

# Children and Nature Connection

## Monthly Update - December 2011

You will find event announcements, job opportunities, grant opportunities and research and resources pertaining to children and nature. If you are interested in a posted item, please contact the individual(s) or group(s) sponsoring the item(s).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Jeffers Outlandish Offer for Teachers

Jeffers supports teachers who believe in teaching beyond the four walls of the classroom. If you attend Jeffers' Team Teaching with Mother Nature workshops on journaling and successful outdoor instruction, you will receive journals for each of your students each year you contribute to teach outdoors. In addition, you will receive an Outdoor Classroom DVD and a Minnesota Weatherguide Environment Calendar. The calendar is courtesy of the Freshwater Society. If your school sponsors a Jeffers' outdoor workshop for teachers, Jeffers will furnish your school with a class set of "exploration kits," consisting of a magnifier, tape measure, thermometer and lanyard in a transparent case. All workshops and materials will be furnished by Jeffers Foundation **FREE** of charge. Contact Sil Pembleton at 651-429-1228 or [edorsil@earthlink.net](mailto:edorsil@earthlink.net) to learn about existing workshops or to schedule a workshop at your school: <http://www.jeffersfoundation.org>



### Together in Nature: Pathways to a Stronger, Closer Family

C&NN is delighted to announce the release of this new tool kit, free and downloadable from the C&NN web site. Research over the last forty years has shown that a secure parent-child attachment is an important foundation for a child's later competence and well-being. C&NN adds the perspective of nature-based experiences as an especially rich opportunity for the kinds of parent-child interactions that promote and sustain good attachment at any age. For more information and to download to toolkit, go to:

[http://www.childrenandnature.org/news/detail/together\\_in\\_nature\\_pathways\\_to\\_a\\_stronger\\_closer\\_family/](http://www.childrenandnature.org/news/detail/together_in_nature_pathways_to_a_stronger_closer_family/)

## NEWS

### Wisconsin's State Plan Calls for Increased Environmental Education in Schools

"Wisconsin's Plan to Advance Education for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability" was released in early November. The plan was developed by a 20-member steering committee of the Wisconsin No Child Left Inside Coalition and aims to "increase academic achievement, improve student health, and save schools money through education for environmental literacy and sustainability."

To read the plan, go to: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/cal/environmental-ed.html>



### 2011 Senate Education Bill

For the first time, the National Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization bill contains provisions to support and fund environmental education under Title IV. This amendment from Sen. Robert Casey, called the "Well-Rounded Education Amendment" encourages and supports arts, foreign language, music, environmental and other classes in grades 6-12. He said students are "disadvantaged" if they are not exposed to courses like these. For more information, go to: <http://www.nea.org/home/29896.htm>

**Submittals:** If you would like to submit an item for listserv posting, email details no later than the last Monday of the month to: [cyfc@umn.edu](mailto:cyfc@umn.edu)  
Please note that we need all event/update details as email text. Due to potential formatting difficulties, MN CNC does not distribute word document attachments or PDF documents. We are happy to accept web pages and links for distribution.

Thank you!

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## RESEARCH

### C&NN's Annotated Bibliographies of Research

C&NN is releasing Volume 5 of C&NN's Annotated Bibliographies of Research. This one-of-a-kind free service is provided by C&NN as the best single source of studies relevant to the children and nature movement. Volume 5 includes 88 new studies reported from 2009 to 2011, bringing the total in Volumes 1 – 5 to more than 200. We review the literature, evaluate for quality and relevance, and then write brief descriptions of each individual research report or synthesis of research. Links are provided so that anyone can find and read the original documents as well. If you find this resource valuable to you, your work and the children and nature movement—consider sending a tax-deductible contribution. For more information and to access the Annotated Bibliographies, go to:

[http://www.childrenandnature.org/news/detail/cnn\\_to\\_release\\_volume\\_5\\_of\\_cnns\\_annotated\\_bibliographies\\_of\\_research/](http://www.childrenandnature.org/news/detail/cnn_to_release_volume_5_of_cnns_annotated_bibliographies_of_research/)

### Mother's Care by Richard Louv

In this article, Louv reports on the immediate and long-term mental health benefits of spending time in nature. To read the article, go to:

<http://www.utne.com/Mind-Body/Ecopsychology-Restorative-Power-Of-Nature.aspx>

### Outdoor Time Helps Kids Get a Goodnight's Sleep: Report

The National Wildlife Federation's "Green Time for Sleep Time" report and parent guide says that kids that spend time outdoors sleep better. Too much time on electronic media, tight schedules and lack of playtime outdoors is leaving kids sleep deprived. More time exposed to natural light during the day and the soothing effects of natural outdoor scenes can help with a good night's sleep. To read the report, go to:

<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Why-Be-Out-There/Benefits/Green-Time-Sleep-Time.aspx>



## EVENTS

### Call for 2012 MAEE Conference Presentations! Minnesota Environmental Education Conference (MAEE)

Calling for presentations for the 2012 Minnesota Environmental Education Conference (MAEE) annual conference, June 21-22 at beautiful Itasca State Park! The theme is *Rec-reate, Re-create* and represents the opportunity to take a step back and Re-create the way we do our work as well as Rec-reate and find the play, joy and rejuvenation that allows us to enjoy our work.

Please visit the MAEE events page (<http://www.minnesotae.org/2012>) for the form and more information. This is a great way to showcase your programs and research! Deadline is **January 9th, 2012**.

### Bird Education Workshop for Educators and Youth Leaders

If you are an educator ... and crazy about birds ... this is the workshop for you! The Flying WILD and One Bird Two Worlds Activity Guides will be featured during this fun and educational training. While both guides are geared toward grades 5-8, all educators are welcome to attend. Most of the activities can easily be adapted for younger or older students or adults! Registration: To request a registration form, please e-mail Jan Welsh at [jan.welsh@state.mn.us](mailto:jan.welsh@state.mn.us).



For questions or to receive a flyer with additional information, e-mail Beth Girard at [beth\\_girard@msn.com](mailto:beth_girard@msn.com) or 612/616-8431.