

## EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Chair: Kellie Tharp (AZ)

Vice Chair: Tabbi Kinion (AR)

September 21, 2022

9 AM – 11 AM (Central Time)

Attendees = 20

### Agenda

- Call to Order/Review Agenda
  
- Conservation Education Network & Gathering. The 2021 Conservation Education Conference was held virtually. With much positive feedback, the question is now if another conservation education should be held in 2023. There currently is not a network for education administrators for fish & game agencies. Their role is unique in covering environmental education and outdoor recreation education.

Discussion: Meeting online would be a good way for education administrators to connect. A one-day meeting would work well. While concern expressed about time for attending a new conference may be too much to do for some with the many other meetings, there was much support for a meeting among educational administrators. An initial meeting will be held on Nov. 10, 11 AM Central time. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/ConEdPlanning>.

- Project WILD Updates-
  - Overview of Project WILD partner network, including AFWA member state agencies, state Environmental Education nonprofits, and other state projects.
  - Project WILD has been working with Patricia Morgan, Executive Learning Lab, on helping state coordinators develop DEI plans.
  - Development of online courses
  - Developing Plan for ePublication distribution content
  - Starting second year for work funded from ee360+ (EPA) funding. One focus in the second year will be on Justice 40—with 40% of the funds benefiting underserved audiences.
  - Recent webinars: *Drawing on Nature*, *Using EE to Teach Science Content*, *Universal Design Principles In and Out of the Classroom*. For future webinars, the EOD committee we hope will help promote for a wider distribution of educators—outside of the existing Project WILD network.
  - Discussion about potentially using in Flying WILD with bats and BatDay efforts.
  
- New CE Strategy Materials Training Sessions- As part of updating the Conservation Education Toolkit, the Field Investigation component was updated. Also updated: The Fostering Stewardship through Fostering Stewardship through Conservation Education; Landscape Investigations Guidelines; and Sustainable Tomorrow. For steps, the Working Group will consider ways training can be provided to use the toolkit.
  
- Kalkomey Updates- Overview of traditional hunter ed courses and new online course and hybrid options. The interactive course [iLearnToHunt.com](http://iLearnToHunt.com) is an example of new course. Presentation included information on student choice, analytics on the interactive experience (time spent in session, motivation, progress, intent and location). Species specific courses: deer, turkey, quail, etc. Mention of Ohio's *Wild*

*Ohio Harvest* Community to address issues for new hunters, such as access and lack of experience.

■ Lightning round- innovative ideas, success stories, etc:

Georgia DNR hosted career academy for high school students. Seven days. 21 students selected from 70 candidates. Used Project WILD activities to learn about various jobs/careers in wildlife conservation, as well as field trips.

Florida FWCC held event for third year with intent to reach new audiences. Started a scavenger hunt for families with young children and young adults. They worked with GooseChase company, using their app, to create missions designed to be fun and educational (on ecology of sites). This year will target a much wider audience over two weekends.

Ohio Division of Wildlife, ODNR—Wild Ohio Harvest Community program has several online resources for engaging new audiences. EE Council of Ohio has series of videos spotlighting environmental careers. Division is working on K-2 field guide, nonfiction text using a suite of animals from every class native to Ohio, student wildlife research symposium, held Climate & Wildlife workshops between January and June—100 participants.

Minnesota DNR: Started webinars on outdoor skills and stewardship topics—encouraging people to get outside and try activities, with about 40 live participants each week and recorded for others to watch. Agency translated many of their materials around fishing and hunting to several different languages.

Texas Parks & Wildlife—presented Project WILD as part of agency Human Resource Division retreat. Advanced online facilitator forum was held included speakers and facilitators around the country. Project WILD being used with state park grants. Working closely with the Science Teachers Association of Texas to reach science teachers.

Nebraska Game & Parks—Activities for reptile month in October, proclamation of a state reptile (box turtle), Inktober event will feature prompts on agency's Instagram posts, encouraging people to draw nature, Online weekly evening event "Nature Nerd Night." Program is also going to breweries for Nature Nerd Trivia Night with many participants and support for local businesses, and reaching new demographic. "Together in Our Parks" program involves agency staff going out to community groups—holding events in communities that are underserved. Also hosting board game nights targeting LGBTQ audiences (games such as Wingspan and Evolution).