

Environmental Education CONNECTIONS

Summer 2010



Nebraska Natural Legacy Project Revision Now Underway

Wildlife and their habitats play an integral role in Nebraskan's daily lives. Without wildlife we could not experience the thunderous roar of ten thousand sandhill cranes, the agility of a swift fox prancing across the shortgrass prairie, or the nervous back-stroke of the rainbow-colored finescale dace. These precious examples of wildlife along with the prairies, woodlands, and streams that provide essential habitat would not exist without the passionate commitment of Nebraska's conservation community and the support of its citizenry.

Still, despite more than a century of conservation work, much remains to be done. More than two dozen species of plants and animals in Nebraska are listed as threatened or endangered and another 500 species are considered rare enough to warrant concern by the conservation community. Without new sources of funding



and a well thought out plan, the future of our rich wildlife legacy will be in jeopardy.

In 2000, the US Congress began to address the enormous challenge of conserving "all" wildlife by creating the State Wildlife Grants Program. This program was developed to assist states in conserving rare and declining species and to promote proactive

conservation to avert future declines of more common species. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is using this program to award grants to dozens of organizations working to conserve wildlife.

As a condition to receiving this new federal funding, Congress is requiring each state to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy. In 2003, The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission launched the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project to meet this requirement. The final document was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency in October 2005.

Today, five years later, the NNLP is being revised. This revision must be completed and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency by the end of 2010. Input sessions have been held around the state with one more session being held in Thedford on July 8, 2010, from 6-8pm. Additionally, biologists and conservation experts across the state have been meeting to discuss the plan, the revision, and any changes to be implemented.

To download a copy of the Nebraska Natural Legacy Plan or to find out more information, visit outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/legacy.asp

EE Connections is compiled and produced by the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environment Education.

Like what you see? Support EE Connections by joining the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environment Education (NACEE). Visit the website at www.nacee.org.

EE IN THE NEWS

Watchable Wildlife Conference headed to Nebraska



The 2010 Watchable Wildlife Conference will be held in Kearney, Nebraska October 5-7, 2010 at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center. Mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues at North America's 19th

annual meeting of wildlife and tourism professionals.

This year's conference will present in-depth sessions concentrating on how local communities, businesses and private land owners can profit from the continuing growth in Wildlife/Nature Tourism. Meet and talk with leading wildlife managers, business owners, authors and tourism professionals in the field of wildlife/nature tourism.

Sessions on Using Social Media, Marketing & Promotion, Risk Management & Assessment and Prairie Restoration are just a few of the other topics being planned. The new Digital Bridge to Nature Teacher Workshops and workbook publication will also be previewed. Breakout sessions will explore how partnerships are planned and implemented for the benefit of the communities as well as the partners.

The wetlands in the Sandhills, tallgrass prairies and the Rainwater Basin in the central part of the state make Nebraska one of the last strongholds for many species. Nebraska's biological treasures include 60 amphibian and reptile species, 80 fish species, 400 bird species, 95 mammal species, 1470 plant species and tens of thousands of invertebrate species distributed among 70 community types. Nebraska also contains vital resting habitat for many birds during migration. More than 300 bird species have been observed along the Platte River.

The Kearney Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center will be the host site, and reduced conference rates matching government per diems have been arranged. For more information visit www.holidayinn.com and click on Kearney, NE Holiday Inn & Conference Center or call direct at 308-237-5971.

Check-out the Watchable Wildlife website – www.watchablewildlife.org – for more information.

Plant ID Workshop planned in Western Nebraska

This workshop will provide conservationists and landowners training in the identification of the plants of western Nebraska's mixedgrass prairie, Sandhills prairie and wetlands. Discussion in the field will include range management practices.



To register for this FREE workshop, e-mail Brad McKinney at Brad.McKinney@nebraska.gov, or call (308) 220-0052. Attendance Will Be Limited To The First 50 Registrants.

Help celebrate National Pollinator Week by registering for the Plant ID workshop today!

Earth Partnership for Schools Summer Institute scheduled in Omaha

School or district teams comprised of two to four teachers and support staff members are trained to facilitate the ecological restoration process within their classrooms, leading up to a school yard native plant landscaping project.

Teams of up to four teachers/resource people will utilize individualized curricula and school action plans to create meaningful experiences for students through the process of restoring a school site. Through EPS, teachers and their teams will return to school prepared to teach about the rich and diverse cultural and natural history of Nebraska as they and their students plan a native-plant restoration program for their school grounds.

The Institute will take place July 12 through July 16, 2010, at the Papio-Missouri River NRD Natural Resources Center in Omaha, NE.



Team members receive at no cost, most meals and CEU graduate credits at the University of Wisconsin for participation in the institute.

For more information, contact Christine Jacobsen at (402) 444-6222 or cjacobsen@papiornrd.org.

EE IN THE NEWS

Engage A Student - Start a School Outdoor Club



In an effort to get more kids interested in the outdoors Nebraska Game & Parks has created an Outdoor Skills Afterschool Program. Currently, the program is for 5th & 6th grade students and is 8 weeks long covering

topics such as: Biodiversity, Birds, Camping, Fish & Fishing, Navigation, and Turkey Hunting. The program is still in its pilot phase with Seward County Extension but there are more counties that are starting to coordinate with their local schools. If you would be interested in helping with a club or session contact Andrea Faas or your local UNL Extension & 4-H Educator and ask about the program!

For more information, contact Andrea Faas at (402) 332-3901 or andrea.faas@nebraska.gov.

Nebraska Walleye Association Receives Award!

The Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society awarded the "Outstanding Aquatic Resources Conservation Award" to the Nebraska

Walleye Association (NWA) for conducting excellent kids fishing clinics for more than 20 years! Recently NWA partnered with FishHer to create The Go Fish Kids! and has received a National Youth Fishing and Boating Initiative education grant from the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF). This grant has funded a new trailer allowing numerous fishing clinics to be offered across the state. Thank you to all the Nebraska Walleye Association members for your help and dedication! To learn more about NWA go to www.nebraskawalleye.com.

Even your t-shirt can care for the environment!



Anvil Knitwear's website – "Track my T" has a numerous interactive activities regarding agriculture, and growing cotton organically, and sustainably. Check it out at www.TrackMyT.com

2010 NAAEE Annual Conference headed to Buffalo, NY

NAAEE and our host Affiliate — New York State Outdoor Education Association — are planning a very special event virtually at the top of North America's most famous waterfall. The conference will be held at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center (BNCC) conveniently located in downtown Buffalo.

With 10 Wednesday workshops to choose from, hundreds of concurrent sessions, over a dozen symposia, two keynote speakers and a plenary panel, plentiful networking opportunities, the poster session, exciting exhibitors, we hope you're able to convince your employer, or justify in your personal budget, that the 2010 NAAEE Annual Conference is truly an event not to be missed and a wise investment in your professional development.



We hope to see you in Buffalo-Niagara! Thank you for your commitment to excellence in environmental education and for your support of NAAEE.

Fall Course Schedule Now Available for Amazing EE Courses

The Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) and the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point are preparing for the fall semester and would like to announce the 2010 offerings of the "Fundamentals of Environmental Education" (FEE), "Applied EE Program Evaluation" (AEEPE), "Making EE Relevant for Culturally Diverse Audiences" (MEER) and "Strategic Planning and Implementation" (SPI) online courses.

These courses are an amazing resource for any environmental education - both formal and non-formal. Filled with useable information and great course work, they are well worth your time!

A \$200 scholarships available for the FEE, AEEPE and MEER courses! More information on the scholarships is available at <https://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/scholarships.aspx>.

EE IN THE NEWS



A Fish is a Fish

Don't miss out on this new activity, produced by Project FISH in partnership with Windsor Nature Discovery. A Fish is a Fish is an activity for all ages who are learning to identify fish and general characteristics of fish; to acquire, analyze, and apply information; to develop and use dichotomous keys; to identify fish families; and to use

knowledge toward better fishing skills.

Visit www.projectfish.org/afishisafish.pdf to download.

Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability

The Center for Ecoliteracy's Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability (Watershed Media/University of California Press, 2009) portrays a growing movement of educators, parents, and students who are remaking K-12 education to prepare students for future environmental challenges. With a foreword by Daniel Goleman, author of Ecological Intelligence, it also offers strategies for



greening campuses, rethinking school food, and transforming schools into model sustainable communities. Chez Panisse founder Alice Waters praises it as "an inspired handbook that connects hands-on experiences of the garden, the kitchen, the table, the compost heap, and the classroom curriculum!"

For more information, or to purchase this book, visit: [/www.ecoliteracy.org/books/smart-nature-schooling-sustainability](http://www.ecoliteracy.org/books/smart-nature-schooling-sustainability)

New Climate Change Short Course DVD and Online

From the USDA Forest Service, this new short course, "Adapting to Climate Change: A Short Course for Land Managers," is available as a DVD or online. The self-paced course provides an up-to-date synthesis of scientific and technical information and can help resource managers and decision-makers plan for future climate-driven uncertainties.

Visit www.fs.fed.us/ccrc for more information.

Curriculum on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation

In December 2009, The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted REDDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in Developing countries). REDDD will compensate tropical countries for protecting their forests. And this is important because 15-20% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from deforestation in the tropics. Successfully implementing REDD will not only save rainforests, but jump start climate change mitigation.

To receive a free REDD curriculum for grades 9-12, e-mail Bruce at saverfn@cybermesa.com. Or, visit www.saverfn.org for more information.

Survey of Outdoor Conservation and Education Results Shows More Work is Needed

In September 2009, 41 state fish and wildlife agencies completed an Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) survey about some of their conservation education programs including in-school outdoor skills education. The survey asked agencies about barriers they've experienced to in-school outdoor skills education, as well as tools AFWA might provide to help address the barriers. "Lack of staff/agency resources" and "school administrators are not interested" were the top two barriers. "Teacher time for training" and "teacher comfort level with material" were also identified as significant barriers. The two most needed resources identified for helping to incorporate outdoor skills education in the formal school day were "messages to use with school administrators" and "connections to health and/or physical education standards." The Outdoor Skills subcommittee will use these and other survey results to develop products and strategies to increase the presence of outdoor skills in schools.

A complete report of all survey results is available on the AFWA Conservation Education web page - www.fishwildlife.org/consed.html.



EE IN THE NEWS

Great American Backyard Campout



Join the Great American Backyard Campout on Saturday, June 26, in your backyard, parks, campgrounds or even your balcony! No site is too big or too small to spend a night sleeping under the stars.

For more information, visit online. nwf.org/site/PageNavigator/gabc_2010_home

Nebraska Natural Legacy Project Seeks Your Input

Nebraska's wildlife and wild places are valuable assets. It is important to protect them so they may be enjoyed by future generations. The Nebraska Natural Legacy Project is a wildlife action plan that seeks to secure wildlife



through partner collaboration across the state. Partners are proactively conserving habitat to keep common species common and securing those species in greatest need of conservation. The Natural Legacy

Project is being updated this year, and your input is needed. Please attend a Natural Legacy Project public input meeting and learn how to get more involved and help improve Nebraska's statewide wildlife action plan.

Please join the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project Team in Thedford on July 8th at the American Legion Hall from 6-8 p.m. We look forward to discussing your insights to improve the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project.

More information on the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project can be found at outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/legacy.asp.

How Green is My Town?

"How Green is My Town?" is a grassroots effort to empower citizens and local decision makers to address the issues of climate change, sustainability, and environmental health at the local level. The Web site functions as a national clearinghouse of the best programs, ideas, and policies, as well as product solutions where appropriate. For more information, visit www.howgreenismytown.org.

Audubon International's Free Webinars in 2010

To celebrate the mid-way point of the United Nation's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, throughout 2010 Audubon International will be hosting a series of free training Webinars designed to help people become better stewards of the environment where they live, work, and play. Webinars will focus on topics such as community sustainability, greening your business or property, eco-development practices, and community outreach ideas. Registration is free, but space is limited. Visit www.auduboninternational.org/webinars for more information.

NAI National Workshop: An Interpretation Oasis!

The 2010 National Association for Interpretation Workshop in famous Las Vegas, Nevada, will be an exciting and dynamic experience for interpreters from all corners of the profession. Join us in Las Vegas to explore the many sides of this unique city and the many sides of our varied vocation.

NAI 2010 will feature more than 100 concurrent sessions in three tracks over three days. Presentation tracks include Programs, Management, and Media. A complete list of concurrent sessions is available at <http://interpnet.com/workshop/category/events/concurrent-sessions>.

The event will be held November 16-20, 2010, at the Riviera on The Strip. Early registration ends July 15, so register soon to save up to \$100. For more information, visit www.interpnet.com/workshop.

Trash to Treasure Competition

Design Squad, a PBS KIDS GO! television series, is launching the nationwide 2010 Trash to Treasure competition -- challenging kids ages 5-19 from across the U.S. to recycle, reuse, and re-engineer everyday materials into new inventions. Inventions should move things or people, protect the environment, or be used for indoor or outdoor play. Finalists will be featured on the Design Squad Web site and three grand-prize winners will go to Boston to see their designs built and appear on the program and its Web site. Deadline for the competition is September 5, 2010. For more information, visit <http://pbskids.org/designsquad/contest/index.html>.

EE IN THE NEWS

Pollinator Partnership



One of the many useful resources available on the Pollinator Partnership's Web site is the "Nature's Partners: Pollinators, Plants, and You" curriculum. It is designed to educate young people about pollinators and the important role they play in providing many of the foods we eat and the plant fiber used in our clothing and

household goods, and ways they can help pollinators survive and flourish by protecting and creating pollinator-friendly habitat. The copy written curriculum is available for free download for educators and others who will not use the curriculum for profit. Download the curriculum at www.nappc.org/curriculum.

Big Bugs Swarming in Bellevue

The Big Bugs Exhibit will once again be taking over Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue, Nebraska. The large insect sculptures will be located along the one-mile Riverview Boardwalk. The exhibit, which runs from June 26 - October 3, 2010, will showcase several insects including a 7' ant, a 10' damselfly, and an 11' grasshopper! Visit www.fontenelleforest.org for more information.

New EE Journal Seeking Submissions

A new EE journal (International Electronic Journal of EE) is scheduled to publish starting this fall. Publishers are seeking research manuscripts. Environmental Education professionals are encouraged to submit manuscripts on research or current issues in environmental education. For more information, visit www.iejeeegreen.com/index.php/iejeeegreen/index.

New Masters Program in EE now being offered

The University of Wisconsin - Steven's Point is pleased to announce a new Master of Science in Environmental Education and Interpretation degree being offered by UWSP - College of Natural Resources. Applications are now being accepted. Information and applications can be found at www.uwsp.edu/natres/eei/index.html.



America The Beautiful Quarters Begin Production in 2010

Beginning in 2010, the United States Mint will issue 56 quarter-dollar coins featuring designs depicting national parks and other national sites as part of the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters™ Program.

The five quarters to be released in 2010 will honor Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas, Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Yosemite National Park in California, Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona and Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon. The Nebraska quarter, to be issued in 2015, will depict Homestead National Monument.

Check out the America the Beautiful Quarters National Site - www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb - to learn more.

Environmental Educators Share Their Professional Development Needs

What do environmental educators most need to learn to advance their own performance, as well as the field's credibility? Dr. Lynette Fleming thinks she knows. More than 400 environmental educators from across the United States contributed to her 2009 Environmental Education Professional Development Needs and Priorities Study, an assessment that Fleming says gives the field "an opportunity to reshape professional development to respond to current needs."

According to Fleming, "The typical approach to professional development has been mostly someone saying, 'This is what you need.' The dialogue about what is really needed and how to provide it is often missing."

The study, funded by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP), identifies specific priorities and lays out recommendations for responding to them.

Fleming said, "It was heartening to see that a lot of things we've said are important for 30 years are at the top of the priority list. But as we continue to analyze the data, it's clear that more needs to be done to compile what we know and make that knowledge more broadly accessible."

To read the complete article visit: www.eetap.org/pages/dynamic/web.page.php?page_id=128&topology_id=16&eod=1.

EE GRANTS & FUNDING

Funding Opportunities

Among all the challenges environmental education faces, often funding is the single largest. Below are a list of *some* of the grant available for environmental education.



Gannet Foundation Community Action Grants

Deadline: August 17, 2010.
Website: www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppld=50174.

The Gannet Foundation Community Action Grants support

local groups involved in education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving, assistance to disadvantaged people, environmental conservation, and cultural enrichment. Average grant ranges from \$1,000 - \$5,000. Contact: www.gannettfoundation.org/guidelines.htm

Leave No Trace Grants

Deadline: Ongoing

Website: <http://lnt.org/programs/grants.php>

Leave No Trace is an educational, nonprofit organization dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors. Leave No Trace offers a variety of grant and scholarship opportunities for individuals and organizations.

Toshiba America Foundation

Deadline: August 2, 2010

Website: www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp

Do you teach 6-12 science or math? Do you have a wish list of instructional equipment that will make learning more exciting for your students? If the answer is yes, Toshiba America Foundation wants to hear from you.

Grade 6-12 applications for \$5,000 or less are accepted throughout the calendar year. Grants requests of more than \$5,000 are reviewed twice a year. Applications for grants of more than \$5,000 are due August 2, 2010.

Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program

Deadline: October 15, 2010

Website: www.for-wild.org/seedmony.html

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program provides grants to educational organizations to establish outdoor learning centers.

Lexus Eco Challenge

Deadline: November 23 2010

Website: www.scholastic.com/lexus

Scholastic and Lexus have partnered to give students the opportunity to make a difference in the health of our planet. In the Lexus Eco Challenge teams will define an environmental issue that is important to them, develop an action plan to address the issue, implement the plan and report the results. Teams consist of five to 10 students and one teacher adviser.

America The Beautiful Fund

Deadline: ongoing

Website: www.america-the-beautiful.org/free_seeds

The America the Beautiful Fund offers grants for free seeds to groups striving to beautify our world through gardening. Use seeds for a school garden, restoration project or schoolyard habitat. Grants of 100 to 1,000 seed packets are offered on a basis of availability and need.



Volvo Adventure Awards

Deadline: January 31, 2011

Website: www.volvoadventure.org Volvo Adventure, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program, is an educational program that rewards students' environmental activities. Finalists receive an all expenses paid trip to Sweden for the final judging and awards ceremony. Three prizes are awarded ranging from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation

Deadline: September 20, 2010

Website: www.mgaef.org/grants.html#ToApply
Environmental Curriculum Grant

This grant offered by the Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation for \$1,500 is awarded to schools pursuing innovative and engaging environmental curricula. If the preliminary application is accepted, you will be invited to submit a proposal.



ONLINE RESOURCES

EPA's Quest for Less

The Quest for Less provides hands-on lessons and activities, enrichment ideas, journal writing assignments, and other educational tools related to preventing and reusing waste.



Each chapter includes fact sheets that provide background information on topics in the chapter. Each activity provides the duration, materials needed, and other helpful information for teachers.

The lessons and activities:

- Encourage students to use reading, writing, and problem-solving skills.
- Help students understand how they can “make a difference.”

Download for free at: www.epa.gov/epawaste/education/quest



Project BEAK

The Project BEAK website is an interactive website designed to help students in grades 5-8 learn about

Nebraska birds. Each of the six units - birds & people, adaptations, the rare ones, birding basics, Nebraska habitats, and teacher resources focuses on Nebraska-specific habitats and birds. The website contains games, quizzes, and numerous videos. Additionally, the teachers resources section includes lots of activities to expand your learning throughout your curriculum.

Visit: www.projectbeak.org to see more!

NOVA scienceNOW

NOVA scienceNOW is the companion website for a TV show on science breakthroughs and personalities. Learn about a frog that freezes solid in winter and comes back to life in spring. Watch videos about robot “swarms” that work together on a task, a newly discovered system in the brain, tools for predicting a hurricane’s intensity, and why some sand dunes burp, sing, and croak. A teacher’s guide and transcript are included.

Visit www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sciencenow/educators/subject-anth.html

Biodiversity: It Takes All Kinds to Make a World

This interactive website invites elementary students to explore biodiversity in a city park, on an island, and in a desert. Learn about 10 species whose habitats are in danger, a conservation project in Africa, and where in the world various foods we eat come from.

Visit www.amnh.org/ology/?channel=biodiversity.

Data in the Classroom

Data in the Classroom provides curriculum guides for using real scientific data to investigate earth processes. Each guide focuses on a topic (sea level, water quality, and El Niño) and starts with a question: How are sea levels monitored and measured? How is water quality monitored? How does El Niño really work?

The Data in the Classroom website can be found at: www.dataintheclassroom.org

Exploring the Environment

This website features 25 online modules that put students in problem-based learning scenarios. In one module, students predict the impact of increased carbon dioxide on the wheat yield in Kansas. In another, they predict weather 48 hours in advance. Topics include coral reefs, climate change, the Everglades, mountain gorillas, rainforests, volcanoes, water quality, and ozone depletion.

Visit www.cof.edu/ete for more information or to download the modules.



Learning Landscapes

This website, produced by the U.S. Department of the Interior, offers lessons on deserts, ecosystems, riparian zones, invasive plants, wild horses, groundwater, soil composition, hydroelectric power, renewable energy, water conservation techniques of desert animals, sound conductors, volcanoes, waterwheels, watersheds, weeds, gold mining, habitat depletion, and more. Students may design a home for an animal or create a seismograph, anemometer, steam engine, greenhouse, or solar collectors.

NACEE UPDATE

Developing an Environmental Education Literacy Plan for Nebraska

Work on Nebraska's Environmental Education Literacy Plan is nearing the end. Numerous input sessions have taken place around the state over the past year. Now, all that information is being compiled into a final document. This is an exciting time for environmental education in Nebraska. With the completion of Nebraska's Environmental Literacy Plan, we will be able to ensure all our students are environmentally literate and knowledgeable in conservation and natural resources issues for the future.



What is an ELP?

Environmental Literacy Plans will create a framework for Nebraska educators to use when teaching about the environment. It will help

Nebraska's students be knowledgeable and proactive in dealing with the conservation and environmental issues that they will face in the future.

Why is Nebraska developing an ELP?

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (a.k.a. No Child Left Behind) is currently up for reauthorization. Included in the reauthorization is an amendment which would expand opportunities for outdoor learning activities and high-quality environmental education. This amendment would provide much needed federal funding for environmental education training and student opportunities. To be eligible for the federal environmental education funding, each state must develop a certified Environmental Literacy Plan.

If you'd like to view a draft of the Nebraska ELP, or the NAAEE Developing an Environmental Literacy Plan booklet, visit the NACEE website at: www.nacee.org.

Unable to attend a stakeholder meeting? E-mail comments to hheafer@lincoln.ne.gov or ksgbkathy@yahoo.com.

NACEE Applies for an EPA EE Grant

In December 2009, NACEE applied to the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Education for a capacity building grant. The grant, if funded, would provide much needed organization and coordination of Nebraska's environmental education efforts. Final grant notification will be made by September 2010.

Join the NACEE listserv

The NACEE listserv is dedicated to enhancing conservation and environment education in Nebraska. Use the listserv to announce your environmentally related workshops and events. Or, e-mail the listserv to seek help or advice on a new environmental education project. By joining the listserv, you will also receive NACEE updates, announcements of workshops and events across the state, and network with other educators across the state.

For directions on how to join the NACEE listserv, visit www.nacee.org.

NACEE Receives a Grant to Develop an Online Database of EE Resources and Opportunities

In March, NACEE received a grant from the Nebraska Academy of Sciences to create a comprehensive online database of environmental education resources, events, opportunities, workshops, and festivals which occur throughout the state.

NACEE will be working with the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program, who also sought to create a database, to develop the database. Look for the searchable database to be up and running in summer 2011.



Mark Your Calendars!

2010 NACEE Annual Conference
"Coming into Focus: Conservation and Environmental Education in Nebraska"

September 9-11, 2010
Camp Carol Joy Holing, Ashland, NE

Keynote Speakers include:
Michael Forsberg

EE WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

WORKSHOPS

PLT: EE and Growing Up WILD

June 22
9am-3pm
Chalco Hills Rec. Area, Omaha, NE
Become trained in two of the newest early childhood environmental curriculum guides and receive your own copy!
Fee=\$30
Contact: Heather Guthridge at hguthridge@pacionrd.org or (402) 315-1777

Learning with Nature & We Dig Dirt

June 26, 2010
9:00am-4:00pm
Location: Early Childhood Center at First Covenant Church Omaha, NE
Fee: \$40
Contact: Tara Hild, tarah@dimensionsfoundation.org, 402-467-6112, www.natureexplore.org

Managing Your Native Tallgrass Acres

June 27, 2010
2:00 – 4:00pm
Location: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, NE
Acreage owners with native acres have a unique set of circumstances for home landscape management. This program will cover techniques for assessing health and diversity in your prairie and options for managing prairie remnants. Participants are encouraged to e-mail specific questions and concerns to us before the class meets. Habitat Program Manager Gordon Warrick will also be present during the program. Class is appropriate for ages 18 years and older. Register by June 26.
Fee:\$20/person
Contact: Spring Creek (402) 797-2301 or scp@audubon.org

Project Food, Land, and People

July 8 and 9, 2010
Location: South Platte NRD, Sidney
Food, Land and People helps Pre K-12th grade educators and students better understand the interrelationships among agriculture, the environment and people through lessons in math, science, health, consumer education, social studies, geography and more. Classroom instruction and field trips included. A 55-lesson HANDS-ON curriculum will be provided. Full tuition scholarships available from the South Platte NRD for the first 20 registered. Graduate level credit available from Chadron State College.
Contact: Kim Elder at kelder@esu13.org or 308-254-4677, Don Ogle at dogle@spnrd.org or 308-254-2377.

Identifying Plants of Nebraska

July 11, 2010
2:00 - 4:00pm
Location: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, NE
Come learn how to make a simple plant press and techniques for pressing and identifying plants. Participants will receive tools to get started. Participants are encouraged to bring a plant that they may need help identifying. Appropriate for ages 12+. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register by July 9.
Fee: \$20/person
Contact: Spring Creek (402) 797-2301 or scp@audubon.org



Keeping an Illustrated Field Journal

July 24, 2010
10:00am – 1:00pm
Location: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, NE
Learn a range of field-adapted color sketching techniques to quickly illustrate the plants, animals, and landscapes that surround you. We will use pencil, pen, and watercolor techniques to capture the prairie's beauty. All materials will be provided, includes personal sketchbook with watercolor and graphite papers. We will be outside, dress for the weather.
Fee: \$45/person
Contact: Spring Creek (402) 797-2301 or scp@audubon.org



Dig, Plant, GROW!

August 3rd and 5th
6:00 - 8:30pm
Location: East Campus UNL
A Project Learning Tree Advanced Workshop for Elementary School Educators all about plants! You will gain useful plant knowledge and activities that you can put to use in the classroom or outside and learn! Topics will include: Soil/Compost, Propagation, Flowers/Seeds, Plant ID. Participants must attend both sessions. This workshop is appropriate for newcomers to PLT and those previously trained in PLT. PLT preK-8 curriculum guides will be given to newcomers. LPS will provide 3.5 professional development hours for attending this workshop.
FREE: \$20 refundable deposit.
Contact: Christina Hoyt at choyt2@unl.edu or call 402-472-5049

EE WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Growing Up WILD

August 5, 2010

6:30 – 8:30pm

Location: Prairie Loft Center,
Hastings, NE

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education activity guide that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore the world around them. Through a wide range of activities, Growing Up WILD provides a foundations for engaging children in nature while also building social and cognitive skills.

Contact: Lindsay Rogers at (402) 471-5581 or lindsay.rogers@nebraska.gov

Project WILD Refresher Course

October 28, 2010

5:30 – 8:00pm

Location: Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium,
Gretna, NE

This short course is designed for people who have been trained in Project WILD, but would like a quick refresher course. We will go over several activities and help re-engage you in Project WILD. Bring your Project WILD book.

Contact: Lindsay Rogers at (402) 471-5581 or lindsay.rogers@nebraska.gov

PLT/WET/WILD/LEP Workshop

Nov. 30, Dec. 2, & 7th

9:30am-12:15pm

Location: Creighton University

Fee: \$40

Contact: Christine Jacobsen,
cjacobsen@papionrd.org, or (402) 315-1713

SUMMER CAMPS

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center

Ages: preK-8th grade

Week-long day camps available throughout June, July, and into August.

Contact: www.fontenelleforest.org

Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo

Ages: 5-12

One to five day camps available throughout the summer.

Contact: www.omahazoo.com, click on Education, then Group and Family Fun

EVENTS

Wild Wednesdays

June 23: Junior Nature Detectives

9:30 – 11:30am

Location: Neale Woods Nature Center, Omaha, NE

During this parent child class, you will explore indoor and outdoor discovery centers using various learning styles that engage your children in nature.

An educator-led outdoor portion is offered during each program. Snacks are provided. Ages 5 and younger.

Fee: \$2 per member child / \$3

per non-member child, One accompanying adult is free; each additional non-member adult is \$3.

Contact: Sara Krug, 468-4124 or skrug@huntel.net

Flatwater Folk Festival

Friday June 25, 5-11pm

Saturday June 26, 11am-11pm

Location: Prairie Loft Center,
Hastings, NE

Live acoustic music on two stages, kids' activities Saturday, family dance in the barn, guitar raffle, music jams & workshops, beer garden, food, art, and much more!

Contact: Prairie Loft at www.parieloft.org.

Carp-O-Rama

June 26, 2010

8am-1pm

Location: Pawnee Lake, Lincoln, NE
Come learn the basics of carp fishing, and how to prepare your carp delicacy once you have caught it! Stay for a great meal! A fun event for the whole family. No experience necessary, Nebraska State Fishing license required for all ages 16 and over.
Contact: Larry Pape larry.pape@nebraska.gov

BioBlitz

June 26-27, 2010

noon-noon (24 hours)

Location: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, NE

A BioBlitz is a 24-hour biologic survey of all life in a designated area. It's a special opportunity for children and adults to join biologists on research expeditions out on the landscape.

No previous experience is required and participants can be involved in the event for as much or as little time as their schedules afford. If you are planning to attend, please let us know. Mark your calendars and join us for a great day to see just how diverse prairies really are.

Fee: FREE

Contact: Spring Creek (402) 797-2301 or scp@audubon.org

Great American Backyard Campout

June 26, 2010

all night!

Location: your backyard, local park, state park.

Join the Great American Backyard Campout on Saturday, June 26, in your backyard, parks, campgrounds or even your balcony! No site is too big or too small to spend a night sleeping under the stars.

Contact: online.nwf.org/site/PageNavigator/gabc_2010_home



EE WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Wild Wednesdays

June 30: Turtle Tales

9:30 – 11:30am

Location: Neale Woods Nature Center, Omaha, NE

During this parent child class, you will explore indoor and outdoor discovery centers using various learning styles that engage your children in nature.

An educator-led outdoor portion is offered during each program. Snacks are provided. Ages 5 and younger.

Fee: \$2 per member child / \$3

per non-member child, One

accompanying adult is free; each

additional non-member adult is \$3.

Contact: Sara Krug, 468-4124 or

skrug@huntel.net

Nebraska Natural Legacy Project

Input Session

July 8, 2010

6:00 – 8:00pm

Location: American Legion Hall, Thedford, NE

The Nebraska Natural Legacy Project is a wildlife action plan that seeks to secure wildlife through partner collaboration across the state.

Partners are proactively conserving habitat to keep common species

common and securing those species in greatest need of conservation.

The Natural Legacy Project is being updated this year, and your input is needed.

Contact: Kristal Stoner, (402) 471-

5444 or Kristal.stoner@nebraska.gov



Flat River Treasure Hunt

July 11, 2010

4:00pm

Location: Rowe Sanctuary, Gibbon

Join us for the Flat River Treasure Hunt and explore the subtle and sometime elusive treasures found on the Platte River by using a treasure map, clues and your own observation skills. This is an excellent activity for families, clubs, anyone who just enjoys being outdoors. This event is appropriate for all ages, but groups must have at least one adult.

Contact: Rowe Sanctuary at 308-468-5282 or www.rowsanctuary.org

Contact: Rowe Sanctuary at 308-468-5282 or www.rowsanctuary.org

Carp-O-Rama

July 17, 2010

8am-1pm

Location: Harlan Reservoir

Come learn the basics of carp fishing, and how to prepare your carp delicacy once you have caught it! Stay for a great meal! A fun event for the whole family. No experience necessary, Nebraska State Fishing license required for all ages 16 and over.

Contact: Larry Pape larry.pape@nebraska.gov

NABA Butterfly Count

July 17, 2010

9:00am – noon

Location: Pioneers Park Nature Center, Lincoln, NE

Take part in the 35th annual butterfly count sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association.

All participants will begin with an informative hour-long slide show in the Prairie Building at Pioneers Park Nature Center. From there, groups will disperse with count leaders. A butterfly expert will accompany each group. Register by July 16.

Fee: \$5/adult, \$2/child 12 and under

Contact: Pioneers Park Nature Center at (402) 441-7895

Nature Art for Children

August 7, 2010

Noon - 2:00pm

Location: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, NE

Come draw and paint the plants and animals of the prairie. We will draw in the classroom and outside, collecting live insects and plants to view up close. Come explore the prairie with a pencil and paintbrush. All materials will be provided.

Fee: \$20/child

Contact: Spring Creek (402) 797-2301 or scp@audubon.org



Nature Nightwatch

August 7, 2010

9:00pm – midnight

Location: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, NE

Stay up late and experience nature at night. Venture out into Spring Creek Prairie's special habitat to sit quietly and await nighttime visitors as they go about their nocturnal activities.

We'll also use techniques called "sugaring" and "the old white sheet trick" to attract insects for the purpose of investigation, and try-out a special underwater light to see what's going on in the pond after the sun goes down. Guaranteed to be a night to remember! Bring your own camp chairs. Recommended for children at least 8 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Fee: \$10/adult, \$7/child 12 and under.

Contact: Spring Creek (402) 797-2301 or scp@audubon.org

EE WORKSHOPS & EVENTS



Dragonfly and Damselfly Count

August 14, 2010

9:30 - 11:30am

Adult dragonflies and damselflies are showy and beautiful. Take part in a citizen science program that will help establish a baseline count of these amazing insects for future monitoring. The program, led by Gordon Warrick, will begin with a half-hour introductory slide show. Participants are encouraged to wear sunscreen and a hat and bring water. Those who wish may bring a lunch and join Gordon for the final tally and observations after the count. Recommended for children 8 and older; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Fee: \$5/adult, \$3/child under 12.

Contact: Spring Creek (402) 797-2301 or scp@audubon.org

Twilight on the Tallgrass

September 18, 2010

5:00 - 10:00pm

The 2010 theme for Spring Creek's annual prairie festival celebrating the autumn prairie is "A Trail in Time," marking the 150th anniversary of the Nebraska City-Fort Kearny Cutoff trail. Trails will be open that evening for people to interact with biologists, researchers, artists, authors, and other personnel who derive inspiration and expertise from the prairie. No reservations needed.

Fee: suggestion donation: \$5/adult, children 12 and under free.

Contact: Spring Creek (402) 797-2301 or scp@audubon.org

World O! Water Festival

September 19th

12-4pm

Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Omaha

World O! Water is a free annual event, aimed at educating the public about water conservation, quality and recreation. Come learn what you can do to ensure this invaluable resource is here for us to enjoy now and for future generations. World O! Water activities include: Demonstrations, science experiments, games, canoeing, and face painting.
Fee: FREE
Contact: (402)-444-3908 or www.worldwater.com.

Missouri River Outdoor EXPO

September 17, 18 & 19 public days on Saturday & Sunday

Location: Ponca State Park

Nebraska's largest outdoor classroom will provide students the opportunity to participate in numerous hands-on adventures.

Contact: Julia Plugge, (402) 471-6009, julia.plugge@nebraska.gov

CONFERENCES

Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environment Education

September 9-11, 2010

Location: Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science

September 23-25, 2010

Camp Calvin Crest, Fremont, NE

www.neacadsci.org/nats/Conferences/index.htm



North American Association of Environmental Education

September 29 – October 2, 2010

Buffalo, NY

www.naaee.org/conference

Aquatic Resources Education Association

October 3-8, 2010

Location: Double Tree Hotel, Omaha

Contact: www.aneanet.org

Watchable Wildlife Conference

October 5-7, 2010

Location: Holiday Inn Convention Center, Kearney, NE

Contact: www.watchablewildlife.org

National Association of Interpretation

November 16 – 20, 2010

Las Vegas, NV

www.interpnet.com/conferences

Are you planning or hosting an environmentally oriented workshop, festival, conference, or event?

Let the *EE Connections* newsletter, and the NACEE website, advertise for you. E-mail event details including title, date, time, location, and contact information to Lindsay Rogers at lindsayannrogers@nebraska.gov. Submissions accepted constantly.

Environmental Education

CONNECTIONS

Nebraska Alliance for Conservation &
Environment Education
P.O. Box 85344
Lincoln, NE 68502-5344

www.nacee.org

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|--|-------|
| No Child Left Inside Act Update | 1 |
| EE in the News | 2-6 |
| EE Grants | 7 |
| Free Resources | 8 |
| NACEE Update..... | 9 |
| Workshop & Event Calendar | 10-13 |

Environmental Education CONNECTIONS