



“Building Bridges: Creating Change for a Common Good”



***The 41st Annual
NEEEA Conference***



***Sept. 14-16, 2007
Camp Matoaka
Smithfield, Maine***



**Featured Keynote
speakers include
Alisa Gravitz of Co-op America**

&



**Tom Wessels
Author / Educator
of Antioch University New England**

Workshops - focusing on new audiences, venues, program models and partnerships

Field Trips - kayak, canoe, or explore coastal Maine

Networking - renew inspiration at a beautiful lake front setting

Conference Schedule

FRIDAY, September 14

- 9:00am-4:00pm **Field Trips onsite & offsite**
- 3:00pm-8:00pm **Registration**
- 4:30pm-5:30pm **Welcome Reception and Exhibits**
- 5:30pm-6:45pm **Dinner**
- 7:00pm-8:15pm **Welcome and Wessels Keynote**
- 8:30pm-11:00pm **Coffee House & Open Mic**

SATURDAY, September 15

- 6:30am-7:30am **Birdwalk, Paddle, Swim or Yoga**
- 7:00am-8:15am **Breakfast**
- 8:30am-10:00am **Session A (1.5 hrs)**
- 10:15am-11:30am **Award Ceremony & Gravitz Keynote**
- 11:45am-12:45pm **Lunch, NEEEA Annual Meeting**
- 1:00pm-2:30pm **Session B (1.5 hrs)**
- 1:00pm-4:00pm **Session BC (3 hrs)**
- 2:45pm-4:15pm **Session C (1.5 hrs)**
- 4:00pm-5:00pm **Exhibits, Networking, Relaxing**
- 5:00pm-5:30pm **Presenters Reception**
- 5:30pm-6:30pm **Dinner & 2008 Conference Preview**
- 6:45pm-7:45pm **State Meetings**
- 8:00pm-8:30pm **State EE Improv Showdown!**
- 8:30pm-11:00pm **Contra Dance & Night Walk**
- 9:00pm **Silent Auction Bids Close**

SUNDAY, September 16

- 6:30am-8:00am **Birdwalk, Paddle, Swim or Yoga**
- 7:30am-9:00am **Breakfast (* bag lunches available)**
- 9:15am-10:45am **Session D (1.5 hrs.)**
- 11:00am-12:00pm **Community Mapping / Closing**
- 12:00pm **Lunch and Departure**

Welcome!

Welcome to the 41st Annual NEEEA Conference. NEEEA's mission is to promote quality environmental education across New England in partnership with the state environmental education organizations of the six New England states. **NEEEA VALUES:** NEEEA is a forward thinking, unique, multi-state organization committed to practicing and promoting effective change towards a healthy, sustainable world. • NEEEA embraces diversity, inclusion, unity and collaboration by reaching out to individuals, organizations and other professions for a common cause. • NEEEA values high quality Environmental Education and promotes professionalism and work place equity, bringing increased public value to the field. • NEEEA operates with integrity, honesty and humility and demands accountability to our mission and the six state organizations we serve. • NEEEA engages joyfully in hard work, which is good work enriched by community.

www.neeea.org | PO Box 284, 319 Centre Avenue
Rockland, MA 02370-2613 | Email: info@neeea.org

Keynote Speakers



Tom Wessels

FRIDAY 7:00-8:15 PM

**Tom Wessels, Author & Professor
at Antioch University New England**
**“The Myth of Progress:
Toward a Sustainable Future”**

In this compelling presentation, Wessels will demonstrate how our current path toward progress, based on continual economic expansion and inefficient use of resources, runs absolutely contrary to the 3 Laws of Sustainability, the foundational scientific laws that govern all complex natural systems. It is a myth, he contends, that progress depends on a growing economy. Wessels makes scientific theory readily accessible by offering examples of how the 3 Laws of Sustainability function in the complex systems we can observe in nature and he makes an impassioned argument for cultural change. Tom Wessels is an ecologist and founding director of the master's degree program in Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England. He serves as an ecological consultant to the Rain Forest Alliance's SmartWood Green Certification Program and has conducted landscape level workshops throughout the United States for over 30 years. His books include: *Reading the Forested Landscape*, *The Granite Landscape*, *Untamed Vermont*, and *The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future*. www.upne.com/1-58465-495-3.html



Alisa Gravitz

SATURDAY 10:15-11:15 AM

**Alisa Gravitz, Executive Director
of Co-op America**
**“Creating Change: Education &
Economic Action for a Just Planet”**

Co-op America, an international nonprofit organization—founded in 1982 with over 90,000 individual members and 3,500 green business members—uses many different educational initiatives including social investing, green business, and climate change programs to harness economic power and create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society. Gravitz will describe how the process of building bridges between consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace works to create change for both the human and environmental good. For over 20 years, Alisa Gravitz has led the Co-op America Foundation in developing marketplace solutions to social and environmental problems. Ms. Gravitz serves as the director of Co-op America's solar program (the Solar Catalyst Group) and is a nationally recognized leader in social investment. She travels the U.S. speaking on sustainability issues, recently appearing on CNN, National Public Radio, and in newspapers around the country including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Los Angeles Times* and was named by the Green Business Letter as one of six key people who are changing the way companies think about the environment.

www.coopamerica.org

***Each attendee to this year's conference will receive
a FREE year membership to CO-OP America!***

Entertainment

FRIDAY 8:30 - 11:00 PM

Coffee House & Open Mic, Hosted by John Stuart

Bring your own instruments, poems, and stories to the NEEEA Friday Night Coffee House which will include a jam session late into the evening! A fun, mellow atmosphere to ease on into the conference. The Coffee House MC, John Stuart of Houndog Recording in Gorham, Maine, has 30 years of experience wearing the hats of producer, sound engineer, musician and songwriter. His work includes music written for clients as diverse as Sesame Street and David Copperfield. As a music producer and engineer, his projects have appeared on many of the world's best known labels and have been nominated for a Grammy and awarded the prestigious Parent's Choice Gold award. His song writing, singing, and playing has appeared on numerous albums and he continues to perform live in several bands. www.stuartaudio.com/jstuart.shtml



SATURDAY 8:00 – 8:30 PM

The New England EE Improv Showdown!

Think “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” with each of the 6 New England state EE organizations fielding a team of acting enthusiasts to perform random and hilarious improvisational skits. We’ve all had to wear a tree costume or talk like a cowboy sometime in our career so that makes you, the audience, the perfect judges to decide which state will take home the coveted “Zany Zoetrope Award for Best Improv Presentation!” Hosted by Drew Dumsch, Conference Co-Chair and infamous for past EE Improv performances including Lucien the Voyageur, Mr. Pouty Frog, and Coach Crab.



SATURDAY 8:30 - 11:00 PM

Contra Dance with the Sea Slugs

The Sea Slugs are a small dance orchestra that specializes in playing for group dances and led by an expert caller. The music performed on fiddles, accordions, flute, guitar, mandolin, and string bass is deeply rooted in styles popular in southern Maine for generations: Franco-American, reels, Irish jigs, and early Anglo-American dance music. Learn contra dances, waltzes, polkas, and maybe even a tango! The Slugs have been performing for twenty years, several Slugs are teachers, and the entire group is skilled at conducting workshops in folk dancing and music performance. www.seaslugs.s5.com



SATURDAY 9:00 PM

Nature Night Walk at Camp Matoaka

Enjoy a Maine Nature at Night Walk in our lakeside area and wind down from a busy day. Participants will be encouraged to use all of their senses to reconnect to the environment during the special transition from diurnal to nocturnal. Also demonstrated will be how to use night hike experiences to break down barriers no matter what type of group you're working with. Night Walk led by Rick Glatz— UNH Camp Program Specialist (Bear Hill & Barry 4H Camps) and Enrichment Teacher, Merrimack Middle School.

Field Trips

Details including directions to the field trips will be sent upon confirmation of your registration. Canoeing Scarborough Marsh and the Ferry Beach field trips can easily be combined, as they are just 15 minutes apart.

FT1 Leopold Education Project, Educators Workshop: Lessons in a Land Ethic

Camp Matoaka, Smithfield, Maine

Friday 9:00am-12noon & 1:00-4:00pm, \$55, Limit 20

Based on Aldo Leopold's writings, this is an ethics curriculum and 6 hour training workshop designed to teach about humanity's ties to the natural world. Meaningful, hands-on activities expand observation skills and encourage personal stewardship. The workshop fee includes: the Curriculum Guide, A Sand County Almanac, task cards and the “Environmental Heroes and Heroines instructional” unit and lunch. Workshop facilitated by Mary Moulton, Connecticut State Coordinator, The Leopold Education Project. *(Thursday night overnight lodging possible)*

FT2 Exploring Scarborough Marsh by Canoe

Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center, Scarborough, Maine

Friday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, \$15, Limit 20

Join a Maine Audubon naturalist and discover the wonders of Maine's largest salt marsh first hand from a canoe. You will also visit Maine Audubon's Nature Center and learn of our programs for thousands of school children. Canoes provided.

FT3 The ABCs of Ecology: Reading the Coastal Landscapes of Southern Maine

Ferry Beach Ecology School, Saco, Maine

Friday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 pm, \$10, No Limit

This field trip will allow participants to explore the beautiful dunes, beach, salt marsh, forest and ponds located on Saco Bay, Maine. Find out all about the exciting field ecology education programs at Ferry Beach Ecology School. Learn how to “Read the Landscape” using the “ABCs of Ecology.”

FT4 Sea-Kayak Coastal Exploration

Chewonki Foundation, Wiscasset, Maine

Friday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, \$25, Limit 12

The Chewonki Center for Environmental Education staff will lead an amazing coastal exploration of Montsweag Bay in single and double sea kayaks. No experience necessary.

FT5 Hiking the Outdoor Classroom: China School's Nature Trails

China School's Forest Outdoor Classroom, South China, Maine

Friday 1:00-3:00pm, \$5, No limit

This field trip is an easy hike through the trails of China School's 10-acre demonstration forest. Participants will get to visit the 15 learning stations, learn the history of the development of the outdoor classrooms and all about its many visitors. You'll also learn about the many educational uses and maintenance of this wonderful location. The China School's Forest is less than an hour from Camp Matoaka and this makes it a great stop along the way to the NEEEA Conference!

FUN RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT THE CONFERENCE: Lake & Pool Swimming, Canoeing & Kayaking, Biking, Hiking and Tennis. Check out a virtual tour of the facility at: www.matoaka.com/facilities/map.shtml

Saturday Conference Workshops

SATURDAY, Session A - 8:30 - 10:00 AM

A1 The Business of Environmental Education: A Roundtable Discussion

Rob Anderegg and Lisa Purcell, Four Winds Nature Institute, Chittenden, Vermont

This roundtable is an opportunity for participants to share their experience in the business of environmental education. Panelists and participants will discuss topics including: defining non-profit board and staff roles and relationships, creating a common vision, leading and following, making values-based decisions, determining pay and benefits, and allocating limited resources.

A2 Building Bridges Through the Envirothon

Tish Carr, Education Coordinator of the Maine Association of Conservation Districts and Jim Chandler, Director of the Auburn Land Lab, Maine

Excite your students with Envirothon! This national program is a state- and nation-wide environmental competition where high school students test their knowledge of natural resources and current environmental issues and is an exciting way to let our Future Environmental Leaders become inspired about learning to do “out of the box” thinking. See first hand how this can be done! If you are already involved with Envirothon, come and share ideas from various New England states and how we can further develop this program.

A3 Clean Air Zone Projects: A Community-Based Social Marketing Case Study

Deb Avalone-King, Maine DEP; Dr. Andrea Freed, Assoc. Professor at University of Maine Farmington; Andy Burt, Maine Council of Churches; Joan Saxe, Maine Sierra Club; Peter Zack, Maine Energy Education Program (MEEP)

This workshop will explore how school teams and community groups have been using community-based social marketing techniques which work toward changing personal behaviors in people in their community for environmental and health reasons. Maine’s Clean Air Zone partners will describe projects that have been facilitated by a collaborative effort between DEP, MEEP, American Lung Association, Sierra Club, the Maine Council of Churches and local community or school teams. We will share with participants the strategies and tools being used in various Maine communities that focus on changing peoples’ vehicle idling behaviors. (Limit 25)

A4 The ABCs of Ecology: Live & Unplugged!

Meg Edstrom, Outreach Director and Drew Dumsch, Executive Director, Ferry Beach Ecology School, Saco, Maine

This is an introduction to the unique, proven ABCs of Ecology® teaching methodologies and Narrative Education techniques used at Ferry Beach Ecology School. Be Educated, Entertained, and Inspired by FBES ecology educators. Move beyond the walls of a typical indoor classroom and discover the amazing stories nature has to tell. Workshop time is allotted for applying the methods learned in the workshop, collaborating with colleagues and creating new ideas & activities. Find answers for how to meet and assess your state learning goals using a new interdisciplinary, place-based curriculum. Guaranteed fun and great new ideas!

A5 The New Hampshire Carbon Challenge: Engagement through Empowerment

Erik Froburg, Education Coordinator at the University of New Hampshire’s Climate Change Research Center; School Program Coordinator for the NH Carbon Challenge.

The New Hampshire Carbon Challenge asks residents to reduce their household’s carbon dioxide emissions by 10,000 pounds per year. Explore how this University-based initiative has engaged citizens through grassroots empowerment. Potential discussion topics include: the creation of community action groups, working with schools, and university partnerships. (Limit 20)

A6 Place-Based Watershed Education

Jim Lafley, Education Program Coordinator, MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Quabbin Reservoir

The Wachusett Watershed Education Project is a good example of how to develop a place-based program using a school district’s curriculum, a teacher workshop, a series of in-school lessons and a culminating, day-long field trip within the students’ own watershed. The Project covers language arts, science, math, history and social studies.

A7 Harvard Forest Long Term Environmental Research Program

Mary Marro, Environmental Ed. Director, Nashua River Watershed Association, Groton, MA; Kate Bennett, Laurie Munroe, and Kellie Robichaud – JR Briggs Elementary School teachers, Ashburnham, MA

Scientists at Harvard Forest and the Harvard Forest Schoolyard Coordinator have developed scientific protocol that teachers can use with students in the school yard. In this workshop, you will learn how to have students measure climate change through tree phenology, monitor vernal pools throughout the year and collect data on the woolly adelgid. Appropriate for grades 3-12. (Limit 30)

A8 Environmental Responsibility and the Story of the Wind Bird

Rex Turner, Director of Education, Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute

This reflective session will enable participants to better consider ways of exploring & sharing the idea that actions have consequences and that human actions affect the world around us, often in unforeseen ways. Participants will use the children’s book, *Wind Bird: Gift of the Mists*, to learn the story of Wocawson and how he and the Passamaquoddy people came to live in balance with the earth. Participants will discuss how this environmental history relates to current environmental impacts from human action and find ways to teach and create change by fostering responsible actions and stewardship.



Aerial view of the conference site at Camp Matoaka

Saturday Conference Workshops

SATURDAY, Session A - 8:30 - 10:00 AM

A9 Biomimicry In Action!

Colleen Kelley, Elementary Science Coach for Hitchcock Center For the Environment, Amherst, MA

After NEEEA's stimulating conference keynote presentation on Biomimicry last year, Colleen began researching how to teach young children (6-12yrs) about this topic. Now, a year later, having completed a 20 week program piloting this curriculum and revising the plans plus adding in the children's ideas and feedback, she's ready to share it all with other educators! Included in the sharing is curriculum content, games, activities, crafts, outdoor explorations, community connections, service activities and a slide show of students in action. The curriculum covers patterns, designs, and systems in nature and how to use this knowledge to solve human problems. (Limit 20)

A10 How to Leave No Child Inside

Marilyn Wyzga, Wildlife Educator, NH Fish and Game Department

Children's outdoor play cultivates health, creativity and learning. Yet research documented in Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, reveals a growing gap between kids and the amount of time they spend in nature. Marilyn will share how Louv's seminal book has ignited a national dialogue about effective solutions. We'll explore the challenges to getting children outdoors, how to overcome these perceived barriers, and what success will look like. Come with your ideas and experiences to share in a discussion about this crucial topic.

A11 Predators: The Balance of Nature

Anna Hunt, Outreach Program Director, Chewonki Foundation, Wiscasset, ME

What are some commonly held myths about predators and what problems do they face? During our slide show, activities, and discussions, participants will see predators in the context of food webs and natural cycles. They will explore attitudes toward predators and reasons for their decline throughout history due to habitat loss and human interference. Discussion of current events will emphasize the importance of predators in maintaining the world's ecological balance. Participants will have the opportunity to study Chewonki's mounted coyote, in addition to seeing three live non-releasable predators. We will follow up with a discussion of how best to use presentations like this one in your educational setting. (Limit 30)

SATURDAY, Session B - 1:00 - 2:30 PM

B1 Using Technology to Create Communities

Gayle Bodge, Science Learning Specialist and Sarah Morrisseau, Program Coordinator for the Vital Signs Program— Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland, ME

Intrigued by Wikis and Blogs? Want to keep up with the technology times? Learn how GMRI uses these digital learning tools to create virtual communities; places for students to share ideas, learn together, and stay inspired about the marine world. Workshop attendees will create a NEEEA 07 Wiki and Blog to share their conference experiences!

B2 Creating a Just & Sustainable Planet: A Conversation on the Conference Keynote Addresses

Alisa Gravitz, Executive Director of Co-op America and Drew Dumsch, Executive Director of Ecology Education, Inc.

On Friday night, Tom Wessels made a convincing statement on Why Should We Live Sustainably? and on Saturday morning, Alisa Gravitz offered specific ways on How Can We Live Sustainably? The challenge as environmental educators is how do we combine the Why and the How into effective program models that build bridges and create change for a common good!

B3 How Are We Coping with State Standards and NCLB?

Moderator: Jim Chandler, Director of the Auburn Land Lab, Maine

Probably nothing has a greater impact on EE in recent years than No Child Left Behind mandates and state standards. Come and hear from various New England states on how they are dealing with curriculum standards and share your own concerns and success stories. Experiences range the gamut from having a drastic decline in programs to actively engaging with standards and having a major impact on what is being taught in the schools.

B4 Making People Count: Redefining Success With Vision and Values

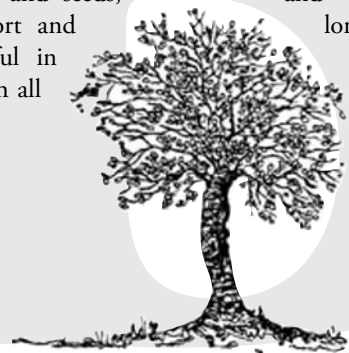
Adrian Ayson, Director of Operations, Center for Whole Communities, Fayston, VT

Over the years, environmental organizations have settled into their own specialized niches: land conservation, wildlife protection, air and water quality, environmental justice, alternative energy, and yes, environmental education. For most of those organizations, anything outside their specialty is "not our mission." That's a sad outcome for a movement that is based on the principle that everything is connected to everything else. This workshop focuses on how we can bridge these gaps by embracing our shared values and creating a vision with all those who care about people and the land. We need to change from, "How much money do we raise and how many students do we reach?" to "How does our work help create whole, healthy communities?" Join us for a dialogue on how our vision and values for people, communities and the land can guide a new definition of success. (Limit 30)

B5 Drawing from Nature: A Learning Tool

Susan Sawyer, Naturalist-Educator, Four Winds Nature Institute and Professor, Vermont College of Union Institute and University

This workshop will use the simplest of tools: pencil, pen, and paper. Drawing helps us to see in a way we don't if we only look or let the camera do the recording for us. The language of drawing is direct, immediate, and accessible to all. The process of drawing bridges the worlds of science and art. In this workshop we'll draw small things like leaves and seeds, and whole scenes before us, in short and longer activities that can be useful in many teaching situations and with all ages.



Saturday Conference Workshops

SATURDAY, Session B - 1:00 - 2:30 PM Continued

B6 Landscaping for Clean Water

Christine Smith, Lakes Education Coordinator, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Maine DEP has been working to reverse the suburban landscaping mentality to keep Maine's waters clean. Hear about Watershed Protection Grants for schools and the LakeSmart program that awards homeowners for lake friendly landscaping. Take a walk around the conference's lake front property to discover what landscaping features are best for clean water and get advice on what you can do on your property, in your community or on your EE campus to protect your local waterbody.

B7 Eco-Effects of Climate Change in New England & Examining Our Carbon Footprint

Deb Avalone-King, Maine Department of Environmental Protection Air Bureau

This workshop will feature a slide show presentation examining ecological effects of climate change— phenology, range migration, biodiversity declines, extirpations and the possibility of extinctions. It will focus on changes in New England with a quick look at some of the significant ecological disruptions occurring around the world. Participants will become a “carbon molecule” to learn about the carbon cycle and sequestration processes— a unique classroom activity example. We will then examine our own lifestyles in terms of our carbon footprint and identify ways to work with students and community groups to share these ideas back in your own communities. (Limit 25)

B8 Building Strong Nature Based Communities

Michael J. Douglas, Director, Maine Primitive Skills School

Whether you are a nature educator trying to network with other organizations, a program director looking to work with public schools, or an individual who wants to better their own knowledge and passion around nature education, this engaging and interactive workshop will give you the tools to better understand individuals, organizations, outreach opportunities, and the best way you can use your unique gifts to their highest level regarding environmental education and community building. Learn tools for healing grief around environmental issues, increasing environmental awareness, raising empathy, handling conflict resolution, and doing outreach to the community. (Limit 50)

B9 NAAEE Nonformal Environmental Education Programs: Guidelines for Excellence

Jessica Morton NH Project WET Coordinator, NH Department of Environmental Services and Susan Cox, Conservation Education, US Forest Service

Participants will be introduced to the newest publication in the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education series: *Nonformal Environmental Education Program – Guidelines for Excellence*. These Guidelines offer a set of recommendations for developing and administering high quality nonformal environmental education programs including identifying the key characteristics of high quality environmental education programs, discussing the relationship between program design and program evaluation, and describing how other documents in the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education series can be used to develop quality programs. (Limit 30)

SATURDAY, Session BC- 1:00 - 4:00 PM

BC1 Phytoplankton Rule!

Lisa Wolf, Executive Director, HOBBS Inc. (Hands-On Boat-Based Education & Science)

Phytoplankton are fascinating and beautiful in their own right, but also profoundly connected to some of the most important environmental issues facing the Earth today—in short, phytoplankton rule! This 3 hour workshop will include phytoplankton collection in the field, followed by training in identification of some common phytoplankton types using microscopes and keys. A PowerPoint presentation will describe the role of phytoplankton in the marine environment, focusing on red tides and harmful algal blooms. Workshop participants will come away with an appreciation for the significant role phytoplankton play in the marine environment.

BC2 The Art of Questioning: Using Natural Mysteries to Reclaim Ancient Brain Patterns

Dan Gardoqui, Director, White Pine Programs, Cape Neddick, ME

Based on deep-rooted educational principles exhibited in native cultures worldwide, as well as current brain research, this 3 hour field workshop will start as a Wildlife Track and Sign Interpretation workshop. Afterwards, in a dialogue session, we'll unveil the rich layers of cultural elements found in nature that educators can design into environmental education experiences. (Limit 25)

Thank You For Joining the 2007 Conference!

The 2007 NEEEA Conference Committee, comprised of Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA) friends and Board Members, is pleased to welcome you to this year's conference. We hope our theme “Building Bridges: Creating Change for a Common Good,” will promote a positive spirit of collaboration as we join together to share, brainstorm and work toward environmental education for the Common Good!

Our thanks for your attendance and participation,
the 2007 Conference Committee

(pictured front row L-R) Cameron Sutton, Christine Smith; (2nd row L-R) Maggie Daigle, Bob Kuech, Jim Chandler, Pat Maloney and Dot Lamson; (back row L-R) Drew Dumsch, Rob Sanford, Tamara Whitmore and Becky McKinnon. Not present for the photo, but equally essential are Elaine Philbrook, Linda Woodard and Kara Wooldrik.



Saturday Conference Workshops

SATURDAY, Session C - 2:45 - 4:15 PM

C1 EcoScience Works

Kara Wooldrik, Environmental Education Director, Maine Audubon

Middle schoolers across Maine are field-testing an innovative ecology curriculum. EcoScienceWorks builds on Maine's laptop program for 7th and 8th grade students and will be distributed to 150 science teachers and 17,000 middle-schoolers statewide. The product of non-traditional partnering among government and non-profit organizations, educators, and educational software developers, the EcoScienceWorks curriculum engages students in virtual and real experiments on local ecosystems and issues of environmental concern.

C2 Environmental Education for K-3

Cameron Sutton, Science Teacher/Environmental Educator, Auburn Land Lab, Maine

What can you do with young children to get them engaged and exploring the natural world? This workshop will explore a variety of activities specifically geared to our youngest students in early elementary. Join us to explore, discover, create and play!

C3 Pre-Service Teachers, Service Learning and Project WET Join in Stewardship

Janice Rey, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Saint Joseph's College of Maine

Creating sustainable change in the field of environmental education begins with teachers-in-training. Project WET, a national research-based water education program, is available in Maine through a partnership with the Portland Water District. Educators and students from Saint Joseph's College of Maine will share activities and outline their service learning project with the Portland Housing Authority.

C4 The People Connection: Human Ecology Activities for a Sustainable Planet

Douglas Maker, Science Teacher, Lake Region Middle School, Naples, ME

Discover innovative, hands-on activities from the Population Connection that examine the connections between human population growth, resource consumption and sustainable ecosystems and communities. The presenter will engage participants in memorable games and simulations for use in the classroom or nature center. Participants will explore innovative ways to teach students about population growth trends, natural resource use and carrying capacity. Free activities CD-ROM included!

C5 Meet & Brainstorm with the New NEEEA Administrator

Meg Edstrom, NEEEA Administrative Manager and Amy Yeakel, NEEEA Board President

Now that the New England Environmental Education Alliance has hired a part-time administrator, the potential for better marketing, membership, databases, and fundraising for the environmental education field in New England has been increased. The NEEEA board invites members from all 6 New England state EE organizations to join us, meet Meg, and plot out future support projects and collaboration.

C6 Laughing While Learning: Humor as a Teaching Tool in Environmental Education

Rob Sanford, Professor of Environmental Science & Policy, University of Southern Maine and Lisa Purcell, Four Winds Nature Institute, Chittenden, Vermont

Laugh out loud! Research shows that humor increases learning speed, aids in the retention of new information and improves problem solving. In this workshop we'll share strategies including puppet shows, skits, silly songs and games for incorporating humor into our EE programs. Participants are invited to share examples from their own experiences. (Limit 35)

C7 How Can We Better Teach about Global Climate Change?

Deb Avalone-King, Maine DEP; Jim Chandler, Auburn Land Lab Director; Molly Schaufler, University of Maine Climate Change Institute; Zach Smith, Program Coordinator, Wright Center for Science Education, Tufts University

Learn from a panel of climate change educators on how they are engaging students and teachers and the general public in climate change issues. Learn about sources of activities you can use with a wide range of audiences from K-12 to adults. We'll also discuss and brainstorm where we can go from here in making a difference in this most important issue.

C8 Transforming School Grounds into Green Learning (and Play!) Spaces

Laura Newman, School Ground Greening Coordinator, Portland Trails, Portland, ME

School Grounds are often sterile manmade environments, devoid of natural features. They are also significant spaces for children and community. We will share a range of examples of school ground greening projects, some strategies for working effectively with schools, organizations and municipalities, and some research that explains the importance of this issue.

C9 Creating Equitable Relationships: Exploring Democratic Systems Within Educational Environments.

Audubon Expedition Institute, Atlantic Coast Learning Community (Brad Davis and Students & Faculty at Lesley University)

Students and faculty of the AEI traveling learning community ("The Bus") will share experiences of, and ideas for, building bridges across the divides of power that lie between students and teachers in the educational process. The goal of this process is to develop democratic relationships that can be applied towards transforming our culture into a more life affirming society.



Sunday Conference Workshops

SUNDAY, Session D - 9:15 - 10:45 AM

D1 Forest and Stream Podcasting

Bob Kuech, Associate Professor of Science Education University of Southern Maine

The Podcasts of Science project trains pre-service secondary science and elementary teachers how to produce and use Podcasts of Science activities and concepts related to forest and water ecology in their classrooms. Find out how podcasting allows students access to the educational content of activities and field trips in a truly individual and portable format so all students can have access to the information whenever it is necessary. The project demonstrates an affordable way to introduce technology that enhances learning of ecology and uses digital recording media to make podcasts of small stream, benthic macro-invertebrates and the watershed forest surrounding the area.

D2 Volunteers in the Classroom: Using the Environmental Learning for the Future (ELF) Model to Create Learning Communities

Teresa Mitchell (Director of Education) and Betsy Bass Shands (School Programs Manager), Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Quechee, VT

The Environmental Learning for the Future, or ELF, program has been connecting community volunteers to students in the classroom for 30 years. This model of instruction is dependent upon the relationships between students, parents, teachers, administrators and community members. Join us for this illuminating workshop and learn how ELF model can be used to build bridges between schools and the broader community. (Limit 30)

D3 Clean Water: Our Precious Resource

Brendan Kober, Pathways Program Assistant, The Chewonki Foundation, Wiscasset, ME

The new *Pathways to A Sustainable Future* "Clean Water" poster and accompanying booklet of activities explores the topics of water pollution and water stewardship through five topics: Green Buffers, Waste & Recycling, Less Lawn, Energy Choices, and Transportation. This workshop will model some of the activities that focus on math and science learning objectives as they pertain to water education, and how they actively engage students in real world problems and solutions. Included in the activities are extensions that reach into subjects including civics, communication, policy, and stewardship. (Limit 20)

D4 Tonight's Homework: Read the Textbook!

Mike Hansen, Grade 7 Science Teacher, Linden Middle School, Malden, MA & Environmental Educator

How do popular middle school science textbooks present environmental education and ecology? We will examine what students in grades 5-8 are learning from their texts and contrast this with what is being said and done in the field. This presentation will help EE workers better understand what knowledge students are bringing to school and how what they are doing in the field is being either reinforced or modified in the classroom.



D5 Beyond the Sketch: Visual Arts as a Vehicle for Transformational Environmental Education

Edith Pucci Couchman, Art Teacher, Infant Jesus School, Nashua, NH and Art/Environmental Science Teacher, Maple Dene School, Pepperell, MA

Art-making is a natural form of expression for healthy, environmentally-attuned individuals and communities. Environmental centers can and should nurture this vital capacity. Consider and sample ways in which arts education can enhance environmental science instruction. Explore the contribution of aesthetics to the overall goal of restoring and sustaining the planet. (Limit 12)

D6 Creating Field Studies Programs for Middle School Students

Bridie McGreavy, Watershed Education Manager, Lakes Environmental Association, Bridgton, ME

This year a Field Studies for Middle School Students program was launched at Lake Region Middle School in Maine. The goals of this program are to help students build a better understanding of their local ecosystems and provide them with an opportunity to learn more about field science techniques. Once a month students conduct soil sampling, tracking surveys, watershed investigations, tree identification, and other exploratory activities. Each lesson is designed to build on previous lessons, so students develop an understanding and awareness of the ecosystems behind their school. This workshop describes the process of building this program, successes and challenges in the first year, and includes a short field activity.



D7 Gaining Deeper Understanding of Systems Using Curriculum Topic Study

Anita Bernhardt, Science and Technology Specialist and Distinguished Educator for the Maine Learning Results Review, Maine Department of Education

Participate in a Curriculum Topic Study (CTS) and learn how CTS can help you to use resources like the National Science Education Standards and the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Benchmarks for Science Literacy to deepen your understanding of systems and understand the progression of knowledge and skills needed by students as they progress from Pre-Kindergarten through graduation. By gaining a deeper understanding of systems, environmental educators, classroom teachers and school administrators will gain a clearer picture of a common and significant concept that is critical for all students to understand. And with a clearer picture of the knowledge and skills needed by students and the relevance of the systems to regular education and environmental education, we can find ways to collaborate as a community to best serve our students. (Limit 30)

D8 Wild Gathering & Wild Craft: The Important Place of Local Natural Resources in Education

Chris Knapp and Students from The Vermont Semester Program, Kroka Expeditions, Putney, VT

This workshop looks at wild-gathering and craftwork as essential tools for understanding local ecology and creating pathways toward sustainability. We will focus on the use of wild plants for food and local trees for baskets. In addition to sharing practical skills, we'll discuss how engaging with natural resources helps teach concepts that encourage social and environmental responsibility.

Sunday Conference Workshops

SUNDAY, Session D - 9:15 - 10:45 AM

D9 Life, Death and Biomimicry: Deciding the Future of EE Discussion Led by NEEEA Board Members

The keynote speakers at recent NEEEA conferences have fueled discussions for revitalizing the field of environmental education. In 2005, Michael Shellenberger challenged us to imagine a new future for environmentalism and engage unlikely partners. Last year, Dayna Baumeister inspired us through the work of the Biomimicry Guild to envision sustainable human constructs that emulate nature's design. What do their ideas have to do with EE? Where do the words of Tom Wessels and Alisa Gravitz fit in? And where should our path go? Help keep this critical conversation alive. Join this roundtable discussion to revisit themes generated at past conferences, tie in other timely and provocative ideas, shape new messages and make fresh plans for the future of EE.

Don't miss the Conference Closing! -->

D10 Probing for Partners and Looking for Links

Ruth Smith, EE consultant, N.H. Environmental Educators board member

As we strive to bring EE to new audiences, we may be overlooking obvious potential partnerships in our own communities. Learn how programs with museums ("Historical Habitats"), historical societies ("Natural Artifacts"), libraries ("The Nature of Books"), and garden clubs ("Growing Together") can build bridges and enhance environmental literacy in exciting new ways.

SUNDAY – 11:00 AM – 12PM Community Concept Mapping & Official Conference Closing

Moderator: Jim Chandler, Director of the Auburn Land Lab, Maine

The entire conference community reconvenes one last time to not only celebrate what has been learned and discovered over the weekend but to plot out new networking and collaboration possibilities. Using the tool of Concept Mapping, we will make connections, find core values and come away with specific ideas and actions that will help us to Build Bridges to Create Change for a Common Good across the field of environmental education in New England!

Conference Details

Accommodations: Conferees can choose to stay in the Matoaka cottages, camp onsite, or stay offsite. The simple, dormitory style cottages on the beautiful Matoaka campus have bathrooms with showers in each cabin (no linens are provided). The cabins are un-heated so bring appropriate sleeping gear. Camping is also onsite, or there are several motels nearby in Waterville- Best Western (207.873.3335), Econo Lodge (207.872.5577), or Holiday Inn (207.873.0111). If you need disability accommodations, please contact Rob Sanford at rsanford@usm.maine.edu.

Child Care and Pets: Childcare will not be provided and pets are not permitted at the camp.

Directions: From I-95 take exit 127 (formerly exit 33) at Waterville, marked at Oakland/Rt. 137. Follow Rt. 137 west for 9 miles. Camp Matoaka is located on the right, two miles after the D&L Country Store.

Exhibits: A limited amount of table space will be available for any organization to display its materials and promote its programs & products. Please check the space on the registration form if you plan to bring an exhibit. Nonprofit organizations are free. Commercial vendors pay a \$100 fee.

Greening the Conference: Up to \$1,000 has been budgeted to "green the conference" with organic/local food, recycling, carbon offsets and car pooling programs. Donations to "Greening the Conference" are encouraged as part of the conference registration.

Meals: Meals will be mainly vegetarian with some non-vegetarian options available throughout the conference. If you have any special dietary considerations and/or allergies, please let us know.

Questions? Contact conference co-chairs Dot Lamson at (207) 882-7323 or dotlamson@chewonki.org or Drew Dumsch at (207) 283-9951 or drew@fbes.org for general questions about the conference.

Refund Policy: Refunds will be given for cancellations before September 4 (minus a \$50 administration fee). After September 4 no refunds will be available.

Registration: The early bird registration deadline is August 17 with the regular registration deadline on September 4. Registrations will be processed first-come, first-serve upon receipt of complete registration and full payment. Last minute registrations after September 4 and walk-ins will be accepted only if space is available. Please make checks payable to NEEEA.

Scholarships: Students, grassroots educators, and entry-level professionals are among those who are encouraged to utilize the scholarship program. If the cost of the conference is a factor in your ability to attend, please apply for a scholarship! Conference registrants can reduce the fee by checking off the \$50 level or the \$100 level depending upon their need. Day participants are limited to the \$50 level.

Silent Auction for the NEEEA Scholarship Fund: Got a favorite EE tool or artifact? Do you have some sort of special craft or item that represents your region of New England? Have a cottage on a lake that you would donate for a weekend or a week? Please help support NEEEA and its conference scholarship program by bringing items to the conference to donate to the silent auction!

Weather: September in Maine usually means warm days with cool nights but the possibility does exist for inclement weather. Check out www.weather.com for the Smithfield, ME area for up-to-date forecasts. Dress for change and bring layers.

Updates! Make sure to check the MEEA website at www.meeassociation.org for conference updates right up to Sept. 14th!

While at the Conference: You can be reached at the Camp Matoaka office, (207) 362-2500, for emergencies.

Registration Form ~ NEEEA Conference 2007

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.NEEEA.ORG

You can register online using VISA, MasterCard or check at the NEEEA web site at www.neeea.org/conference.html. The online registration will sign-you up for each workshop and indicate your choice for accommodations. Your confirmation will be processed through our registration service at Sporg.com

REGISTER BY MAIL

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail (Required): _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone and / or Cell Phone: _____

Registration & Accommodation Packages: Select One.

FULL PACKAGE, Cottage Housing - \$290

Includes conference registration, 2-nights of indoor accommodation and meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Please bring your own bedding and towels.

a. Matoaka Cottage Cabin

FULL PACKAGE, Camping or Offsite - \$230

Includes conference registration, 2-nights of outdoor camping (bring your own tent and bedding) or offsite accommodations (on your own) and meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch.

b. Camping Onsite

c. Offsite Accommodations on your own

DAY REGISTRATION - \$115

Includes 1-day conference registration and 2-3 meals.

d. Saturday

e. Sunday

Scholarships

I would like financial assistance & will reduce my registration fee by \$50 or \$100. I understand that scholarships are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. I will be contacted if scholarships are no longer available.

Bring along:

I'll be bringing an Exhibit

I will bring a Silent Auction item(s): _____

Car Pooling:

I am interested in car-pooling (check here and we will provide a lists of participants in your area prior to the conference).

WORKSHOP & FIELD TRIP SELECTIONS

Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choices with the workshop number codes.

| | 1st Choice | 2nd Choice |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Friday Field Trip | _____ | _____ (Friday) |
| Session A | _____ | _____ (Saturday AM) |
| Session B | _____ | _____ (Saturday PM) |
| Session C | _____ | _____ (Saturday PM) |
| or Session BC | _____ | _____ (Saturday PM) |
| Session D | _____ | _____ (Sunday PM) |

REGISTER BY MAIL CONFERENCE FEES

1) Registration Package (a, b, c, d, or e) \$ _____

2) Field Trips \$ _____

3) "Greening the Conference" Donation +\$10 _____

4) Presenter/Coordinator Discount -\$50 _____
(only one \$50 discount per workshop please)

5) Early Bird Discount (by 8/17/2007) -\$10 _____

6) State EE Membership Discount -\$10 _____

Please circle in which state EE group you are a current member:

COEEA NHEE MEEA MEES RIEEA SWEEP

7) Scholarship Assistance (\$50 or \$100) - \$ _____

8) Total Amount Enclosed (Lines 1 - 7) \$ _____

Please Make Your Check payable to NEEEA

Send Registration To:

NEEEA 2007 Registration
c/o Cameron Sutton
Auburn Land Lab
31 Holbrook Road
Auburn, Maine 04210



Once your registration is processed, confirmation will be e-mailed to you via our registration service through Sporg.com. For questions about registration contact Cameron at: (207) 783-4563 or via e-mail at csutton@auburnschl.edu



Conference Sponsors

The 41st Annual NEEEA Conference is supported by generous contributions from Ecology Education, Inc. and Irving Woodlands, LLC. Our thanks to these organizations for their role in helping to make this conference possible.

