

Excellence in Environmental Education from the Mountains to the Sea

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Nature exploration Memorial Park. Antrim (Jess Gerrior-Baribault photo)

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New Hampshire Project Learning Tree



Groulx Tree

(Photo courtesy of NHPLT)

Calendar:

- NEEEA Conference October 21-23, Prindle Pond Conference Center, Charlton, MA www.neeea.org
- NHSTA Fall Conference: **October 23 and 24**, Church Landing, Meredith, NH www.nhsta.net
- National Association for Interpretation, National Interpreters Workshop, St. Paul, Minnesota : **November 8-12, 2011** www.interpnet.com
- 40th Annual NAAEE Conference, 2011: **October 12-15**, Hosted by North Carolina EE www.naaee.org
- 4th Annual GIS Educators Conference: **November 13th**, Saratoga Springs, NY www.northeastarc.org
- National Association of Agricultural Educators 2011 Convention: **November 15-19**, St Louis, Missouri. www.acteonline.org/convention.aspx

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, 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, NHSTA, 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 has been discussing the spring 2012 conference. The location and date are still being considered, but it will most likely take place in the seacoast region and will take place on a weekday in the month of March. The theme for the conference is going to be "Meeting Standards with Citizen Science". Could you offer a workshop on this theme or do you know a group that we should target? Or would you like to be on the planning committee for the 2012 conference? We need your help! Please contact Alicia Carlson at Alicia.Carlson@des.nh.gov or Judy Tumosa at Judy.I.Tumosa@wildlife.nh.gov if you are interested in assisting or have some suggestions for our conference committee.

In this issue of E-News you will find articles on the NH Project Learning Tree, fall conference and events information, the NHEE list serve, 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 and Jessica Morton

NHEE Co-Presidents

Spotlight on EE: New Hampshire Project Learning Tree

By Erin Hollingsworth, NHPLT

NH Project Learning Tree (NHPLT) envisions a future where every young person understands, appreciates and loves the natural world, and enjoys spending time outdoors. Our community's future depends upon a strong connection between children and the natural world.

We invest in the teachers who invest in our children. Research shows that people, who enjoyed meaningful experiences in the outdoors as a child, are able to think critically and act responsibly on behalf of the ecological, social, and economic values of our forests and other natural resources as adults.

NHPLT achieves its mission by training educators in Project Learning Tree®, the time-honored environmental education curricula developed by the American Forest Foundation.

There are many ways that you can get involved with NH Project Learning Tree. If you are an educator, get trained through one of our workshops. If you are a school administrator, start a “connecting students to their community initiative” and invite NHPLT to train and work with staff to achieve this. If you are a forest landowner, work with us to make educational connections to your land. If you are a natural resource professional, get trained and allow us to help you make the most of your educational time with the public. If you are a parent or someone who just generally cares about connecting kids to nature, talk about us to your friends, child’s teacher, and “like us” on Facebook!

NHPLT relies on the support of every facet of the community--businesses, individuals and government--to accomplish its mission. There is no more important way to show NHPLT your support than by making a tax deductible contribution.

NH Project Learning Tree Upcoming Events:

Thursday, November 3rd: “Project Learning Tree Grows in New Hampshire” annual celebration. Join us for an evening of celebration that will help raise funds to support environmental education throughout New Hampshire. 6:00-8:30 pm, the Highlander Inn, Manchester. \$50 per person. Register by October 26th at www.nhplt.org.

Saturday, November 5th: Become a NHPLT Early Childhood Facilitator! Help us to train parents and educators of children ages 3-5 in your community with our newest guide *Environmental Experience for Early Childhood!* To register and for more information go to www.nhplt.org

High School Students Help Protect Meredith's Drinking Water Supply!

by Robie Parsons and Andrea LaMoreaux, NH LAKES



The NH LAKES Lake Conservation Corps Crew at Lake Waukewan taking a break from constructing a vegetated buffer.

Six high school students and one teacher spent their summer at Lake Waukewan in Meredith. No, they weren't lounging at the town beach and frolicking in the water—instead, they were working as New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES) Lake Conservation Corps crew protecting Lake Waukewan from pollution!

Here's how:

In partnership with NH LAKES, the Waukewan Shore Owners Association, the Waukewan Association, the Winona Forest Association, the Town of Meredith, the Hidden Cove Association, and residential property owners, the crew installed six lake-friendly landscaping projects along the shoreline of Lake Waukewan. The projects will reduce the amount of polluted water that runs off of the landscape and into the lake during rainstorms.

The projects included installing infiltration trenches and infiltration steps filled with crushed stone to slow down runoff water, rubber razors and waterbars to divert runoff away from the lake, and rain gardens and vegetated buffers to soak up diverted runoff. **Together, the projects will prevent approximately 15 tons of sediment, 30 pounds of nitrogen, and most importantly, 15 pounds of phosphorus from polluting the lake each year!**

What's so bad about phosphorus?

Phosphorus is a nutrient contained in many lawn fertilizers, septic system waste, and soil. While nutrients are generally thought of as good things, unfortunately, too much phosphorus in a lake can cause excessive plant and algae growth to flourish. Excessive plant and algal growth can make boating, fishing, and swimming unpleasant and dangerous. Excessive phosphorus can also cause toxic cyanobacteria blooms to occur in a lake. Because Lake Waukewan serves as a drinking water

source for approximately 45% of the residents in Meredith, efforts to reduce the amount of phosphorus flowing into the lake are critical.

Here's what people are saying about the program and projects:

"I had no idea coming into this job what phosphorus was," said crew member Johnny Connell. "I am now leaving this job with a plethora of information on how to keep phosphorus out and how to solve runoff problems."

Not only are the projects reducing the amount of polluted runoff that flows into Lake Waukegan, the projects have beautified the landscape.

"The crew deserves a huge applause from our Association. We couldn't be happier with the results and how it looks," lauded Robert Normandy, a property owner at Hidden Cove.

"While not only improving the health and enjoyment of Lake Waukegan," says Andrea LaMoreaux, NH LAKES Vice President of Education and Communication, "we hope this program will foster a life-long appreciation of the natural world among the student participants." Students learned about lake ecology during a water sampling boat trip out on the lake hosted by NH LAKES and the Waukegan Shore Owners Association, and worked on making videos about the project installations.

Take a tour of the projects to learn more!

On August 19, the students, along with NH LAKES staff and property owners, showcased the six projects through a community open house. Over thirty members of the community attended the event, caravanning from project site to project site around the lake, and the students were thrilled to explain the projects, show off their work, and answer questions. The students assured the attendees that the projects were examples of simple things that any property owner could construct to reduce the amount of water that flows off the landscape and into lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. To see these projects and to learn how easily and inexpensively you can fix similar runoff problems on your own property, NH LAKES can provide you with a map so that you can take a self-guided tour. (Contact NH LAKES at rparsons@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299) for more information.)

Here's who made the projects possible:

The NH LAKES 2011 Lake Conservation Corps Program at Lake Waukegan was funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Local Source Water Protection Program. The program was also supported by generous donations and discounts from local businesses including Belknap Landscape Company, Inc. and Realgreen Lawn Care, LLC of Meredith. Of course, the project would not have come together if the students and teacher from Inter-Lakes High School hadn't given up some of their free time this summer!

Are you interested in implementing a Lake Conservation Corps Program in your community?

If you are interested in working with a group of high school students in your community to protect a nearby lake, pond, river, or stream, from polluted runoff, please contact Robie Parsons, NH LAKES Programs Coordinator at 226-0299 rparsons@nhlakes.org.

The New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES) is a member-supported, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting New Hampshire's lakes and their watersheds. Find NH LAKES on Facebook by searching for "NH LAKES (NH Lakes Association)" at www.facebook.com and become a fan of their page. To receive NH LAKES' free monthly e-news blast, Shorelines, full of interested lake-related information, sign up at www.nhlakes.org.



Photo 2: Lake Waukegan Park before the Lake Conservation Corps crew reported to work. Wind and wave action from the lake and runoff water from the landscape was causing the bank to erode into the lake, contributing phosphorus and other pollutants into the lake which serves as a drinking water supply for many Meredith residents.



Photo 3: During the summers of 2009 and 2011, the NH LAKES Lake Conservation Corps Program installed an extensive vegetated buffer and infiltration trench. Both of which reduce amount of polluted water that flows into Lake Waukegan and beautify the park.

NH ELP Update

By Alicia Carlson, NHELP Committee

This past July, the draft New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan was released for comments. There were nearly 1000 “views” of the plan on the New Hampshire ELP blog (<http://nhenvironmentalliteracyplan.wordpress.com/>). A dozen people provided comments about the plan on the blog pages, while several others submitted written comments to Judy Silverberg at N.H. Fish and Game.

The ELP Committee met in early September to review the comments and consider how to revise the plan accordingly. Next steps are to complete a crosswalk that shows correlations between the North American Association for Environmental Education’s “Guidelines for Learning (PreK-12)” and the N.H. Science and Social Studies Frameworks.

Also a small contingent of the ELP Committee will be meeting with the N.H. Department of Education’s Commissioner Virginia Barry to discuss the plan and its future in New Hampshire. Commissioner Barry previously gave her support to the ELP in the spring of 2010 and provided time at a state Board of Education meeting for discussion of the ELP. If the board approves the plan, an advisory committee will be formed to begin implementation.

Stay tuned for more news about New Hampshire’s Environmental Literacy Plan.



Critter “close-up” during a youth nature exploration in Memorial Park in Antrim this past summer.

(Jess Gerrior-Baribault photo. / www.spiderjess.org)

NEEEA Update

By Ruth Smith, NHEE Board and NH Representative to NEEEA

NEEEA Conference in Massachusetts

It's not too late to sign up for the 45th annual New England Environmental Education Alliance Conference, coordinated by the Massachusetts Environmental Education Society at Prindle Pond Conference Center in Charlton, MA. The conference, "Charting a Course to an Environmentally Literate Future", will be held on October 21-23, 2011. There will be inspiring keynote speakers including Julian Agyeman professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University and Coleen O'Connell from the Division of Interdisciplinary Inquiry at Lesley University. Workshops relating to environmental literacy, natural history, educational tools, emerging trends and more will provide engaging ways to energize veterans and inspire novices. Field trips and entertainment, networking and the famous NEEEA silent auction will help round out a fun-filled and educational weekend. The NHEE state meeting will also take place at 12:45 on Saturday of the conference. We hope to see you there. **For more information and to register go to:**

www.neeea.org.



Flower pots made during a family nature project day at The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center in Antrim.

(Jess Gerior-Baribault photo. / www.SpiderJess.org)

EE Professional Development, Grant, Program Opportunities

Attention: A NEW Project WET manual is being released this fall! STAY TUNED for more details or contact Alicia Carlson, N.H. Project WET Coordinator, if you have questions.
(Alicia.carlson@des.nh.gov)

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The Little Nature Museum is sponsoring a **"Map and Compass Workshop,"** for teens through adults on **Saturday, October 15; rainedate, October 16** at Gould Hill Farm, Contoocook. It will be taught by outdoor survival expert, Rudy Bourget. The cost is \$7 for museum members; \$10 for non-members. All proceeds benefit the Museum.

The program for grades 6 – 8 will be held from 9 AM – Noon; grades 9 - Adult will meet from 1 PM - 5 PM. [We need a few adults in grades 6-8; no charge for adults.] **Preregistration is required; registration is limited to 12 per class. Call 746-6121 to register** or for more information.

Every year we hear stories about people getting lost in the woods; too often the story ends with tragedy. Learn the skills that will reduce your chances of getting lost in the woods and increase the likelihood of being found safely including map reading, using a compass, and basic GPS.



(Photograph courtesy of The Little Nature Museum)



Mark your calendar for October 23-24, 2011 for the 2011 NHSTA Fall Conference to be held at Church Landing, Meredith, NH! Gain new teaching ideas and strategies with a diverse offering of workshops. Enjoy the exhibit hall to boost and enhance your classroom. Take the opportunity to network with peers and professionals who nurture your passion for science!

The fall conference will be held over a series of two days. Sunday will be dedicated to field trips. Monday will feature 4 sessions of workshops. Come join us in Meredith to get information on relevant issues, network with educators throughout the state, and to simply enjoy a few days dedicated to science education in the state of New Hampshire!

There are lots of pricing arrangements to meet everyone's needs. You can register for both days (full conference), or for Sunday (field trips only) or Monday (full slate of workshops only). You can register as a Member (to get the "Member" price, you must be a member in good standing - that is, have paid your dues within the last year. To join or renew your membership, go to <http://www.nhsta.net/home/join>. You can also renew as you register). The Conference Nonmember fee includes a one year membership. There is special pricing for Retirees, First-Year Teachers, Spouses, and Pre-Service Teachers (students). You can register by mail and pay with a check; you can register on-line and pay with a credit card; you can register either way and pay with a purchase order. There are three important registration dates: the "Early-Bird" pricing runs from now (8-10-11) through 9/15/11. "Pre-Registration" goes from 9/16/11 through 10/1/11. "Regular" registration is from 10/2/11 through 10/17/11. Finally, Church Landing has a great deal if you're interested in staying overnight. There are four conference hotels: Church Landing, The Chase House, Bay Point, and Mill Falls - \$99.00 per room (call 1-800-622-6455 and mention NHSTA). Looking forward to seeing you there!

THE NEW ENGLAND FALL ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL

✧ ★ ✧ ☆ A WEEKEND OF ☆ ✧ ★ ✧
DISCOVERY, OBSERVATION, & FUN!
OCTOBER 14 AND 15, 2011
✧ ✧ ✧ UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE ✧ ✧ ✧
HUNDREDS OF TELESCOPES,
BILLIONS OF STARS!

View them through telescopes available courtesy of astronomers from all over New England.

🌙 **FREE ADMISSION** (DONATIONS WELCOME) ✧

Friday, October 14
Beginning at 6 p.m.

- Astronomy talks
- Night sky observation all night long
- Light concessions available for purchase through 10 p.m.



Saturday, October 15
Beginning at 10 a.m.

- Astronomy for Kids—check our website for times and details
- Safe solar viewing
- Telescope clinic/demonstrations
- Astronomy talks
- Night sky observation all night long
- Lunch and dinner available for purchase, light concessions until 10 p.m.

All activities take place at:

UNH Observatory, Spinney Lane, UNH,
Durham, N.H. (on the west end of campus)

Hours:

Friday, October 14, beginning at 6 p.m.
Saturday, October 15, beginning at 10 a.m.

Hosted by the UNH Physics Department and staffed, organized, and driven by members of the New England astronomical community.

The October sky promises a fabulous family weekend of astronomical proportions!

- Meet an astronaut
- Telescope Clinic
- Hands-on activities for children and adults
- Astronomy talks for all ages
- See the stars up close at the UNH Observatory
- Safe solar gazing
- Ask an astronomer!
- Enjoy food and refreshment

Learn more:

physics.unh.edu/observatory/NEFAF

Visit the website for parking and accessibility questions, weather updates, and a complete listing of participating organizations.

UNIVERSITY
of NEW HAMPSHIRE





25th Annual New England 2011 Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference;
November 29 – December 1, Manchester, NH. Contact Susan Bonifant at susan@nhsaa.org for more information.

Environmental Educators Toolkit:

Are you following the *Naturally Curious* Blog?



If you have not yet discovered Mary Holland's Naturally Curious Blog you are missing a wonderful resource that will connect you or your students with the natural world. Naturally Curious is described by Mary Holland as "a photographic field guide and month-by-month journey through the fields, woods, and marshes of New England."

Holland is a Vermont naturalist, photographer, columnist and author and has spent her life knee-deep in natural history. She has had a distinguished career in environmental education. She has worked in New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts in connection with well known environmental education programs. She directed the Vermont Institute of Natural Science's Environmental Learning for the Future (ELF) program and developed the Massachusetts Audubon Society's "Knee-High Nature" programs.

Mary Holland's venture into blogging allows for a "virtual field trip" that combines fascinating nature photography with important natural history information on the subjects that she photographs.

To learn more about the Naturally Curious blog go to <http://naturallycuriouswithmaryholland.wordpress.com>

NHEE List Serve – Are you on it? Are you using it?

As a member of the NH Environmental Educators (NHEE) one membership benefit you receive is being able to share and receive information from other environmental educators in New Hampshire through the list serve. The list serve is the place where members can share upcoming events, post job openings, or ask for feedback from other members. You can even choose how you receive the messages (i.e. in digest format or receiving each message individually).

To post items to the NHEE list serve you first must be an NHEE member. Once you have been registered as a member you can submit postings to the list serve by emailing nhee-l@maillist2.nh.gov. Once you have emailed your posting typically it will be posted to the list serve within 24 hours. To see if your message got posted to the list serve you can view the list of archived messages by visiting <http://maillist2.nh.gov/pipermail/nhee-l/>.

Questions about the list serve should be addressed to Jessica Morton at jmorton@metrocast.net or (603) 706-0291



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

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