

Branching Out



Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, Project WET Spring 2005

2004 Facilitator Awards for PLT, WET, and WILD/Aquatic WILD

Gold

Facilitated one or more workshops in each of the projects.

Robert Jennings
Carmen Pirotte

Silver

Facilitated two or more workshops for any project.

Kari Brookhouse
Lori Garth
Jenny Gaus
Bonnie Herrington
Jeff Hoagland
Karen Matthews
Mary Messeroll
Barbara Pietrucha
Christine Raabe
Joe Reynolds
Kelly Wenzel

Bronze

*Facilitated first workshop for any project
after completing the mentoring program.*

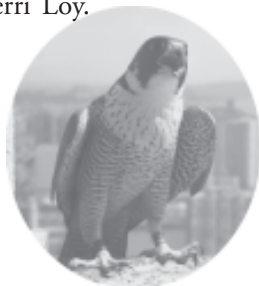
Mindy Becker

Many thanks to others who facilitated
a workshop this year:

Rachel Bijaczyk, Jim Faczak, Rich Mohr, Paul Osmer,
Gil Mika, Jenny Gaus, Andrew Anderson, Michelle
Bellinger, Maria DuBois, Hazel England, Christina Hagan,
Roberta Hunter and Terri Loy.

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Save the Date:

May 7, 2005 – New Jersey Envirothon
Theme is *managing cultural landscapes*

The New Jersey Envirothon competition is a one-day event that tests teams of five high-school students on environmental topics through hands-on interactive problem solving at five testing stations. The team able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of natural resources, as well as teamwork and communication skills, moves on to represent New Jersey in the National Envirothon competition. A multi-day event, the National Envirothon further tests the team's understanding of the environment and involves students from all regions of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Envirothon uses training, direct experience, teamwork and competition to empower participants with the motivation, knowledge and skills needed for natural resource management decision making and problem solving. Competition preparation introduces students to a wide range of professionals working in environment-related fields. It also provides background in natural resources and the varied options that go into decision making and enables students to practice working with information and differing viewpoints to reach a decision through consensus and teamwork. Throughout the year, students explore different natural resource-related topics, including soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife ecology and current environmental issues.

The team advisor, or coach facilitates the training by incorporating hands-on activities with the educational study guide, produced by the Envirothon sponsors. The study guide can also be used to supplement regular lesson plans or be added to a resource library for future use. The Envirothon will help teachers meet New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in language arts, math, science and social studies.

For more information on the New Jersey Envirothon, contact Rich Belcher at (609) 292-5540 or visit <http://nj.nacdn.net/org/envirothon/>.

New directions for Project WILD

By Mim Dunne, Wildlife Education Program Supervisor



Project WILD has been a staple of environmental education efforts in New Jersey classrooms for 20 years. As its primary sponsor, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Fish and Wildlife has been evaluating Project WILD's delivery, use and overall effectiveness and assessing what is working and what needs to be improved.

WILD's most recognized strengths have been its comprehensive focus on wildlife and habitat issues and its awareness to action approach to education. There are many ways New Jersey teachers can incorporate New Jersey-specific scientific information and data into the activities and use them to support the state's core curriculum content standards in various subject areas.

In 2003, the Division of Fish and Wildlife surveyed 350 teachers who had attended Project WILD workshops to get their views on the project's activities. Though only one third of the group responded, their feedback was helpful and surprising. While most expressed a favorable opinion of Project WILD, a majority of the teachers reported that they did not use Project WILD materials following the workshop. The reasons they cited included the lack of classroom time and in-school support for WILD, and the absence of connections between WILD activities and their school's curriculum.

While the traditional one-day Project WILD workshop can provide teachers with a good learning experience, the survey results suggest teachers would use WILD materials in their classrooms if their schools incorporated WILD activities into their curriculum.

The survey results also reflect the nationally recognized student improvement model, known as the EIC Approach (using the Environment as an Integrating Context for learning). The model asserts that teachers are more likely to use environmental education resources in their classrooms, if they receive peer and administrative support and encouragement. For successful classroom integration, teams of teachers and curriculum coordinators should attend a Project WILD workshop and then choose activities to be written into the school curriculum, with support from the DEP's environmental education staff.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is exploring new and more innovative ways to effectively deliver Project WILD and wildlife education to New Jersey's students. Ideas include topic-focused workshops featuring the new herpetology curriculum package as an instructional aide and field trips for students whose teachers use Project WILD activities on the trip and are then able to document it in their curriculum.

New Jersey's Project WILD coordinator Liz Jackson is heading up efforts to set new directions for Project WILD, and everyone with an interest in environmental education is encouraged to share their ideas.

Aquatic WILD Notes

By Sue Canale, AW Coordinator

Facilitators: Haven't hosted a workshop in a while? Don't want to do it by yourself? Try working with a fellow facilitator or team up with someone from another project and split the day for twice as much fun! If you are interested in hosting a workshop, please contact Sue Canale at (609) 748-4347 or sue.canale@dep.state.nj.us

*Save these dates to participate in upcoming workshops
(See schedule on page 4 for details):*

March 8 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

K-12 Aquatic WILD at Liberty State Park

March 12 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

K-12 Aquatic WILD at Liberty State Park

April 28 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

K-12 Aquatic WILD at Buttinger Nature Center, Pennington.

Check our Web site often www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/aquawild.htm for upcoming workshop opportunities including:

Discovering NJ's Herptiles – April 29, at Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education, Waretown.

Ocean County Environmental Educators Roundtable – April 28, 4 -8 p.m. at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education, Waretown.

Green Eggs & Sand: the Horseshoe Crab/Shorebird

Curriculum — May 7, at the Wetlands Institute, Stone Harbor. Spawning survey on Friday night is optional. Also, the big three-day workshop will be held May 20-22 in Smyrna, Del. For more information, call or e-mail Sue Canale.

Sedge Island Teacher Workshops --Aug. 10-12. If you can't get a group together, no problem. We're offering open enrollment dates again this summer.

Stream Ecology Teaching Trunk Workshops are being offered March 9 in Morris County and April 19 in Hunterdon County to formal and informal teachers. Learn how to incorporate hands-on stream lessons and field lessons into your curriculum, and get your students outdoors. The workshops are offered by North Jersey RC&D. For workshop details and registration information, visit www.northjerseyrcd.org.



Joyful news:

PW Coordinator Liz Jackson welcomed a new son, Coby Hunter Jackson-Singleton, born October 31, 2004. Liz is now on leave and plans to return in March. Until then, please contact Mim Dunne regarding any WILD or WSS-related matters.

2005 Watershed Stewards Leadership Weekend

Teams of five students and their advisors will be ready for anything when they arrive at this year's New Jersey Watershed Stewards Leadership Conference being held March 11-13 at the New Jersey School of Conservation.

During the weekend conference, students learn to work together through team building and leadership activities and participate in a series of workshops designed to enhance their understanding of water topics. The weekend culminates with the development of an action plan for a water-related project to be completed during the school year. Past projects include stream cleanups, native landscaping to attract wildlife and community education outreach campaigns.

Empowered, confident and more knowledgeable, the student teams finish the weekend with all the tools they need to execute their projects.

Teacher-advisors learn how to help guide their school's Watershed Steward Team toward the successful completion of their project. Stipends for teacher advisors also are awarded during the conference.

Space is limited, so teams are advised to sign up early.

Water festivals make a big splash with students

For a fun, hands-on way to spark students' interest in learning about the wonders of water, consider having a water festival at your school.

A one- or two-day event, the water festival features music, games, contests, demonstrations, skits, murals and other creative activities. It engages students in structured learning stations that include a variety of topics such as hydrologic cycle, water conservation, drinking water, water purification, water quality, wetlands, watershed management, properties of water and wastewater management, among others. The water festival also offers schools a unique opportunity to partner with local water-resource organizations, community groups, local businesses, parents and government officials.

Last September, three schools in New Jersey ran Water Festivals to promote water awareness among their students. Memorial School in Cinnaminson, Moorestown Upper Elementary School in Moorestown and Hannah Caldwell Elementary School in Union all offered programs that reached between 200 and 400 students at each site.

For more information on water festivals, including how to plan and conduct one at your school, contact Amy Messeroll and Jim Merritt at NJWET@dep.state.nj.us or call (609) 897-9400, ext. 106.

It's a tough job ... but two environmental educators are ready to do it!

New Jersey's Project WET bids a fond farewell to its long-time coordinator, Colleen Gould, who is moving to Connecticut. The time and effort Colleen devoted to Project WET is truly appreciated, and she will be sorely missed. Her friends and colleagues agree that wherever she goes and whatever she chooses to do, Colleen will achieve great things. Everyone involved with Project WET wishes her all the very best in her new endeavors.

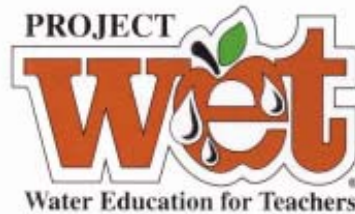
Sharing the role and responsibilities of coordinator will be Amy Messeroll and Dr. James Merritt.

Many New Jersey environmental educators know Jim from his 17-year tenure as an assistant professor at Montclair State

University's New Jersey School of Conservation. For the past four years, Jim has been serving as Program Director of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center. Jim will take on most of the administrative duties associated with Project WET's varied programs, including the professional-development and teacher-education workshops, water festivals and the Watershed Stewards Program.

Amy currently is an Educator-Naturalist for the New Jersey Audubon Society's Plainsboro Preserve. A recent graduate of Rutgers University's Cook College, Amy studied Natural Resource Management and Secondary Education for Biology through the college's Teacher Education Program. She also worked as a seasonal employee for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Endangered and Non-Game Species Program and contributed to its Landscape Project.

Jim and Amy also have devoted much of their personal time to environmental education. Both are members of the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE). Jim serves on the executive board of the New Jersey Marine Education Association, the advisory board of Cattus Island Nature Center in Toms River and is a member of Friends of Island Beach State Park. Amy has been a volunteer outdoor trainer for the Girl Scouts of Delaware Raritan for the past seven years and has spent two summers as a volunteer environmental educator at Alaska's Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. She also is a member of New Jersey's Outdoor Women's League.



**New contact info: NJ Project WET – attn: Amy Messeroll, 80 Scotts Corner Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512.
E-mail: NJWET@dep.state.nj.us Phone: (609) 897-9400, ext. 106 Fax: (609) 897-0287**

Workshop Schedule for 2005

February

- 3 Project Learning Tree for educators pre-K through 8
8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m.; \$6
Liberty State Park Interpretive Center, Jersey City
Info: (201) 915-3409; lspic@superlink.net
- 4 Project Learning Tree Winter Ecology,
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.; Free
Kittatinny Valley State Park, Newton
Info: (973) 786-6445, Lynn Groves
kitvly@warwick.net
- 6 Aquatic WILD
11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.; \$15
NJAS Plainsboro Preserve, Cranbury
Info: (609) 897-9400; njwet_messeroll@yahoo.com
- 25 Project Learning Tree Maple Sugaring
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; \$15
Stonybrook-Millstone Watershed Assoc. Office, Pennington
Info: (609) 737-7592
- 26 Project Learning Tree
10:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.; Free
Plainsboro Preserve, Cranbury
Info: (609) 897-9400, Amy Messeroll

March

- 1 Ready for Spring with MSW for middle and high school educators,
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.; Free
Egg Harbor Township
Info: (609) 272-6937, Michelle Bellinger
- 5 WILD School Sites
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; \$10
NJAS Rancocas Nature Center, Mt. Holly
Info: (609) 267-7410, Glen Ward
- 8 & 12 Aquatic WILD/Project WET
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Liberty State Park, Jersey City
Info: (201) 915-3409; lspic@superlink.net
- 9 Project Learning Tree at Greater Newark Conservancy
8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.; Free
Prudential Outdoor Learning Center, Newark
Info: (973) 642-4646; Ssieminski@citybloom.org
- 19 Aquatic WILD
\$10/\$5 ANJEE members
Liberty State Park Interpretive Center, Jersey City
Info: (201) 915-3409, Gina Provenzano
lspic@superlink.net
- 19 Project Learning Tree
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; \$10/\$5 for members

Flat Rock Brook Education Center, Englewood
Info: (201) 567-1265, Jenny Gaus

- 23 Project Learning Tree
9 a.m.- 4 p.m.; Free – includes lunch
Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area, Montville
Info: (973) 334-3130, Douglas Voroloeff
- 28 Aquatic WILD
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; \$15
Stonybrook Millstone Watershed Association
Info: (609) 737-7592; jhoagland@thewatershed.org

April

- 2 Project WET
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Trailside Nature Center, Mountainside
Info: (908) 789-3670 Ext. 226; kinzillo@ucnj.org
- 6 Project Learning Tree
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.; \$5
Wetlands Institute, Stone Harbor
Info: (609) 368-1211, Phil Broder
education@wetlandsinstitute.org
- 7 Project Learning Tree for middle & high schools
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Morris County Cultural Center, Morristown
Info: (973) 538-1557, Sheila Hall
- 7 Project WET
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; \$40
Buttinger Nature Center, Pennington
Info: (609) 737-7592; jhoagland@thewatershed.org
- 13 Project Learning Tree
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.; \$20 – includes lunch
Somerset County 4-H, Bridgewater
Info: (908) 526-6644, Rachel Bijaczyk
- 27 Project WILD
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Free
Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, Chatham
Info: (973) 635-6629
gsoec.mcpc@verizon.net
- 28 Aquatic WILD
\$10/\$5 ANJEE members
Liberty State Park Interpretive Center, Jersey City
Info: (201) 915-3409, Gina Provenzano
lspic@superlink.net

May

- 4 WILD School Sites
\$15
Great Swamp Watershed Association, Morristown
Info: (973) 538-3500 Ext. 20, Hazel England
hazele@greatswamp.org

calendar continued

- 10 Wonders of Wetlands
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; \$40
Buttinger Nature Center, Pennington
Info: (609) 737-7592; jhoagland@thewatershed.org
- 20 Project Learning Tree
9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Free
Cheesequake State Park, Matawan
Info: (732) 566-3208, Jim Faczak; cheese@superlink.net

June

- 2 Project Learning Tree
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.; Free
Spruce Run Recreation Area, Clinton
Info: (732) 833-9816, PLT Office

August

- 25 Back to School with Project Learning Tree
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.; Free
Forest Resource Education Center, Jackson
Info: (732) 833-9816, PLT Office;
njfsfrec@bellatlantic.net

October

- 26 Healthy Water Healthy People
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; \$40
Buttinger Nature Center, Pennington
Info: (609) 737-7592



By Elizabeth Faircloth, PLT Coordinator

Interested in knowing the latest information on New Jersey Project Learning Tree? If so, then visit www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/plt.html.

On our Web site, you can download an application to schedule a free in-service workshop for your school or district. Or you can get the form to reserve a Project Learning Tree Trunk for your school, class or group. Trunks can be borrowed for three weeks at no charge. Filled with posters, videos and hands-on tools, the trunks complement activities from the Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide and the *Focus on Forests* and *Forest Ecology* modules.

The Web site also offers links to the education programs at the Forest Resource Education Center, which features the Project Learning Tree Trail, Forest Discovery Trail, Sensory Awareness Trail and Forest Products Loop. Programs for school groups are scheduled in advance. For more information, call (732) 928-0987.

Each year, the Forest Resource Education Center hosts a Fall Forestry Festival and Spring Conservation Day on Saturdays for families, scouts and groups interested in the outdoors.

Mark your calendars now for Spring Conservation Day – **Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**, rain or shine. For more information, call (732) 928-2360.

The Forest Resource Education Center is located at 370 East Veterans Highway, Jackson.

“Spirit Woods: Traditional Stories and Songs of Forests and Trees”

The North Dakota Forest Service, in partnership with the North Dakota Council on the Arts, has released “Spirit Woods: Traditional Stories and Songs of Forests and Trees.” The enhanced compact disc complements many activities in the *Project Learning Tree* K-8 curriculum guide for educators and will meet the “No Child Left Behind” initiative to strengthen language arts skills.

The CD features German, Celtic, Norse and Native American stories and music about trees that will interest students and adults alike.

Cost is \$15.95 plus \$3 shipping, or purchase 10 or more CDs for \$9.85 each. To obtain a copy, contact the North Dakota Forest Service at (701) 228-5446 or Glenda.Fauske@ndsu.edu.

The CDs were partially supported with grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Northern Region’s Natural Resource Conservation Education Program.

Your school can be ‘Firewise’

New Jersey Project Learning Tree, in conjunction with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service, is offering four schools an opportunity to become the first Firewise facilities in the state. The selected schools will receive a unique educator-training workshop that combines the multi-disciplinary supplemental activities in Project Learning Tree with first-hand knowledge of wildfire threats and protection. Each school will participate in surveying its own school community to prepare a Firewise plan, which involves landscaping, building materials and preparedness. Once the plan is completed, each school will receive a Firewise trunk to further integrate Project Learning Tree within the curriculum.

Interested school officials can contact the Project Learning Tree office at njfsfrec@bellatlantic.net or call (732) 833-9816 by April 1. For more information on the Firewise program, visit www.firewise.org or the New Jersey Forest Fire Service at www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/fire/aboutus.html.



Workshop for Middle and High School Educators: Exploring Environmental Issues in the “Places We Live” and “Focus on Risk”

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

with the *Biology Teachers Association of New Jersey* at the *Forest Resource Education Center, Jackson*

Free! Includes morning refreshments and lunch

Participants in this one-day workshop will discover hands-on activities from two of Project Learning Tree's Secondary modules, including the new “Places We Live” module. This module provides opportunities for community investigations that focus on environmental, social and economic issues and help students develop and strengthen their sense of place. Designed using the constructivist philosophy, activities move them from awareness to knowledge, to challenge or consensus and, finally, to action. Activities involve social studies, geography, civics, language arts, civics, health and science concepts and include case studies, instruction, and technology enhancements. One of the featured case studies spotlights the New Jersey Pinelands.

The Exploring Environmental Issues: “Focus on Risk” module provides educators with a series of activities to help students learn the rationale for and the mechanics of risk assessment, risk management and risk communications. Activities provide students with a framework through which they can apply scientific processes and higher-order thinking skills to environmental issues. The module focuses on developing skills in problem solving, decision making, inquiry and communication. Activities examine risk in our daily lives, human health and the environment.

To register, contact the Project Learning Tree Office at (732) 833-9816 or njfsfrec@bellatlantic.net.

The Forest Resource Education Center is located off Route 527 in Jackson, easily accessible from Exit 21 off I-195

(Exit 7A of the NJ Turnpike and Exit 98 from the Garden State Parkway). Follow signs to the Forest Resource Education Center Interpretive Center. Situated on 670 acres in the New Jersey Pinelands, the center has ample parking, comfortable classrooms and new exhibit space.

It's a great place to shop

The Project Learning Tree Store is stocked with more than 15,000 nature-related products including PLT educational resources, classroom kits and activities, A/V and software, a huge selection of nature-oriented children's books, field and nature guides and much more. You can order with a credit card directly from the PLT online storefront or download a fax/mail-in form to order by check or purchase order. To inquire about alternate ordering terms, call (800) 780-9986.

Enter discount code PLT discount to receive 10 percent off products, excluding optics.

Energy and Society kits available to borrow

Through a grant with the National Project Learning Tree Office, New Jersey can loan 20 Energy and Society kits to interested educators throughout the state. The kits contain an award-winning music compact disc by Billy B that uses song to connect Project Learning Tree activities with energy concepts. Each kit also includes a dance video using the Billy B songs and a set of Energy and Society posters with an activity guide. Contact the New Jersey PLT Office to locate an Energy and Society kit near you. Kits also can be purchased at www.plt.org.

Discover NJ's reptiles and amphibians at teacher workshops

By *Maria DuBois*

Two teacher-training workshops, featuring a special resource package on New Jersey's reptiles and amphibians, will be presented this spring by the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey.

The Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey Resource Package, a comprehensive teacher's guide available both in hardcover and compact disc, is filled with photos, illustrations and 10 innovative lesson plans and activities for students in grades 5-9. This curriculum offers the same tools citizen volunteers use when they work alongside state biologists to document the diversity of New Jersey's snakes, lizards, turtle, toads, frogs and salamanders.

The workshops will be held April 29 at The

Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education in Waretown and May 21 at Hackettstown Hatchery's Natural Resource Education Center in Hackettstown. Inside the classroom and out in the field, research biologists will offer guidance, insight and natural history information about New Jersey's herptiles. Students will earn six professional development credits.

Cost for the workshop is \$40 per teacher and includes *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey*; *A Field Guide to Salamanders, Frogs & Toads of New Jersey's Vernal Pools*; *A CD of Calls of NJ Frogs & Toads* and the curriculum guide *Teaching Students about New Jersey Reptiles and Amphibians in the Field and Classroom*.

For more information or to register, contact (609) 984-0621 or maria.dubois@dep.state.nj.us. The workshops are presented in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish & Wildlife's Endangered & Nongame Species Program.



Fish Art and Writing Contest

Open to students in grades 4 through 8

The Artwork

- Submit a drawing of any New Jersey fish in acrylics, watercolors, oil, oil pastels, crayons or ink.
- Artwork must be original.
- The fish must be depicted in its habitat.
- The finished size should be 8 x 10 inches.
- Entries will initially be judged on the artwork.
- Entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 11, 2005.

The Biography

- A written biography of the fish in the artwork must accompany the picture.
- The biography must include where in New Jersey the fish is found, its habits, habitat, any other kind of ecological information about the fish and whether it has any recreational or commercial value.
- Biographies should be one page or 500 words, preferably typed.
- Biographies will be judged after a selection of potential winners from each group has been chosen.

The Winners

- There will be first and second place winners in each of the following categories: 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade, 7th grade and 8th grade.
- Each winner will receive an engraved plaque and fishing equipment.
- The winners will also be invited to the Pequest Trout Hatchery for a VIP tour and awards ceremony sponsored by Trout Unlimited.
- Winners will be able to fish at the Pequest Fishing Education Pond on the opening day of trout season on Saturday, April 9, 2005.

Entries must include the student's name, home address, home telephone number, grade and school. Mail the entries to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Fish Art and Writing Contest
605 Pequest Road
Oxford, NJ 07863

Reel in a grant to start fishing education

Grants providing up to \$5,000 are available to physical education teachers interested in establishing a fishing and/or boating education program in their school. Grant recipients will attend a three-day Physical Education Grants Training Workshop to be held July 18 – 22 in Utah. Travel to and from the workshop will be included in the grant award. Room and board will be covered by the Future Fisherman Foundation.

The grant is open to all K-12 physical education who are members of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Applications for the 2005-2006 school year are due March 4, 2005. For more information on the grants and an application, visit the Future Fisherman Foundation at www.futurefisherman.org/pegrant.

Meet physical education standards

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) has developed standards for physical education that can be met through fishing education that include the following:

- Understand that physical activity provides opportunity for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and social interaction.
- Demonstrate competency in many movement forms and proficiency in a few movement forms.
- Applies movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills.
- Exhibits a physically active lifestyle.

Preparing for a fishing education program

Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center is a great place to learn about our aquatic resources and how to fish. Along with offering monthly fishing programs from April to October, Pequest serves as host to the Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs (HOFNOD) instructor training held several times a year. HOFNOD can help create a meaningful fishing education program in your school. So sign up for a class today!

Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com for a list of programs. After students learn the basic skills for fishing and know more about aquatic resources, schedule a trip to Pequest for a hands-on fishing experience they will never forget. All of the Pequest programs are free.

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish & Wildlife
605 Pequest Road
Oxford, New Jersey 07863

Richard J. Codey, Acting Governor
Bradley M. Campbell, DEP Commissioner

Facilitators: Please send your updated contact information including e-mail address to: miriam.dunne@dep.state.nj.us



www.njfishandwildlife.com
Log on today and sign up
for our *education listserve!*



Want the latest EE news?
See SEEDS: www.state.nj.us/dep/seeds

Curriculum guide focuses on peregrine falcons

By Maria DuBois

The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ has an exciting way to teach students about the world's fastest animal and one of New Jersey's endangered species: the peregrine falcon.

The Peregrine Project is a comprehensive curriculum guide for elementary school teachers that features 23 multidisciplinary lesson plans and activities that cover birds in general, urban wildlife, birds of prey and, finally, peregrine falcons.

Using New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, three second-grade teachers from Jersey City's Cornelia F. Bradford School developed the guide. The school is located near 101 Hudson Street, where a pair of peregrine falcons has nested on the roof for several years.

Last January, the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ partnered with the school to help raise awareness about the peregrine falcon. The second graders learned about peregrine falcons through reading, writing, science and art, using the Internet and the library for their research. A webcam installed near the nest enabled the children to observe the adult peregrines and their behavior as they

cared for their newly hatched chicks. The second graders kept journals on the peregrine falcon family and other wildlife they encountered every day. They lined the school hallways with pictures, articles and artwork on peregrine falcons.

Teacher workshops on The Peregrine Project are scheduled on Feb. 8 and 10, from 3:15–5:30 p.m. at the Newark Teachers Union in Newark. Cost of the workshop, being held in partnership with the Greater Newark Conservancy, is \$20 and includes the curriculum guide and assorted handouts. For more information or to register, call the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ at (609) 984-0621.

For more information about The Peregrine Project curriculum or to download your copy, visit www.conservewildlifenj.org/edu.html. If you would prefer to receive a copy by mail, call the Conserve Wildlife Foundation. A small shipping and handling fee may apply. Also visit the webcam at www.njfishandwildlife.com/peregrinecam/.