



NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

UPPER VALLEY REGION

Wellborn Ecology Conference
Friday, March 26, 2010 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, NH
Information Packet

The Wellborn Ecology Fund supports environmental, ecology and place-based education (“PBE”) in the upper Connecticut River valley. Over the past seven years, the Fund has supported a wide variety of projects and program. This conference is a chance for grantees and interested educators to:

- See some of the wonderful work that has been accomplished
- Connect with others and build a stronger PBE network in our region
- Inspire new projects and collaborations
- Solve problems with colleagues regarding any obstacles we face
- Grow professionally through speakers, panels and workshops
- Have fun and get inspired!

The schedule of the day is as follows:

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Registration, display set-up, meet, greet and network	Dining Hall
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Welcome and opening: Kevin Peterson, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation	Dining Hall
8:45 – 9:30 AM	Keynote: Steve Taylor	Dining Hall
9:30 – 9:45 AM	Break (snacks available in the dining hall)	
9:45 – 11:15 AM	Workshop Session A and AB (see following pages)	Locations TBA
11:15 – 11:30 AM	Break (snacks available)	Dining Hall
11:30 AM – 1 PM	Workshop Session B	Locations TBA
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch (with some tables grouped by discussion topics), browsing the display tables, networking	Dining Hall
2:00 – 2:30 PM	Open Space Introduction and Topic Identification (Delia Clark)	Dining Hall
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Open Space Discussions	TBA
3:30 – 4:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raffle with various valuable prizes• Hand-out certificates for Professional Development credits• Closing and wrap up	Dining Room Hall

Keynote Address - Steve Taylor

The Great Sheep Boom and the Upper Valley Landscape - For about 30 years in the early 19th century, the hills of New Hampshire were home to hundreds of thousands of sheep. Most of the land south of the White Mountains was cleared for pastures and to grow hay for these animals, which were raised to produce wool. The wool was very valuable, and fortunes were made by many in what was the only period of true agricultural prosperity the state has ever known. The money made with sheep enabled the construction of many fine homes and public buildings which endure today, and the need to confine sheep led to the construction of thousands of miles of stone walls, another feature of the Great Sheep Boom that helps to define the state's landscape today. Steve will discuss this remarkable period in New Hampshire history, the impact of that history on the Upper Valley, and how it shapes our current interactions with the land around us.

Stephen H. Taylor lives in the Meriden Village section of Plainfield, where he farms with his wife Gretchen and their three sons. Their farm, begun in 1970, currently includes a 60-cow dairy herd and a 7,000-tap maple operation. From 1982 until 2007, Steve served as New Hampshire's commissioner of agriculture. Prior to that he worked many years as a daily newspaper reporter and editor, and as a freelance writer for agricultural, forestry and other publications. Steve has served on many community and state-level boards and committees, and currently he is a director of the Cornish Fair Association, trustee of the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests and moderator of the Town of Plainfield. He is a 4-H Club leader and grandfather of seven.

Workshops

Session A (9:45 – 11:15 AM)

Building a Sense of Place with Technology (*Bob Coulter, Litzsinger Road Ecology Center/ Missouri Botanical Garden*) Drawing on examples ranging from student-created geocaches to more advanced projects mapping the community with a geographic information system, learn to leverage technology to link kids with their community. We'll also look at the horizon with "augmented reality" handheld games that add virtual elements to students' experience of local places.

Making a Difference: Outdoor Investigations that Count (*Rob Hanson, Windsor Central Supervisory Union; Jenna Guarino, watershed educator; Joan Haley, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP*) The Upper Valley offers many citizen-science opportunities that can make classrooms come alive with outdoor investigations, authentic learning, mentoring from resource specialists and service to local communities. Learn how your students can benefit from and contribute to the inventory and monitoring of water, salamanders, birds, and other natural resources in our area

Two Models of High School EE (*Jen Stainton, Woodstock Union HS; Brian Tonks, The Sharon Academy*) Two teachers and their classes share curricula and results, challenges and successes in expanding high school students' environmental literacy through different approaches. Jen Stainton teaches an AP Environmental Studies course at WUHS and Brian Tonks teaches a project-based course, Energy and the Environment, at TSA.

Sowing Seeds for Farm-to-School: Place Based Education through Food, Farms and Nutrition (*Peter Allison, UV Farm-to-School Network; Erica Curry, VT-FEED*) Farm-to-School programs engage students in Place-based Education using Food, Farms and Nutrition as an educational lens. Practitioners from local and statewide FTS programs will discuss how the FTS movement is gaining ground,

connecting local food and farms into the classroom, cafeteria and community. The workshop will feature sample activities and lessons, resources and time for discussion.

Go With the Flow: Discovering the Connecticut River Watershed (*Beth Roy, VT Institute of Natural Science*) Get to know a watershed! Join VINS and the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge as we investigate watersheds through hands-on activities and demonstrations. Activities will include creating our own watershed model, role-playing the route a water drop takes and determining action steps we can all take to protect our watersheds.

“Slow Down and Read the Signs!” Researching and Prototyping Trailside Interpretive Materials and Programs (*Bob Raiselis and Amy Vanderkooi, Montshire Museum of Science*) For the two past years, the Montshire Museum of Science collected data about its visitors' use of its trail system and prototyped several methods for trailside interpretation. In this presentation, we will learn about the research methods used in this study and the results. Participants are encouraged to bring pictures of their own signage to share and discuss. Please see more at www.montshire.org/conference after March 1st.

Session AB (9:45 AM – 1:00 PM)

Winter Tree Identification (*Chuck Wooster and Dave Mance, Northern Woodlands Magazine*) Telling tree species apart in the winter is the gold standard for botanical identification. Join an interactive tour of the KUA woodlands. We'll learn general rules and specific tips for telling trees apart and also discuss the relative merits of various species for wildlife, biodiversity, wood products and home heating (wear appropriate clothing and footwear to be outside).

Session B (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

Discovering Place Through Technology (*Rob Hanson, Windsor Central Supervisory Union; Rick Dustin-Eichler, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park*) Justified concerns about the massive amount of screen time children spend plugged into computers, televisions, and MP3 players has lead many place-based educators to view technology as “the enemy”. This workshop offers an alternative possibility: the use of digital cameras, computer programs, and other technology as gateways to authentic environmental learning. Model projects will be presented and participants will spend time in the field (yes, outside!) participating in a nature photography exploration (wear appropriate clothing and footwear to be outside).

Foray Into Field Investigations (*Judy Silverberg, NH Fish & Game Dept.*) Field investigations are a key element of both the National Science Education Standards and the recently revised New Hampshire Science Frameworks. Based on inquiry-based learning, field investigations promote the development of many of the science process skills. In addition, they provide the opportunity to use the natural environment of the school grounds and surrounding area for educational outdoor explorations. There are three levels of field investigations; descriptive, comparative and correlative. We'll explore examples.

Curriculum for Place- and Work-based Education with the VT Youth Conservation Corps (*Kat Coons and Emily Magner, VYCC*) A Program Manager, School Instructor, and Corps Members from the VYCC will bring you into their world of work-based education through hands-on experience and integrated conversation.

Digging Deeper into Farm to School: School Gardens, Taste Tests and Curriculum Integration (*Peter Allison, UV Farm-to-School Network; Erica Curry, VT-FEED*) This workshop will focus on Farm-to-School best practices. Experienced FTS practitioners will provide examples, lead discussion and

conduct hands-on activities demonstrating ways to connect local farms and food to the classroom, cafeteria and community. Participants will take home sample curriculum-aligned class projects, ideas and inspiration to begin or expand their school gardens, taste tests and farm-based education experiences.

Wondrous Watersheds: An Education Panel (*Jenna Guarino, watershed educator; Kathleen Stowell, Lake Sunapee Protective Association; Betsy Owen, Springfield School District*) Watershed education is gaining momentum in the Upper Valley as an effective way to foster a sense of place and achieve academic standards. Panelists will describe their respective approaches, then facilitate a conversation about ways to enhance this work in our region. Come hear about what's being done and contribute your own ideas!

Exploring Place-based Education in Europe (*Bladen Zhukov, Fulbright Scholar in Place-based Education; Delia Clark, Confluence*) What can we learn from the ways that PBE is being implemented in other parts of the world? This workshop will dig into case studies from the UK, Czech Republic and Poland that showcase a diversity of great ideas including local green-space and “place-making” activities, organic food and school transport projects, tree planting, road safety around schools, school grounds improvement, energy efficiency projects in schools, local heritage interpretation and BIO food.

Displays

- Any group participating in the Conference is encouraged to bring a display showcasing their work.
- Displays will be set up in the dining room. Table-top and free-standing locations available.
- Displays should be self-service so that everyone has a chance to browse the other sites.
- Please bring hand-outs for people to read later – this also ensures that they will have a record of what they have seen.

Lunch discussions

Several lunch tables will be set up with cards indicating certain discussion topics or work commonalities, so if you have a particular interest in a lunchtime topic, please indicate that topic on the on-line registration form and we will designate a table devoted to that topic.

Open Space

After lunch, Delia Clark will lead us in creating “open space” discussion topics. This is your chance to connect with colleagues around whatever issues or ideas the YOU want to talk about. Come with ideas or wait and see what discussion topics strike you as the most useful, relevant, or fun!

Registration

Please click “REGISTER HERE” on the Conference Web page. You will receive confirmation via email. There is a registration fee of **\$10 per person**, which helps us defray the costs associated with putting on this conference. If you have questions or problems with your online registration, please contact **Wendy Cahill** at 603-653-0387, ext. 1249 or wlc@nhcf.org.

Questions about the Conference?

If you have questions about the Conference agenda, displays, workshops or other logistics, please contact **Kerry Rosenthal** at 203-856-0297 or kerryrose9@yahoo.com.

Directions to Kimball Union Academy

From the south and east:

Take 1-89 (north) to exit 18 (Lebanon/Hanover - Dartmouth College). Left off the exit onto Route 120 S into Lebanon. Follow 120 part way around the Green, bearing right to continue south on Route 120, eight miles to Meriden. Turn right at the blinking light and proceed up the hill. About half way up, there will be signs for the rink, campus center, and arts center on the right. Turn right and follow the driveway to parking lot. The campus center is to your left as you enter parking lot.

From the north and west:

1-89 (south) to exit 20. Turn right onto Route 12A. Follow 12A past the West Lebanon shopping plazas and up a hill. Pass a gravel manufacturing plant on the left and shortly after, look for a sign for Kimball Union Academy (on the right). Turn left on True's Brook Road. Follow this road for about eight miles where it turns into Main Street in Plainfield/Meriden. At top of hill, you will see stone church on left and you are now 'on campus'. As you head down the hill, watch for signs for the rink, campus center, and arts center on your left. Turn left follow the driveway to the parking lot. The campus center is to your left as you enter parking lot.