

THE LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY OF ANJEE



THE ALLIANCE FOR
NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

A 25th Anniversary Profile of ANJEE
Accomplishments & Plans

October 22, 2011

Dear Friend of the Environment,

I'm pleased to present you with this profile of the accomplishments and plans of the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE).

This 25th anniversary year, 2011, gives ANJEE the opportunity to celebrate its formational roots, recognize its contributions, and highlight what we are doing to address the increasing need for environmental education in New Jersey.

The most powerful bond our members share is the commitment to educate others about our environment. With a membership of nearly 400 individuals, many of whom represent schools, organizations, agencies and businesses, ANJEE is the alliance and catalyst that unites, binds together and strengthens the state's more focused educational efforts in ecology and natural resources, environmental management, environmental health, and sustainable, green practices.

The theme of ANJEE's 25th anniversary campaign is to "strengthen our roots and extend our reach." As evidenced by the highlights in this profile, ANJEE's reach is being extended through new services and offerings and it is vital that we strengthen our roots – ANJEE's own volunteer leaders and active members - with increased capacity. The need for this organization's work is increasingly obvious and it's time for ANJEE to enhance its resources so that our roots and reach are as effective as possible.

Please take time to review this profile highlighting ANJEE's legacy and leadership. Join ANJEE and get involved. Review our anniversary website and visit our progress regularly and year-round at www.ANJEE.net.

Your donation to ANJEE is an investment in environmental education for today and tomorrow's students of all ages. I encourage you to help strengthen our roots and extend our reach.

Respectfully Yours,



Elizabeth Johnson
President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ANJEE expresses great appreciation to New Jersey Audubon for believing in the work of this organization and the field of environmental education, and for giving **ANJEE** a home base for over twenty-five years. This generous support would not have been made possible without the approval of President and CEO, Tom Gilmore and the support of former Vice President of Education Pat Kane, current Vice President of Education Dale Rosselet and Sanctuary Director Mike Anderson, as well as numerous other Audubon staff and volunteers.

ANJEE thanks each current and past **ANJEE** member who ever assumed a leadership role as an officer, advisor, committee chair or committee member, or as an active volunteer, supporter or cheerleader (usually our significant others and children). Your contributions of time, expertise, finances and in-kind support are paying off and are greatly appreciated.

Look what ANJEE has accomplished and witness where it is going.

This 25th anniversary profile is dedicated to all of the citizens in New Jersey – past, present and future, who have educated others about our environment and the planet we are all a part of.

We know that our work is necessary and we believe that it is making a difference.

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The founding mission of the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (**ANJEE**) was “to create, through education, an awareness, understanding and a concern for the quality of the environment and a conviction that human well-being is dependent upon a healthy environment.”

The beginning of **ANJEE** is described below by Patricia (Pat) Kane, **ANJEE's** founder and volunteer Executive Director for several years.

“It was a warm evening in April of 1985. Twenty environmental educators from around the state were in a basement room of the New Jersey Audubon center in Bernardsville. All agreed that as **individuals** they were doing a pretty decent job in classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, parks and camps, but **on the whole**, environmental education was still regarded as a minor issue and making very little impact on the behaviors of New Jersey citizens.

They wondered...What if we set up a system for networking the formal classroom teachers with the non-formal educators? What if we had special annual environmental education conferences where we could gather and share ideas through workshops and panel discussions? What if we worked together on some common goals for strengthening the impact of environmental education in New Jersey? What then? Would it make a difference?

That was the acorn planted in the spring of '85 and the tree that sprouted was the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education.” (Source: **The Roots of the ANJEE Tree**. Pat Kane, President, ANJEE Annual Report, 1989-90.)

ANJEE was often considered by the public as well as some of its members to be a conservation or environmental organization. It was often approached to advocate for or support certain positions on issues or actions to be taken regarding environmental or natural resource protection. The organizations' founders and leaders however, were educators and not lobbyists and declined the pursuit of those invitations. Today...

ANJEE is an organization whose purpose is “to provide a structure for its members which facilitates the improvement of environmental education efforts.”

- **ANJEE Annual Retreat, 1997**

STRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

The Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (**ANJEE**) is a private, non-profit, statewide membership organization that was founded in 1985 and incorporated in 1986. Its headquarters was established at the Scherman-Hoffmann Sanctuaries in Bernardsville, part of the New Jersey Audubon Society, where it still resides today. **ANJEE** was established by volunteers and continues to be administered primarily by volunteers.

Within the first two years **ANJEE** members adopted a constitution, elected officers, committee chairs and an advisory council, established an operating budget, held its first annual conference, and began the business of advancing environmental education in New Jersey. Highlights regarding **ANJEE**'s structure and operations, beginning in 1985 through 2007, are as follows:

- The Executive Board, at various times, included a President, President-elect, Past President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer
- Standing committees, at various times, included conference, finance, publications, membership, public relations, program, planning and master plan
- Special committees included nominating, awards and later, affiliates
- **ANJEE**'s policy handbook was developed and maintained, beginning in the mid-1990s
- **ANJEE**'s strategic plan was developed beginning in 1996 and later adopted by the full membership in 1998
- Affiliate group status was established in 1997 and three groups were added to **ANJEE**'s operations: the Coalition for Schoolyard Habitats, the New Jersey Natural Resource Education Cooperative, and the Watershed Partnership for New Jersey
- The state was divided into three smaller geographic regions in 1998.

In 2005 **ANJEE**'s executive board and advisory council began to redesign the organization's board structure and rewrite the bylaws, in order to update procedures and create a structure that would build organizational capacity. The revised bylaws and organizational structure were adopted at the 2007 meeting of the general membership.

- The Executive Board now includes a President, President-Elect, Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. It also includes the Directors of Advancement, Program, Planning, Finance, Membership and Communications
- Standing and special committees include conference, regions, communications, public relations, awards, nominations, membership, newsletter and planning. Advancement (of environmental education) has several sub-committees.
- **ANJEE** continues to maintain an active advisory council
- **ANJEE** will begin to revise its strategic plan this year at the March Leadership Retreat.

GOALS, RECOGNITION AND AFFILIATIONS

ANJEE's goals are identified in its strategic plan and are to:

- A.** Promote environmental education in all formal and non-formal education endeavors within New Jersey;
- B.** Encourage both pre-service and in-service training of teachers and education administrators in environmental concepts, teaching methods and techniques;
- C.** Provide a network service for the sharing of environmental education resources, experiences and expertise; and
- D.** Provide leadership in the formation and implementation of environmental education efforts.

Special recognition given to **ANJEE**:

- **The Environmental Quality Award** from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II, in the category of "Environmental Education," in 2005
- **The Outstanding Affiliate Award** from the North American Association for Environmental Education in 2003

Affiliations maintained by **ANJEE**:

- In 1997 **ANJEE** sent representatives to a strategic planning workshop that was part of the annual conference of the **North American Association of Environmental Education** (NAAEE). This began the ongoing partnership that **ANJEE** has since had with NAAEE as New Jersey's state affiliate of this international organization.

NAAEE was established in 1971 and has members throughout North America and in over 55 other countries. Its members and affiliates promote professional environmental education excellence in non-formal organizations, pre-K-12 classrooms, universities, government agencies, and corporations. **ANJEE** has participated in numerous NAAEE conferences, clinics and surveys.

- **ANJEE** is a state affiliate of the **New Jersey Science Teachers Association** (NJSTA). As the state's only environmental education organization, **ANJEE** partners with NJSTA to honor **ANJEE's** annual award winners at the NJSTA awards program and to participate in and mutually promote the **ANJEE** conferences and NJSTA conventions.

Members of **ANJEE** share a consistent bond – a commitment to engage others in learning about or experiencing the environment. Environmental education coverage includes education about natural history, ecology and life science, earth science, geography and land use, natural resources, pollution and waste, environmental health, and sustainable practices. Many **ANJEE** members also practice methods for integrating environmental studies into other subjects, such as language arts, fine arts and technology. The increase of public interest in green practices, as well as in green buildings and schools, also bring new expertise to **ANJEE** with a focus on energy use and building systems. Finally, many **ANJEE** members have expertise in various outdoor pursuits, such as bird watching, canoeing, orienteering, geocaching and team building activities.

Most members of **ANJEE** believe that environmental education is a lifelong process that is designed to cultivate environmental literacy. Therefore, environmental education takes place in formal settings, such as grades pre-K – 12 and higher education classrooms and labs, after-school and enrichment programs, and adult education courses. It also takes place in non-formal settings, such as museums, science centers, parks, nature centers and zoos, as well as through stewardship programs, public events and self-led learning opportunities.

As a result, **ANJEE** members represent diverse professions and vocations that include classroom teachers and professors, naturalists, environmental educators, scientists, business leaders, park and museum administrators, government professionals, environmental commission members, scout and youth leaders, community and civic group members, parents and youth.

For the past decade **ANJEE** membership has fluctuated between 300 – 400 members and is a mix of formal and non-formal educators. Also fluctuating is the number of members in each of its three regions but in general, about 2/3rds of the members is in the northern and central regions. It should be noted that regular programming in the southern region has helped boost membership in those counties. Less than 5% of the membership is from out-of-state.

The membership structure has always included annual dues for individuals and students, and during certain years, for corporations and organizations. The membership categories and fees are being reviewed this year. Over 3/4th of the memberships are renewed at the beginning of each year as part of **ANJEE**'s conference registration process.

ANJEE members will, at times, advocate for federal and state policies that would advance environmental education in New Jersey. As a result, **ANJEE** advocates are beginning to correlate which legislative districts members work or reside in.

During **ANJEE**'s first decade, the annual operating budget ranged from \$19,000- \$25,000. Since that time, it has gradually increased and now ranges from \$48,000 -\$50,000. The primary source of income for **ANJEE** is membership dues, with smaller amounts of funds secured through conference income and sponsorships, income from retreat and regional programs, funds from an annual silent auction, grants and donations.

Since **ANJEE** was established it has received several grants, including funds for:

- Searchable resource directory – Governor's Office, discretionary funds
- Watershed education – New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Website development – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
- Electronic resource center – New Jersey's State Systemic Initiative
- NAAEE conference attendance – North American Association for Environmental Education (**ANJEE** has received several scholarships to off-set costs to attend these conferences.)

ANJEE established an endowment fund in 1999 with a goal of someday having the stable support of a paid staff and office. In 2002, the organization secured the in-kind assistance of an investment expert who began to advise **ANJEE** regarding the administration of this fund.

The organization later expanded Finance Committee activities to focus on investment, money management, fundraising and cost savings. In 2002 and then again in 2010, the **ANJEE** Leadership Retreat focused on fundraising plans and activities. Soon thereafter, **ANJEE** began to utilize the guidance of a tax advisor for recordkeeping. In 2005–2007 the Finance Committee updated the organization's accounting system and in alignment with the revised bylaws, revised the incorporation status. **ANJEE** began to invest annually in insurance for the board and programs, and became an organizational member of the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits.

In 2010, **ANJEE** was approached by the PSEG Foundation to form a partnership to deliver a statewide environmental education grants program. This year, **ANJEE** and the foundation announced the availability of competitive grants (ranging from \$5,000-\$15,000) for environmental partnerships between non-formal environmental education providers and K-5 pre-service or practicing teachers. The PALS (PSEG-ANJEE Learners in Sustainability) grants partnership has enabled **ANJEE** to use a small percentage of these funds to hire a part-time consultant to administer this grants program effectively. **ANJEE** would like to acknowledge the PSEG Foundation for its support and this investment in environmental education.

ANJEE is greatly indebted to the numerous organizations, agencies and companies that have donated much in-kind support, resources and services towards **ANJEE** functions over the past twenty five years. Many of these donations are thanks to active **ANJEE** members who promoted **ANJEE**'s great work to their employers.

Goal: Provide leadership in the formation and implementation of environmental education efforts.

- In 1988 **ANJEE**, through the leadership of its early Master Plan Committee, partnered with the New Jersey Departments of Environmental Protection and Education to form the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education. The commission was made official through an Executive Order signed by Governor Kean in 1989, and was asked to develop a plan of action for environmental education in New Jersey. Commission membership included one member that would represent **ANJEE**.
- **ANJEE** leaders and members were involved with helping to develop or provide comment on what became the final **Environmental Education in New Jersey: A Plan of Action**. This plan was presented to Governor Florio, members of the Legislature and cabinet, in 1993.
- The consistent support and expertise of **ANJEE** members from 1988–1996 played a pivotal role in promoting and implementing the Plan of Action and its recommendations during this time. **ANJEE** members were recognized when Governor Whitman signed into law the New Jersey Environmental Education Act, in 1996. This Act statutorily established the commission, created the Interagency Work Group, and assigned these groups to administer the state's environmental education master plan.
- In the mid-1990s when New Jersey's original core curriculum content standards were being developed, **ANJEE** members participated in the public review process regarding the inclusion of environmental education content and skills. After the standards were approved by the State Board of Education, **ANJEE** provided several workshops for members so that they could redesign and align their school offerings to support them.
- New Jersey's first Environmental Education Forum was held at the State House Annex in 1999 and was sponsored by the commission, work group and **ANJEE**. It was attended by almost 100 education and environmental education leaders, legislative staff, and government representatives. The purpose of the forum was to apprise attendees of the benefits, accomplishments, challenges and future of environmental education in New Jersey.
- The commission and work group held three joint planning meetings with **ANJEE** leaders regarding implementation of the **Plan of Action**, in 1999, 2000 and 2003.

- **ANJEE** members were instrumental in moving the state's second environmental education bill forward to a full vote in the House and Senate in 2001. The proposed legislation called for \$200,000 to support professional development in environmental education, as well as to provide funds for exemplary projects. Though the bill was not introduced for a final vote, its near passage demonstrated the strong partnership between **ANJEE** and the commission.
- Dozens of **ANJEE** members participated in regional focus group meetings that were conducted by the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education and Interagency Workgroup in 2005. The purpose of the sessions was to discuss the accomplishments, challenges and features of the **Plan of Action** and to gather information about current needs, priorities and recommendations for a revised environmental education master plan.
- When **ANJEE's** bylaws and organizational structure was finalized in 2007, several committees and focus areas were established under the new position of Director of (Environmental Education) Advancement. These include advocacy, affiliation activities with the North American Association for Environmental Education, formal environmental education, non-formal environmental education and pre-service environmental education.
- In 2008 **ANJEE** members endorsed the North American Association for Environmental Education's guidelines for environmental education excellence. These guidelines establish standards for high quality environmental education through the establishment of learner goals and outcomes for grades K-12; the development of materials; the training of environmental education professionals; the development of non-formal programs; and, the review of materials. These guidelines are being promoted by **ANJEE** to its members.
- Since 2007 **ANJEE's** Advocacy Committee has demonstrated true leadership in New Jersey by increasing the membership's and public's awareness of, as well as Congressional support for, such national initiatives as the No Child Left Inside Act, the Moving Outdoors in Nature Act, and revisions to the National Environmental Education Act. These proposed bills were introduced in Congress in 2010. **ANJEE** is poised to assist with their support as well as the development of New Jersey's environmental literacy plan, in 2011-12.
- **ANJEE** members provided comments on the draft revised master plan in 2009, entitled **Environmental Literacy in New Jersey: A Call to Action**. Members are awaiting its finalization and the reappointments of the commission and work group. **ANJEE** plans to co-sponsor an environmental education forum with the commission and work group this fall.

Goal: Encourage both pre-service and in-service training of teachers and education administrators in environmental concepts, teaching methods and techniques.

- **ANJEE** is most recognized for its annual conference, now a packed three-day enrichment opportunity that began as a one-day conference in 1986. During the last twenty-five years the conference has outgrown its host facilities, moving from two different environmental education centers to three different colleges and universities, before settling in with the Wyndham Princeton Forrestal Hotel and Conference Center in Plainsboro, New Jersey. Conference sponsorship and in-kind support is solicited yearly. As a result, **ANJEE** has been able to attract noteworthy speakers and presenters, as well as diverse workshops, exhibitors and vendors, while maintaining reasonable costs at comfortable facilities. Currently attracting around 400 participants each year, conference attendance not only boasts of attendees from the tri-state area, but from other locations around the world. One popular conference tradition is the silent auction, which has become an annual fundraiser for the organization. During the past five years the **ANJEE** Conference Committee has also made great strides to incorporate as many green practices as possible, into conference planning and implementation.

The conference always features and supports an annual theme, which are usually recognized priority topics and concepts in the field of environmental education. The program format features one day of full and ½-day seminars and field trips, and two days of workshops sessions, keynote speakers, panels, author's corners, regional meetings, and exhibitors. All of the workshops are designed to show support for the state's core curriculum content standards. **ANJEE** has been a recognized professional development provider by the New Jersey Department of Education for almost fifteen years and, as a result, has been able to provide teachers who attend the conference with professional development certificates.

- The first leadership retreat was held in 1990 and it has since become an annual **ANJEE** tradition that is held on a weekend in March. Retreat programs include enrichment and organizational development activities, committee planning, team building, a business meeting, and time for networking and socialization. Attendance ranges from 20 – 40 board members, advisors, committee members and other volunteers. Retreats are usually held at residential environmental education facilities and recreational camps that are located in different regions of the state.

- **ANJEE** members have held local programs, seminars and events for other members and educators since the organization was first established. In the mid-1990s however, **ANJEE** leadership began to recognize these local initiatives as a means for generating new members, maintaining existing members, and bringing such members into active leadership roles within the organization. In 1998, **ANJEE** divided up the state into three geographic regions. Each region currently has a regional program chair and committee and offers year-round activities to local members, including enrichment, seminars, lectures, tours, events and meetings.
- During the past twenty years **ANJEE** has sponsored several regional workshops with representatives from the New Jersey Departments of Education and Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II, regarding trainings for the state's core curriculum content standards, the environmental education master plan, professional development guidelines for teachers, and grant-writing.
- Beginning in 1997 **ANJEE** established its affiliate relationship with the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). Each year **ANJEE** leaders participate in the NAAEE conference and affiliate workshop, and then turn-key the information to other members through the conference, retreat, regional programs, or through publications. **ANJEE** leaders also participate in NAAEE leadership and training opportunities through occasional special workshops, conference calls, and year-round participation in the electronic network of affiliate members who represent the various state affiliate organizations.
- The nationally recognized model known as the **EIC Approach** (Using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning) was introduced to 9 New Jersey schools and environmental education providers from 2000–2003, with funds from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and New Jersey Department of Education. Led by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with **ANJEE** and the Department of Education, teams of teachers, students and administrators were partnered with environmental education providers (many **ANJEE** members) and were trained to integrate and practice sound educational pedagogues around a strong context of place-based learning, at their schools.
- In 2011 **ANJEE** and the PSEG Foundation jointly announced the availability of competitive grants (ranging from \$5,000-\$15,000) for environmental partnerships between non-formal environmental education providers and K-5 pre-service or practicing teachers. With a focus on professional development and authentic assessment in the classroom, grant recipients will pursue the integration of environmental science in non-science academic areas. The work of the PALS (PSEG-ANJEE Learners in Sustainability) winners from this first year of funding will be featured at the **ANJEE** conference in 2012.

Goal: Provide a network service for the sharing of environmental education resources, experiences and expertise.

- Soon after **ANJEE** was formed it developed what was for many years, its primary information source for members – **The Daily Planet** newsletter. This multiple-page document was mailed out quarterly by newsletter committees and included articles, editorials, announcements, resource reviews and events calendars. During the last decade the newsletter became an electronic document shared through e-mail, and is now produced three times yearly. It has been renamed **TeachinGreen** and is still a benefit of membership.
- In 1999 **ANJEE** entered into a partnership with the Center for Environmental and Agricultural Education at Rutgers University and the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education, to develop a web presence on the Internet. This partnership initiated an electronic resource information center that, while no longer in existence, was the predecessor to the website that is used by **ANJEE** today.
- The current **ANJEE** website went live in 2002 (www.ANJEE.net) and includes web pages for announcements, reports, calendar items, publications, awards, conference and program information, and membership forms. It has become “the hub” for **ANJEE**’s exchange of information with members or with the public. As part of a grant received for the development of New Jersey’s first comprehensive environmental education resource directory, this website is also being redesigned. **ANJEE** is using a grant to develop an electronic directory of the state’s environmental education organizations, facilities, sites, curriculum supplements and programs. The directory will be promoted to members for data collection in 2011 and the directory and new website will be unveiled and promoted beginning in 2012.
- In 2001 **ANJEE** initiated its **ANJEE ONLINE** and **ANJEE ALERTS** e-mail services for members. The ONLINE service became a twice-monthly e-mail listing of announcements regarding environmental education grants, resources, programs, events, and position openings. The ALERT messages are used occasionally and consist of messages to members from the **ANJEE** leadership, regarding organizational priorities and announcements.
- **ANJEE** established a presence on Facebook in 2009 and currently uses this network to promote its activities, share information and encourage new membership.

Goal: Promote environmental education in all formal and non-formal education endeavors within New Jersey.

- Beginning in 1989, **ANJEE** has presented an annual slate of awards for excellence in the field of environmental education. The awards categories include individual or partnership efforts in the formal sector, in the non-formal sector (with the public), and in the non-formal sector (with schools). The prestigious lifetime achievement award was also presented to the most accomplished candidates. In 1999 the lifetime achievement award was given to **ANJEE** founder and volunteer Executive Director Pat Kane when she retired from her position with New Jersey Audubon. Beginning in 1999 this particular award became known as the Patricia F. Kane Lifetime Achievement Award. Award winners are recognized at the annual banquet and awards ceremony that is part of the conference. Recipients are also promoted through the **ANJEE** website and publications as well as through the media. As part of **ANJEE**'s 25th anniversary the organization will host a fundraising banquet in the autumn and will present special awards to outstanding supporters of environmental education that are not in the field but work in the media, corporations, government, academia, community organizations, etc.
- Beginning in 1987, the Governor of New Jersey has signed proclamations declaring Environmental Education Week each April. This tradition was initiated by **ANJEE** through its members and it became part of New Jersey's Environmental Education Act. Promotion and coordination of this theme week is now carried out with **ANJEE** by the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education and Interagency Work Group, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. It has been declared nationally for several years now by the National Environmental Education Foundation. Environmental Education Week, Earth Day and Earth Week have become popular weeks in the spring for heightened environmental education activities in schools as well as for the public.
- **ANJEE** is a regular exhibitor at the New Jersey Science Convention and New Jersey Education Association Convention, as well as at select smaller conferences. Membership information and other pamphlets are distributed by **ANJEE** members through their own exhibit venues as well as at their own programs, workshops and facilities.
- **ANJEE** maintains working relationships with groups in the state that have similar missions. These groups include Sustainable Jersey, the New Jersey Green Schools Committee, the New Jersey Association of Environmental Commissions, and the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability.



This logo, used by the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education since 1985, was designed at that time by Natalie Schaeffer, a student at Kittatiny Regional High School. This project was suggested to her by her former environmental science teacher Wayne DeFeo, one of ANJEE's founding members.

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