

FALL 2022



THE EE EXCHANGE

Official Newsletter of the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education

Our First Ever 2-Day Fall Conference Revisited!

The only thing better than one day for an ANJEE Outdoor Fall Conference is TWO days of ANJEE Outdoor Fall Conference. Friday Sept. 1 and Saturday Oct. 2 saw our annual collaboration of presenters and participants all over New Jersey gathered to share ideas and inspirations for a better tomorrow. Among the native plant gardens, trails, and tents folks got to mingle with outdoor educators and project coordinators and the like on the latest projects and accomplishments of local organizations including The Watershed Institute, The Waldorf School of Princeton, Musconetcong Watershed Association, Waterspirit, and Rancocas Nature Center, along with larger entities including Rutgers University, and schools such as Unity Charter School. And we were (and always are) thrilled to meet new participants such as the NJ Watershed Ambassadors and other young educators! Sharing ideas, making connections, and spreading the importance (and joy!) of environmental education are what our conferences are all about!

Now we're looking ahead to January as we prep for the winter conference, so keep reading for news and upcoming events!

Getting artsy with Brendan Schaffer!



One of the most unique and exciting projects happening at the conference this year was the North/Central/South New Jersey triptych created by Schaffer, with help from participants! Educators channeled their inner Bob Ross to help create paintings depicting a Great Blue Heron, an urban Monarch Butterfly, and native wildflower field. Schaffer was all smiles as he prepped small plates of colors to mix and add to each picture, and enthusiastically gave each helper some great tips and lots of encouragement, which added to the already awesome experience. When completed, the paintings became a big hit at the silent auction! Thank you Brendan for this amazing opportunity!



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Committees and Membership

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ANJEE wants YOU! Join One of Our Standing Committees

GOT MAD SKILLS? USE YOUR POWERS FOR ANJEE!

Awards Planning Committee: SPOTS AVAILABLE!
Help plan an awesome awards celebration event in Fall 2023!

Contact Kelly Wenzel: president@anjee.org

Sponsorship Committee: SPOTS AVAILABLE!
Build our fundraising sources to help fund our amazing conferences!
Contact Beth Stolting: director@anjee.org

Welcome New Organizational Members!!



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Among the many benefits of being an ANJEE member is the exposure to environmental organizations, jobs, and projects throughout the state by way of:

- ANJEE online electronic newsletter and weekly eblast
- annual environmental education conferences
- regional program committees
- an awards and recognition program
- the annual retreat

Being apart of ANJEE not only means making positive impacts on our future, but also establishing and maintaining friendships and partnerships that last a lifetime! For more information, check out our website at anjee.org



ANJEE

SO HOT RIGHT NOW



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GETTING VOCAL ABOUT LOCAL (GOVERNMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, THAT IS)

How do you create an environmental education activity that would work beyond the science classroom and tune-in students with their local community? Musconetcong Watershed Association's Ryan Jiorle provided the answer in his presentation at the Fall Conference, Entitled Master Plan Masters: Tying Local Government to Environmental Issues. Based on a Project WILD Aquatic activity, Jiorle enthusiastically shared his experience in creating and perfecting this activity to accommodate students from 7 years to college level. What tends to lack in the quest for teaching environmental education is making the connection to real-world scenarios and even more important, their local community. Jiorle described his method, which could be adapted to both the classroom and outdoors with simple materials such as colored ropes, posterboard, and a bit of imagination. The lesson challenges students to consider their knowledge of what makes the environment clean

while making them think of the roles people in their local community play, such as small business owners, industry workers, and residents, along with environmentalists. There is also special focus on local governments and the roles of those such as mayor, and departments including land use, parks and recreation, and education. All is taught together in a fun and easily visualized way, making it easy for kids to think of how their decisions might affect other people as well as the environment. Best of all, the stakeholders can vary based on who is teaching the lesson and what environmental tug-of-war is at play in their towns. As a participant, I found out that as a small business owner (my role in the presentation), where I might start my coffee shop may have a negative impact on the nearby nature preserve which residents don't want disturbed.



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Join us for Regional Group Meet-ups!

Become a member and get updates in our online portal, as well as email!

North

Sussex, Morris, Passaic, Bergen, Essex, Hudson

Central

Hunterdon, Somerset, Mercer, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth

South

Burlington, Ocean, Camden, Atlantic, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May

Thank you!

FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR ANNUAL OUTDOOR FALL CONFERENCE!



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NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY





Hey, Bird Brain!

Autumn is an excellent season for birdwatching. In fact, it is such a hot topic, (plus New Jersey is directly in the path of migratory species) that this past summer REAL SPORTS with Bryant Gumbel aired an episode detailing the World Series of Birding, with birders from every corner of NJ! At the ANJEE conference, Jennifer Gaus-Myers and Mindy Schmitt of the Great Swamp OEC in Chatham, NJ made sure that people of all ages have the knowledge and skills to spot the species during their presentation "Teaching the Joys of Birding" which showcased tips and tricks for teaching multiple age levels the how-to's and how to enjoy!

Novice birders alongside experienced seekers learned how to properly use binoculars, as well as "soft-spot" birds with the naked eye. For those into technology, the benefits of the ebird app Merlin was also detailed, as well as what bird guide to bring along. For NJ birding, Gaus-Myers and Schmitt recommend an Eastern bird species guide for ease of use.

And of course there were some activities for learning bird pneumonics to help birders identify birds by sound before sight. Needless to say, I'll be looking for the Black-Capped Chickadee by thinking of, "Cheeseburgers"! For more info on birds and birding programs, Jennifer Gaus-Myers and Mindy Schmitt can be reached by email at jgaus@morrisparks.net and mschmitt@morrisparks.net



Go birding at:

Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center

247 Southern Blvd.
Chatham, NJ 07928

To register for programs:

call (973)-635-6629

or visit

www.morrisparks.net



...Vocal About Local cont'd

Having had very little knowledge of how local government and various town stakeholders impact decisions regarding environment, it was enlightening and fun to see this lesson in action.

If you'd like to contact Ryan Jiorle on his presentation and the lesson, he can be reached at ryan@musconetcong.org. Or you can see him at the MWA's annual fundraising event to help pay for renovations to a historic mill and future interpretive center on the Musconetcong River.

Asbury Mill Dinner

Thursday December 1, 2022

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Hawke Point Gold Club

4 Clubhouse Drive

Washington, NJ 07882

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Paul Muir

Mayor, Bethlehem Township, NJ

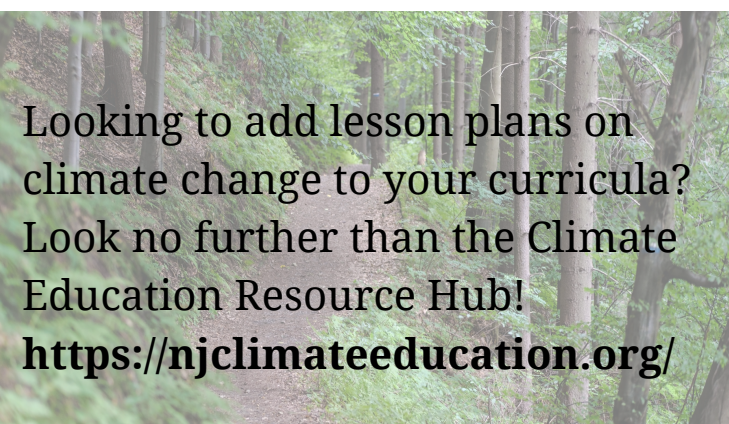
Executive Director, Red Mill Museum Village, Clinton, NJ

Incoming President for the New Jersey Conference of Mayors

SAVE THE DATE!

ANJEE'S ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE WILL
TAKE PLACE
VIRTUALLY
THROUGH THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 17 - 22.

BECOME A MEMBER AND CHECK YOUR EMAILS FOR
REGISTRATION, CALL FOR PRESENTERS, AND MORE!
HAVE AN SUGGESTION FOR A KEYNOTE SPEAKER?
LET US KNOW!



Looking to add lesson plans on
climate change to your curricula?
Look no further than the Climate
Education Resource Hub!

<https://njclimateeducation.org/>