



Environmental Education Council of Ohio

*A Quarterly Newsletter For  
EECO Members*

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**Volume XXV**

**Number 2**

**Summer/Fall 2006**

## Announcing Call for Presenters

40th Annual EECO Conference

# "A Golden Guide to a Healthy Planet"

April 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2007

Aullwood Audubon Center, Dayton, Ohio



EECO is pleased to announce a Call for Presenters for the 2007 Annual Conference at the **Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm** near Dayton, April 26-29, 2007. A special professional development forum will be held on Thursday. The conference theme will be divided into four strands. Our stakeholders include teachers, naturalists, residential camp personnel, resource professionals, administrators, board members, parks personnel, and students, who participate in

environmental education in both formal and non-formal settings, in both non-profit and for-profit organizations.



## STRANDS

### A Golden Guide to a Sustainable School, Home and Office

- ☞ Introduce us to any activity that will help us apply principles of sustainability to our daily life
- ☞ Possible topics include: recycling, eliminating use of chemicals, reducing waste, using habitats for learning, storm water management, native plants, school/community gardens, "green" building

### A Golden Guide to the Diversity of Life

- ☞ Introduce us to activities that will show the diversity of environment around us
- ☞ Possible topics include: natural history, outdoor activities, and holistic /organic farming

### A Golden Guide for a Diverse Audience

- ☞ Introduce us to the variety of applications of environmental education in different audiences
- ☞ Possible topics include: environmental education in underserved areas, "nature deficit disorder," agricultural education, and social marketing

### A Golden Guide to a Just Environment

- ☞ Introduce us to examples of social justice applied to different environments
- ☞ Possible topics include: fair trade, service learning, land trusts, legal strategies to combat environmental pollution, and discrimination (e.g., landfill location)

**See Insert for application.**

**For more information,**

check the EECO website:  
<http://www.eeco-online.org>





## Wilds educator studied carnivore conservation, education programs EECO past president travels to Africa

Laura Busby, Director of Conservation

Education at the Wilds and EECO's immediate past president, was in Africa this August to study conservation programs for cheetahs, African wild dogs and other African wildlife. She plans to use lessons learned on the trip as the Wilds develops a new facility for conservation of mid-sized carnivores.

"My goals were to learn about the conservation of the carnivores in their home ranges and make educational connections to those locations," says Busby. "This will help us to build more holistic programming at the Wilds that connects our research and conservation work here with activities in the field."

Busby traveled to Namibia with a group of U.S. educators and instructors from Miami University and the Cincinnati Zoo to conduct field research projects at the Cheetah Conservation Fund's headquarters, investigating, among other things, the design of school and community programs in Namibia. She also joined Namibian educators to begin long-term collaborative projects linking classrooms in both countries. Busby and the Namibian educators will continue their work on Dragonfly's web platform, created specifically for educator collaboration.

Following the trip to Namibia, Busby traveled to Zimbabwe to visit the Community Conservation Education Complex (CCEC) of the Painted Dog Conservation Project. The project works to conserve and increase the range and numbers of the painted dog (also known as the African wild dog) both in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in Africa by providing conservation tools and education material that can be used to protect this highly endangered carnivore.



## Three Days in the Woods... Language of Nature 2006 and LEP

The 5th annual Language of Nature summer retreat and writing institute was held June 15-17 at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center in the heart of beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

In addition to the traditional nature exploration and writing exercises, this year's workshop provided an integrated 6-hour Leopold Education Project workshop and materials. This collective experience gave participants not only a chance to explore their own nature writing talents but also afforded a deeper understanding of Leopold's influential work.

EECO sponsored this only-one-of-its-kind-in-Ohio workshop, in partnership with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association, Ohio Arts Council, and the Ohio Environmental Education Fund.

Look for information about upcoming EECO workshops in this newsletter and on-line at [www.eeco-online.org/](http://www.eeco-online.org/).



## Go Green Initiative Encourages school recycling

The Go Green Initiative (GGI) is a new program designed to help schools reduce waste. This simple, comprehensive program is designed to create a culture of environmental responsibility on school campuses across the nation. Founded in 2002, the GGI unites parents, students, teachers and school administrators in an effort to make real and lasting changes in their campus communities that will protect children and the environment for years to come. The GGI Association provides training and resources for Go Green schools and serves as a clearinghouse for information on environmental education programs throughout the country.

The GGI encompasses five principles that provide the framework for teaching environmentally responsible behaviors on campus. These principles serve as a guide for schools to evaluate every aspect of their environmental impact. Schools may implement as few as three principles in creating their own unique programs designed to address local concerns.

The five principals are:

1. Generate compost;
2. Recycle everything that cannot be reused and purchase items that can be recycled;
3. Educate students, teachers, and parents on environmentally responsible behavior;
4. Evaluate the environmental impact of every activity; and,
5. Nationalize the principles of responsible paper consumption.

In order to access all the tools, training and funding opportunities, register your school by visiting [www.GoGreenInitiative.org](http://www.GoGreenInitiative.org). Once registered, you will be eligible for any funding opportunities, and informed of other Go Green schools in your area. As resources, grants and special events are available, you will be notified so that your Go Green school can choose from an ever-increasing menu of options through the Go Green network.

The first step is to build a Go Green Team that includes at least one representative of every sector in the campus community (e.g. parents, teachers, custodian, administrators, and where age appropriate, students).

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District encourages every school in Ohio interested in starting or improving your recycling program to register with the GGI and review the Planning Guide for School-Site Go Green Teams at [www.gogreeninitiative.org/PlanningGuide.pdf](http://www.gogreeninitiative.org/PlanningGuide.pdf).