



Graduates of the EE Certification pilot program

EE Certification Program

Jennifer Bucheit, Program Coordinator

A national initiative of an Environmental Education Certification Program is underway in Ohio. This initiative is being encouraged by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), which created requirements that affiliate programs need to satisfy in order to be accredited by their organization. EECO decided that Ohio needs to be a part of this exciting trend and a committee of accomplished and versatile environmental educators was formed to create Ohio's EE Certification Program.

The committee is dedicated to creating a standard for Environmental Educators, based on NAAEE guidelines, that is a tangible piece of evidence showing an individual's level of competency.

Ohio is the newest of eight states with operating certification programs. After two years of pilot programming, which certified 34 individuals as Environmental Educators, we will start our first official cadre of EECO's EE Certification Program in October.

This is a competency based program dealing with six themes that make up the goals of EE. The themes have been broken down into three workshops:

- 1 - The Foundations of EE and Civic Responsibility.
- 2 - Environmental Literacy, especially relating to Ohio.
- 3 - Planning, Implementing, Assessing, and Evaluating Curricula as well as Fostering Learning.

These workshops are led by highly qualified professionals from different areas of EE, including university professors Louise Flemming from Ashland U., Joe Heimlich from The OSU, and Matthew Sorrick from Hiram College. We have also had professionals from the field such as Jen Dennison and Jeanne Russell from ODNR.

Applications are being accepted for the 2011-2012 program which officially starts October 8th during the 101 conference at Camp Kern. The committee is also working on advanced levels of EE certification and are refining the re-certification process. Finally these certified standards and baselines will help to verify to other fields that we, as Environmental Educators, are a professional group of qualified educators.

For more information or to register for the EE certification program, contact Jennifer Bucheit at jbucheit@forevnp.org

Spotlight on Your Colleagues

The best advice you received?

COLLABORATE! I'm a very autonomous worker, but colleagues over the years have touted the value of collaboration, and it has greatly enriched the quality my programs.

Jeanne Russell, ODNR

Favorite nature sound?

Conk-la-ree of the Redwing Blackbird and Spring Peepers in early spring.

Skye Powers-Kaminski, Plains Elementary Teacher

What are you proud of?

That moment as an interpreter when you get to see the spark of curiosity and understanding in a visitor's eye. When I get that magical moment it re-fuels my desire to do this work.

Therese Joyce, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

See the EECO E-Blast for more tips, advice, and moments!



The 45th EECO Annual Conference April 26-29, 2012 Shawnee State Park

Join us on April 26-29 in the beautiful Shawnee State Park for the 2012 Environmental Education Council of Ohio Annual Conference.

Watch for the Call for Presenters at www.eeco-online.org. We will be accepting session proposals for these conference streams:

- Ohio's Rivers
- Native Americans
- Native Flora and Fauna
- Reconnecting Kids with Nature

For more info, please visit www.eeco-online.org



Teens Learn about Dirty Wild Jobs at the Wilds *Mallory Sickle, Conservation Education Specialist*

Not many people can say they went electro-fishing with the OH EPA, learned how to shoot an animal dart gun, palpated a cheetah, held an endangered species, took a class with a Columbus Zoo & Aquarium animal trainer, did the "crayfish shuffle" with an astacologist, and hung out with veterinarians and animal management specialists from the Wilds. But at "Dirty Wild Jobs: a Conservation Career Camp for Teens", that's only a glimpse of what a select group of teens get to do each summer at the Wilds.

Potential participants must impress the Wilds program leaders with their application and essay because only 24 students are accepted into this competitive camp experience. Select teens ages 15-19 get a glimpse into the vast array of options they have when choosing a biological and environmental career path. While split into focus groups, participants explore animal management and husbandry or veterinary sciences and conservation medicine, in addition to larger group sessions designed to broaden their horizons. Some special guests from the 2011 camp included an OH EPA field biologist, an entomologist from OSU and a crayfish expert from West Liberty University. To further round out the 2011 camper's experience, the importance of environmental education was emphasized by a member of the Columbus Zoo's Promotion Animal Department staff, who spoke about animal training and the connection he makes with not only the program animals, but also the people he is educating as well.

Although the week was full of conservation career training, the teens also found time to enjoy various outdoor activities, from canoeing and swimming to fishing and hiking on our vast landscape. Even though the temperatures reached easily into the mid-nineties, it didn't deter the campers from having a phenomenal time exploring conservation careers at the Wilds and beyond. The campers' responses received in evaluations have been positive: "It was a wonderful experience to get to talk to and learn from such a wide array of experts." Also, when asked about the quality of information they were provided during their week, one camper stated, "This camp helped me to solidify my future plans and how to go about accomplishing what I want to do."

Many of this camp's past participants have drawn on this experience when applying for college, scholarships, and competitive veterinary programs. Additionally, Dirty Wild Jobs alumni returned to the Wilds this past summer as Wilds Scholar Interns. These unique summer experiences are most certainly preparing the next generation of conservation professionals for meaningful careers that make a difference for people, wildlife and wild places.

Mallory can be contacted at (740) 638-5030 x2231 or msickle@thewilds.org.



Campers enjoyed getting "up close and personal" with many of the Wilds' managed species!

Insert and funding for this newsletter is generously provided by the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF)

Deadline: The next grant application deadline is January 15, 2012.

For more information on these grants, Please contact:

Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education

Phone: 614/644-2873

Website: www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef

Email: oeef@epa.state.oh.us



Upcoming Grant Writing workshops. Please visit, www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef for more info

Grant Writing Workshops 101: Finding the Right Funder
 102: Writing a Winning Proposal
 103: What's She Got That I Ain't Got?

Grant Writing 101/102: Oct 3, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Holden Arboretum,

Grant Writing 103: Oct 4, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Holden Arboretum,

Grant Writing 101/102: Nov 29, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Ohio EPA, Northwest District Office, Bowling Green

Grant Writing 103: Nov 30, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Ohio EPA, Northwest District Office, Bowling Green

Grant Writing 101/102: Planned for Nov 2011 in SW Ohio

Recent Grants for K-12 Education

ThinkTV – Public Media Connect, "Growing Up Wild in the Outdoor Classroom," \$49,853, 21 southwest and central Ohio counties, Audience: pre-school. Contact: Tina Spaulding, tspaulding@thinktv.ofg 937-220-1620.

Three public television stations will train 840 child care providers and parents in central and southwest Ohio to use the outdoors as a classroom for teaching young children about nature and science. Half-day workshops will present eight units from Project WILD's "Growing Up WILD" curriculum, reinforced with a monthly e-newsletter with enrichment ideas for all attendees. Activities include What's Wild, Tracks, Bird Beak Buffet, Seed Need, Spider Web Wonders, The Deep Blue Sea, Wiggling Worms, and Wildlife is Everywhere.

Youngstown State University, Center for Environmental Sustainability, "An Introduction to Sustainability Education for Grade 7-12 Teachers," \$18,014, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, Audience: middle and high school, Contact: Lori Kumler, lmkumler@ysu.edu, 330-941-3317.

The organization plans to offer the first professional development institute in the region introducing sustainability concepts to area science and social studies teachers in grades 7-12. Teachers will be introduced to natural and social science sustainability concepts for five days over the summer and two academic follow-up days, using new curriculum from Creative Change Educational Solutions. Collaborators include the Trumbull County Educational Service Center, Poland and Boardman School Districts, McCarthy Systems Co, Inc., and Red Basket Farms.

Sustainability for Educators and the Environment (S.E.E.), "Zero Waste for Sustainable Schools," \$29,790, Portage County, Audience: elementary, middle and high school, Contact: Kelly Ferry, kelly@talklessdomore.org, 330-472-5801.

SEE educators will work with approximately 5800 students, faculty and staff to reduce waste at twelve northeast Ohio schools. Activities include waste audits and sorts of solid waste, construction of recycling stations for bottles, cans, plastic and paper, and lunch waste composting stations. Students will create signs to promote the stations, write articles for an electronic newsletter, and track waste volume reductions achieved in their classrooms and school, recording and tracking their results on a social networking website using stories and video. Emerald Environmental is collaborating.

Amherst Exempted Village School District, "Trained to be Wild," \$5,000, Lorain County, Audience: pre-K-elementary. Contact: Sarah Yoder, sarah_yoder@amherstk12.org, 440-988-4406.

Provides in-service professional development in Project Wild, Project Wild Aquatic, and Growing up Wild curricula for 25 pre-K through third grade teachers. Project budget includes substitute teachers, books, supplies for the teachers to conduct activities with their students, and bus transportation for 40 field trips to the Lorain County Metro Parks.

Recent Grants for K-12 Education

Toledo Science Center/Imagination Station, "Energy Explorations," \$38,911, Lucas County, Audience: elementary, middle and high school, Contact: Jamie Pafford, jpafford@imaginationstationtoledo.org, 419-244-2674.

Provides an experiential program to help Washington Local School District students and teachers in the third, seventh and tenth grades be better informed energy consumers. A two-day professional development workshop will enable teachers to integrate district curriculum on energy with the new revised Ohio Academic Content Standards for science. Kits will be provided for 500 elementary students to conduct home energy audits of appliances and insulation. Ten high school students will attend the Ohio Energy Project's Youth Energy Summit. All students will take a field trip to Imagination Station, and accompanying classroom programs will let students test solar racecars and the lifting power of windmill blades they construct themselves.

Rural Action, "Appalachian Green Teachers Project," \$45,029, Athens, Hocking and Perry Counties, Audience: elementary, middle and high school, Contact: Joe Brehm, joe@ruralaction.org 740-767-2225.

Five teachers in three local school districts will partner with Rural Action and their collaborators to complete environmental learning projects focusing on natural and cultural history and utilizing the outdoors as a classroom. A fifth grade class will study Monarch butterflies to learn about food webs and migration. Fifteen middle school students will work with the Sunday Creek Watershed Group to conduct a headwater assessment. Another middle school class will complete an air quality unit and visit Ohio University's Center for Air Quality monitoring station. A high school environmental science class will work with the Buckeye Trail Association to construct a walking trail through forested land behind the school. Professional development workshops on Project WET, Project WILD and Project Learning Tree will be offered to another 25 teachers, to help them incorporate hands-on outdoor activities and environmental topics into their lesson plans. Results of these projects will be presented to neighboring school districts and the community in a mini-symposium.

Boy Scouts of America, Simon Kenton Council, "Scouting Renewable Energy Badge," \$5,000, 16 central and southern Ohio counties, Audience: middle and high school. Contact: Brian Asbury, basbury@skcbsa.org, 614-436-7200 ext. 216.

Adds a renewable energy unit and badge to the summer residential program at Camp Lazarus. Young Scouts (ages 6-11) will learn how wind and solar energy can conserve natural resources and lessen dependence on fossil fuels. Activities include measuring the voltage output of parallel and series solar panels; racing solar hydrogen-powered model cars; cooking a meal in a solar oven; considering positive and negative aspects of wind farms; constructing a PicoTurbine windmill from a kit; examining the relationship between the magnets and coils in the kit; and measuring how much electricity is produced. Older Venture Scouts (ages 14-20), a college intern and career center high school students will discuss careers in energy and environmental fields.

Union Soil and Water Conservation District, "7th Grade Fresh Water Studies Supplement," \$2,500, Union County. Audience: middle school. Contact: Kaylee Port, kaylee.port@oh.nacdn.net, 937-642-5871 ext. 3.

Provides seining nets, waders, boots and water quality test kits to support chemical and macro-invertebrate stream sampling by all the seventh grade science classes at Bunsold Middle School in Marysville. The project also supports the public education goals of the City of Marysville Storm Water Management Plan and the Bokes and Mill Creek watershed plans.

Sandy Valley High School, "Explore, Research, and Learn: Experiencing Hands-on Science in New Environments," \$5,000, Carroll, Stark, and Tuscarawas Counties, Audience: high school. Contact: Nichole Gordon-Coy, n.gordon-coy@svlocal.org, 330-866-9371.

Provides bus transportation, instruction and sampling equipment for high school science classes to collect macro-invertebrates and measure water temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, fecal coliform, alkalinity, chlorine, salinity, soil moisture, and total stream flow in the Huff Run watershed tributary to the Tuscarawas River. Students will compare water quality in undeveloped, impaired, and restored segments of Huff Run, to understand impacts of mining, agriculture and development. Grant funds will also support a two-day field trip for 50 students from the school's science club and Envirothon team to Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory to study the Lake Erie aquatic ecosystem and scientific research methods.

Recent Grants for Adult Education

Summit Soil and Water Conservation District, “NPDES Phase II Education Seminar Series,”

\$24,153, Statewide, Contact: Cynthia Fink, cfink@summitswcd.org, 330-929-2871.

Supports ongoing efforts to educate communities regulated under the NPDES permit program for municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). Fifteen workshops will cover post-construction best management practices (BMPs) for public road projects, illicit discharge detection and elimination, pollution prevention in municipal operations, storm water retrofits, runoff reduction methods, effective public education techniques, low-impact development, construction site inspections, using balanced growth tools, and federal effluent guidelines on construction and development. To supplement these workshops, Center for Watershed Protection webcasts will be available for live viewing throughout the state.

Delaware Regional Planning Commission, “Protecting Olentangy Riparian Corridors,”

\$27,657, Delaware, Franklin, Marion and Morrow counties, Contact: Scott Sanders, ssanders@co.delaware.oh.us, 740-833-2260.

Project promotes riparian conservation, storm water best management practices, and the use of conservation easements to mitigate the impacts of development in sensitive areas of the Olentangy River watershed. Seventeen local jurisdictions and four county Soil and Water Conservation Districts are collaborating to develop a resource manual, detailed GIS maps of waterway setbacks, and a watershed tour and workshop for local officials and developers on compliance with the Olentangy Permit issued by Ohio EPA. The Heart of Ohio RC&D will coordinate outreach to 2700 riparian landowners, including four workshops and a database of landowners interested in selling land into conservation easements.

Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization, “Cuyahoga ReLEAF: Managing Forest Canopy for Watershed Health in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern,”

\$49,508, Cuyahoga County, Contact: Jane Goodman, goodmanj@crppo.org, 216-496-7694.

The project will help elected officials, planning and zoning commission members, municipal service directors, school districts and leaders of watershed groups in approximately 38 local communities develop and apply Forest Canopy Management tools to improve tributary health in the Cuyahoga River watershed. Provides hands-on training and forest canopy maps to help communities increase use of forest and riparian areas as nonstructural storm water Best Management Practices. The improved awareness of forest cover trends, at-risk areas and the value of healthy forest canopy for long-term watershed health will yield better storm water management and regulatory compliance, support long-term watershed stewardship, and offset the effects of canopy loss from sprawl, pests and invasive species.

City of Dayton, “Water Ways,”

\$5,000, Montgomery County, Contact: Michele Simmons, michele.simmons@cityofdayton.org, 937-333-3796.

The City of Dayton, with other regional collaborators, has committed to develop a permanent public exhibit to encourage learning about water, the water cycle and individual responsibility for conserving and protecting the rivers, watersheds, and aquifers of the Miami Valley. The exhibit will be installed at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton, visited annually by over 126,000 children. OEEF funds will support an interactive station within this exhibit, that will allow visitors to manipulate plumbing fixtures to illustrate how everyday behaviors such as showering, flushing, and lawn watering are reflected in the water cycle, and how contaminants affect ground water and surface water.

Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center – Ohio State University, “Anaerobic Digestion Education Course,”

\$4,951, Statewide, Contact: Yebo Li, li.851@osu.edu, 330-263-3855.

The installation of anaerobic digesters (AD), which use organic waste materials to generate renewable energy, is increasing in Ohio. As many as 430 livestock farms in Ohio have been identified as potential sites for this technology, using animal manures to generate biogas for heat and electricity. Other fuel sources include food wastes and sewage sludge. Grant funds will support development of a two-day course for the workforce that will operate these facilities, the regulatory personnel who will oversee permitting and operations, and the investors who will provide funding. The course will cover the anaerobic digester process, feed stocks, operations, AD product utilization, and economics, using a combination of classroom instruction, hands-on laboratory analysis, and a visit to a 500,000 gallon AD facility located on the OARDC campus. The course is expected to be offered twice yearly, and replicated in other states.

Recent Grants for Adult Education

Licking County Health Department, “Sewage and Wastewater Elimination Education Program

(SWEEP),” \$17,085, Licking County, Contact: Chad Brown, cbrown@lickingcohealth.org, 740-349-6487.

Provides educational materials, mailings, three workshops, and a tracking and reminder system to help 8,500 homeowners understand the importance of proper operation and maintenance of household sewage treatment systems. requirements. An in-service training will also be provided for septic system installers, pumpers and service providers.

Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, “Educators Development Program (EDP)

– Level 2,” \$4,925, Statewide, Contact: Gwen Roth, gwen.roth@hamilton-co.org, 513-772-7645.

Provides a train-the-trainer program for educators from 25 Soil and Water Conservation Districts around the state. Through a series of five (2-day) modules, the SWCD educators will be trained by education and conservation experts to develop public presentations and school programs using science-based activities correlated to the Ohio Academic Content Standards. The program will include a unit on Ohio geology and activities drawn from three respected national curricula: The Wonders of Wetlands; Project Food, Land and People; and Facing the Future, a new curriculum on sustainability. This program builds on a very successful previous effort that was also funded with an OEEF mini grant. The 28 educators who participated in the first EDP level 1 program in 2009-2010 have already offered public programs attended by more than 100,000 people.

Greater Cleveland Clean Air Campaign, “Idling & Wood Burning Air Quality PSA Campaign,” \$5,000,

Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties, Contact: Pamela Davis, pamszoo@sbcglobal.net, 216-246-4015.

This project will develop and air Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on radio, with accompanying Web-based information, to increase public awareness of seasonal air quality issues, and the region’s non-attainment of national Clean Air standards for ozone and fine particle pollution. Messages will address the health impacts associated with activities such as vehicle idling in school drop off and pick up zones, and the use of backyard fire pits, wood-fired boilers and indoor fire places. Listeners will be offered No Idling signs, and encouraged to sign up to receive air pollution advisories via NOACA’s list serve.

Environmental Careers in State and Federal Agencies

- The US Army Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Management Gateway Website profiles careers in lake management, recreation, environmental compliance and environmental stewardship, at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/> and offers a DVD and downloadable video guide on environmental careers in natural resource management at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/gateway/togo.cfm#recruit>
- The USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service offers a Student Career Experience Program of work-study for college students, and has professionals working as soil scientists, agronomists, aquatic and wildlife biologists, geologists and hydrologists, cartographers, engineers, and in many other fields. www.nrcs.usda.gov
- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has a terrific “Real World Learning” career education website that profiles employees working on projects like protecting native plants, restoring streams, building trails for recreation, and managing Ohio’s wild deer. The site includes interviews with ODNR employees, a teacher page, and webquests on geospatial technologies and an environmental talent search. <http://ohiodnr.com/tabid/18945/Default.aspx>
- Ohio EPA’s fact sheet “Career Opportunities at Ohio EPA” describes different positions within the agency and the related career fields for each, <http://bit.ly/reMLK> or visit <http://epa.ohio.gov>. The Office of Environmental Education has a travelling photo exhibit of agency professionals at work monitoring wetlands, cleaning up hazardous waste sites, responding to oil spills and train derailments, taking air and water samples, and other tasks. The Office can also help identify Agency speakers for school career day events. Contact 614-644-2873 or oeef@epa.state.oh.us Ohio EPA hires college interns to assist with statewide water quality monitoring efforts each summer.
- Many state and federal agencies in Ohio offer career presentations, shadowing opportunities, internships, and respond to requests for information. Check specific offerings from 21 state and 8 federal agencies in the Ohio Inter-Agency Council for Environmental Education directory posted at www.eeco-online.org/government/directory.html
- State positions are posted at www.careers.ohio.gov and federal positions are posted at www.usajobs.gov


Healthy Water, Healthy People Facilitator Workshop
Thursday, October 20, 2011 (New Date!!!), 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, Galloway, OH 43119 (SW Franklin Co.)



HWHP is an innovative water quality education program sponsored by Project WET and the Hach Scientific Foundation, offering hands-on activity guides, testing kits, training, and much more. Recommended for middle and high school teachers, students, scout groups, 4-H, and home schooled groups. All activities are correlated to the National Science Standards and the Ohio Academic Content Standards for science and social studies.

Participants will be provided instruction on activities in the morning and will peer teach in the afternoon. Everyone in attendance will receive the HWHP Educator Guide, Test Kit Manual, and training materials valued at \$50.00 - FREE!

For more information and to register by e-mail, please contact: Dennis Clement, Ohio EPA/OEE @ 614-644-2048 or dennis.clement@epa.state.oh.us.



36th Annual 101 Educators' Conference
October 7, 8 and 9, 2011, YMCA Camp Kern (32 miles NE of Cincinnati)

Keynote: *Birding from the Trenches*, by Naturalist and Iraq veteran, Major Randel Rogers

Enjoy large and small group sessions, campfires, night hikes, good eating, and plenty more
 Here are some of the highlights:

Tree-mendous Trees!	A River of Species: the Turbulent History of Ohio's Streams
Wetlands Habitat	Music with a Message
The Valley that Time Forgot	The World of the Fresh Water Pond
	Waterplay, Rain Barrels and Run-off Reduction, Oh My!!

- Cost: \$82 for all sessions, food, and lodging (\$42 for Saturday only) Discounts and scholarships are available.
- For more information contact Dave Moran at YMCA Camp Kern. 5291 SR 350 Oregonia, OH 45045 phone: (513)-932-3756 x1527, email: dmoran@daytonymca.org

This event is made possible by YMCA Camp Kern, The Environmental Education Council of Ohio, and The Ohio Environmental Education Fund.

Recommended Reading On Environmental Careers



Legally Green: Careers in Environmental Law (Green-Collar Careers) by Susan Brophy Down, Aug, 2011

Green Careers: Choosing Work for a Sustainable Future by Jim Cassio and Alice Rush, May, 2009

The Complete Guide to Environmental Careers in the 21st Century by Kevin Doyle, Ed., 1999

Green Collar Jobs: Environmental Careers for the 21st Century by Scott M. Deitche, Jan, 2010

Careers for Environmental Types & Others Who Respect the Earth by Mike Fasulo and Jane Kinney, Oct, 2001

Careers in the Environment by Mike Fasulo and Paul Walker Mar, 2007

Careers Inside the World of Environmental Science (Careers & Opportunities) by Bob Gartner and Robert Gartner, Aug 1994

Re-Greening the Environment: Careers in Clean-Up, Remediation, and Renewal (Green-Collar Careers) by Suzy Gazlay, Aug 2011

Jobs in Environmental Law (Green Careers) by Chris Hayhurst, Jan 2010

Green Careers For Dummies by Carol L. McClelland, Jan, 2010

EECO's E-Blast is for you

EECO sends a monthly email update to members. This is a chance to let people know about upcoming events, grant possibilities, conferences, and more. Photos, event follow-ups, comments, and anything else EE related are encouraged. Please take advantage of this opportunity to communicate with all EECO members.

Please email Dave Moran dmoran@daytonymca.org with submissions or questions.

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PO Box 1004
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COLUMBUS, OH
PERMIT #2609

The EECO Newsletter is published for members of the
Environmental Education Council of Ohio,
a non-profit organization

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper with soy inks
The OEEF/EECO Partnership contributions and the dissemination of this
newsletter are paid for by a grant from the
Ohio Environmental Education Fund

For information about EECO's programs and services, please contact
Brenda Metcalf, Executive Director.

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