

Excellence in Environmental Education from the Mountains to the Sea

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Gulf Oil Crisis and EE

An astronaut photo showing the Gulf oil spill near the mouth of the Mississippi Delta, off the Louisiana coast.

(Photo courtesy of www.nationalgeographic.com)

Calendar:

- **Save the Date: “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
- **Save the Date:** 39th Annual Conference of the North American Association for Environmental Education in Buffalo Niagara, NY in 2010. Sept. 29th – Oct. 2nd, <http://www.naaee.org>
- **Save the Date:** New Hampshire Children in Nature Coalition Conference (NHCiNC): **Get Outside: A Prescription for Health, October 7th** Check [www.NH ChildreninNature.org](http://www.NHChildreninNature.org) for details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings NHEE Members,

We hope this message finds you spending quality time away from your offices and enjoying the great outdoors!

Hopefully during the month of May or June you were able to participate in one of the NH Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) forums which were held all over the state. For more information on the forums and for updates please check out the NH ELP website at www.nhee.org/EnvironmentalLiteracy.htm or check out the article on page 2 of the newsletter. For more information about the NHELP please contact either Amy Yeakel at (603) 968-7194 x14, Amy.Yeakel@nhnature.org or Judy Silverberg at (603) 271-1737, Judith.Silverberg@wildlife.nh.gov.

Please consider attending some of these fall conferences! From September 29-October 3 the North American Association for Environmental Education will be hosting their conference in Buffalo-Niagra, New York with the theme "Building Connections~Bridging Gaps." For more information about this conference please visit: <http://www.naaee.org/conference>. Then from October 21-23 the New England Environmental Education Alliance and the Promise of Place will be hosting their conference in Fairlee, VT with the theme "Create, Cultivate, Collaborate: Designing Our Shared Future." For more information on this conference please see page 3 of the newsletter.

Lastly, we would like you to SAVE the DATE for the 2011 NHEE Conference. The conference will be held on **March 9, 2011** at the Harris Center for Conservation Education for more information on the center please visit: www.harriscenter.org. If you would like to assist with the planning and organizing of the conference please contact Jessica Morton at 706-0291 or Jessica.Morton@des.nh.gov.

Enjoy this summer season and stay COOL!!

Audrey Eisenhower & Jessica Morton

NHEE Co-Presidents

NHELP Update

Submitted by Dr. Judy Silverberg, PhD, NHFG

New Hampshire's Environmental Literacy Planning Efforts

In early 2009, New Hampshire Environmental Educators decided to take on the challenge of working on a statewide Environmental Literacy Plan. This concept of a doing a statewide plan is outlined in a piece of pending federal legislation referred to as No Child Left Inside.

At the annual meeting, many of you may have seen the NH Environmental Literacy Plan Case for Support that was developed to help explain the plan and how we were proceeding. Since the annual meeting, the committee developed an opportunity for teachers to provide input via a survey monkey tool. We have had 175 respondents to that questionnaire. Six forums (Squam Lakes Natural Science Center-Holderness, the Harris Center- Hancock, Fish and Game Regional Office - Lancaster, Seacoast Science Center – Rye, Tin Mountain Conservation Center-Conway and Amoskeag Fishways-Manchester) were held. The forums were designed around having a community dialogue about action steps that need to be taken to have environmentally literate communities and citizens. All of the information gathered through a variety of means will be taken into account when the plan is written.

In addition, Amy Yeakel and Judy Silverberg met with Commissioner Barry from the Department of Education and made a presentation at the June meeting of the New Hampshire Board of Education. Comments from those present indicate general support for the idea of a plan and interest in using the environment as a context for learning. ELP Committee members have been in contact with Senator Shaheen's office to ask her to sign on the Senate Bill 866, the federal legislation.

If you would like to send comments on your vision and action ideas or would like to be involved in the ELP committee. Please contact Judy Silverberg at judith.silverberg@wildlife.nh.gov.

NEEEA Update: 2010 Conference Announcement

NEEEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010
Create, Cultivate, Collaborate: Designing Our Shared Future
October 21, 22, and 23, 2010 at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont

Ten years into the 21st century, this moment calls on us ALL

To CREATE: sustainable solutions, systems, designs, models, tools, jobs...



(Conference announcement continued)

To CREATE: a sense of place, shared sense of purpose, partnerships, innovation, ecological & environmental literacy, bio-cultural diversity, personal health, healthy communities, fertile soil, prosperous economies...

To COLLABORATE: with nature, with each other, within communities, among diverse constituencies, across disciplines, around boundaries, beyond the usual alliances, through stewardship and citizenship, for quality of life, toward renewable energy systems and resilient food systems...

In short, to design our shared future.

Join us in Vermont in 2010 as we merge the New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) and Promise of Place (POP) conferences, bringing together a wide circle of people who, in some capacity in their work or recreation, connect people with the environment. We ALL are educating about the environment— from town planners to public health workers, farmers to artists, engineers to hunters and sportsmen, builders and designers to land trusts and historians to energy innovators. We recognize that the unique overlaps of such groups are important in the security and health of our future environment. We all play a special role in catalyzing the learning that moves individuals of any age to act in their communities with care and understanding: to create, to cultivate, to collaborate.

Moving our communities toward sustainability requires all of us who are linked by the tendrils of place, a commitment to the health of the living world, and a vision of human communities thriving within the means of nature.

We welcome all those who see a role in designing our shared future to gather with us for three days in the beautiful Upper Valley of Vermont. Starting with this place as our context, we'll share our learning, reflect on the work of many, and deepen our understanding. Even more importantly, we'll build a shared foundation for action, to seize the potential for broad-based environmental literacy and place-based education to create models for authentic 21st century learning, to cultivate a sense of place, and to foster collaboration for sustainable solutions. (<http://www.neeea.org/conference>)

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: Teaching About the Oil Disaster in the Gulf of Mexico

Selected Resources:

The Bridge Ocean Science Education Blog

The Bridge Ocean Science Education Blog was created by the Bridge, a website providing free marine education resources, and the National Marine Educators Association. The blog provides a

(EE Toolkit continued)

forum for educators to discuss topics related to ocean science and ocean science education. Included is a special section dedicated to the Gulf Oil Spill. bridge.blogs.wm.edu

American Bird Conservancy: Impacts of Oil Spill

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC), an organization dedicated to conserving native wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas, has created a page dedicated to providing the public with information on the impacts the Gulf Oil Spill will have on birds. In addition to general information, ABC provides the latest updates on how birds and bird habitat will be affected as well as suggestions for how the public can become involved in the clean-up and wildlife rescue operations
www.abcbirds.org

Eco-Schools USA Special Report: Oil Spill

Eco-Schools, a program of the National Wildlife Federation, created a special report on the Gulf Oil Spill designed to give teachers and students information and resources to help them better understand the spill and its ramifications. Included are questions that kids have been asking the experts as well as information on helping wildlife and the importance of wetlands. www.nwf.org

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education Network

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education Network (GOMAEEN), an organization that provides resources for educators in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, is providing links to relevant news stories and updating their list as new developments related to the Gulf Oil Spill merit. GOMAEEN also provides links to several lesson plans regarding oil spills in their Educator Resources section. www.gulfallianceeducation.org

Encyclopedia of Earth: Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

The Encyclopedia of Earth (EoE) is a free, searchable collection of articles written by scholars, professionals, educators and experts on the Earth, its environments and their interaction with society. The EoE's extensive article on the Gulf Oil Spill includes information on the magnitude and extent of the spill, clean up efforts and ecological impacts as well as a review of past disasters.
www.eoearth.org

NOAA Office of Response and Restoration

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration provides scientific support for oil and chemical spill responses as well as damage. In addition, NOAA is currently providing the latest news relating to the Gulf Oil Spill as well as fact sheets, publications and visuals. www.noaa.gov

Oil on the Water: The Physics of Oil Spills

This interactive feature on MSNBC's website provides an overview of the physics behind an oil spill. The feature illustrates the physical and chemical processes, known as weathering, that change the oil's properties and behavior after it is spilled into the ocean.
www.msnbc.msn.com/id/.../ns/disaster_in_the_gulf

Experiment to Clean Up an Oil Spill

This experiment, created by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, is designed to give kids an idea of what it might be like to clean up an oil spill and why the task is so difficult. Using environmentally-friendly household materials, the experiment guides students through the steps of creating an oil spill and then trying to clean it. A series of observational questions are posed. www.amsa.gov.au

The Smithsonian Institution: The Ocean Portal

The Ocean Portal, developed by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, is an interactive website that inspires awareness, understanding and stewardship of the world's oceans. Included in the myriad resources provided here is a blog that highlights the unseen impacts of the Gulf Oil Spill, as well as a Spotlight on Science Feature, ocean news and resources for educators.
www.ocean.si.edu

[Source: *EE Week June 2010*, www.eeweek.org]

Upcoming Professional Development, Grant, and EE Enrichment Opportunities

New Hampshire Children and Nature Upcoming Conference

NHCiNC: Get Outside: a Prescription for Health

Join us at the **Hanover Inn** on Thursday, **October 7th**, for the fourth **NH Children in Nature Conference**. Dr. Tory Rogers, Director of the Kids CO-OP at Maine Medical Center, and a high energy, articulate spokesperson for getting kids out and moving, will be our keynote speaker. We will showcase the best of the Upper Valley and Franklin HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) initiatives, with other examples from around the state, focusing on projects that feature time enjoyed outdoors. Sessions will provide a rich opportunity for conversation and collaboration, to create opportunities for and motivate everyone to "Get Outside: for the health of it."

With the recent national forum celebrating "America's Great Outdoors," the launch of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Move It!" campaign and unveiling of the new "Let's Move Outdoors" website, and June proclaimed as "Great Outdoors Month," we're seeing more attention placed on reconnecting children, youth and families with the outdoors. Our conference will build on this momentum and on the tools introduced at our 2009 NHCiNC conference, to explore how this issue is being addressed by many groups, celebrate what is being done, and begin work on what remains to be done.

Watch our website www.NHChildrenInNature.org for details!

Summer Opportunities with the Squam Lakes Association:

- June 28 through August 13 JSLA youth summer camp (select openings still available)
- Canoe, kayak, and sailboat rentals
- **Cyanobacteria Summit from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the SLA's Resource on July 22, 2010 Center on Route 3 in Holderness**
- July 24th Hike for the Trails day at Mount Morgan Trailhead 8:00 am
- Kids canoe races @ Ashland Town beach @ 10:00 am
- August 1st, active boating census

(EE Opportunities continued)

- August 8th Around the Lake Sailing Race (Piper Cove)

NEA-Target Green Across America Grant: Deadline July 30, 2010

The National Education Association's (NEA) Green Across America grants of up to \$1,000 are available to help implement an innovative education program, activity, lesson, or event to excite students about going green, caring for the earth and creating a sustainable future. www.nea.org

The Subaru Healthy Sprouts Award: Deadline October 1, 2010

The award recognizes and supports youth gardening programs focused on teaching about our environment, nutrition, and hunger issues in the United States. To be eligible, your school or organization must plan to garden in 2011 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and education related to the environmental, nutrition, and hunger issues in the United States. www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp

Toshiba American Foundation: Deadline-ongoing

Toshiba America Foundation offers grants for 6-12 grade teachers of math and science. Applications for \$5,000 or less are accepted on a rolling basis, throughout the calendar year. Grant requests for more than \$5,000 are reviewed twice a year. These applications are due August 2, 2010. www.classroomearth.org/node/1303



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

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