

CREED

Environmental Education Association of Indiana Spring 2018 Newsletter

Due to temporary technical difficulties, the look of this CREED is different. Be sure to read below and find:

- Presidents letter by Ann Niednagel
- Fun–ology 2018 conference poem by Paul Steury
- ICAN by Stephanie Schuck
- March madness is over...Envirothon ready for the big dance by Darci Zoleman
- Children are Curious by Vera Vanderkooy
- One Man’s Perspective: Time to Break Bud by Sam Carmen
- My Love Affair by Paul Steury



President’s Letter

Spring is here. Seeds are germinating, buds are blooming, and hopefully we will have the bees a buzzing. Here are some sprouting activities planted within EEA;

Indiana’s Environmental Literacy Plan is in the process of being written. If you would like to be part of this working group please email me. We are submitting grants, working with partners and writing goals and strategies to establish environmental literacy in Indiana.

ICAN’s Nature Play Days are being set. I hope you have registered a nature play day sometime between June 9-17. Check out www.IndianaChilderenandnature.org for more details. There are all sorts of resources available to help host an event.

We have been reaching out to colleges and universities to invite more students to our conference so look for some new faces this fall.

2018 'funology' conference planning is underway. Mark your calendar! September 28-30, 2018!

Envirothon is in full swing.

EEAI presented the ELG at HASTI and we had a booth there. How do you use the Environmental Literacy Guidelines? The guidelines have been aligned with state standards and that document will be on the website soon.

EEAI is in the process of setting up a blog instead of a new letter. What do you think? Consider contributing an article.

All of the activities are organized by members like you. If you wish to be more involved simply email me and I will contact you with the champion of that activity. Volunteers are always welcome.

Ann Niednagel, president

Ann.niednagel@gmail.com



EEAI Conference 2018

It starts out small but keeps on growing

It's a continual downhill flowing

In every habitat the whole world 'round

A watershed can be found

Chorus:

Did you hear what the good earth said?

Thankful for the watershed

Did you hear what the good earth said?

Thankful for the watershed

Banana Slug String Band

We need music. We need nature. We need inspiration. We need fun!

The Slugs are our Keynotes!

Fun-ology!

The sessions are amazing!
Friday Field Trips!
Canoeing, Sailing, Hiking, Learning, and having FUN!

2018 EEAI Conference
September 28-30
Camp Mack, Milford IN 46542
www.campmack.org/



Indiana Children and Nature Network

By Stephanie Shuck

ICAN members have continued to meet quarterly, and have been working hard getting prepared for 2018 Nature Play Days (NPD), occurring between June 9-17th. We are hoping to have even more NPD events spread across Indiana this year, and through a grant from Aldi, ICAN is able to provide a limited amount of [#ICANPlay30](#) pledge stickers, NPD Host Decals, and ICAN decals for use at NPD events! Be sure to [register your NPD](#) and visit the [host resources page](#) to request these materials and download other ICAN materials for your event (bookmarks, logos, etc.). Also, ICAN brown bag lunches have continued, with the most recent in March hosted at the Indiana Wildlife Federation. ICAN brown bag lunches are a great way to network with and learn from others who are passionate about our mission to foster the connection of children, families and communities to the natural environment. The next brown bag lunch is scheduled for June 21st, noon-1pm, at the Avon Outdoor Learning Center.

March Madness Is Over... Envirothon Ready for the Big Dance!

The madness of March regional contests is over! Envirothon went 7 for 8, meaning all contests went smoothly except for the blizzard conditions the day of the East Central contest. The contest was cancelled, however Envirothon went to Plan B and all schools wanting to participate were able to do so. Excitement is mounting in anticipation of the Envirothon Big Dance! The brackets are set for 18 eligible teams from across Indiana to participate in the State Contest on April 25 at the Beck Center in W. Lafayette.

Who will ace the written tests? Who will crush the field test? Who will dazzle the judges with a stellar oral presentation? Who will come out on top? Time will tell, but the competition is shaping up to be one of the best Envirothons, yet! The state winner will represent Indiana at the NCF International competition in July at Idaho State University.

EEAI will be a force at the state contest, with several EEAI members serving as judges or volunteers. AND, those coveted annual Envirothon t-shirts will display the EEAI logo.

For information about Indiana Envirothon, contact Darci Zolman, darci.zolman@in.nacdnet.net or 574-267-7445 x5374.

Children are Curious

By Vera Vander Kooy, The STEM Connection
Children are curious. They seek answers, notice patterns and see the world as new and amazing. As educators, we walk alongside children on their journey to make sense of the world around them. Where do we start? How do we decide what to teach? The children themselves guide us. Watch a young child experiencing the natural world and take time to notice what interests them. The sound of rain on the window, the mud puddle, the rabbit in the grass, the flowers in the field, the clouds in the sky, and pebbles on the path all hold wonder.

These experiences are a place to begin. In addition, the Environmental Literacy Guidelines (ELG), Indiana Science Content Standards and the Indiana After School STEM Specialty Standards reinforce and aid in framing learning opportunities so they are both appropriate, meaningful and appealing. Children are capable of so much! Beginning with concrete concepts in the younger grades helps them gain content knowledge and sets them up for successful abstract thinking as they take on new experiences and real life problems.

The Content Standards, After School Standards and ELG focus on information, processes, systems, skill development, curiosity and questioning so youth learn, experience and discover while connecting with the natural world. In addition, these resources help educators speak a common language as they learn alongside other educators and the children they serve. Join a child on their learning journey, begin with experiences that engage and seek out these resources and share with other educators what is working for you. Let's learn together and stay curious!

Vera Vander Kooy, Executive Director - The STEM Connection

<https://thestemconnection.org/>

Resources:

<http://www.eeai.org/resources/Documents/ELP/Indiana%20Environmental%20Literacy%20Guidelines.pdf>

<http://www.doe.in.gov/standards/science-computer-science>

<https://www.indianaafterschool.org/quality/standards/>



The STEM Connection Educator Empowerment Workshop with STEM Expert:

Stephanie Shuck, Restoration Ecologist, Marian University Ecolab

April 10, 4:30pm-6pm - Moore Road Farm, 8407

Moore Rd., Indy, 46278

Register now for April 10, 2018

<https://thestemconnection.wufoo.com/forms/zfqdtzx16fx1ly/>

Children are constantly learning and educators, youth workers and parents want to help children be the best they can be! Be empowered to help the children in your life on their learning journeys. Join us to

gain knowledge about STEM content about Plants/Ecosystems/Invasive Species. Lessons will be offered and connections made to Indiana Science Standards and the Environmental Literacy Guidelines for K-8 grade. PGP's and CYC points will be offered.

One Man's Perspective: Time to Break Bud

by Sam Carman

As I write this article, it is the first full day of spring, and a close look at the trees confirms that a greening up isn't far off. Each year at this time as I watch the buds swell and anticipate the burst of leaves to follow, I think about the many similarities we share with trees.

A tree has roots from which it grows and develops, and which also anchor the tree to its place, holding it firmly through the storms of its life. A person has roots from which we grow and develop, and which provides the grounding to get us through tough times. A tree has limbs which allow it to reach out and establish its place in the world, and to interact with other trees in its community. A person reaches out and establishes the relationships that define his or her place in the community. A tree has leaves, flowers and fruit which further define its character and contribute beauty and usefulness to the world; much as a person's personality, talents and fruits of his or her labor help make the world a richer, more beautiful place. And a tree's trunk supports its physical structure, carrying on the life-giving processes that maintain the tree. We have our bodies that carry out similar functions to keep us alive and healthy. A tree sprouts from a seed, takes root and begins to grow. And as it grows it goes to work for Mother Nature. It doesn't require much in the way of salary—just food, water, and a place to live. Throughout its youth and prime it is a very productive component of Mother Nature's workforce. On its resume it can claim taking 26 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere each year and providing 13 pounds of oxygen. It can also discharge up to 100 gallons of clean water into the atmosphere each day. If it is growing along a waterway, it can help remove more than 75% of the nitrates in groundwater before the pollutants reach the stream; if it is growing in a residential area, it can lower your air conditioning costs by 10 to 15% and increase your real estate value by as much as 20%.

Similarly, a person's youth is filled with energy and anticipated potential. Like a tree, we grow at a phenomenal rate during our first 20 years of life, and during our prime, are capable of tremendous contributions to society. We can build skyscrapers and create poetry; explore outer space and express ourselves through art and music; we can connect distant places through technology, and extend a helping hand to those in need. And we can perpetuate the process by nurturing the roots and branches of our children.

The tree continues to grow, but throughout its life is faced with adversity and challenges—storms, insects and diseases, and just plain aging all take their toll, until the once highly productive member of the forest community is unable to hold its own in the intensely competitive environment of the forest. It slowly yields to the forces of aging and competition until its death. Like the tree, I hope to live through my prime, to be as productive as possible toward contributing to the human community. But like the tree, I will yield to natural forces. My productivity will decline, as will my physical condition. And my eventual fate will be no different than that of the tree.

But for now, I'll enjoy another annual transition. Like the expanding buds of the tree, I feel the swell of anticipation for a warmer, greener season—a time for renewed energy and productivity. Are you ready for your buds to burst?

My Love Affair

By Paul Steury

So I've been married for 17.5 years and I love my wife greatly.

But she knows I have another love. She sometimes gets jealous of how much time I give to this other sweetheart.

I love this other so much because I receive support, sustenance, power, and inspiration. She is so beautiful and adorable but can be tormenting and outright mean. Especially after 5 inches of rain!

We know about the meanness when I visit her on those zero degree days or when I get a sunburn in August. She doesn't know her strength and I don't know how to handle her - actually I can't. She provides me food and any type imaginable. She provides me shelter. She provides my livelihood. Thank you sweetheart (Earth) for our ecosystem services which are the benefits people obtain from you, both natural and managed. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling, that maintain the conditions for life on Earth. Your amazing beauty inspires and motivates to care for you.

For this column I wanted to do the top ten environmentally great happenings in 2017 that shows how we cherish my honey in my home town of Goshen.

I could only come up with 5.... But they are all pretty amazing!

HIGHLIGHT #1 Solarize Goshen helped the City of Goshen to make it easier, faster and cheaper for residents, businesses and others to go solar through the SolSmart program, funded by the Department of Energy Sunshot Initiative. Leah Thill, the SolSmart Advisor for the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG), said Goshen is amazing because they have "over 103 watts of solar photovoltaics installed per capita, which would place it ahead of solar meccas like Sacramento, Denver and San Francisco in 2017 per capita rankings." Congratulations Goshen!

HIGHLIGHT #2 Solcient Energy has put plenty of solar installations by leasing space to put in panels and then reaping the sun's energy and money from gathering photons. They have put thousands of panels in Goshen, which includes on the roofs of Lippert, Optronics, Waterford Elementary, Goshen High School, Wieland Design and Genesis. They also put 972 panels just east of the waste water treatment plant.

HIGHLIGHT #3 Mayor Stutsman joined me at the Climate Leadership Summit where city leaders gathered this past summer in Indianapolis to discuss climate change and the need for resiliency plans.

HIGHLIGHT #4 The Community Resilience Guild created the Goshen Environmental Perspectives Assessment for the City of Goshen Parks Department. The purpose of this study was to assess current activities, resources, issues, and perspectives related to Goshen's overall environmental context and gaining information from 16 city members. It also utilized research that helps rationalize more city focus on bettering the Goshen ecology.

HIGHLIGHT #5 I bought a pair of the best shoes ever made! They are running shoes from Adidas called Parley Ultra Boost and they are created from plastic pollution raked up from the Pacific Ocean!! Comfortable, stylish AND made by a corporation that is thinking about bettering the earth while making a consumable.

What this list is telling me is we need to think about eco-valentine's day for one of your best honey's in the world who nurtures and cares for you so much!

What can we do? Go Canoeing. Hike often. Play with kids. Walk, run, bike, skip, dance, fly kites, play frisbees, sail - be outside - make things happen! And most important - join some sort of organization that does good for the environment - like EEAI!

The more you become involved - the more you start loving my love and gaining that desire to care for her.

Bring your top ten happenings in your community to the conference in September and we'll put them up for all to see!

Have something that you would like to be included in The CREED?

The CREED is published seasonally. Submissions to CREED will be accepted at the discretion of the CREED board. Submission deadlines are the first Wednesday of March, June, September, and December. Email your articles to the EEA secretary Sarah Wolf at swolf@hcparks.net and include "CREED submission" in the subject line.