

Excellence in Environmental Education from the Mountains to the Sea

Volume: 2 Issue: 1

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High School students are challenged to identify native tree species in early spring during New Hampshire Envirothon. Learn more about Envirothon 2010 in this issue. (Photo courtesy of NHEnvirothon)

Come to the 2010 NHEE Conference!

Wednesday, March 10th, 12 noon to 8pm
Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
Holderness, NH

Locally Grown Learning: Education Using Your Community Resources

Keynote Presentation: Dr. Libby McCann, Director of Environmental Education, Antioch New England University

Awards/Workshop Sessions / Silent Auction

Conference Sponsored by Uncommon Catering by the Common Man Inn

Registration form at www.nhee.org

Calendar:

- **NHEE Annual Conference. March 10, 2010**, at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Holderness, NH www.nhee.org
- **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 and Call for Presentations!** 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/conference/call> for presentations.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings NHEE Members,

Happy New Year! We hope that your new year is off to a good start and that you have had the opportunity to get outdoors this winter and enjoy the natural world that inspires us all to do what we do as environmental educators.

The NHEE Board of Directors has been busy planning for 2010 and is pleased to share several updates with you in this newsletter including news about the 2010 NHEE Annual Conference, and the new NHEE exhibit.

The 2010 NHEE Annual Conference, "*Locally Grown Learning: Education Using Your Community Resources*," is just around the corner and we hope you will join us. The conference is being hosted by the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (www.nhnature.org) in Holderness, NH on Wednesday, March 10 from 12:00 – 8:00 p.m. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Libby McCann, Director of Environmental Education in the Department of Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England. In her keynote address, Dr. McCann will invite conference participants to think deeply about our community contributions and what we want to imagine for the future of environmental education. This is an exciting time to be environmental educators! As leaders and practitioners in this dynamic field, we each bring a suite of skills and talents essential to our work. Dr. McCann will also highlight trends and share lessons learned through her efforts in a variety of community-based EE initiatives. The conference also features three concurrent sessions focused on "locally grown learning" including an after-dark session where participants can venture out on a night walk or an owl prowl, dinner by Common Man Catering, and the NH Environmental Educator of the Year awards. The conference registration form is available on line at www.nhee.org. We thank Uncommon Catering by the Common Man Inn for their generosity in sponsoring the 2010 NHEE Conference. We look forward to seeing you there.

The NHEE Board of Directors is excited to unveil our new exhibit at the upcoming annual conference. Board Members Jen Werda, Sara Head, and Karen Acerno, along with volunteer Pam Doherty put in many hours of writing and editing to get to the final version. We especially appreciate the time and creative talents contributed by Pam Doherty who did the design and layout work for the exhibit. Stop by the NHEE table at the annual conference to check it out! And let us know if you have an upcoming event where we can display the new NHEE exhibit to help spread the word about New Hampshire Environmental Educators.

Audrey Eisenhauer & Jessica Morton

NHEE Co-Presidents

SPOTLIGHT ON NH Environmental Education:



The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (SLNSC) is a non-profit environmental education organization founded in 1966. Located in central New Hampshire's Lakes Region, SLNSC's mission is *to advance understanding of ecology by exploring New Hampshire's natural world*. Using the outdoors as a classroom and live native New Hampshire animals as teaching ambassadors, SLNSC programs and exhibits teach the ecological concepts of adaptations, populations, interrelationships and habitats in meaningful and memorable ways.

Along the Gephart Trail, SLNSC houses and exhibit many different wild animals, including river otters, mountain lions, bobcats, deer, bears, birds, foxes, and skunks. Each exhibit boasts a wealth of information about each animal, along with hands-on activities designed to engage and educate visitors. In September 2006, SLNSC gained national accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). This accreditation distinguishes SLNSC as one of the finest educational facilities in the nation and the only AZA-accredited institution in all of northern New England.

Throughout all seasons of the year SLNSC offers programs for home school children, Elementary, Middle and High School students, and the general public. Our school programs are designed to enhance school math and science curricula and provide interactive learning experiences. SLNSC also provides week-long summer Guided Discoveries for children ages 4-13. SLNSC strives to develop programs that foster fun, hands-on exploration of the natural world. **Learn more about all the programs and opportunities at www.nhnature.org**

Environmental Literacy included in Obama's new Education Budget: Historic First

NHEE and our regional partners through the New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) are affiliates of the North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE) - enough alphabet soup for you? This association helps to keep us engaged and informed about things which are happening on a national as well as regional level. During the past year staff and

volunteers with NAAEE have been working on getting environmental literacy language inserted into education policy on a national level. Recently significant victory was made toward that goal. President Obama's budget that was released in early February includes environmental literacy in the U.S. Department of Education budget for the very first time. The Obama administration is officially on our side, and better yet, environmental literacy is in their budget.

President Obama and Secretary Duncan have made innovation and student achievement a major platform of the Obama Administration and as a result has included environmental literacy in a new program. The proposed budget includes a new \$1.0 billion for Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education program designed to improve instruction to support college- and career readiness standards, in part through the use of technology to deliver high-quality content. The new program includes 3 components:

- Literacy: \$450 million, an increase of \$36.7 million, to consolidate 7 existing Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs into a new program that would help States and local education authorities improve literacy skills by supporting professional development and improved instructional materials.
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM): \$300 million, an increase of \$119.5 million, or 66 percent, to expand the Federal investment in improved teaching and learning of STEM disciplines, especially in high-need schools and school systems, and prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers.
- A Well-Rounded Education: \$265 million, an increase of \$38.9 million, or 17 percent, to consolidate 7 current authorities and expand support for the subjects important to a complete curriculum, including: history, the arts, foreign languages, environmental literacy, and economic and financial literacy.

What does it mean? In the short term, it means that we can expect President Obama's education bill (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, formerly known as No Child Left Behind) to include language from the No Child Left Inside Act, which will help force the hand of Congress, where we already have 87 House cosponsors and 17 Senate cosponsors.

However, this is just one step, albeit a big one. There is still a great deal of work to do, and NAAEE along with its affiliates and members must remain active. We will keep you posted on actions which individuals can take to keep this process moving forward.

NH ENVIROTHON 2010!

By Sue Kessler



Envirothon Team using Biltmore sticks during a forestry challenge. (Photo: NHEnvirothon)

NH Envirothon, affiliated with Canon Envirothon (www.envirothon.org), and operated locally by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts (www.nhacd.org), is an environmental education program for high school students. Students work together to learn about natural resources and environmental issues. They test their knowledge on aquatic ecology, forestry, soils & land use, wildlife and current issues by competing against teams from across the state. The winning team represents New Hampshire at the Canon North American event. The NH team has placed within the top five several times during the 17 years that the state has been involved

[2010 NH Envirothon continued]

The contest is a motivator, but the real value of the program is the environmental knowledge and leadership skills that the students develop along the way. Many alumni of this program have gone on to further their education in environmental studies or pursued careers in environmental services. This program is a way for students who may not excel in athletics or other traditional school functions to build pride in their personal skills and their school community. It also helps create leaders in ever growing and important fields as we look toward solving the challenges of climate change and environmental protection.

The theme for the 2010 Competition is "**Protection of Groundwater through Agricultural, Environmental and Urban Planning**".

The Competition is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 18th at Southern NH University in Manchester**. A Training Day for teams and advisors will be held on Saturday, April 10th at a soon to be announced site.

For more information, please contact Sue Kessler, NH Envirothon Coordinator at 358-6484 or skessler1@netscape.com

Updates from the NH Children in Nature Coalition

By Marilyn Wyzga, NHCiNC

Who is the NH Children in Nature Coalition (NHCiNC)? We're educators, health professionals, artists, business people, administrators, planners, and more from a wide range of fields who believe in the NHCiNC mission and goals. Coalition members engage in the movement on many levels, some taking an active role in Coalition activities, others connecting children, youth and families with the outdoors through their daily work, and all conveying the importance of this nature-child reunion to the public.

On the organizational level, NHCiNC is building capacity and assembling the structures to support the statewide Children in Nature initiative. A collaborative leadership team, representing all the involved sectors previously mentioned, is using a unique facilitative approach in its operation. This proven community building model of governance has been fueled by direct input from the well respected Interaction Institute for Social Change (www.interactioninstitute.org). The NHCiNC leadership team meets regularly to accomplish its annual work plan.

Working groups accomplish the tangible, on-the-ground tasks: conferences, regional grassroots groups, communications, and programs like Natural Leaders. Last October, we hosted the "Building Nature Based Communities" Conference, which engaged 150 community members and spurred the development of regional grassroots groups; featured keynote presenters Chip and Ashley Donahue, originators of the Family Nature Clubs, inspired many attendees to return to their communities with plans to organize nature clubs of their own. Following close on its heels was the first "Get Out and Play!" Weekend building on themes of the conference, which invited groups and individuals to get children, youth and families outdoors. The new logo was unveiled at the conference, and the new website with a variety of interactive tools should be up and running this spring.

The work is increasing awareness around the state about the issue of the "nature deficit disorder," countering it with a change in behaviors and practices. From laying the groundwork, the Coalition's efforts will turn to

[Updates from the NH Children in Nature Coalition continued]

developing ongoing collaborative projects, programs and policy based activities through its many and diverse committees. Along with the national network, we're bringing outdoor play into Michelle Obama's new endeavor to counter childhood obesity "Let's Move!"

The Children in Nature Coalition depends on volunteer engagement. There's more work to be done than hands available! Would you like to gather with like-minded folks in your area? Are you excited about websites, social networking, and design? Who would you recommend to bring their energy and expertise to this work? **Please contact Marilyn Wyzga with suggestions or if you would like to join the NHCiNC list serve; at marilyn.wyzga@wildlife.nh.gov or 271-1197.**

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

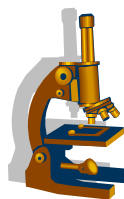
- **Attend the 2010 NHEE Conference**

The 2010 NHEE Conference has been scheduled for March 10, 2010. We will meet at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness. The theme for this year is "Locally-Grown Learning: Education Using Your Community Resources," and we hope to incorporate outdoor, hands-on workshops throughout the day. The conference will begin at noon – bring a lunch and network for an hour! Follow this with a two hour workshop session, a one hour workshop session, dinner (provided), the business meeting and awards, and finally a one hour outdoor evening session. And, as usual, there will be a silent auction with goodies to bid on! The NHEE 2010 Conference is generously sponsored by Uncommon Catering by The Common Man Inn.

To learn more about the conference, please contact Judy Tumosa (judy.l.tumosa@wildlife.nh.gov) or Alicia Carlson (alicia.carlson@des.nh.gov)

To register: obtain a conference registration form at www.nhee.org

- **New Hampshire Science Teachers Association (NHSTA) 2010 Spring Science Education Conference, March 22, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH. For more information go to www.nhsta.net**



- **8th Annual NOFA New Hampshire Winter Conference**

A Place at the Table

**Saturday, March 6 at Rundlett
Middle School,
Concord NH**



The Winter Conference is the premiere gathering of New Hampshire's organic food and agriculture community: farmers, gardeners, localvores, educators, and consumers joining together. This year our keynote speaker [Sharon Astyk](#) will speak to us on "...central issues of our century. Coming to the table together is going to be the great challenge of our times, and it is the one I care most deeply about."

Please join us for over 40 workshops, including some led by teens and programs for Youth and Children. This year herbalists from the NH Herbal Network will be leading several of the sessions. Plan on strolling through the popular Green Market Fair where vendors and a farmers' market offer all things green and organic.

Contact: Winter Conference Coordinator

Email: WinterConference@nofanh.org or NOFA-NH website: www.nofanh.org

Educator workshops include:

Cultivating Connections through School & Youth Gardening - Ruth Smith

The Farm to School Connection: Agriculture at the Meeting School - Craig Jensen

Learning with our Hands: Farming, Food, Work and Study - Frederick Martin

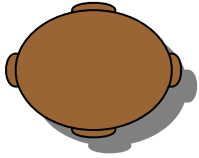
Project Sprout - Growing Fresh Fruits & Vegetables for your School - Student leaders from Monument Mountain High School

Every Child in the Garden - Getting Down and Dirty with the NH 4-H Green Thumb Team & Jr. Master Gardener Program - Julia Steed Mawson

The Green Life with Kids and Teens: Better Living for Everyone

- **Life Cycle of Loons**, FREE narrated slide presentation by professional nature photographer John Rockwood. 7:00 p.m. February 18, Nashua Public Library. The star of the show will be "Grapenut" a 4 day old loon chick from John's book "Adventures with Grapenut."

- **NESEA Building and Energy Conference and Trade Show, March 9-11, 2010. Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA** For more information www.nesea.org



- **NHEE Roundtable: Monday, February 22, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 6-8 p.m.**

Are you looking for quality interns? Join Antioch University students as they share what they can provide to your school or organization as an environmental education intern or practicum student. They will share Antioch practicum success stories; highlighting examples of the types of groundbreaking environmental education initiatives that Antioch students have spearheaded throughout New Hampshire. This current group of students is looking for potential practicum locations and NHEE would like you to meet this talented, energetic, and knowledgeable group of educators. **Cost: \$5 for pizza and drinks.**

- **Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center in Laconia offers;
Full Moon Walk**

Saturday February 27th; 6:30-8:30 pm

Join us for an opportunity to get out for a walk in the snow under the light of winter's full moon.

Our environmental educators will guide you on an hour long walk along on of PFEEC's trails and encourage you to use your senses to explore PFEEC in a different and special way. You will learn to identify several constellations in the night sky and discuss the habits of several nocturnal animals. You will also learn about the history of Prescott Farm and the surrounding lands.

Hot chocolate, tea and coffee will be served after the walks. Please wear boots and dress appropriately for the weather. Snowshoes will be provided as needed.

FEES: \$5/person (members of PFEEC) OR \$7/person (non-members). \$24/Family Group (NM); \$18/family (members)

Reservations are required — Call 366-5695 now to save your spot!

- **Maple Sugar Madness** (entire month of March)
Saturdays, March 6, 13, 20 & 27
Program Times: 10:00 am – 11:30am, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm & 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Each hour and a half program experience includes tapping, gathering, boiling, and tasting maple syrup, as well as discovering the natural history of the maples and the maple sugaring process.

Maximum of 24 per program. This is an extremely popular program, so we encourage people to sign up early. All ages are welcome. Cost \$5 M/ \$8 NM per person. Family Rate: \$15 M/ \$20 NM per family.



[Professional Development Opportunities continued]

To learn more about this and other educational opportunities at PFEEC visit www.prescottconservancy.org

- **Sharing The Fire: The Northeast Storytelling Conference 2010, presented by the League for the Advancement of New England Storytelling (LANES),** March 19th – 21st, Crowne Plaza, Warwick, Rhode Island. For more information www.lanes.org
- **MITS 2010 Professional Development Seminars. February 25, March 24. & April 13. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** “Interactions in the Sciences: Observe, Investigate, Explain.” Content and Methods to explore how cycles, processes, and systems connect life, physical, and earth sciences. For more information contact Museum Institute for Teachers www.mits.org
- **“Power Tools for Interpretation, renewing your interpretive tool kit,” National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Region 1 workshop;** March 29-31, Rowe Conference Center, Rowe, MA. For more information contact tracks2u@juno.com or visit the NAI website at www.Interpnet.com
- **“A Trail To Every Classroom”:** A place based, service-learning professional development workshop series connecting youth & communities along the Appalachian Trail, **May 14-15, AMC Highland Center Crawford Notch, NH. Application letter due March 5, 2010. For more information contact: Rita Hennessey, National Park Service, Rita_Hennessey@nps.gov**

The NHEE 2010 Conference is generously sponsored by

Uncommon Catering



The advertisement for Uncommon Catering features a central image of a rustic building, likely the Common Man Inn, with a sign that reads "Your View...". Below the image is the logo for Foster's Steakhouse. The text below the image reads: "Our Common Man Fare. Since 1971, catering off-site events throughout the Granite State. Sales & Events Dept. 603.238.2888 / 1.866.theCman www.theCmaninn.com / www.theCman.com". At the bottom of the advertisement, it says "Armed by Kitchen Camer".



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

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