

Excellence in Environmental Education from the Mountains to the Sea

Volume: 1

Issue: 3

Date: Summer 2009

In this issue:

- Presidents Message
- Organizational Spotlight: Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center
- Sargent Center Update
- NEEEA Update
- Upcoming Professional Development Roundtables and Conferences



O S
R P
G O
A T
N L
I I
Z G
A H
T T
I
O
N

Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center (PFEEC)



Explore the trails, catch a frog, experience an education program, and discover the exhibits at the Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center this summer. (Photos courtesy of PFEEC)

Calendar:

- **UNH Cooperative Extension Common Ground Teaching Garden Open House: August 2**, Massabesic Audubon Center, Auburn, www.nhaudubon.org ; (603) 668-2045
- **Association of Nature Center Administrators 2009 Summit** at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center: **August 26-29** www.natctr.org
- **The Nature of Afterschool Roundtable: September 8**, sfitzpatrick@plustime.org
- **NEEEA Conference: An Arena of Issues and Solutions in a Changing World, September 25-27**, Ivoryton CT. www.neeea.org
- **4-H National Youth Science Day – “BioBlast”**, www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2009news/07081_4h_science_day.html
- **NHSTA Fall Conference, October 25-26**, Attitash Bear Peak, Bartlett
- **National Association for Interpretation, National Interpreters Workshop** in Hartford, CT: **November 17-21, 2009** www.interpnet.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, NHEE Members! We hope this message finds everyone enjoying their summer. Hopefully everyone has been able to get a little rest and relaxation this summer.

Our annual conference in March at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center was very successful. We had approximately 50 participants and everyone found the information on taking inquiry outdoors helpful. Congratulations to our 2009 award winners Mindy Beltramo, Patti Dugan Henriksen, and Shaw Smith. The NHEE board would also like to thank our conference speakers. We are starting to prepare for the 2010 spring conference. If you would like to participate on the conference committee or have ideas on themes for the conference please contact Jess Morton at (603) 706-0291 or jmorton@metrocast.net.

In December the board worked with the New England Environmental Education Alliance on a grant application to develop a NH environmental literacy plan (ELP) through the EPA. The grant application was a collaboration of all the New England EE organizations. The board found out that the grant was not accepted. However, the board is still going to start working on this project. If you would like to participate on this committee to develop an ELP in NH please contact Jess at (603) 706-0291 jmorton@metrocast.net.

The 43rd New England Environmental Education Alliance Conference will be held September 25-27 at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT. The theme of the conference is **"An Arena of Issues and Solutions in a Changing World."** For more information please see the related article and visit www.neeea.org.

We hope you enjoy this third edition of the NHEE E-News. We are always looking for article suggestions. Please send us your ideas and comments. Thanks! We hope to see you in September at the NEEEA annual conference or at an upcoming NHEE sponsored workshop!

Audrey Eisenhower and Jessica Morton

Spotlight On Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center

By Sarah Dunham, Program Naturalist, PFEEC

Set high on a hill overlooking Lake Winnepesaukee, Prescott Farm offers engaging environmental education programs for people of all ages. The 160-acre historic family farm has been in the Prescott-Pardoe family since the late eighteenth century, first serving as a dairy farm, and then, in 1998, becoming a nature center through a partnership with the NH Audubon Society (NHA). This spring, however, PFEEC chose to amicably separate from NHA to allow more focus on core programming. PFEEC will continue to honor NHA membership benefits through December 2009.

Prescott Farm offers on-site programming such as the Polliwogs Pre-school Playgroup for children ages 1-3, classes for homeschoolers, fieldtrips for local schools, WildQuest spring and summer vacation camps for elementary-age children, and activities for families such as full moon snowshoeing walks and animal tracking with a Prescott Farm educator. Designated as an official New Hampshire Wildlife Viewing Area, PFEEC offers three miles of woodland, pond and field trails that are open from dawn to dusk every day.

In season, visitors can also explore a three-story historic barn, beautiful heritage and heirloom flower and vegetable gardens, and an old-fashioned maple sugar operation. PFEEC's Samuel P. Pardoe Building incorporates high-performance "green" building design features, including a geothermal heating and cooling system and solar-generated electricity.

Prescott Farm also holds Naturalist-in-Residence contracts with the Gilford, Gilmanton and Belmont Elementary Schools. Educators spend between 8-12 hours per week in the schools working with teachers and students with the goal of getting kids out of the classroom and learning about the places in which they live.

Prescott Farm is located on White Oaks Road just minutes from downtown Laconia, and less than a mile from Weirs Beach. There is no admission charge, but donations are always welcome.

For more information, call 366-5695, e-mail info@prescottconservancy.org, or visit the website at www.prescottconservancy.org.

Sargent Center Update: SARGENT CENTER TO REMAIN OPEN

By Beth Lesure, NHEE Board

A deal has been reached between Boston University and Nature's Classroom, a not-for-profit educational group offering environmental education programs to children in grades 4-8 to continue operations at Sargent Center for Outdoor Education. The new name will be Nature's Classroom at Sargent Center, with the official transfer taking place September 1, 2009.

Nature's Classroom, based in Charleton, MA., operates seasonal environmental education at 13 sites in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire and has been in existence for 37 years. The executive director, John Santos, started the first program in 1973 at Potter Place, NH. Under the agreement, Boston University will retain ownership of the property and lease the operations at Sargent Center to Nature's Classroom. Approximately 60% of the current employees will stay on under the new plan.

All schools that are currently attending programs at Sargent Center have been contacted and encouraged to book for the 2009-2010 school year. Those interested in signing up should contact Larry Chambers at Sargent Center or John Santos at Nature's Classroom.

Join an Environmental Education Roundtable or Attend a Conference!

The Nature Of Afterschool

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

PlusTime NH office at 202 N. State Street, Concord, NH

Join former NH Audubon Education Director, and current PlusTime NH Program Consultant Scott Fitzpatrick for this roundtable presentation and discussion of opportunities for environmental education in afterschool programs. This should be a wide-ranging dialogue, covering Elementary to High School, program and staff development needs, service learning, and more. The fields of EE and Afterschool have great potential for linking together. Join in this conversation to explore how this might happen!

To register, contact:

Scott Fitzpatrick
603-856-8837
sfitzpatrick@plustime.org

Attend the 2009 Fall NH Science Teachers Conference in Bartlett

The NH Science Teachers Fall Conference will be held on **October 25-26** at the Attitash Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center in Bartlett, NH. The conference brings together NH science teachers of grades K - 12. For more information about the conference please visit www.nhsta.net. Currently, NHSTA is seeking exhibitors for their conference. Forms can be found at their website and must be filed no later than September 30th. The exhibitor costs are as follows: Commercial: \$150.00; Non-Profit: \$100.00. Tables are 8 feet in length. Questions about the conference should be addressed to Paul Williams at nhsta@together.net.

Featured Workshop at NHSTA Conference:

Camera + GPS + Google Earth = A Digitally Documented Field Trip! - Attitash & WMNF Discovery Trail.

Instructors: Ina Ahern, Plymouth Regional High School, Shane Bradt, UNH Cooperative Extension, Clare Long, Conservation Education Specialist, White Mountain National Forest and the US Forest Service, and Jen Werda, Science Teacher, Pemi-Baker Outdoor Leadership Academy, Plymouth, NH.

Learn how to create a virtual field trip or have students document fieldwork using these tools. Practice with a trip to the WMNF Discovery Trail and other local sites. Tentative Schedule: Introduction to Google Earth (classroom--30 minutes); Collecting Waypoints & Tracks (field work--45 minutes); Downloading Waypoints & Tracks and Integrating with Google Earth (classroom--45 minutes); Introduction to Digital Cameras/Field Trip Prep (classroom--30 minutes); Collect tracks and digital images as we drive to and walk around the WMNF Discovery Trail and Russell Colbath House site (Field Trip: 4 hours); Download collected tracks & pictures and integrate into Google Earth Project (classroom--90 minutes).

NEEEA Update

By Ruth Smith, NHEE Representative to the NEEEA Board.

The NEEEA Board held its quarterly meeting in New Hampshire in July and worked on a variety of important projects. Probably the most important project that all six states are involved in is working on Environmental Literacy Plans. A joint grant proposal had been submitted by NEEEA to the EPA to provide regional funding for these plans. Unfortunately the proposal was turned down, but the process of applying jumpstarted the formation of committees which are now moving forward. As part of this work, NEEEA will be sponsoring an all day workshop at the fall conference in Connecticut. It will be held on Friday, September 25. For more information, contact Audrey Eisenhauer at or check the NEEEA website: www.neeea.org.

Speaking of the annual conference, it will be in Connecticut on September 25-27. The theme this year is "An Arena of Issues and Solutions in a Changing World". Workshops have been selected to help re-energize you as you juggle finances, staff and development. The special feature of *Interact Tables* allows you to speed through a variety of resources and new materials that directly apply to classroom and center needs. A *Midway of vendors and exhibits* (check the website if you would like to put up a display or offer and interact session) will showcase the support and resources available to you with some *environmental games* thrown in. Learn the magic of making things happen and how to bend new ideas into action! The weekend focus is on sparking the imagination to find solutions that build on a better tomorrow. For conference details and registration go to www.neeea.org Registration is underway and the deadline to receive the early bird discount is August 22, so don't delay.

This year, the conference organizers are trying something new. In addition to the traditional Silent Auction at the conference, there will be a quilt auction to raise money for the NEEEA scholarship fund. The quilts will be on display at the conference, but you do not have to attend the conference to bid. They will be pictured on the website and bids will be accepted electronically as well as live. Help raise funds that will enable more people to attend the NEEEA conference and other professional development opportunities. Bid early and often.

The NEEEA board is also hard at work directing the upgrade of our website and working with a designer to create a new logo. We hope to have these ready to unveil at the conference in September.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference. It's a great place to gain valuable information to enhance your work, and meet other EE professionals from around the New England region

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.



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

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