

PAEE JOURNAL

The Journal of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education

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Spring 2004



Eastern Spadefoot Toad *Scaphiopus holbrookii*

1 3/4-3 1/4" stout, with sickle-shaped spade on each hind foot. External eardrum apparent. Skin relatively smooth, with scattered tiny tubercles. Olive to brown to nearly black, often with 2 irregular light lines down back. Underside white to grayish. No bony hump between eyes. Sounds like the coarse low-pitched complaint of a young crow, given at about 2-second intervals.



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INSIDE

PAEE JOURNAL CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Biodegradable Products	1
Legislative Updates	2
New Free Environmental Education Support Site for America's Teachers and Home Schoolers	2
"Schuylkill County is Growing Greener and Growing Cleaner"	3
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
Pennsylvania Land Choices Workshop	5
Community History/Environmental Citizenship (CHEC)	5
Pittsburgh Environmental Teaching Workshop	5
Monarch Larva Monitoring Project Workshop at Shaver's Creek	6
Upcoming Penn State Credit Courses Taught by Shaver's Creek Faculty	6
Amazing Amazon	7
Sharing Nature With Children	8
Jumping Into Wetlands with WOW! and POW!	8
Agriculture in the Classroom Workshops	9
St. Vincent College Workshops Keystone Aquatic Resources Education (KARE)	9
Leopold Education Project	9
Bear Creek Nature Center Workshops	9
Amphibians and Reptiles Educator Workshop	10
Pennsylvania's Biodiversity Educator Workshop	10
Agriculture in the Classroom Workshops	10
More POW and WOW	10
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission	11
TEACHER PAGE	
New Porous Parking Lot Will Be Used As a Positive Teaching Tool at Asbury Woods Nature Center	12
Developing A School Waste Reduction and Recycling Program	14
Pittsburgh School District Makes the Grade with IPM	15
REESOURCES	
Finding and Choosing Environmental Education Materials	16
DCNR Website	16
www.eNature.com	16
Kids Get the Bugs Out -- Philadelphia School Benefits from Penn State Service Learning Project	17
Watersheds.TV	18
Websites to Visit	18
Invasive Species Video Wins Awards	19
Agriculture Education	19
Web Site Resources for Clean Renewable Energy Information and Education Materials	19
Amish and Mennonite Greenhouse Growers Reduce Pesticide Use Through IPM	20
Employment Opportunities	21
2004 Award Nomination	22
PAEE Conference 2004: Call for Exhibits and Exhibit Hall Registration	23
PAEE Conference 2004: Call for Workshop Proposals	24

PAEE JOURNAL

The **PAEE Journal** is published regularly by the Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education. Individuals or organizations are encouraged to submit suggestions, ideas, articles and items for the calendar of events to the PAEE office. Please note, all submissions must be typed and are preferred emailed but can be mailed or faxed to the PAEE office.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education, inc. (PAEE) is to promote environmental education activities and efforts throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The ultimate outcome of such a mission is a citizenry that understands and appreciates its relationship to the natural world, recognizes and accepts responsibility for their impact upon natural systems, and is motivated to take positive action to solve environmental problems.

Nine different categories of membership are available through PAEE:
 Individual—\$30.00 Partner in Government—\$30.00
 Full Time Student—\$20.00 Retired Person—\$20.00
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Positions open and needing volunteers for one year:

Membership Director
 NC Region Director (former Region 3)
 SC Region Director (former Region 4)
 Public Relations Director

REGIONS BY COUNTY

NW Region includes Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties.
SW Region includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland counties.
NC Region includes Bradford, Cameron, Center, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union counties.
SC Region includes Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry and York counties.
NE Region includes Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties.
SE Region includes Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

Cover: Eastern Spadefoot Toad *Scaphiopus holbrookii*

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 Photo by George Porter

Message From the President

By Jay Gregg, 2003 PAEE President

Happy Spring to all.

As the deadline for submitting this column approached, I had overwhelmed myself with ideas for a topic – so much is going on, not just in relation to PAEE, but in our entire world. I created a more narrow focus by applying the program goals that I use everyday in my role at Paradise Farm Camps – Learning, Fun, and Teamwork.

As educators, we all learn and teach every day, especially in our chosen areas of specialization. I want to encourage you to remember to learn outside of your usual area(s). 2004 is shaping up to be the longest active campaign season that any of us has ever seen. Candidates at all levels are giving us carefully crafted messages, sound bites, spin, etc., with dizzying intensity. As this marathon campaign marches on, remember one of the guiding goals of environmental education – awareness to action. Build your own awareness by learning about candidates and issues for yourself, and then use your learning and awareness to take the most important action available to us – vote. Be an active citizen and participate in setting the direction you want.

How many of you, like me, are often consumed by the efforts and projects that are so important to us? Keep up those efforts, but expand your to do list to include fun. Get out and explore, spend time with others, laugh and do some-

thing frivolous. Take advantage of the better world that we all work so hard to build, don't just build it for others.

Teamwork – it is not just a skill set, it should be about belonging as well. Teamwork, like communication, should be a two-way process. I encourage you, then, to be a part of a team, and help someone else be part of a team. Here is an idea for helping someone become part of a team – look around you, and find someone who should be a member of PAEE, then invite him or her to join. Better yet, let me help you invite them – send me (rockdogs@voicenet.com) contact information on potential members, so PAEE can make them feel welcome.

Be sure to reserve November 10 – 13 for the 2004 PAEE Conference in Wilkes Barre. Be a part of the sharing, fun and professional development. Watch for more information. Please start thinking about two important opportunities your professional alliance makes available – the annual PAEE Awards Program and PAEE Election. Please consider nominating a person or organization that exemplifies excellence and dedication to environmental education for recognition with a PAEE Award. In addition, seek out and encourage leaders to apply their leadership talents to PAEE – you included! Calls for Nominations will be available soon.



Biodegradable Products

At the 2003 conference, PAEE had the unusual experience of being served food on disposable plates and eating with disposable utensils. Why was this unusual? For one, the organization does not cotton to disposables. Secondly, these disposables were completely biodegradable! Jan Arnold, co-chair of the conference, has provided us with information about the products as a resource option.

Biocorp North America is a company that produces environmentally-friendly (read that biodegradable or compostable) packaging, cutlery, straws and other food service items, leaf and yard waste collection bags, trash bags, and even biodegradable-compostable bags for your puppy waste. According to their website, the items “are made with biodegradable resins, consisting of renewable resources. Corn and potato starch are the most frequently used components of biodegradable resins.”

I became aware of the company's existence at a Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) meeting. A representative from the company gave a presentation and their products floored me. Since we had planned to compost

the food waste at last fall's PAEE conference, I thought that their food service items would be wonderful.

I contacted the representative via e-mail and he connected me with Frederic Scheer, chairman and CEO, Biocorp N.A. who truly appreciated the PAEE organization, showed me extreme patience, and then personally donated all of the cutlery that was used at the conference.

For more information about Biocorp North America, please visit their website at www.biocorpna.com or call them at 310-491-3465. Their address is 5155 West Rosecrans Ave., Suite 1116, Los Angeles CA 90250.

The nearest local distributor of Biocorp products is Mansfield Paper Company in West Springfield, Massachusetts. For more information, please e-mail Scott Parent, rsp@mansfieldpaper.com or phone 413-781-2000.

Of course, if there's anything I can do for you, don't hesitate to contact me at jarnold@blairco.org or call me at 814-696-4620.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



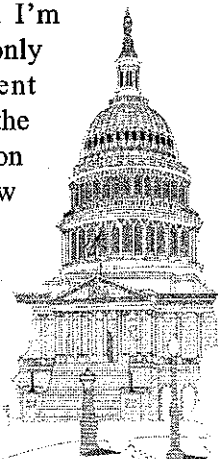
As professionals in the field of education, we have a strong belief in the potential for environmental education to transform teachers' teaching and students' learning. We've seen success in action and we know what quality EE programs can do. Unfortunately, many of our appointed and elected officials have yet to witness this transformation. Some never see or hear about the positive

effects environmental education can have on student motivation and learning.

In my prior position as Director of Education for Delaware Valley Earth Force, I came to realize that the success of our organization was directly related to how this success was marketed and perceived by others. Everyone loves a success story and I loved writing them and sharing them. More importantly, however, these stories helped cultivate positive relationships with local, state, and federal agencies, political and educational leaders, local businesses and national corporations, and the media. Each story became a billboard for success, promoting the positive learning experiences that environmental education can offer to both teachers and students.

Someone once said, "It is the confidence of success that induces real success." As the Legislative Director for PAEE, I am confident that I will gain the support of our government leaders as I work with them and share our many success stories. But, I need your help. I'm asking all of you to please share your success stories with your school board, local media, and government officials. Create your own billboard. Promote your good work. I'm confident that these stories will not only inspire and educate our government partners, but will also help to transform the perception of what environmental education is into the success story that we all know it can be.

Jean M. Wallace
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New Free Environmental Education Support Site for America's Teachers and Home Schoolers

Washington, D.C. - The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) today announced the launch of www.ClassroomEarth.org. It is a free Web site with key information on how educators can obtain the best and most usable environmental education programs available today.

www.ClassroomEarth.org is a veritable "best of the best" collection of environmental education programs and resources for K-12 teachers, parents, and students. This new site will help educators, after-school providers and home-schooling parents to get started or improve their skills in environmental education. It provides up-to-date information on the most successful, well-tested and effective national environmental education programs available today.

The site is in five major sections - Most Popular (for K-12 classrooms), — Rising Stars, — After School, — Home School, — and Earth Day. Each section has a top list of outstanding programs for that particular audience. The pages on each program contain a clear description, audience/grade level, overview of content and topics, materials, educator feedback, awards and recognition, and fast steps for obtaining and implementing the program.

The site has an Additional Resources section that includes a Best-of-the-Web listing of portal sites for environmental education and a special list of free environmental education programs offered by the national environmental resource agencies.

The development of ClassroomEarth.org was funded through a grant from the Mitsubishi International Corporation Foundation. The Foundation emphasizes effective environmental education programming.

"ClassroomEarth.org will save thousands of teachers, parents and after school providers many hours of searching and give them confidence they are tapping tested, reliable and superior quality EE programs," said Kevin Coyle, NEETF President. "This site makes environmental education much simpler."

Chartered by Congress in 1990, The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) is a private non-profit organization dedicated to advancing environmental education in its many forms. Since it was established, the Foundation has become a leader in the development of new policies, grant-making approaches, and direct programming to advance environmental literacy in America. We work in partnership with many leading organizations in the field.

For more information about NEETF, visit www.neetf.org



