

The Environmental Education Advocate

The Newsletter of the National Environmental Education Advancement Project Fall/Winter 2001

The EETAP States Program: States Selected to Advance Environmental Literacy

by NEEAP Staff

This October the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) selected 8 states to participate in the new EETAP States Program. Based on NEEAP's successful EE 2000 program, the EETAP States Program was conceived by a group of EETAP partners and an on-line application process was developed in conjunction with WestEd Regional Laboratory. EETAP was able to secure resources for eight states to receive \$25,000 in funding for two years plus a "web" of organizational support from ten national partners that make up the EETAP consortium. Altogether 37 states applied to this program. The states selected include **Arizona, California, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah and Washington.**



The EETAP States Program focuses on building the capacity to deliver model comprehensive state environmental education (EE) programs. Each state will participate in the program over the next two years to implement their unique Scopes of Work in addressing priority areas for the field of EE such as 1) pre-service EE teacher training, 2) certification in EE for non-formal educators, 3) searchable directories of EE resources for educators, 4) leadership clinics to link schools and communities, 5) state EE centers, and 6) model EE school programs. All states selected for the program demonstrated the leadership, organizational capacity, and commitment to cultural diversity to implement project goals. "A priority focus of the EETAP States Program is not only to build capacity in diverse communities", stated EETAP partner Hyder Houston of the Greater Washington Urban League, "but to increase the participation of people of color in both leadership and stewardship roles in the EE field."

"This is by no means a cookie cutter approach," said Abby Ruskey, Co-Director of the National EE Advancement Project (NEEAP), the consortium member with oversight of the EETAP States Program. "We will work on a custom basis with each state to provide support where it makes sense to do so, while encouraging all state organizations to draw upon their own resources and expertise and that of their peers in other states to develop comprehensive EE programs." At the end of the two year program, EETAP leaders

(continued on page 8)

A Gathering of People and Ideas: Capacity Building Tools at the 2001 NAAEE Conference

by Kim Wade, EE Consultant

If you attended the 2001 NAAEE Conference in Little Rock, then you likely stopped at The Gathering Place—a long wall chock full of colorful posters and handouts—to read folks' ideas and to record your own. The Gathering Place gave conference attendees a chance throughout the conference to share information and to hold conversations about various environmental education initiatives. The following were featured at The Gathering Place.

1. **NAAEE's draft mission and goals** were posted on large newsprint. Conference attendees were invited to submit comments and ideas by completing "Idea Cards" and taping these to the wall. All comments posted on the wall were submitted to the NAAEE Board to inform NAAEE's strategic planning which is at a critical juncture this year.
2. The draft **Little Rock Declaration**, a document encouraging increased support for environmental education that will be submitted to leaders around the world, featured "Idea Cards" that were taped to the wall to inform the

(continued on page 5)



Inside this Issue:

News From Here and There.....	2
2001 NAAEE Affiliates Pre-conference Workshop Update.....	3
Emphasis on Pre-Service Training.....	3
<i>At The Grassroots...</i>	
Working Together.....	4-5
What's New With EETAP?.....	6
Resources & Opportunities.....	7



Editor's Note



Dear Readers:

As fall tumbles into winter, the NEEAP staff would like to wish you a cozy and peaceful holiday season.

This issue of the *EE Advocate* aims to deliver information, inspiration and resources that will support you in your work to strengthen environmental education. Much of the issue is devoted to developments that have taken place in EETAP. EETAP partners have waded at least waist deep into new collaborative territory this year with all of the challenges and advantages of undertaking true synergy. In essence, we are "practicing what we preach" in crafting an effective collaborative by challenging ourselves to develop and deliver programs that mesh our creativity and resources and that provide essential products and services to the EE field that no one organization could produce on its own. In the process, we are having to forge understanding, respect and tolerance for each other, and this is not easy. But it is well worth it because environmental literacy will only be achieved when we learn to overcome cultural, racial, organizational and other barriers in the process of achieving the infrastructure to support quality environmental education.

Year one of EETAP was focused on building plans and programs and establishing strong, working relationships among partners. We are still working at this as we launch forward with state and local partners in the EETAP States Program, the Demonstration Communities Project, and a new Preservice Teacher Training initiative. Visit NEEAP's website (<http://www.uwsp.edu/neeap>) to learn more about the EETAP States Program. Other EETAP initiatives such as a Nonformal Institute for EE will be starting anew this year and the *EE Advocate* will keep you posted along with the EETAP website at <http://www.eetap.org>.

As always, regular features such as *News from Here and There*, *At the Grassroots*, *Resources and Opportunities* and *What's New With EETAP?* bring you current information about the work of your peers, as well as ideas and resources you may be able to tap into. Be sure to read about current developments with the NAAEE state-level Affiliates Partnership as well.

In closing, I would like to request your involvement in this newsletter. Please tell us what you think about the newsletter and how we can improve it to better serve you. Provide us with suggestions for articles or offer to submit a feature or information for one of our regular columns. We need your input, so please take a few minutes and send your ideas to neeap@uwsp.edu.

Happy Holidays,



Abby Ruskey, Co-Director, NEEAP

News From Here and There



Georgia

The University of Georgia and the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia are collaborating on an initiative entitled The Georgia Project for Excellence in Environmental Education. Utilizing the NAAEE 'Guidelines for the Initial Preparation of Environmental Educators' as its framework, the project will design, implement, and evaluate the establishment of core environmental education and continuing education requirements that will reflect professional standards and competencies for EE providers. This will be accomplished via a rigorous EE certification program that will raise the bar of excellence in environmental education through a purposeful and deliberate program of study that promotes and fosters lifelong learning experiences that significantly enhance the content knowledge and skill level of environmental educators. The format will follow a train-the-trainer model: once certified, individuals will, in turn, coordinate EE training at the community level to meet locally-based needs. Training at the local or site-based level will reflect the philosophy and multidisciplinary nature of the state-wide certification program and yet have the flexibility to meet specific local content knowledge and skill requirements. As a result of the project, certified EE providers will (1) participate in a peer-approved and research-based program of study that promotes and provides lifelong learning experiences that sharpen their knowledge and skill level; (2) understand and



personify the professional standards and competencies associated with being an EE provider; and (3) promote community-based learning experiences that ultimately increase the environmental literacy of Georgia youth and adults. For more information, contact Richard E. Osorio at The University of Georgia (rosorio@uga.edu).

The EE Advocate is a bi-annual publication of the:
National EE Advancement Project (NEEAP)

College of Natural Resources

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Stevens Point WI 54481-3897

Telephone: 715-346-4748 Fax: 715-346-4385

E-mail: neeap@uwsp.edu Website: <http://www.uwsp.edu/neeap>

Staff: Dr. Richard Wilke, Co-Director

Abby Ruskey, Co-Director, Newsletter Editor

Robert Olson, Outreach Specialist

Amy Kowalski, Communication Specialist, Newsletter Producer

Laura Dove, Program Assistant

Becky Weber, Student Intern

This publication is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) under agreement #EPA-NE-82865901-0 to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). Its contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the USEPA, EETAP or UWSP. You may reproduce these materials for the non-commercial purpose of educational advancement.

2001 NAAEE Affiliates Pre-Conference Update: Pursuing Common Threads

by NEEAP Staff

The theme of this year's North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Affiliates Pre-conference Workshop was "Unlocking Keys To Sustainability: Understanding Ourselves – Working Together With NAAEE". The pre-conference workshop for the NAAEE Affiliates has provided training and networking opportunities since the partnership formed in 1992. This year the workshop was coordinated by the Affiliates conference planning committee with the expertise of Charlotte Young of ENVision...synergy (more of her work is featured in this issue on pages 4 and 5), and with support from the National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP) and the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP).

"This year's pre-conference workshop was a positive experience for participants."

John Guyton

ership clinics and capacity building activities that have come to fruition. Participants with several years of capacity building experience under their belts are quickly becoming international leaders in the field of EE," said conference planner and participant Dr. John Guyton, Mississippi State University and representative of the Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance.

As is customary, the NAAEE Affiliates Pre-conference Workshop was held just prior to the 2001 NAAEE Conference. Over 40 participants from 21 states attended. Several NAAEE Board Members and NAAEE's President Elaine Andrews also participated in the workshop.

During the first evening of the workshop, participants created a "wall of history." This exercise resulted in a pictorial view of the accomplishments of the Affiliates both individually and collectively over the last several decades. Particularly noteworthy was the concentration of activities to develop the Affiliates Partnership in the last decade. After this segment, participants spent the majority of their time in small groups tackling challenging questions such as, "How can the Affiliate Partnership interact with NAAEE?" and "How can the Affiliates understand current activities within NAAEE?" Next steps include continued discussions about Affiliates and NAAEE collaboration, as well as how the Affiliates can be strengthened as a network amongst themselves.

Participants were given a workbook custom designed for the workshop titled "Unlocking Keys To Sustainability". This workbook provides tools for Affiliates to examine their own sustainability and covers four major areas: Keys to Getting Started, Unlocking

(continued on page 6)

EETAP Increases Emphasis on Pre-service Teachers

by NEEAP Staff

EETAP partners and managers are increasing their emphasis on pre-service teacher training. During the planning process for the second and third years of EPA's national EE training program, (EETAP) partners proposed and then rank ordered a variety of EE training objectives to determine priorities for the next two years. The objective focusing on increasing training for pre-service teachers ranked near the very top of all objectives proposed. This is not surprising, since without adequately trained teachers environmental educators will never accomplish their goal of integrating EE throughout K-12 education.

This year EETAP efforts in the area of pre-service teacher training have largely focused on planning the development of an on-line "Fundamentals of EE" course and the formation of a Pre-service Teacher Training Advisory Committee.

A draft of the course has been developed and will be reviewed and piloted early next year. EETAP Project Director and NEEAP Co-director Rick Wilke has provided leadership in developing the plan for the course. According to Wilke, "We hope to market the course nationally with the assistance of our EETAP partners". The course will be available for credit to both pre-service and in-service teachers through the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) will assist in marketing. The course will also be offered to other colleges and universities. Wilke hopes that campuses that do not currently offer an EE course will adopt this course as their own, and thus increase the number of pre-service teachers receiving training in EE. Recently, Dr. Dan Sivek from UWSP and Susan Toth from Florida Atlantic University joined Wilke and graduate student Rebecca Weber in efforts to complete the course.

"We hope to market the course nationally with the assistance of our EETAP partners." Rick Wilke

EETAP is undertaking several other pre-service efforts next year in addition to offering an on-line course. The Pre-service Teacher

Advisory Committee formed by Wilke and Judy Braus, Education Director for World Wildlife Fund, an EETAP partner, recommended most of the new efforts. A session organized by Braus and Wilke at the October NAAEE Conference provided an opportunity to gather additional input on future directions for EETAP in the area of pre-service teacher training. Two of the new EETAP pre-service initiatives are an effort by NAAEE to influence teacher training through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and an effort led by Project Learning Tree to provide additional EE training to teacher educators from colleges and universities.

For more information on EETAP's new efforts to improve and expand pre-service teacher training contact Rick Wilke at rwilke@uwsp.edu or (715) 346-4766.



At the Grassroots... Working Together -- What's In It For You?

by Charlotte Young, Ph.D., Director of Practice, ENVision...synergy*

Making sure that each organization involved shares a common understanding is critical given the potential complexity of alliances.

Allying with other organizations, partnering to gain complementary resources or other arrangements for working together have long been recognized as beneficial to building the capacity of environmental education (EE) organizations. Indeed EE organizations can benefit in many ways by working together, and funders are often looking for evidence of alliances. Despite these benefits, forging productive alliances requires time for collaboration, skill in joint problem solving as well as an ability to listen and learn from each other, and an appreciation of complementary strengths.

Non-profit organizations can ally or arrange themselves to work together in four major ways: as partners, with management service organizations, in umbrella arrangements and as mergers (Arsenault, 1998) see "What Alliance Is Right for You?" on page 5. Each arrangement has strengths and weaknesses and should be considered in tandem with the purposes for forming an alliance.

As intuitively attractive as alliances may seem in extending the capacity and sustainability of EE organizations, these alliances are usually complex and involve various forms of sharing power and control. Here are a few "thought questions" EE organizations can use to search for potential allies, and promote highly functioning alliances:

Purposes

- What is the goal/purpose of allying with others, or of a joint project or service?
- What visions, values and goals are shared? Which are different? How will this impact the potential alliance?
- When, if ever, does it make sense to act as one entity? To act separately?

Governance

- Who has control/authority over what? (How will power be shared?)
Ex: By-Laws, Board members, Executive directors, Ownership, etc.
- What are the specific responsibilities of each party?
- What are standards of service, protocols for providing the service?
- How long will the alliance last? Why is this time frame best? How will the parties exit the alliance?

Finances and Funding

- What are the specific financial and resource contributions?
- How will any losses or revenues be distributed?
- What, if any, are the financial and programmatic reporting requirements among the parties?
- Who signs contracts, leases, etc?
- What costs are involved with facilitation of the alliance, legal counsel and accounting expertise?

Communications, Congruence and Conflict

- How will parties work with different organizational cultures (reflected in values, meetings, formality, etc)? Can any incompatibilities in culture co-exist without damaging the alliance?
- How will change be handled – ex. growth in one organization but not another, changes in community served, technologies used or available, changes in leadership?
- How will trust be fostered among the organizations? (Best way to get trust is to give trust)
- How has time been allocated for collaboration?
- Within the limits of all the organizations, do the right skills and knowledge exist to manage the alliance effectively?

Strategic Planning

- Who designates strategic direction for each organization? How, if at all, is each organization involved in this process for the alliance?

Adapted from: Arsenault, 1998.

Contact Dr. Young at ENVision...synergy for additional information on developing and maintaining alliances.



* **ENVision...synergy**
120 Dewhurst Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario M4J 3J6, Canada
charlotte@envision-synergy.net
416-778-4713



(A Gathering of People and Ideas, cont.)

next draft of the Declaration. At a meeting held on the last day of the conference, 30 attendees gathered to review the input and take next steps towards completion of the Declaration.

3. The **Idea Café** was a way for conference attendees to host self-organized conversations on topics of their choice. Folks with ideas to discuss posted their topics on a grid that let others know when and where to meet for the discussions.

“We need to have information just coursing through our organizations. It is the lifeblood of organizations and it is the source of all the energy that leads to reorganization and adaptability.”

Margaret Wheatley

4. **Project Share** was a bulletin board that conference attendees used to give and get ideas on one another’s projects and programs. Anyone wanting to solicit ideas and contacts posted a Project Share postcard. Those with ideas to share on that particular project completed the back of the postcard which was later retrieved by the postcard’s originator.

NEEAP was pleased to host these activities at the NAAEE conference this year. Consider hosting your own Gathering Place to share ideas and information at your next meeting or conference. For more information on these and other capacity building activities, contact NEEAP at neeap@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4748.



What Alliance Is Right for You?

by Charlotte Young, Ph.D., Director of Practice, ENVision...synergy

Partnerships

Partnerships are two or more organizations working together to accomplish a specific purpose. These purposes include sharing knowledge, accessing new or different markets, developing new programs or services, or accessing funds. Partnerships are flexible, do not impact each organization’s individual status, and are relatively easy to exit.

Management Service Organizations

Management service organizations are entities that take on administrative functions (e.g., staff recruiting, training, benefits, fiscal responsibilities, fund-raising, contract management, marketing, quality assurance, etc.) for two or more non-profits. They increase efficiency and effectiveness of the operations, and can help consolidate overhead, increase the quality of the management infrastructure and link similar organizations. Management service organizations can also assist with third party contracting.

Umbrella Arrangements

Umbrella arrangements are a collection of two or more organizations, combined under a common umbrella. This type of alliance promotes some combining of powers and services, and some autonomy of power and services. This arrangement allows organizations to act separately or collectively when it is beneficial. Umbrella arrangements work particularly well when services should be integrated or when the entities want to foster “economy of scale” in certain activities such as fund-raising or fast growth areas.

Mergers

Mergers are two or more organizations that combine so completely that they become a new entity – the original organizations no longer exist. Mergers can reduce duplication and overhead and allow weak programs to be salvaged. The largest challenges to successful mergers are integrating different cultures and planning the transition from two or more organizations to one.

Resources for *At the Grassroots...*

Arsenault, J. 1998. *Forging nonprofit alliances*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

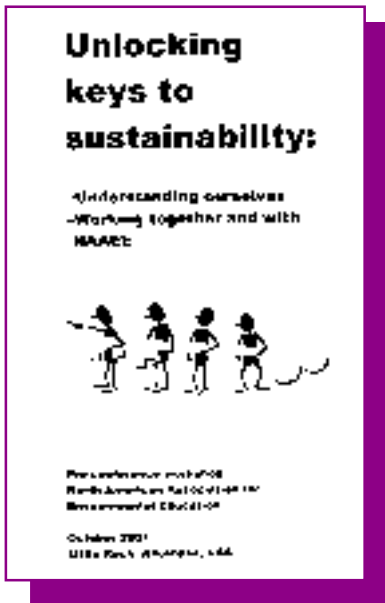
Austin, J. 2000. *The collaboration challenge*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

Bell, C. and H. Shea. 1998. *Dance lessons: Six steps to great partnerships in business and life*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc.

Bergquist, W., J. Bitwee, D. Mevel. 1995. *Building strategic relationships*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

(Working Together: NAAEE Affiliates Search for Common Threads, cont.)

Our Success Through Our History, Life Cycles & Sustainability, and Allying & Alliances (which is featured in this issue's *At the Grassroots*... on page 4 titled: "Working Together -- What's in it for You?"). A limited number of copies of this workbook are available by contacting NEEAP at 715-346-4748 or neeap@uwsp.edu.



Not only was the workshop a training opportunity, but it also responded to and reflected on the beginning of a new era for the Affiliates Partnership. Indicative of changes underway, Bob McAfee (Arkansas EE Association), Chair of the Affiliates Partnership, passed the baton this year to Tim Brown (Utah Society for EE). Many thanks to Bob for many years of effective service to the Affiliates Partnership.

To be involved in future Affiliate workshops or other efforts, please contact Tim Brown at tbrown@mail.usee.org. Be sure to look for information on the next pre-conference workshop, which will be at the 2002 NAAEE Conference in Boston, MA. There will also be important information on the Affiliates Partnership in the coming year on the NAAEE website at <http://naaee.org/>.



What's New With EETAP?

EETAP is the national training program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of EE established through the National EE Act of 1990. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) administers EETAP through a cooperative agreement with US EPA. Eleven other organizations work with UWSP to coordinate and deliver support services and training to increase the opportunities for and the quality of professional development available in EE.

Always looking for Allies

by Gus Medina, EETAP Project Manager



I field quite a few calls from organizations wondering "how can we join EETAP?" It is always gratifying to get these requests and to know that EE leaders are actively seeking to collaborate to successfully implement EE programs. However, often I must point out that organizations cannot "join" EETAP, nor are we in the business of providing grants to organizations (with the exception of the state EE capacity building programs administered by NEEAP). So what are examples of the types of partnerships that EETAP has developed?

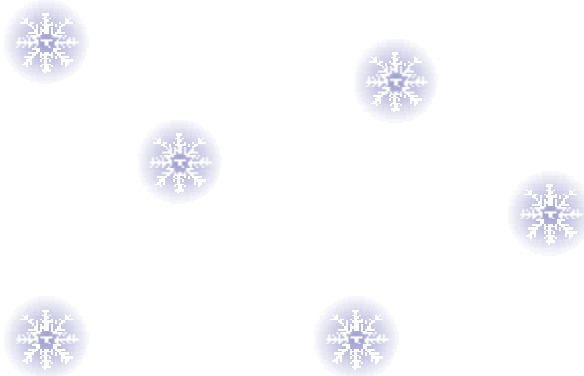
Partnership Is Dynamic

In the seven-year history of EETAP, the number of partners has fluctuated in response to available resources and shifting priorities. Recently, WestEd and Project WILD both ended their formal partner roles with EETAP, though our alliance with these organizations will continue. Occasionally, EETAP has sought out organizations to fill a particular niche. Such is the case with the Greater Washington Urban League and Project del Rio who provide leadership for EETAP's diversity training and outreach programs. Similarly, what started as an alliance with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) evolved into a formal partnership to support education reform efforts.

Alliances Do More

We have other budding alliances as well. EETAP recently participated in a special symposium for Extension Specialists at the North American Association for EE conference in Little Rock. The symposium highlighted numerous EE resources available to nonformal educators and was sponsored by "Cooperative Extension Supports Youth Environmental Stewardship" (CES YES). While there are no formal plans between CES YES and EETAP at the present time, the congruence between our respective goals create a perfect opportunity for partnership. This example illustrates possible relationships to leverage "value added" support for EE.

Coordinating delivery of resources that create mechanisms for sustainable implementation of EE training programs is the philosophical underpinning of EETAP. No single organization can hope to achieve comprehensive and sustainable EE initiatives. We need to find ways to work together. EETAP is working to do our part and we encourage you to track our progress and link up where possible. Keep those phone calls coming!





Resources & Opportunities

In order to assist states who are building capacity for environmental education and developing sustainable grassroots organizations, NEEAP offers Resources and Opportunities. In this section, you will find information and contacts geared towards networking, partnering and funding opportunities, new initiatives, and relevant Internet links and list serves.

ASCD InfoBrief

The Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) has produced an attractive briefing paper that links EE to education reform. The eight-page report draws upon research from NEEAP, the State EE Roundtable (SEER) and others to showcase the potential of EE to improve academic achievement across the curriculum. Call or e-mail EETAP to receive a copy at (715)346-4957 or rholsman@uwsp.edu.

Multicultural Training Resource

The October issue of GreenCom's (Academy for Educational Development's) *Human Nature* highlights steps to become "culturally competent communicators". Several articles provide interesting perspectives for EE leaders committed to promoting increased access and participation by culturally diverse communities in our field. A listing of resources on intercultural communication is provided in the newsletter. Contact GreenCom at greencom@aed.org to request a copy.

Capacity Building Study from the Urban Institute

Here is a web-page worth taking a look at! The nonpartisan Urban Institute publishes studies, reports, and books on timely topics worthy of public consideration. View the Urban Institutes general website at www.urban.org to see the wide variety of resources and opportunities. Included is a timely and relevant study for EE leaders titled, "Building Capacity in NonProfit Organizations". Commissioned by the The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the studies authors, Carol J. De Vita and Cory Fleming state: "We already know that many nonprofit organizations are small and possess limited resources, particularly when measured against the challenges and critical issues that they address. The push to link indicators of capacity to overall performance is critical to strengthening the sector." This lengthy study in it's entirety is available in PDF format at http://www.urban.org/pdfs/building_capacity.pdf.

Capacity Building Research in the Journal of EE

The latest issue of the *Journal of Environmental Education* (Vol. 32 No. 3) features a comparative study that NEEAP conducted of comprehensive state-level EE programs. Titled: "A Survey of the Status of State-Level Environmental Education in the United States-1998 Update", this article can be ordered from NEEAP by sending an email to neeap@uwsp.edu. You can immediately view the results of the research on NEEAP's website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/neeap>. **One result of NEEAP's research shows that there was a significant increase in the achievement and pursuit of EE initiatives across the United States between 1995 and 1998.** Seventy-one components of a comprehensive EE program were developed during the 3 years researched and many more were begun. Find out what has changed in your state and what you can do to help strengthen EE programs by visiting the NEEAP website.

Are You Moving?

If you are moving or changing positions and would like to stay informed about environmental education capacity building efforts by receiving *The EE Advocate*, send us your updated contact information at neeap@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4748.



Clearing: Environmental Education Resources for Teachers

Clearing magazine has been published out of the Pacific Northwest for nearly 20 years, providing perspectives, teaching strategies, resources, activities, and background information on environmental issues for K-12 and non-formal educators. Published four times a year, Clearing is a valuable resource for teachers throughout the US and Canada. For more information, visit Clearing online at <http://www.clearingmagazine.org> or call (503) 238-8571.



**National Environmental Education
Advancement Project
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481**

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

STEVENS POINT, WIS.
PERMIT NO. 19



(EETAP States Program, cont.)

anticipate promoting eight models of state-level processes that resulted in ground breaking EE initiatives. The models created and lessons learned will be shared across the nation.

Partnerships are key to the success of this project. The application process challenged each state to form multi-stakeholder teams to develop their proposal. Now each state team will further refine their objectives and build the cohesiveness needed to increase EE training programs. The program utilizes a multiple-role team approach to link the roles of state and national partners towards increased communication and synergy to achieve ambitious workplans in a short 2-year time frame. "We will be very interested to see how this core team approach pans out over the course of the next two years.", stated Robert Olson, NEEAP's Outreach

Coordinator. NEEAP staff will be taking a close look at the dynamics of teams and the likelihood of sustainability of the programs created in each state.

EETAP partners supporting the project include the Greater Washington Urban League, Groundwater Foundation, North American Association for Environmental Education, Northern Illinois University Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and World Wildlife Fund. By pooling resources, EETAP partners themselves are modeling a team-integrated approach to strengthening EE. Each partner brings a valuable set of resources to the process, and together partners can better assist the states selected than any one organization could do alone. The new level of synergy in EETAP will contribute valuable lessons about how diverse interests can develop mutual understanding and respect, form collaborative strategies and increase their ability to serve the growing field of environmental education.

To view summaries and updates of each of the EETAP States visit NEEAP's website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/neeap>. The developments of the project and related capacity building materials will also be posted on this site over the course of the 2-year project. *The EE Advocate* will also feature an update from each of the eight EETAP States in a regular column for the duration of the program.

For more information about the EETAP States Program, contact:

Laura Dove
Program Assistant
National EE Advancement Project
University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point
Phone: (715) 346-4748
Email: ldove@uwsp.edu



Read It Online!



You can get *The EE Advocate* delivered right to your virtual doorstep! We are now offering our newsletter in PDF which will allow you to read (and print if you'd

like) the *Advocate* as it was meant to be seen...in newsletter format. Each new issue of our bi-annual newsletter will be placed on our website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/neeap>. If you would like to receive a notification electronically (instead of getting a paper copy), please let us know by emailing neeap@uwsp.edu, calling 715-346-4748, or subscribing on our website.