



Issue Focus:

Honoring the past, looking to the future

Spring 2017

The Future of EECO

**By Joe Brehm, Past EECO President,
Education Director at Rural Action**

“Either we are all struggling together or we are all headed towards a sustainable future together.” –Mary Oliver, Upstream (paraphrased)

After high-school students presented about research on box turtles, raptors, and other wildlife projects at EECO’s annual conference in 2017, it is easy to imagine a successful future for the Environmental Education Council of Ohio. This future is easy to imagine because the students who presented are the future board members, volunteers, and regional directors of this organization. The 50th anniversary conference and celebration was characterized by diversity of not only ages, but of all backgrounds. This diversity is a hallmark of resiliency, and points to the long-term vibrancy of EECO. I see a bright future for EECO, perhaps another 50 years or more, because of its resiliency.

In the six years I’ve been on EECO’s Board of Directors, I have seen the organization do for hundreds of others what it has done for me: provide high-quality and inspiring professional development focused on environmental education while also generating a feeling of family and belonging that I have not encountered in any other professional organization.

What will the EECO family tackle in the next 50 years? Surely there are already new and emerging challenges in promoting environmental stewardship and connecting children with Ohio’s natural environment, such as climate change, political division, and the now ever-present electronic devices. For every challenge, however, there are a hundred solutions. EECO will continue to bring people together to overcome these challenges, and the stalwarts of this organization will continue to engender passion for and stewardship of Ohio’s natural spaces.

EECO Videos

Brenda Metcalf, the EECO Executive Director has created some great videos that you can find on our website <https://eeco.wildapricot.org/>. You can also purchase the new 50th Anniversary t-shirt.



Save the Date

Find out more at
www.eeco-online.org

OEFF Grant

Letter of Intent due July 10, 2017
Grant Due July 17, 2017, by 5 pm
<http://epa.ohio.gov/oe/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx>

Growing Up Wild

May 16, Engelwood Metropark, Vandalia. For registration, visit www.metroparks.org Program T289

Stream Biology

May 20, Indian Creek Park, Oxford, Ohio. For information, visit www.butlerswcd.org

WET & WOW Facilitator Workshop

May 22-24, Horace Collins Lab, Delaware, Ohio. See inside for details.

Grant Writing 101/102

May 25, Parma, Ohio. See inside.

Grant Writing 101/102

June 6, Logan County. See inside.

Growing Up Wild

June 15, Cuyahoga Co. For registration, visit www.holdenarb.org

WOW, WET, Wild

June 19-21, Summit County. Reg by June 5. Contact Gene Easter for details and to register 330-928-6691

Water and Wildlife

July 23-29, Stone Lab. Find out more and register at <https://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/education/stonelab/apply>

2017 EECO Awards

Each year EECO recognizes individuals and organizations that are providing exemplary EE and striving to preserve our natural environment in Ohio.

Diana Hunn memorial scholarship -This scholarship was created to keep alive the legacy of Diana Hunn, a former Board Member and friend of EECO.

Valerie Durkle

The William David Wright Scholarship -This scholarship was created to keep alive the legacy of David Wright, a former Board Member and friend of EECO. The scholarship is given to a person of color who is in the EE field so that they can attend the EECO Annual Conference and see firsthand what it is like to part of the EECO Family.

Dwayne Levy

Ohio Alliance for the Environment Award Given to a business or industry that is dedicated to fostering a climate of cooperation for resolving environmental problems.

General Motors, Defiance

Organization Award Given to a business or organization that has made a significant contribution to EE in Ohio.

Daves Arboretum



Outstanding Environmental Educator in the field of formal education Given to a preschool, elementary, middle school, high school or college teacher, administrator or curriculum specialist for outstanding contributions to EE in Ohio.

Laura Grimm

Outstanding Environmental Educator in the field of nonformal education

Given to a nonformal educator for outstanding contributions to environmental education in Ohio.

Tom Shisler, Wahkeena Nature Preserve



The Charley Harper Award Given to an artist who has made a significant or outstanding contribution to EE in Ohio through various forms of art.

Ann Balogh

Publications Award Given to a publication that has made a significant contribution to the public understanding of an environmental issue(s).
Wild Ohio for Kids Magazine



Christy Dixon Award Given to a young professional who has contributed significantly to environmental education in Ohio.
Amanda Kriner, Richland Parks

The President's Award Given to a member of the organization that has shown special dedication to EECO or was great influence or mentor to the current President of EECO.
Sam Romeo, with Rural Action/Americorps



Outstanding Volunteer Award Given to a volunteer who has made a significant or outstanding contribution to environmental education in Ohio.
Sherrie Rupert, who volunteers with Five Rivers Metroparks

Special Recognition Award
Carolyn Watkins, Ohio EPA



Carolyn Watkins pictured with Brenda Metcalf, a Finlay Johnson Award Winner



Finlay-Johnson Award Given to an EECO member(s) for making a significant or outstanding contribution to EECO.
Josh Flory, Olentangy Local Schools, Olentangy Orange MS
Brenda Metcalf, EECO Executive Director

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

HONORING THE PAST

50 Years

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

COUNCIL OF OHIO



EECO Pillars



Marty McTigue, Pat Barron, and Diane Cantrell welcoming everyone



Keynote Denny Olsen introducing us to Prof. Avian Guano



Dam Tourists



Enjoying Deer Creek's deck

Thank you to our Sponsors!



Keynote Judy Braus, Executive Director from NAAEE on the future of EE across the continent.



Wild Ginger

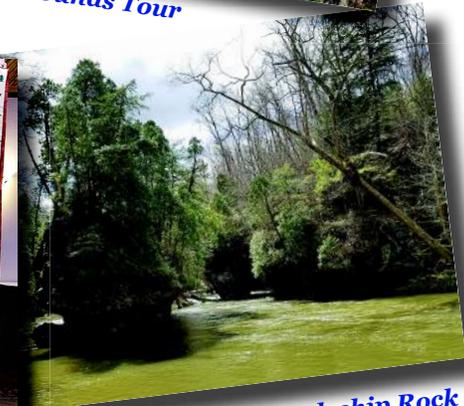
Mounds Tour



Mounds Tour



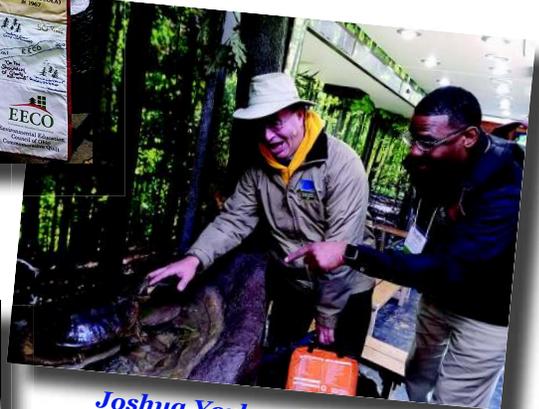
50th Anniversary Quilt



Three Sisters & Battleship Rock



Inside Cleveland Parks' Nature Tracks Truck



Joshua York and Mario Jackson



Josh Dyer enjoying the gift card tree



Matt Minter providing the Ohio Native American earthworks and Natural History Tour



Mike Sustain pointing the way in EE



EE Certification graduates, Jeff, Pat, Cindy, and David along with Jen Bucheit and Jen Dennison from ODNR

EE Certification Graduates

The EE Certification program is a professional certification in environmental education for both formal and non-formal educators. This program includes a week-long workshop and independent projects refine your EE skills. Learn more about the environmental education certification competencies and policies at <https://eeco.wildapricot.org/eecertification>

New certified environmental educators

Jeff Baker, Science Teacher at Alpha School and Central Ohio Technical College

Patricia DeLotell, Miami Valley School's Zorniger Environmental Lab, Greenhouse and Gardens, Dayton

Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck, Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI

David Murdick, 5th grade science teacher at Champion Middle School in Newark, OH

The First Annual Student Wildlife Research Symposium

The ODNR-Division of Wildlife and EECO recently partnered to offer the first annual Student Wildlife Research Symposium (SWRS) in conjunction with the annual EECO Conference this past April. The SWRS invited Ohio high school students and their teachers to present on their wildlife or habitat related research that they conducted during their school year. Five students presented their research on topics ranging from population density studies of snakes and small mammals, salamander habitat preferences, to box turtle home range studies. Twelve students displayed their research during a 45 minute poster session on topics such as microplastics in fish, spider populations in strip mined areas, and food preferences in birds of prey at wildlife rehabilitators.

The level of research from these students was certainly impressive to those in the audience. However, the most amazing part of the day was the interactions and questions the students were asking each other about their research. They quizzed each other on survey techniques, tools, protocols, and more and it was a relaxed environment for them to explore what other students were doing. They told the coordinators that they preferred that type of setting to the competitions of Science Days because they could ask good questions of the other students. And they did!

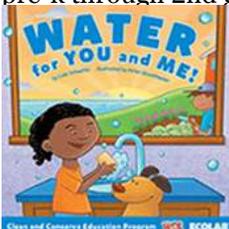
We hope to continue this program for many years to come. Please watch for Calls for Proposals to come out around September 1, 2017 for the next SWRS at Maumee Bay State Park, April 12, 2018.



Dr. Sara Laux from the University School provided the Symposium Keynote

New Resources from Project WET

Project WET's new guide for Early Childhood educators was announced on World Water Monitoring Day March 22nd, and is available for download/purchase on the Project WET website, along with "Water For You and Me!", a storybook for pre-k through 2nd grade students. Printed copies will be available April 26th and at Dennis Clement's May 22nd -24th



combined Project WET/Wonders of Wetlands facilitator workshop. See <http://epa.ohio.gov/calendar/oeo.aspx> to register. Ohio EPA is planning K-2 educator workshops later this year. "Water We Singing About?" a new music CD of 14 water education songs is also available for use with 20 activities from the regular Project WET curriculum for older students. What's Rain Got to Do, Got to Do With It...

EECO - Welcome Home!

By Gail Prunty, Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District

Those of us lucky enough to have been raised in a loving, supportive family often come to realize, years down the road, the profound impact it has on who we have become. Having long ago fledged and flown from the nest, life's experiences and time's lessons bring wisdom and revelation. We become more grateful for the gift of our family and more keenly aware of the critical role that their nurturing had on our development and our being. Our "time in the nest" gave us not just physical strength, nourishment, and survival skills, but perhaps more importantly, a strong sense of self. We were given the freedom to take risks, the confidence to accept challenges, and the encouragement to follow our heart. We knew that we would, at times, fail. But we also knew that we were unconditionally loved and supported. That no matter what, our family believed in us.

I was barely 21 when I flew my Cincinnati coop for my first environmental education gig at Nature's Classroom in Carrollton, Ohio. Soon after, I serendipitously landed smack dab in the middle of another family. No, it wasn't EECO. It was pre-EECO... so long ago that this posse was referred to as the Ohio Conservation and Outdoor Education Association. OCOEA for short (though when sounded out definitely not short!). While the details of my first OCOEA conferences have faded through the years, my memories of the amazing people of this organization (now called EECO) live on. There were so many talented, passionate, generous, and driven individuals – with so much knowledge in their brains and fire in their hearts. These people inspired me, entertained me, and above all, they taught me. They provided invaluable professional development to me, more than I could have ever received from college courses. Nowhere could I find more role models gathered in one place. And together they could collectively identify every bloody organism on the planet!! Yet despite my inexperience, lack of confidence, and feelings of inadequacy, these folks welcomed me, nurtured me, and believed in me. It didn't take long to feel like they were family.

In the 26 years since my first EECO encounters as a fledgling, I have migrated throughout the state working for a variety of parks, camps, agencies, and schools. I've been privileged to "stay the course" in environmental education and lucky to remain committed to this field. Through it all, the people of EECO have continued to support me, encourage me, teach me, inspire me, and rejuvenate me. Like the North Star of my journey, EECO remains constant, helping me navigate through the darkest of storms or celebrate the promise of a new day. With feathers worn and turning gray, I feel an overwhelming gratitude for my EECO family and can still feel that first lift they gave to my wings. Go on now, take flight, and follow your heart. EECO will always welcome you home!



Calling all Citizen Scientists Interested in Pollinators!

The Gardiner Lab at The Ohio State University Department of Entomology is seeking Citizen Scientists to aid in the study of insect pollination this summer! Our goal is to measure the amount of pollination provided to gardens in rural, suburban and urban landscapes. Measuring pollination is one way to gauge the health of our bee community. All that is required is a small garden space where you will be able to grow four sweet pepper plants and the willingness to follow an experimental protocol this summer!



*Photos by MaLisa Spring
Native solitary bee and bumble bee*

Information on the Pollination Investigators experiment and details on how to sign up can be found at:

<https://u.osu.edu/pollinationinvestigators/>

Toolkits will be distributed by mid-April, and we are looking for 200 participants from around the state, so feel free to forward this email to others who may be interested.

For more information, contact: Mary Gardiner Associate Professor Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University Columbus, OH 43210 Gardiner.29@osu.edu

Ohio Environmental Education Fund



The OEEF grant program is administered by Ohio EPA and awards general grants up to \$50,000 and mini grants between \$500 and \$5,000, with application deadlines every January 15 and July 15. Grants are funded from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of air and water pollution control laws. Eligible recipients include local governments, non-profit organizations, public and private schools.

Application information is available at <http://epa.ohio.gov/oeef/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx>.

Applicants are invited to contact the OEEF staff at oeef@epa.ohio.gov or 614-644-2873 to discuss project ideas.

Grant Writing Workshops

The Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education offers grant writing workshops around the state throughout the year. If your organization would be interested in hosting a local workshop, please contact oeef@epa.ohio.gov.

- **Grant Writing 101: Finding the Right Funder** (format: half-day interactive workshop) Prospecting tips to help you identify foundations, corporations, and government grant programs, and how to approach different kinds of grantmakers.
- **Grant Writing 102: Writing a Winning Proposal** (format: half-day interactive workshop) How to avoid common mistakes applicants make, and develop realistic objectives, activities and budgets. OEEF will be referred to during this session.

Thursday, May 25, 2017

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Cuyahoga County Public Library - Parma Branch, 6996 Powers Boulevard, Parma, Ohio 44129

Registration is free. Participants must email dennis.clement@epa.ohio.gov by May 19, 2017 to register.

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Logan County Health District, 310 South Main Street, Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

Registration is free. Participants must email dennis.clement@epa.ohio.gov by June 2, 2017 to register.

New Mini Grant Awards, Spring 2017

In the spring 2017 application cycle, Ohio EPA awarded the following eight new mini grants, for a total of \$35,614.

Bike Miami Valley, “Bike Valet Parking,” \$5,000

Audience: General Public, Clark, Greene, Miami and Montgomery Counties

Contact: Emmy Fabich, emmy@bikemiamivalley.org, 937-496-3827.

More than 70% of trips made by car in the U.S. are less than 4 miles, and while many bike programs encourage people to ride to work, this is often the trip with the most barriers to choosing an alternative mode. Bike Miami Valley seeks to focus on those trips with fewer barriers by working with event organizers across the Miami Valley to provide complimentary bike valet parking at 24 local events in 2017 that could each attract an estimated 100-250 bike riders. Event organizers will receive a report of environmental impact based on all modes traveled to the event, and event attendees will use a trip calculator to demonstrate their environmental impact. The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority and Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission are collaborating.

Catholic Charities of Summit County, “Camp Christopher Wetland and Pollinator Species Initiative,” \$5,000

Audience: Pre-School to University, Cuyahoga, Loraine, Medina, Portage and Summit Counties

Contact: Holly Bollin, habollin@ccdacle.org, 216-392-9024.

Project will provide seeds for a wet meadow and native plant restoration to improve habitat for pollinator species, for day camp and residential programs serving nearly 2,000 students annually. To facilitate on-going education and community outreach, the applicant is using other grant funds to build an educational observation area with a boardwalk and displays for school groups, diocesan leaders, and members of the community to observe a healthy, established wet meadow area and learn the importance of managing such habitats in our communities for pollinator species survival. Smaller pollinator gardens will be established on site with replicable design plans for schools and organizations to take back to their own facilities for installation. These smaller gardens will add to the network of “way stations” for pollinators to rebuild and sustain their populations locally. The Ohio Prairie Nursery, Summit Metro Parks and Geauga Park District are providing expertise on local soil types, native plant species, removal of invasive species, and revitalization of the existing seed bank.

New Mini Grant Awards Continued

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, “Shaping Watersheds: Augmented Reality Sandbox,” \$4,822

Audience: General Public, Delaware County

Contact: Dona Rhea, dona-rhea@delawareswcd.org, 740-368-1921.

“Shaping Watersheds” is an interactive augmented reality 3D exhibit. It uses a computer generated sensory input to project topographic maps of landforms onto a sand basin. Visitors interact with the exhibit by shaping landforms in kinetic sand. After the colored elevation map is drawn over the landforms, virtual rain water flows down slopes, to lower surfaces, purposefully showing the distribution of water into watersheds. This grant will purchase supplies to build a portable, durable augmented 3D exhibit for use in programs that will reach over 10,000 residents over the life-time of the project. Preservation Parks of Delaware County, Franklin County Metro Parks, the Community Library, Big Walnut and Olentangy Local Schools are collaborating.

Hancock Historical Museum, “Agriculture Building Interactive Exhibit Center,” \$3,000

Audience: Pre-School to University, Hancock County

Contact: Sarah Sisser, ssiisser@hancockhistoricalmuseum.org, 419-423-4433.

The Museum’s preexisting Agriculture Building has become an important part of the general visitor experience and educational programming for local students. The building is in great need of new exhibits to accurately convey the story of the county’s agricultural heritage and the evolution of agricultural practices in the region. Agriculture remains the largest industry in the county, however most residents are several generations removed from the farm. The disconnect between farming and non-farming populations in the county has become particularly apparent in the last two years with the discussion of potential flood mitigation efforts for the Blanchard River, and the effects of farming on the Blanchard River watershed. By conveying the history of these practices and the historical significance of the Blanchard River through exhibits and programming, the Museum will educate the general public, generate conversation, and raise the level of understanding between all sides of the debate. The museum reaches 20,000 people annually. Collaborators include Hancock Park District, Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District, and the University of Findlay College of Education.

Licking County Health Department, “Health and Habitats at the Licking County Health Department,” \$5,000

Audience: General Public, Licking County

Contact: Hilary Requejo, hrequejo@lickingcohealth.org, 740-349-6477.

The Licking County Health Department (LCHD) is currently undertaking a long-term habitat restoration and education project at its 20-acre campus. In 2015, LCHD planted 5 acres with 350 native Ohio trees as well as several wildflower plots for monarch butterfly conservation. These areas can be accessed by the public on a half mile paved walking path. The goal of the Health and Habitat project is to create a 1500-square-foot wildflower garden where young children and adults can view native wildflowers, butterflies, and birds in a safe outdoor setting. The garden area will be designed to attract butterflies and birds utilizing native wildflowers and grasses. The garden, along with the larger campus, will include signage for permanent environmental education. Additionally, LCHD Health Educators will host 2 public workshops using curriculum adapted from Project Learning Tree’s School Site Investigation for youth and educate about the positive health benefits of outdoor activities. Project could reach over 1,100 WIC Clients who use the Health Department for other programs.

Melissa Schultz Nature Preserve, “Environmental Education in the Melissa Schultz Nature Preserve,” \$5,000

Audience: Pre-School – University, Wayne County

Contact: Gregory Shaya, greg@shaya.us, 330-464-3736.

More than three hundred fifty kindergarten through middle school students and local residents will learn the importance of habitat restoration in the newly created Melissa Schultz Nature Preserve, operated by the Montessori School of Wooster. Weekly nature classes for students at the School, and summer day camps for students from four Wayne County summer programs and preschools will include plant and animal identification, weather, site history, water and soil testing. Additional activities will be offered for students in an after-school outdoor education club. Student learning activities will be featured from Project WET and Project WILD, aligned with state science standards, following two half-day workshops for 20 Wooster teachers. Families and community members will be invited to participate in self-guided walks, with educational materials including bulletin boards, maps, interpretive signs, and identification guides. The City of Wooster is collaborating, linking trails in the neighboring Gerstenslager-Martin Park with those in the Nature Preserve. Faculty and students from the College of Wooster and Ashland University will be providing expertise, volunteering and using the Preserve in various ways.

New Mini Grant Awards Continued

Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District, “Protecting our Water Resources,” \$2,792

Audience: Pre-School – University, Paulding County

Contact: Patrick J. Troyer, patrick.troyer@pauldingswcd.org, 419-399-4771.

Provides three-dimensional EnviroScape® table top models and supplies to demonstrate beneficial wetland functions, drinking and wastewater treatment processes, and the flow of precipitation and nonpoint source pollutants through watersheds. These will be used in programs reaching more than 2,600 students and adults each year. Classroom presentations utilizing these models are aligned with Ohio’s science education standards at multiple grade levels.

Washington Soil and Water Conservation District, “Soil Simulator,” \$5,000

Audience: General Public, Washington County

Contact: Dean Sinclair, dsinclair@wcgov.org, 740-373-4857.

Provides a portable rainfall simulator and infiltration demonstration model for use at local fairs, multiple community events and school presentations, to show surface water runoff, infiltration of water, and how different types of tillage, cover crops and impervious cover affect runoff in rural and urban areas. The unit includes a folding table, display boards, hose, pressure regulator, rain gauges, shut-off valve, clean up nozzle and five soil pans. This project will reach over 61,310 county residents at 10 county events (e.g., Waterford Community Fair).

Project WET & Wonders of Wetlands Facilitator Training

Monday, May 22 – Wednesday, May 24

Horace Collins Lab

3311 S. Old State Rd.

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Workshop fee is \$120.

Please register online at WMAO Registration Website

<https://co.clickandpledge.com/advanced/default.aspx?wid=78308>

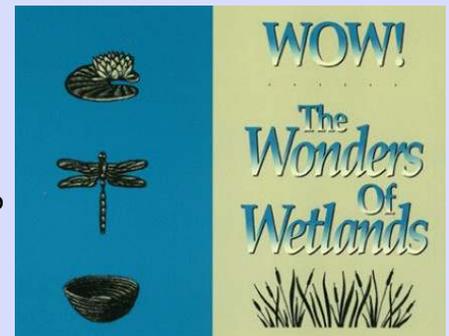
Deadline to register is 5/15/17. No refunds are allowed after 5/15/17.

The workshop is limited to 30 participants with a limited number of workshop scholarships available by contacting dennis.clement@epa.ohio.gov.

Facilitator Participants will receive:

- Certification as Project WET and WOW facilitators
- Required attendance all three days to become a facilitator for \$120, Includes all guides and facilitation costs
- Copies of the secondary modules (e.g., HWHP, newly released Getting Little Feet WET)
- Correlated activities to the Ohio Science Standards
- Optional one semester graduate credit through Ashland University will be available and/or a certificate will be provided for individual professional development plan credit
- Networking with other EE professionals and valuable training in the use of guide activities, materials and how to get children/adults outside experiencing their natural world
- Are you only interested in Project WET curriculum?
- Project WET educator workshop Monday only
- Monday attendance only, \$20, includes HWHP and newly released Getting Little Feet WET)

No early departures from the workshops are permitted.



Working With The Future

By Jen Dennison, Wildlife Education Coordinator, ODNR-Division of Wildlife

I've had the privilege of working in my current position for about 17 years. I came into this position from an internship, as did most of my coworkers. An internship, by definition, is the position of a student or trainee who works in an organization, sometimes without pay, in order to gain work experience or satisfy requirements for a qualification. Having come from an internship, I've always tried to make sure that what we offer for our interns is something that they can use in their future careers, as that's what I learned in mine. I don't make them schlep coffee and donuts for us, file things endlessly, or clean anything! I always cringed when I heard the horrible things they'd had to do at other places of employment in the name of an internship. So, I've always tried to put them in position to meet other professionals in the field, such as attending conferences, meetings, and other networking opportunities; given them skills to use later in their careers like writing articles, creating publications, presenting in front of small and large groups, working with fiscal and reporting items; and I've always tried to hook them into the more fun parts of our jobs like goose round-ups and deer aging opportunities, where they can see as many aspects of our agency as possible.

Interns are a lot of work if you want to do it right. You must take time out of your schedule to train them, some more than others, and you must find things for them to do. Sometimes this can be difficult to do, and very time consuming and frustrating. We all love our jobs and we hate to give up even a tiny bit of it to others. Well, maybe that's just me, but I must think hard about what are the small parts of my job that I could hand off to an intern that is a) something that they can reasonably be expected to accomplish in their limited experience, b) something that if they mess up won't be too much of a headache for me to fix, and c) something that gives them job skills that can translate no matter where they end up. This takes some prior planning on your part as a manager. But once you do plan for your interns, you will most likely be very happy with the results. I've had my interns processing grants, rectifying records for federal reports, presenting during workshops, planning and writing articles for our blog and our magazine, and even creating artwork for our publications. You also must use them to their strengths and allow them to show off their ideas and their creativity. In return, I'm proud to say that I've launched the careers of several excellent employees in several agencies including the Columbus Zoo, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, REI, USGS, and more. They've all gone on to be respectable, hardworking employees and I've never hesitated giving them a good reference.

At this part in our history, we are losing a lot of knowledge to retirements and people leaving the field all together. If we don't take the time to "raise" good interns, to provide excellent experiences for them, and to put them in the position to succeed, the lack of knowledge and participation in our field for careers is going to continue to dwindle. Good internships are a key part of continuing that pipeline of high quality employees in our field and our future will be rough without them. I encourage you to not only provide internships, but do it in a way that is meaningful to them and beneficial to you and your organization.



Agriculture is Cool!

Creative Expression Contest for K-12

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio State Fair and the buckeye state's agricultural commodity groups are again sponsoring the "Agriculture is Cool" program at the Ohio State Fair complete with exciting interactive stations like the opportunity to milk a life-like cow!

Children in K-12 can paint a picture, make a video, take a picture, or submit a creative illustration of why they think Ohio Agriculture is cool!

All entries will be judged by a panel that may include representatives from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Office of the Governor, the Ohio Expo Center, and professionals in the areas of video production, photography, drawing, painting and other visual arts. Judging will be based on the student's visual representation of the "Ag is Cool!" theme, if it accurately reflects 21st Century agriculture, creativity and use of Ohio images, and quality of work. Award winners will be recognized by the Office of the Governor and other state officials at the Ohio State Fair on July 26, 2017.

For more information, a registration form, and a complete set of rules, please visit www.agri.ohio.gov/agiscool

Fourth Grade Only

Students in 4th grade during 2016-17 and a chaperone can attend the fair any one day free simply by presenting their report card at the entry gate. Better yet, participants can win a \$500 scholarship by writing an essay about what they learned.

Save the Date

101 Alternatives to Chalkboard Conference

At YMCA Camp Kern

Saturday, October 7, 2017

The 101 conference is an outdoor education workshop experience designed to inspire teachers and outdoor educators with creative and fun ways to provide exciting learning experiences.

Cost: \$30. Includes all sessions, programs, meals, and overnight accommodation (option of staying Friday and/or Saturday night). Scholarships available

Contact Dave Moran for more details dmoran@daytonymca.org or 513-932-3756 x 1527



Call For Presenters

Presenters are encouraged to offer active, hands-on experiences that would be of interest to both classroom and outdoor educators. Areas of interest include: natural history, art, teambuilding, environmental issues, technology, health, education, and more. Camp Kern has 485 acres filled with many teaching resources (ponds, forest, prairie, log cabin, ravines, the Little Miami River, wetlands, and more).

Session presenters are welcome to join the entire conference at no charge.

Contact Dave Moran for more details about presenting or attending dmoran@daytonymca.org or 513-932-3756 x 1527

International Trails Symposium

Dayton, Ohio May 7 – 10

The American Trails International Trails Symposium offers the premier trails experience, with leading experts that offer over 80 cutting-edge trail presentations, field trips, workshops, with an abundance of networking opportunities. The International Trails Symposium helps attendees:

- Design and build sustainable trails
- Protect access to trails and recreation
- Educate community and State leaders on the myriad benefits of trails
- Bring recognition to your trails
- See the economic impact of trails on a community
- Assess trails for accessibility
- Showcase private sector products and services related to trails and to specialty construction practices
- Create sustainable partnerships
- Develop more support for volunteers
- Obtain more funding for trails
- Build strong local and statewide organizations for trails
- Preserve more open space amidst urban development
- Maintain outdoor resources, their beauty, and wildlife
- Promote trail use as a means for mental, physical, and spiritual well-being

Ohio residents only pay a \$300 discounted rate!

For more information go to: <http://americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2017-register>

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for \$25. Attendees can purchase during the registration process or onsite. CEUs are available through Ohio Parks and Recreation Association and Ohio Planning Association.

Meet an EECO Regional Director

Sheila Cubick: EECO Region 12... Sheila Cubick grew up in Middleport in SE OH on the floodplain of the Ohio River. Much of her childhood involved hiking on the cliffs above the town and along the riverbank as well as at the family cabin at Burr Oak SP. An early influence on her interest in environmental conservation was in first grade when her student teacher demonstrated a soil erosion model.

Sheila received her BA in Psychology at Ohio University, studied graduate psychology at the University of Akron, and received her MA in Geography at Ohio University. Her undergraduate interests focused on organizational psychology and included research in job desires, expectations, and behaviors. Her interests in geography focused on environmental and historical issues while her master thesis involved exploring environmental world view and its connection to positive environmental attitudes and behaviors. Her interests have always involved the connection between the environment and people.

Sheila has a varied work history! She was an EE intern at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, a Research Data Analyst/GIS/LAN Manager at Wright State University, a computer teacher and LAN manager for the Warren City Schools ABLE program, a recycling educator at OSU Extension, a stay-at-home Mom, a STEM Advocate for the Ohio Academy of Science, and a EECO Regional Director! The common theme in these positions is education, research, technology, environmental conservation, and career development.

Her other hobbies and interests include volunteering as an OSU Extension Master Gardener and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist. She has been a member of the East Ohio Handweavers Guild for several years and enjoys weaving and spinning. She is also an avid reader and a yogi!



Sheila posing with a queen snake hiding next to the tree



Meet an EECO Board Member

Denise Natoli Brooks ... Denise is the District Program Administrator for Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District. She oversees a citizen science water quality monitoring program called Stream Team, as well as holds a leadership role in strategic planning and implementation of District activities.

Before joining the Soil & Water team, Denise worked for the National Park Service and numerous private natural resource conservation facilities throughout the country where she facilitated hands-on experiential learning in the out-of-doors. Denise has developed and taught natural resource courses as an adjunct faculty member at Hocking College and Zane State College. She earned a B.S. in Recreation Resource Management from the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University and a M.A. in Zoology with a focus on community-based conservation from

Miami University of Ohio. Denise serves on the Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area Advisory Committee, chairs the Licking County River Round Up Committee, has served as President for the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, is a graduate of the Licking County Leadership Program and was recently recognized as one of 40 Licking County Leaders Under 40.

Denise lives north of Zanesville where she and her family have many native plant gardens, a large food garden, small orchard, honey bees and chickens. She is happiest when she is outside and believes we are all happier and healthier when we spend time in the great outdoors.

Upcoming EECO News Themes

- **Summer - Pollinators - deadline June 1**
- **Fall - Invasives - deadline August 15**
- **Winter - Agriculture and EE - deadline Nov 1**

If you think there is a project, lesson, recipe, etc that we should highlight in any of these upcoming issues, please contact Lynn White at whitelr@butlercountyohio.org

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