

ANSS

The American Nature Study Society Newsletter

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President's Message

I send a big thanks to each of you who took a few minutes to complete the membership survey. More than one hundred have responded so far—a most impressive number—and we plan to share preliminary results with you in the next issue. If you didn't respond because the February 15th deadline sneaked past, we've extended it, so send it along.

This issue has two inserts. The first is a ballot for the Board of Directors, Class of 1991, and Recording Secretary. Please complete and return the ballot. Use the "write-in" spaces to volunteer or recommend someone else who you feel would enjoy working on a committee or wish to be considered for a future board position. Be sure to include your (or their) address and phone number. Past President Kathy Blanchard's Nominating Committee has selected a talented group of people dedicated to environmental education and ANSS who we feel are worthy of your endorsement and support.

The other insert was inspired by the Library of Congress which designated 1989 as the Year of the Young Reader. Preparing a bibliography of Eva Gordon Award winner's works seemed like the most appropriate way for ANSS to participate, provide a service to members, and promote ANSS to a wider audience. Eva Gordon Award Chair Louise Ritsema and Board Member Diane Wiessinger (mother of two young readers) have assembled a sampling of books from all twenty-one recipients. Please feel free to photocopy this list for use by schools, libraries, or environmental organizations in your community.

As you read this Newsletter, most of you will be enjoying the first signs of spring. This bizarre winter produced an early spring sighting in New York State on February 1st. A mourning cloak butterfly was seen flying about in the 65°F weather 45 days sooner than its normal appearance.

A Career in Environmental Education?

In the last a few issues of the ANSS Newsletter, we have run a few job announcements. This has prompted a number of inquiries about job opportunities in our profession. Some of us see job announcements from time to time, but ANSS isn't equipped to assist applicants in finding positions. We can, however, provide here some general guidelines and list some resources that provide more extensive lists of job openings.

For those recently or about to be graduated, the first big challenge is getting experience in a competitive field in which employers want experienced applicants. One way to get experience is to volunteer or take an internship at an Environmental Education facility. This will not only improve your resume, but will enable you to focus or alter your career goals. Since many jobs are civil service positions with government agencies, inquiries about forthcoming examinations should be made at county, state and federal civil service offices.

The next step is to carefully prepare a resumé. You may want to prepare more than one version with different career goals if you intend to apply for different types of positions. Then type individualized application letters explaining why you want to work at a specific facility and how your unique set of qualifications will fulfill the employer's needs.

Listed below are the names and addresses of two professional organizations that periodically publish job opportunities. Both offer subscriptions to their newsletter or job list at a rate

slightly less than their membership rate. The Natural Science for Youth Foundation is preparing a directory of environmental education facilities in the United States. It is expected to be available in August 1989 and should be a valuable resource for job seekers. Environmental Opportunities is a newsletter devoted exclusively to job listings. It is available at a single issue rate, six month and one year subscriptions.

"Opportunities"

Natural Science for Youth Foundation (NSYF)
130 Azalea Drive
Roswell, GA 30076
(404) 594-9367

"Environmental Opportunities"

Sandford Berry, Editor
Box 969
Stowe, VT 05672
(802) 253-9336

"Environmental Communicator"

North American Association for
Environmental Education (NAEE)
P.O. Box 400
Troy, OH 45373

PRESIDENT: Frank Knight/PAST-PRESIDENT: Dr. Kathleen Blanchard/PRESIDENT-ELECT: Paul Spector/CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mary D. Houts/RECORDING SECRETARY: Joy Finlay/TREASURER: Dr. John Gustafson/EDITOR, *Nature Study*: Dr. Helen Ross Russell/DIRECTORS: Michael J. Caduto, Dr. John F. Disinger, Tracy R. Kay, Harry R. Tyler, Jr., Diane Wiessinger, Joy Finlay, Anne C. Hallowell, John Kominski, Jeanette Bryant, Clifford E. Knapp, Thomas C. Wood

Calendar of Events

April 7-8 – "Science, Religion and Environmental Harmony," Eco-Justice Spring Conference, LeMoyné College Syracuse; Registration: Eco-Justice Project, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; telephone 607-255-4225 or Bill Miller, LeMoyné College, Salt Spring Road, Syracuse, NY 13224 telephone 315-445-4100.

April 7-9 – "Aspects of Adventure" will focus on the diverse issues and activities of adventure education. For information call 815-753-0205.

April 9-13 – Sierra Club Environmental Workshop for Educators, Homestead, Florida. Adults \$165; teens \$120; children \$90. Registration: Pat Suiter, P.O. Box 557953, Miami, FL 33255 or call 305-666-2906.

April 14-16 – Project Wild/Learning Tree Workshop, New Jersey School of Conservation. Call John Kirk at 201-948-4646 for details.

April 21-23 – Spring Photography Workshop at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingman's Ferry, Pa. Cost is \$99. For information call Mike DeVolder at 717-828-2319.

May 3-7 – Fourth International Earth Education Conference, Yamnuska Centre, Seebe, Alberta, Canada. For information contact: The Institute for Earth Education, Conference Registration Committee, P.O. Box 288, Warrenville, IL 60555.

May 5-7 – Field Studies in Social Studies and Outdoor Pursuits, New Jersey School of Conservation. Call John Kirk at 201-948-4646 for details.

May 5-14 – Listening to Nature Tour to Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks, led by Joseph Cornell, author of Sharing Nature with Children. For further information call 916-292-3485.

May 13 – Native American Symposium, Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingman's Ferry, PA. For information call Mike DeVolder at 717-828-2319.

May 19-21 – Outdoor Leadership and Human Relations Workshop, Taft Campus, North Illinois University, Oregon, IL. For information call 815-753-0205.

June 19-21 – "Environmental Outlook for the 1990's," National Association of Environmental Professionals, Holiday Inn (Downtown), Reno, NV. For information call Donald Van Buskirk at 505-884-0950.

June 21-July 2 – The Castles and Gardens of Ireland, The Holden Arboretum. Space is limited. For information call C.W. Eliot Paine at 216-946-4400.

June 24-30 – "ENVIRONMENT 1989: TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT," 3rd International Environmental Education Conference for Secondary Schools. For information call 312-251-8935.

June 25-July 1 – Writing workshop for environmental writers, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, VT. Registration limited. For information call 800-648-3591.

July 2-7 – National Wildlife Federation Teachers Summit, Estes,

Colorado. For more information, contact NWF at 703-790-4363.

July 15-22 – Sierra Club Environmental Workshop for Educators (West Coast). Adults \$200; teens \$185; children 7-12 years \$150. Registration: Michelle Perrault, 415-283-6683 or write: Sierra Club Executive Office, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

News Flashes

The National Wildlife Federation has published its 1989 Conservation Directory. It's the nation's most comprehensive guide to organizations, agencies, and officials involved in natural resource use and management.

This year's 331-page Directory includes an extensive listing of federal agencies, national and international organizations, statewide citizens groups, colleges and universities that offer conservation and environmental degrees. U.S. National Wildlife Refuges, Forests, Parks and Seashores, and more. Each entry includes an address, telephone number, names of the organization's officers, and a description of the organization.

The 1989 Conservation Directory can be ordered by sending your request and your payment to the National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-2266. The cost is \$15 per copy plus \$3.25 for shipping per order.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is sponsoring the Third Annual President's Environmental Youth Award national competition for grades kindergarten through 12. The purpose of the competition is to offer young people an opportunity to become an environmental force in their communities.

The competition winner and project sponsor selected in Region 5, which is comprised of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, to participate in the Annual National Awards Ceremony scheduled to be held in November 1989.

To be eligible to compete, a student or students, sponsored by an adult, must submit to U.S. EPA, Region 5, evidence of a completed project as defined in the environmental youth award application, as well as a completed application. Applications are available from U.S. EPA, Region 5, Office of Public Affairs, 230 South Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60604. Projects must be submitted not later than August 31, 1989.

For further information on how to apply, please contact Patricia Krause, Office of Public Affairs, on Tuesdays or Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Central Standard Time, at 800-572-2515 (Illinois); or 800-621-8431 (Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin).

As a result of information gathered from a nationwide market survey of 850 nature center administrators, the National Institute for Urban Wildlife has announced the formation of the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA). The goals of the association are to establish a national network of nature center administrators, promote the identity and credibility of nature centers as an educational function, and provide nature center administrators with products and services that will improve their performance on the job.

ANCA has produced the first in a series of publications titled DIRECTIONS, a digest of information identified by the market survey to be most needed by Nature Center Administrators.

For more information about this publication and/or ANCA, contact ANSS Board member Tracy Kay at 914-967-1549 or write to the Rye Nature Center, Post Office Box 435, Rye, NY 10580.

TEACHING TIPS

Neighborhood Habitat Inventory

by Dr. Darrell D. Young
Professor, Outdoor Science Education
State University of New York at Buffalo

Plants and animals are found nearly everywhere. One merely has to open one's eyes to their existence to begin to appreciate the beauty of nature. One exciting way to appreciate this beauty is through an examination of the surrounding habitat. It matters little if the habitat is urban, suburban, or rural, life is there to be examined, observed, and appreciated. Teachers can develop or enhance this appreciation by having their students embark on a habitat inventory.

A habitat inventory may be developed by a class as a whole, which might be the best approach for the lower grades, or to divide students into small groups or teams. The latter approach is more preferable with older children. Teams may be general or specific in terms of their goals, they can all canvass the entire neighborhood or be assigned a certain area to be responsible for. However divided, the team(s) should have their goals firmly fixed in their minds before venturing out exploring. The basic information that the team must always keep in mind is that each living organism, in order to survive, must have access to shelter, water, and food in that order. Therefore, a preliminary discussion of these three items should precede any field investigation. The creation of a chart similar to the following example will be useful and will help to clarify the inventory problem.

Survival Characteristics

Food	Shelter	Water
Nuts	Nests	Dew
Berries	Hollow Trees	Rain
Grass	Trees	Streams
Insects	Burrows	Ponds
etc.	etc.	etc.

This list should be as comprehensive as possible and should always be open to new additions.

At the same time as your students are out gathering this data they should be on the lookout for any kind of animal life. Data on animals should include where they were when sighted and

what it was that they were doing when seen. The time of day is also important, as animals vary greatly in their times of maximum activity.

The habitat inventory can now be expanded by the creation of another chart, which will attempt to relate each animal that has been seen to the survival characteristics listed in the first chart. Such a chart might be created to look something like the following:

Habitat Inventory Chart

_____ Season

Date _____ Time of Day _____ Temperature _____

Animal	Shelter	Water	Food
Bumblebee	Hive	Dew	Flowers

It is important to note that any one animal may have several sources of the survival characteristics. Those which do are better able to survive and this in turn allows the teacher to introduce and discuss the concepts of Adaptation and Competition.

Still other important concepts that can be introduced and carried out with this activity are those of population density, food chains, food webs, the niche, and even the study of map reading and map making.

Further suggestions: Make this an on-going seasonal activity which will allow for the discussion of migration and hibernation. And as an added aid to their field study, have your students separate themselves and sit quietly in one location for a few minutes and have them record all that they hear and see. This is a part of the activity that can be constantly repeated at different times of day or year to see what changes have occurred. An individual journal may be the result of this with information shared to all. Library assignments may also be made with each student assigned an animal which has been observed, in order that even more information can be added to the chart.

Teacher in Residence Program

The Teacher in Residence Program is designed to provide teachers of grades K-12 with an opportunity to expand their knowledge and teaching skills in the natural sciences through an intensive experience of program development and implementation. The program will provide teachers with the time and resources to develop personal interests, creative teaching ideas, or innovative techniques in a supportive atmosphere away from the demands of the traditional classroom. These gains in educational skills can be taken back to school, shared with fellow teachers, and hopefully, infused into the curriculum.

The individual selected to participate in the Teacher In Residence Program will spend a period of time during the summer developing an in-depth natural science experience of their choice. A stipend of \$450 will be awarded for this work. The teacher will then spend the week of October 16-20, 1989 in residence at The Holden Arboretum where they will "field test" their efforts with Holden's volunteer guides and by working with classes from area schools who have registered to participate in the program.

To be selected as the participating teacher, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- **Must be a full-time teacher of any grade K-12.**
- **Must have a demonstrated interest in hands-on science and a willingness to develop and share innovative approaches and techniques for teaching about the natural sciences.**
 - **Present a completed application detailing the topic to be pursued and the objectives to be accomplished.**
 - **A resume must be included with the application form.**
 - **Willing to spend a minimum of five days at The Holden Arboretum during the period of June-August, 1989 developing and refining a program of their choice.**
 - **Must have the full support of school administrator including a letter of endorsement to be sent with application.**
 - **Must be released from all school assignments for the period of the residency. School Boards will be reimbursed for substitutes up to the maximum rate of \$60 per day.**

All questions regarding the Teacher in Residence Program should be directed to Paul C. Spector, Director of Education, The Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Road, Mentor, OH 44060

(216) 946-4400. Deadline for submitting application is April 7, 1989.

Oneness with Planet Earth

In 1965, Indians of the Southwest had a priest arrested when he insisted on having the dusty area in front of their church covered with concrete, because, they claimed, by so doing he cut them off from the Great Spirit, who spoke to them through the earth when they performed their tribal ceremonial dances.

This sensitivity to the earth as the well-spring of life has been lost by many twentieth-century people. Long ago, before Roman or Greek civilizations existed, when all humankind was still foraging for food and the world's language patterns were first developing, people whose descendants would occupy Europe and India referred to themselves as "of the earth" or "earthlings." Today we have words like human, humanity, humankind, humane, and humor, and they all come to us from the ancient word for earth or soil.

We are sadly beginning to discover that in our separation from the soil by hundreds of thousands of square miles of concrete paving, we are losing our feeling of oneness with planet Earth and with its natural cycles, and we are less sensitive to the presence of a force greater than ourselves. Whether we call this force God, the Great Spirit, the Creator, or any other name, belief in it shows an awareness that we neither created the Earth nor know all the answers to its mysteries.

Excerpt from Foraging for Dinner by Helen Ross Russell. Used by permission from the author.

The Board of Directors of World Wildlife Fund and The Conservation Foundation named Kathryn S. Fuller as the president of both organizations. Fuller, who has served as executive vice president of WWF, succeeds William K. Reilly, who has been chosen by President Bush to head the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Fuller is the first woman to serve as president of a major international environmental membership organization. With 600,000 members, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is the largest private conservation group working worldwide to protect the earth's endangered species and their habitats. WWF's top priority is saving tropical forests in Latin America, Asia and Africa. The Conservation Foundation (CF) is the country's leading environmental think tank, conducting interdisciplinary policy research on emerging issues in environmental and resource management. In 1985, the two organizations formally affiliated.

American Nature Study Society

invites you to join us in promoting environmental education.

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|--|------------|
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John A. Gustafson, Treasurer—5881 Cold Brook Rd., Homer, NY 13077