



# CREED

Curriculum Resources for  
Environmental Education Development

Winter 2016



**"If winter  
comes, can  
spring be  
far  
behind?"**

**~Percy Bysshe  
Shelley, Ode to  
the West Wind**



## A Letter from Ann

Driving north on Fall Creek Road in Indianapolis, the street is lined with the still light green leaves of the honeysuckle bush providing a green accent to an other wise gray drizzly day. The road winds around soft curves and takes you up and down slight hills bordered on one side by

FortHarrison State Park. This section of the road provides a short respite into nature on what would otherwise be all city driving. I look forward to the days when the trees are covered with the white accent of snow. Driving this stretch of Fall Creek Road after a snowfall is like taking a tunnel through the trees. Winter is coming. This season is a time of reflection and preparation. EEAI is also preparing.

The Environmental Literacy Guidelines are preparing to take the next step in becoming a state Environmental Literacy Plan. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of Indiana's citizens were environmentally literate? A working group is being called together and we will continue to work toward this goal. If you are interested in helping with the working group, contact me at [Ann.niednagel@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.niednagel@gmail.com). In the next CREED, I will report more about what has happened as we spring into action.

The 2018 Conference preparation is well underway, too, and you will be able to register for this wonderful event soon. Mark your calendars for October 13-15, 2017. Keep a look out in your emails for more information coming soon.

The 2017 Nature Play Days, organized by Indiana Children and Nature Network and is one of EEAI's projects, is set for June 10-18. Mark your calendars and plan a Nature Play Day.

Purdue's Student Chapter has prepared a number of activities for the community and its students.

So, I use this dreary weather to take a little more time inside preparing for all to come and reflect on where we have been. May you also use this time to pause and enjoy the journey.

Enjoy your holiday season. Let it snow.

Ann

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## **Indiana Envirothon 2016 Updates: Darci Zolman**

### **Indiana Envirothon – Think Spring!**

As I sit here in Northern Indiana, seven inches of snow cover the ground and the temperature is dropping. So naturally, I am thinking of SPRING! Envirothon Spring! Seven regional contests have been

scheduled around the state for March 2017, followed by the State Contest on April 26 at Camp Illiana in Washington, Indiana, and the NCF North America competition at St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, July 23-29. Contest Coordinators are working hard on contest details, including the incorporation of this year's current issue: Ag Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship.

How can you be involved with Envirothon? There are several ways! You can help spread the word about this contest for high school teams to your local schools. You can volunteer to assist a team with preparations for competition. You can volunteer at one of the contests. You can attend steering committee meetings to give new input and perspective.

Additional information about Envirothon can be found on the EEAI website or at <http://iaswcd.org/events-2/envirothon/>

You can also contact me directly at [darci.zolman@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:darci.zolman@in.nacdnet.net)

## Two Projects for Young Students, K-3

By Jim Poyser

Recently, my organization Earth Charter Indiana completed two projects that I think might be replicable for your environmental education purposes. One involves art, the other involves writing.

The first is a plastic waste awareness project called Strawbale. As a side project to my work with ECI, I collected thousands of used straws from local restaurants and compiled them into a straw bale. At first it was a visual pun, an artwork that I thought could create visibility in the community. Then I realized I could engage young people in the Straw bale project and turn it into an environmental education project.

I went to a Montessori school in Broad Ripple, Indiana: Broad Ripple Village Montessori, whose students are 3-6 years old. Visiting multiple times, I led the students through an inquiry process where they learned the environmental impact of plastic, including plastic straws.

I engaged the students in completing the art piece. Teachers at the school encouraged their students to collect used plastic straws on their own. We had a work session where they used their straws to fill the gaps

in the Strawbale.

Then on two occasions, we held a parade in the Broad Ripple neighborhood where we carried the Strawbale on a wagon. We went to the restaurants who had collected used straws for this project, and delivered thank you notes hand written by the students.

We also encouraged restaurants to follow up by signing a Resolution to reduce straw waste that simply says they will not hand out straws automatically but instead will only hand out straws when asked.

Six restaurants signed that resolution during that process, and we are looking for many more. This teaches the students their actions can have lasting impact.

As a follow up, Park Tudor High School students are designing a decal for participating restaurants to display on their windows: "Low-Straw Zone."

You can read my how-to guide for this project, here. <http://www.climatechronicles.com/2016/11/strawbale-how-to-guide-for-plastic.html>

If you'd like to utilize my Strawbale as part of your project, contact me!

## Love Letters to Planet Earth

The second project was part of Indianapolis' annual Spirit and Place Festival, which stages dozens of events around a single theme. This year's theme was "Home" and so we worked with various partners to create an event we called "There's No Place Like Home: Love Letters to Planet Earth."

Partners included Elder's Climate Action, The Nature Conservancy and The Orchard School.

The idea here was to allow students to express feelings about nature via hand-written letters. After consulting with Indiana Standards experts, we determined 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were the best target student population.

We teamed up with The Nature Conservancy because of their Children

of Indiana Nature Park. I visited each of the schools to do a presentation on the threats and challenges to the environmental. Soon after, Melissa Moran from TNC went to a school to present on the Park and how students could literally download deeds from their site.

The event, though a bit too long in duration, was nevertheless a success as well over 100 people gathered at The Orchard School. Some three dozen third graders read their letters aloud. Elders — parents, grandparents and great-grandparents — then held their own meeting (while the children played outside) and crafted their own Love Letters in response, which they read aloud.

You can see a full accounting of the event, here: <http://www.climatechronicles.com/2016/11/love-letters-intergenerational-event.html>.

And you can see the Love Letters here: <http://www.youthpowerindiana.com/love-letters>.

I felt this event was successful in that it approached the issue of human impact on the planet from the lens of love and intergenerational community, not doom and gloom.

## Nicole Harmon - Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, a subsidiary of Humane Society of Calumet Area since 2014, located in Valparaiso, takes in injured and orphaned native wildlife from over 16 counties throughout Indiana annually. Since its inception, Moraine Ridge has taken in and cared for over 2,600 animals; with 1,378 being from 2016 alone. With the rapid growth of Moraine Ridge, the opportunity arose for an education component to be established. In February, education staff was brought onto the team and it was immediately evident that the demand for wildlife related education programs was needed in Northwest Indiana. The education department quickly grew with programs and education events being added monthly. Each month, Moraine Ridge sponsors animal appreciation or awareness event days, inviting members of the community to visit the education center and participate in activities, crafts, and animal ambassador interactions related to that months topic.

Most recently, Moraine Ridge has focused efforts on three new education outreach endeavors. Following Indiana State Science Standards, Moraine Ridge education staff has begun classroom programs geared towards animal natural history and rehabilitation centered topics. Using education artifacts and live animal ambassadors, teaching staff and students are provided with an in-depth look at our native residents. A program focusing on homeschool students began in October, 2016 which invited students and their parent/guardian to Moraine Ridge to explore different wildlife and natural history topics each month. The topic for the October event focused on wildlife rehabilitation and some of its challenges while the November topic was in regards to animal nutrition. Each month the topic will vary and will follow Indiana State Science standards for multiple grade levels as well as incorporate other academic topics such as art, math, and social studies. The newest education program established by staff is the Mini-Naturalist program. Each month children between the ages of 3-5 are invited out to the Moraine Ridge education center where they will participate in a crafts, activities, and games centered on varying topics that all have to do with native wildlife.

The anticipation is that the education programming through Moraine Ridge will only continue to grow as further efforts are made to extend reach into area schools. Plans for 2017 are to coordinate even more education programs and events while also offering an evening seminar program for area community members interested in learning about our native species. Moraine Ridge is also in the process of opening a wildlife education center with work being done from 2017-2022. For more information contact Nicole Harmon at (219) 299-8027 or [nharmon@mrwildliferehab.org](mailto:nharmon@mrwildliferehab.org).

## **EIAI Conference (Bernadette deLeon)**

**Seeing the Forest and the Trees: Waycross  
Conference Center, Scenic Brown County -  
October 13th-15th**



Has teaching sapped your energy? Do the budding sprouts in your care stare at you with wooden expressions, while you are "board" out of your mind? Sycamore of the same old, same old? Pining to get away?

Tap into the energy of EEAI! Rooted in the Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP), what transpires at the 2017 conference will help you branch out. Seek the light and discover your preconceptions falling away as we revisit evergreen topics and nurture new ideas. Don't bark up the wrong tree - plant the seed, and mark your calendar now as we graft a forest of activities for you to transplant to our own plot. It's simple, arbor no doubts - blossom with us in 2017! Yew'd be nuts not to.

## **One Man's Perspective - In Their Own Words: Submitted by Sam Carman**

My words for this article will consist of two additional sentences. The rest can be said by some of the men who hope to "make America great again". It is clear to me that the work of environmental educators will be increasingly challenged.

Donald Trump tweets:

"The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive." (2012)

"Ice storm rolls from Texas to Tennessee - I'm in Los Angeles and it's freezing. Global warming is a total, and very expensive, hoax!" (2013)

“Any and all weather events are used by the global warming hoaxsters to justify higher taxes to save our planet! They don't believe it!” (2014)

“This very expensive global warming bull\*\*\*\* has got to stop. Our planet is freezing, record low temps, and our global warming scientists are stuck in ice.” (2014)

Excerpt from a Donald Trump interview by Chris Wallace on Fox News in 2015:

Donald Trump: "Environmental protection, what they do is a disgrace; every week they come out with new regulations."

Interviewer Chris Wallace: "Who's going to protect the environment?"

Donald Trump: "We'll be fine with the environment. We can leave a little bit, but you can't destroy businesses."

"In my first 100 days in office, I will cancel the Paris Climate Agreement and stop all payments of U.S. tax dollars to U.N. global warming programs."

--Donald Trump, 2016

“Global warming is a myth. The Global Warming Treaty is a disaster.”

--Mike Pence, 2000

"I don't know that climate change is a resolved issue in science today."

--Mike Pence, 2014

“A lot of third-, fourth- and fifth-rate scientists have gotten a long ways by embracing climate change. I would like to have more funding so that I could combat the nonsense put out by the environmental movement.”

--Myron Ebell, likely Trump appointee for EPA Director

## The NAAEE Experience

By: Brianna Osinski, Purdue University-M.S. student

Visualize an EEAI conference. There are friendly, enthusiastic environmental educators milling about. New classroom ideas and citizen science success stories are being shared. Field trips are taken. New friendships are formed. Now, take that experience and multiply it by 100 and you may get close to imagining the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) conference experience.

This October, I had the pleasure of attending my first NAAEE conference, held in beautiful, eco-friendly Madison, WI (there are bike trails and community gardens everywhere!). My reason for attending was two-fold: make contacts for after graduation and get some feedback and ideas on the teaching unit I am developing for AP Biology students on conservation biology. I was able to easily meet both of my goals and so much more.

This conference has something for everyone in the EE field. If you're interested in learning about the newest findings in EE or sharing your own discoveries, there were two days devoted to a research symposium. At the general conference, there were field trips to local establishments that are putting EE into practice so we could gather and swap ideas with the proprietors. There were workshops on becoming EE certified, how certain counties succeeded in making EE a mandatory part of the curriculum, how to integrate religion and EE, how to engage millennials, evaluation tools, and so much more. Beyond the excellent selection of talks and presentations, there were multiple opportunities to mingle and talk with other professionals; many a collaboration was formed during that conference.

What enabled me to attend the conference was NAAEE's wonderful volunteer opportunities. If you are able to volunteer for a total of 4 hours on one day, your registration that day is free. If you volunteer for 8 hours over the entirety of the conference, your entire registration is free. That kind of deal is hard to beat! Also, volunteering gave you another opportunity to have some one-on-one time with other environmental educators and make connections that you may not have even known you were looking for.

By having more of our EEAI members attend the larger NAAEE conference, I think we would make our own organization stronger by giving us insight and resources from a broader range of people and

practices. We can then use the more intimate setting of our EEAI conferences to discuss what we've learned and how we can apply it to our local schools and EE establishments. The NAAEE conference is an awesome experience and it is one that can benefit both you and the future of EE in Indiana.

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## It's Junior Duck Stamp Contest Time!

The 2017 Junior Duck Stamp Contest is now open! This easy to enter "Conservation Through Art" contest is designed to encourage students to learn about waterfowl and wetlands. Any student in grades K-12 can enter the contest by making a drawing of a native duck, goose, or swan and sending it to the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge by March 15. Entries are judged in age categories and there are some great prizes (including cash). The national winning entry is made into a Junior Duck Stamp.

There are just a few rules for the contest. The drawing should be done on 9" x 12" paper or canvas in a horizontal format, the bird has to be a native species, and no writing can be on the front. An official entry form needs to be on the back. A complete list of rules can be found at [www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck).

There are a variety of materials available free of charge from Muscatatuck to help your class or youth group work on Junior Duck Stamp drawings. A curriculum guide full of background material on ducks and geese and suggested lesson plans is available. There are also a limited number of large colored pencil sets, drawing paper of the correct size, mounted ducks to use as art models, a wetland trunk full of books and activity guides, Junior Duck backpacks filled with waterfowl books and resource materials, and copyright-free waterfowl photos available for use. If you have questions or want to reserve materials contact Donna Stanley, Indiana Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator, at the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge, Seymour, IN. Phone is 812-622-4352 x 12, Email is [Muscatatuck@fws.gov](mailto:Muscatatuck@fws.gov)

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# Dunes Learning Center

## Winter Open House

Saturday, January 14, 2017

11:00am - 3:00pm (CT)

[Dunes Learning Center](#)

Don't let shorter days and cooler temperatures keep you inside. Visit Dunes Learning Center for an afternoon of family fun in nature! Explore the outdoors with our team of expert naturalists, or head inside for crafts, cookies and cocoa. Spread the word and come ready to play! Learn more and register online at <https://duneslearningcenter.org/events/>

*Thanks to event sponsors and partners, ArcelorMittal, BP, Enbridge, Friends of Indiana Dunes, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and NIPSCO. This activity made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission, South Shore Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

## Project Learning Tree Educators Workshop

Saturday, January 21, 2017

9:30am–3:30pm (CT)

[Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk](#)

Educators, naturalists, scout leaders, and other youth leaders are invited to try their hands at a wide variety of activities they can use to teach about the environment at this Project Learning Tree workshop for both formal and informal educators working with students in grades Pre-K through 8. The workshop will include interdisciplinary activities that teach students about the environment. Each participant who completes the full six-hour workshop will receive an activity guide packed with 96 broad-based, hands-on, easy to use (and fun) activities. Indiana teachers can receive Professional Growth Points and Illinois Teachers can receive CPDUs for attending the workshop. Graduate credit is also available for an additional fee. Tuition is

\$35 and includes lunch and materials. Learn more and register online at <https://www.duneslearningcenter.org/adults>.

## **Summer Camp Open House**

Saturday, March 4, 2017

11:00am - 3:00pm (CT)

### [Dunes Learning Center](#)

Attention campers! Explore Dunes Learning Center's Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore campus and celebrate spring with a day of fun in the dunes. Families are invited to sample popular activities, tour camp facilities, meet staff and ask questions about the upcoming summer season. Learn more and register online at <https://www.duneslearningcenter.org/events>.

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## **Gardening with Native Plants and Pollinators**

Saturday, March 18, 2017

9:30am - 3:30pm (CT)

### [Paul H. Douglas Center For Environmental Education](#)

Learn about native plants and pollinators specific to the dunes region and receive guidance on how to incorporate native species into your home or school garden. Individuals who enjoy gardening will especially appreciate this workshop, which will offer a variety of techniques and suggestions forgetting garden-ready! Tuition is \$35 and includes lunch and materials. Learn more and register online at <https://www.duneslearningcenter.org/adults>.

## **Get Outdoors Day**

Saturday, June 10, 2017

11:00am - 3:00pm (CT)

### [Dunes Learning Center](#)

Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day at Dunes Learning Center's Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore campus on Saturday, June 14 with a day of family fun! Learn about the secret life of the Little Calumet River, get up close with nature or enjoy a quiet moment under the trees. Themed hikes, science games, camp crafts, live music and a picnic lunch on the lawn—it's all free with your event registration. Learn more and register online at <https://www.duneslearningcenter.org/events>.

*Thanks to event sponsors and partners, ArcelorMittal, BP, Enbridge, Friends of Indiana Dunes, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and NIPSCO. This activity made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission, South Shore Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

## Sarah Kempfer - ICAN

The Indiana Children and Nature Network (ICAN) held a 'Swarm' - a meeting to expand the work of ICAN, activate volunteers and share ideas about getting kids outside. The Nov. 4th meeting was held at Conner Prairie in Fishers, IN with over 60 people in attendance.

The basic ICAN powerpoint was presented as a way to teach attendees about ICAN and so that they could present this powerpoint to others. This ICAN powerpoint will be available on our website. In 2017, ICAN will begin active committees around four areas: Nature Play Days, medical community, early childhood and school age children, and community outreach. Participants divided into these groups to discuss next steps in each area. People expressed enthusiasm for helping to move projects forward.

Our guest speaker was Marissa Rose from Muncie BY5, a group focused on meeting the needs of young children in Muncie and Delaware County. Muncie BY5 understands that getting kids outdoors meets many of the goals for early childhood development so they took the NPD idea and ran with it! Muncie BY5 invited their network of organizations to host Nature Play Days. The enthusiasm for the program grew and they expanded the network to include many types of organizations. Over 50 events were held

through the week in Delaware County. The collaboration also printed a NPDs Passport that included a listing of all events, ideas of additional fun things to do outside with kids, and a card to stamp at each event attended. Those with three stamps were entered into a raffle. This is a great example of how communities can build their own local network of organizations to get kids outside. We are encouraging other communities to do the same!

ICAN is initiating regular brown bag lunches to provide an opportunity for greater networking and sharing of ideas. The first brown bag will be held Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Indiana Wildlife Federation offices from 11:30 to 1. You are all invited.

## Paul Steury - Getting Outdoors

On November 19 I thought I was in an environmental heaven within the state of Indiana!!

Why? What? Where? I was at the Hoosier Environmental Council's 9<sup>th</sup> annual Greening the Statehouse where over 500 people attended "Indiana's Largest Annual Gathering of Environmental-Minded Citizens" at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds.

The schedule for the day was inspirational and hopefully motivational to all attendees with the Keynote Address by Melissa Mays who is fighting for clean drinking water in Flint, Michigan. Then there were panels on the Path to Greater Quality of Life and Environmental Justice in Urban Areas of Indiana, Advocacy Training, Climate Progress in Unexpected, New Terrain, Re-Envisioning Rural Landscapes, and the final address by the Jesse Kharbanda, the Executive Director of Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC) entitled Forging our Shared Future in a Challenging New Chapter (in regards to what happened on November 9).

It was spectacular to see so many motivated people who want to assist the HEC vision to be the voice of the people for the environment in Indiana". HEC's mission wants the organization to have "the passion and the plan to tackle our environmental challenges and help make our state a healthier, better place to live and do business." You could sense that buzz all around the convention hall.

EEAI's mission is so similar. It is to work cooperatively (with HEC?) to promote opportunities that will educate, motivate, and inspire the citizens of

Indiana to conserve natural resources and meet the needs of our society while maintaining a healthy environment now and in the future. I guess natural resources and the needs of our society are air, water, soil, and food!

EEAI's vision is to be an environmentally literate citizenry of lifelong learners who are good stewards of our natural resources. The vision does also state EEA is dedicated to promoting environmental education and that "EEAI is not issue driven."

But ironically Environmental Protection Agency states "Environmental education increases public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues or problems. In doing so, it provides the public with the necessary skills to make informed decisions and take responsible action."

EEAI promotes networking and communication between groups and individuals in an effort to provide its members the opportunities to share their knowledge, skills and resources with others. We do really well with our members but we need to reach out to those other-like minded groups in the state. The Indiana Conservation Education (ICE) group worked on that but we need unity and partnerships now more than ever!

In this day and age where often people think about economics only - we must educate the state of Indiana 6.6 million about the ecological and societal impacts of life.

HEC's vision is very similar to ours where we want Hoosiers to be good stewards of our natural resources - HEC aims "to set a new path for Indiana, where the people of our state embrace practices and policies that dramatically reduce the footprint of industry, commerce and agriculture on the environment. Following this path, Indiana will ascend to new heights in our public health, economic well-being, and in our preservation of nature for generations to come."

Wonderful!

According to EEA member and HEC's Senior Outreach Associate, Amanda Shepherd states their "goal is to make Indiana a better place to live, breathe, work, and play (that is a direct quote from our mission page). In order to accomplish this, our two greatest tools are education and advocacy. Without a sound background in environmental education, we

cannot empower people to be effective advocates.”

We - both EEAI and HEC - think about and are concerned about our future. If we join forces we will get Indiana in an even better state!

If we could get EEAI to work with Earth Charter Indiana, Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter, Indy VegFest, Improving Kids' Environment, Indiana Public Health Association, Conservation Law Center, The Indiana Citizens' Alliance for Transit, Health by Design, Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, Solar Indiana Renewable Energy Network, Indiana Hemp Industries Association, UU Green Sanctuary, Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads, Citizens Action Coalition, Indiana Recycling Coalition, Indiana Forest Alliance, League of Women Voters of Indiana, Carmel Green Initiative, White River Alliance, Blue Roots Project, US Green Building Council Indiana, Indiana Conservation Alliance, Indiana Lake Management Society, and Fishable Indiana Streams for Hoosiers (not for profits that helped sponsor the Greening the Statehouse) – think of that power to educate the masses and a difference we will make in the great state of Indiana!

Our voice is stronger and more powerful if we work together!

If you want to watch the entire Greening of the Statehouse they captured it on film and you can go to [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx\\_DpVVIn4WYpYzBnvKWMRQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx_DpVVIn4WYpYzBnvKWMRQ) to become inspired to educate to make Indiana a wonderful place!