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# CREED

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Curriculum Resources for Environmental Education Development

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# President's Message

Greetings EEAI and happy spring (finally)!

We begin the New Year with another transition in EEAI leadership. Shannon Bingham-Unger, past EEAI Director-at-large and former environmental education coordinator at the Marian University Nina Mason Pulliam Eco Lab, has relocated with her family to South Carolina for new employment opportunities. We wish Shannon and her family well and will miss them in Indiana! Thanks to Shannon for her dedicated service to EEAI and furthering Indiana environmental education efforts! Sheryl McGlory, Environmental Education Specialist at Bradford Woods, has enthusiastically taken over the vacated Director-at-large position as of January. We welcome Sheryl and her expertise to the board!

As mentioned in the winter newsletter, the board held a strategic planning meeting February 23 to discuss 2013 activities and initiatives and to set priorities for project completion. One of the priorities for this year is to enhance organizational communication through additional tools and techniques to promote membership engagement and information sharing. We have heard from several members regarding list serv accessibility issues, particularly related to the newsletter. We are investigating several options to upgrade and enhance our communication structures including list serv accessibly, website structure, cloud data storage, online membership and social media integration. One immediate change the board voted to make is to post all current CREED newsletters on the website and to remove password protection. The CREED is a long-standing tradition and a primary mechanism for EEAI information-sharing. We want all members and potential members to have the ability to read about and make connections to the exciting EEAI related activities around the state. Another immediate change is to post all agendas and meeting minutes to the website as well. Members are welcomed and encouraged to attend board meetings. Please check the new links on the [www.eeai.org](http://www.eeai.org) homepage for agenda items, meeting times, and approved meeting minutes. Information about board meetings can be found below as well. As we continue to make improvements, we will keep membership informed through the CREED and website.

The board also reviewed feedback and had a long conversation regarding potential Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA) membership. It was decided that EEAI will not join INCA as a member organization. To make further linkages to legislative affairs, particularly in conjunction with Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) efforts, we will seek out a strategic ELP co-chair partner that is either a member of INCA or has more of a legislative affairs focus than EEAI. Also, a change in ELP leadership will bring some exciting energy to the initiative! John Brady has volunteered to co-chair the effort and has outlined updates in this issue's article. A big thank you to John for taking on this important role!

Sarah Kempfer is additionally making great strides with the Indiana Children in Nature Network program, which is now an affiliated EEAI activity. EEAI will support the effort through fundraising and administrative efforts and will have a board member, Ann Niednagel, serve on the steering committee. Sarah will also provide regular updates in the CREED. This exciting new initiative will bring tremendous environmental education and nature exploration opportunities to families around the state.

As a final update, please be on the lookout for an e-vote on a proposed change in the bylaws regarding the terms of past president and president elect. We will send out the proposed bylaws language and voting information in the Summer CREED and will also post on the website, list serv, and Facebook page. This new method of voting was approved during the bylaws changes vote at the 2012 conference.

Please let us hear from you! Communication from membership shapes program ideas, promotes new initiatives, and supports organization traditions. Please let us know about ideas, concerns, and questions. Attend a board meeting if possible and make connections with your regional chairs.

All the best!

*Kara*

## 2013 EEAI Board Meetings

The 2013 meeting dates are listed below and will be posted on the website with agendas a week prior to the meeting date. We are trying out a new Adobe Connect site this year for the teleconference meetings.

### Teleconference Meetings

- Wednesday, August 7, 2013 from 4-6 pm  
EEAI Adobe Connect Site: <http://connect.iu.edu/eeai/>  
To connect into the meeting, click on the link above and log in as a guest with your name. It is recommended that you use a headset if you are going to use a microphone as the feedback from your computer speakers can be very problematic.

### In-Person Strategic Planning Meetings

- Saturday, June 15, 2013 from 1 – 3 PM (time subject to change)
  - Location: Home of John Brady
  - Please email Kara for directions and to confirm attendance at [karaasalazar@gmail.com](mailto:karaasalazar@gmail.com)
- Sunday, October 6, 2013, Directly After Annual Meeting

## Region 3 News from Paul McAfee

Big news! We got to test out our new regional display that we received from Bernadette. Very cool! It was attended by Pam George at the Fort Wayne Earth Day celebration at Eagle Marsh. She reports that it was well received and many folks were interested in our conference which will be held this year in Region 3 just north of Fort Wayne.

Each regional coordinator has received an EEAI display to take to local events. The displays were put together by Bernadette de Leon. She even made a video of how to use them. This is sure to go viral - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hd1drDq6iL4&noredirect=1>.

We plan to take it next to the IPFW Riverfest which will be held on the IPFW campus in Fort Wayne on the banks of the St Joseph river.

All of the regional coordinators are encouraged to take their displays to local events that they may be attending anyway. It's an easy way to represent EEAI on the local level.

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CREED is the  
newsletter  
of the  
Environmental  
Education  
Association of  
Indiana  
[www.eeai.org](http://www.eeai.org)



*Views expressed are those of the author and are not endorsed or reviewed by EEAI.*

Please don't take this as a sign of laziness or nostalgia, but this month's column is essentially a re-write of one that I wrote for the newsletter nearly 15 years ago. I decided to reprise it because I believe it is still very timely, and because many of today's EEAI members were in elementary school when the column first appeared; so to them, it will be new. To anyone who might remember it, I admire your memory!

I've been an environmental educator for more than 35 years and have seen the bandwagons come and go. I've even taken brief rides on a few, before they ran out of gas or came to a fork in the road where we parted company. With the exception of a relatively small core of people, the names and faces have changed over the years, often subject to fads and funding.

There are those who got involved to satisfy a burning personal commitment to leave our planet in better

shape than they found it — environmental zealots. While I may not agree with zealots on particular issues, I admire them for their purity of motive. But these people often are frustrated to the point of quitting because of painfully slow progress. Environmental education takes time, and results are usually not apparent for generations. Environmental education requires patience.

There are those who get involved because there is money to be made — environmental mercenaries. I can tolerate them as long as there is no pretense of commitment. The environment is as good a cause as any to promote for a few bucks, and they may actually help the cause indirectly. But when the media tires of parading Mother Earth on the six o'clock news, the free advertising disappears, and it's time to find a new cause. Environmental education needs continuity and can't come and go with the whims of popularity.

Environmental education requires persistence.

There are those who get involved because there is power to be gained — environmental predators. When the subject is popular, environmental education serves as a nice platform from which to be elected or promoted. But while there may be benefits to the cause, there can also be casualties. Power and status are meaningless if not exercised. And when power or status are one's principal objectives, environmental education is merely the rhetoric to achieve them. Environmental education is not a competitive event. Environmental education requires cooperation.

Persistence to stay the course, patience to overcome the frustration, and cooperation to avoid the petty turf battles encouraged by bureaucracies; these are the ingredients of a successful statewide environmental education effort.



# Environmental Literacy Plan Update

by John Brady

*"I have purposely presented the land ethic as a product of social evolution because nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written'... It evolves in the minds of a thinking community."*

Aldo Leopold, *The Land Ethic* (1949), 225

Having attended college in Ashland Wisconsin, I am often reminded of Aldo Leopold and his observations and reflections in *A Sand County Almanac*. I think the Indiana Environmental Literacy Plan is like an ethic for environmental education in Indiana; it communicates values, is being developed by a community and requires great thought and care to create and implement successfully. Kara Salazar and Mary Hayes, founding and outgoing co-chairs of the ELP, have devoted hours on the magnitude of weeks to the ELP's progress and for their vision, their follow-through and of course their continued support I would like to thank them. Thank you Kara and Mary!

At the last ELP meeting, the editing groups proposed modifications to the Guidelines based on the public feedback and the committee worked to finalize the K-12 ELP Guidelines that were presented at the EEAI Conference last fall. The final version of the Guidelines will be completed this May and posted to the EEAI website! Thank you all for your input and assistance!

With the Guidelines for K-12 education close to completion, the ELP committee discussed a few exciting opportunities for strategic partnerships including finding an additional co-chair and expanding our stakeholder network. Meetings are being planned for May and June.

We will be communicating with the Indiana Department of Education to find out what academic standards the state tentatively plans to use in the future (NGSS-Next Generation Science Standards or continuation of Indiana Academic Standards 2009) and correlate the Guidelines with the K-12 academic standards.

We are also working on formalizing a process that allows formal, non-formal and life-long learners to commit to implementing the Guidelines in their curriculum and programming.

The Committee will reconvene in late May to form a meeting plan, to outline desired outcomes and define messages to convey to stakeholders.

If you would like to get involved or have questions about the Indiana Environmental Literacy Plan, please contact John Brady at [jbrady@brebeuf.org](mailto:jbrady@brebeuf.org).

## References:

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1949).

*John is Co-Chair of the ELP Committee and EEAI Board Member.*



# Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN)

by Sarah Kempfer

Childhood has changed - today's children spend much less time playing outdoors and much more time in front of the TV or computer. Indiana is joining the movement to get kids outside - research shows that kids that spend time in nature are happier, healthier and smarter!

At the 2012 EEAI conference, a new initiative was introduced to encourage children and families to get outside. The Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN), a project of EEAI, is getting off the ground. ICAN will work to educate and encourage children to spend time in nature.

The first initiative of ICAN is to work in conjunction with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

June is No Child Left Inside Month! There's never been a better time to organize a Family Nature Club in your neighborhood. Contact Sarah to get one started today.

(DNR) to develop Family Nature Clubs in Central Indiana. Family Nature Clubs get families

out together for unstructured playtime and exploration in nature. These clubs can be organized by neighbors, friends, playgroups, churches or individuals. They meet as often as they like, finding nature in rural settings, wilderness, backyards, city neighborhoods and walking paths. In addition to all of the other benefits, being outside as a family strengthens family ties and a sense of community. The national Children & Nature Network (C&NN) connects clubs and provides information on how to begin and run a club ([www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org)).

[www.childrenandnature.org/movement/naturalfamilies/clubs](http://www.childrenandnature.org/movement/naturalfamilies/clubs)). Indiana's Family Nature Club program is based on the "how to" guide provided by the national C&NN.

To assist in the implementation of these clubs, DNR and ICAN are developing a short training program to help people get their club up and running. Letters explaining the program were sent to the central Indiana Master Gardeners, Tree Stewards and Master Naturalists, inviting them to learn about starting a club. In addition, a letter was sent to contacts of the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center to tap into their network of youth-related organizations in Indianapolis. A good number of people expressed interest in starting their own club. The training will be held in late spring. If you or someone who know would like to come to the training and learn about Family Nature Clubs, please contact ICAN.

ICAN is eager to get started on other projects to raise awareness of the importance of children spending time in nature. Funding requests are being pursued. ICAN would like to focus initially on encouraging caregivers of young children to prioritize children having regular time in nature. In addition, ICAN would like to work with the medical community to help them understand the many benefits of children spending time in nature so that they can encourage their patients to get outside.

The growing website for this new project is [www.indianachildrenandnature.org](http://www.indianachildrenandnature.org). Look it over, give us your ideas and join the network!

Sarah Kempfer  
Indiana Children and Nature Network Organizer  
[sarahkempfer@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahkempfer@yahoo.com)



EEAI members met with Richard Louv in April to discuss the formation of Indiana's Family Nature Club Program. From left, Warren Gartner, Richard Louv, Sarah Kempfer, and Sam Carman.

## Weaving the Threads of HOPE

In this day of overwhelming environmental doom and gloom, we invite you to join your fellow educators in celebration of the hope we feel from the good that shines through. Whether it be the “aha” moments we get to experience with our students when they truly see the connections for the first time or hearing them ask the tough questions when it really matters - we are surrounded by these hopeful and very encouraging moments all the time. Let’s remember and celebrate them!

Mark your calendars:

October 4-6, 2013 • Camp Agnes S. McMillen • Fort Wayne, IN

Keynote: Scott Russell Sanders • HOPE sessions • Regional basket challenge

Register now at [www.eeai.org](http://www.eeai.org) to be a part of the celebration and to find out more!

~ 2013 EEAI Conference Planning Committee



Camp Agnes S. McMillen includes 103 acres of wooded ravines, meadows, and trails in northern Allen County in northeast Indiana. This property offers many different levels of outdoor experience, from Cedar Creek Cabin and the Friendship House, modern climate controlled troop houses to screened platform tent/cabins providing a more primitive experience. There are numerous hiking trails throughout the property. One favorite hiking destination is a sycamore tree on the banks of Cedar Creek thought to be the second largest in the state of Indiana. Unique to this property is the climbing tower and zipline as well as an extensive low ropes course.

# Summer Camp!

*by Sheryl McGlory*

Spring is here at last! The weather is warming, wildflowers are emerging, the days are getting longer, and it is once again time to begin planning summer camps. One of the things I love about summer camp programming is the opportunity to present the natural world as even more than an extension of a classroom: as a playground, a stage for imaginative play, a canvas for creation, an exciting wilderness to explore and adventure in.

Often, summer camp activities naturally lend themselves to outdoor experiences – fishing, archery, swimming and canoeing are always camp favorites, and have come to be expected in many recreational summer programs. Others merely require a simple shift in location to offer a connection with nature, like creating a scavenger hunt that focuses on discoveries outdoors rather than searching for items within our cabins, or sketching outside rather than in.

Create outdoor adventures that mirror favorite stories: build rafts like Huckleberry Finn's, learn to start a fire as Hatchet's Brian did, create your own "Pooh sticks" by floating sticks/leaves/natural boats down the stream, take an "Owl Moon" night walk. Send smoke signals, discover wild edibles, track animals, cool off by catching macro invertebrates in the stream or following an orienteering course to a cool summer snack.

Let's think about arts & craft activities that can not only happen outdoors, but also set our youth up for continued connections with nature. Collecting and pressing wildflowers and ferns in the spring provides

us with materials for summer collages, drawings, plant rubbings, recycled paper additions and more. A child who makes and decorates a temporary habitat for insects, a gourd birdhouse, or a nature journal is going to then be excited to put their creation to use – bringing them back outdoors to collect and identify creatures, look for birds who may be in the market for a new home, and sketch or write about what they see around them. A few years ago, a group of my campers created their own nature sculptures in Andy Goldsworthy fashion...and then begged to hike out into the woods every day to check on them and note what changes the natural world had made to their creations.

Offer the chance for youth to challenge themselves and explore. Tuesdays are my favorite day of camp, because that's when our campers learn to pack and wear a backpack and then hike three miles (Up hills! Over streams! In the middle of nowhere!) to their campsite, where we set up tents and cook foil dinners over a fire. Often we find ourselves telling jokes and stories around the fire while eating, and could easily forget all about the planned evening program. The feeling of accomplishment shows in their faces as they recount tales of their travels to the site, and no storybook can compare to the real-life adventure they're living out.

Summer is just around the corner, so whether you're planning to share the outdoors with campers or your own children, now is the time to begin planning those memorable experiences.

Enjoy!



# Paul-itics with Paul Steury

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One thing that we as environmental educators seem to forget is what David Orr exclaims - "*all education is environmental education*. By what is included or excluded we teach students that they are part of or apart from the natural world. To teach economics, for example, without reference to the laws of thermodynamics or those of ecology is to teach a fundamentally important ecological lesson: that physics and ecology have nothing to do with the economy. That just happens to be dead wrong. The same is true throughout all of the curriculum." And all of life!

Everything is environmental education. And everything we don't teach or expand upon. All of our actions *and inactions* mentor. Including the way we address the issues that surround us like where we get our electricity, economic growth, pollution, excess carbon dioxide, and climate change.

John Muir claims "Any fool can destroy trees... Through all the wonderful, eventful centuries ... God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but he cannot save them from fools -- only Uncle Sam can do that." Trees are his love but I see him talking about carelessness that hampers our quality of life.

So I recently joined the Sierra Club's Executive Committee whose mission is to:

1. Explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth;
2. practice and promote responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;
3. educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.

Yes they get a little political. And yes they are very active in working towards improving Indiana's water quality, food quality, and air quality. They are pushing Uncle Sam to let us not be foolish. One of Sierra Club's main goals is to end our dependence on coal. Why?

Currently Indiana's electricity is created primarily from coal. According to the National Mining Association coal provides 95.2 percent of Indiana's electricity.

greenenergyhelpfiles.com says "Statistics alone should tell us all how bad coal is. Producing about 23 percent of the world's energy needs, coal is now sold cheaply. However, the impact of this fossil fuel on our health and our atmosphere is one dirty, expensive proposition. Coal emits more carbon per unit of energy than oil, and 80 percent more than natural gas. It accounts for 43 percent of global emissions (2.7 billion

tons of it every year)." Scarily they continue "The two main ingredients of coal are particulate and sulphur dioxide. In addition to causing millions of new cases of respiratory disease every year, it causes 500,000 cases of premature death."

Representing Indiana's Sierra Club I went to Washington DC to attend Good Jobs Green Jobs conference, where it focused on "how to grow the clean economy to scale; the role of strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors in solving the country's pressing economic and environmental challenges; how regulations protect us while creating new markets; and how people in every part of the U.S. are working collaboratively for social, economic and environmental justice, while building an economy with good jobs." The main goal for the conference was the urgency of how all people, no matter what profession, need to start talking about climate change and methods of how to reduce CO2 production.

Sierra Club and the BlueGreen Alliance co-sponsored the conference. BlueGreen Alliance is spectacular. They are an organization of blue collar workers and environmental activists that advocates the growth in the number and quality of jobs in the clean economy by expanding a broad range of industries, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, the substitution of safer, cleaner chemicals, modern transportation systems and advanced vehicle technology, domestic manufacturing, high-speed Internet and a smart, efficient electrical grid, green schools and other public buildings, improving our nation's water infrastructure, recycling, and sustainable agriculture.

What does this have to do with EEAI? Well - what is education? I agree with Wikipedia that "Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which knowledge, skills, and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training, research, or simply through autodidacticism. *Generally, it occurs through any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts.*" Sounds very similar with *The Belgrade Charter: A Global Framework for Environmental Education's* desire to change knowledge, attitude and behavior.

Thank you Indiana Sierra Club for educating us to be better stewards, caretakers and citizens. Caring for our Indiana and focusing on the issues that surround us affects the way I think, feel and act. I hope it does for you too.

# GET INVOLVED IN EEAI!

Want to be active in raising the profile of Environmental Education in Indiana? Join a committee!!!!

**Communication:** website, CREED

Chair: Ann Niednagel ([secretary@eeai.org](mailto:secretary@eeai.org))

Key Members: Jabin Burnworth and David Garner (website); Bernadette de Leon and Sue Speichert (CREED)

**Activities:** programs and activities outside of the EEAI annual conference

Chair: Bernadette de Leon ([bernie.deleon@gmail.com](mailto:bernie.deleon@gmail.com))

Key Members: Regional chairs

**Conference:** planning and administration of annual conference

Chairs 2013: Krista Daniels ([krista@elkhartcountyparks.org](mailto:krista@elkhartcountyparks.org)) and

Tom Enright ([parks@middleburyin.com](mailto:parks@middleburyin.com))

Chair 2014: Paul McAfee

**Membership:** management of membership

Chair: Jabin Burnworth ([jabinburnworth@gmail.com](mailto:jabinburnworth@gmail.com))

Key Member: Krista Daniels

**Finance:** funding, annual budget

Chair: Jan Sneddon ([pastpresident@eeai.org](mailto:pastpresident@eeai.org))

Key Member: Paul McAfee

**Nominations/awards:** manages nomination of board members and award recipients

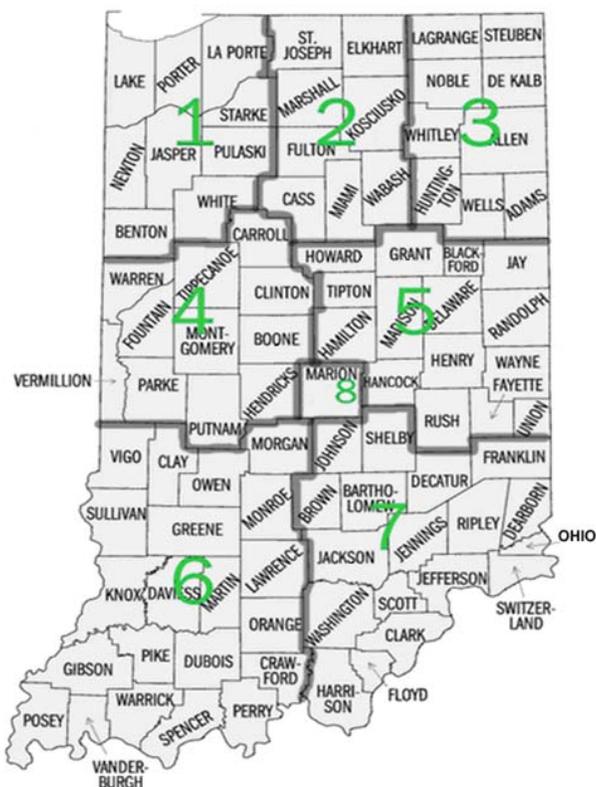
Chair: Paul McAfee ([pmcafee@toast.net](mailto:pmcafee@toast.net))

Key Member: Warren Gartner ([WGartner@dnr.in.gov](mailto:WGartner@dnr.in.gov))

**Historian**

Chair: Sam Carman ([scarman@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:scarman@dnr.IN.gov))

## Map of Regions



## Regional Chairs

To improve networking and communications within our organization, EEAI members are organized into regions with each region having a Chair. If you have any questions, suggestions, events to report, lesson plans to share, or anything else you feel would be beneficial for other members to know, please pass it along to your Regional Chair. Here's who to contact and how to contact them:

Region 1: Niki Schmutte, [Region1@eeai.org](mailto:Region1@eeai.org)

Region 2: Brad Rody, [Region2@eeai.org](mailto:Region2@eeai.org)

Region 3: Paul Steury, [Region3@eeai.org](mailto:Region3@eeai.org)

Region 4: Sam Carman, [Region4@eeai.org](mailto:Region4@eeai.org)

Region 5: TBD, [Region5@eeai.org](mailto:Region5@eeai.org)

Region 6: Carissa Lovett, [Region6@eeai.org](mailto:Region6@eeai.org)

Region 7: Donna Stanley, [Region7@eeai.org](mailto:Region7@eeai.org)

Region 8: Ann Niednagel, [Region8@eeai.org](mailto:Region8@eeai.org)

Out of State: Bernadette de Leon, [vicepresident@eeai.org](mailto:vicepresident@eeai.org)

Active communications within regions can greatly increase the benefits you receive from being an EEAI member. PLEASE take advantage of it!