



THE EETAP BULLETIN

An update of activities for advancing education
and environmental literacy
August 2009 Vol. 9 (10)

Values and Environmental Decision Making

The newest information installment on environmental education and diversity is now available on the NAAEE web site. The installment examines the role that values play in how we perceive and respond to environmental risks such as climate change and cultures role in influencing values. To read the installment visit:

<http://naaee.org/ee-and-cultural-diversity>

EETAP Releases Study

Issues Associated with Nonformal Environmental Education Certification

This study gauged the interest among nonformal environmental educators, their employers, and college/university trainers in certification, the various dimensions of value which they ascribe to certification, and their thoughts about how it might best be implemented. Questions regarding the likelihood of seeking certification, the level of support for developing certification programs, and degree of influence certification might have on hiring practices guided the study. Four populations of respondents were surveyed: nonformal EE practitioners, NAAEE affiliate liaisons, employers of nonformal environmental educators, and college/university faculty. Findings suggest that support for certification varies among these

populations. The report identifies six recommendations and details suggested steps to help stakeholders advance development and implementation of state environmental educator certification programs. The study also suggests that certification programs should be considered in the larger and more strategic context of state capacity building.

The study was conducted by the Environmental Education Association of Oregon. To obtain a copy of the report, send an email request to:

scourtne@uwsp.edu

UW-SP Signs Cooperative Agreement with U.S. EPA

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has signed a cooperative agreement for the 5th and final year of the Third Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP3). EETAP3 is a national project funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under Section 5 of the National Environmental Education Act of 1990.

EETAP3's goal is to deliver environmental education training and long-term support to education professionals across the U.S. that will enable them to effectively teach about environmental issues. By attaining this goal, EETAP3 will contribute to achieving the project's long-term outcome of developing a more environmentally literate public whose behaviors result in improved environmental quality.

For additional information about EETAP3 and its activities visit:

www.eetap.org



Providing Training for Early Childhood Educators

The Council for Environmental Education (CEE) has just unveiled its much anticipated new early childhood initiative, *Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children*, the first nationally distributed early childhood activity guide encouraging nature exploration by children ages 3-7.



Growing Up WILD provides a consistent, tested, developmentally appropriate, interdisciplinary and attractive teaching tool for early childhood educators encouraging nature exploration, outside play, and scientific inquiry among young learners. With 27 easy-to-use activities written by educators and wildlife professionals and reviewed by experts in early childhood education, *Growing Up WILD* serves as a resource for educators to comfortably lead explorations with young children on various topics and subject areas, particularly in math and science.

Growing Up WILD is a valuable tool for helping nature and conservation related organizations, day care centers, and schools

meet their educational goals. The *Growing Up WILD* activity guide:

- includes crafts, art projects, music, “Helping Hands” stewardship activities, “Take Me Outside” suggestions, reading connections, “Mighty Math” and much more.
- involves social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive domains to help foster learning and development in all areas.
- supports developmentally appropriate practice allowing children to learn at levels that are individually, socially, and culturally appropriate.
- includes “Home Connections” cards, in English and Spanish, with activities designed to include parents and caregivers in supporting learning.
- is correlated to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards and the Head Start Domains.





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Priorities for *Growing Up WILD* include outreach to diverse and economically disadvantaged children who have traditionally been underserved by environmental education efforts and opportunities to connect with nature. CEE is working closely with the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office and will be partnering with other Head Start offices in each state.

Educators receive *Growing Up WILD* materials by participating in interactive, hands-on workshops designed to meet their needs. These workshops allow educators to experience *Growing Up WILD* activities, while discovering how the program meets their organization's educational goals. Workshops are offered through a network of

representatives from sponsoring wildlife, natural resources and educational agencies at state and local levels. Information is available through your State Coordinator found at <http://www.projectwild.org/ProjectWILDCoordinators.htm>. Bulk pricing is available for organizations who wish to distribute the guides.

Through the support of EETAP, Project WILD State Coordinators will have the opportunity to apply for small grants to help launch *Growing Up Wild* in their respective communities. For more information about *Growing Up WILD* visit www.projectwild.org/GrowingUpWILD.htm.

Registration is now open for

NAAEE's 38th Annual Conference

October 7-10, 2009 - Portland, OR

To learn more about the conference and register visit:

www.naaee.org/conference

2010 EECOM CONFERENCE

The 2010 EECOM Conference is scheduled for May 19-22 at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. The conference theme is *Sustainability and Environment: Exploring cultural and practical diversity for environmental learning*.

Proposals due November 1st, 2009

<http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ecom2010/index.html>



Register for National Public Lands Day

September 26, 2009

Less than two months remain before National Public Lands Day!

Register your site now and receive our FREE promotional materials while supplies last. These include informational rack cards and promotional

posters.

Our 2009 **promotional poster** and **rack card** feature 2008 photo contest winners. These are great resources to help promote your event locally. Supplies are limited.

Register by September 12 to ensure that you receive materials on time for your event.