

Excellence in Environmental Education from the Mountains to the Sea

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Calendar:

- **“Create, Cultivate, Collaborate: Designing Our Shared Future”**
2010 New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) /SWEEP/Promise of Place Conference. October 21-23, Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont. www.neeea.org, www.vermontsweep.org, www.promiseofplace.org
- **New Hampshire Science Teachers Association Fall Conference: October 24-25, Attitash Grand Summit Hotel, Bartlett** www.nhsta.org
- **National Association for Interpretation National Workshop, November 16-20, Las Vegas, Nevada** www.interpnet.com
- **Save the Date: Bald Eagle Workshop, Saturday December 11, 9am-noon, Great Bay Discovery Center, Stratham**
- **SAVE THE DATE: NHEE 2011 Conference, Wednesday March 9, to be held at the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings NHEE Members,

We hope this message finds you all enjoying the remaining days of summer and welcoming fall into New England. We have a lot going on this fall with the NEEEA, NAAEE, and the NHCiNC conferences. It is sure to be a busy time.

If you attend one of the above mentioned conferences and would like to share something you learned or enjoyed while attending them let us know. We would love to post an Op-ed piece from one of our members in our next newsletter. Please send your article to Karen Acerno at acerno@earthlink.net.

The NHEE board met last month at the Harris Center which will be the location for the annual conference. Please reserve **Wednesday, March 9, 2011** in your calendar for this conference. We are in the very early stages of planning and we really need your help. Jessica is going to be chairing this year's conference and is going to be assembling a conference committee. The first thing the committee will be discussing is a theme and putting together a request for presenters. If you can spare a few hours a month to help with planning the conference please get in touch with Jessica at Jessica.Morton@des.nh.gov or (603) 706-0291. **We want YOUR help!**

In this issue of E-News you will find articles on the Harris Center, raptor migration observatory, fall conference and events information, and so much more!

Did we miss something? Do you have an article to share? Please submit any ideas for an upcoming E-News to Karen Acerno at acerno@earthlink.net.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the NHEE E-News. Feedback is always welcome.

Audrey Eisenhower & Jessica Morton

NHEE Co-Presidents

EE Spotlight: Harris Center for Conservation Education

Submitted by Polly Pattison, Harris Center for Conservation Education



This year the NHEE conference will be held at the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock, NH in the heart of the Monadnock region. If you have not yet been to the Harris Center, or haven't visited for many years, you should consider attending the conference and make your way to this beautiful and inspiring spot. The Harris Center first brought environmental education to southwestern New Hampshire 40 years ago, and today serves five school districts with teacher/naturalist led studies in and outside of the classroom. The center offers vacation camp opportunities year round to children in the area, free indoor and outdoor programs to the public, and sits in the heart of the 29,670-acre Super sanctuary of protected lands. Trails through the Super sanctuary offer possibilities for all levels of hikers to enjoy the hills and forests, ponds and swamps and the wild inhabitants of this lovely area.

The Harris Center is a member-supported, non-profit organization dedicated to connecting local citizens with their landscape and deepening the bonds children and adults forge with their natural neighborhoods. Functioning also as a land trust, the land conservation work at the Harris Center not only focuses on regional conservation, but also joins together with others outside of the region to share strategies of this important work.

The building and lands immediately surrounding what is now the Harris Center, was donated by a Hancock resident in 1970, who together with its founders, longed to create an environmental organization in southwestern New Hampshire. The original building was expanded and refurbished in 2003 with locally harvested and recycled materials. Founded on the dreams of a handful of people which have swelled to included a membership of 1500, it's impossible to visit the Harris Center without recognizing the spirit of the many dedicated and talented local residents, teachers, outing leaders, land conservationists, staff and volunteers who have pooled their energies to create this organization which serves both the human and natural world. (For more information go to www.harriscenter.org. Follow the Harris Center on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Harris-Center-for-Conservation-Education/35904403773)



(Harris Center Image)

Harris Center Update: AVEO and Harris Center Joining Together!

Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory becoming a program of the Harris Center for Conservation Education.

Source: www.harriscenter.org

KEENE, N.H., Sept. 15, 2010 – The Harris Center for Conservation Education and Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory (AVEO) have announced a new structure for the AVEO programs that will strengthen the work of conservation and education in the Monadnock Region.

After careful deliberations by their respective staff and boards, both organizations have come to realize that their missions are complementary and that each group can benefit greatly by combining their work and resources. As such, the two organizations have decided to join forces, with AVEO becoming a program of the Harris Center.

"This is a terrific mesh of two great organizations and their missions," said Craig Stockwell, president of the AVEO board of directors. "The stable platform that the Harris Center has developed over the past 40 years assures us that the work of AVEO will continue sustainably as part of the Harris Center. We're delighted that the Harris Center staff and board see the strong value that AVEO provides to our community and we're ready to move forward."

The AVEO programs will continue to be based at Keene State College, thanks to the college's generosity, and will continue to conduct an array of citizen-science environmental projects, some of which involve the college. "Our partnership with AVEO, and now the Harris Center, will create more opportunities for Keene State College students and faculty to engage in long term environmental studies, to the benefit of our students, the region and the state," said Gordon Leverage, dean of the School of Sciences and Social Sciences.

The Harris Center, with headquarters in Hancock, has hired Brett A. Thelen as AVEO program director, beginning January 2011. Thelen is no stranger to either AVEO or the Harris Center. She was AVEO's science director from 2007 through 2009, developing and coordinating a wide array of the organization's work. Thelen also teaches adult courses in the Harris Center's Environmental Studies Institute.

"The Harris Center's support for AVEO programs is great news indeed!" Thelen said. "The Harris Center's longstanding tradition of excellent environmental education will make an incredible platform for AVEO's innovative blend of education and real-world ecological research. I think the two organizations complement each other exceedingly well, and I'm looking forward to helping the Harris Center become a leader in volunteer-based conservation science throughout the Monadnock region."

(Harris Center continued)

Helping to make the transition possible is support from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the Putnam Foundation and gifts from individual donors.

The decision to join AVEO programs with the Harris Center is rooted in what each organization brings to the success of the other, according to David Moon, who founded AVEO in 2003 and served as its executive director.

For AVEO, the Harris Center provides an outstanding reputation and basis for expanding and further developing meaningful citizen science-based contributions to the Monadnock Region, Moon said. For the Harris Center, the AVEO programs bring science-based programming and projects that offer engagement for adult and young learners.

“As we started a dialog about working together, we discovered tremendous dovetailing of our own mission and programs with those of the Harris Center,” Moon said. “We are so pleased to see that the new arrangement will offer many mutual benefits and will strengthen each other’s work.”

“As the Harris Center celebrates its 40th anniversary, we’re proud of our education and land protection programs,” said Laurie Bryan, the Harris Center executive director. “We’re thrilled to be adding AVEO’s citizen science programs, which will complement and broaden existing education opportunities for adults, high school and college students. AVEO provides the opportunity for participants to not only explore the outdoors but to gather data used by conservation groups and planners in addressing environmental issues. I’m looking forward to bringing this dimension to the Harris Center, and continuing AVEO’s valuable contributions to conservation in the region.”

AVEO has coordinated many projects involving students and volunteers over the years, including: monitoring migratory amphibians; identifying vernal pools; bird-banding; monitoring common nighthawks in Keene; identifying invasive plants in Pisgah State Park; and recording culverts and aquatic connectivity throughout the Ashuelot River watershed. For these programs, AVEO has partnered with NH Audubon, Antioch University New England, The Nature Conservancy, Keene State College, Franklin Pierce College, and the NH Division of Forests and Lands.

Many of these core programs will continue and areas for expansion will be explored. The goal is to increase participation of citizen volunteers and develop new innovative projects that will help the entire Monadnock Region better understand the wildlife and natural resources that make the region special and to improve our ability to conserve, restore and manage those resources.

A key partner for AVEO is Keene State College, which has been AVEO’s host since its formation. The college sees this as a mutually beneficial collaboration that has involved students in studies of vernal pools and invasive plants in Pisgah Park, among others. As the Environmental Studies major established in 1979

(Harris Center continued)

continues to grow the newly formed Environmental Studies Department will play a key role in this continuing relationship.

While AVEO as an independent organization will dissolve, its board members – including some Keene State College faculty – have agreed to help guide its transition to a program of the Harris Center.

“We are really excited to see this new future for the AVEO programs,” said Pete Throop, an AVEO board member and project director for the Monadnock Conservancy’s Community Conservation Partnership. “The Harris Center is a solid, well-run organization that has a long, steady commitment to conservation in the Monadnock Region. I look forward to seeing the AVEO programming thrive and expand over time under the leadership of the Harris Center. It’s heartening to anticipate the mutual benefits that will arise from this.”

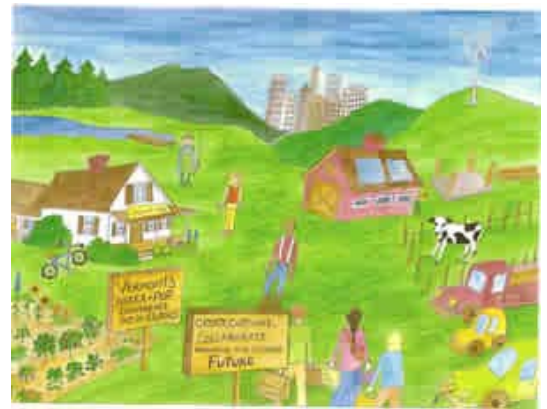
NEEEA Update: Join NHEE at the 2010 NEEEA Conference

NEEEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

Create, Cultivate, Collaborate: Designing Our Shared Future

October 21, 22, and 23, 2010 at Lake Morey Resort,
Fairlee, Vermont

For conference registration information www.neeea.org



Join the NEEEA list serve. Go to www.neeea.org and sign up through Yahoo groups. It’s a great way to stay informed of what’s going on and communicate with other EE professionals around New England.

Environmental Educators Toolkit: Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory at Miller State Park

Submitted by Julie Tilden, Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory



Do you want to witness bald eagles and broad-winged hawks circling up over your head? Would you like to know why birds migrate and where they spend the winter? Are you looking for a new and exciting field trip for your family or school group? New Hampshire Audubon's Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory is a raptor monitoring site located inside Miller State Park off Route 101 in Temple, NH and is the perfect place to see and learn first-hand about migration.

The project, now in its sixth year, is located on the north summit of Pack Monadnock, a short hike or drive up the mountain and is open every fall from September 1- October 31.

Goals of the hawkwatch include collecting data on the 14 species of migrating raptors and educating the public. Pack Monadnock has become the most significant hawkwatch in Northern New England with between 5,000 to 10,000 raptors counted each fall. These data are used to assess raptor populations and is part of a raptor monitoring network which makes up over 200 hawk watch sites across the continent. Together these sites can help determine regional and large scale species trends.

Aside from the collecting important research on raptor movements, the site has become New Hampshire Audubon's most successful outreach project and directly supports their mission: *"to protect New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and people"*.

A raptor counter/interpreter is onsite 9am to 5pm each day, throughout the season to count and educate the public about raptors, their habitat, and their conservation status.

The Observatory welcomes school groups of all ages and has become a very popular destination throughout the region. Last year, 24 school groups visited the hawkwatch ranging from kindergarten to grad school, and the number continues to grow each year. It's a terrific opportunity to get kids outside and introduce them to the world of migration and ecology. The counter spends time with each group, explaining the importance of monitoring species and what makes the location so special for migrants.



(Raptor Observatory continued)

Topics of discussion for school groups can be prearranged to suit current lesson plans, such as using binoculars, starting a field observation book or analyzing data. The site coordinator is also available to speak with teachers prior to the visit to discuss preparatory classroom activities and exercises.

The hawkwatch has received abundant positive feedback regarding the friendly atmosphere, learning environment, and helpful educational material onsite. There are interpretive signs, observatory brochures and newsletters available as well as raptor silhouette guides and t-shirts for sale.

If you are thinking about visiting the Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, please contact Site Coordinator, Julie Tilden at Julietilden@hotmail.com. All visits must also be booked in advance with Miller State Park at (603) 924-3672.

Ask about special rates for school groups. We hope to see you there!



EE Resource for Monadnock-ophiles: *The Monadnock Guide* by Henry I Baldwin, the classic and official guidebook for Mount Monadnock, which has been out of print since the 1980's will be available again this October.

The Monadnock Advisory Commission has teamed up with Surry Cottage Books of Keene to reprint the book that tens of thousands have used as their guide to the mountain. But it's not just a reprint. The book has been completely updated and revised by a team of Monadnock experts that includes former and current park managers, a geologist and a number of long-time Monadnock experts.

There are new photographs and new charts along with the best of the old book, including the comments of Monadnock hikers such as Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Although there are dozens of books about Monadnock, there is only one "official" guidebook and now anyone can use it.

The book will be available at the Monadnock State Park store, in book stores throughout New Hampshire and on Amazon.com, the Internet's primary bookstore. The price is \$20 and a percentage of the proceeds will go to the Monadnock Advisory Commission to continue its good work in protecting the most hiked mountain in North America.

Passages



The New Hampshire Environmental Education community lost a special colleague on October 6th. Wendy Schorr left us far too soon; cancer taking her gentle spirit from us.

She will be remembered as one of those rare educators who truly knew how to inspire. We will miss her welcoming smile at the Amoskeag Fishways where she joyfully connected visitors with the wonders of the Merrimack River. We will miss her dedicated work with NHEE that helped to advance the mission of the organization. We will miss her tireless involvement with many local, regional, and international conservation and environmental education initiatives. We will miss her willingness to be a caring mentor to any student, be they child or adult, who wanted to connect with and care for the natural world.

Most of all we will miss her as a dear friend.

Upcoming Professional Development, Grant, and EE Enrichment Opportunities

Agriculture and the Monadnock Region's Future

Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18

10:30 a.m. to noon

Location: Harris Center

Cost: \$40 members / \$60 non-members

Instructor: Ruth Holmes

Whether you're a backyard gardener or you run an agricultural business, these are exciting times for farming. With instructor Ruth Holmes, we'll discuss the vast changes in the region's farming and explore its future, including the eat-local movement, the challenges and rewards of organic gardening, and raising farm animals, from chickens to livestock.

Since July 2004, Ruth Holmes has been one of the principal farmers at Sunnyfield Farm, one of the last working dairy farms in Peterborough. She is a former teacher who previously managed farm programs at The Meeting School in Rindge. Ruth was also on staff at the Canterbury Shaker Village doing vegetable garden restoration. Her present focus is on a challenge put forth by Charles Daloz, to make the Monadnock region 80 percent self-reliant for food in the next 30 years, a topic we'll discuss for this class. To sign up, please contact [Sara LeFebvre](#) at the Harris Center, 603-525-3394.

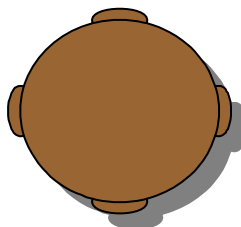
Fall Professional Internship Fair and Roundtable Discussion

Antioch University New England

Environmental Studies Department

Friday, November 12

Fair: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Roundtable Discussion: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (light lunch provided)

Location: Community Room

You are invited to the Environmental Studies Fall Internship Fair at Antioch University New England. If you expect to offer an internship at any time during the coming year, we hope you'll take this opportunity to meet with our students, and with other agencies and organizations that provide internships (and often jobs for our graduates).

At the Fall Fair we will have two distinct groups of students looking for cooperative work sites:

- Students who entered Fall Semester 2009 will be looking for their second or third internships.
- Students who entered this fall will be looking ahead to their first internships in the summer.

I would also like to invite you to a roundtable discussion and light lunch from 1:00 to 2:00 following the fair. Our new students have entered into a significantly modified program that will affect their internship and relationship with organizations. First, we have changed the name to better reflect the ever-increasing responsibility of the experience. Second, we have changed the requirement from 8 credits to 6 credits; but we have retained the same number of hours per credit. Students will be taking two 3-credit internships—with each internship requiring 225 hours of work. I would like to discuss these changes with you, and I would like to explore the ways that program changes may affect your working relationship with Antioch students.

For your convenience we will have:

- chairs and tables for displays, and

- light refreshments in the morning.

Please reply before October 29th to reserve your space. Contact Sarah Bockus, Internship Coordinator, Environmental studies Department, Antioch University of New England at 603-283-2326 for more information.

New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association: Home Energy Conference 2010

November 20, 8:30 am- 4:30 pm, Grappone Center, Concord, NH. Go to www.nhsea.org for registration information.



Bald Eagle Inventory Workshop

Saturday, December 11, 9 am – noon, Great Bay Discovery Center, Stratham

Co-Sponsored by NHEE and NH Audubon

One hour will be indoors learning the history of the Bald Eagle recovery program and the basics of Bald Eagle inventory and identification techniques. Following this learning session two hours will be in the field in the vicinity of the Great Bay Discovery Center searching for eagles and practicing inventory techniques. For more information contact Chris Martin, Senior Biologist NH Audubon cmartin@nhaudubon.org



Visit us on the web at <http://www.nhee.org>

If you have questions or comments contact the Newsletter Editor at acerno@earthlink.net