

# CREED

Curriculum Resources for  
Environmental Education Development

Summer 2016



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## President's Letter: Ann Niednagel



Last year I turned 50. A friend of mine told me how she had challenged herself to do 50 new things in her 50th year. What a great idea! So, I did, too.

What does this have to do with EEAI? Well, EEAI has provided me so many opportunities to do new and interesting things during my 50th year. Just a few include becoming EEAI's newest president, walking Pinhook Bog at last year's conference, and observing hummingbird banding at this year's summer conference. Participating in the 2016 Chautauqua, as well as the field trips

offered while at Earlham College and the Cope Environmental Center, fostered my sense of wonder. These are a sampling but because of them and others, I am ready and excited to serve this wonderful association.

So what is next? This year, EEAI continues to work on its four major projects:

**ELG: Environmental Literacy Guidelines**

After years of collaboration with the community and stakeholders in the development of these guidelines, we will continue to work on sharing them throughout the state. Our plan is to meet with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and others to help spread the word. Jabin Burnworth is our Project Chair. His contact information is: [jabinburnworth@gmail.com](mailto:jabinburnworth@gmail.com).

**SCEE: Student Chapters of Environmental Education**

We would love to see more student chapters at colleges and universities across Indiana. The paperwork and guidelines are ready to use. Consider starting a student chapter within the college or university you work with. Dr. Terri Hebert is our Project Chair. Her contact information is: [thebert@iusb.edu](mailto:thebert@iusb.edu).

**Environthon**

Our involvement includes writing tests, judging, and t-shirt donations. If you would like more information about this, contact Darci Zolman. She is our Project Chair. Her contact information is: [darci.zolman@nacdn.net](mailto:darci.zolman@nacdn.net).

**ICAN: Indiana Children and Nature Network**

ICAN did a bang up job with the Nature Play Days and has more scheduled for 2017, including many other activities. Sarah Kempfer is our Project Chair. Contact her at: [sarah@indianachildrenandnature.org](mailto:sarah@indianachildrenandnature.org).

We continue to promote EEAI through social media, our newsletter, and the annual conference. If you wish to get involved with the upcoming conference, contact Bernadette de Leon at [deleon@indiana.edu](mailto:deleon@indiana.edu).

Also consider getting involved through the four major projects listed above. Contact any of the project chairs for more information. And as always, you can contact me at [ann.niednagel@gmail.com](mailto:ann.niednagel@gmail.com).

## **2016 EEAI Summer Conference Recap: Paul McAfee**



Not only was this our first ever summer conference, but it was also the first held at a university - lovely Earlham College.

To celebrate the Indiana Bicentennial, we partnered with the Nature Conservancy and Cope Environmental Center to integrate the gifting of the Children of Indiana Nature Park to the children of Indiana. First Lady, Karen Pence, was in attendance, as well as other dignitaries

representing nature preservation and education in our state. It was nice to see the Indiana government so interested in preserving nature for the future.

Another first involved a new event, the Chautauqua. Based on participant feedback, this was a resounding hit as it offered attendees opportunities to learn about diverse topics in a short amount of time. There is a lot of interest in continuing this sort of activity at future conferences.

Yet another first was the evening keynote session with artist, Rick Wilson, and Indiana's poet laureate, Shari Wagner. Rick was commissioned to create paintings representative of all state parks to celebrate the centennial of the Indiana State Park system. He brought some of these paintings with him and displayed them at each table. During Shari's portion of the presentation, Rick created a new painting while Shari led the attendees through a poetry writing session based on that table's displayed painting. It was quite stimulating and relaxing at the same time. We got to witness a lot of creativity emerge from our members.

Although there were several "firsts" during the 2016 EEAI Summer Conference, there was also plenty of tradition. We continued to offer many wonderful sessions and field trips. In addition, opportunities to informally network occurred throughout, but especially in the hospitality area and during the songwriting contest.

The annual awards banquet honored the following members:

Howard Michaud Award - Nancy Brown from Elkhart County SWCD was the recipient

Joe Wright Award - Alison Zajdel from Cope Environmental Center and Nicole Messacar from LaPorte County SWCD were recipients

President's Award - Warren Gartner from Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife was the recipient

Pictures of the conference can be found at: <http://www.eeai.org/Recapitulation>.

Attendees who could make it enjoyed the conference, but reported the time of the year kept many from participating. Next year's conference will occur at a more traditional time, specifically October 13-15, 2017. It will be held at Waycross Conference Center in scenic Brown County during the height of all color. Please consider joining us!

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### **ICAN Update: Nature Play Days a Success: Claire Lane, Urban Conservationist, Hamilton County SWCD**

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ICAN successfully led a new initiative in June: Nature Play Days (NPDs). Organizations across Indiana were recruited to hold nature play days and related activities occurring between June 11th and June 19th. One hundred fifteen (115) events were registered by over 65 partners. A kickoff event was sponsored by ICAN and held at Monument Circle in Indianapolis on June 10th. Partner organizations led activities for families and a local summer camp to show that nature play can be enjoyed even in the most urban environments. View the RTV6 news coverage here: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WF4k3u54zM&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WF4k3u54zM&feature=em-share_video_user).

Participants at Nature Play Days were encouraged to use the hashtag #ICANNaturePlayDay when posting photos to social media. Photos with the hashtag served as entries to win great prizes from ICAN. Winning photos can be found on the ICAN Facebook site, Twitter, and Instagram. More information on NPDs can be found on the ICAN

website: <http://www.indianachildrenandnature.org>. Thanks to all EEAI partners who held Nature Play Days!

2017 Nature Play Days will be held June 10th through June 17th.

Save the Date: Nature Play Symposium to be held on November 4th  
ICAN will be hosting a Nature Play Day Symposium this fall at Conner Prairie in Fishers, Indiana. This event will allow partners and interested parties to come together and expand the conversation and vision of our network. More information will be available soon!

## **NAAEE Affiliate Network News**

2016 Conference Registration is now open! Register today to reserve your spot at NAAEE's Annual Conference and Research Symposium in Madison, Wisconsin. Don't miss out on the Affiliate Strand geared specifically toward the needs of EE association leaders, with sessions covering such topics as staffing your Affiliate, nonprofit management, EE Certification, and more. The conference will also feature a number of Affiliate networking activities. More information on Affiliate scholarships will be available soon.

Affiliate Steering Committee Position Open - We currently have a position open on the Affiliate Steering Committee. If you are an Affiliate leader interested in getting more involved at the national level and working with other Affiliate leaders to provide professional development, resources and networking opportunities to other Affiliates, please consider submitting a one paragraph nomination to Ashley Hoffman at [director@kaee.org](mailto:director@kaee.org) by August 1st. Your term would begin in September.

Monthly Webinar Series - Join us July 26th at 3:00PM EST for the next installment of NAAEE's monthly webinar series. The topic for July is Collective Impact. You won't want to miss hearing Dr. Nicole Ardoin of Stanford University's Graduate School of Education and Woods Institute for the Environment speak about the potential for cross-sector coordination to initiate large scale social change in Environmental Education. Find out more and register for the webinar on eePRO. This webinar is hosted by NAAEE and members of the Affiliate Network. To learn more about co-hosting a webinar, contact Katie Navin at [director@caee.org](mailto:director@caee.org).

Climate Change Education Bill Introduced - This month, Senator Ed Markey, introduced a Climate Change Education Bill, S. 3074, which would authorize grants to support public engagement and education around climate change impacts and solutions. A similar bill was introduced in the House last April. Visit eePRO and join the Advocacy Group to find out how you can help over the summer months to garner co-sponsors and support for this legislation.

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## **Announcements and Opportunities**

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Great Lakes in My World Educator Workshop: Kim Swift, Education Program Manager, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Porter, Indiana

Date: Thursday, July 28, 2016

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Cost: \$40.00

Educators working with youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to enjoy the day immersed in educational activities that explore the Great Lakes and Great Lakes issues! Participants will try their hands at a variety of activities from the Alliance for the Great Lakes' newly updated *Great Lakes in My World* educational curricula.

*Great Lakes in My World K-8* offers 80 indoor and outdoor activities -- covering lakes, sand dunes, wetlands, human communities, history and geology – all as they relate to our Great Lakes! *Great Lakes in My World 9-12* focuses on coastal habitats, restoration, careers and stewardship.

This workshop will involve activities both outside and indoors. It will demonstrate lessons from the 9-12 guide, but reference the K-8 lessons that cover similar topics. Upon completion of the workshop, participants will receive a copy of the curriculum appropriate to their grade level to take home. This program is offered to both formal educators and non-formal educators including pre-service teachers, naturalists, scout leaders, youth group leaders, home schooling parents, and any educators who work with youth between 6th and 12th grade.

The workshop is co-sponsored by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the Alliance for the Great Lakes, Dunes Learning Center, and the Great Lakes Research and Education Center. Pre-registration is required and registration is limited. To register, visit [www.duneslearningcenter.org/adults](http://www.duneslearningcenter.org/adults) before July 21.

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