



Environmental Explorations

Nurturing Stewardship Through Play-in-Nature

In August of 2003, keynote speaker Ken Finch, of the Audubon Society Nature Center Network, presented a thought-provoking new concept to the Summit Conference of the National Association of Nature Center Administrators.

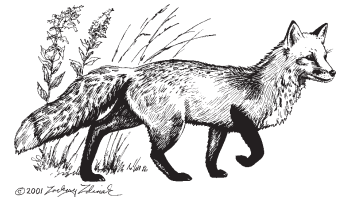
In his address, entitled "Extinction of Experience: A Challenge to Nature Centers," Ken spoke about his own philosophy of environmental education: to make a lasting difference for the environment through education. In other words, he has strived to create a stewardship ethic in those people he educates. He then asked the audience to recall their childhood experiences. "How many of you climbed trees when you were a child? How many played in tree houses, forts, or club houses? Collected natural stuff like leaves, nuts, rocks, shells, and bugs? Liked to explore woods, meadows and prairies without staying on trails? -- And how many of you recall those experiences as playing a significant role in the formation of your personal conservation ethic?"

As the hands shot up, Ken looked out at the group with a knowing smile. "Now, how many of you allow those activities at your own nature center?"

In the twenty-first century, ours has become a nation of children who might never have an opportunity for unstructured enjoyment of nature. This "Extinction of Experience" will have a huge impact on children and adults in many areas of their lives. Without "Play-in-Nature" time, they may never have the opportunity to fall in love with the natural world. David Sobel, in his book, *Ecophobia*, writes of environmental education:

"Knowledge without love will not stick. But if love comes first, knowledge is sure to follow. Our problem is that we are trying to invoke knowledge, and responsibility, before we have allowed a loving relationship to flourish."

The Play-in-Nature philosophy is based on research that guides us about what kinds of experiences will encourage stewardship of the natural environment. They can be summed up in one statement: **Children need frequent, positive experiences in nature.** Unstructured play-in-nature gives children the opportunity to fall in love with their world and may be the most effective environmental education we can offer.



Take time out of your busy life to provide a positive experience in the natural world for someone you love or just for yourself. Enjoying unstructured time outdoors will reap benefits of well-being immediately, and help to nurture a stewardship ethic for the future.

SEEC Dinner Auction October 23rd

Good food, jazzy entertainment, the opportunity to win a jewel in the sand, bid on great auction items, and help out a good cause.... all in one night. Come to the Dinner Auction to Benefit Stubnitz Environmental Education Center at the Lenawee Country Club on Saturday, October 23 from 5:30-10:00. Tickets are \$50 per person, and can be obtained from Pam at 265-6691 or Maxine at 265-1626.



SEEC Volunteers

SEEC School Field Trip Programs provide a unique opportunity for students to spend the day learning outdoors in the natural environment. Our fine quality programs, tailored for each grade level, could not be presented without a very special group of people--our SEEC volunteers. We extend a heartfelt thanks to our dedicated and talented group of field trip volunteers:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Annette Gidner | Melissa Salenbien |
| Judy Holcomb | Pat Sanders |
| Laurie Howarth | John Skinner |
| Sarah Hemsteger | Kathy Spacht |
| Herb Mills | Ben Thomas |
| Lois McCormack | Dinah Wakeford |
| Bernadine Potts | Dody Wyman |

If you enjoy working with students ages K-6, and/or with students at the secondary level, sharing environmental information and your love of nature, we need YOU! Volunteer interpretive guides are an integral part of SEEC's high quality school field trip program. Volunteers help from 9:30-1:30 on the day of a field trip. Please call Pam Bunch at 265-6691 for more information.

Corporate Sponsors

Anderson Development Company
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Wacker Chemical Corporation
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Citizen's Gas Fuel Company
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Adrian Steel Company
Great Lakes Waste Systems

Natural Christmas Craft Workshop!

Plan now to participate in our make-it-take-it Evergreen Candle Centerpiece workshop. Make a beautiful evergreen candle centerpiece with Pam Meinke, Floral Designer, extraordinaire! Wednesday, December 8 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at SEEC. \$25.00 materials fee, call the City of Adrian to preregister before December 1st.



SEEC Family/Friends Members

Mike & Kim Comstock
Gerald Coulter
Dan & Sharon Etter
Mark & Lee Ann Gasche
Robert & Karen Gentry
Charles & Betty Gross
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Jake Hurlbut
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Willis Sipes
Sandra Sobota
Robert Sullivan
Wendy Woerner
John & Charlotte Wilt
Dody Wyman

Lifetime members:
Allison MacArthur-Ruesink
Paul Ruesink

Stubnitz Environmental Education Center 2004-2005 Program and Events Calendar



Saturday, October 9, 2004

Lenawee Environmental Day Fall Open House - 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. *Programs include:*

9:00-10:30: "Fungus Among Us" Guided Trail Hike for families

9:00-11:00: "Wild Edibles and Mushroom ID" Guided Trail Hike for adults

10:30-11:30: "Snakes Alive!" live animal program presented by Beth Duman

8:30-12:00: Sue Ringman of the Lenawee County Solid Waste Dept. with the "Recycling and Living Green" display



Program fees are being sponsored by Anderson Development Corporation, in conjunction with their Spring Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Saturday, October 23, 2004

Dinner Auction to Benefit Stubnitz Environmental Education Center - 5:30-10:00 p.m. at the Lenawee Country Club - Silent and Live Auctions of nature and recreational items, 50-50 Raffle, Diamond in the Sand Raffle, great food and a jazz band - all for a great cause! Tickets: \$50 per person

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

Evergreen Christmas Candle Workshop - 6:30-9:00 p.m. - Celebrate the season and learn how to create your own beautiful candle centerpiece with gorgeous mixed evergreens. \$25.00 fee includes materials and instruction by floral designer Pam Meinke for this make-it-and-take-it workshop.



Saturday, January 22, 2005

Michigans Valuable Wetlands - 1:00- 2:00 p.m. - live animal program presented by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs. Michigan has lost of 70% of our native wetlands. In this presentation, mammal and reptile inhabitants of those native areas are used to illustrate the tremendous value and importance of wetlands to both wildlife and people. Program fee of \$3.00 per person, \$2.00 per SEEC member, \$10.00 per family.

Thursday, February 24, 2005



High School Nature Art Gallery and Reception - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

We invite parents and the community to this reception at SEEC to enjoy the work of our talented high school artists from Lenawee countys schools.

Saturday, April 30, 2005

Springtime at SEEC Open House - 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. *Programs include:*

9:00-10:30 - "Spring Wildflowers and Songbirds" Guided Trail Hike

10:30-11:30 - Dody Wymans "Michigan Birds of Prey" live animal presentation

8:30-12:00 - Sue Ringman of the Lenawee County Solid Waste Dept. with the "Recycling and Living Green" display

Program fees are being sponsored by Wacker Chemical Corporation, in conjunction with their Spring Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off.



****Wacker Silicones has donated free SEEC Family/Friends memberships to be awarded to one participant at each Community Education Program.**

SEEC Advisory Board Board Members

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Rhea Mills
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Robert Sullivan
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SEEC Coordinator:
Pam Bunch

SEEC Secretary/Field Trip Assistant: Mary Furgason



Stubnitz
Environmental
Education
Center
in Heritage Park

4107 N. Adrian Hwy.
Adrian, MI 49221

Stubnitz Environmental Education Center

In 1989, a unique partnership was formed to create Stubnitz Environmental Education Center (SEEC) in Heritage Park. The Stubnitz Environmental Education Partnership members are:

Lenawee Intermediate School District
City of Adrian
Adrian College
Siena Heights University
MSU Extension Service
Lenawee County Education Foundation
Public and Private Schools of Lenawee County

Dedicated in October of 1993, the mission of SEEC is "to provide all people with a living laboratory for life-long learning, instilling stewardship for the natural environment." In keeping with that mission, environmental education programs such as school field trips, weekend community education programs, and summer outdoor education day camps are offered throughout the year.