

CREED, EEAI's quarterly news letter. contents include The presidents letter, Envorothon, One Mans Perspective, Paul-iticks, and conferences recaps and updates.

#1

CREED

Curriculum Resources for
Environmental Education Development

Winter 2014



pictured left
2014 conference

Mark your
calendars for
September 25-27
[2015 conference](#)

President's Letter

Jabin Burnworth

It was wonderful seeing many of you at the 45th annual EEAI conference at beautiful McCormick's Creek State Park. Congratulations to the conference committee for a successful weekend. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to EEAI. Thanks also to Kara Salazar for her leadership as president. I look forward to my opportunity to serve as president, and am thankful for a supportive board.

There has been another transition in the board. Sheryl McGlory, Environmental Education Specialist at Bradford Woods, has vacated her Director-At-Large position. Replacing her is Natalie Haley. Natalie is the Environmental Educator with the Allen County Parks and Recreation Department at Fox Island County Park. We welcome Natalie, and are appreciative of Sheryl's work with the EEAI board.

Have you visited EEAI.ORG recently? The board has worked hard to improve the website. We hope that you will find resources that connect you with other members as well as provide you with information about current EEAI events. In an effort to improve communication we have disbanded the old Google Groups email system. Our new website platform allows us to communicate with you directly. We hope you have been receiving emails about events that involve environmental education. Recently, we also sent a poll about the 2016 conference. Thanks to the 52 people who responded to that poll. We'll let you know the outcome of the poll later. Please let us know if you are not receiving email communication from us.

Did you know that EEAI is also on Facebook? The link for our Facebook page is found on the eeai.org home page. We hope that you will visit our Facebook page and will "like" it. EEAI is also on Twitter. Find us by searching for Environmental Ed in Indiana @INEnvEd

2015 is going to be a great year for EEAI. Student chapters are growing, the Environmental Literacy Plan is nearing completion, and the 46th annual conference at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore promises to be amazing.



Indiana Envirothon Gearing Up for 2015 Contest Season

Pull those high school teams together! It is time to prepare for the 2015 Envirothon competition!

What is Envirothon? It is a competition for high school-aged students to promote environmental knowledge and awareness, natural resource careers, as well as team building and problem solving skills. Students compete as a five person team, first at regional competitions to earn a spot to the state competition, and ultimately, to have the opportunity to represent Indiana at the international contest.

At the regional level, teams take written tests and attend sessions led by resource professionals in five parameters: soils/land use, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and a current issue. Top teams from regionals attend the state competition, which includes three components: written tests, hands-on test, and an oral presentation based on each year's current issue. This year's current issue is Urban/Community Forestry. One team from the state contest will represent Indiana at the international competition, a weeklong event being held in Springfield, Missouri in 2015.

In 2015, Indiana will host seven regional contests and one state contest. All regionals are in March, followed by the state event on April 29. The regional contest registration fee is \$70 per team and is due by February 27, 2015. Sponsorships for team fees are often available from the local Soil and Water Conservation District. For additional information on this competition, dates and locations, go to the Indiana Envirothon webpage at <http://iaswcd.org/events-2/envirothon/>



Indiana Envirothon is thrilled to have the Environmental Education Association of Indiana as a sponsor! It is a natural partnership for this type of event and EEAI members are welcome to get involved. If you are interested in attending one of these events, as a volunteer or spectator, please contact Indiana Envirothon President, Darci Zolman at darci.zolman@in.nacdnet.net.

One Man's Perspective: Like a Thief in the Night

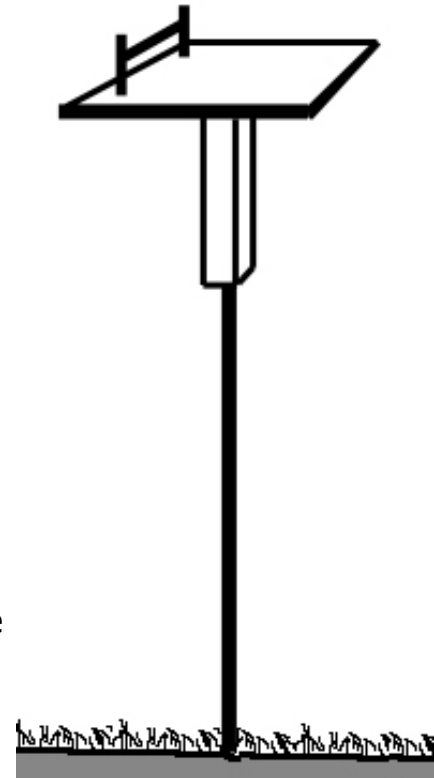
by Sam Carman

Cleaning out the refrigerator is not a task I enjoy. Remember the meal that started off as chili the first day, then became the garnish for chili dogs the next day, then finally was transformed into chili-mac for the final leg of its gastronomical journey? It seems no matter how many variations one can concoct for a huge pot of anything, there will always be remainders that never get eaten. And try as I might to combine Friday's fish scraps with Thursday's green beans, Wednesday's cornbread, and last week's mashed potatoes to make fried seafood patties (actually pretty good!), always lurking in the corners of the frig will be more Tupperware treasures continuing to age.

Last month while exploring the deep recesses of our chilled archives, I made one of those discoveries I really dread. Shoved far back in the corner was a two pound package of unopened hamburger with an expiration date that left no doubt about its potential to stir up intestinal distress if eaten. As a child who was raised in a struggling family where "waste not, want not" was a daily mantra, my conscience is particularly troubled when I find food that never had the chance to attain left-over status.

Typically when over-ripened meat is found in our refrigerator, it ends up in one of two places. It may be wrapped securely in plastic and put in the trash to eventually be enjoyed by the worms and other small organisms in the sanitary landfill; or it is simply tossed into our field where any number of critters might consume or decompose it. But on this particular day, I had another idea-a brainstorm! A groundbreaking concept that has never been done before! (I Googled it and nothing came up-positive proof!) I thought to myself, if I put the meat into the trash or chuck it into the field, I'll never know what might have eaten it. So why not put it someplace where I can observe it?

Introducing (drum roll, please).....the revolutionary scavenger feeder! Yes, just like a bird feeder, except with a little odor! Well, OK, sometimes a bit more than a "little" odor-but it doesn't last long. Attaching a perch to a small platform and mounting it atop a pole, the feeder was ready to be installed in a location close enough to the house to observe, but far enough away that my wife wouldn't complain about the smell. Once erected and stocked with the two pounds of gamey hamburger, it was time to wait for the hungry scavengers to arrive. So I waited. A day turned into a week, then two, but the hamburger remained untouched. At that point I approached the greasy mass on the platform cautiously, expecting my senses to be soundly offended-but nothing. In spite of unseasonably warm temperatures, the meat didn't seem to have much odor (which makes one



wonder what the meat vs. filler ratio is in that hamburger). But then one day the following week, a tipping point of sorts was reached. It still required an approach of within a few feet, but the odor was definitely there. And the next morning, the hamburger was gone without a trace. Since that time, I've supplied the feeder with the carcasses of 4 chipmunks, several mice, and the meaty skeletal remains of our Thanksgiving turkey, and all have disappeared completely. In every case, they've disappeared during the overnight hours (hence, the title of this article).

I don't know what's enjoying these meals. I suspect it's one of the great horned owls that I've seen in our woods recently; but unless I invest in a night vision trail camera, I may never know for sure. But that's OK, because at least I know I'm providing nourishment for some form of wildlife. And that makes the task of cleaning the refrigerator, as the saying goes, a bit easier to swallow.

EEAI Paul-itics

I come home tired every night.

I thought it would be a breeze to teach 7th graders. They would be wowed by my professor-ness and would behave respectfully to me and to the rest of the students. they would also always raise their hand to talk and do all of their homework diligently so they can become the best citizen of Goshen possible.....

I come home tired every night.

Kenny Nolan swooned "I like dreamin'" in 1977 in regards to a lover.

In 2014 I dream of Goshen Middle School's Points of Pride - responsibility, respect, productivity, courage, and integrity!

So what should I expect?

Utopia?

With this tiredness and the first year jitters my awe and admiration for the teachers of this world has magnified!

In Ernst Bloch's The Principle of Hope he asks "Who are we? Where do we come from? Where are we going? What are we waiting for? What awaits us?" and I often ask that while waiting for my 12

year old scientists in front of my door at room 204. I see some so jovial because they are alive and social. But I also see those who don't want to learn and have no desire to be in my class let alone school. They think school is miserable and wretched AND a social experiment..... woe is them..... woe is me.....

How do I approach apathy when talking about the earth's layers - the lithosphere, aesthenosphere, mesosphere, outer core and inner core just doesn't spur their inner fire?

To me it is incredibly flabbergasting with the knowledge that the earth is 4.5 billion years old, it has a core that is made of solid iron that is hotter than the surface of the sun!

I come home tired every night.

Tomorrow I'm going to start off class with something called a Bell Question and ask them to think about what the famous conservationist Aldo Leopold meant in his book Round River where he states "The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, "What good is it?" If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering." I want them to think about their interconnectedness in all their arenas - which includes learning about earth science!

How do I teach this sustainability, care, stewardship, conservation that Dr. Leopold elaborates in his book or how do I teach just plain plate tectonics which is mandated by the state board of education to a student whose goal in life is to become a couch potato?? My wife talks a lot about where our foundation comes from is from their home life - their environment, their influence.

At Goshen Middle School, we utilize focus questions that tries to inspire them to think a little deeper, to grow beyond the same old/same old, to have "enduring understanding" - maybe that can instill the safeguarding that is needed by all citizens.

But Wow! Their excitement to be alive and with friends is exuberating! How do I appease my desire to teach and offer them opportunity to be super cool in front of their peers?

These past 3 months of teaching have been the most educational for me in the past I don't know how long! What have I learned?

- Psychology of 7th graders
- Sociology of 7th graders
- Anthropology of 7th graders
- Anthropology of an administration
- Politics of a school and
- Psychology of myself (what I can or cannot do with 150 students!)

One of the main components that I never thought of in the past about teaching was classroom

management and organization of ideas to enhance classroom management!

This experience makes me truly feel that all environmental educators must educate themselves about the ways of thinking like a teacher and maybe become a classroom teacher just for a brief moment to understand standard constraints, windows of curriculum, know that time is incredibly tight as well as finances, and that the reason why a teacher doesn't do something you suggest is not because they don't care for the environment – but a plethora of other reasons that hamper the possibilities of field trips but does not dampen the possibilities of motivating future scientists that can be the best citizens possible!

So an enormous question Environmental Education Association of Indiana needs to ask is how do we assist a teacher that is caught in standards based, financially strapped, time warped tough scenario? Help them with grants? Help them with curriculum? Help them on site more? I now understand and still don't know how to answer those questions.

A student the other day asked me "is it true that it's better to be cool than smart?" And I told him "the coolest person is the smartest in my opinion! One that thinks!"

A mother told me that she wanted to thank me because this is the first time her minority heritage daughter says she likes science!

I win!

Daily I must breathe so I can get oxygen to my brain and then I must think about how my desire for this year was to challenge myself in edu-taining seventh graders and helping excite them about science!

Time for a nap because tomorrow - in class - I save the world!

Awards

Joe Wright award to Wanda Norris pictured left with Darci Zolman

Howard Michaud award to Ann Niednagel pictured right with Warren Gartner



2014 Conference Wrap up

"Land Ethic" was the theme of this year's conference. The theme was carried throughout the whole conference with informative keynotes like Buddy Huffaker, the executive director of the Aldo Leopold Foundation and a re-enactment of Aldo Leopold himself, convincingly portrayed by Jim Pfitzer, and an introduction to the Leopold Education Project by Natalie Haley.

The conference started with a viewing of "The Green Fire", a video about Aldo Leopold and the land ethic. This set the stage for a weekend of learning about land ethics and how it affects environmental educators.

Next was a panel discussion which was far too short given the interesting speakers representing agriculture, native Americans, land trusts, forestry and environmental educators. Our evening keynote speaker, the fiery Jerome Ringo, talked about how the disadvantaged communities are carrying a lot of the burden of pollution and environmental destruction, but are too concerned with figuring out where their next meal is coming from or how to pay the rent, to worry about cancer threats and cleaning the environment. His take-home message is to go to



2016

On December 11, 1816, Indiana became a state. For you mathematicians out there, it's easy to see that 2016 will be the 200 anniversary of our birth, the Bicentennial.

The state mathematicians figured this out years ago and warned the highest officials in our government, who then determined that we will celebrate all year long by doing big, substantive things. To add to the frenzy, the first state park, McCormick's Creek, was created in 1916, the centennial of Indiana, marking 2016 the Centennial of Indiana State Parks as well!

To celebrate all of this history, the state, among other things, has put together a rather large fund to aid in land acquisition and preservation. The DNR has teamed up with The Nature Conservancy to figure out how to make a big splash. They took a good look at the state and determined that the east central part of the state has been underserved with public land. They did find Cope Environmental Center near Richmond, which only had about eighty acres to its name, although eighty interesting acres. They've been working with Cope for the last year or so to acquire more land to create a Children's State Park, the details of which are still being worked out.

where they are to help them solve the problems.

After the keynote was a spirited song contest. This contest gets bigger each year. Cathy Meyer won it all after a song contest writing playoff where each contestant had to quickly come up with a song to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb. It was quite humorous.

The next day was intense with sessions all morning and field trips all afternoon. The evening campfire was quite nice, although maybe a little quieter and more relaxed than the first evening. Sunday morning was filled with sessions and then the re-enactment of Aldo Leopold to sum up all that we learned during the weekend. A final wrap-up allowed everyone a chance to reflect on their experiences during the weekend. It was very encouraging to hear how people benefitted from the conference and what they will take away. I'm sure they are all looking forward to next year's conference at the Dunes!

So, what does all of this have to do with our conference? We have been invited by Cope Environmental Center to have our conference in conjunction with the creation of this new park. Given that it's all about environmental education for children, we feel compelled to work with them to support this great thing that is a partnership of them, the DNR, the TNC, and many other nature centers across the state.

Earlham College in Richmond is just minutes away from Cope and is a very good looking venue for our conference. The only problem is all of the students there. ☐ Actually, we can only have a conference there when the students are away, which is during the summer. We've done an online survey of our members and found that about three fourths could make it to a conference in June or July, but certain sets of people would not be able to make it on one month or the other. We haven't decided for sure when or where we're going to have the 2016 conference, so if you have any more thoughts on having a summertime conference at Earlham College, or if you have any interest in becoming involved in planning the conference, please let us know <mailto:eeai@eeai.org>.

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