

Friday Workshops

9:30am – 10:15 am

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 2

Integrating Herpetology into the Classroom with the Pennsylvania Online Herpetological Atlas

Presenter(s): Tim Maret, Shippensburg University

The Pennsylvania Online Herpetological Atlas is a project that enlists volunteers to gather information on the status of at-risk amphibian and reptile species in the state. By being involved in the Atlas project, students can develop a number of important skills, including identification of specimens and use of dichotomous keys, mapping and use of GPS, and collecting scientific data. In addition to the atlas project, recent changes in regulations governing the collecting of reptiles and amphibians will also be discussed.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 8

Air, Art & Life: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Air Quality in Pittsburgh

Presenter(s): Lee Szymkiewicz, Group Against Smog and Pollution

This workshop will examine current air quality regulations and concerns in Southwestern PA. Science, art and regional history will be used to provide teachers with a strong background to air quality as well as exciting ways to present the information in the classroom.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 5

Environmental Education in Inclusive Settings

Presenter(s): Kristin Harty, and Philip Kanfush, Saint Vincent College

In this session, environmental educators will learn techniques to aid all students in the environmental education classroom. Presenters will provide suggestions on how to adapt and accommodate instruction for students with special needs. Various populations of disabilities will be discussed.

❄ **LINK:** Human's Health and the Environment

ROOM: 10

Do the Twist: Teaching Ecology with Our Favorite Traditional Camp Games

Presenter(s): Ellen Will and Paul Brigman, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center

Join us for an action-packed session where we'll put a twist on traditional camp games to teach ecological concepts. Delve into what makes the best games successful and learn how to incorporate fun into your Environmental Education lessons while sparking your students' interest and enthusiasm. Take new ideas back to school that will truly impact and inspire your students. This session will take place primarily outside, so please dress for the weather and wear outdoor shoes

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 6

Agricultural BMPs that Improve Field and Stream

Presenter(s): Ben Wright and Alysha Trexler, WPC - Freshwater Conservation Program

Agriculture best management practices that improve water quality, reduce soil loss and erosion, and benefit the landowner. Presentation will include before and after photos, and details on several practices.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 3

Horticultural and Silvicultural Methods of Hardwood Establishment using the American Chestnut as a Representative Species

Presenter(s): Sara Fitzsimmons, The American Chestnut Foundation and Penn State University

Growing trees is not as simple as planting a seedling and walking away. Especially with regards to the establishment of hardwoods species, those embarking on a quest to grow high-value species, or those of significance to wildlife, should learn some of the basics of tree physiology and growth and how they relate to the many factors that can limit and enhance both initial and long-term success of plantings.

❄ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

❄ **LINK:** Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 9

Team initiatives: building positive cohesion within your group

Presenter(s): Mark Horst, Laurelville Mennonite Church Center

Mark will teach group games and initiatives that can re-focus rowdy students, create group cohesion and are just plain fun! Erin and Mark lead low-ropes initiatives and team-building for all ages and will share some trade secrets that can be used with all age groups.

❄ **LINK:** Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 7

Bird Watching Basics

Presenter(s): Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center

According to the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, bird watching is the fastest growing outdoor pursuit. Over 70 million Americans watch birds on some level whether at the backyard feeder or traveling across the country and beyond. This workshop will focus on the basics of bird watching to allow you to join in the fun. Topics will include tips on identification, resources, materials and techniques to help you learn about the birds in your backyard.

❄ **LINK:** EE in the Classroom

ROOM: Icon

Presenter(s): Pam Newitt, Nature by the Yard

Preschool and elementary school teachers will learn about Nature Inside Out, a creative approach to nature education through science, literature, and art. Using fiction pictures books as a central focus, participants will discover different program ideas and art projects that can be used in the classroom and outdoor space. Copies of the presenters book, "Nature Inside Out-A Leader's guide to Nature Education Programs" will be available for purchase.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 11

Energy Conservation in Schools

Presenter(s): Margaret M. Hall, PA DEP, Southwest Regional Office

Hear why we all need to conserve energy, and learn about helpful tools and resources. Hear how others have been successful in saving both energy and money.

Friday Workshops

2:00pm – 2:45 pm

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 7

The People Connection: Human Ecology Activities for a Sustainable Planet

Presenter(s): Dr. Cherry Mauk, Population Connection

Discover innovative, hands-on activities that examine the connections between human population growth, resource consumption and sustainable ecosystems and communities. Presenter will engage participants in memorable games and simulations for use in the classroom or nature center. Free Activities CD-ROM!

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 8

Creek Connections Classroom Environmental Ed Games and Activities

Presenter(s): Laura Branby, Creek Connections

Come enjoy a montage of activities from several of Creek Connections Education modules. Including new new match games for Macros, fish, and reptiles and amphibians; an anatomy match games for mussels and fish;

❄ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

mystery tree sheets and mystery mussel sheets and "Creek Geek Knowledgey" games that are similar to "Jeopardy" based on watershed topics.

LINK: Human's Health and the Environment

ROOM: 6

Environment and Health: A Systems Approach - EHI

Presenter(s): Jane Konrad, Pittsburgh Regional Center for Science Teachers (PRCST)

EHI is a Professional Development Program that assists teachers in developing, assessing and revising academic components suitable to their classes that would enable them to teach about health and the environment as a system. A systems approach enables the students to understand concepts and issues with their interrelationships. It reaches across disciplines and helps students make more meaningful connections. Hands-on activities from the related materials kit and Teacher Manual.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 2

Sustainability 101: What Any Family Can Do

Presenter(s): Rick Flood, Solutions in Sustainability, LLC

An interactive session that brings the concept "sustainability" down to earth and explains how to incorporate it into our personal lives, Rick will describe how, for the past 8 years, the entire Flood family has been working to implement specific sustainable strategies without compromising their way of life.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 5

A Wetlands Adventure: Incorporating Printed Educational Materials Into The Field Experience

Presenter(s): Philip Kanfush, Saint Vincent College Education Department

Environmental Educators often look to field experiences to facilitate the learning process. The wetlands at Saint Vincent offers both school groups and individuals a unique learning opportunity. This session provides naturalists, teachers and parents with a model for incorporating printed educational materials into the three-dimensional world of experiential learning.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 10

Community Based Arts Practice: Models for Community Engagement, Collaboration, and Environmental Enhancement

Presenter(s): Amara Geffen, CEED Art & Environment Initiative

A lecture-discussion format will be used to share information on the capacity of the visual arts to beautify local communities while also improving environmental conditions and creating social capital necessary for authentic community and economic development. Best practices for evolving and funding community based collaborations in the visual arts will be explored. Special attention will be paid to collaborations among colleges and local communities (schools, Chambers of Commerce, Redevelopment Authorities and Local Governments).

❄️ **LINK:** Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 1

Ethnobotany

Presenter(s): Pat Catucci, Berks County Conservation District

Rubber from goldenrod? Thomas Edison experimented with using that abundant fall bloomer as a source for rubber to make tires for Ford's cars. Velcro, an idea that stuck. A guy names George was out on a walk with his dog when he discovered that the dog was covered with little hooked seeds. From his study of the burdock seed, he invented a new kind of fastener - Velcro. Ethnobotany is the study of how people use indigenous plants. Get interested in what grows along the roadside by learning fascinating facts! A list of dozens of plants and trees that historically have held close human relationships will be provided.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 11

How Safe is the Water You Drink?

Presenter(s): Dana Rizzo, Penn State Cooperative Extension/Westm'd Conservation District

❄️ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

How safe is the water you drink? An overall presentation on keeping your drinking water safe, primarily if you are served by a private water source such as a well or spring. Why is it important to get your well or spring water tested regularly? Also, if you drink bottled water, where does it come from? How is it regulated? Is drinking sports drinks or 'flavored' water just as good as drinking regular water? Do bottled waters have an impact on the environment?

❄ **LINK:** EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 9

McKeever Programs – The Link Between Your School and EE

Presenter(s): Fran Bires and Becky Lubold, McKeever Environmental Learning Center

Join us as we share overviews of our educational programs (K-8). For each program, goals and ecological concepts will be covered. Our programs incorporate interactive, hands-on, cumulative activities that focus on specific learning outcomes. We will also provide examples of the kinds of activities your students would be involved in at the McKeever Center.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 3

The Wild Resource Conservation Program's New Biodiversity Education Initiative

Presenter(s): Greg Czarniecki, Wild Resource Conservation Program

For the past 25 years, the Wild Resource Conservation Program has been supporting research conservation, and education about Pennsylvania's non-game plants and animals. As we enter our second quarter-century, we are embarking on an ambitious education program aimed at schoolchildren. Come learn more about this new initiative, the many education materials already available, and attend a screening of our newest documentary, Dangerous Invasions, which chronicles invasive plants in Pennsylvania. We'll end the session with a brief survey of how we can better serve you followed by a door prize drawing!!!

Friday Workshops

3:00pm – 3:45 pm

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 10

Beneficial Strategies and Games for IPM

Presenter(s): Giselle Cosentino and Emily Cost, Brandywine and Red Clay Valley Associations

Integrated Pest Management is a difficult concept to teach but can be even more challenging to make fun!! Join us as we share some games that were created just for this reason. Featured games and activities focus on the IPM pyramid, garden pests/friends, invasive plants and the bioaccumulation of pesticides in ecosystems. Activities are geared towards upper elementary and middle school.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 8

The Environment and Ecology Series for Grades 3-4

Presenter(s): Dr. Sanford Smith, Penn State School of Forest Resources

The Pennsylvania Environment and Ecology Series is a new Penn State Cooperative Extension curriculum resource for grades 3-4. The first four flyers in the series include Ecosystems, Renewable & Nonrenewable Resources, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Watersheds and Wetlands. The topics covered are those specified in the Pennsylvania Educational Standards for Environment and Ecology. The flyers are full color, attractive, and inviting to children. They were reviewed by teachers and field tested with kids, and an associated website provides lesson plans for their use. This session will introduce this series and discuss its use by elementary level educators.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 5

Preparing Teachers to Teach the EE Way

Presenter(s): Roy Boyle, Saint Francis University of Loretto

❄ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

Bringing environmental education to children requires educators that can deliver the goods. Join us for an overview of two attempts to do just that. Environment & Ecology Standards have been infused into the teacher preparation program at Saint Francis University, providing a unique opportunity to train educators at the undergraduate level. In addition, in-service education has been provided to practicing teachers in an effort to build their content knowledge and build the skills and confidence needed to bring environmental concepts to their students. Handouts and activity examples will be provided.

LINK: Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 9

Getting Your Kids Outside

Presenter(s): Diane Kuhn, Rachel Carson Homestead

Nowadays, so many teachers and parents are intimidated to take kids outside because they feel that they do not know enough to teach or do anything with them or they simply don't know how to share nature with kids. This workshop will give ideas and suggestions, tips and advice on how to share nature with kids. The workshop is based on the book "A Sense of Wonder", by Rachel Carson. The workshop is geared towards teachers and parents.

❄ **LINK:** Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 12

Creek Connections Outdoor Games

Presenter(s): Wendy Kedzierski, Creek Connections

Discover the outdoor games that are part of the Creek Connections modules. Games may include Turbid Vision and Fighting for Life in French Creek about fish and possibly a demonstration of GPS units and discuss geocaching and other uses of the units.

❄ **LINK:** Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 1

Geocaching with the Family

Presenter(s): Annie King

Ann and Mike King will introduce you to geocaching – treasure hunting with a GPS! Come learn about this unique way of hiking -- once you try it, you'll be hooked! Guaranteed to keep all ages interested.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 11

Timber Management Practices

Presenter(s): Mike Kammerdiener, PA Game Commission

An overview of timber management practices used in the management of the game commission's state game lands.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 7

Write On!: Easy Tricks for Writing Naturally

Presenter(s): Mike Weilbacher, Lower Merion Conservancy

Environmental educators are called upon to write more than we may have imagined: press releases, program descriptions, newsletter articles, business letters, grant applications... Mike Weilbacher has been his newspaper's columnist for the last decade, and penned a column in the PAEE newsletter through the 80s and 90s. Bring a pen, paper, and an open mind, and in a writing studio format, gain some quick-and-easy skills for raising your writing game to a higher level.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 6

A Demonstration of Virtual Trillium Trail, a Simulation of a Fourth Grade Field-Trip to the Trillium Trail Wildflower Reserve, Fox Chapel PA

Presenter(s): Maria Harrington, University of Pittsburgh

Virtual Trillium Trail is a software application based on a real world educational field trip conducted by expert naturalists and educators from Beechwood Farms, the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP). This

❄ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

is a presentation of the software, which is part of a Ph.D. dissertation investigation of situational learning, discovery based learning and intrinsic, and child-centric exploration of real and virtual spaces. There will be a discussion of how the system can be used to prepare students before a real field-trip, and how the system can be used after a real field-trip with suggested follow-up activities.

LINK: Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 2

Supernova

Presenter(s): Bill Moutz and/or George Guzik, Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh

Come learn what a Supernova is, how they affect us, are they dangerous to Earth and how different the universe would be without them.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 7

Leave no Trace Awareness Workshop

Presenter(s): Peter Greninger, Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI)

This workshop will introduce the seven elements of the nationally-recognized Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics. We will discuss ways to improve our wild lands ethic with topics like Plan Ahead and Prepare, Minimize Campfire Impact and Respect Wildlife. It's an informative, practical approach with plenty of hands-on fun that helps us to travel and camp more lightly on the land. This class is essential for anybody that spends time in the Outdoors.

Saturday Workshops

8:30 am – 9:15 am

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 9

Virtual Tools for Educators at PCEE.ORG

Presenter(s): Kathleen Paul, PCEE

Don't reinvent the wheel! The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) offers a variety of useful tools offered online at www.pcee.org to help educators teach the E & E Standards. We'll familiarize you with the most popular of these tools and update you on some new ones that will be coming online soon.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 7

Climate Change in the Classroom: Investigations in Global Warming

Presenter(s): Craig Whipkey, Center Area School District

Come discover how to use Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" in the classroom.

❄️ **LINK:** Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 10

Nature Journaling for All Ages

Presenter(s): Patricia DeMarco, Rachel Carson Homestead

This workshop will present classroom teachers with information on why nature journaling would be useful to students of all ages. Also, how to start a nature journal, suggested writing topics to get students started, etc. Participants will receive a free nature journal and be taken outside to practice writing.

LINK: Human's Health and the Environment

ROOM: 5

Polar Bears in Churchill

Presenter(s): Joe Stefko, PA Game Commission

An overview of Manitoba's wildlife management program for polar bears in the town of Churchill. Ride along with officers as they respond and handle problem bears on the streets of this tourist town. A look into global warming and its influences on future bear populations and management.

LINK: ALL

ROOM: 8

❄️ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

Grant Writing Techniques

Presenter(s): James Cunningham, CFRE, Gronlund Sayther Brunkow

The presentation will provide information to attendees on the proper way to identify, research and present proposals to foundations and corporate giving programs for funding in support of their programs.

Saturday Workshops

9:30 am – 10:15 am

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 2

Humans, Water and Waste

Presenter(s): Twila Simmons-Walker, ALCOSAN

Humans, Water and Waste takes a look at wastewater treatment and its impact on the environment. It includes a brief history of local waterways and pollution and discusses details of the wastewater treatment process at ALCOSAN.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: Icon

Creating Wetlands as Outdoor Classrooms

Presenter(s): Sarah Toman, Environmental Concern

Wetlands make learning fun and schoolyard habitats make wetlands come alive. Environmental Concern will share their successful steps to schoolyard wetland habitat creation, followed by hands-on activities designed to bring wetlands to your schoolyard and into your classroom. Plus learn about wetland habitat funding opportunities to Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay area schools.

✧ **LINK:** Human's Health and the Environment

ROOM: 7

Nature's Reality Show

Presenter(s): Barb Rupert & Betsy Woodling, Independence Conservancy

Healthy individuals need to be linked to the reality that is based on the natural world. Our personal environments are too often spent around man made articles and behind walls that separate up from what is real. Our minds are rarely focused on the reality that is outside of those walls. The barriers to sensing the natural world with touch, smell, hearing, and even seeing are numerous, and becoming more so with every tick of the clock. In this workshop we will examine those barriers, our own feelings about reality, and look at ways we can make the natural world a relevant, exciting show.

✧ **LINK:** Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 10

Tips for the Trail

Presenter(s): Laurie McLaughlin and Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center

Everyone loves a great interpretive walk in the woods, especially one lead by an experienced and engaging educator. But leading one of these information filled, and yet experiential walks can more challenging than you think! Join us for an interactive session where you will learn easy, fun, and applicable methods for leading walks, and programs on the trail. Topics to be covered include: group management techniques, teambuilding tools, questioning techniques, as well as ways to pass on information to a variety of audiences in engaging and informative ways. And bring your walkin' shoes- because we are guaranteed to be "out on the trail!"

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 9

The Overnight Experience: School and Camp Partnerships for Environmental Education

Presenter(s): Erin Clymer, Brian Pritts, Laurelville Mennonite Church Center and Scottdale Elementary School

A camp program director and fifth grade science teacher will share about their camp/school partnership. They will talk about the benefits, challenges, and what makes it successful. They will share details about their model that can be used by other schools or organizations.

✧ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

LINK: Human's Health and the Environment

ROOM: 6

Green Building

Presenter(s): Mike Daniher, Boy Scouts of America - Camp Guyasuta

The presentation will highlight the good and bad of Green Building. A presentation of the McGinnis Education Center and what makes it a "Silver rated LEED Certified Green Building". Also showing how to apply these products and practices into schools and homes.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 5

PA Game Commission Resouce Program

Presenter(s): Joe Stefko, PA Game Commission

An overview of resources available from the PA Game Commission to augment EE activities in your classroom. Workshops outlines - Project WILD, PA Songbirds, Wild About Bears, Wonders of Wetlands, and Orienteering. Free teacher packets and handouts to participating educators.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 11

Hawk Mountain Bird Sanctuary

Presenter(s): James Ebling, Mt. School District

This will be a presentation about Hawk Mt. Bird Sanctuary located in Berks and Schuylkill Counties. Hawk Mt. offers educational opportunities for all ages. This will be a discussion of what is available for educators and others interested in raptor migration.

LINK: ALL

ROOM: 8

Grant Writing Techniques

Presenter(s): James Cunningham, CFRE, Gronlund Sayther Brunkow

The presentation will provide information to attendees on the proper way to identify, research and present proposals to foundations and corporate giving programs for funding in support of their programs.

Saturday Workshops

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 3

Population Education: Lessons for a Sustainable Future

Presenter(s): Kevin Kopp, Environmental Youth Education Services

Participate in hands-on lessons and view demonstrations to take back and use at your own work site. The lessons and demonstrations will focus on human impact as related to natural resources, water, energy, recycling, and wildlife. Free materials will be distributed.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 7

From Education to Action

Presenter(s): Kostoula Vallianos, LEA Earth Force

There is no shortage of quality EE content. This session is about process. It will introduce a proven service-learning framework that helps educators guide students through a process of identifying an authentic environmental problem and researching and enacting a plan for sustainable improvement.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: Icon

Taking it Outside

2:00 – 4:00 Session Time

Presenter(s): Nancy Martin-Sibler and Chris McHenry Glenn, PA Resources Council and SRU

* Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

PRC's work with middle school students that connects in-classroom instruction addressing watershed awareness and litter prevention with outdoor service learning projects. Examples we will focus on are the watershed/riparian buffer zone restoration program, "Schools Working for the Watershed" which took 40 middle school students who had completed PRC's watershed education program to Peters Creek where they planted 120 natives on the bank; and Litter Prevention, a two-session program that culminates in a litter pick-up. PRC will also brief attendees on the Wonderful World of Water day camp – a summer camp combining outdoor fun and watershed education.

LINK: Human's Health and the Environment

ROOM: 11

Native plants for your landscaping and how to really attract butterflies."

Presenter(s): Pia van de Venne, Volunteer Coordinator Parks Murrysville

This presentation shows good choices for your private landscaping using native plants. Some non invasive exotic species will be addressed and commercial landscaping will be briefly discussed as well. The right plants for butterflies are shown.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 9

Let's Clean It Up – A Guide to Combating Illegal Dumping and Littering

Presenter(s): Ellen Keefe, Westmoreland Cleanways

Environmental stewardship means more than simply controlling our own behavior. Identifying an illegal dump or pile of trash and then expecting "someone else" to clean it up doesn't help anyone. Sometimes we have to clean up the mess that someone else left behind. Learn the steps to organizing a cleanup – recruiting volunteers, identifying partners, special disposal issues. Then, discuss ways to keep the area litter and trash-free.

❄ **LINK:** EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 12

Black Bears in Pennsylvania

Presenter(s): Joe Stefko, PA Game Commission

A look at the PA Black Bear and its continuing expansion of range throughout the state. This workshop will include biological background information, current management practices and ongoing research programs. Could possibly include a visit to a bear den.

❄ **LINK:** EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 6

Riverworks Discovery: A Journey of Imagination and Discovery on America's Waterways.

Presenter(s): Errin Howard, Discovery/ AEP River Operations

We will present our Riverworks Discovery curriculum, which is designed to familiarize children ages 7-12 with all aspects of their watershed. Participants will receive a free copy of the curriculum, which is made up of 3 parts. The Leader's Guidebook which contains the necessary background information for adults, the Wheelhouse Logbook which reviews history and commerce on the river, and the Wildlife Logbook which focuses on the river's impact on the plants and animals in their waters and watersheds. Riverworks Discovery is based on the premise that we cannot love what we do not know, therefore activities are designed to be done in the field rather than the classroom, and participants are encouraged to experience the river environment using their senses, creativity and imagination.

❄ **LINK:** Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 5

Green Building, and sustainability

Presenter(s): Indigo Raffel, Conservation Consultants Inc.

A primary introduction to green building focusing on Pittsburgh Green Buildings. Tips on how teachers can introduce green building concepts into science and ecology classes. Presentation on school energy audit and tips on what you can do to be energy efficient.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field, EE in the Classroom, Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 10

Mr. Habitat Presents: Eco-Rockin' School

Presenter(s): Bill Oliver AKA "Mr. Habitat"

❄ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

Bill will play songs and tell stories from his fun-filled and adventurous career as an “Environmental Troubadour.” He’s played hundreds of schools, parks, festivals, many of those in Pennsylvania. He’s paddled, rafted, or swum thousands of river miles, usually with a guitar. Lately he’s been producing his own Earth Day event in his home town of Austin, Texas. You will be encouraged to share your own stories of “green music” and environmental education. Hopefully there will be enlightening and epiphanal moments for teachers to take back to their schools and apply within their own creative processes. “The Habitat Song” and others will definitely be available!

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 8

A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest

Presenter(s): Kirk Johnson, Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

Learn what is being done to permanently protect the last remaining qualifying areas of the Allegheny National Forest under the Wilderness Act of 1964 for future generations to use and enjoy.

Saturday Workshops

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

LINK: Human's Health and the Environment

ROOM: 7

Sun, Sand & Summertime Learning: Ways to Engage Your Mind During Summer Vacation

Presenter(s): Jessica Stombaugh, Regional Environmental Education Center

Learn how to keep your child's mind active during the summer with activities so fun and interactive; your child won't even realize they're learning. Receive a vacation fun pack filled with games and activities the whole family can enjoy while at the beach. We'll also discover easy ways to make even everyday activities like walking the dog and outdoor learning experience.

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 5

Crash Course in Herpetology: Focusing on Amphibians of Pennsylvania

Presenter(s): April Claus & Patti Griest, Fern Hollow Nature Center – Sewickley Heights Borough

Given their sensitivity to pollution and other environmental stressors, amphibians can act as great “biomonitors” to ecosystem health. The presence of amphibians can be a great teaching tool for teachers and environmental educators to get their students excited about watershed and aquatic studies, whether it is in their own backyard, at a local park or on their school grounds. In this workshop session, you will be taught how to identify a number of native amphibians species based on their field characteristics. We will also discuss the wide variety of niches that these creatures inhabit and talk about how you can make your backyard or school grounds more hospitable to attract these magnificent “herps”.

LINK: Human's Health and the Environment

ROOM: 6

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)- The 2007 Outbreak

Presenter(s): Samara Trusso, PA Game Commission

A look into the background and biology of this disease which recently had a major impact on PA's whitetail deer population.

❄ **LINK:** Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 1

FamilEE Fun in the Outdoors

Presenter(s): Gail Hill, Peace Valley Nature Center

Activities, places, and things to do for nature centers, teacher suggestions for furthering EE as presented in the classroom and games; to get families and friends outdoors having fun and learning to appreciate nature and each other.

❄ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

LINK: Human's Health and the Environment

ROOM: 11

Do you have an Alien in your back yard?

Presenter(s): Pia van de Venne, Volunteer Coordinator Parks Murrysville

This presentation shows the exotic invasive plants that have been purposely or accidentally introduced in our area. It identifies many species and explains why the exotic plants are not always the right ones for your back yard where they easily can escape in existing ecosystems. They can become environmentally destructive as well as extremely expensive to control.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 8

Recycling Goes To School

Presenter(s): Jan Arnold, Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania

During this presentation, participants will learn how to establish, enhance, continue, and promote a school recycling program that will benefit the environment, the school, and the school's budget. They will also learn how to get the administration and staff involved, the effects of proper bin placement, how to locate companies that handle "hard to recycle" materials, and how to start a vermicomposting unit in the classroom to take care of leftover foodwaste.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: Icon

Taking it Outside

2:00 – 4:00 Session Time

Presenter(s): Nancy Martin-Sibler and Chris McHenry Glenn, PA Resources Council and SRU

PRC's work with middle school students that connects in-classroom instruction addressing watershed awareness and litter prevention with outdoor service learning projects. Examples we will focus on are the watershed/riparian buffer zone restoration program, "Schools Working for the Watershed" which took 40 middle school students who had completed PRC's watershed education program to Peters Creek where they planted 120 natives on the bank; and Litter Prevention, a two-session program that culminates in a litter pick-up. PRC will also brief attendees on the Wonderful World of Water day camp –a summer camp combining outdoor fun and watershed education.

LINK: EE in the Classroom

ROOM: 3

Environmental Law/Regs – Is what they are doing OK?

Presenter(s): Deb Buckman, Pennsylvania College of Technology

Did you ever wonder if an activity you saw someone doing in a stream, river or field was legal but didn't know where to look? Every wonder if you could or couldn't do something involved with the environment but weren't sure who to ask? This hands on workshop will teach you where to find these answers and how to help your students investigate laws and regulations. Both hard copy and internet resources will be demonstrated.

LINK: Outdoor Family Fun

ROOM: 9

Drama on the Trails: Theater in Trailside Teaching

Presenter(s): Lindsay Smith and Mike Weilbacher, Lower Merion Conservancy

All the world's a stage," said the bard, and he's right: on a rollicking outdoor walk, we'll explore the use of creative dramatics to teach about nature and the environment. The workshop showcases a variety of ready-to-use, kid-tested activities developed over many years. You'll also learn about staging, the use of voice and body, simple props, improvisation, guided movement, and a whole lot more. Shy people welcome: you don't have to have any experience in theater to enjoy the workshop!

LINK: Best Practices in the Field

ROOM: 2

The Green Education Movement (GEM): A Collaborative Approach to Environmental Education

Presenter(s): Hal Kaufman, GEM

The workshop will include an overview of GEM's accomplishments and collaborative efforts and a discussion of some of the strategies that have helped facilitate this process. The Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) was one of the founding members of The Green Education Movement (GEM), a consortium of environmental organizations in the Allegheny County region, working to increase the health, productivity and environmental

* Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

awareness of people in the region through education and civic action. GEM programs promote energy efficiency and renewable energy, healthy indoor environments, recycling, resource conservation and all aspects of a sustainable lifestyle. GEM partners include: Audubon Society of Western PA, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pennsylvania Resources Council, Rachel Carson Institute, Conservation Consultants Inc., Frick Environmental Center, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium & Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force. GEM began working with the The Urban Ecology Collaborative (UEC) in the fall of '04 and now serves as the Pittsburgh education branch of the UEC. The UEC is a national initiative committed to fostering environmental education, community development and natural resource management, developing partnerships that allow urban areas across the northeast to pool resources and expertise. UEC currently has partners that include nonprofit organizations, government agencies, school systems & academic institutions in seven cities throughout the northeastern US.

FIELD STUDIES

Friday Field Studies

❄ **Friday 9:30AM – 12:00PM**

ROOM: Meet in Lobby

OFFSITE

Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve and Saint Vincent College

Presenter(s): Angela Belli, Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve & John Smetanka, Saint Vincent College

John Smetanka, Dean of Academic Affairs and past Physics professor in the Herbert Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computing will present a planetarium show to prepare you for the bonfire and stargazing scheduled for Friday evening. Following the show, we will stop at the new Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve, a reconstructed 1800's barn that serves as the education/environmental center and recreation area. This Reserve was created through a collaborative effort between the family and friends of the late Mrs. Arnold (Winnie) Palmer and Saint Vincent College, where she served as a member of the Board of Directors. The Reserve captures Winnie Palmer's vision to protect the scenic view of the Saint Vincent Campus from development along the busy Route 30 corridor, and serves as a lasting tribute to a woman of vision who wanted to preserve the landscape she knew and loved.

Friday 2:00PM – 4:30PM

ROOM: Meet in Lobby

OFFSITE

Powdermill Nature Reserve

Presenter(s): Theresa Gay Rohall & Joe Stavish, Powdermill Nature Reserve

Tour a "Green" Nature Center to learn how the building is an educational tool to show how the built environmental can be integrated into the natural world. While touring the Nature Center, participants will be treated to hands-on activities that highlight the Marsh Machine, an alternative wastewater treatment facility, energy efficiency and green building materials.

Friday 2:00PM – 4:00PM

ROOM: Icon Room

ONSITE

Alternative Energy and Biofuels

Presenter(s): Hal Kaufman, PA Resources Council

The Biofuels & Sustainable Energy Resources Workshop examines how the environment provides for basic human needs, helps participants understand the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources and then looks at some alternative fuel sources such as solar and wind energy with a special emphasis on Bio Fuels. Participants will receive a copy of an energy education curriculum developed by the PA DOE Office of Environment and Ecology.

Saturday Field Studies

Saturday 8:30AM – 10:30 AM

ROOM: Camp Dining

❄ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.

Sharing Nature

Presenter(s): Joseph Cornell

Come experience an opportunity to experience many nature awareness games from Joseph Cornell's Sharing Nature books. Participants will also experience Flow Learning TM - a powerful tool to lead people from their present level of awareness into closer contact with nature.

SPACE IS LIMITED: IN ORDER TO BE FAIR TO ALL ATTENDEES, A LOTTERY DRAWING OF ALL SATURDAY ATTENDEES WILL DECIDE THOSE THAT WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS SESSION. THE LIST OF THOSE CHOSEN WILL BE POSTED OUTSIDE THE DINING HALL AND AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE AND THE ROOM HOST WILL CHECK OFF YOUR NAME AT THE DOOR.

INSERT QUEST FIELD STUDY in Fri or Sat

❄ Indoor/Outdoor Session please bring appropriate attire.