

meea



Fall 2005 Volume 9 Issue 3

MISSOURI ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

MEEA Board Gears Up For 2005 Conference

By Judy Ware, MEEA Board Member and EE Campus Committee Member

Like tumblers in a lock, the pieces are falling into place for MEEA's ninth annual conference, the EE Campus, on November 4-6, 2005, in Columbia, Missouri at the University of Missouri's School of Natural Resources. Unlocking the door to great environmental education, MEEA has pulled together a power-packed ensemble of workshops, field trips and networking events. This year we have lined up six diverse "strands:"

- 1. Environmental and Earth Sciences** – Topics include endangered species, ecology of reptiles and amphibians along with soil, air and spiders as well as a session on the Laws of Nature.
- 2. Environmental History and Policy** – Explore environmental law, economics and environment, citizens' and environmental perspectives, how science has been used and misused to influence public policy and even education and ethics.
- 3. EE Methods 7th Grade to Adult** – Join exotic excursions in botany, the ArtStream Project and outdoor classrooms. There will also be a presentation on the MEEA Certification Program explaining requirements and why this program is so important to EE in Missouri.
- 4. EE Methods Pre-K to 6th Grade** – Receive lesson plans for teaching about

population, environmental reading, recycling projects, water transportation and creating a WaterFest.

5. Curricula – Workshops on national projects such as the Leopold Education Project and parts of Project WET and Project WILD will be offered. New this year is Project WetMAAP, an exciting program developed by NASA and geography professors. Other sessions will include environmental data collection, bird conservation activities and an updated approach to investigating issues from IEEIA.

6. Non-Profit Management – The newest thread will address the basics of managing a not-for-profit, grant-writing, organizing EE events and networking with other groups.

Our **field trips** include caving and orienteering at Rock Bridge State Park, touring an integrated waste water treatment system, visiting the local landfill and Materials Recycling Facility, checking out the MU power plant and a trip to a stream to find stream invertebrates.

However, we know a good conference is more than its sessions. Our opening reception will introduce **Green Elvis**, an environmental crooner with attitude. On Saturday, enjoy lunch while visiting the Share Fair and Exhibitors display. Saturday evening will be our Happy Hour for networking.



Another innovative aspect of this conference is the **Friday CONNECT sessions**. Do you have trouble finding a time to meet with like-minded persons? Would you like to call a meeting for your region to talk about environmental issues? *continued on next page*

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Certification and the EE Campus

by Amy Bhesania,
Certification Program Coordinator

Write it down, mark it on your calendar, grab a friend and plan to head out to the 2005 EE Campus, November 4-6 on the MU Campus in Columbia! The EE Campus is designed to help MEEA Environmental Education Certification participants fulfill several category requirements in one location and in one weekend. I encourage you to take advantage of the excellent workshops offered at the EE Campus this year.

You will be receiving your registration information soon, but here's a preview of how the EE Campus works in conjunction with satisfying certification requirements. The EE Campus is different than stand-alone workshops because you can count your entire experience toward different categories. This happens only once a year, so take advantage of this opportunity.

Category I Workshops

There are several workshops offered at the EE Campus which will count toward Category I (Instructional Workshops) including modules utilizing the Projects and IEEIA. Category I approved workshops are designated by "(I)" in the registration packet. Additional Category I workshops are in the process of being approved, so check in with the certification administrator or at the certification table at the EE Campus for updates on additional workshops in this category.

Category II Workshops

Several choices are available during the EE Campus to gain credit in Category II

continued from front cover...

We will provide meeting rooms for any group that would like to meet on Friday, November 4th.

The new motto for MEEA is "Connecting people, ideas and resources," and this EE Campus has all of that. Please join us, and help by spreading the word about this conference. More information is on our website (www.meea.org), including maps and conference hotel information. Contact Glenda Abney at Glenda.Abney@mobot.org with registration questions.

(Experiences in the Outdoors). There are several field trips scheduled and many of the workshops that include an outdoor component can be counted towards this category.

Category III Workshops

For Category III (Knowledge of EE Resources/Facilities) you have the option of counting the entire conference in this category up to a maximum of 10 hours; or, you can also count individual workshops. All workshops that do not fall under Categories I or II can be counted in Category III.

As always, please be sure to contact me in advance with any questions at certification@meea.org. I hope you take this opportunity to continue gaining experiences toward your certification. Please stop by the certification table at the EE Campus and bring questions or forms or just to say hello.



MEEA Certified Educator

Congratulations to Jennifer Gilbert for completing the MEEA Certification Program!

Correction: We apologize for misspelling certified educator Judy Mitchell's name in the previous newsletter issue. Congratulations Judy!

Missouri Online EE Database Update

New on the Online Database: Post or search for jobs in Missouri and beyond! Go to the main database page (www.meea.org/database.html) and click on "Post a Job" or "Find a Job." Please contact the database administrator with any questions, feedback or suggestions at info@meea.org or 816-591-9996.

President's Letter

by Jan Weaver

"Management by objective works - if you know the objectives."
- Peter Drucker

At the end of June the MEEA Board put together a three year strategic plan to finalize our transition to a self-sustaining organization. As noted above, if a plan is going to work, people have to know what is in it. I'm using this column to introduce the draft version of our plan.

MEEA Three-Year Strategic Plan

- Vision - Develop an environmentally literate citizenry in Missouri.
- Mission - Advance EE in Missouri by providing innovative professional development and networking opportunities.
- Value (of MEEA) - It connects people, ideas and resources statewide.

Strategic Plan

People, resources, purpose and structure will be aligned to support the vision and mission.

Goal 1 – People: Increase engagement in MEEA.

Objective 1: Ensure stakeholder groups benefit from associating with MEEA.

Objective 2: Ensure membership is at

a sustainable level.

Objective 3: Ensure members are actively participating in organizational offerings.

Goal 2 – Resources: Ensure MEEA has the resources to accomplish its mission.

Objective 1: Maintain a Finance Committee to meet financial needs.

Objective 2: Use financial professionals.

Objective 3: Follow a business plan.

Goal 3 – Purpose: Ensure MEEA is relevant and effective in supporting environmental literacy.

Objective 1: Support agencies and organizations advancing environmental literacy.

Objective 2: Ensure programs support development of an environmentally literate citizenry.

Goal 4 – Structure: Maintain an effective organizational structure.

Objective 1: Annually review and revise Board policies and procedures.

Objective 2: Annually review organizational structure.

"Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory." - Sun Tzu

Each objective will have one or more actions or tactics associated with it; these are specific tasks, timelines and responsible parties involved in making sure each objective is met.

The Board jumped right in on organizational structure by expanding the number of at-large board members from six to eight. This action recognized that MEEA has had a difficult time getting its committee structure to work consistently. In many (but not all) cases, board members do most of the work not done by paid staff. By adding two more positions to the board, we are spreading the load, and more importantly, recognizing that board members do more than just act as liaisons to committees.

We also split up the task of researching and drafting the 15+ policies that any non-profit organization now needs to include in its records, from document destruction to e-mail voting.

At the November EE Campus, we are inviting all our members to jump in as well and help finalize actions for each goal – People, Resources, Purpose and Structure. If you are planning on attending the EE Campus (and I hope you are!), please plan on joining us at 3:00 PM on Friday the 4th on the University of Missouri Campus. Look for a letter this fall that will provide a meeting location and agenda for each goal. Mark your calendar NOW!

*Members may read the complete minutes from the June Board retreat in the members only section of the MEEA website.

Login: im4meea

Password: earthworm

EETAP States Grant Update

By Ollie Bogdon, MEEA Board Member and EETAP Grant Administrator

MEEA is in the final stages of wrapping up its participation in the Environmental Education and Training Partnerships (EETAP) state program grant. Over the past four years through EETAP funding and support, Missouri and MEEA have benefited in numerous ways. The three most recent accomplishments include:

- The development of a draft of a three-year strategic plan for MEEA that was written at the Board's June Leadership Retreat.
- Through EETAP funding MEEA also helped coordinate and participate in the February Environmental Literacy Summit held in Columbia, Missouri, where

over 90 stakeholders assembled to assess the past 10 years of EE work in the state and identify major areas in which to focus for the future.

- MEEA also participated in the 2005 National Leadership clinic, held in West Virginia in June, 2005, where Missouri's successes of the past four years were highlighted as other states and Canadian Provinces began their journeys to build capacity in their regions. Specifically, the EE Summit and Missouri's EE Certification Program were highlighted.

The grant officially ends September 30, 2005 and the final report and paperwork will be concluded in October. Participation in the EETAP States Program has been a wonderful growing opportunity not only for MEEA, but for EE in Missouri. We are truly thankful for the opportunity and benefits this funding has provided us.

MEEA Membership Update

By Carol Harris, MEEA Membership Administrative Coordinator

During this quarter we welcomed three new members: Marty Kraft of the Heartland All Species Project in Kansas City, Mistti Ritter of the Academy of Science of St Louis (who has enrolled in the Environmental Education Certification Program) and Briedy Scott of Jefferson City.

We especially appreciate our six organizational members: Abitibi Consolidated, St Louis; Adventure Creations, Branson; Bridging the Gap, Kansas City; the Missouri State Recycling Program, Jefferson City; South Central Solid Waste Management District, Eunice; and the St Louis Zoo.

2005 Board Meeting Dates

Thursday, September 22, 2005
Noon – 4:00 PM,
Columbia, Missouri

Saturday, December 3, 2005
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Please go to the "Members Only" section of the MEEA website (www.meea.org) to read Board meeting minutes.

Contribute to the Newsletter!

2005 MEEA Newsletter Deadlines

We welcome your input! The remaining 2005 deadline is Monday, October 31. Also, remember to send items anytime for the bi-weekly MEEA Member Listserv, MEEA News. Please send articles or calendar items to Jennifer Gilbert at info@meea.org.

Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources Workshops



The Missouri Department of Natural Resources fall schedule of courses and workshops is now available online at www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/educ.htm. Please review the available courses and make your selection early.

2005 Missouri Department of Conservation Workshops



From exploring cave life to studying prairie ecology to using an outdoor classroom, there is a wide variety of conservation workshops this year. Visit www.conservations.state.mo.us/teacher/workshops/workshops.html to view the schedule.

Meet the Board

Phyllis Mieser, Board Member-At-Large

I have been around schools, learning and students my entire life – either as the student, the teacher or the principal. When I retired from education three years ago, a big, black hole appeared in my life – no students, no lessons, no school. I knew I had to get involved in education again.

Luckily, I soon became the Education/Information Specialist for Prairie Rose Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) in Concordia, Missouri. My job includes non-formal recycling awareness education for schools, civic organizations and city and county government groups, with my services extending to more than five counties.

With such a broad range of audience and geographic area to reach, I knew when I first began my new

assignment that I needed an environmental education connection; that is when I first joined MEEA. I not only became a member, but registered for the certification program as well. Since joining the MEEA Board, I find working with our EE Campus, certification program and other aspects of the organization very rewarding.

After a few years of working at my new job, I have only one regret – I wish I had been this involved with MEEA when I was a teacher in the formal classroom. However, now I can promote membership in MEEA to every classroom teacher I meet!



Students from St. Mary's High School in Independence stop at the Conservation Issues ecostation during a Kansas City Region Envirothon competition at Burr Oak Woods, Blue Springs.

Envirothon Training Approved for MEEA Category I Certification

Envirothon training for teachers was recently approved by MEEA for Category I for the Certification Program. The Envirothon, a premier environmental education program for high school age youth, offers training and competitions that focus on natural resource management and stewardship.

An example of an upcoming training opportunity that qualifies for certification is a teacher's professional development day scheduled Thursday, September 15, at MDC's Hartell Lake near Plattsburg. Over four hours of training will be provided on Envirothon subjects including soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and a special conservation issue, Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate. Combined teacher/team training and a practice Envirothon are also scheduled late in the year at Burr Oak Woods in Blue Springs. These two workshops together count as a single Category I workshop for MEEA's Certification Program.

The Envirothon is a problem-solving natural resources competition for students in grades 9 through 12 or ages 14 to 19. Teams of students are tested on their knowledge of natural resources including soil, forestry, wildlife and aquatics, plus a current conservation issue. Students visit five infield test sites called ecostations where hands-on problem solving is

required. The current issue is addressed through an oral team presentation given to a panel of judges plus an ecostation. The event is competitive with environmental education as the bottom line.

Local soil and water conservation districts, in partnership with cooperating agencies and educators, provide training and conduct seven regional Envirothon competitions throughout Missouri. The top three winning teams from each region compete in a state contest held each year in early May. The winning state team is eligible to compete at the North America Canon Envirothon held annually in late summer, where \$75,000 in scholarships and other prizes are awarded winning teams.

For more information on the Envirothon program including training available in the Kansas City Region, contact Bill Bohnert at bill.bohnert@mo.nacdn.net or call 816-228-1836, extension 3.

Grants & Awards



Environmental Excellence Awards

Deadline: November 30, 2005

The Seaworld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Awards honor outstanding K-12 students and teachers nationwide who are working on projects that offer creative solutions to environmental problems. Eight awards annually of \$10,000 and one \$5000 award for an environmental educator. www.seaworld.org/conservation-matters/eea/index.htm

2005 Refuge Photo Contest

Submissions accepted from July 8th to December 1st, 2005. Photo contest sponsored by the National Wildlife Refuge Association and Swarovski Optik. Photos must be taken at a National Wildlife Refuge and can be of birds, mammals, insects, fish, other animals, plants, people, or refuge scenery. For contest details and prizes visit www.refugenet.org/contest/ContestHome.html

President's Environmental Youth Awards

Deadline extended to October 31, 2005

Since 1971, EPA has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The program recognizes young people across America for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Go to <http://epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html> to download an application.

State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grants

Deadline: October 17, 2005

One hundred \$1,000 grants, funded by the State Farm Companies Foundation, are available from Youth Service America for teachers, youth (ages 5-25), and school-based service-learning coordinators to implement service-learning projects for National Youth Service Day, April 21-23, 2006. For questions or more information, please contact the Grants Department at GoodNeighbor@ysa.org.

National Gardening Association and The Home Depot™ present the 2006 Youth Garden Grants™ Program

Deadline: November 30, 2005

NGA awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered, outdoor garden programs. Applicants must plan to garden in 2006 with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Youth Garden Grants will be awarded to 1) start-up programs that are just beginning or have yet to break ground, and 2) established programs that have completed one or more outdoor garden seasons. Go to www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp for more information.

Workshop Highlight

Workshops at the EE Campus

Like many of us who enrolled in the EE Certification program at the 2001 Missouri EE Conference, your time is almost up to get forms completed! If you're looking for Category I workshops, the EE Campus is your answer! There are new three-hour workshop modules available November 5th and 6th:

Flying WILD

Because birds are easy to find and identify, they provide a natural inroad for students to start learning about wildlife. Using a new instructional guide from the Council for Environmental Education, participants will receive activities to introduce middle school students to bird conservation.

Focus on Forests (PLT secondary module)

Designed for educators of youth in grades 9-12, this workshop presents ideas and activities for teaching about forest ecosystems and forest issues. Some modifications could be made for grades 7 and 8.

Discover a Watershed (WET)

The "Discover a Watershed the Missouri" workshop is designed to provide participants with hands-on experience in using this educator's guide. Participants also will receive a copy of the guide.

Professional Development Calendar

Environmental Leadership Program Fellowship

Application Deadline: October 1, 2005
The Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) invites applications for the ELP Fellowship Class of 2006-2007. Through its fellowship program ELP provides training, project support and a vibrant peer network to 20-25 talented and diverse individuals each year engaged in environmental and social change work. Find out more: email: info@elpnet.org; phone: 413.268.0035; web: www.elpnet.org.

October 13-14

2nd Annual Healthy Indoor Environments Conference

Reardon Center, Kansas City, Kansas
This conference is sponsored by Children's Mercy Hospital, the Indoor Environments Coalition of Kansas City, the Mid-America Pediatric Environmental Specialty Unit at the KU Med-Center, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the US EPA. A wide variety of topics will be presented by experts in the field of indoor environmental quality and how it impacts the way we live, work and play. For more information, call 816-235-6331.

October 25-29

North American Association for Environmental Education 2005 Conference

Albuquerque, New Mexico
Join NAAEE for the premier meeting of environmental educators taking place this year. The conference is based on the theme, Sustainability and

Environmental Education: Focus on the Future. Scholarships are available for teachers. Find out more at www.naaee.org, e-mail conference@naaee.org or call (202) 419-0412.

October 25

Environmental Education Resource Fair 4:30-8:00 PM, Kansas City, MO
The Kansas City Environmental Education Network (KCEEN) will be holding an environmental education resource fair at the Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO. This event is free and is geared toward teachers pre-K-12 and non-formal environmental educators. Attendees will be able to network, receive resources and take part in breakout sessions on rain barrels, monarch stations, composting and vermicomposting. Please RSVP to Matt Riggs mriggs@marc.org/(816) 701-8313 by Friday, October 21.

November 4

Facilitators Reunion for Projects Learning Tree, WET and WILD 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Columbia, MO
Calling all facilitators! You're invited to join the state coordinators for a day of camaraderie, rejuvenation, inspiration and fun. You'll receive three NEW instructional guides, program updates, great ideas from your peers and a few surprises. This opportunity is being offered at no cost to you, but registration is required by October 15. If you plan on joining us please email Syd Hime at syd.hime@mdc.mo.gov. You'll receive an agenda with the reunion location when you register.

November 4-6

2005 EE Campus

University of Missouri-Columbia
Registration information is available at www.meea.org/conference.html. Or, e-mail your address to Glenda Abney Abney@mobot.org to request a registration packet.

Interface 2006

Interface 2006 Math and Science Professional Development Event: "Making Connections for Student Success" Interface A (Grades K-6) - February 23-25, 2006; Interface B (Grades 7-12) - February 26-28, 2006. <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/conference/sciencecon.htm>.

Scholarships Available for EE Campus

Although this year's conference, the EE Campus, is inexpensive, scholarships are still available for you! To apply, please draft a summary (one-page, double-spaced) explaining how information and skills gained from the conference will enhance your teaching objectives. Include your name, e-mail, home phone number and copy of completed registration form. Applications are due October 15th; mail to:

Jamie Paige
St. Charles County Government
201 N. Second Street, Room 537
St. Charles, MO 63301

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MEEA Membership Application

New Member or Renewing Member

Name _____

Preferred Mailing Address:

Street/ PO Box _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

Fax number _____

Please include a check or money order made payable to MEEA and return to:

MEEA
PO BOX 104505
Jefferson City, MO 65110-4505

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Gilbert • 816/591-9996 <info@meea.org>

YES, please enroll me as a(n):

- _____ Professional \$30
- _____ Student \$15
- _____ Family \$45
- _____ Retired \$15
- _____ Organizational \$100
- _____ Sustaining \$100 or more
\$ _____
- _____ Please accept my additional
gift of \$ _____

I am interested in:

- _____ Finance Committee
- _____ Certification Program Committee
- _____ Marketing Committee
- _____ Communications Committee
- _____ Other _____



Professional - A person who works in the field of environmental education and/or fosters the same values as MEEA. These members are entitled to full voting privileges.

Family - A family membership that gives professional privileges to two individuals.

Student - A person who is a full-time student, entitled to professional privileges.

Retired - A person who is fully retired from active service, entitled to professional privileges.

Organizational - Any educational institution, not-for-profit organization or government agency whose objectives are consistent with MEEA. Two representatives receive professional membership.

Sustaining - An individual or group wishing to support MEEA and environmental education. Two representatives per group receive professional membership.



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MEEA participates in the following:



MEEA Vision

To develop an environmentally responsible citizenry in Missouri.

MEEA Mission

To advance environmental education in Missouri by providing innovative professional development and networking opportunities.