

SWEEP

Get all the Dirt

"Nothing Under the Rug"

NEWSLETTER OF THE VERMONT STATE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS WINTER 2006

A Summer of Study and Exploration in Vermont with Green Across the Pacific

Last summer, eleven students and four educators from the Affiliated High School of South China Normal University (Hua Shi Fu Zhong, HSFZ) joined American students and educators for an intense two and a half week program.

Its purpose was to study environmental challenges in Vermont in the context of a broad overview of the natural history, and economic and political interests that contribute to natural resource management policy in the region. It was also to forge enduring impressions and relationships among participants and encourage them to engage in environmental leadership in a world where environmental challenges exist on both local and global scales. For the first ten days of the program, students were housed at Camp Thorpe in Goshen, a camp for people with disabilities. The rest of the time, local families opened their homes to members of the group. "It was an unforgettable time for me," said student Qinyi.

Marjorie Gale, Vermont State Geologist began the program with a field lesson on what lies beneath the shape of our landscape in the Champlain Valley. Resource personnel such as Gary Salmon, Jim Andrews, Richard Lutman, Bob Spear and Inga Brown, Shawn Good, Susan Morse and Robert Sterling each taught the group about their particular area of natural history. The group visited several manufacturing plants and quarries as well as



other trips to learn about wastewater treatment, wind farms and environmental management. According to Christie Harris of OMYA Industries, "students were surprisingly well prepared and asked very thoughtful questions." For

various perspectives on agriculture, they also spent time at several farms, including Blue Spruce Farm, a large dairy operation. Blue Spruce Farm is introducing Cowpower to Vermont in partnership with CVPS where they learned how methane from cow manure is used to generate electricity. They learned about the political process through a visit to the State House in Montpelier. At the conclusion of the program, students made presentations. Topics included waste water challenges for OMYA at their Verpol plant, wetlands and use of buffer zones to reduce agricultural runoff, waste water treatment through living machines, power generation with wind turbines, and sustainable forestry practices..

As Principal Zhu Ziping said, "By working intensely with people who are working with or for the nature, our students've become more serious and realistic in their thinking and study on mother nature. In addition, they've known more about our own country from the experience in a developed country. All of us are impressed by the exchange program much."

How can SWEEP help You?

See p. 3 inside to read some ideas and find out how you can share your own!

See "Opportunities" on p. 10 for information on how you can get involved in a GATP program.

Note from the Chair

Dear SWEEPers,

Over the past few months we have been thinking about “what can SWEEP do to best meet the needs of SWEEP members?” As we posed that question to ourselves and to the larger membership many wonderful ideas have sprung forth. Possibilities ranged from hosting a list-serv for members to engage in lively on-line conversations to offering professional development workshops for teachers. (Please look at the list of ideas on p. 3 and send us your thoughts!)

As we here in Vermont are thoughtfully reflecting on our work, so are our cohorts across the country. I recently returned from the North American Alliance for Environmental Education conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While there I attended the national affiliates meeting where I met affiliate leaders from other states and Canadian provinces. We shared our successes and challenges; overwhelmingly affiliates felt that they successfully held workshops/conferences and hosted informative websites. Challenges ranged from fundraising to diversifying membership and beyond. In the coming months I hope that SWEEP can identify member needs and how to meet them – given our resources – and can increase and diversify our membership. Environmental education is critical for every citizen of Vermont. We know that – let’s help others see the relevance and importance of our work. Keep up the amazing work!!

Best Wishes,

Jen Cirillo
SWEEP Board Chair

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 information, see p. 11.
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“SWEEP: Get all the Dirt” is produced twice a year. We welcome your contributions. Contact editor Barry King at <kingle@together.net>

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SWEEP People

Angela McGregor is the new outreach/education coordinator for Shelburne Farms’ Sustainable Schools Project. She was a Shelburne Farms apprentice and started out as an AmeriCorps*VISTA with SSP. **Kathy Wohlfort** has joined the staff of VT Earth Institute as assistant to the director. Kathy also works for the National Wildlife Federation as a Peregrine Research Assistant. **Laura Philipps** has switched from being VEI’s Burlington Coordinator to the Central Vermont Course Coordinator. **Christine Fournier** has joined the VINS Community Mapping Program staff. She has an MS in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology and a BA in Environmental Studies and Latin American Studies. **Adrian Ayson** is VINS’ new Director of Education. He served as Mass Audubon’s Director of Education and has been a leader in environmental education for over 20 years, serving as President and Treasurer of NEEEA, President of the Massachusetts Environmental Education Society and editor of the New England Journal of Environmental Education. **Lidie Whitier Robbins** left the SWEEP Board and moved to Maine with her husband and daughter. She will continue to work for the Northern Forest Center, setting up an office in Farmington. **Tim Tadlock** is the new Keewaydin Environmental Education Center Director. A graduate of Prescott College with a degree in Environmental Education, Tim brings not only a wealth of experience in this field, but a passion for working with kids in the outdoors. He has been on the KEEC and summer camp staff for many seasons. **Becca Rimmel** has been hired as a new full time Teacher/Naturalist at the Green Mountain Audubon Center in Huntington. She will work with school groups and will take the lead developing Audubon Vermont’s preschool programs and day camps at the Center. Teacher/Naturalist, **Bridget Butler** is switching gears to become Audubon VTs first Conservation Education Coordinator and will promote Audubon’s Forest Bird Initiative statewide.



How can SWEEP help You?

At the membership meeting at VINS last September, SWEEP members brainstormed answers to a question posed by the SWEEP Board: “How can SWEEP support the work of SWEEP Members?” The ideas, listed below, varied widely. Please read through this list and if you have other ideas or want to comment on any of the following, contact one of the Board members.

- SWEEP show on cable access TV or Radio
- SWEEP shared calendar (*doesn't have to be pretty*) to list speakers, conferences, etc. to avoid conflict. It could be a Yahoo group that is open, invited listserv. Announce it in the newsletter to invite people to join. It could be a bulletin board discussion or a one-way official channel of communication. WEF has a Yahoo Group for us to use. We could use the calendar as PR to visitors to the state or general public by connecting with VT Tourism Board and well in advance.
- We have to make sure we are providing services that benefit members.
- Buy rights to EETAP's UW-SP EE courses – SWEEP members as local professors. Distance learning for teachers, environmental educators. Take a piece of some of these courses that are not offered currently in the state. NCATE 126 hours.
- SWEEP members present EE as modules in our state university system
- SWEEP scholarships for teachers to take EE courses
- Town forest stewardship EE opportunity for SWEEP members
- SWEEP sponsors study group of different topics
- SWEEP hosts speakers for PD
- SWEEP salons – discussion groups – perhaps through free teleconference.com
- We are doing great with the SWEEP newsletter, website, list serv, and twice annual meetings!
- Statewide Calendar of all things environmental, nice PR for SWEEP, with admin webpage for SWEEP members.
- List of available professional services: Who can speak on what topics? Who has curriculum on specific topics? Who has resources, provides services. A matrix of sorts?
- Envirothon – SWEEP could recruit coaches and high school students, share the announcement on the website, in the newsletter, in meetings. SWEEP could host school listserv with names of organizations that could help with Envirothon and other programs. NRCDs Envirothon participation varies, SWEEP members could work with NRCD staff and promote ideas for how to get involved in EE in schools and SWEEP member orgs. Can get those kids outside.
- Co-marketing at tables at conferences
- Gail Hall keeps a list of high school science teachers that SWEEP could connect to
- SWEEP should encourage local colleges to offer EE to pre-service students

Vermont has New Standards for Natural Resources & Agriculture

From the time Vermont first adopted its “Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities” in 1996, it was apparent to teachers and environmental education/agriculture education advocates that something was missing. Discussions of natural resources and agriculture were fragmented with the largest block of evidence for them tucked into the section on “Design and Technology.” The discussion here was from the perspective of extraction and disposal with no mention of wildlife, natural communities, or what natural and agricultural resources are!

In 1998, with the guidance of Shelburne Farms and others, a group was formed to develop and offer revisions to the standards.

“Cultivating New Partnerships” was successful in persuading the State Board of Education to adopt new standards on “Sustainability” and “Understanding Place.” These standards were added to the Vital Results, the overarching portion of the VT Standards that pertain to all disciplines in the educational life of our children. This was a wonderful victory, but even then-Education Commissioner Marc Hull admitted that more should be done to infuse natural resources and agriculture into Vermont’s Standards for Knowledge.

By Ginger Anderson

To see the new standard, go to:
http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/pdf-doc/pgm_curriculum/science/anr_standard_716_rev_0905.pdf
 All the standards as well as the GE's to date are available on the Dept. of Education's website.

continued on p.10

NEEEA NEWS

By Peter Bullock

Massachusetts Hosts Provocative NEEEA 2005 Conference!

Environmental education paradigms were challenged in Sandwich, MA during the 39th Annual New England Environmental Education Alliance Conference. Keynote speaker Michael Shellenberger was on hand to suggest a new beginning on the heels of *The Death of Environmentalism*, the controversial article he co-authored with Ted Nordhaus in 2004. Shellenberger framed his keynote on the story of Come Back Salmon by Molly Cone, as an example of post-environmentalism succeeding on cultural,

political and educational fronts in order to address a larger environmental problem – rather than the other way around.

Shellenberger revealed that the secret is to dream big.

In Shellenberger's view environmentalists are guilty of "negative, complaint-based activism that fails to engage the public." He suggested that "environmental education" is specious and that "sustainability"

is uninspiring because it is geared toward survival rather than fulfillment. He presented an alternative paradigm of "positive psychol-

ogy" based on values research in the U.S. and Canada through American Environics, www.americanenvironics.com. To wit, one workshop sought to deconstruct EE philosophies such as the connection between "Awareness, Knowledge and Action," and the oft quoted "We will conserve what we love, we will love what we know..." to be inadequate theories of change. Based on current research, more is needed; values supersede knowledge.

Since the conference theme was "inventing the next generation of EE", many of the workshops embodied positive thinking by stressing components of enjoyment, fun and connections. But the major synthesis between the keynote and the workshops didn't occur until the concluding activities. It was unveiled in theatrical fashion as a showcase of "unlikely partnerships." Shellenberger's compelling case to "bridge values" between seemingly disparate "value tribes" found life in new alliances between EE and the National Rifle Association, Walmart and NASCAR! The point was driven home that to engage our audience we should identify their needs first and start with truly, common interests.



New England Environmental Education Alliance Board Update

The New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) works to promote quality environmental education across New England in partnership with the state environmental education organizations. Each year, the NEEEA board provides support and guidance for the state hosting the NEEEA Annual Conference, offers professional development opportunities for EE leaders and administrators, publishes the *New England Journal of Environmental Education*, maintains a website (www.neeea.org) with current information about environmental education events of regional interest as well as links to the different member states' websites, and represents the regions' environmental education interests at the national level with a NAAEE liaison.

The NEEEA board is made up of 14 members, volunteer representatives of environmental education in each of the six New England states. In 2005, SWEEP members Nancy Notterman and Lisa Purcell were voted onto the NEEEA board. As SWEEP continues to discuss how best it can serve its members here in Vermont, Nancy and Lisa will work with the NEEEA board to see how the different state organizations operate and how they support environmental education in their home states. The NEEEA board is discussing a variety of possible projects for 2006 to assist its members, including maintaining a combined database of members, offering a listserv to discuss regional EE issues, providing professional development workshops in addition to the annual NEEEA conference. Stay tuned and check out the website.

If you have topics you think NEEEA should be exploring in 2006, contact NEEEA Board (and SWEEP) members Nancy Notterman or Lisa Purcell: nancyn@together.net lpurcell@vinsweb.org

Organizational News

Valley Quest wins NEEEA's Marie Pirie Award!

During the '05 NEEEA conference, the NEEEA 2005 Marie Pirie Environmental Program Award was awarded to the Valley Quest program, Steven Glazer, Program Coordinator. This award is for a program which is, "Innovative and creative, implemented broadly, easily replicated in other regions, sustainable, has a strong evaluation component, and results in demonstrated action by participants." The Valley Quest program of Vital Communities was founded in White River Junction in 1996 to have local children make "community asset maps" to share their special places. The Quests are designed to teach children, adults, natives and visitors about these special places in the Upper Valley through clues in rhyming verse and hand-drawn maps which lead to specific community landmarks. Over 10 years, the program has grown to include 200 natural and cultural Quest-adventures spread across 65 VT and NH communities. Quests lead to favorite trees and old cemeteries; explore

historic village and farms; and interpret a wide array of natural communities. Utilizing standards-based lessons, the program taps into the specific richness of community places and heritage; and brings students into meaningful partnership with community resources, groups, elders & wisdom holders. As the student-created product—the Quest—is published, student learning is shared with the broader community. More than 5,000 Valley Quest books have been sold to date; with the result of many thousands of children and families learning about the things that make the Upper Valley special. Steve Glazer has coordinated the Valley Quest program since 1999 and is the editor of *VALLEY QUEST: 89 TREASURE HUNTS IN THE UPPER VALLEY* and *VALLEY QUEST II: 75 MORE TREASURE HUNTS IN THE UPPER VALLEY*. He is also the author of *THE HEART OF LEARNING: SPIRITUALITY IN EDUCATION*; and the co-author (along with Delia Clark) of *QUESTING: A GUIDE TO CREATING COMMUNITY TREASURE HUNTS*.

By Paula Coughlin,
2005 Awards Chair,
New England Environmental Education
Alliance and Simon
Brooks, Vital Communities

PLT Workshop for College Faculty

Project Learning Tree (PLT) Coordinators from Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts, conducted a 2-day Facilitator Training for college faculty in White River Junction in October. PLT is the multi-disciplinary environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. PLT is sponsored in Vermont by the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. It was the first regional PLT training of this type offered in the region and was a great success.

Over 17 college faculty, who are involved with teaching students preparing to become primary and secondary school teachers, became trained as PLT Facilitators. This means that they now can use the PLT curriculum materials in their college classrooms as they prepare their students to become teachers themselves. Once trained, these college students will have this valuable natural resource curriculum at their fingertips to incorporate into their own lessons.

Three of the participants brought along their spouses, at least two of whom are teachers as well. They expressed great enthusiasm

in receiving the training as they saw how beneficial it would be to their own teaching. PLT works extremely well in this type of situation, as it helps educators weave the environment into their daily lesson plans. PLT increases students' understanding of our complex environment and is designed to teach students how to think, not what to think, about environmental issues. This type of training could be repeated in the near future, as there are a large number of college faculty who could benefit from such an experience.

The entire training workshop, including food and overnight accommodations, was provided to the participants at no charge, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Education under agreement # NT-82865901 between USEPA and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.



By Ed O'Leary,
Operations Director,
VT Dept. of Forests,
Parks & Recreation

By Gina Mazer and
Erin Croom

AVR provides education & assistance on non-toxic cleaners

Association of Vermont Recyclers (AVR) partnered with the Northwoods Stewardship Center (NSC) to develop and host the Healthy Homes Clean Waters (HHCW) workshop for 2nd-5th graders in the Northeast Kingdom. Developing and implementing this workshop was a great partnership opportunity for AVR and NSC as it complemented the missions of both organizations. Erin Croom, AVR Education Coordinator states, "Because AVR is primarily funded to provide waste reduction education, we

really enjoyed working with Northwoods on this project. Their focus on place-based environmental and watershed education goes hand in hand with our need to educate children about the dangers of dumping toxic products down the drain."

This workshop guides students in understanding the relationship between the improper disposal of common household

hazardous waste and their local watershed. While students found the household water cycle intriguing, they really enjoyed the workshop activities, such as removing "toxic waste" from the water and creating their own non-toxic All Purpose cleaners to take home.

AVR also is helping many of these schools switch to Environmentally Preferable (EP) cleaning products. The use of these non-toxic products helps protect the health of school staff, students, and the environment. AVR has worked with the non-profit INFORM to offer cleaning product audits that assess what products the school is currently using and to create a report that outlines specific recommendations for each school. AVR's audit reports address issues of indoor air quality and environmental health impacts on students and staff. AVR staff supports schools in their transition to EP cleaning products. This year, audits have been performed at Burke School, Sutton Village School, East Haven School, Miller's Run, Glover School, Albany Community School, Irasburg School, and Orleans Elementary. If you would like AVR to provide an EP Cleaner audit at a school near you, please contact us at techassist@vtrecyclers.org.

AVR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- AVR has moved to Plainfield! Our new address is: PO Box 428, Plainfield, VT 05667, and email address is: admin@vtrecyclers.org.
- AVR currently has generous funding to provide schools in Southern Vermont, Lamoille and Mad River area with free programs. Please contact AVR if you know of any schools or youth programs.

By Anne Molleur
Hanson

Porter Brook Environmental Center Day Camps

June 2005 marked the fourth year of Porter Brook Environmental Center (PBEC) Day Camps with nearly 60 children, ages 3 to 13, from the Greensboro/Hardwick/Craftsbury area. Based out of Greensboro's Highland Lodge, the camp programs begin as soon as the science-based programs for school groups wrap up.

The multi-day camps combine Earth Education techniques, crafting and play and the offerings grow yearly along with the original four-year old campers. There is a three-day "Critters and Communities Camp," for 3-4 year olds based on magical quests and sensory exploration of three natural communities at Highland Lodge: the pine woods, the "leafy" woods, and the meadow. Four and five year-olds attend the "All About Animals Camp" which uses puppetry, outdoor games and exploration to discover how mammals, birds, insects, and reptiles/amphibians are alike and different from each other. "Plants in Particular," for 5 and 6 year-olds is a four-

day program focusing on green plants and the sun as the energy source of life, and features games, a scavenger hunt and daily work on a plant-themed t-shirt. New in '05 was "Food Chain Frolics" for 6 to 8 year-olds which built on the children's knowledge from previous summers to explore how animals, plants, and the sun are linked via food chains. All week campers learn the basics of different food chains culminating in the activity/celebration of a "food chain feast."

PBEC also runs an overnight Discovery Camp for 8-13 year-olds. This three-day camp is a wonderful way to bring local children, Highland Lodge guests, and summer community children together. In the next year we may fold this camp into the regular day camp programs. We also hope to tap the energies of local native skills expert Jeff Bickart for a new offering in 2006.

The PBEC is run on a part-time basis by Highland Lodge staff Anne Molleur Hanson and Cheryl Ecklund.

Burlington Community Wildlife Habitat Initiative

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and Gardener's Supply have teamed up to put Burlington on the map as a leader in wildlife habitat restoration. The Burlington Community Habitat Initiative is a multi-year program that involves community members in voluntarily restoring and creating wildlife habitat throughout Burlington, with the goal of having the City become certified as a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat. To date, only 13 other cities in the country have achieved this status; only one is in the northeast.

Community Wildlife Habitat Certification is part of NWF's Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ Program. Community Wildlife Habitat projects take the basics of this program — providing food, water, cover, and places where wildlife can raise their young — from individual backyards into multiple locations throughout the community.

Community Wildlife Habitat projects benefit the entire community of people, plants and wildlife by creating sustainable landscapes that help keep water and air resources clean, reduce the impact on natural resources, beautify urban areas and give residents pride in their neighborhoods.

To become certified, Burlington is developing a "Habitat Initiative Team," which will work towards earning a certain amount of points in five categories. There are a multitude of activities that can earn points toward certification, and the team will be responsible for creating an individualized plan for

Burlington that will help the City achieve certification.

To kick off this Initiative, Gardener's Supply and NWF will co-sponsor a 3-part series to encourage more Burlington-area residents to get involved and learn what it takes to create habitat in their backyards. The dates are: March 31, 6-9 p.m., April 1, 9 a.m. to noon and April 8, 9 to noon. The program will be held at the Gardener's Supply in Burlington's Intervale and will cover:

- What is wildlife habitat and why is it important?
- What types of native habitats do we have in Burlington?
- Steps to creating a backyard habitat
- Backyard site assessment and design
- Planting and maintenance
- Creating your own Backyard Habitat Plan and certifying your site
- The Burlington Community Habitat Initiative

Participants will receive a copy of NWF's *Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife* by David Mizejewski, as well as other wildlife related resources. The program is limited to 50 participants. Cost for all three sessions, which includes the book, is \$20. To learn more about NWF's community certification program go to: www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/cwhsites.cfm.

By Liz Soper, NWF

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Series

MARCH 31, 6:00-9:00 PM
APRIL 1, 9:00 AM - noon
APRIL 8, 9:00 AM - noon
Gardener's Supply, Burlington.

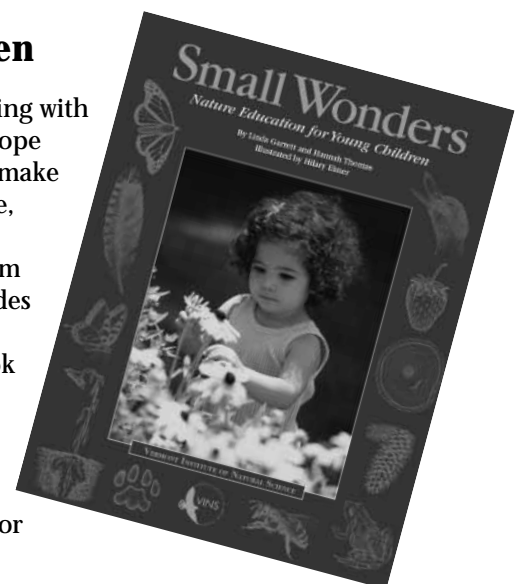
To pre-register, call Gardener's Supply Intervale Store at 802-660-3503. For more information email Liz Soper at soper@nwf.org

Fee: \$20 for series

Small Wonders: Nature Education for Young Children

VINS is happy to announce the arrival of its newest publication, *Small Wonders!* Designed for early childhood educators, daycare providers, environmental educators, parents and grandparents, *Small Wonders* is a natural history curriculum that includes hundreds of interdisciplinary activities that can be used with young learners in the classroom, outdoors and at home. Children who participate in these lessons get to role play, imitate, imagine, experiment and create — all while learning about animals, plants and the world around us. *Small Wonders'* aim is to encourage young children, their care givers, and their families to spend time

learning about and connecting with the natural world with the hope that, given opportunities to make their own discoveries outside, preschool age children will use those experiences to form important and lasting attitudes toward nature. For information about purchasing a book or participating in a *Small Wonders* workshop, contact Kay Gibson at VINS' North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier, (802) 229-6206 or email kgibson@vinsweb.org.



By Sean Lawson

Naturalist Programs Celebrate 10th Anniversary at Mad River Glen

Mad River Glen celebrates 10 years of award-winning Naturalist Programs. Located at the ski area in Waitsfield, the Naturalist Program has a mission to educate the public about the ecology and conserva-

For more information on the 10th Anniversary Series, the events calendar and a snowshoe trail map, visit www.madriverglen.com/naturalist or call (802) 496-3551 x117.

tion of the Vermont's unique alpine environment. Founder and Program Director (and SWEEP Board member), Sean Lawson notes "What an exciting season for us! When I started this effort ten years ago

as a seasonal offering of weekend snowshoe trips, I could only dream that the Naturalist Program would become a year-round educational draw for children and adults

alike." Mad River now offers a full snowshoe trail system, an on-mountain Nature Center with interpretive displays, a summer Adventure Camp for kids, and school, group, and custom nature programs throughout the year. This winter's "10th Anniversary Series" features special workshops, evening presentations, and slide shows by visiting experts. Highlights include ornithologist Bill Barnard speaking about the Ivory-billed woodpecker in late December, a "Walk on the Wild Side" tracking adventure with Naturalist Alcott Smith in January, 'Eye on the Sky' meteorologist Mark Breen presents "The Heart of Winter Storm" in February, and the VINS "Raptor Encounter" live bird show in March.

By Barbara Duncan

VEI Simple Living Lending Library a Hit!

In January, 2006 the VEI Simple Living Lending Library will reach its 60th public library! The two identical collections continue to circulate well and are booked a year in advance. This year the lending library got a boost from the Byrne Foundation of Etna, New Hampshire. Part of a \$2,000 grant went to fund Barbara Duncan's library talks on "Simple Living Yesterday and Today," that often accompany the Lending Library's two-month residencies. The League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley also continues to provide support for this program.



There have been talks this year at the Fairlee Public Library, the Norman Williams Library in Woodstock, and the Hartland Public Library. A fourth talk is scheduled for November 30th at the Bradford Public Library. In 2005, VEI discussion courses were started in public

libraries in the towns of Fairlee, Hinesburg, Manchester, Quechee, Thetford, Warren, and Westford. Volunteer Richard Czaplinski led a discussion about living sustainably at Cutler Memorial Library, Plainfield. VEI is delighted by the many partnerships with public libraries in Vermont and the Upper Connecticut River Valley.

By Barbara Duncan

Collaborative Grant Received

Vermont Earth Institute (VEI) recently received a grant from the VT Department of Environmental Conservation Solid Waste Management's Youth and Consumer Education program to collaborate with the Association of Vermont Recyclers (AVR) and the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District to offer VEI's Home Eco-Parties. This fall VEI's Barbara Duncan worked with AVR's Erin Croom and Gina Mazer to merge AVR's Healthy Home, Clean Waters initiative and VEI's Home Eco-Parties to raise awareness and knowledge about toxic products and change purchasing and proper disposal habits. The first pilot project was an Eco-Party

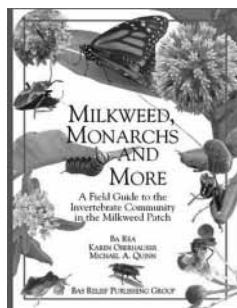
Call AVR at (802) 454-8400 or VEI at (802) 333-3664 to schedule an Eco-Party for your friends, neighbors or school community.

at the home of Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District's operations administrator Joyce Majors.

AVR Education Coordinator Erin Croom related, "Developing the Healthy Homes Eco-Party has been a fantastic way to reach people who might not think about toxics." She reported that, "People at the Eco-Party liked the stress-free, fun environment where they could discuss otherwise avoided, 'under the carpet' issues." According to Joyce Majors, "Holding the Eco-Party with a small group in my home brought about some very enlightened discussions. We all learned something about each other's toxic habits and came away with ideas to change them."

Book Reviews

Monarch Butterfly Book Reviews



As you read this review, the monarch butterflies west of the Rocky Mountains have aggregated in Pacific Grove and areas near the California coast. Monarchs of the east have now migrated (except those who did not leave) to the oyamel

fir forests 3000 meters above sea level in the mountains of Michoacan in central Mexico. I recommend the following three books for expanding one's knowledge of the monarch butterfly.

The first, *MILKWEED, MONARCHS AND MORE* evolved from Dr. Karen Oberhauser's NSF grant for her Monarch Larva Monitoring Program out of the University of Minnesota. It was co-written by Karen, Ba Rea, and Michael Quinn in 2003. It has very nice photographs contributed by many individuals, and this pocket sized field guide covers milkweed ecology, monarch biology/ecology, and an overview of arthropods, especially those associated with milkweed plants along with the monarch butterfly. If you are interested in the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, visit www.mlmp.org.

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

As children's connections to nature diminish and the social, psychological, and spiritual implications become apparent, new research shows that nature can offer powerful therapy for such maladies as depression, obesity, and attention deficit disorder. Environment-based education dramatically improves standardized test scores and grade-point averages and develops skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making. Anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that childhood experiences in nature stimulate creativity.

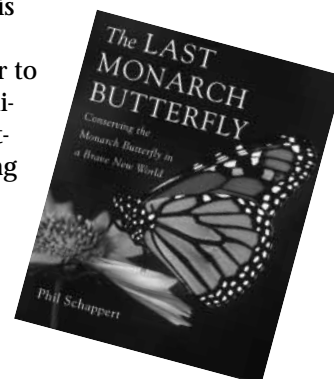
In *LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS*, Louv talks with parents, children, teachers, scientists, religious leaders, child-development

researchers, and environmentalists who recognize the threat and offer solutions. Louv shows us an alternative future, one in which parents help their kids experience the natural world more deeply—and find the joy of family connectedness in the process.

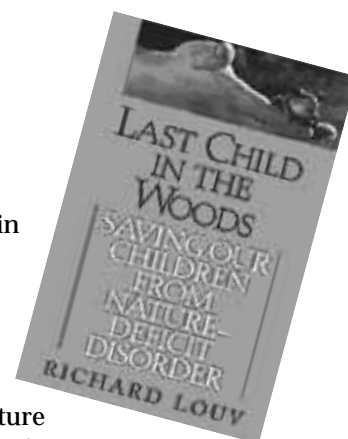
The second book, written in 2004, is authored by Phil Schappert. He wrote *THE LAST MONARCH BUTTERFLY* in order to explain as much as he could about the migration and ecology of the monarch butterflies. It is a very educative, interesting volume; he has two photos of Karen Oberhauser, one where she is holding a male and female, demonstrating the two alar pockets on the hind-wing of the male that the female lacks. If you ever wondered about the 4000km journey that these butterflies fly, this is the book for you.

If you are a parent or an educator, or if you know an inquisitive child, *MY MONARCH JOURNAL* written in 2000 by Connie Muther with photographs by Anita Bibeau will please you. She has two editions. The Student Edition does not include the Parent-Teacher section. From hatching the egg to finding, caring for and studying monarch caterpillars, time lapsed photos and subject personalized questions encourage the student to use descriptive writing in this photographic journal. The photography is exceptional. Connie is a neighbor, living in Connecticut; she gladly gives workshops: email inquiries to conniemuther.com.

By Peg Goldman



Peg L. Goldman is a naturalist, environmental educator, writer and job seeker:
pgoldman@scientist.com



Louv makes a passionate and well-researched case for the importance of nature play in children's physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual development. He states: "If, as a growing body of evidence recommends, 'contact with nature is as important to children as good nutrition and adequate sleep', then current trends in children's access to nature needs to be addressed."

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By Richard Louv,
(Algonquin Books,
2005) Reviewed by
Jeanne Roy, education
director of the North-
west Earth Institute,
via the Vermont Earth
Institute.

New Vermont Standards continued from p.3

As teachers used the Standards in their preparation and teaching, guidance was needed to help them better incorporate knowledge and skills with grade-appropriate examples and evidences. New federal rules made it clear that grade expectations were needed to supplement the Standards.

Some of the same people who had worked on or commented on the "Sustainability" and "Understanding Place" standards were contacted in 2003 to help the VT Department of Education with the "GE's." The group decided not only to assist with the GE's for some of the existing science standards, but to see if the existing Design and Technology standards on Natural Resources couldn't be expanded into Natural Resource and Agricul-

ture, and be folded into Science section.

Thanks to the patience of DOE, the group continued to meet after the GE's were finished in 2004. Then- Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, Elizabeth McClain took an interest in the project as did the Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets and sent representatives. In the spring of 2005, the group was ready to submit revised standards to the State Board of Education. The standards were accepted for the Fields of Knowledge in September.

The new standards won't be implemented until GE's are prepared for them. There is no target date when this will be done. However, consensus on standards for Natural Resources and Agriculture has been achieved for Vermont!

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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 2006. 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

Apprenticeships provide post-college individuals with practical experience and skill development in the fields of environmental and agricultural education, interpretation, animal care, and organic gardening. Apprentices work on a full time, temporary basis (one or two seasons), receive a living expense reimbursement and are provided housing on site.

Internships are designed to allow an individual to receive college credit through their institution while working and learning at Shelburne Farms. An internship can be full or part-time, lasting for a season or part of a season. Housing and reimbursement not provided.

Opportunities

2nd Annual National Environmental Education Week

APRIL 16-22, 2006
Coordinated by National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, this will be the single largest environmental education event in the U.S. and will provide a week of educational preparedness for Earth Day for thousands of educators and millions of students. Find out how to get involved!
<http://www.eeweek.org/>

Vermont State Parks Nature Programming

Have a great program or project that you would like to present to an eager audience? Vermont State Parks is looking for natural or cultural history offerings in selected parks in exchange

for camping, or day use. *Please call Rochelle Skinner at 802-241-3665 or e-mail her at rochelle.skinner@state.vt.us.* Vermont State Parks hire seasonal naturalists in some of the larger parks, so if you know someone looking for a great summer job, Rochelle can help with that, too.

Join Green Across the Pacific

(see related article p.1) at Champlain College in a Natural Resource Management Program for American and Chinese High School Students and Educators. From mid-July to early August 2006, Green Across the Pacific will offer programs in Vermont and South China. The Vermont Program: Based at Champlain College in Burlington, high school students will program will review regional natural history and environmental policy development with a delegation of Chinese students and teachers through extensive field work in this three week program. There will be opportunities to host Chinese visitors during weekends and in August following the program. Those who successfully complete the Vermont-based exchange will be given priority for an expedi-

tion to south China during the summer of 2007. The China Program: The Affiliated High School of South China Normal University will design a program which parallels the Vermont program but with a Chinese perspective. See a part of China through the lens of a Chinese program, not as a tourist would. Educators: Each program will also consider applications from educators. This opportunity can lead to relicensing credits and possible employment during future summer programs. *Contact Peter Lynch: 802/897-5232 or peter@gatp.org or www.gatp.org*

Green Teacher seeks new team

After 15 years, Green Teacher editors Gail Littlejohn and Tim Grant are seeking a new team to take over the publication of *Green Teacher* magazine and the day-to-day operations of the non-profit organization, beginning in the spring of 2006. The chosen team will demonstrate that they have the right combination of skills and are capable of managing a bi-national publication.
<http://www.greenteacher.com/new-team>

Calendar Listings

FEBRUARY 3 – 5

VINS Women's Winter Nature Retreat in the Northeast Kingdom. *Sharon Plumb: 802/229-6206 or splumb@vinsweb.org*

FEBRUARY 4-5

Winter Medicine, Rescue & Survival Hulbert Outdoor Education Center, Fairlee, VT (802)-333-3405, *deb_williams@alohafoundation.org*

FEBRUARY 18, 19

Keeping Track Tracking Workshops \$120 for both days; \$70 for one. Join Susan Morse for two intensive tracking-packed days at Wolfrun, Jericho, VT, during prime bobcat time. Space is limited, so call immediately. (802) 434-7000.

MARCH 31 6:00–9:00 PM

APRIL 1 9:00 AM - noon

APRIL 8 9:00 AM - noon.

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Series (see related article p. 7)

APRIL 26

SWEEP membership meeting, location t.b.a.

JUNE 25-27

Principles and Best Practices of Place-Based Education
Shelburne Farms.

A practical framework for creating and using place-based curriculum.

Contact: pstraughan@shelburnefarms.org, or visit www.shelburnefarms.org/education-programs/professional.shtm This is one of a series of four opportunities for professional development this summer. Each event represents interwoven elements within a system of professional development. These events are offered in partnership by Shelburne Farms, Sustainable Schools Project, Community Works, and Vermont Folklife Center. Each event is distinct in content, while sharing purpose, conceptual unity, and a nationally recognized faculty team. All events are appropriate for K-16

teachers or administrators, and community-based educators. Graduate credit is available for each. *More information, along with a downloadable brochure is available on the Web site of each event.*

JULY 7 – 10

Moose Safari to Jackman, Maine with Keeping Track. \$900 (Includes everything but transportation.) Explore prime moose habitat both on land and water and learn about the biology and ecology of moose. Hearty home-cooked meals with comfortable cabin accommodations. (802) 434-7000.

JULY 10-14

Discovering Community: Students, Digital Media, and Place-Based Learning, Vermont Technical College, Randolph. Hands on experience with community based research and documentary production *Contact: Greg Sharrow 802-388-4964 gsharrow@vermontfolklifecenter.org www.discoveringcommunity.org. For series description see June 25 listing.*

JULY 17-21

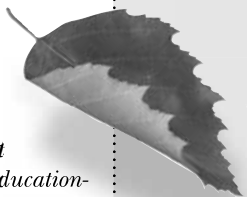
Education for Sustainability Institute, Shelburne Farms. Curriculum development, community partnerships, campus ecology and collaboration. *Contact: Jennifer Cirillo jcirillo@shelburnefarms.org www.sustainableschoolsproject.org For series description see June 25 listing.*

JULY 24-28

Community Works Institute on Service-Learning *Shelburne Farms.* Putting service-learning best practices into action-a premier national event. *Contact: Joe Brooks jbrooks@vermontcommunityworks.org, or www.vermontcommunityworks.org For series description see June 25 listing.*

JULY 24-29

Reading The Landscape, Washington, Maine. Tom Wessels' Landscape Ecology Workshop for students of natural history, teachers integrating place-based curricula, and those interested in experiencing the New England landscape. *http://www.medomakcamp.com/wessels.php*



Get Swept Away!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Organization: \$40 Individual: \$15

Please make check payable to SWEEP and mail to: SWEEP
9 Bailey Avenue, Montpelier, VT 05602. Thanks!

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

Resources

“Setting the Standard, Measuring Results, Celebrating Successes, A Report to Congress on the Status of Environmental Education in the United States” submitted by The National Environmental Education Advisory Council in March 2005. <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/advisory>.

E-blogs E-Magazine’s “The New Grapevine” by Roddy Scheer, discusses the many blogs (Web logs) available to environmentalists looking for the latest and greatest information on green investing, sustainable business

solutions, alternative energy, and more. <http://www.emagazine.com/view/?2939>

Environmental Literacy in America by Kevin Coyle, presents a comprehensive look into

the current state of environmental literacy in the United States; how environmental education and media relate; what is the actual impact on human behavior; and what needs to be done and why it is more important than ever to improve environmental literacy in the U.S.

<http://www.neef.org/pubs/index.htm>

Tree of Life (ToL) Learning Pages provide information on using the ToL Web Project as a tool for learning and teaching about biodiversity. Web pages are linked to scientist-created core content about the world’s organisms.

<http://www.tolweb.org/tree/learn/learning.html>

NSTA’s Early Years Blog - innovations in the preK-2 classrooms. Topics include: finding

resources & activities, assessment & standards, classroom management, and integrating strategies. <http://science.nsta.org/earlyyearsblog/>

Place-based education research and student achievement results – Powerpoint presentation by Michael Duffin. http://www.peecworks.org/PEEC/PEEC_Research/S0032637E

Connecting Service-Learning to the Curriculum: A Workbook for Teachers and Administrators - second edition now available. Resource for building a best practice based approach to planning educational projects and service-learning practices. <http://www.vermontcommunityworks.org>

Visit SWEEP online at:
www.vermontsweep.org



Vermont SWEEP

Statewide Environmental Education Programs

9 Bailey Avenue
Montpelier, VT 05602

Save the Date!
NEXT SWEEP MEETING:
APRIL 26, 2006