



# SWEEP: Get all the Dirt

"Nothing Under the Rug"

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NEWSLETTER OF THE VERMONT STATEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS • SUMMER 2003

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## **THIS ISSUE: Partnerships, collaboration and effectiveness**

As environmental educators, all of us have participated in lap-sits and other games requiring teamwork and cooperation to solve problems. We know the value of working with others to get the job done. We also know that reaching out to work with other people, organizations and agencies not only widens the knowledge base and workforce, it frequently makes the result more interesting and more fun. Combining forces with people whose perspectives are different enhances the experience for all of us. Pragmatically, it opens our project to more funding sources and a larger audience. Collaboration is an effective way to build bridges, open doors and increase the power of our programs. SWEEP partners have worked together for over twenty years in an effort to meet the needs of teachers and community members.

One result of this history was the formation of "Cultivating New Partners", which included many organizations both within and outside of SWEEP, and resulted in the addition of the Place and Sustainability standards to the Vermont Framework of Standards.

This issue of the SWEEP newsletter celebrates collaborative efforts that our members are undertaking with other members and other groups. We hope that in reading their stories, you will be inspired to forge some new partnerships of your own. We also hope that you will be excited by the ideas contained herein so that you will want to help work on SWEEP's 2004 NEEEA conference whose theme is "Collaboration strengthens our voice to build sustainable communities." See p.9 for an article on the conference and how to get involved.

## **Farm-to-School Mentor Program**

*Suzanne Young*

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) Farm-to-School Mentor program started in 2000 with the goal of using farms as educational sites and using the expertise of farmers to help teachers incorporate agricultural education into the classroom.

Farm-to-School mentors are farmers and educators who facilitate links between other farmers, gardeners, educators and community members to support and expand learning opportunities in food and farm education. Mentors work in eight regions throughout the state to make farms and farmers more promi-

nent educational resources in every community.

Entering its fourth year, the Mentors Program meets the original goals through a variety of school programs. "Adopt-a-chicken", "adopt-a-farmer", school gardens, sugaring field trips and service learning programs between farms and high schools are a few examples of these connections. As the Mentor program grows, the activities move beyond the one-time field trip into long-term connections and multi-season experiences.

As the Farm-to-School Mentors make more connections in their regions, the program is

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# ABOUT SWEEP

## SWEEP'S MISSION

SWEEP's mission is to improve the quality and increase the effectiveness of environmental education in Vermont, with the following goals:

- To coordinate the efforts of environmental educators.
- To provide an environmental education and resource exchange network among educators, environmental organizations, schools, colleges, universities, state agencies and others who are interested.
- To encourage Vermont educators to become more deeply involved with environmental education and to provide the tools to help them accomplish this task.
- To advocate positive environmental education policies & programs.

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### Vermont StateWide Environmental Education Programs (SWEEP)

is a coalition of individuals and organizations promoting environmental education in Vermont since 1975. SWEEP's purpose is to foster environmental appreciation and understanding to enable people to make responsible decisions affecting the environment. For membership and contact information, see p. 11.

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### "SWEEP:

**Get all the Dirt"** is produced 2 times/year. We welcome your contributions! Contact Editor Barry King at <kinglet@together.net>

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A special thanks to Hilary Davis for contributing the wonderful illustrations in this issue of the SWEEP newsletter.



## Hazen's Notch Association Builds Upon Successful Collaborations

Rolf Anderson

The Hazen's Notch Association (HNA) in Montgomery is expanding its successful program of collaboration with a variety of people and organizations – supporters, clients and partners. Through partnerships with landowners, community groups, schools and statewide organizations, the association is building upon its experience to implement its mission to “bring people together to conserve Vermont’s natural resources”.

The HNA is a nonprofit, member supported conservation and education organization founded by Sharon and Rolf Anderson in 1994. Its goals are to promote and engage in environmental education, outdoor recreation, stewardship of natural resources, scientific research and land conservation. The association is supported by the donations of over 400 contributing members. The HNA provides a wide variety of education programs to schools and other groups including field trips to Hazen's Notch, outreach programs around northern VT, the HNA Summer Ecology Camp and programs for the public.

Through the generosity of over 30 cooperating landowners, the HNA maintains a network of 40 miles of trails and woods roads on

nearly 2,500 acres of private land. These trails are open to the public for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking. These landowners make their land available to the HNA for education programs, field trips and summer camp activities. Through the efforts of the HNA, landowners have placed nearly 1,500 contiguous acres in Hazen's Notch in Vermont's Use Valuation Appraisal or “current use” program. HNA is working to acquire permanent conservation easements on as many of these acres as possible.

The HNA Stewardship Partner Program encourages cooperating landowners to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat on their property. Through habitat assessments and species inventories, HNA staff makes habitat improvement recommendations that might not be considered under typical forest management plans. Over 500 acres have been enrolled to date.

HNA is proud of its success in building collaborative networks with landowners and believes that this model can be repeated throughout Vermont. *For more information, go to [www.hazensnotch.org](http://www.hazensnotch.org).*



## The Cross Rivendell Trail Engages Students, Teachers, Parents and the Community

Heather Trillium

The Cross Rivendell Trail has ignited the creation of a nonprofit Rivendell Trail Association and the unification of diverse social, political, educational and community interests towards a shared vision. That vision is for a 38-mile trail from Mt. Cube in Orford, NH to Flagpole Hill in Vershire, VT. About 10 miles of trail have been built to date with more work this summer by trail crew and volunteer community days. All the work has been funded by grants, donations and volunteer labor, with no cost to the school district.

The Trail is integrated into many aspects of the K-12 curriculum. Although many curricular tie-ins are science related, the intention is for the trail to be an interdisciplinary opportunity for everyone. In the future, it is hoped every grade will utilize the trail in at

least one unit and that school-community traditions will develop around the trail, such as a 10th grade 3-day traverse of the trail, the “Cross District Hike” in October, and perhaps even a small triathlon. The trail itself is a wonderful accomplishment, but the integration with the school and community is a truly beautiful example of place-based education. It's wonderful to love your work, and I love building community through trails with kids!



## VT Envirothon – a partnership

The VT Envirothon, a member of SWEEP, is an annual program for high school-aged students from throughout Vermont. Although it culminates in a single day's event, the year-long effort that goes into the project requires time and energy from a wide variety of public and private organizations and agencies.

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives of the VT Association of Conservation Districts; the VT Departments of Education, of Fish and Wildlife and also Forests, Parks and Recreation; the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Vermont's two Resource, Conservation and Development Councils and the US Forest Service. In addition, the Association of VT Recyclers helps out regularly and a SWEEP member organization often hosts the event.

The day of competition requires student knowledge in five subject areas – forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soils and a current issue that

changes from year to year. In '03, the current issue was Conservation and Preservation/Protection of Agricultural Lands. Planning for and judging this aspect of the event required the collaboration of even more players – farmers, the VT Land Trust, Conservation Commissions, the VT Department of Agriculture, UVM Extension, the White River Partnership and Shelburne Farms.

This year, the overall winner of the VT Envirothon was a team of homeschool students from the Middletown Springs area. They will represent Vermont in the Canon International Envirothon that takes place July 26-31 in Maryland.

Since the current issue is different each year, next year's Envirothon will result in still more partnerships and in raising the awareness of this event – and environmental issues – among another disparate group of Vermonters and Vermont organizations.

## Vermont Education for Sustainability's and Shelburne Farms' Sustainable Schools Project sparks Community Connections

Our fifth year brings exciting developments for the VT Education for Sustainability (VT EFS) project and its new focus, Sustainable Schools Project (SSP). A partnership of Shelburne Farms and VT EFS, the Sustainable Schools Project just completed its first year at Champlain Elementary School in Burlington. Teachers there are using sustainability as an integrating context for their curricula, asking essential questions that engage students in understanding and improving their local natural and human community.

The SSP has generated numerous initiatives and partnerships to enhance the curriculum. Through the Antioch Green Schools program, Champlain has collaborated with Marc Companion of Ocean Arks International to build a living machine. With support from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Burlington's summer science institute and camp provided professional development for teachers.

Two projects developed last year created community-based learning opportunities for the Champlain commu-

nity. One is the Legacy Card – a learning tool for students and families to discover ways area businesses and organizations support sustainability. In the other, the 4th/5th grade's sustainability projects connected teachers and students with over 15 different community partners to support classroom learning and community connections. This fall we will continue facilitating schoolwide curriculum coordination and collaboration with the many committed community partners.

The Sustainable School Project's success with building school-community partnerships is at the heart of the missions and experiences of both Shelburne Farms and Vermont EFS. The Vermont EFS Project itself is a consortium of eight state agencies, education institutions and nonprofit organizations, whose collaboration was originally led by SWEEP. Their aim was to build capacity for the kinds of partnerships demonstrated now by the Champlain School. As the SSP expands to a second pilot school and prepares for wider implementation, VT EFS and Shelburne Farms look forward to working again with a state-wide network of schools and community partners engaged in sustainability and place-based education.



## VT Agriculture in the Classroom Partners: Celebrating our Collaboration

Kara Cimon

The Vermont Agriculture in the Classroom Partners (VT AITC) is a partner-based, collaborative organization that creates educational networks to promote farms, food production, nutrition, and resource management in schools and communities throughout Vermont. Some of our partner organizations include: the Vermont Farm Bureau, NOFA-VT, Shelburne Farms, and the VT Departments of Agriculture and Education. The partners represent a wide variety of agriculture, education, and natural resource organizations from all over the state, making collaboration one of the most unusual aspects of VT AITC.

Each year, VT AITC nominates new people to serve on our Board of Directors. We try to choose individuals that will bring in fresh ideas and who represent organizations with missions similar to our own. As a result, we end up with a “mixed bag” of partners, coming to the table with different agendas, hopes and goals. Our annual meeting usually bubbles with enthusiasm as the partners come together and share ideas for the upcoming year. This enthusiasm is contagious, and very refreshing.

Diverse partners and demonstrated collaboration are both strengths of VT AITC. Thus far, we have found that an effective way

to utilize and maximize the impact of our diverse partner base and collaboration is to celebrate it! We place an emphasis on the successes of our collaboration and share examples of how organizations with very different goals can work together on projects. We highlight and support the growth and initiatives of our partners, in addition to staying dedicated to what we collectively believe is in the best interest of Vermont students.

It is important to note that with the enthusiasm and diversity that our partners bring, conflicts and differing opinions are often inevitable as well. In any given year, we have sixteen different organizations represented on our Board. Regardless of the organization, it is simply unrealistic to get sixteen people to agree on all issues. At VT AITC, we have found that one extremely helpful practice is periodically revisiting the organization’s vision: “that Vermont communities value the teaching of agriculture, food production, nutrition and resource management as part of life long learning.” Taking the time to remember what we are all working toward is an essential component in helping us compromise, listen, and stay on track.



For more information on how to get involved in VT AITC call (802) 828-2099 or email [aitc@agr02.state.vt.us](mailto:aitc@agr02.state.vt.us).



## Vital Communities – Collaborations in the Upper Valley

Steve Glazer

Vital Communities is a regional, nonprofit organization serving the 69-town, bi-state, Upper Connecticut River Valley community. Its mission is to “engage citizens in community life, and foster the long-term balance of cultural, economic, environmental and social well-being in our region.” Vital Communities has three core program areas: Valley VitalSigns, Valley Quest and Community Profiles & Facilitation Services.

Valley VitalSigns draws people together to consider and improve the quality of life for all in our region. Driven by community needs and interest, Valley VitalSigns convenes diverse perspectives on a variety of topics. Currently we are focusing on three related topics: Transportation, Affordable Housing, and Agriculture.

Valley Quest is a series of more than 125 treasure hunts stretching across more than 40 towns. Quests, making use of hand-drawn maps and riddle-like clues, lead to hidden special places—remote lakes, old cellar holes, favorite trees, and forgotten cemeteries. Quests are exciting adventures that gently share and teach the natural and cultural history of our region.

Community Profiles are day-and-a-half-long events that gather as many of a town’s residents as possible to identify and take action on the town’s key issues. Over 25 towns have held Community Profile events, clarifying goals and projects that led to concrete results.

While all Vital Communities programs share the same goal of deepening the connections among people, land and community, they differ in their scope. The VitalSigns

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program focus on issues that affect the region as a whole; Profiles focuses on the qualities and citizens of a single town (or cluster of towns); and each Quest focuses on the attributes and story of a particular site.

All three programs, too, are similar in that they are primarily about partnership and collaboration. For example, the VitalSigns “topic” of Housing, includes the participation of major institutions like Dartmouth College, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Geographic Data Technology, Mascoma Savings Bank, as well as towns, smaller businesses,

regional planning commissions and individuals.

Our agricultural work on “Building our Local Food Web” connects our partners (consumers, farmers, Community Supported Agriculture, wholesalers, retailers, and institutions) through a variety of methods: an email newsletter; topical breakfast meetings; farmers markets; and educational publications and events. Only by working together can we care for and nurture our communities.

*For more information on Vital Communities, contact: [www.vitalcommunities.org](http://www.vitalcommunities.org).*

## Mountain Communities – The Birthing of a New Collaboration

*Julia Grand Doucet*

The idea for a project involving mountain communities was born out of my desperate attempt to define the Green Mountain Club’s (GMC) education program and its niche. Being in a state filled with wonderful, high quality environmental education programs, I was at a loss to define what made us different.

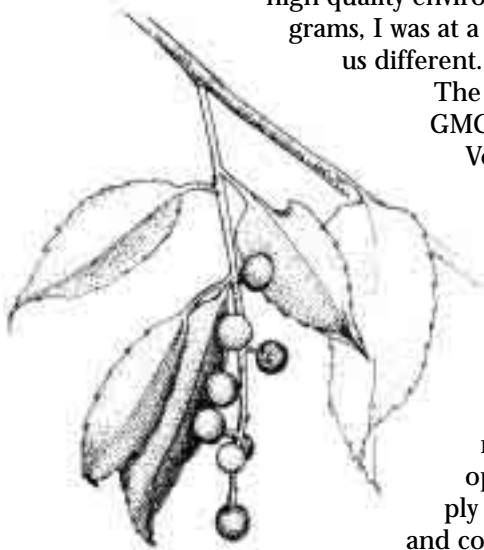
The answer was mountains.

GMC’s mission is to make

Vermont’s mountains play a larger part in the life of the people. The mountains of Vermont are an extraordinary natural legacy and resource for children here and can be a wonderful classroom. A hike provides numerous educational opportunities whether simply looking at different shapes and colors of trees and leaves, or

studying the complexities of forest zonation. However, the vast numbers of people already hiking VT’s mountains can have a large and damaging impact on the mountain ecosystem, especially if they don’t understand its fragility. I wanted to enable teachers and their students to use and enjoy the mountains while fostering stewardship and a sense of respect.

I realized that I could not do this on my own – collaboration would be key. Last spring’s SWEEP meeting provided a perfect opportunity. During the “open-space”, a group of us met to discuss the idea of mountain communities and a curriculum or book that would address them. A collaboration of GMC, Shelburne Farms, Green Mountain Audubon and several individuals (Amy Demarest, Amy Clapp and Barry King) has been working on this project since then. Keeping Track and the Green Mountain National Forest will also be involved. *If you’d like to help too, please contact me, [Julia@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:Julia@greenmountainclub.org).*



## New and Improved! Collaboration for Teens

*Angie Barger, YEC Coordinator, AVR*

Collaboration and Coalition: Two words often used in the sterile confines of a corporate worktable surrounded by 3-piece suit wearers with receding hairlines. These words are not just for adults anymore, as the Youth Environmental Coalition (YEC) opens the door for Jnco jean-wearing, baby tee-sporting, facially-pierced teens across Vermont to use collaboration to empower each other to reduce waste in their schools.

YEC connects High School Environmental Clubs with each other over the Vermont Interactive Learning Network, the teleconferencing system installed in all VT public schools. In student planned and implemented meetings, Montpelier High School’s Earth Club, this year’s YEC mentor, will lead member schools to audit their school’s waste production this fall.

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## “F.E.E.D.”-ing Farm and Food Education into Curriculum, Cafeteria, and Community

Dana Hudson



*Edmunds School teachers meet with food service staff from all over the state to discuss how to help their students and school make healthier food choices, as part of a FEED workshop in June.*

“I never realized how much work it took just to make food!” This Orange Center School teacher was hand grinding wheat berries into flour during a food based inquiry activity where the school staff ended up making their lunch. This is one example of the fun, hands-on activities experienced during the 5-day summer institute of Food Education Every Day (FEED) Program. Teachers, para-educators, principals, school nurses, after-school coordinators, and librarians eat, enjoy, experience, brainstorm and plan how to bring more food, farming and nutrition education to their schools through standards-based units. The units they develop include

field study visits to local historical resources, farms, and their own cafeteria.

Throughout the school year, through weekly visits and mentoring sessions, FEED staff support the teachers to implement their farm/food based curriculum units.

The FEED program, starting its fourth year, is a collaboration of Food Works, Northeast Organic Farming Association-VT, and Shelburne Farms. FEED works with schools to develop a stronger relationship between the school classroom, the school cafeteria, local farms, and the local

community. The Alburg Community School, Orange Center School, Edmunds Middle School, and Edmunds Elementary School are participating this year.

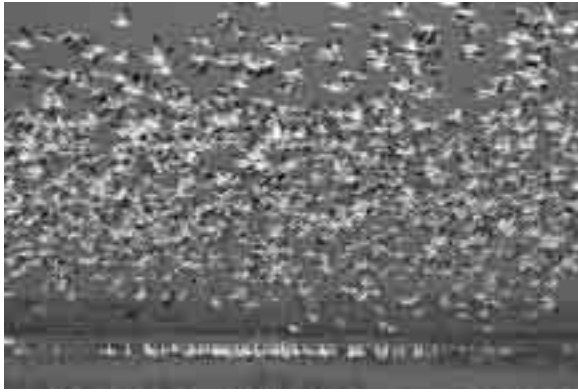
In June, FEED held the first institute to combine schoolteachers and school food service staff from these schools. Traditional boundaries were broken as everyone enjoyed good food and discussed ways to improve children’s nutrition. The group examined the complex web of our food systems (farmers, restaurants, markets, consumers, schools) and the role each of us has in helping our kids make healthy choices.

For example, during Trash on the Lawn Day, students in jumpsuits and plastic gloves will audit their school’s production of waste by emptying a day’s worth of waste onto plastic tarps and sorting it into such categories as: “Should’ve been – composted, recycled, reused, never bought in the first place.” A school assembly will present the products of the audit and sorters will recommend future waste reduction initiatives and options. With follow-up, the waste audit proves itself as a worthwhile investment for students and school’s staff.

YEC members are trained to collaborate with maintenance staff, faculty, other students, and administration to make the waste reduction project successful school-wide. A statewide coalition of students collaborating locally with all players in their school’s decision-making process is what makes YEC projects sustainable in schools through the tenure of students, staff, and mid-winter apathy.



## Dead Creek Wildlife Day



**D**ead Creek Wildlife Day is a one-day festival to celebrate the wildlife of the Champlain Valley. It is organized by an effective collaboration of sometimes adversaries: environmental, sports-

**Dead Creek Wildlife Day**  
Saturday, **October 4, 2003**  
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Contact VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: 802/759-2398.t

men's and business groups and state agencies. Spearheaded by the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Otter Creek Audubon Society, the event's organizers also include the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Ducks Unlimited, the VT Federation of Sportmen's Clubs and the Addison County Chamber of Commerce.

The festival's offerings are as diverse as the organizers and the audience. Last year, over 700 birdwatchers, hunters, anglers and

natural history enthusiasts took part. This year, events will range from birdbanding demonstrations to golden retriever trials; from a guided walk through the clayplain forest to how to field dress a moose. Attendees can watch Snow geese, build a bluebird house, learn how to identify fish or how to call a turkey, watch an Andean Condor and a Peregrine Falcon, look for snakes or take a boatride on Lake Champlain. What all of the activities, as well as the participants, have in common is a love of and respect for Vermont's wildlife.

This year's Celebration will take place on Saturday, October 4th. There is no admission fee for the event that centers around the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison. Exhibits and wildlife-related crafts are in two tents at the Refuge while a third tent houses activities specifically for youngsters. A shuttle bus travels between the refuge and nearby sites. *SWEEP members interested in participating or exhibiting should contact the Fish and Wildlife Dept. at 802/759-2398. A complete schedule of events will be available in August.*

*Farm to School - continued from p.1*

expanding collaborations between various organizations and farms. The Mentor Program includes helping many community organizations develop strong relationships with farmers. This fosters an appreciation and awareness of local agriculture and healthy foods. Julie Wolcott, mentor in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties works with the Fairfield School and the Abbey Catering Group to educate the food service provider about integrating local food into schools. Scout Proft, mentor

from E. Dorset works in Rutland and Bennington Counties with the Humane Society Animal Shelter coordinating April vacation and summer camp programs at local farms. Suzanne Young, mentor from Orwell, advises and leads Farmers' Market activities at a community action group summer feeding program in

Middlebury, a collaboration between local churches, farms and other groups.

Margo Ghia, mentor from Saxons River works in Windham and Southern Windsor Counties on watershed education for teachers, students and farmers. What these activities have in common is that the support of local agriculture is deepening and is being embraced by varied groups of concerned citizens. Community members work together to encourage healthy foods in school kitchens, healthy animals on farms and healthy ecosystems connected to farms and communities.

Farm-to-School Mentors are the catalysts for collaborations that help to make connections happen in agriculture education. The result is an increased community understanding of sustainable agriculture. Mentors are helping to make farms educational resources and to create lasting relationships among community members.

*Contact NOFA (info@nofavt.org) for the Farm-to-School Mentor in your area for help with any sort of agriculture education initiative you may be considering.*

## JOBS

**VINS** is hiring for a few positions this summer and fall:

- Outreach Coordinator/  
Environmental Citizenship Educator
- Community Mapping  
Program Educator (*2 positions*)

For additional information, contact Marcia Whitney at 802/457-2779, ext. 113, or mwhitney@vinsweb.org.



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## ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

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### VINS

The raptor exhibits at our new Quechee site will open in less than a year! This is the first step in a larger project that includes a substantial visitor center, office space, and additional exhibits. We will continue to fund raise for the full project over the next several years. Currently, we are open for scheduled programs at our sites in Woodstock, Manchester, and Montpelier, and visitors can stop by our North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier.

### Audubon VT Launches New Website

Audubon Vermont is pleased to announce the launch of its new website – <http://vt.audubon.org> (Don't use "www" in front of the web address or you will go to the National Audubon site rather than Audubon Vermont's.) The site provides direct access to information about the organization, programs, and much more! We hope you enjoy!



### Lake Champlain Basin Science Center becomes ECHO

ECHO (Ecology, Culture, History and Opportunity) at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain is the wonderful, newly reopened aquarium and science center on Burlington's waterfront. At 28,000 square feet, ECHO showcases native plant and animal species, interactive exhibits, 12,000 gallons worth of fish tanks and a changing Lake Champlain basin. There is a 2-story waterfall showcasing the region's 500-million year old fossils, a hands-on exhibit allowing visitors to add or remove dams, wetlands and boats to see their effects on a watershed and a short video that mixes native storytelling with an explanation of the geologic forces that shaped the basin. The next SWEEP meeting (Nov. 5) will be at ECHO, so be sure to save the date on your calendar and visit!

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## SWEEP NEWS

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### 2004 NEEEA Conference update

Things are moving forward for the New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) Conference that SWEEP will host October 15-17, 2004, at Middlebury's Bread Loaf campus in Ripton. A great variety of individuals, representing organizations from across the state, have signed up for conference committees and gotten started with their work.

The conference theme, developed at a two-day SWEEP retreat last January, is "Collaboration strengthens our voice to build sustainable communities." We look ahead to the future of our work and our world from many perspectives and with different kinds of expertise, but we share the goal of creating more sustainable communities, where we can ensure the health and livelihood of our land and our people both locally and globally for generations to come.

Strong communities are important to Vermont's culture. Our tradition of participatory democracy encourages us to listen to

each voice respectfully. This goes beyond tolerance to recognizing that within our diversity is our strength, that in valuing a range of ideas and partnerships, we lay the best foundations for real collaboration.

How can and do environmental educators draw upon the vitality and strength of diverse perspectives to build collaboration within our work? How can we better promote an integrated approach to thinking about communities, one that connects our ecological, economic, political and social systems, and our many diverse voices?

Join us in October 2004 (and with conference planning beforehand if you can!) as we bring together many different types of community stewards. Share your perspective and help shape the collaboration and community that we build. The more people involved, the better the conference will be.

If you would like to support the 2004 NEEEA conference in any way, contact Marcia Whitney [mwhitney@vinsweb.org](mailto:mwhitney@vinsweb.org), 802/457-2779, ext. 113 or Linda Wellings [llwellings@shelburnefarms.org](mailto:llwellings@shelburnefarms.org), 802/985-8686.

## SCC in hiatus

**S**WEEP has decided to put the School Connections Committee (SCC) into low gear, realizing that it can be revitalized as needed. The issues that we grappled with are ongoing and of interest to many SWEEP members, but it was difficult for people to commit the time to attend meetings to move the discussion forward. Plus, with the NEEEA Conference happening in VT in 2004, lots of SWEEP energy is going into that effort. Tangible results of SCC's work are two surveys on how SWEEP and its member organizations can better meet the needs of teachers and non-formal educators. For a copy of the summary of either survey, contact Marcia Whitney at [mwhitney@vinsweb.org](mailto:mwhitney@vinsweb.org) or 457-2779, x113.

## SWEEP Website Up and Running! Photos wanted!

**T**hanks to Webmaster and SWEEP Board member Nicole Ballinger, our SWEEP website is finally up, running, reposted and looking great! Check it out! The address is <http://www.vermontsweep.org>. Nicole is looking for photos for the website and also for the SWEEP display board.

They can be JPEG if digital or a print or slide. If JPEG, send at high resolution (300 dpi at 5X7) for the display. If they are for the website only, the resolution can be lower. Email them to Nicole at [nballinger@lcbp.org](mailto:nballinger@lcbp.org) or mail them to her at LCBP, 54 West Shore Rd. Grand



Isle, VT 05458. Be sure to include a caption and credit - as well as a name/address if you want the original returned. If you want the photos only used on the display, please let her know. She'd like to have all photos sent by mid-August, if possible. If you can't meet that deadline, get in touch with her.

## NEEEA NEWS

**T**he upcoming New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) Conference, "All Tracks Lead to Woodstock" will be held at Camp Woodstock in Woodstock, CT, Sept. 19-21. Sessions run the gamut from hands-on activities to professional development to cutting-edge research. The "tracks" for this conference include natural history, education, administration, and skills building. Look for a conference brochure in the mail shortly.

### Additional NEEEA news:

- Possible collaboration with the Northeast Informal Science Educators Network (NISEN). NISEN will have a one-day conference on the Friday of the NEEEA Conference at the Woodstock, CT site. NISEN may also help with the NEEEA website (see below).
- NEEEA is working very hard to get its website back up and running. There have been some program software challenges that should be resolved by the fall.
- NEEEA has received funding to publish the *New England Journal of EE* so this publication will be free for at least the next couple of years. If you haven't gotten a copy, contact Lidie Whittier Robbins [lrobbins@northern-forest.org](mailto:lrobbins@northern-forest.org) or Marcia Whitney [mwhitney@vinsweb.org](mailto:mwhitney@vinsweb.org), our two VT NEEEA representatives.

## SWEEP PEOPLE

Updates on the comings and goings of environmental educators across VT

After five successful years with UVM Extension, **Dana Hudson** has joined the staff of Shelburne Farms to focus on the F.E.E.D. program and other farm-based education initiatives. VINS is delighted to welcome **Larry Berrin** as the Woodstock/Quechee Education Director! **Jen Good**, formerly a naturalist with Mass Audubon, has joined the VINS staff as an educator for the Outreach and Onsite programs. VINS is sorry to lose **Charmaine**

**Kinton** (Outreach Program Coordinator) and **Hilary Elmer** (ELF Program Assistant). **Jen Cirillo** joined VT-EFS and Sustainable Schools Project last winter as an educator working with teachers and students to develop curriculum, connect with community resources, and improve campus ecology. **Tiffany Tillman** has also joined the VT EFS staff as an AmeriCorps Vista member with the "America Reads" Team. Jen and

**Erica Zimmerman** now serve as Vermont Regional Editors for *Green Teacher* magazine. **Lisa Windhausen** has joined the staff of the Lake Champlain Basin Program as their Aquatic Nuisance Coordinator. **Laura Hollowell** is now a Resource Room specialist for LCBP at ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain and continues to work as a naturalist at Button Bay State Park.

## RESOURCES

UNEP has launched a new magazine for, about and by young people - **TUNZA**. It is now available alongside **Our Planet**, UNEP's flagship magazine, on [www.ourplanet.com](http://www.ourplanet.com). The first issue concentrates on Freshwater, with features, facts, poems, interviews and actions young people can take to conserve water. A second issue will be published in November. In 2004, the magazine will appear quarterly.

The "**Fundamentals of Environmental Education**" online course will be offered September 15 - November 23, 2003. Participants may earn undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point or they may take it as a workshop at a reduced rate. The course provides educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate quality environmental education into their instruction. Participants discuss the history, definition, and goals of environmental education, develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators, and have the opportunity to interact with other educators from across the country. The course was developed in collaboration with national EE experts, using materials produced by NAAEE, World Wildlife Fund, PLT, Project WILD, Project WET etc. Based on the "Guidelines for the Initial Preparation of Environmental Educators" document produced by Dr. Deborah Simmons and NAAEE, there are six units in the course, each corresponding to a theme from the "Guidelines". For information or enrollment information, see [www.eetap.org/eecourse](http://www.eetap.org/eecourse) or contact Sarah Wilcox: [swilc700@uwsp.edu](mailto:swilc700@uwsp.edu), 715/346-4957.

**The Ecological Society of America** has a new monthly journal with a scientific focus. The journal publishes peer-reviewed, synthetic review articles on all aspects of ecology, the environment, and related disciplines, as well as short, high-impact research communications of broad disciplinary appeal. Occasional "Forums" debate multiple views of relevant, timely issues. The journal also intends to provide important scientific information to policy makers, resource managers, and other decision makers. [www.frontiersinecology.org/general.html](http://www.frontiersinecology.org/general.html)

**Advancing Education Through Environmental Literacy** - free publication and CD-ROM focusing on how education and the environment can be linked to advance student learning. Included are descriptions of schools successfully implementing environmental education programs and summaries of research documenting how they have raised student test scores by using the environment to help teach content in areas such as social studies, science, reading, and math. The CD-ROM provides a sampler of 43 free EE activities linked to different

grade levels and subject areas. Produced by the Environmental Education & Training Partnership in collaboration with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. For a free copy, send your name and mailing address to: [EnviroEdTrainingPartnership@uwsp.edu](mailto:EnviroEdTrainingPartnership@uwsp.edu)

**SciLinks®** - an interactive, web-based service from the **National Science Teachers Association** connects lesson and/or course materials (certain textbooks, NSTA books, and journal articles) with online content chosen just for selected topics. For their *Natural Resource Links*, go to: [www.scilinks.org/retrieve\\_outside.asp?sl=9263569910441033](http://www.scilinks.org/retrieve_outside.asp?sl=9263569910441033)

**Exotic Species Compendium of Activities to Protect the Ecosystem (ESCAPE)** is a collection of 36 hands-on multi-disciplinary activities that incorporate experiments, art, music and games. ESCAPE introduces students to issues of exotic (non-native) aquatics: spread and transport, harmful effects posed, importance of environmental knowledge and responsibility of each student as an environmental steward. Visit: [www.iisgcp.org/edu/escape/](http://www.iisgcp.org/edu/escape/)



## Get Swept Away!

Vermont StateWide Environmental Education Programs (Vermont SWEEP) is a coalition of individuals and organizations promoting environmental education in VT.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \$35     Individual: \$10

Please make check payable to SWEEP and mail to: SWEEP, 9 Bailey Ave., Montpelier, VT 05602. Thank you!

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Twice-annual membership meetings; periodic development workshops & conferences
- Representation to the six-state New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA)
- Inclusion in SWEEP's Directory, which lists members' environmental education services and is distributed to VT teachers and educators
- SWEEP's newsletter



**Note:** For a thorough calendar of environmental events, check out Tom Gray's excellent list-serve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vermontenvironment/>

## CALENDAR

AUGUST 15  
7:00-9:00 PM  
**Bill McKibben –  
“Towards Local  
Sufficiency”**

Shelburne Farms Coach Barn,  
Shelburne. \$15. *802/985-8686.*

AUGUST 20 • 6:00-8:00 PM  
**Food as Medicine:  
A Personal Story of Healing**  
Trinity Methodist Church,  
Montpelier. **How human health  
practices relate to agricultural  
health practices.** \$5 for NOFA-  
VT members, \$8 for nonmem-  
bers. *NOFA-VT: 802/434-4122 or  
info@nofavt.org*

SEPTEMBER 12 • 7:00-9:00 PM  
**Terry Tempest Williams  
“A Celebration of Native Peace”**  
Shelburne Farms Coach Barn,  
Shelburne \$15. *802/985-8686.*

SEPTEMBER 19-21  
**NEEEA Conference  
“All Tracks Lead to Woodstock”**  
Camp Woodstock, Woodstock,  
CT. *See related article p.10*

OCTOBER 4 • 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
**Dead Creek Wildlife Festival**  
Addison, VT. Free.  
*See related article p.8*

OCTOBER 7-11  
**NAAEE CONFERENCE**  
Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage,  
Alaska. **Registration packet:**  
*www.naaee.org/conferences/  
index.php#info*

OCTOBER 11 • 1:00 - 4:00 PM  
**Stalking the Wild Mushroom**  
Woodstock, VT \$18 VINS mem-  
ber, \$22 nonmember. *Register at  
(802) 457-2779, ext. 112*

OCTOBER 15 • 7:00-9:00 PM  
**Stephanie Kaza – “Love or  
Harm? Eating as Relationship”**  
Shelburne Farms Coach Barn,  
Shelburne. \$15. *802/985-8686.*

OCTOBER 23-26  
**36th New York State Outdoor  
Education Association  
Conference - The Nature of  
New York** Villa Roma Resort,  
Callicoon, NY  
**Outdoor education techniques,  
natural history workshops,  
opportunities to explore trends.**  
Early bird registration ends  
September 30th. Registration  
forms online.  
*www.nysoea.org/conference.htm*

NOVEMBER 5  
11:00 AM-3:00 PM  
**SWEEP Membership Meeting**  
ECHO-at the Leahy Center for  
Lake Champlain, Burlington.  
**Bring a lunch.**



### Vermont SWEET

Statewide Environmental Education Programs

9 Bailey Ave. • Montpelier, VT 05602

Save  
the Date!

### SWEEP Membership Meeting

Nov. 5, 2003 • 11 AM-3 PM • ECHO, BURLINGTON