span is *short*—I didn't say it is dull.) The female then descends to the water's surface where she lays her eggs and floats exhaustedly until a fish comes along for an easy dinner. The male flies take leave on shore before quickly expiring. The eggs fall to the bottom of the water and will eventually hatch into nymphs which could end up foraging on the bottom for up to two years. But sooner or later, they will emerge as adult mayflies and the clock starts ticking.

Ephemeral plants generally spend most of their lives in a state of dormancy. When rain, light and temperature conditions are ideal, ephemerals burst into bloom and the plants flourish. Within a few weeks, they are gone; but in their short floral eruption they produce hundreds of seeds that will grow into the next generation—again, when conditions are just rights. To help insure successful seed production that is critical to the perpetuation of ephemeral species, most of them are able to self-pollinate, which allows them to succeed without pollinators. Ephemerals with which most of us are familiar are the spring wildflowers that we find in the forest.

Ephemeral....a lyrical, mystical word. And when applied to the natural environment, absolutely magical!



Sarah Kempfer - ICAN

The Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN) is moving forward with Nature Play Days again this year. From June 10 to the 18th, ICAN is encouraging organizations across the state to get kids outside. Register your Nature Play Day at the ICAN website. As leaders in environmental education, EEAI members can make a special effort to engage their local community and networks to encourage organizations to host a Nature Play Day. Connect with local churches, YMCAs, youth organizations and others to encourage them to get their kids outside! We would like to see NPDs in all our Indiana counties!

ICAN has also establish a pledge – **ICAN Play 30!** We want people to pledge to play outside for at least 30 minutes per day! Anyone can make the pledge... remember even those in environmental education need to get outside!! Make the pledge!!

ICAN has a new Facebook group entitled **ICAN Learn Outside**. This Facebook group is to be a support and network for Indiana educators who want to get children outdoors. It is a place to share ideas about outdoor activities for children of all ages and be a resource for teachers and informal educators. Get connected and share your favorite outdoor activities to build this community.

Thanks!

Sarah Kempfer, Coordinator

Indiana Children and Nature Network

Paul-itics: Reflections from a Seventh Grade Teacher By Paul Steury

As an environmentalist educator can I get a little love! Please!

Federally there's talk of eliminating the EPA.

Scott Pruitt is given the title of EPA director who has sued the EPA 13 times. ...

The Congress voted to allow dumping of mining waste in local waterways....

The Indiana senate voted to get rid of solar net metering within the state. And now the the House released it out of

committee...

The Dakota Access and the Keystone Pipelines have been given the green light instead of embracing solar and wind....

The President's desire to remove the Obama administration's "harmful and unnecessary" climate action and expanded water pollution rules....

And now the powers that be are going after the Endangered Species Act....

The Endangered Species Act provides for the conservation of species that are endangered (seriously at risk of extinction) or threatened (species that have the possibility of becoming endangered) throughout all or a significant portion of their range, and the conservation of the ecosystems on which they depend.

Opponents complain that the success rate of the Endangered Species Act is only 1%. Economically maybe it doesn't make sense but only if you think money is more important than economics

Positives: Bald Eagles are seen often in Goshen. Least weasels, wild turkeys, and badgers are being seen in northern Indiana in frequency. I've personally seen otter in the Elkhart River and bobcat scat!

Negatives: I personally cannot think of any - from my ecological perspective.

What I feel is amazing in this day and age of political attacks on the environment, President Nixon, who is the creator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in his Special Message to the Congress Outlining the 1972 Environmental Program on February 8, 1972, spoke highly about tightening pollution control, promoting Integrated pest management, stepping-up research on noise control, stepping-up research on air pollution effects and measurement, improving land use, expanding and strengthening of the National Land Use Policy Act, protecting wetlands, protecting our natural heritage, banning poisons for predator control on public lands, funding for the Environment, creating further measures to control marine pollution, protecting children from lead-based paint, enlisting the young to help with conservation, ...

and proposed stronger law to protect endangered species of wildlife

President Nixon spoke about his creation of the Endangered Species Act in his Special Message to the Congress Outlining the 1972 Environmental Program on February 8, 1972, "This is the environmental awakening. It marks a new sensitivity of the American spirit and a new maturity of American public life."

He philosophized that the U.S. "is working a revolution in values, as commitment to responsible partnership with nature replaces cavalier assumptions that we can play God with our surroundings and survive. It is leading to broad reforms in action, as individuals, corporations, government, and civic groups mobilize to conserve resources, to control pollution, to anticipate and prevent emerging environmental problems, to manage the land more wisely, and to preserve wildness."

And then he goes on to say, "Environmental concern must crystallize into permanent patterns of thought and action. What began as environmental awakening must mature finally into a new and higher environmental way of life. If we flag in our dedication and will, the problems themselves will not go away. Toward keeping the momentum of awareness and action, I pledge my full support and that of this Administration, and I urgently solicit the continuing cooperation of the Congress and the American people."

Cooperation of the Congress and the American people.

Things have changed immensely since that time for the better because of the EPA, the Endangered Species Act. People, and especially our representatives, can't see back in time very well to see what life was like prior to regulations that benefit the whole.

Let us listen to Richard Nixon, a President who gets negative accolades, but has done so much to help our current environmental advancement.

He said, "Let us never forget, though, that (the environment) is not a destiny of fear, but of promise."

We need someone in Congress to step up to be the champion of the environment and to uphold Nixon's legacy believing that our ecosystems and all that live within them must be acknowledged and cared for. He said "the work of environmental improvement is a task for all our people . . . The achievement of that goal will challenge the creativity of our science and technology, the enterprise and adaptability of our industry, the responsiveness and sense of balance of our political and legal institutions, and the resourcefulness and the capacity of this country to honor those human values upon which the quality of our national life must ultimately depend." We shall rise to the challenge of solving our environmental problems by enlisting the creative energy of all of our citizens in a cause truly worthy of the best that each can bring to it."

President Nixon said that in the '70s. We are currently in 2017. We can learn from history and not go backwards. We must be progressive (of, relating to, or characterized by progress) and not recessive; proactive - not reactive.

Yvon Chouinard, the founder of the Patagonia clothing company and a warrior for the environment, says, "No one needs to sit out the dance. Even if you work in a conservative company (or live in a conservative time), ask yourself, what are my social and environmental responsibilities and possibilities here? Do the best you can to act on them."

We cannot live on economy alone.

We must educate children. But we, environmental educators, must also educate our politicians!!

I want to continue seeing those bald eagles over the dam pond and that bobcat scat!

Conference Registration now open! Reserve your spot now!

EEAI Conference 2017 - Seeing the Forest and the Trees

Waycross Conference Center, October 13-15, 2017

To register for the conference, go to <http://www.eeai.org/2017-Register>

Call for Conference Presenters!

EEAI is soliciting session proposals for its Annual Conference in October. Sessions should follow the conference theme, "Seeing the Forest and the Trees" and fit into one of the three branches: Technology, Diversity, or Fundamentals (Basic EE). Sessions will be 75 minutes long. Session Branches: Technology: These sessions will help attendees integrate modern technology with teaching methods about the environment, such as GPS, databases, bat detectors, phone apps, tablets, and water monitoring. Diversity: These sessions will help attendees include people of all backgrounds, ages, and cultures in understanding and learning about the environment, as well as encouraging greater representation in the field of EE. Fundamentals: These sessions will help attendees become familiar with the basic principles of EE, teaching methods, natural history, and the history of EE.



More information can be found at <http://www.eeai.org/2017-Call-for-Presentations>