



Delaware Association for Environmental Education

Outdoor Experiences for a Lifetime Impact



2010 Conference: "A CHILD IN THE WILD"
February 27, 2010
Blue Ball Barn, Wilmington, Delaware

The Delaware Association for Environmental Education promotes environmental and outdoor education to facilitate positive community impact on the conservation and sustainability of Delaware's resources.

"A CHILD IN THE WILD" Conference Exhibitors

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Delaware Sea Grant
Phillis Wheatley Middle School Conservation Club
Delaware Center for the Inland Bays
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge
Delaware Nature Society
Delaware State University, Claude M. Phillips Herbarium
Delaware Envirothon
New Castle Conservation District
Delaware Council of Wildlife Rehabilitators
Delaware State Parks
New Jersey Watershed Ambassador Program
New Castle County Master Gardeners
New Castle County Coop Extension
Brandywine Zoo

"A CHILD IN THE WILD" Conference Sponsors

Delaware Envirothon
Delaware Department of Agriculture, Delaware Forest Service
Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, DuPont Nature Center
New Castle Conservation District
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Delaware Estuary Project Office
University of Delaware, Delaware Sea Grant

Thanks to the Conference Planning Committee!

The Delaware Association for Environmental Education (DAEE) began with the first focus group meeting April 29, 2008. With input gathered from several focus group meetings, a strategic planning workshop was held June 1, 2009. Officers were elected February, 2009 and the DAEE's first Open House was held on August 12, 2009. **"A CHILD IN THE WILD"** is the first statewide conference sponsored by DAEE. For more information about DAEE contact the resources listed below.



www.daeenonline.wordpress.com

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“A CHILD IN THE WILD” Conference Schedule

9:00 am	Welcome – 2nd Floor, Hay Room David Small, Deputy Secretary, Delaware’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control	
9:15 am	Keynote: Influence and Success for the Long Haul: Growing Environmental Education Leadership in Delaware - 2nd Floor, Hay Room Linda Rhoads, Linda L. Rhoads Consulting	
10:00 am	Plenary Session: Energy and Air Quality in the Seaford School District – 2nd Floor, Hay Room Roy Whitaker, Chief of Buildings and Grounds, Seaford School District	
10:35 am	Plenary Session: Schoolyard Habitats – 2nd Floor, Hay Room Sally Boswell, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Center for the Inland Bays and Sarah Toman Hilderbrand, Education Director, Environmental Concern	
11:30 am	Exhibitor Hall and Networking – 2nd Floor, Straw Room	
12:00 noon	LUNCH – DAEE Meeting – 2nd Floor, Hay Room Rick Mickowski, DAEE Chair, New Castle Conservation District	
12:45 pm	National “No Child Left Inside” Initiative – 2nd Floor, Hay Room Linda Roads, Linda L. Rhoads Consulting	
Session I: Greening Schools/Centers 2nd Floor – Hay Room		Session II: Exploring the Outdoors – No Child Left Inside 1st Floor – Calving Room
1:20 pm	Phillis Wheatley Middle School Conservation Club Pamela Vanderwende and Kyle Dougherty, Formal Educators, Phillis Wheatley Middle School	You can ensure no child gets left inside with an introduction to <i>Project Learning Tree!</i> Ashley Ward, Coordinator of Environmental Education, Delaware Forest Service
1:45 pm	MAEOE - Green Schools Program Keith Williams, MAEOE Board Member, NorthBay	Local “No Child Left Inside” initiative Michèle Jennings, Program Specialist, Delaware Greenways, Inc.
2:05 pm	Scientific Literacy: Inside and Outside of the Classroom – 2nd Floor – Hay Room April McCrae, Science Specialist, Delaware’s Department of Education	
2:40 pm	Concluding Remarks – 2nd Floor – Hay Room Rick Mickowski, DAEE Chair, New Castle Conservation District	
3:00 pm	Adjourn	



"A CHILD IN THE WILD" Presentation Descriptions

Keynote: Influence and Success for the Long Haul: Growing Environmental Education Leadership in Delaware **Linda Rhoads**

The establishment of the Delaware Association for Environmental Education provides a platform and exciting new opportunities for advancing environmental education in the state. Using a research-based model created by the National Environmental Education Advancement Project, we'll explore "The Wheel" and its implications for Delaware. Ms. Rhoads will share insight from her role as executive director for the Environmental Education Association of Oregon and prompt new thinking about DAEE and environmental education in a national context.

Plenary Session: Energy and Air Quality in the Seaford School District **Roy Whitaker**

How can you make your school or center more energy efficient? Come learn about the Energy Star program, inexpensive and even free ways to save energy, and possible incentives for upgrades. In addition, learn to encourage a healthy environment through air quality management techniques.

Plenary Session: Schoolyard Habitats: Creating Outdoor Learning Places **Sally Boswell and Sarah Toman Hilderbrand**

If you build it, they will come...the birds, the tadpoles, the butterflies, the children! Then what?

Teachers are busy. Schoolyard habitats can't just be an 'add on,' but experiential learning places that support curriculum objectives; not just for science, but rich with creative writing inspiration, chock full of real world math problems, and places for powerful hands on learning. We'll share the successful model we have developed to build them and grow them.

National "No Child Left Inside" Initiative **Linda Rhoads**

Linda will lead the group in a discussion about the latest policies, programs, trends, and activities of the national "No Child Left Inside" initiative.

Session I: Phillis Wheatley Middle School Conservation Club **Pamela Vanderwende and Kyle Dougherty**

"Get ready, get set, GO GREEN!" The Phillis Wheatley Middle School Conservation Club in Bridgeville was formed in 2006 and has grown from 20 members to over 100. Our vision to provide students with opportunities to serve their community and enrich their planet, has become a reality. Members of the club submerge their energy and enthusiasm into projects that produce outdoor environments and use "green" practices that enhance the State Science Curriculum. Students gain a natural desire to make the community a better place for everyone because they are the driving force behind the physical and intellectual labor that it takes to beautify and conserve a schoolyard. Pamela Vanderwende, a 12 year teaching veteran, will divulge the secrets of success that has helped the Conservation Club to become Adopt-A-Wetland, Governor's Conservation, and Superstars in Education Award winners. Kyle Dougherty, an Art teacher for 25 years, will reveal the impact of infusing the arts into environmental experiences.

Session I: MAEOE – Green Schools Program **Keith Williams**

While there are many "Green School" programs in the country, most are focused on energy conservation alone. The Maryland Green School Awards Program is a holistic, integrated approach to authentic learning that incorporates local environmental issue investigation and professional development with environmental best management practices and community stewardship.

Session II: You can ensure no child gets left inside with an introduction to Project Learning Tree! **Ashley Ward**

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is widely recognized as one of the premier environmental education programs in the world. Through hands-on, interdisciplinary activities, PLT helps young people learn how to think, not what to think, about complex environmental issues. PLT uses the forest as a "window on the world" to increase students' understanding of our complex environment. This session will introduce you to PLT's PreK-8 guide, secondary modules and the newly released Early Childhood education component.



“A CHILD IN THE WILD” Presentation Descriptions

Session II: Local “No Child Left Inside” Initiative – Greenways Project

Michèle Jennings

Get excited about the outdoors as you delve into programs that encourage and support an active lifestyle through use of the Northern Delaware Greenway Trail and other green spaces. These programs developed and implemented by Delaware Greenways, Inc. include Family Trail Days, The Green Hour, Walking Buddies, Greenway Explorers and the Greenway Patch. Learn more about how these programs are being utilized to encourage children and families to get outside as part of the local No Child Left Inside initiative.

Scientific Literacy: Inside and Outside of the Classroom

April McCrae

Discover science education in Delaware with Delaware’s Department of Education! Join April McCrae, Science Specialist, with Delaware DOE as she gives us an overview of state standards, the Delaware Science Coalition, crossover of academic science content and environmental education opportunities, upcoming projects and opportunities. Journey through where we’ve been and explore where we are going.



"A CHILD IN THE WILD" Presenters Biography

Keynote and National "No Child Left Inside" Initiative

Linda Rhoads

Linda L. Rhoads Consulting

Linda's professional history encompasses a diverse array of experiences leading to a broad portfolio of skills and areas of expertise. As the first executive director of the Environmental Education Association of Oregon (EEAO), Linda provided leadership by facilitating a shared vision and strategic direction for the organization, guiding activities to advance the environmental education profession, and promoting environmental education as an integral component of effective education. During her 10-year employment with a Global 500 corporation, she gained extensive management experience and led company-wide strategic planning processes. In the North Carolina Office of Environmental Education she directed a collaborative statewide program involving government agencies, businesses, non-profits, environmental education centers, teachers and schools. Her teaching roles include Educational Forest Ranger and nonprofit, nonformal environmental educator.

In 2007, Linda received the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) President's Award. Her leadership in NAAEE includes serving as a *Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education* Facilitator, member of the NAAEE Affiliates Network Steering Committee (2004-present), co-founder of the NAAEE Sustainability Education Commission (2005-2006), and past chair of the NAAEE Advocacy Committee (2007-2008). She represents NAAEE on the No Child Left Inside Leadership/Strategy Team as an active member of NAAEE's Advocacy Committee.

Linda has a Master of Science degree in Adult and Community College Education with a minor in Science Education from North Carolina State University. Her undergraduate degrees are in geography and psychology from Stetson University. She is one of only a handful of environmental education leaders trained to design, direct, lead, facilitate and evaluate leadership clinics using the model developed by the National Environmental Education Advancement Project. Linda's areas of expertise include: strategic process design, systemic change, education advocacy, grassroots organizing, facilitation, leadership development, new program implementation and administration, environmental literacy planning, nonformal environmental education, and nonprofit management.

Plenary Session: Energy and Air Quality in the Seaford School District

Roy Whitaker

Chief of Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Whitaker began his work career in engineering and facilities management in 1978. His career has included employment with Siemens Telecommunications, Garlock Division of Colt Industries, Freudenberg-Wheaton and several smaller firms. Immediately prior to relocating to southern Delaware and joining the public sector with Seaford School District in 1996 as Chief of Buildings & Grounds, he owned and operated a successful parts and service organization for five years.

Since youth, Mr. Whitaker has been a student of mechanical engineering technology and all related process. An interest in alternate energy sources led to his design, fabrication, and use of a successful solar domestic hot water heater during the late 1970's energy shortage. For three years he operated a battery powered street legal pickup truck and still owns an eight passenger battery powered launch.

During his fourteen year tenure in Seaford, Roy has had direct oversight of major capital improvements totaling over \$45 million, much of which included some focus on new and improved energy efficient systems. His overall efforts with the Seaford School District's building envelopes and control of the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems have resulted in Seaford being recognized as Delaware's top performing school district with all six schools receiving 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 EPA ENERGY STAR high performance awards, the third school district in the nation to receive the ENERGY STAR Leaders Award for reduction of energy consumption, and 2007 ENERGY STAR Partner Of The Year. Related to this has been Roy's success in training staff and developing school-level committees as a proactive measure to address indoor air quality concerns via implementation of the EPA's Tools for Schools.

In addition to his commitment and dedication to the Seaford School District, civic involvement is high on Roy's list. He is Past Commodore of the Nanticoke River Yacht Club, current Board-member and Dock-master of Wicomico Yacht Club, Chairman of the Santa Claus House for Oddfellows' Charity Lodge #27 in Laurel, and five-year logistics chairman for the Western Sussex Relay for Life.



"A CHILD IN THE WILD" Presenters Biography

Plenary Session: Schoolyard Habitats Sally Boswell

Education and Outreach Coordinator, Delaware Center for the Inland Bays

Ms. Boswell joined the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays in November 2004 as Education and Outreach Coordinator. In that position she oversees all outreach activities; edits the Inland Bays journal and produces other publications including the annual report, informational brochures, and other education materials; manages the website, oversees all community outreach including presentations to citizens, exhibits and events; handles media relations including writing and distributing press releases and planning press conferences. In 2005, she recruited and began working with a Volunteer Coordinator to develop a formal volunteer program for the organization. About fifty volunteers are actively involved working in all areas of the CIB mission.

On the education side, she initiated a partnership with Indian River School District in 2006 to bring schoolyard habitat programs to all the schools in the district. Seven schoolyard habitats have been designed and implemented and two more are created each school year. Under a grant, now in its second year, she hired a Schoolyard Habitat Coordinator and supervises that position.

She also manages the James Farm Education Program for middle school students providing a full day of outdoor education activities focusing on watershed and wetlands that are curriculum-aligned with Delaware State Standards. Six teachers provide instruction to about 1,000 students each school year.

Other on-going programs include the 1,000 Rain Gardens for the Inland Bays, a campaign to promote the creation of rain gardens at homes, schools, town halls, churches and businesses and to raise awareness of stormwater pollution impacting the Inland Bays.

Ms. Boswell holds a B.A. degree in Communication Arts from Salisbury University in Maryland and a Master of Liberal Arts, from the Johns Hopkins University.

Sarah Toman Hilderbrand Education Director, Environmental Concern

Sarah Toman Hilderbrand is the Education Director for Environmental Concern, a non-profit wetland organization in St. Michaels, MD. With a degree in Environmental Science, she has been teaching Environmental & Outdoor Education for over 10 years. She has been leading wetland based professional development workshops for educators and working with schoolyard habitat construction for the last four and a half years.

Session I: Phillis Wheatley Middle School Conservation Club Pamela Vanderwende and Kyle Dougherty, Formal Educators

Pamela Vanderwende is a 12 year teaching veteran who currently teaches at Phillis Wheatley Middle School in Bridgeville, DE and works diligently with the Conservation Club. Pamela received the 2009 Annual Agricultural and Urban Governor's Conservation Award for her work with the Conservation Club.

Kyle Dougherty has been an art teacher for 25 years and currently teaches at Phillis Wheatley Middle School in Bridgeville, DE. Mr. Dougherty also enjoys working with the Conservation Club.

Session I: Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education – Green Schools Program Keith Williams MAEOE Board Member

Keith has a degree in environmental biology from Kutztown University and worked as a senior environmental biologist for ten years before starting his education career. He taught middle school science and has been an outdoor educator for 15 years. He is the Director of Education at NorthBay. He is a volunteer firefighter and is a member of the Maryland Wildlands Fire Team. In his spare time he likes to fish, hike, and backpack with his wife, two sons and daughter.



"A CHILD IN THE WILD" Presenters Biography

Session II: You can ensure no child gets left inside with an introduction to *Project Learning Tree!* Ashley Ward, Coordinator of Environmental Education, Delaware Forest Service

Ashley facilitates environmental education programs for the Delaware Forest Service. She is the state coordinator for Project Learning Tree, Smokey Bear Fire Prevention Program, and the National Arbor Day Poster Contest, programs that reach over 15,000 students each year. Her efforts in Fire Prevention were recently recognized on a national level when she received the Bronze Smokey Award from the U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council. Ashley is a native of Delaware and received her Bachelor's of Science in Botany at Delaware State University.

Session II: Local "No Child Left Inside" Initiative – Greenways Project Michèle Jennings, Program Specialist, Delaware Greenways, Inc.

Michèle A. Jennings is currently a Program Specialist with Delaware Greenways, Inc. A long-time resident of New Castle County Delaware, Jennings has enjoyed a twenty four year career in program development for children spanning infancy to 18 years of age. Through her work with children, she became aware of the critical link between a childhood connection with nature and human development. Outside play in natural spaces, once taken for granted as a day to day experience for American children, has evolved into an occasional and often times uncomfortable experience. Inspired by the No Child Left Inside campaign, she joined Delaware Greenways, Inc. in 2008 to develop and implement programs that encourage and support an active lifestyle through use of the Northern Delaware Greenway Trail and other green spaces. These programs include Family Trail Days, The Green Hour, Walking Buddies, Greenway Explorers and the Greenway Patch.

Scientific Literacy: Inside and Outside of the Classroom April McCrae, Science Specialist, Delaware's Department of Education

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