



Projects Learning Tree, WILD and WET: Providing Support for NJ's Classroom Standards AND the State's Science Assessment

Environmental education employees of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) already knew that dozens of lessons from Projects Learning Tree (PLT), WILD and WET (Water Education for Teachers) provide direct support for progress indicators in the state's revised Core Curriculum Content Standards. We were pleased to learn that many of these lessons also provide strong support for questions being posed to students on the state science assessments (NJ ASK, GEPA and HSPA).

Educators who have the most recent versions of the PLT, WILD and WET activity guides on hand can now go online and see exactly which progress indicators AND test questions are supported by each of the lessons in the Projects. The new "correlation matrixes" for each of the Project activity guides are currently posted at the web site and the site will feature a searchable database for all Project lessons combined, by the end of the school year. We encourage you to check out DEP's new web site for the Projects frequently by visiting www.teachnjenv.org.

The correlation exercise, which meant matching each lesson's individual learner objectives with the progress indicators (in all subjects) and the science assessment questions that they directly related to or supported, was a tedious and demanding process. However, in 2006 DEP partnered with the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) and was fortunate to receive a grant from the national Environmental Education Training Partnership for this correlation "exercise."

In an effort to save money on postage and printing, we would like to make *Branching Out* an online document. If you wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please send your email address to Marc.Rogoff@dep.state.nj.us.

The DEP environmental education staff are grateful to the following educators (all familiar with one or more of the Project activity guides) who assisted with this project and who contributed greatly with their expertise, training, time, teamwork and overall passion for environmental education. They are:

Francesca Angiuoli
Susan Bartol
Beverly Dezan
Karen Lund
Ryan McCrea
Carmen Pirotte
Jerry Schierloh
Jennifer Troast

Department staff are also grateful to Mr. Mike Heinz, State Science Coordinator for DOE, for his generous assistance with our training, research and grant preparation needs.

Projects Learning Tree, WILD and WET were introduced in New Jersey beginning in the mid-1980s and have since been introduced to thousands of New Jersey educators through one-day professional development workshops. Each Project features activity guides that contain dozens of lessons and content information that can be adopted for use with students in pre-school through the secondary grades. The lessons have been developed, field tested, evaluated and revised by teachers, education and natural resource specialists throughout the United States. New Jersey's Project activity guides are supplemented by content information about New Jersey natural resources and related environmental issues.

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Put a Little Spring into Your Classroom

By Carmen Pirotte

Each spring, our natural surroundings experience a rebirth. As the Earth's axis tilts toward the Sun, the number of daylight hours increase. When the red-dyed alcohol in the thermometer creeps upward, it's easy to fall into a false sense of security and be lured into thinking it's time to pack away winter clothes.

Don't be fooled by unseasonably warm weather only to wave your fist skyward when the thermometer readings once again plummet and return to their rightful position. The tug-of-war between winter and spring is an important transition time for organisms and the nonliving facets on which they depend. The freeze-thaw cycle is needed to work rocks through the soil to the surface to loosen up the soil. This mechanical weathering of rocks frees minerals to nourish the soil. If cold snaps didn't return, fruit trees and bulbs would bloom before their time.

Take advantage of this eternal struggle and take the kids outside. With your guidance, your students will witness Mother Earth wipe the sand from her eyes and awaken from her much needed and deserved rest.

By teaching basic principles of ecology, your observations and activities will cover components of Life and Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Language Arts, Visual Arts, Social Studies and World Languages. When your students understand the basic principles of ecology, they should be able to apply them in their everyday lives. They will be able to appreciate the various roles of organisms within their respective ecosystems and understand how the presence of humankind is linked with the success or demise of other living creatures. They should be able to realize that the quality and quantity of an ecosystem's nonliving components is also under our care.

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Flora & Fauna of the Season

Northern Spring Peeper
(Pseudacris crucifer crucifer)

Spring Peepers are heralds of the changing season from winter to spring. These pinky-nail-sized amphibians are only 3/4 to 1 3/8 inches long, and are very abundant state-wide. They are marked by a dark-colored 'X' on their back with a ground color of olive, brown, gray, or yellow. This NJ native treefrog has round toe pads, with relatively little webbing between the toes. They inhabit a variety of wetland habitats and breed in almost any body of fresh water from early March through May. Males will also call on warm, rainy days outside of the breeding season. Their high pitched *peep, peep, peep*, sounds like a chirpy whistle and can be deafening when a full chorus of hundreds of individuals are present.



John Bunnell



© William S. Justice

Eastern Skunk Cabbage
(Symplocarpus foetidus)

Skunk Cabbage is a low growing, foul smelling plant that flowers in the early spring. Pushing it's way through the snow-covered forest floor, this NJ native herbaceous plant can be found state-wide in diverse wetland habitats. Its name is derived from its skunk-like odor. Simply rip a fresh leaf to release its pungent scent. While not considered edible to humans, the plant is a popular favorite of black bears waking from their winter slumber.

A unique function of the plant is its ability to produce heat created by cellular respiration of up to 10 degrees C in order to melt its way through the frozen ground.

It is thought possible that Eastern Skunk Cabbages may be able to live for hundreds of years. They reproduce by hard, pea-sized seeds which fall in the mud and are carried away by animals or by floods.

Courtesy: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Skunk_Cabbage

WILD About... Project **WILD**



ADVANCED CONSERVATION EDUCATION FOR FORMAL EDUCATORS

The Hackettstown Natural Resource Education Center is offering hands-on *advanced training* in Project WILD for 4-12 grade educators. The goal of this series is to promote conservation education while helping to prepare teachers to dig deeper into using the environment as a context for learning.

The Saturday sessions are 4 hours and professional development credit will be given. Participating teachers are encouraged to lead a similar outdoor experience with their students either at the field center free of charge or on school grounds. Those who participate in at least one training **and** lead their class session will be invited to a **free** educational overnight experience at the Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center in Barnetgat Bay scheduled June 22-23, 2007 (Rain or Shine). SPACE IS LIMITED!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Session fee is \$20, \$15 for ANJEE members or if you sign up for two or more sessions. For a full description, see www.teachnjenv.org. To register contact Liz at (908) 637-4125.

8: 30 am & 1:00 pm - April 28

Homing in on Habitat - through select classroom and field activities from Project WILD and Science and Civics, learn to identify and appreciate the key elements of habitat that sustain wildlife species.

8: 30 am & 1:00 pm - April 28

An Introduction to Feathered Friends - This session investigates basic bird physiology, introduces the concept of field marks and guides participants into basic birding practices. Bring your own binoculars and field guides.

8: 30 am & 1:00 pm - May 19

Stuff of Life - a 'short-course' on the distinctive qualities that make water the amazing 'life-support' substance that it is.

8: 30 am & 1:00 pm - May 19

Soil 101: Not Just Another 4-Letter Word - Learn about the often overlooked but essential part of our environment- soil.

8: 30 am & 1:00 pm - June 2

Soil 201: Managing and Conserving the Soils - Basic soil science concepts are applied by investigating how human activity tends to degrade or reduce the quality of soils.

8: 30 am & 1:00 pm - June 2

Endangered & Threatened Species - Join us to learn about how to use NJ's rare wildlife and their habitats to connect students to their local environment.

8: 30 am & 1:00 pm - June 9

All About Herps - Come and learn how to document the diversity of New Jersey's snakes, lizards, turtles, toads, frogs, and salamanders.

8: 30 am & 1:00 pm - June 9

Cultural Carrying Capacity - This session explores wildlife population dynamics, factors related to conservation and challenges facing natural resource managers.

New Jersey's Project WILD program was introduced in 1984. An estimated 3,300 educators have since been trained to use the materials with their students.
We would like to know how we're doing!

As part of an effort to evaluate the Project WILD program, there will be an online assessment form at www.teachnjenv.org starting April 1, 2007. Just follow the links for *Project WILD Survey*. The purpose of the assessment is to: 1) clarify by whom and how the program is being used; 2) suggest programmatic changes such as implementation strategies or target audience; 3) determine if the program meets the agency's mission and goals; and 4) determine how we may better serve constituents.

The survey is intended for individuals who have taken a Project WILD workshop, regardless of how long ago. It will take about 10 minutes to complete. It is our goal to provide feedback on the survey in mid-fall of 2007. The results will be posted at the above website address.

We would prefer that you complete the digital version of the survey online. However, if you would like to receive a paper version of the survey, please contact Liz at (908) 637-4125.



Suggested Springtime Activity

My Kingdom for a Shelter
students inventory winter shelters found on school grounds, then identify and describe the materials and techniques used by the wild animal to construct them.

NJCCS: 1.2.6.D.1,3; 1.2.8.D.1,2; 3.1.5.H.8; 3.1.6.H.6;
3.3.5.A.1,5; 3.3.5.D.5; 3.3.6.A.2,5; 3.3.6.D.5; 3.3.7.A.2,7;
3.3.7.D.2; 3.3.8.A.2,7; 3.3.8.D.2; 3.4.5.A.1; 3.4.6.A.1;
3.4.7.A.1; 3.4.8.A.1; 5.1.8.A.4; 5.1.8.C.2; 5.4.6.B; 5.4.8.B.1;
5.10.6.A.1; 5.10.8.B.1; 6.6.8.E.4

April showers bring...Vernal Pools???

Many of us have heard the saying "April showers bring May flowers." But did you know April showers also help sustain life in a unique wetland habitat known as a vernal pool?

Vernal pools are usually temporary shallow, natural or man-made depressions, with no permanent above-ground outlet, that holds water for two consecutive months. The "pool" is formed during the spring months --vernal: meaning spring-- when the confined depressions are filled with rain and snowmelt. In the northeast, vernal pools can be present throughout the fall months as well. They can be very small to more than an acre in size.



During the spring, vernal pools provide vital habitat for an array of organisms, including rare and endangered animals and plants. Living in the water the most notable inhabitants are daphnia and fairy shrimp, which are often used as an indicator species to decisively define a vernal pool. Amphibians, such as the wood frog and marbled salamander, and invertebrates, such as the dragonfly, use these pools to carry out their breeding cycle. Vernal pools are an ideal breeding location because during the summer months they will dry up completely or have extremely shallow levels of water. This makes them an unsuitable habitat for fish. Thus, by definition, vernal pools are devoid of fish to allow the safe development of natal amphibian and insect species. Vernal pools, however, are not just for breeding; they also provide shelter and food for many species of amphibians, insects, reptiles, and other wildlife.

Flora commonly found at vernal pools include yellow pansies, several sweet-scented clovers, yellow and multi-colored monkeyflower; *Amianthium muscitoxicum* - gray flypoison; *Zigadenus* species; *Achillea* species - yarrow; and threatened and endangered species such as *Lupinus perennis*, commonly known as sundial lupine shown left.

Did you know... a single spring peeper's call can be heard from 600 yards away!

10th Annual Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable

April 25, 2007, 3:30-8:00 PM at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education, Waretown, NJ

This year's Roundtable offers a variety of NEW programs, including hands-on and interactive activities, such as "Creating a Field Guide to Your School Yard" and "Living the Life of Limulus." Also field trips are offered as well, including "Estuarine Adventure-Boating for Birds" and "Vernal Pond Monitoring." All classes and activities help teachers to incorporate watershed topics into their curricula. This year's guest speaker is Jane Kirkland, author of Take a Walk series and renowned speaker. A registration form is available at <http://www.ocscd.org/2007rtprogram.pdf>. For more information call (609) 971-7002.

Green Eggs & Sand Workshop May 18-20, 2007 at Mallard Lodge, Smyrna, DE

Join educators from Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey for this interactive workshop which delves into the ecological connections between horseshoe crabs and shorebirds, and the dilemmas encountered in managing this multi-interest resource. Not only will you learn from the experts, but also you'll get to join them on a horseshoe crab spawning survey, dig for horseshoe crab eggs and scan for shorebirds. At the end workshop you will receive the Green Eggs and Sand curriculum pack, which is designed for middle and high school students. A registration form is available at <http://njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2007/geas07.pdf>. Deadline for registration is March 31. For more information, contact Gary Kreamer at (302) 653-2882 x114 or send email to gary.kreamer@state.de.us

Suggested Springtime Activity

Puddle Wonders

students compare the depth, area, volume and species accumulation of a puddle to a vernal pool; then discuss why there would be differences or similarities between the two.

NJCCS: 5.1.8.A2; 5.1.8.B1,3; 5.3.8.B1; 5.3.8.D1,2; 4.1.5.A1; 4.1.6.A1; 4.1.7.A1,3; 4.1.8.A1,3; 4.2.5.D1,2,4; 4.2.6.D1,5; 4.2.7.E1; 4.2.8.E1,3; 4.3.5.C1; 4.3.6.B1; 4.3.6.C1; 4.3.6.D1; 4.3.7.C1; 4.3.8.C1; 4.4.5.A1,3; 4.4.6.A1; 4.4.8.A1,2; 4.5.5.A1-3; 4.5.6.A1-3; 4.5.7.A1-3; 4.5.8.A1-3; 4.5.6.C3,4; 4.5.7.C3,4; 4.5.8.C3,4; 4.5.5.E3; 4.5.6.E3; 4.5.7.E3; 4.5.8.E3

NJ Forest Fire Trunks Now Available

These new Forest Fire trunks are packed with resources to integrate forest fire education in the classroom. Trunks include books, cd's, lesson plans, and supplies to make a "match-stick forest" to demonstrate wildfire behavior with students. Each trunk also includes a resource binder for the educator with activities organized by grade level. Materials are suitable for elementary, middle and high school students. With questions, or to locate the Forest Fire Trunk near you, please call (732) 833-9816.

2007 Workshops for Urban Middle and High School Educators

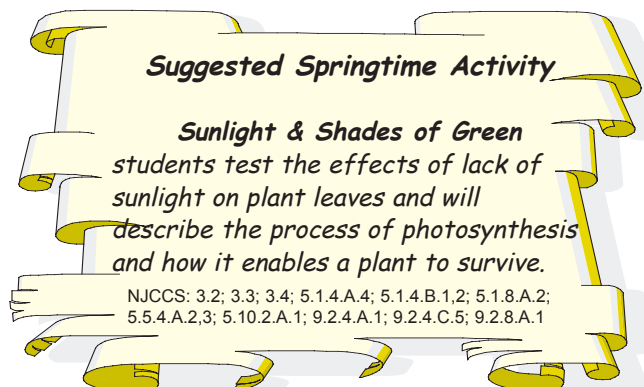
June 8, 2007 from 9 am to 3 pm; *FREE* & includes lunch. Atlantic County Utilities Authority, Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township

July 18, 2007 from 9 am to 3 pm; *FREE* & includes lunch Liberty State Park Interpretive Center, Freedom Way, Jersey City

These workshops will introduce educators to the Project Learning Tree secondary modules on Risk and Municipal Solid Waste. Each workshop participant will receive copies of the module, as well as supplementary materials to implement the activities in the classroom. These workshops are open to formal and non-formal educators who work in urban areas and wish to incorporate hands-on environmental education. Project Learning Tree materials are all correlated to the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards, and encourages problem solving skills as well as critical thinking.

These workshops are sponsored by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency through EETAP (Environmental Education Training Partnership).

Workshops are free, but advance registration is required. Please contact the Project Learning Tree office at (732) 833-9816 or e-mail: Elizabeth.Faircloth@dep.state.nj.us to register.



Project Learning Tree's 30th Anniversary

"We've been around for 30 years, but we are not 30 years old," stressed PLT Director Kathy McGlaulin. "The program continues to learn and grow to meet changes in education and in environmental issues." In fact, a major revision of the curriculum was completed in late 2005 to address such 21st-century challenges in education, for example, new technology and differentiated instruction, as well as environmental issues such as energy demand and global warming.

PLT was developed by two organizations: the Western Regional Environmental Education Council (now a national program called the Council for Environmental Education) and the American Forest Institute (now the American Forest Foundation). "PLT is unique because it represents the work of education and resource management professionals working together to do something important for kids," said Rudy Schafer, former environmental education staff specialist for the California Department of Education and one of PLT's creators.

In 1976, just over 3,000 educators attended PLT workshops. By 2005, that number had grown to about 25,000 annually, or more than 500,000 adults trained in how to use PLT over the life of the project, including. The overwhelming majority who attend a workshop use the materials with students. Although the exact figure is not known, literally millions of children have, as a PLT saying goes, "learned how to think, not what to think" through exposure to PLT.

Lou Iozzi, professor emeritus at Rutgers University and past-chair of the PLT Education Operating Committee, noted that an evaluation of PLT, conducted in the 1990s, was the first in-depth national evaluation of an environmental education program. "We showed that we could justifiably make the claim that PLT brought tremendous value to students," he said.

"School budgets are getting squeezed," he added. "A good thing about PLT is that it is useful in a lot of settings. It's a proven program that is inexpensive and easy to implement."

In addition to the American Forest Foundation, the current 15 national sponsors range from the Earth & Sky Radio Series to the Rainforest Alliance to the U.S. Forest Service.

Miscellaneous...

Trail Exploration Day at the Forest Resource Education Center

June 2, 2007 from 8:30 am to 1 pm
Rain or Shine. FREE!

Guided hikes will include the Sensory Awareness Trail, FireWise Trail, Forest Discovery, Bluebird, Swamp Life and Forest Products. Open to the public, this event is great for scouts, families, and anyone who enjoys being outdoors. For more information, check out: www.njforestrycenter.org

Find out what's happening with National Project Learning Tree - sign up for the electronic newsletter "The Branch". Published quarterly, back issues are archived online. To register, go to www.plt.org and scroll down to "The Branch".

Did you know black bears are not "true hibernators"?

Torpor is a state of *regulated* hypothermia lasting for periods ranging from just a few hours to several months. Animals that go through torpor include small birds like hummingbirds and some small mammals. During the active part of their day, these animals maintain normal body temperature and activity levels, but their body temperature drops during a portion of the day (usually night) to conserve energy. Torpor is often used to help animals survive in a cold climate when food is scarce, since it allows the organism to save the amount of energy that would normally be used to maintain a high body temperature. Black bears, although thought of as "true hibernators", enter a state of torpor where their body temperatures lower along with respiration and heartbeat. However, they do not decrease as significantly as most other hibernating animals. Animals such as groundhogs, chipmunks, some bats and jumping mice enter a **true state of hibernation** for the duration of the winter.

Project Learning Tree Store Discount

The Project Learning Tree Store at the PLT web site www.plt.org is stocked with over 15,000 nature-related products, including PLT educational resources to bring activities to life in your classroom. Use the discount code: *PLTdiscount* to receive 10% off any products in the storefront, excluding optics. There is no expiration date or limit for the use of this code. You can order directly from the site with a credit card, or call 1-800-780-9986 to ask about alternate ordering terms.



GreenWorks Grants Available

PLT is expanding its GreenWorks! service-learning program! This year, \$100,000 will be awarded to schools and youth organizations for environmental neighborhood improvement projects that involve youth with their community. Grants up to \$5,000 are available. This amount will be awarded to a select number of proposals of greater scope and reach. These projects are allowed to be implemented over a period of two years and must incorporate a PLT professional development training workshop for other educators or youth leaders. Most projects will be funded at \$1,000 or below and must be completed within twelve months.

PLT will sponsor two rounds of GreenWorks! grants. The first deadline for applications is April 30, 2007. There will be a second funding cycle in the Fall. That deadline is October 31, 2007.

Visit the GreenWorks! section of the web site at www.plt.org for grant guidelines and an application. Sample projects include, but are not limited to, outdoor classrooms and gardens, habitat restoration, watershed improvement, recycling and energy conservation projects.

Suggested PLT Activities:

- #42 Sunlight and Shades of Green
- #65 Bursting Buds
- #61 The Closer You Look
- #84 The Global Climate*

**This activity is in the revised 2007 edition of the PreK-8 Guide.*

Educators who have attended a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop in the past can now order PLT's new PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide directly from PLT for \$29.95, plus \$7.95 shipping and handling. The guide's newest features--reading connections, technology connections, differentiated instruction, and assessment strategies--help educators bring the environment into the classroom and still meet today's standards. The 480-page guide contains 96 multi-disciplinary activities, each carefully designed for specific grade levels and learning objectives, and correlated to national and state standards. All activities have been updated and revised; new activities address current issues such as invasive species and climate change. Visit <http://www.plt.org/> for details.

Miscellaneous...



2007 New Jersey Envirothon

Theme: Alternative/Renewable Energy
Saturday, May 12, 2007
The Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education

The annual New Jersey Envirothon is an exciting, hands-on outdoor competition that takes place in May each year. Throughout the year, teams of high school students with their advisors study soils, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and environmental issues under the guidance of conservation partnership staff.

The Envirothon program is an effective educational tool capable of supplementing environmental education both inside and outside the classroom. Led by a volunteer advisor, teams usually meet from late autumn until spring. Teams work collaboratively to develop their knowledge of ecology and natural resource management and to practice their environmental problem-solving skills in preparation for the Envirothon competition.

To find out more about the Envirothon in New Jersey, contact Richard Belcher at (609) 633-2549 or via email to richard.belcher@ag.state.nj.us.



continued from page 2....

Your observations should begin with plants, specifically flowers. Since plants are stationary, going back for further identification is easy. Blooming times can be marked by the calendar. Certain woodland flowers must bloom while the trees are bare allowing light to reach the forest floor; others flourish in the shadows. Some herbaceous species may be easy to overlook but don't pass them by. These unappealing or seemingly lowly species serve a purpose and your curiosity to get to know them better may be rewarded with a new appreciation. Some examples include:

- Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) This plant trumpets in the new season because it's one of the first wildflowers to show itself, even in lingering blankets of snow. Take the trouble to push through a purple hood and you'll see a bumpy egg-shaped object. The protrusions are the flowers. Skunk Cabbage grows in swamps, low meadows and wet woods.
- Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) this low-growing bright yellow flower can, at first glance, be mistaken for a dandelion. The flower is smaller than the stalk, while the stalk is hairy and made of overlapping segments. The coltsfoot-shaped leaves arrive after the flowers have gone to seed. This plant grows on sterile, gravelly or muddy slopes and roadside ditches.
- Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) This nutritious plant gets its name from the jagged-edged leaves: it is "Dent-de-lion" or "lion's tooth" in French. Dandelions grow everywhere, much to the chagrin of lawn enthusiasts.

Need some "hard core" science? Spring is a great time to introduce Earth Science. The freeze-thaw cycle may assist the class with a rock hunt. Rocks hold clues to the Earth's past. Visit kettle holes, from which vernal pools form. Discuss how glaciers and other nonliving variables change Earth's land. Examine soil samples and learn how soil is formed. Discover how Earth's spinning creates night and day. Let the kids discover how shadows are formed and what their length varies throughout the day. Demonstrate how the Earth's movement around the Sun provides seasons. Talk about how the number of daylight hours verses nighttime hours reverse during winter and summer. Compare what edible plants grow at the beginning of the growing season and at the end of the growing season. Discuss which part of the growing season provides food that will nourish and last throughout winter.

Water is key in spring. Water can be in different forms in different places. The ocean's movement and beach migration shifts in spring. Fresh water in its frozen form insulates the Earth. During spring melt, water percolates into the soil, recharging our aquifers. Spring is a great time to talk about and observe weather and climate.

Enjoy the weather extremes and subtle hues of spring. Bring a camera and a sketchpad and capture inspiration. Hunker down and listen for water cascading over melting ice. Tune into the sounds of chirping and buzzing insects and pen some words to live by. Poke around and find out what goes on behind the scenes during Mother Nature's prep period. ##

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to announce its **Wildlife of New Jersey** coloring book. The coloring book is designed to engage K-8 grade students learning about a variety of wildlife habitats including wetlands, farms, forests, neighborhoods and coasts. A special section near the end of the book covers conservation efforts children can do for wildlife and the Garden State.

The coloring book is available free of charge on a first come-first serve basis for pick-up **only** at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center in Oxford, NJ. If you are interested in the coloring book, please contact Jessica Griglak at 908-637-4125 or by email at Jessica.Griglak@dep.state.nj.us.



Red-wing Black Bird
by Bob Sopchick

GET WET ON THE RIVER



Take advantage of one of two special **Project WET** workshops that will be held in Lambertville on the Delaware River aboard a working stern-wheeled steamboat. **Project WET** (Water Education for Teachers) is teaming up with **S.P.L.A.S.H.** (Student Participation in Learning Aquatic Science & History). The same **Project WET** workshop will be offered twice, to best fit educators' busy schedules. Workshop one will be held on Wednesday, May 16th – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and workshop two will be held on Saturday, May 19th – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Each workshop will include a 2 mile voyage on a replica of an 1890 steam powered stern-wheeled working steamboat and a copy of the 500-page Project WET Curriculum & Activity Guide. Educators will receive 6 Professional Development Credit Hours for completing this workshop, which will be presented by Kevin Kopp, State Project WET Coordinator.



Using this setting on the Delaware River, **S.P.L.A.S.H.** provides a unique opportunity for hands-on learning in environmental education focusing on water resources. Workshop participants will study the properties of water, the interplay of water in Earth systems, water management and the role of water in society. These topics will be introduced via cross-curricular activities including Science, Math, Social Studies and Language Arts. The activities will be correlated with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

S.P.L.A.S.H. takes you back in time to explore the river's rich history and water ecology --from George Washington's crossing the Delaware to the wildlife that inhabit the water and shores--from plankton to herons! Once a vibrant waterway for commerce, the river now supplies drinking water for 17,000,000 people and recreational opportunities for boaters, kayakers, fishermen, photographers, and artists of all ages.

S.P.L.A.S.H.

- seats 49 passengers on covered and open decks
- is US Coast Guard certified with a US Coast Guard licensed Captain and crew
- is complete with marine safety equipment
- welcomes all to visit the engine area to learn first hand about this unique steam powered vessel

For more information about **S.P.L.A.S.H.** and the Delaware River Steamboat Floating Classroom, Inc. visit their web site at www.SteamboatClassroom.org.

Project WET is a partnership with NJDEP Division of Watershed Management and Rutgers University - Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education. The cost for either of these exciting workshops is \$29.00.

To Register:

May 16, 2007, Course Code Project WET EW0501CI07

May 19, 2007, Course Code Project WET EW0501CJ07

Phone: Credit card registrations can be completed over the phone (Visa, MC or AMEX). Please contact the **Rutgers** OCPE Registration Desk at (732) 932 9271, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, M - F.

Mail: Send check, money order or purchase order (payable to: **Rutgers University**) to: Registration Desk, **Rutgers Continuing Professional Education**, 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8519. *Please be sure to include registrant's name on form of payment.*

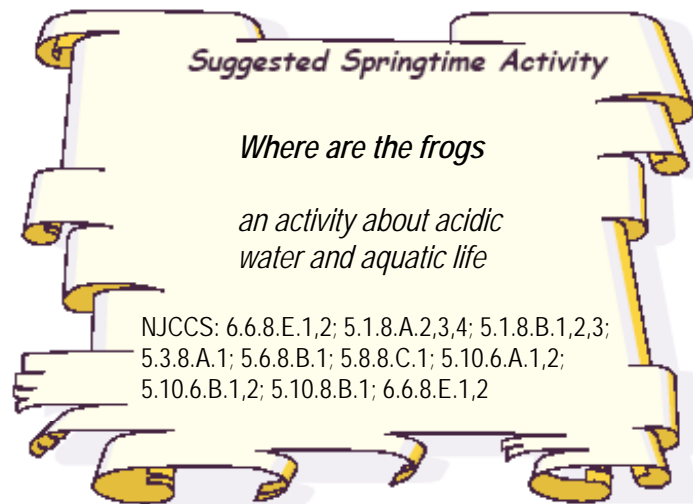
FAX: (732) 932-8726, 24 hours. Please fax a copy of check, money order or PO with fax registrations.

Internet: www.cookce.rutgers.edu (credit card payments only)

For additional information or assistance, contact Kevin Kopp at (215) 321-3930 or njwet@dep.state.nj.us or kkopp.eyes@comcast.net.



**Welcome Kevin Kopp as
NJ Project WET Coordinator**



Join us in welcoming Kevin Kopp as the new State Coordinator of Project WET. Kevin comes to us with over 25 years experience in environmental education. Kevin is a facilitator for Project WET, Project Wild, Project Aquatic Wild and Project Learning Tree. He has also developed "Project" like day long workshops based on the three curriculum guides developed by Population Connection.

Kevin founded Environmental Education Youth Services, an environmental education consulting service in 2003. Since then he has done work for Isles, Inc., The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, The Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Silver Lake Nature Center, The Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, City Smiles, and Trees for Trenton. This work included teacher training, curriculum writing, auditorium programs, environmental education field trips, and environmental music programs.

Kevin received his Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education and his New Jersey Teaching Certificate from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) in 1978. After completing his Masters Degree in Environmental Studies at Montclair State College he worked as a Naturalist and Educator at Washington Crossing State Park, Somerset County Environmental Education Center and the Philadelphia Zoo. In 1993 Kevin joined Isles, Inc., a community development non-profit organization, in Trenton. In all of these positions, Kevin honed his skills in environmental education, natural history, program coordination, curriculum writing, program development, and teacher training. In 2003, Kevin received the Outstanding Environmental Educator from the Alliance for New Jersey for Environmental Education.

Kevin is looking forward to putting his skills and experiences to work building on the past success of the programs associated with Project WET. This includes increasing the number of groups participating in the New Jersey Watershed Stewards Program and the number of Elementary Schools conducting "Make A Splash" Water Festivals. Kevin anticipates continuing and strengthening the relationship with current Project WET facilitators and enlisting additional enthusiastic individuals to become facilitators. He is also looking for schools and nature centers that want to host a workshop based on either the basic Project WET Activity Guide or one of the other activity guides published by Project WETUSA, namely **WOW! Wonders of Wetlands, Conserve Water and Health Waters, Healthy People.**

Kevin is a resource available to you as you continue your efforts to educate and excite people to learn and take action on behalf of our precious water resources. Kevin can be reached at (215) 321-3930 or by e-mail to njwet@dep.state.nj.us or kkopp.eyes@comcast.net.

April 28 Project Learning Tree
9 am to 3 pm; FREE
Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, Princeton
Stephanie Fox (609) 924-5705

May 4 WOW! Wonders of Wetlands Workshop
Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, Chatham
9 am – 3 pm; \$10 – Includes WOW! Guide
(732) 932-9271

May 5 Wild School Sites
Hackettstown Natural Resource Education Center
\$10; 908-637-4125; Liz.Jackson@dep.state.nj.us

May 8 Project Aquatic Wild
9 am - 3 pm, \$15
Buttinger Nature Center in Pennington
(609) 737-7592

May 9 Project WILD
Great Swamp Outdoor Ed. Center, Chatham
9 am to 3 pm; \$10
Jenny Gaus (973) 635-6629

May 10 Project WET (K-12)
Middlesex Water Company, Iselin
9 am-3 pm FREE includes WET Guide & lunch
(732) 634-1500 ext. 281

May 11 Project WET
South Branch Watershed Association, Flemington
9 am to 3 pm; \$25 includes lunch and WET Guide
Nicole Rahman (732)782-0422 x 14

May 18 Project WET
Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, Boonton
9 am – 3 pm, \$10 – Includes WET Educator's Guide
(732) 932-9271

May 16 or 19 Project WET (K-12)
Steamboat S.P.L.A.S.H. Lambertville
9 am-3 pm \$29. includes WET Educators' Guide,
lite breakfast & Steamboat ride
(215) 321-3930

May 16 Project WILD
Somerset county Ted Blum 4-H Center
\$25/lunch included
bijaczyk@co.somerset.nj.us 908-526-6644

May 19 Project Aquatic Wild
Great Swamp Outdoor Ed. Center, Chatham
9 am to 3 pm; \$10
Jenny Gaus (973) 635-6629

May 31 WOW! Wonders of Wetlands
Trailside Nature and Science Center, Mountainside
9 am to 3 pm; \$35
Elisa Sanaman (908) 789-0422 x 14

June 5 Project Learning Tree
Essex County Environmental Center, Roseland
9:30 - 3:30; \$7
Kelly Wenzel (973) 228-8776

June 8 Project Learning Tree for Urban Middle and High School Educators
Atlantic County Utilities Authority
9 am to 3 pm; FREE - includes lunch
Elizabeth Faircloth (732) 833-9816

July 18 Project Learning Tree for Urban Middle and High School Educators
Liberty State Park Interpretive Center, Jersey City
9 am to 3 pm; FREE - includes lunch
Elizabeth Faircloth (732) 833-9816

CONTACTS

Project Aquatic WILD

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karen.leskie@dep.state.nj.us
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Nacote Creek Research Station
PO Box 418
Port Republic, NJ 08241
Phone: (609) 748-2031



Project WILD

Coordinator: Liz Jackson
ejackson@dep.state.nj.us
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Pequest Trout Hatchery and
Natural Resource Education Center
605 Pequest Road
Oxford, NJ 07863
Phone: (908) 637-4125

Project Learning Tree

Coordinator: Elizabeth Faircloth
Elizabeth.Faircloth@dep.state.nj.us
Division of Parks and Forestry
Forest Resource Education Center
370 East Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527
Phone: (732) 833-9816



Project WET

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DEP, Environmental Education Unit

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