

# SWEEP: Get all the Dirt

"Nothing Under the Rug"

NEWSLETTER OF THE VERMONT STATEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS • WINTER 2003

## The Promise of Place... the Movement is On!

Lidie Whittier Robbins, Northern Forest Center and Pat Straughan, Shelburne Farms



Educators at a Promise of Place workshop session.

lorists, National Park Service staff, nonformal educators, and others. Hands-on workshops included oral history, geology, GPS, ethnobotany, journaling, treasure hunts, service learning, and lots more.

A major highlight of the conference was the use made of the "Open Space" time when participants created the discussion agenda for an entire morning. They suggested about twenty topics ranging from assessment to social justice, from "How do we make local-global connections in place-based ed?" to "How do we make place-based education a national mandate like 'No child left behind'?" The conversations were fascinating and lively as participants searched for answers to issues that concerned them most.

Many participants said the gath-

In late November, more than 180 practitioners and supporters of place-based education from across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York gathered for the Promise of Place, Community-Based Education in the Northern Forest Region, a conference to network, learn, and share ideas and energy to help realize the promise of place-based education in the region. The conference was co-hosted by the Northern Forest Center and Shelburne Farms. SWEEP and its members gave vital support to this event in many ways, from securing funding to offering avenues for publicizing the conference. Grateful thanks to all who were involved.

This event brought together a new and diverse group of people, including classroom teachers, cultural historians, geographers, folk-

do we make local-global connections in place-based ed?" to "How do we make place-based education a national mandate like 'No child left

"The best part was feeling the collective energy of this community and getting an overwhelming sense that this type of education works and will only get stronger and more prevalent."

PARTICIPANT IN PROMISE OF PLACE CONFERENCE

ering restored their hope for the future. Their comments speak for themselves:

"This offers hope for our schools and communities through connections and collaboration..."

"It created passion and invigoration about place-based education."

*continued on next page*

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## NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS...

As the year 2002 ends, we are hard pressed to have a hopeful outlook for 2003. You certainly don't need a review of the year's trials and tribulations. However, being in the company of those who find joy in the way a leaf may lie in a puddle or in a child's eyes opened wide in amazement when the sap really does drip out of that tap, we are reminded of the promise that the natural world continually unfolds...those cycles of life.

Therefore, as a new year begins, we're reminded of Peter Forbes' words at the recent NEEEA conference: "We're the ones we've been waiting for." So, chins up, breathe deeply and may we all continue on the path the present cycle is taking us: in good health, with hope and a twinkle in our eyes.

Linda Wellings & Steve Hagenbuch  
SWEEP co-chairs

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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. 7.

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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>

### 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.

#### *Promise of Place - continued from first page*

"It was a great way to link people who are driving to change our world both globally and locally by focusing on our existing resources."

"[The most useful part of the conference was] feeling the collective energy of this community and getting an overwhelming sense that this works and will only get stronger and more prevalent."

"I feel inspired, refreshed, and ready to go out and do my work with more passion and direction than I had two days ago."

Promise of Place attendees left with new activities, resources and networks to strengthen

the presence of place in their work, and a powerful sense that this was just the beginning of much more to come. As stated by one participant: "...there is a strong network of people doing amazing things and the movement is on!"

The Promise of Place conference was made possible by the generous support of The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, The Conservation Study Institute, The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Vermont Rural Partnership



## Vermont Family Camp for Windows on the World Families

Heather Trillium

The last week of August was a special time at the Hulbert Outdoor Center. We created a program for Windows on the World restaurant workers' families who lost family members and/or jobs in the World Trade Center attack. Based on our traditional Family Camp, the program was run with the idea of doing what we do best, providing CAMP to families in our beautiful home on Lake Morey.

Forty-seven people between the ages of 2 and 70 from 14 families participated in a week of sailing, swimming, candle-making, farm visits, hikes, learning to paddle, challenging themselves on the ropes course, relaxing on the lawn, and even enjoying some truly spectacular hot air ballooning. Parents enjoyed a night out at Simon Pearce Restaurant, and Kids' Night was a special visit by the hawks from Vermont Institute of Natural Science. After incredible meals in the dining hall, there was plenty of time for talking on the back porch, well into each night.

Many of these families had not been together since a program in New York last win-

ter, which involved grieving and many tears. While here, one participant observed how the fun and laughter they shared here marks a turning point in their grieving. They felt at home, grateful that we offered a program normally out of reach for them due to financial and language barriers. Few families spoke English as a first language, so VT Family Camp staff enjoyed hearing and practicing Spanish!

The program came about with the assistance of The Aloha Foundation, contributions from Aloha Board members and other donors, many community volunteers, and area businesses. The creative, caring and sensitive staff from Hulbert and other Aloha Foundation programs allowed the city families to relax and enjoy their time here. Emails, letters, calls, and packages showing the love, generosity, and wonderful spirit created that week have been sent and received ever since. It is my hope we can find a way to continue this program for the next four years. ¡Abrazos y Paz a todos! (Hugs and Peace to all!) .

## Valley Quest Goes to Schools and Libraries

Steve Glazer

Valley Quest, an educational program of Vital Communities, has grown into a series of more than 125 regional, educational treasure hunts - stretching across 40 Upper Valley towns - that share natural and cultural history with children, students, families and visitors. Student and community groups create the Quests as they adopt and study specific places in their communities.

Stories nest in places - and in the specifics: over HERE is where you can learn to see how beavers modify habitat; over THERE you can see the tell-tale signs of glaciation; down there the last remnant stand of the "King's Pines;" on that hill is Benjamin Bunker's orchard - or evidence of the "Hurricane of '38." "The world is all clues," wrote Paul Shepard, in *NATURE AND MADNESS*, "and there is no end to their subtlety and delicacy. The signs that reveal are always there. One has only to learn the art of reading them." So true!

This winter, with support from the Boston Foundation and the Turrell Fund, Upper Valley children and families will learn to "read the

clues" in their community. Grant funds will place the Valley Quest Book in the town and school libraries of all 33 Vermont towns that comprise the Vital Communities service area. In the spring, two standards-based

Valley Quest units - The Village Quest Project and the Cemetery Quest Project - will be distributed across the region, thanks to support from the Bay Paul Foundation and the US Department of Education,

*For more information about Valley Quest, visit [www.vitalcommunities.org](http://www.vitalcommunities.org) or contact: Steve Glazer, Valley Quest Coordinator: (802) 291 - 9100, or [steve@vitalcommunities.org](mailto:steve@vitalcommunities.org)*



## ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

### Spirit in Nature



Spirit In Nature has added a children's path with eight photographs and nature notes. The path ends in a circle on the South Branch of the Middlebury River near a 150 year-old foundation and an old apple orchard. Spirit In Nature has 11 different faith paths, totaling 6 miles. The site is open year 'round, dawn to dusk. Located in Ripton, just off Route 125 - look for state directional signs. *For more information, call Paul Bortz, 802/388-7244.*



Westshire Elementary students opening goldenrod gall with Heather Trillium. Their place-based field study is part of the Hulbert Outdoor Center's partnership with local schools that began with Antioch's Co-SEED program. In '03, an additional school system will join the 3-year in-depth school-community-Hulbert place-based education partnership.

### VINS Update

We are making great progress with planning for our new center in Quechee, just west of the Quechee Gorge on Route 4. Much work is being done on building design and programs & exhibits, and we expect the new facility to open in 2005. Stay tuned for more details! As part of an agreement with our neighbors, VINS-Woodstock is now only open to scheduled programs. We continue to offer more programs than before, reaching thousands of school children, teachers in workshops, members of the public, and Elderhostelers each year. In addition to our sites in Woodstock, Montpelier and Manchester, we are also offering programs at Stratton Mt. this winter. *Since there are far too many programs to include in this newsletter, please check out our website: [www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org).*

### AVR Update

Nancy Notterman

AVR recently launched two programs for teens: the Youth Environmental Coalition and a unique theater piece, *The End of the World Show!* Teens voice their vision of consumer responsibility in the latter, a 50-minute exploration of teen consumerism, the media's influence, and the subsequent impact on waste production. The show was created by an impressive group of teens by in collaboration with Montpelier's Lost Nation Theater and features a madcap collection of sketch comedy interspersed with poignant in-character monologues. Miss Frizzle and Gerry Springer make "appearances" to the audiences' delight. AVR is partnering with high school groups across VT to stage performances. The teen group that created this outstanding show wants to go on the road with it, so help us get the word out! As one student said, "I was just interested in theater, but this show has opened my eyes!" There are also two new workshops concerning this subject: *The Buying Game* and *Product Stewardship*.

With a grant from the VT ANR, AVR is facilitating high school students to develop a statewide coalition of environmental clubs, The Youth Environmental Coalition. Harvesting the success of AVR's Youth Environmental Summit, AVR will motivate Vermont youth to analyze solid waste problems, communicate about them to targeted members of their community and offer technical assistance to change behavior. AVR will help clubs identify and execute model eco-projects in schools and communities. Experienced clubs will mentor other clubs to enhance the projects' success and long-term sustainability. Successful projects garner funds for each club.

With a strong, supportive board and other generous stakeholders including ANR and many Solid Waste Districts, AVR is moving into a "fee for service" model to counter the loss of the federal funding that has served as our underpinning. We now rely on memberships and program fees rather than grants and are promoting our programs to a wider audience within Vermont and neighboring states. We are currently seeking funding for our successful Youth Environmental Summit. Our thanks to all who have given us support in so many ways in the recent months.

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## SWEEP NEWS

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### SWEEP Retreats(s)!

The SWEEP Board is planning two exciting one-day retreats, back to back, January 24 and 25, at Seyon Ranch in Groton. Bring your own lunch Friday; the other meals will be provided. There is no charge for participating either day; if you'd like to spend the night at Seyon (and we hope you will!), the cost is \$30.

On Friday (9:30 am-4:30 pm), we will begin planning for the 2004 New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) conference which we'll be hosting. We will brainstorm a theme, come up with speakers and workshops relating it and start setting up committees. It's a fun and exciting process and it works best with lots of participation. We need your help!!!

On Saturday, from 9 am to noon, participate in an invigorating brainstorming session to explore opportunities for future collaborations between environmental organizations.

We believe that SWEEP members could do more to work together on discreet projects that support the mission of multiple organizations. Certainly, a lot of good work has been done this way already, but there must be more we can

do. Our SWEEP meetings are good ways for us to connect with each other but there is never time to have in-depth conversations about ways we might be able to support each other. Saturday has been set aside as a day where these conversations can happen. "Who's hoping to develop a program on X topic, or for Y audience?" "Is there anyone in the room who's also hoping to develop that kind of program and would like to pool resources, or has anyone already done that kind of program who'd be willing to assist?" We'll use the "open space" discussion format where people put ideas they'd like to discuss onto flipcharts and then break into smaller groups to grapple with topics that interest them most. We'll all be able to participate in at least two in-depth discussions.

Both days promise to be stimulating and enjoyable. We hope you'll be there to add your ideas and experience! *For additional information and to sign-up, call Steve Hagenbuch: 802-434-3068, shagenbuch@audubon.org.*



### SWEEP School Connections Committee

SWEEP's School Connections Committee has moved forward on a variety of projects. A survey of classroom teachers is helping determine how SWEEP and its member organizations can better support them. A similar survey has gone to non-formal educators; Tre McCarney is summarizing its results to determine logical next steps to assist their professional development. We are developing an Education for Sustainability matrix to enable teachers, SWEEP members, and others to see in one easy place resources available from organizations working on issues and programs related to sustainability. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 13, in Montpelier. *Please contact Marcia Whitney at (802) 457-2779, ext. 113, or mwhitney@vinsweb.org if you would like more information on this committee.*

### SWEEP's Annual Elections

SWEEP's Nominating committee is starting to think about the annual elections that take place at the next SWEEP meeting, April 30 at the UVM Extension Office in Brattleboro. If you might be interested in serving on the SWEEP Board or in finding out what it entails, *contact Barry King at kinglet@together.net.*



**CALENDAR** Extended Listings. The complete list of upcoming events begins on the next page.



**The First Vermont Healthy Water, Healthy People Training**

Wednesday, January 22, 2003  
 UVM's waterfront Rubenstein Lab  
 Burlington, VT 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 Cost for Guide and Training: \$30

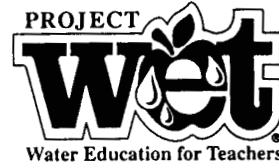
**H**ealthy Water, Healthy People is an innovative water quality education program sponsored by Project WET and the Hach Scientific Foundation, and offers hands-on activity guides, testing kits, training, and much more. This Vermont Healthy Water, Healthy People workshop, presented by the National staff from Bozeman, Montana, invites

educators and members of watershed groups to come to this special, one-day training.

This custom Vermont HWHP training will focus on monitoring Vermont surface waters, while making connections to human health issues. Please visit our web site: [www.healthywater.org](http://www.healthywater.org) for more information. If you would like this workshop to cover a particular question you have about testing Vermont waters, please contact Amy Picotte.

The Healthy Water, Healthy People program encourages deep investigation of water quality topics and issues through development of user-friendly materials that are appropriate for all levels of users.

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To register, contact:  
 Amy Picotte, VT  
 Agency of Natural Resources, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Water

Quality Division, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0408. 802-241-3789, [AmyP@dec.anr.state.vt.us](mailto:AmyP@dec.anr.state.vt.us); [www.vtwaterquality.org](http://www.vtwaterquality.org)

**The HWHP People Educator's Guide covers topics such as:**

- What is water quality;
- Principles of water quality illustrate the concept of good science;
- Water quality must be monitored and interpreted;
- Water quality is a vital component of healthy Communities and Individuals;
- Water resources are managed to promote water quality and prevent degradation;
- Plants and animals are affected by changes in water quality;
- New management strategies & technologies offer hope for the future.

**The Sixth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count**

February 14-17, 2003



**A**udubon VT is helping to promote The Sixth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, February 14-

17. A project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon, the GBBC combines high-tech web tools with an army of citizen-scientist bird observers.

The GBBC asks people to count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeders, local parks, schoolyards, and other areas during any or all of the four count days and to enter their sightings at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

The website invites beginners and experts alike to participate. There is a vocabulary section, bird watching and bird-feeding tips, bird vocalizations and more. Educators will find the bibliography and geography sections especially handy, as well as suggestions on how to conduct the count with groups of kids. "The Great Backyard Bird Count is a terrific way for individuals, families, schools and community groups to contribute to a better understanding of birds," says Cornell Lab of Ornithology director John Fitzpatrick. "In return, they learn more about birds in the process. I can't think of a more enjoyable-and more rewarding- way to spend a little time on a late-winter day." "We need every birder to join us," said Audubon Senior Vice President of Science Frank Gill. "The Great Backyard Bird Count has become a vitally important means of gathering data to help birds, but it can't happen unless people take

part. Whether you're a novice or an expert, we need you to take part and help us help birds."

*Instructions can be found at [www.bird-source.org](http://www.bird-source.org). There's no fee or registration. If you aren't online or have questions, contact Bridget Butler at Audubon VT at (802)434-3068 or [bbutler@audubon.org](mailto:bbutler@audubon.org).*

## NOFA's 21st Winter Conference

February 15, 2003

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) announces its 21st Annual winter conference on Saturday, February 15 at VT Technical College in Randolph. Sister Miriam MacGillis, co-founder of Genesis Farm, a learning center and the oldest Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm in the United States will give the keynote. There will be over 30 workshops taught by a wide variety of people. Workshop topics include: medicinal herb cultivation, pastured poultry, grape production, organic certification, dowsing, perennial flowers, and social justice standards. A conference for children ages 6-13 offers farm-related workshops, games and crafts. Pre-registration for the children's conference is required. A farmers market of crafts and food, and an exhibitor's display of educational material will be held all day. The conference is from 9-5. Register in advance or at the door - \$35.00/ members and \$45.00/nonmembers. *For more information or a conference brochure, call NOFA-VT: 802-434-4122 or [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org)*

## Big Splash River & Arts Festival

June 7, 2003

This year's Big Splash River and Arts Festival will take place June 7 at the Wilder Picnic Area in Wilder VT. There will be many musicians, storytellers and environmental and river related activities for the family.

*For more information or exhibitor forms, call Bonna Wieler at 802-333-3549, or email [info@ctriverfest.org](mailto:info@ctriverfest.org)*

*Directions: From Rt. 5 between Norwich and White River Junction, VT, take Gillette Street towards the river at the church with the purple clock in the steeple.*

- Kayaks and canoes to borrow, pontoon boat tours.
- Kayak raffle 3:00 PM
- Environmental exhibits, demos, activities
- Middle and High School Environmental Science Fair
- 11:00 AM: Canoe flotilla meets under the Ledyard Bridge, park on VT side.
- 11:00-1:00 PM: Teens have use of the 30 kayaks and canoes for the rest of the day for a race around the islands and a primitive fire-making workshop.

## Sojourns in Nature Photo Tour

August 1-4, 2003

Sojourns in Nature is offering a photo tour this August. Accompany Gustav Verderber to the Maine coast, August 1-4. Seals, puffins, bald eagles, rugged seascapes, starfish, whales, and boreal bogs characterize the thrilling diversity of the North Atlantic coast. Machias Seal Island is the only bird sanctuary in the world where visitors can view nesting puffins from within a few feet to get that coveted shot of a puffin with a beak full of fish! The fee is \$515. *For description: [www.sojournsinnature.com/borealcoast.html](http://www.sojournsinnature.com/borealcoast.html). Registration deadline: June 1.*

## COMPLETE CALENDAR LISTINGS

JANUARY 17-18

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

### Songbirds & Schoolyard Habitats

Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington

Professional Development

Workshop for K-8 Educators. \$15.

Contact Jenna Guarino, 802/728-9135, [jguarino@vinsweb.org](mailto:jguarino@vinsweb.org).

JANUARY 18 8:30 AM - 4 PM

### 11th Annual Snowshoe Festival

Green Mt. Club, Waterbury Ctr. \$5 members/\$8 nonmembers. Kids under 12 free. Snowshoe demos, guided snowshoe tours, workshops, and more! Contact Julia Grand-Doucet 802/244-7037 x23

JANUARY 22

### Healthy Water, Healthy People Workshop

Rubenstein Lab, Burlington

*See related article previous page.*

JANUARY 24

9:30 AM-4:30 AM and/or

JANUARY 25 9:00 AM - NOON

### SWEEP RETREATS

Seyon Ranch, Groton State Forest

*See related article p. 5.*

Contact Steve Hagenbuch at 802/434-3068.

JANUARY 23 7:00 PM

### Vermont Earth Institute Introductory presentation on

### free discussion courses on Voluntary Simplicity, Sense of Place, Deep Ecology and Sustainable Living

Senior Center of Brattleboro 207 Main Street, Brattleboro

Contact Marcia Bourne at

802/254-2522 or [justmart@sover.net](mailto:justmart@sover.net).

JANUARY 26 3:00-5:00 PM

### Ice on Fire

VINS-North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier \$2 adult, \$1 child, \$5 family. A midwinter tradition in Central Vermont, celebrating the warmth of community in the depths of



# CALENDAR

winter. Join in a variety of activities that includes snow sports, storytelling, song and theatrical performances. Warm refreshments available. *Contact: NBNC at 802/229-6206.*

JANUARY 29 7:00 PM  
**Introductory presentation on Vermont Earth Institute's free discussion courses**  
 Putney Public Library, Putney  
*Contact: Paul LeVasseur at PaulL@sover.net or 802/387-4102.*

## Green Mountain Club's 11th Annual James P. Taylor Winter Series

The James P. Taylor Winter Series, named after the man who first envisioned a Long Trail, brings adventures to you through stories and slides. Admission: \$5 members/\$7 nonmembers; kids under 12 free. A portion of the proceeds supports GMC's Group Outreach Program. Contact Julia Grand-Doucet: (802) 244-7037 x23 for complete information. All shows are at 7:00 PM.

JANUARY 24 "**Climbing North America's Highest Peak**", with Jake Urban, BURKE MOUNTAIN CLUBHOUSE, BURKE.

JANUARY 31 "**A Journey to Nepal: High Himalayan Peaks and Mountain Communities**" with Val Stori, GMC HEAD-QUARTERS, WATERBURY CENTER.

FEBRUARY 5 "**From Stockholm to St. Petersburg: Retracing John Ledyard's Trek on Foot and Bike**" with Peter Bohler and Peter Brewitt, TRACY HALL, NORWICH.

FEBRUARY 7 "**A Journey to Nepal: High Himalayan Peaks and Mountain Communities**", with Val Stori, BURR & BURTON ACADEMY, MANCHESTER

FEBRUARY 21 "**Long Distance-Nordic Skiing, Climate Change, and Other Fun Stuff**" with Bill McKibben, UVM CAMPUS CENTER THEATRE, BURLINGTON.

FEBRUARY 28 "**Mountaineering in Peru**", with UVM out-ing club members, UVM CAMPUS CENTER THEATRE, BURLINGTON.

MARCH 7 "**Vermont's Weather Whys and Otherwise**", with Mark Breen, TWILIGHT HALL, MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.

MARCH 14 "**From Rocks to High Peaks: A Climber's World**", with Nick Yardley, GMC HEADQUARTERS, WATERBURY CENTER.

MARCH 21 "**Long Trail Journeys**", with Sean Lawson, MAD RIVER GLEN BASE LODGE, FAYSTON.

FEBRUARY 4, 6:30 PM  
**Introductory presentation on Vermont Earth Institute's discussion course**  
 Shelburne Farms, Shelburne  
*Contact: 802/985-8686.*

FEBRUARY 6 - MARCH 20  
 Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 PM  
**Picturing Plants: An Introduction to Botanical Art**  
 VINS-North Branch, Montpelier  
 VINS members \$56 / non-members \$70; register by February 3.  
*Contact: NBNC: 802/229-6206.*

FEBRUARY 9 9 AM-1 PM  
**Wildlife Tracking with Keeping Track's Sean Lawson**  
 Location: TBA  
 Register by January 19. \$15 GMC members/\$20 non-members/\$8 children under 12. *Contact Julia: 802/244-7037 x23.*

FEBRUARY 14 -17  
**Great Backyard Bird Count**  
*See related article p. 6.*

FEBRUARY 15  
**"You Are What You Eat"**  
**NOFA-VT 21st Annual Winter Conference**  
 VT Technical College, Randolph  
*See related article p. 7.*

FEBRUARY 21  
 11:30 AM - 4 PM  
**VNRC Tracking Workshop with Sue Morse**  
 \$15 for VNRC members, \$20/non-members. *Contact: Matteo at 802/223-2328*

MARCH 5-26 Wednesdays  
 7 PM and  
 MARCH 29 All-day field trip  
**Birds of Prey Course**  
 VINS-Woodstock  
 VINS members \$75 / non-members \$90, \$50 students.  
*Contact: VINS 802/457-2779.*

MARCH 13-21  
**Cree Culture Trip to Ouje Bougoumou, Quebec**, Hulbert Outdoor Center.  
 Travel by snowshoe and sleep in wood-heated wall-tents in traditional Cree bush camp.  
*www.Alohafoundation.org/hulbert or call Deb or Greg:802/333-3405*

MARCH 28 7:00 PM  
**From Finches to Fritillaries: Why Birders are Turning Their Binocs to Bugs**  
 VINS-North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier  
 with Bryan Pfeiffer. Free for VINS members, \$3 non-members.  
*Contact: NBNC 802/229-6206.*

APRIL and MAY  
**SOLO Wilderness First Aid Courses**  
 Hulbert Outdoor Center is again offering a variety of SOLO courses this spring. *Contact: Lynn 802/333-3405 Lynn\_Daly@alohafoundation.org for dates, descriptions and fees.*

APRIL 30 11 AM - 3 PM  
**SWEEP MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
 Brattleboro Extension Office, Brattleboro

MAY 7  
**VT Envirothon**  
 Farm and Wilderness, Plymouth  
*Contact: Barry King, kinglet@together.net or 802/388-4082.*

JUNE 7  
**Big Splash River and Arts Festival**  
 Wilder Picnic Area, Wilder, VT  
*See related article p. 7.*

AUGUST 1-4  
**Sojourns in Nature Tour to Maine.** *See related article p. 7.*



# RESOURCES



## Natural New England

Science & Exploration of the Northeast

P.O. Box 2518  
South Portland, ME 04116  
207-767-7204 fax: 207-767-7205  
nne@maine.rr.com www.naturalne.com

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SWEEP Members! See below.**

SWEEP members are invited to take advantage of a **free subscription offer to Natural New England**. This magazine focuses on and celebrates science and outdoor exploration in the Northeast. Published four times a year, it features articles ranging from how lightening works to the science of maple syrup; student research projects, conservation news, birding highlights, and museum activities, etc. Email [nne@maine.rr.com](mailto:nne@maine.rr.com) and ask for a free subscription. Include your name & address and say that you received this offer through SWEEP. Check the web-site at [www.naturalne.com](http://www.naturalne.com) to view the content of past issues.

**Fundamentals of Environmental Education**, February 17 - April 11, 2003 is an online, U. of Wisconsin Stevens Point, two undergraduate or graduate level credit course. Non-resident tuition waived. Based on "Guidelines for the Initial Preparation of Environmental Educators," of the National Project for Excellence in EE. Contact Sarah Wilcox: [swilc700@uwsp.edu](mailto:swilc700@uwsp.edu), 715/346-4958. <http://www.eetap.org/eecourse/>

**Earth Report** provides weekly coverage of the state of the world environment. Background materials, information and video clips available online. Earth Report is a production of The Television Trust for the Environment, an independent production and distribution non-profit specializing in environment, development, health and human rights issues. <http://www.tve.org/earth-report/>

## International Journal of Science

**Education's Nov. '02 issue** (*Volume 24, Number 11*) focuses on varying perspectives of environmental education related research in science education. Abstracts and content index available online. <http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/link.asp?id=c3yucxenpdg>

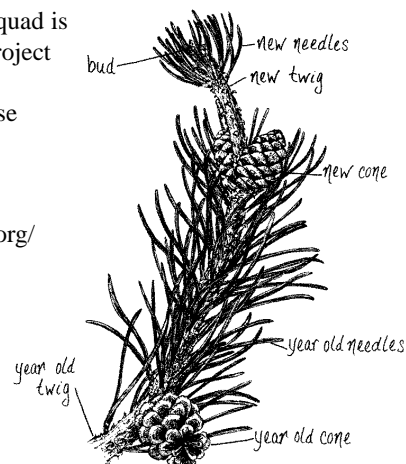
**Environmental Education Reports** from the National Environmental Education and Training Partnership. "*EE and Educational Achievement: Promising Programs and Resources*" profiles ten schools that have successfully integrated EE into their academic programs. <http://www.burkephillips.com/neetf/PromisingPrograms.pdf> "*EE Resources At A Glance*" provides an overview of national EE programs and organizations and research on the academic benefits of EE. <http://www.burkephillips.com/neetf/AtaGlance.pdf>

## The Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment's

**Atlas of the Biosphere** contains numerous maps documenting environmental phenomena across the globe, such as water resources, ecosystems, land use patterns, and human impact, at a variety of scales. Related material on the site includes several different global ecosystem and terrestrial hydrology models. <http://atlas.aos.wisc.edu/maps.php>

The August '02 issue of **Environmental Education Research** focuses on critical analyses of attempts to model the gap between pro-environmental behavior and environmental knowledge and awareness. Specifically, "Mind the Gap: why do people act environmentally and what are the barriers to pro-environmental behavior?" by Anja Kollmuss and Julian Agyeman, is used as a focal point. All articles can be accessed online for a fee - some abstracts are available. <http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/link.asp?id=rfhd0lmwa9yg>

**The Green Squad** web site gives kids the tools and skills they need to help locate and solve environmental and health problems in their schools. Primarily for students in fifth through eighth grade, it also offers information for younger and older students as well as parents and teachers. The Green Squad is a collaborative project of the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Healthy Schools Network. <http://www.nrdc.org/greensquad/default.htm>



## RESOURCES



### Environmental Protection Agency Grant Solicitation Notice

Subject to Congressional action to appropriate funds for EPA's Environmental Education Grant Program (*see article below*), the EPA is soliciting grant proposals from education institutions, environmental and educational public agencies, and not-for-profit organizations to support environmental education projects. EPA has decided not to miss the annual grant cycle, however, potential grant applicants are advised to refer to the EPA website around the application deadline to determine the status of funding for the program. **Proposal Deadline: February 14, 2003.** Please note that EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards, any available funds will be released September or October 2003 at the earliest. <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

### Audubon Expedition Institute Ecological Teaching & Learning M.S. Program

Audubon Expedition Institute is accepting applications for the Summer 2003 start of its Ecological Teaching and Learning M.S. program in the Northeast or the Pacific Northwest. Accredited through Lesley University, this 18-month program is designed for professional educators interested in integrating ecological concepts into the curriculum. The degree program includes two three-week summer field semesters, and two fall and one spring semester via distance learning. *Contact: Audubon Expedition Institute, P.O. Box 365, Belfast, Maine 04915. Phone: 1-888-287-2234. Email: [info@aei-audubon.org](mailto:info@aei-audubon.org). [http://home.acadia.net/userpages/croraven/etl/etl\\_home.htm](http://home.acadia.net/userpages/croraven/etl/etl_home.htm)*

### National EE News

As you have heard, funding for the Office of Environmental Education within the Environmental Protection Agency has been in jeopardy for the past six to seven months. EPA has agreed to release funds to the Office of Environmental Education under the current continuing resolution (which provides funding for the first quarter of FY2003 at FY2002 levels). In making this decision, EPA took notice of the large number of comments and concerns registered by people in the field, like SWEEP



members. A notice of solicitation has been issued for environmental education grants as well as the Environmental Youth Awards, a program recognizing young people for projects that demonstrate their commitment to the environment. The EPA has also expressed interest in continuing the STAR Fellowship program, but will wait until funds are authorized by Congressional Appropriations Committees and then approved by the President to fund the program.

When the 108th Congress convenes on January 7, 2003 it is slated to resume work on the remaining 11 appropriations bills, although no House floor votes are scheduled before January 27th. Currently the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have report language directing funding at \$9.16 million for the Environmental Education Program at the EPA.

# JOBS, INTERNSHIPS & VOLUNTEER OPP'S

**The Vermont Peregrine Falcon Recovery Project** is looking for **volunteers** to help with two projects, its **Annual Cliff Survey** and the **Cliff Monitoring project**. Both start in early April with training in late March. Cliff Survey volunteers spend about 3 hours a week for 2 weeks observing known and potential Peregrine cliffs for occupation by territorial pairs. Cliff Monitors adopt one site and monitor it weekly through July (duties can be shared with others) to document occupancy, nest ledge selection, onset of incubation, hatching date, number of young, and if possible age chicks accurately to schedule banding. Binoculars are needed in both cases, spotting scopes are important for Cliff Monitors. Most sites require some off-trail hiking (1-2 miles), but many are on roadsides. Basic raptor identification skills helpful but not essential; ability to tolerate buggy, hot, and/or cold conditions is. *Contact: Margaret Fowle, National Wildlife Federation, (802) 229-0650 x303, fowle@nwf.org*

**ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain** (previously the Lake Champlain Basin Science Center) is now recruiting **volunteers, interns and work-study**

**students!** Our mission is to educate visitors about the Ecology, Culture, History and Opportunities (for stewardship) in the Lake Champlain Basin. Opening in May on Burlington's Waterfront, ECHO will contain 2,200 live animals surrounded by over 100 hands-on exhibits in nearly 30,000 square feet of space with spectacular views of the Lake. Volunteer, internship and work-study opportunities are available in Education, Animal Care, Office/Administration, and Development/PR. Come help us teach people about the beautiful region in which we live--from the alpine zones of the Green Mountains and Adirondacks to the lowlands and wetlands of Lake Champlain. *Contact: Rachel Jolly at (802) 864-1848 or jollyrachel@hotmail.com.*

**VINS** expects to hire several people this spring and summer: **Seasonal Educator** - full-time in Woodstock from April 1-Oct. 31. **Summer Camp Instructors** -- 2 in Woodstock, 2 in Montpelier to begin mid-June. **AmeriCorps Members** -- 1 full-time in Woodstock, 1 half-time in Montpelier to begin in Sept. *Contact: Marcia Whitney at (802) 457-2779, ext. 113, or mwhitney@vinsweb.org.*

**Shelburne Farms** is hiring a full time, year round **Educator/Professional Development Provider** for agricultural and environmental programs for adults and children. The candidate must possess a Masters degree in education, science, environmental studies and/or in agricultural fields. Strong agriculture experience/interest preferred. *Send/fax cover letter and resume to: Linda Wellings, Director of School Programs, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Road, Shelburne, VT 05482. Fax: (802) 985-8123*

**Shelburne Farms** seeks **summer interns and organic gardening and education apprentices**. Strengthen your teaching techniques and agricultural and natural history knowledge while being involved in a variety of programs. We also seek a seasonal summer camp educator and seasonal farmyard staff for summer 2003. For more information or to apply, send/email letter of intent and resume to *Christine Durant, Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Road, Shelburne, VT 05482. (802) 985-8686 (ext. 51) cdurant@shelburnefarms.org*



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

W Organization: \$35    W 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

# SWEEP PEOPLE

Updates on the comings and goings of environmental educators across VT

**Donald DeVoil** will develop and guide AVR's Youth Environmental Coalition. A Scotsman with experience in environmental & social justice issues in Africa, Donald was director of the Alpine Environmental Education Center in Switzerland and worked with a number of UK non-profits on sustainable development.

The education staff of Audubon VT is changing to most effectively utilize its resources.

**Kim Guertin** continues as Teacher/Naturalist and Day Camp Director and will coordinate school field trips. **Bridget Butler**, also a Teacher/Naturalist will coordinate public programs,

including family and preschool programs. **Steve Hagenbuch** assumes the role of Acting Green Mountain Audubon Center Director and is working to ensure smooth operation of the Center's programs and facilities. After 4 years with Audubon VT, **Larry Berrin** is moving on to work with VINS. His dedication to environmental education helped strengthen Audubon's High Pond residential camp. He will be missed and the Audubon staff wishes Larry the best of luck. A search for a High Pond Camp Director will start in the near future.

**Chris Ortiz**, formerly Onsite Education Coordinator at VINS,

has moved to Maine. **Larry Berrin** will take his place. **Alice Bryant** is VINS' new Lead Raptor

Educator, and **Brian Campbell** will fill a new Educator position. **Rob Anderegg** replaced **Mike Muller** as ELF Program Coordinator and **Hilary Davis** is the new ELF Program Assistant. Hilary contributed some of the artwork to this newsletter - thanks! **Rebecca Roy** in Woodstock and **Marlys Eddy** at North Branch, are VINS' new AmeriCorps workers. The staff at VINS-Manchester has doubled with the arrival of **Pete Corradino** in a new Educator position working closely with Director **Susan Morgan**. **Matt, Oliver** and **Anne Bijur** welcomed baby **Henry** in early November.

**Becky Proulx** is the Hulbert Outdoor Center's new Director of School Programs. She began her work at Hulbert seven years ago as an instructor and has been the Assistant Director of School Programs since 1997.

Mark Your  
Calendar!

## SWEEP Membership Meeting

APRIL 30, 2003 • 11 AM - 3 PM

BRATTLEBORO EXTENSION OFFICE, BRATTLEBORO



## Vermont SWEEP

Statewide Environmental Education Programs

9 Bailey Ave. • Montpelier, VT 05602