

ANSS

The American Nature Study Society Newsletter

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President's Message

Earth Day 1990 will celebrate 20 years of effort towards building a safe environment and will encourage a long-term commitment to ensuring environmentally sound policies and practices. Hopefully, it will create a groundswell of support, involvement, and action towards a healthy planet that will endure long into the 21st Century.

The problems we all face and the apparent solutions sometimes seem overwhelming and beyond our reach. Yet, each of us, as individuals or as members of a community, have the opportunity to contribute in our own unique way. The methods may vary and the impacts can be measured in different ways. However, when all of the contributions are added together, visible progress is made.

As an organization, the American Nature Study Society has an opportunity and an obligation to conduct our affairs as responsible stewards of the Earth. One small step in this process is reflected in the use of recycled paper for this and subsequent issues of the newsletter. By itself, this action will not save the world, it can have a major impact on environmental quality. I encourage each of you, in your own way, to join ANSS in its effort to be an environmentally sensitive and responsible member of society.

Earth Day 1990 can launch the beginning of the "decade of the environment." It is up to each of us to ensure that this commitment and enthusiasm continues long into the future.

Editor's Note

The ANSS Newsletter henceforth will be printed on recycled paper. The Society feels that, especially during the 20th Anniversary of Earth Day, it is appropriate and necessary to make this change. For the next four issues we will be using 60% recycled paper and then will switch to 100% recycled paper, when it becomes available from our printer. The society encourages each of you as members of this and other environmental organizations to recommend the use of recycled paper products. It is my understanding from the paper industry that if we as environmentalists demand recycled paper, availability of such products will increase and prices will become more in line with non-recycled paper products.

Special Election Results

Forty-two members unanimously elected John Kominski of Flushing, Queens, New York as ANSS Vice President and Florence "Flo" Mauro as a member of the Board of Directors, Class of 1991.

The ANSS Nominations Committee reported that more ballots were coming in after the November 30 deadline and that several members had used the ballot, as suggested, to volunteer for service on one or more of both the Standing Committees (Nominating, Membership, and Awards including Gordon, Bailey and Achievement) and the Task Committees (Program, Marketing, Publications, Affiliations, Finance, Archives and Parliamentary). Any member with an interest in or questions about committee work is encouraged to write or call President Paul Spector.

Both the Nominating Committee and the electorate made excellent choices in choosing John and Flo. From his position as Assistant Director of Science in New York City's Board of Education's Curriculum and Instruction Division, John is active in the whole spectrum of public and private urban E.E. communities in New York and beyond at a time of escalating educational needs for urban-and suburbanizing North America.

John Kominski's replacement on the Board, Florence Mauro, easily bridges the gap between country and city from her position as Associate Director for Formal Education at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) in Dingmans Ferry, PA. Flo often guides inner city youngsters through their first, sometimes scary, experiences in a remote pristine area. Since PEEC often hosts ANSS meetings and workshops, we are fortunate in having a PEEC "insider" on our board who treats all of us adults with the same reassuring competence with which she treats her students.

With our special Election we solicited volunteers as well as votes and several indicated which committees they wished to help. Should you wish to pitch in, contact President Paul Spector at the Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Road, Mentor, OH 44060.



recycled paper

PRESIDENT: Paul Spector/ PAST PRESIDENT: Frank Knight/ VICE PRESIDENT: John Kominski/ CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mary D. Houts/ RECORDING SECRETARY: Joy Finlay/ TREASURER: John Gustafson/ EDITOR, *Nature Study*: Dr. Helen Ross Russell/ DIRECTORS: Jeanette Bryant, Craig Chase, Vicki Cobb, Anne C. Hallowell, Tracy R. Kay, Clifford E. Knapp, Florence Mauro, Esther Railton, John Serrano

THE WRITE STUFF, TWO

a workshop for writers and users of children's science materials

Writers, illustrators, photographers, librarians, teachers, naturalists, and naturalist professionals, amateurs and aspirants are invited to attend a workshop about science, children's books and nature at the Pocono Environmental Education Center.

"The Write Stuff, Two", offered March 23-25, 1990, is designed to bring together various professionals in the fields of art, literature, nature, photography, and publishing to share in seminars, discussions, demonstrations and hands-on workshop sessions.

Workshop sessions will include such topics as:.... Writing and Illustrating for Children's Nature/Science Books....Illustrating for Science Articles and Journals.... Photography....Freelance....Sketching....Choosing and using Children's Books....Computer Graphics....Portfolio Intensives....Selecting Proper Materials and TechniquesConnecting Artists, Illustrators, Writers and Publishers; and others.

Featured speakers include: Phyllis Marcuccio, Managing Editor for the National Science Teachers Association; John Serrao, wildlife naturalist, artist and photographer; Susan Burleigh, artist and teacher; Phyllis Busch, author; Helen Ross Russell, author; H. Wayne Trimm, Sr. Editor and Art Director of *Conservationist* Magazine, and more. The keynote speaker will be Alan Gussow, author of *Artist and the American Landscape: A Sense of Place*.

The Write Stuff, Two Workshop is co-sponsored by the American Nature Study Society, The National Science Teachers Association and the Pocono Environmental Education Center. The workshop will be held at PEEC, located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, approximately 25 miles from the point where New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania meet.

The cost for the workshop is \$99, which includes all meals, lodging, and the complete program of speakers, workshops, exhibits and special events. For more information and/or registration materials please write: PEEC, RD 2 Box 1010, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328, or call (717) 828-2319.

"Way down upon the Suwannee River?"

The American Nature Study Society (ANSS), is sponsoring a naturalist-guided exploration of the Suwannee River from April 8 to 13, 1990. The ANSS, founded in 1908, will have two of its members leading the 4 1/2 day houseboat journey. Ohio naturalist Bob Faber, and Professor of Outdoor Education, Cliff Knapp will interpret the natural history of the area.

The trip will blend wilderness adventures with the comfort of modern travel, food, and accommodations. Breakfast and dinner will be in local restaurants and sleeping will be on shore in motels. The days will be spent aboard the Naturalist Cruiser, a 40 foot houseboat, and canoeing, hiking, birding, snorkeling, artifact hunting, and learning about other aspects of the natural world.

Participants will experience vast wetlands, islands, crystal springs, and indigenous plants and animals.

The cost is \$799 for double occupancy accommodations and meals from Sunday dinner to Friday breakfast.

Calendar of Events

February 2-4 -- "Field Studies and Outdoor Pursuits," New Jersey School of Conservation. Contact Dr. Randy FitzGerald at 201-948-4646 for registration information.

February 17-20 -- Eighth Annual Residential Outdoor/Environmental Education Conference, Windy Peak Outdoor Education Laboratory School, Bailey, CO, Contact Leonard Nelson, OELS Windy Peak, Box 435, Bailey, CO 80421.

March 1-4 -- 1990 Public Interest Law Conference: Grassroots Strategies for Our Global Future, sponsored by the Land Air Water, the Environmental Law Society at the University of Oregon School of Law and the School's Western Natural Resources Law Clinic. for more information call Penny Buell or Steve Koteff at 503-686-3823.

March 17 -- Landscape Linkages and Biological Diversity: A Strategy for Survival, sponsored by the Defenders of Wildlife at the Sheraton-Denver Technical Center in Denver, CO. For registration information call Sara Vickerman 503-293-1433.

March 23-25 -- "The Write Stuff, Two," sponsored by the American Nature Study Society, The National Science Teacher's Association, and the Pocono Environmental Education Center, Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry, PA. Call 717-828-2319 for registration information.

March 30-April 1 - KARE Workshop for teachers, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry, PA. For more information call 717-828-2319.

March 30 - April 1 -- Sustainability or Economic Development: Must We Choose?, Eco-Justice Conference, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. For more information call 607-255-4225.

April 8-13 -- Teaching the Natural History of the Suwannee River Ecosystem, a three credit course sponsored by the American Nature Study Society. Call Dr. Clifford Knapp at 815-732-2111 for registration information.

April 9-13 -- 1990 Executive Leadership of Political and Social Forces in Natural Resources Shortcourse, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho. Registration is limited. Further information contact Walter Dunn at 208-885-7302.

May 18-20 -- Field Studies in Humanities and Natural Sciences, New Jersey School of Conservation. Contact Dr. Randy FitzGerald for registration information at 210-948-4646.

Juen 20-22 -- The New York Natural History Conference, The New York State Museum, Albany. For more information call 518-474-5812.

June 24-30 -- The Wildbranch Workshop in Outdoor, Natural History and Environmental Writing, sponsored by Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, Vt. For additional information call 800-648-3591.

June - August -- Ecologist Seminar Series at the W. K. Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University. Each course runs for five weeks. Contact Jan Eberhardt at 517-355-1284 for course descriptions and registration information.

TEACHING TIPS

A Place for Native American Oral Tradition in Nature Study

by Clayton Russell

A rich and diverse Native American Oral Tradition provides educators today with an introduction to the reservoirs of natural history, nature observation, and "natural" intelligence long held by the native cultures in their personal relationship with the land. While reading or acting out stories from your region, students are exposed to the details of an obligatory and ethical reciprocity with nature. By sharing these stories in a respectful fashion and setting, similar to that of an original telling, students see the need for a personal relationship with the Earth, based on respect-- a human-to-land ethic.

The Oral Tradition contains insights into the necessary behavioral agreements between the land and humans, an "I-Thou" relationship, that ensures balance and long-term survival. It is the words and valid lifeways of native peoples that have a noticeable impact upon my students behavior, thinking and writing. The voice speaking from these stories is timeless and of the land itself. Held in juxtaposition to modern ideas, the stories give students an idea of why our modern "I-It" relationship to the Earth has led to so much environmental and personal despoilment.

The incorporation of stories from the Native American Oral Tradition into school curriculums and nature programs broadens our understanding of diverse cultures as well as suggesting ideas for improving our relationship with the land. Stories also act to remind the ever wondering human of the importance of complexity, simplicity, thoughtfulness, careful observation, respect, humility and humor. In these stories, students are taught by a wide array of teachers including plants, animals, stars, the sun and moon, incredible events, abstract notions and extreme proportions, in such a way to be remembered far longer than any moralizing. However, we must exercise caution when using these stories, so as not to sacrifice a more complete understanding of the Native American lifestyle, simply for our own benefit. But if we come to better understand our place in nature's community because of the teachings in these stories, we will owe a great debt to the Native American Oral Tradition.

The Native American Oral Tradition demonstrates to all people that there is value in opening ourselves to nature and in being able to

frequent the wild places and spaces in order to be influenced by such teachers as the rocks, thunderstorms, silences, sunsets, and vistas. Through the use of stories we can rekindle imagination, inspiration, respect and interest in our proper relationship with nature, as citizens in the world community.

Recommended Readings

Astov, M. 1946. American Indian Prose and Poetry: The Winged Serpent.

Brown, J. E. 1985. The Spiritual Legacy of the American Indian.

Carter, F. 1976. The Education of Little Tree.

Bullchild, P. 1985. The Sun Came Down.

Erdoes, R. and A. Ortiz 1984. American Indian Myths and Legends.



Suwannee River continued from inside front page

Three graduate credits in outdoor education are available from Northern Illinois University for those who qualify and desire a more academic approach to the topic. For further details about the trip and the optional university credit, contact Bob Faber (216) 569-7685 or Clifford Knapp (815) 732-2111.

ASTM To Sponsor New Standards Development Activity on Environmental Education

PHILADELPHIA, PA--Participants are needed for a new standards development activity on Environmental Education sponsored by ASTM.

This group was organized to address the need for standards (guidelines, practices, and terminology) in environmental education in areas such as course curriculum and teaching methods at all levels of learning. The following four subcommittees have been organized:

- .01 Environmental Literacy
- .02 Formal Education/Schooling
- .03 Nonformal Education/Communications
- .04 Technical Training/Communications

Subcommittees .01, .02, and .03 met to identify specific standards development needs relating to their subject area and identify an initial course of action to accomplish these needs.

Due to the limited knowledge of the attendees in the area of subcommittee .04, this group was unable to meet at this time, but agreed that standards are needed.

The next meeting of the group will be held in conjunction with the meetings of the Alliance for Environmental Education to be held May 9-11, 1990 in Washington, D.C. All interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information contact Chairman Charles Roth, EDC, Inc., 55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02160, 617/969-7100 or Wendy Dyer, ASTM, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-11897, 215/299-5526.

Organized in 1898, ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) is one of the largest voluntary standards development systems in the world.

The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility

"Today the ecological crisis has assumed such proportions as to be the responsibility of everyone. As I have pointed out, its various aspects demonstrate the need for concerted efforts aimed at establishing the duties and obligations that belong to individuals, peoples, states and the international community. This not only goes hand-in-hand with efforts to build true peace, but also confirms and reinforces those efforts in a concrete way. When the ecological crisis is set within the broader context of the search for peace within society, we can understand better the importance of giving attention to what the earth and its atmosphere are telling us: namely, that there is an order in the universe which must be respected, and that the human person, endowed with the capability of choosing freely, has a grave responsibility to preserve this order for the well-being of future generations. I wish to repeat that the ecological crisis is a moral crisis."

*excerpted from: "Peace With All Creation" by
Pope John Paul II*

Jan. 1, 1990 World Day of Peace

Environmental Celebrations

Complete and mail the enclosed form to help make our Earth Day 1990 Special Issue of *Nature Study* truly a members' production.

Simply nominate your choices for most significant environmental accomplishments of the 20th century. Also please consider giving us 200 words on how you participated in the first Earth Day 1970. Or perhaps you will contribute relevant historical black and white photos or other illustrations. A few of you will even accept the challenge of writing a feature article on one of the selected ten most significant environmental accomplishments.

Just stamp and mail your form by Valentine's Day. Thank you.



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American Nature Study Society

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