



The Daily Planet



The Newsletter of the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education

Spring 2008

ANJEE Adopts Guidelines for Excellence

By Tanya Oznowich, President Elect

The Executive Board of the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE) voted unanimously to adopt the national environmental education guidelines established for the field of environmental education.

Who will find these guidelines useful? They are designed for environmental education (EE) providers; both non-formal and formal educators who develop or deliver EE programs directly to grades K – 12 or to teachers, teachers in training, or other EE professionals.

Beginning in 1993 the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) developed guidelines that set standards for high-quality environmental education (EE). According to NAAEE, use of these guidelines by EE professionals nationwide will help ensure development of balanced, scientifically accurate, consistent and comprehensive environmental education programs.

The guidelines focus on the following topics:

- **Materials:** development and selection;
- **Learner:** Expectations for performance in grades 4, 8 and 12;
- **Provider:** pre-service and continuing education of teachers;
- **Non-Formal:** design and implementation of programs; and
- **Resources:** quality environmental education materials.

Members of ANJEE have followed the development of the guidelines over the past decade, and are now being trained to train others regarding the use of each of the guidelines.

Dr. Bora Simmons, Director of the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education and NAAEE's lead developer of the guidelines, participated in ANJEE's annual environmental education conference held in February at Princeton University. Dr. Simmons conducted a workshop on the

guidelines to almost thirty EE providers, and introduced them during her keynote address.

As the state's professional membership association for environmental education professionals and as the state affiliate organization of NAAEE, it is fitting for ANJEE to adopt the use of these guidelines and promote their use to its members and to EE professionals and agencies statewide.

Examine or download the guidelines free at NAAEE's web site, www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/guidelines-for-excellence/.

Learn more about how ANJEE will introduce and use these guidelines. Contact Mr. Jerry Schierloh, Director of ANJEE's Environmental Education Advancement Group, at jts4green@optonline.net or visit the ANJEE web site at www.anjee.net/.

ANJEE Board Motion, March 2, 2008, by Diane Hewlett-Lowrie, Vice President

The Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education acknowledges that documents, published by NAAEE, provide systematic guidance for the development of quality environmental education curricula and programs. ANJEE is committed to excellence in environmental education and thereby wants to support the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education. To show that support and to demonstrate to all our commitment to excellence, I propose ANJEE Board approve the following:

The Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education recognizes the importance of the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education and the contributions it has made to environmental education as a field. Therefore, ANJEE formally adopts the *Guidelines* and commits to their use in the development and implementation of organizational activities.

Seconded by Sandy Sandmeyer-Bryan, ANJEE South, and Awards Chair

Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education

C/o NJ Audubon, Scherman Hoffman Sanctuaries
11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

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Editor of this issue
of The Daily Planet: Sondra Flite

ANJEE seeks to create, through education, awareness, understanding, and concern for the quality of the environment, and the conviction that all human wellbeing is dependent upon a healthy environment.

**ANJEE is New Jersey's affiliate of the
North American Association for
Environmental Education.
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Message from the President

It's been an exciting time for environmental education and ANJEE! Here are a few of the highlights:

2007 NAAEE Conference: Each year ANJEE sends 3-5 leaders as ANJEE representatives to NAAEE's international conference to network with representatives from other state affiliates and environmental educators from all over the world, and to bring back information, ideas, and tools that we can use in New Jersey. NAAEE conferences are good sources for the latest research, new developments, important trends, and well-tested methods

I learned about the rise in volunteerism, the growing use of arts, culture, and technology to teach environmental education (and vice versa), and much more. I attended sessions that presented the growing body of research and field studies that prove the importance of contact with, and understanding of, nature, to human development. There isn't enough space here to summarize it all. Contact me at anjee_president@yahoo.com if you'd like to know more about a specific presentation or topic.

Federal Legislation has been introduced to fund and improve environmental education for Elementary and Secondary Schools; the "No Child Left Inside" Act would amend the "No Child Left Behind" law. To get all of the details, visit <http://www.eenclb.org>; for the latest on the progress of the bills, check <http://www.thomas.gov/> and search for HR 3036 and S. 1981. Most important of all, help educate Congress about environmental education; keep your letters and phone calls to your Congressional Representatives coming. You do make a difference! Be sure to thank the co-sponsors who have already signed on; it helps to know how many people care!

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2008 ANJEE Conference was held at Princeton University on January 31 to February 2, 2008. The conference featured networking, professional development sessions, and awards presentations. We were honored to have Dr. Bora Simmons, University of Oregon, Guidelines Co-Author, as our keynote speaker and as a workshop presenter on the NAAEE Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education, a set of professional quality standards. If you would like to read more about the guidelines, visit <http://eetap.org/media/pdf/Guidelines.Final.20060319.pdf> (please note some of the links have changed). The Guidelines are available as free pdf documents at <http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/guidelines-for-excellence>

The ANJEE Conference is the "number one event" for the field of Environmental Education throughout New Jersey. We were very pleased that **Congressman Rush Holt** was able to join us for the plenary panel presentation on Environmental Education Integration in NJ Schools.



Special thanks go to our conference committee, volunteers, and sponsors. It would not be possible to put on this outstanding event without your tireless efforts and contributions. I especially want to thank Janice Reese-Berardo and Hugh Carola, Conference Co-Chairs, Sandy Sandmeyer-Bryan, Awards Committee Chair, and Princeton Environmental Institute (PEI), our location sponsor.

(L-R Janice Reese-Berardo, ANJEE Conference Chair; Rush Holt, Congressman; Michael Skelly, ANJEE President)

The Annual ANJEE Members Meeting at the Conference adopted new Bylaws for ANJEE. These Bylaws have been in the works for a long time. They reorganize internal operations to bring ANJEE up to date, improve ANJEE's performance, to make some activities more local, and to open up opportunities for more members to be an active part of ANJEE's committees and leadership. We are all VERY excited. **The next step is up to you:** Come to a regional ANJEE meeting or volunteer to help on a committee. Check out our web site at <http://www.anjee.net> for more information. **Special thanks** goes to all our committee members, outside professionals, Bylaws and Reconciliation Committee Chair, Pat Skelly, and Planning Committee Chair, Diane Hewett-Lowrie.

'Til next time, "Go forth and do wonderful things". – Mike

Dr. Michael Skelly, Sr., President, ANJEE

Excellence in Environmental Education Awards Winners, 2007

Patricia F. Kane Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Jim Merritt

How many ways can you influence others to become environmental leaders and practitioners? "Dr. Jim" has helped people take part in environmental stewardship as: A professor at Montclair State's New Jersey School of Conservation, a teacher who stresses action, experience, and problem solving, a Board member for Cattus Island County Park, Education Coordinator of the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program, instructor for the Ocean County Teachers Roundtable and Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, past president of Friends of Island Beach State Park, instructor for the Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program, and Current Director at the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife's Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center.



Environmental Educator-Nonformal Sector

Works with Schools: Ron Thoenig

Ron's work as a naturalist at Fairview Lake YMCA Camps Environmental Education Programs has engaged over 100,000 people in the natural sciences over his 16 year career. Ron has a unique talent for making even the most complex ideas in ecology, biology and botany easy for any student to understand through his use of concrete examples and real-life experiences. Those encounters with nature make a difference.



Environmental Educator-Formal Sector

Individual: Paul Ludgate

Paul's work in Upper Township Middle School has become the model for many other teachers. Paul has introduced his students to composting, bird song, and local wildlife. He's taken them on virtual wildlife tours and helped them plant 240 native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. His students now correspond with students in Patagonia, where our Red Knot lives during our winter. Paul shows us how environmental education is a perfect fit with the traditional classroom curriculum.



Environmental Educator-Formal Sector-Partnership

Michelle Villar and Liza Santiago

Don't go it alone! At Vineland High School South, science educator Michelle Villar and bilingual science educator Liza Santiago worked as a team to plan projects that challenged the students to use biology, language, math, and planning. Their butterfly garden is the tangible result of their hard work. Students took environmental science out of the classroom and into their world.

It's not too soon to start thinking of nominations for next year.

Visit <http://www.anjee.net/awards/08.html> to read more about our winners.



Peer Review

Affiliate Update



New Jersey Natural Resource Education Cooperative (NJNREC)

NJNREC is an advisory partnership composed of representatives from Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project Aquatic WILD, Project WET, and Bridges to the Natural World. These educational programs have been introduced to thousands of New Jersey educators through one-day professional development workshops. Each Project features activity guides with dozens of lessons and content information for all grades. The lessons were developed, field tested, evaluated and revised by teachers, education and natural resource specialists throughout the United States.

Call or email to receive this free inservice training and the accompanying curriculum: 908-833-9816 or Elizabeth.Faircloth@dep.state.nj.us

The New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education and the Interagency Work Group on Environmental Education are statutorily created bodies which guide the state's environmental efforts. The Commission has produced an Environmental Primer. This pamphlet introduces important environmental concepts to adults and upper-grade students. Perfect for libraries and civic groups!

Send now for primers in Spanish. Copies in English will be printed this Spring. Contact Marc.Rogoff@dep.state.nj.us Visit www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/njcee/.



ANJEE Thanks Conference Sponsors

Without whom we could not have hosted our annual gathering.



The Awakening the Dreamer
Changing the Dream Symposium

In partnership with The Pachamama Alliance



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2007 NAAEE Conference: ANJEE is the NJ state affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). ANJEE sent 4 leaders to the national NAAEE conference in Virginia Beach. The 2007 conference, attended by over 1,000 people, included a full day affiliates' workshop, and three days of presentations-over 550 in all! Our representatives were busy from 8AM till after 10 PM most days, learning new strategies for injecting environmental education into everyone's life, and how to plan for the future of an organization such as ANJEE.



Regional Activities

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

ANJEE members in the North Region have begun collecting information which will be the basis for a state-wide Environmental Education Resource Guide. The directory will be valuable to both formal and non-formal EE educators in networking and linking their resources and/or needs to one another. If you are not in the North Region, but would like to complete the questionnaire, please feel free. Once complete, please forward it to Joseph R. Caravella, North Region Program Chair, at jcaravella@TransOptions.org.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

As a member of ANJEE's Central Region, you are invited to explore one of New Jersey's vernal pools. Vernal pools are dynamic wetlands, supporting a variety of amphibians and reptiles. Please join other ANJEE central members and herpetologist John Heilferty, with the hopes of observing spotted salamanders, wood frogs, northern spring peepers, and more within this unique habitat.

Saturday, April 5th, 2008,
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Featherbed Lane,
Hopewell Township, NJ
Directions will be sent once RSVP is received.

Bring Waterproof boots or waders, and a Flashlight!

Limited to the first 20 participants. Reserve your spot today!

RSVP by Wednesday, April 2nd
to Maria Grace (609) 984-0621
or via email to
maria.grace@conservewildlifenj.org

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

Join us for unique and enriching activities in the coming months. With a focus on networking, our meetings are held at different facilities and feature changing topics or themes. Typically our meetings include a pot-luck meal. Guests and visitors are welcome.

Stay current on environmental news
Share ideas and materials
Refill your EE energy pool
Earn professional development hours

2008 Tentative Schedule

April 24: Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor - Earth Week! Tour Nature Center/Park 5:30-8:30

May TBA: Cape May Bird Observatory, Goshen - The Horseshoe Crab & bird connection. Field trip & film 5:30 - 8:30

June 6: Cape May Nature Center - Tour center, go on harbor walk, and visit with Jane Kirkland, award-winning author of *Take a Walk Books*. 5:30-8:30 PM

July TBA: Island Beach State Park, Barnegat Bay

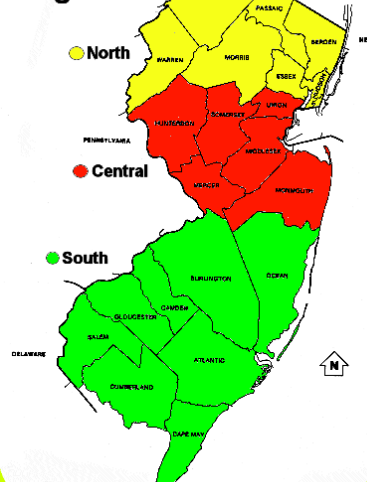
August TBA: Cape May County Park and Zoo - Behind-the-scene tour. Picnic

September 19-20: Camp-out at Bellplain State Park ~ share a lean-to or yurt, or bring your tent.

October 2: Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Oceanville Fall migrations. 5:30-8:30

Schedule subject to change. For updates, schedule changes or more information: www.anjee.net/regions/south.html
Email: ANJEEawards@yahoo.com
Email: sandy23@comcast.net

Alliance Regions



Did you get this copy from a friend? Why not join and receive your own? The Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE) is a non-profit organization supported by memberships, donations, and program fees. **Becoming a member puts your money to work immediately to promote and improve environmental education throughout the Garden State!**

Contact Membership Chairperson Patricia Skelly at ecolivingexec@yahoo.com



Environmental Education Resource Guide Questionnaire

ANJEE North, the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education in Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Morris and Warren counties is compiling information for an "Educator's Guide to Environmental Education Providers" in our North Region. It is our hope that this comprehensive guide will be an invaluable resource to formal and non-formal educators interested in enhancing environmental education for their students. Providers in the North Region can be included in this guide by completing the information below and returning it to:

Michelle Wiessner at Van Vleck House & Gardens, 21 Van Vleck St., Montclair NJ 07042

General Information

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Name _____ Title _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

E-mail _____ Website _____

Summary of Offerings—check which services you provide

School Groups

- ☐ Exhibits/Tours
- ☐ Field Trips
- ☐ In-School Programs
- ☐ Self Guided Programs
- ☐ Special Needs Groups

Teachers

- ☐ Classroom Activities/Curricula
- ☐ Professional Development Workshops
- ☐ School Partnership

Other Programs

- ☐ Student Volunteers
- ☐ Internships
- ☐ Summer
- ☐ After School/Weekend
- ☐ Scout Groups

Facility Information (if applicable)

- ☐ Indoor Exhibit Space
- ☐ Classroom
- ☐ Other (special features, habitats, live animals, etc.)

- ☐ Outdoor Trails
- ☐ Restrooms

- ☐ Greenhouse
- ☐ Garden/s

Book Review

Book Review

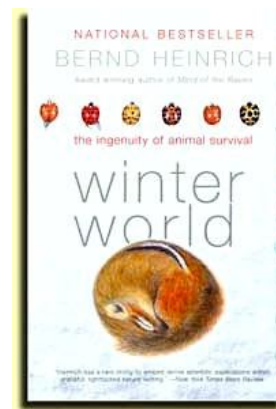
By Rick Lear

Winter World – The Ingenuity of Animal Survival

Ever wonder how turtles spend 5 months straight, under the ice, without ever coming up for air? How a bird that weighs a mere 0.2 ounces, survives winter nights as cold as –30°F? And what the heck are those gray squirrels building way up on the tree in your front yard? Naturalist and author Bernd Heinrich explores these questions and more in his book *Winter World – The Ingenuity of Animal Survival*.

We humans can alter our environment during the winter to accommodate our physical limitations. Not so with our animal kingdom counterparts. Heinrich explores the radical changes that take place in a creature's physiology and behavior to match the demands of the harsh winter environment.

Winter World is wonderfully written and easily understood. Heinrich has "a rare ability to embed dense scientific explications within graceful, light-footed nature writing" (New York Times). Whether you're a tenured biologist or just an armchair naturalist, you'll enjoy his unique insight into animal ingenuity.



ANJEE Wish List...

From time to time, ANJEE needs some help from members. Can you lend us your skills and resources?

Meeting space

ANJEE struggles to find evening meeting spaces for 20 people. Can your agency help us? If so, tell us: Sondra.flite@dep.state.nj.us.

E-Mail Update

Our mailing lists include your e-mail addresses. But sometimes we all need to change our addresses or carrier, and we don't let all our affiliates know. No doubt, ANJEE will receive some notices that your addresses are "undeliverable". We'll try to get hard copy to those members. But we're asking that you send updated addresses to Contact Membership Chairperson Patricia Skelly at ecolivingexec@yahoo.com.

Your e-mail address allows us to send you ANJEE Online and the occasional ANJEE Alert. Stay connected!

The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: "What good is it?" If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering. - Aldo Leopold, Round River

Tips

From ANJEE members:

Free Arbor Day Trees: Order a **box of seedlings** at www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/index.html, or at (609) 292-2532. \$5 Shipping is almost free. Get random **free trees and shrubs** at www.freetreesandplants.com/.

Best Free Stuff

Tana Kantor of The Clear Canopy LLC says: She uses **Grist.org** for information on the environment. It's political, and may not be for all audiences, but she educates adults and needs the in-depth and innovative content.

On-Line Pick

Barbara Falvo of South Amboy Elementary says: She found a **rap song by Doug Goodkin** in her 2001 teacher edition of the **McGraw Hill Reading series**, (don't have that? Google Goodkin), and used it on Earth Day to spark discussion. She read it in a "rap" style. Students created their own stanzas for homework and presented them to the class.

Classroom Tip

She tied this to the story called Just a Dream, written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg (Polar Express), which was part of an anthology already part of the curriculum. She brought in household items and divided the class into groups to develop other uses for these items instead of throwing them out. Items were: a plastic milk container, aluminum can, egg carton and paper towel holder. She started one class that week with the song "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong. All these activities came together and the kids were engaged and creative. It helped them focus on using the recycling bins in the classroom.

Penny Jones of the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority

says: Yuck! Several years ago, a teacher of third or fourth graders introduced me to the GROSSOLOGY series of books that she said provided some wonderful, but also yucky entertainment and information for her young charges near the end of the school day. Most especially if rain were falling on that day. Although there may be more books in the series now, the three that I possess are titled "**Grossology**," "**Animal Grossology**," and "**Grossology Begins at Home**." Addison Wesley Longman is the publisher of these books, and Sylvia Branzei is the author. As the self-appointed president of the Worldwide Dung Beetles Fan Club, I highly recommend "To Some Animals, Dung Is Their Entire Life," which appears in the section titled "Dookie Lovers" in "Animal Grossology." Why, you ask? Well, simply because the narrative and illustrations about a bit of yuckiness are quite clever and charming, and also because I believe that we should encourage children to emulate the way that dung beetles clean up messes--and of course, that doesn't mean that we should recommend that children venture out into the N.J. pastures and roll cow manure into balls! There are lots of other messes for children (and adults, for that matter) to tackle. The books are recommended for kids between the ages of 8 and 14 (I think that the younger kids would find them more appealing than the 12-to-14-year-olds would, but who knows for sure?). By the way, in the dung beetle subchapter, there's even a recipe for edible dookie cookies. Yuck!

Non-formal Tip

Send me **your** tip—sondra.flite@dep.state.nj.us

Format Change:

The Daily Planet will add a new format: PDF documents that you can receive by email and read on line. They will be in full color, and designed so that the articles go across the page to facilitate on-screen reading.

Members should send their email addresses to ANJEE_membership@yahoo.com to receive this newsletter and timely alerts. You may still choose to receive a printed copy: drop us a postcard, C/O ANJEE Newsletter, at NJ Audubon, 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924.



Mark your calendar!

Global Green Expo 2008, April 25-27

Sponsored by The Star-Ledger, NJN, The Jersey Journal, Liberty Science Center and Public Service Electric & Gas. See vendors of green products, hear leading environmentalists, see Jeff Corwin of Animal Planet! Learn more at www.njcom/globalgreen



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