



CREED

Curriculum Resources for
Environmental Education Development

Summer 2015



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President's Letter

Jabin Burnworth

Many of you know I am a high school biology teacher. I've been teaching biology at Manchester Junior Senior High School for the last 20 years. I thought I would only be at Manchester for a few years. You know the story. Get a few years experience, and then move to somewhere cool like Portland, Oregon. I've stuck around because the community and school allows me to be creative and imaginative in my teaching. In 1996 a few of my students wanted to start an environmental science class. There were 5 people in that first class, and the students met as an independent study class during my Bio 2 period. The next year 20 kids signed up, and ever since it has been a class of it's own.

For several years I have been asking my students to write a letter (an actual handwritten letter) to their grandparents. The students ask questions like, "What was the land like when you were a kid?", "Did you plant a garden?", "How much did food cost?", "Did you use pesticides?", and "What did you do for fun?" This year the responses were incredible. The students decided we couldn't just keep these letters to ourselves. They wanted to share them with the community. On March 25th my students hosted an event they called "Food, Farming, and The Future." The students read grandparent letters, and then gave presentations about how food and farming has changed. The last presentation was about our future. One student contacted author Bill McKibben, and asked if he could attend the event. If you don't know Bill



McKibben Google him. He's done some pretty incredible things. Even though he couldn't attend he sent a video. The video was inspiring! If you want to see it, email me and I'll send you a link. After the presentation, students asked participants to form small groups. The students then discussed questions they had about our future. The discussion was lively and at times a little hot, but overall productive.

Why am I telling you about this event? I wanted to share this story because it probably wouldn't have happened without EEAI. I met member Jim Poyser at the 2013 EEAI annual conference. There we formed a partnership. I don't know if the students would have pulled it off without Jim's encouragement and guidance. He met with my students, and attended the event. He connected my students with a publication called Farm Indiana. One of my students has now been published twice in Farm Indiana! One of those articles was about our event.

The strength of EEAI lies in our membership. I am thankful for each and every person I have met in this organization. I would have never imagined that joining this organization would yield so many friendships and collaborations. I hope you are spreading the word about the wonderful work our members are doing.

Our next board meeting is August 12th online from 4:30-6:30pm. If you would like to join us, send me a note. I'll add you to our Google Hangout. Have you registered for the 46th annual conference at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? It will be one to remember! Go to <http://www.eeai.org> to register.

Thanks again to everyone for spreading the word about our social media options. Once again, the link for our Facebook page is found on our <http://www.eeai.org> home page. We hope that you will visit our Facebook page and will "like" it. We've been posting lots of announcements and job openings on the Facebook page. EEAI is also on Twitter. Find us by searching for Environmental Ed in Indiana @INEnvEd Indiana Children and Nature Network is also on Facebook and Twitter. Find a link for their Facebook page on our website. ICAN Twitter @INKidsandnature

Get Involved, join the board!

Are you, or someone you know, interested in serving on the EEAI board? We have a nine member board, each of whom serve three year terms, so every year we look for three new board members. The positions to fill are:

- o Board member At-large
- o President-elect
- o Secretary

To learn more and read the job descriptions, check out our bylaws at <http://www.eeai.org/bylaws>.

If you are interested, please email Warren Gartner at wgartner@dnr.in.gov by August 1.

Indiana Envirothon, 2015 and beyond

by Darci Zolman

Indiana's State Envirothon Competition was held on April 29 at Camp Illiana in Washington, Indiana. The day turned out to be a beautiful one with the top scoring high school students from regional contests across the state competing for top honors and a chance to represent Indiana at the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon at Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri, July 27-August 2.

Thirteen teams, each with five students per team, presented oral presentations in front of a panel of judges, completed five written tests on environmental issues, and finished a hands on walking tour test throughout the camp.

The top five oral teams from the morning were called back to give their oral presentations a second time to the full panel of judges, on the state's current topic, the Emerald Ash Borer beetle and the effects it is having on the state's Ash tree population. Four EEAI members: Brad Rody, Cathy Meyer, Paul McAfee, and Sam Carman, were among the judges.



Scores were extremely close, with the following results:

Written: 1st – Gibson Co Home School, 2nd – Indiana Academy, 3rd – Mitchell High School

Orals: 1st – Gibson Co Home School, 2nd - Kankakee Valley High School, 3 - Terre Haute High School

Overall: 1st – Gibson Co Home School, 2nd - Mitchell High School, 3 - Kankakee Valley High School

Indiana's State Envirothon committee is already looking ahead to the 2016 competition. The current issue will deal with Invasive Species and the NCF contest will be held in Ontario, Canada in July, 2016. If any EEAI members would like to be involved or want additional information, please contact Darci Zolman, 574-267-7445, x3 or darci.zolman@in.nacdn.net.

One Man's Perspective: Travels With Morris (Part 2) by

Sam Carman

Author's note: In the last issue of CREED I introduced you to Morris, an acquaintance I made in 2009. In that year, Morris began an amazing journey—one that is being shared with you through my ghostwriting of this series of articles. So without further ado, I'll turn it over to Morris.....

Hello! Good to be back! You might recall that I began my journey in Florida's panhandle, then quickly travelled to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The UP was a beautiful place to be, although spending the spring there was rather cold and snowy. I hung around the UP for a couple of months until hitting the road again, this time landing in Flathead National Forest in western Montana. My new digs were located in the mountains not far from Skidoo Bay on beautiful Lake Flathead. It's a beautiful place to be, sandwiched between the lake and the west side of the Continental Divide, amid lush coniferous forest. The Flathead National Forest is home to more than one million acres of designated wilderness, so it's a pretty quiet place with only occasional visitors. After spending a month there, it was time to move on to the next stop in my journey—Troutdale, Oregon, an eastern suburb of Portland.



Leaving the serenity of the Montana's forested mountains and landing in Troutdale was a shock. Suddenly having both an airport and busy interstate highway within a mile of me was quite a contrast. I can't imagine what this area must have looked like in 1805 when the Lewis & Clark Expedition camped and explored here. When William Clark tried to wade across the sand bar at the mouth of a small river that fed into the mighty Columbia River, he reported that the bottom was like quick sand. They named it the Quicksand River, which was later shortened to what it is called today—the Sandy River.

I would like to tell you more about my stay in Oregon, but I really wasn't there that long. And besides, there are so many more destinations to describe! You might recall from my article in the last CREED that my destiny was to make a round-trip from my original home in Florida all the way to Maricopa County, Arizona, and back again. Well, my next stop brought me almost half-way to my goal!

Arriving in Hope, Arizona put me less than 25 miles from the Maricopa County line, as the crow flies—or I should say, as the roadrunner runs. When I first arrived, I found this to be the most barren, desolate place I imaginable. There seemed to be nothing but sand. But if you ever visit here, I encourage you to look a little more carefully. Amid the shrubby ocotillo and hedgehog cacti you'll also find the more prominent barrel and saguaro cacti, all components of the natural habitat for reptiles such as the gila monster, desert tortoise and 13 different species of rattlesnake. And if you're lucky, you might even spot a bighorn sheep!

At this point in my journey, I've travelled more than 3,650 miles. I'm getting close to the half-way point of my planned excursion; but I'm not there yet. Be sure to join me in the next CREED as we examine some of the other habitats I encounter along the way—and a very unexpected twist in the story!

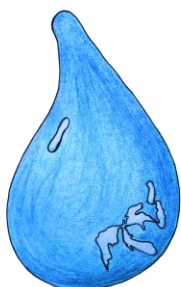


Indiana Children and Nature Network

The Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN) is working to expand our efforts. The steering committee is growing with committed individuals wanting to encourage Indiana kids to get outdoors! ICAN is planning for a new event for next June. We are requesting that interested organizations, individuals, and other groups host "Outdoor Play Days" between June 4 to 12, 2016. These can be events big and small that give kids a time to play outdoors. This will encourage kids to get outside and work to build the ICAN network.

ICAN has recently developed a strategic plan and we are now in the process of adding an action plan to keep us moving forward and on track. ICAN is developing collaborative projects with the Indianapolis Zoo and Conner Prairie. In addition, we are seeking funding for signage that we can offer to remind people to spend time in nature! Feel free to join in our efforts. We can use your help!

Great Lakes



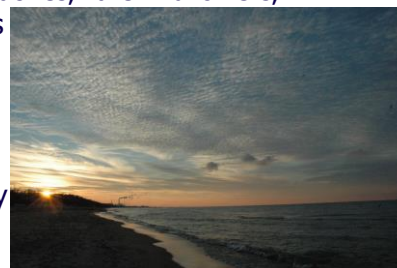
Literacy

2016 Conference

By Kim Swift
Education Specialist, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

All of the Dunes staffers up here in northwest Indiana are excited to host this year's EEAI conference along our nation's Fourth Coast. We know that everyone will enjoy Lake Michigan's sandy beaches, rare wildflowers, unusual wetlands, and challenging dune hikes as you network with colleagues and learn new environmental education techniques. The conference sessions will take place in both Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park. The two parks are home to 15,000 acres of dunes, wetlands, rare oak savannas, prairies, and woodlands. A variety of arctic plants meet the southern flora while the eastern deciduous forest gives way to the western tall-grass prairie. The Dunes area has far and away the highest biodiversity in the state, especially in terms of plants. There are bog-dwelling carnivorous plants and prickly pear cactus dwelling within a few miles of each other.

The northwest part of Indiana is a mecca for Hoosier birders. Birds migrating north and south follow the shoreline of Lake Michigan due to the funnel effect, thus the tip of the lake is the best place to watch for birds in migration season. It is famous for the number of birds, as well



as the number of birdwatchers. There are more birders per square mile here than any other place in the state!

The Dunes is also a recreation destination with lots of opportunities for hiking, biking, kayaking, and swimming. With over 50 miles of trails between the two parks, the hiking enthusiast will find a trail for your skills and interests. Take the 3-Dune challenge while here and go home with your sticker that you conquered the three highest dunes! Bring your kayak and bike to the conference so you can enjoy the Lake Michigan Water Trail or the many miles of local bike trails throughout the region. Other items to bring include your binoculars and camera along with a sense of curiosity and excitement because this area offers excellent birding and photo opportunities.

To get you oriented, let me introduce some of the dunes agencies that will be host to this year's events. The Dunes Learning Center is where many of you will be sleeping and where most meals will come from. The DLC is a non-profit agency that works in partnership with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The center itself is located within the national lakeshore, and they offer year-round residential environmental education programs in their lodge and cabins to learners of all ages. The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is the home of Saturday's conference sessions. This west end visitor center for the park houses our Nature Play Zone, a large environmental education center with classrooms, and the Miller Woods Trail. In addition, Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk is also within the national park and will be the site of one of the pre-conference workshops this year. This newest site is operated in cooperation with the City of Portage. The national lakeshore encompasses about 12,500 acres of the total dunes acreage along the lakeshore along with several outlying areas. The Indiana Dunes State Park is home to about 2,500 acres in the heart of the dunes and includes the Nature Center with excellent exhibits and programs throughout the year. Some sessions and hikes will be held here throughout the weekend. So let me be the first staff member to welcome you to the dunes. We can't wait to see you!

Get registered! [2015 EEAI Annual Conference](#)

Recognize Someone for their Good Work in the Field of Environmental Education;

EEAI Awards Nominations are due by September 1

Do you know an environmental educator who works hard, is innovative, and deserves to be recognized? Then nominate them 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, <http://www.eeai.org/Awards> .

To nominate someone, just fill out the most appropriate of the following award nomination forms. Then send the nomination to Warren Gartner at Division of Fish & Wildlife, 402 W. Washington, Room 273 W., Indianapolis, IN 46216, or <mailto:wgartner@dnr.in.gov>.

Paul-itics: Zulma Asks

by Paul Steury

Last week during class Zulma said "When can we go outside Mr. Steury?"

I said "soon".

I know it's wonderful being outside soaking up that vitamin D that comes from the sun. I wanted to say every day but that's not quite possible in this day and age of meeting the standards - dagnabit.

Last week we did go to look for evidence of light waves and sound waves and justifying their reasoning. They basked (okay maybe some of them complained that they were too hot on one of the first days of warmth! We are so used to being in a controlled environment of 72 degrees) and savored the outdoors.

If I were emperor I would make it so all schools were just like Goodwillie Environmental School in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

What's so great about it? It's a school that desires to:

- Use a natural setting to generate a stimulating learning environment that will allow students to acquaint themselves with and feel connected to the natural world.
- Create an environment that models "living lightly."
- Integrate their Forest Hills 5th and 6th grade curriculum with an environmental theme.
- Nurture responsibility and independence through project based learning.
- Address the unique learning needs of individual children.
- Develop research and study skills through involvement in projects related to environmental awareness.
- Internalize the importance of cooperation and teamwork through team building activities.
- Develop leadership skills through activities that promote district wide environmental responsibility and awareness.
- Improve self-confidence, self-awareness and social awareness.
- Promote risk-taking and physical fitness through learning new outdoor/recreational skills.

They go out every day - all 180 days! They even have lunch outside - even in the winter! Why? So they know what their weather and climate is like - not just look at it from a window.

I visited this school a couple years ago and was given a tour of their facilities, which included the woods and their trails. It was a rainy day but the little girl who was my tour guide told me this was her favorite type of day - "it feels so comfortable."

I love Goshen Community Schools it has saved more than 18,255 Million kWh of Electricity and 103,168 MMBTUs of Natural Gas. According to Judy L. Miller, Goshen's Energy Education Specialist, these savings are equal to 16,838 metric Tons of carbon dioxide emissions being prevented, or 3,508 automobiles being removed from the highways annually, or the amount of CO2 sequestered by 431,750 tree seedlings planted and grown for 10 years!

But just think if all 6,400 students had those Goodwillie goals in mind. How do I make that vision happen in Northern Indiana?

Now imagine if all 1 million Indiana K-12 students lived with that foresight. How wonderful it would it be if this country taught all 49.8 million students that same eco-ambition?

Just think about it - if we would be more ecologically correct in school here in Indiana

maybe Goshen Community Schools wouldn't need an energy specialist

maybe we would just think about doing the right thing

maybe we wouldn't have debate on climate change

maybe we wouldn't even have to have a debate

maybe we wouldn't be so wasteful

maybe we would easily reuse our resources

maybe Indiana wouldn't have the worst surface water quality in the country due to toxicity and E. coli levels

maybe we wouldn't have 80% of the male fish having eggs inside their testes

maybe we would think about future ramifications of our actions

maybe we would understand that a sustainable world means giving back more than taking

maybe

"You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one." - John Lennon (and Paul Steury)

I do know for certain getting outside forces you to feel your surroundings. My dad taught me to constantly observe around me - in the woods, the fields and the lake - especially when fishing! Because of observation practice Things jump out at you like the amazing amount of Jack in the Pulpit that grew in Goshen College's Witmer Woods this past spring - the most I have ever seen! The wood violets too were in huge patches and the garlic mustard was delicious!

It brings me such joy to see that emergence phenomenon every spring after a long winter gray. But to see all the new happenings in summer, fall and winter is just as much a miracle!

So now imagine all Indiana elementary, middle school and high school students having all that ecological desire and wisdom. What if all teachers promoted the Environmental Literacy Plan - maybe our students would understand and respect the environmental services the majority take for granted. What if all EEAI members talked with our administrators and legislators about emphasizing outdoor classrooms, citizen science and benefiting their communities by getting to know it!

I can hear Louis Armstrong crooning "What a wonderful world this would be!"

According to Jill Richardson from Alternet the outdoors is something we take way too much for granted - it's "a resource for improving human health. A forest might have a dollar value if all of the trees were cut down and the wood was sold, but it also has a value if we leave it intact and spend time in it recreationally. What we do not know yet is the dollar value it has in terms of surgeries, medications, deaths, and other losses prevented."

Anne Franke, think about it, who spent two years inside her house, urges us to "Go outside, to the fields, enjoy nature and the sunshine, go out and try to recapture happiness in yourself and in God. Think of all the beauty that's still left in and around you and be happy!"

I challenge you to get outside daily even if it is just for a walk around the block observing the phenological surprises and do what Anne Franke suggests - recapture happiness. We, EEAI members, know the wonderment that's all around us but our job is to get Zulma and all our Indiana learners out there as well to get excited about Jack, violets, eating garlic mustard pesto and bettering our world!

2016 Conference

The conference for 2016 is in the planning stages. it will be a summer conference in Richmond. If you are interested in helping plan the conference please contact

[Paul McAfee](#)

Great Lakes



Literacy

2015 Conference

Its time to register for the 2015 Conference

September 25-27

[get registered](#)