ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY CONFERENCE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

The University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, will host a conference called *Environment, Culture, and Community* from July 2–5, 2002. Exploring the role of social and cultural processes in relation to environmental awareness is critical to the development of ecologically situated relationships among people and between people and the earth. The conference will bring together individuals whose scholarly and artistic work addresses ways in which people create, challenge, and sustain relationships with the natural environment. Suggested topics for presentations include:

- *Making contact with our environment*, or how we speak, write, and make art and music about our relationships with the non-human world, past and present;
- *Valuing our environment* by examining issues of ethics, laws, economies, and environmental education; and
- *Inhabiting our environment* and other subjects dealing with identity, community, and ecology.

Presentation proposals (title and 200-word abstract) should be sent by March 1, 2002, to Ruth Blair, School of English, Media Studies, and Art History, The University of Queensland, Queensland 4072, Australia; Tel. +61 7 33652590. For more information on topics and registration, visit http://emsah.uq.edu.au/conferences/ecc/ or e-mail ecc@emsah.uq.edu.au

NAAEE AND EECOM/AQPERE: BACK-TO-BACK CONFERENCES IN BOSTON AND MONTREAL

Environmental educators have a rare opportunity to take advantage of two back-to-back conferences in the United States and Canada. Attendees of the North American Association for Environmental Education’s annual conference in Boston are just six hours by car from Montréal, where the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication and the Quebec Association for Environmental Education will
host their annual meeting shortly after the Boston event ends. See below for details on the two conferences.

2002 NAAEE Conference

The 31st annual conference for the North American Association for Environmental Education will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, August 6–10, 2002. The venue is Boston’s Park Plaza Hotel. The meeting is called “The Boston TEE Party” for its focus on Total Environmental Education, or lifelong, multidisciplinary environmental learning. The TEE Party will be composed of four strands:

- **From Nature to Sustainability: Environmental Education Through Time.** This strand will encompass environmental education as a tool for teaching science and natural history. Programs developed by nonprofit establishments, schools, and other organizations will be highlighted as well as the impacts environmental education has had on the formal education system.

- **Designing and Planning Spaces for People: Environmental Education’s Role in Community Character & Community Appearance.** Environmental education is key to developing positive attitudes toward stewardship of our communities. Referred to as sustainability, sense of place, community character, or any other term, a community’s identity and livability are essential to its viability. Community design and planning, landscape design, architecture, visual character and pollution, land use, and the impacts of sprawl on the environment will be addressed throughout these sessions.

- **Towards the Just City: Environmental Justice and Diversity Through Environmental Education.** Recent research has shown that states with the greatest inequality have less stringent environmental policies (i.e., human inequality is bad for environmental quality). Taking a worldwide view, sessions in this strand will deal with the importance of including environmental justice and equity issues as a theme that permeates environmental education.

- **Leading the Way: The Role of Higher Education in Environmental Education.** Higher education institutions are pivotal in creating the kind of just and sustainable futures towards which we must move. The contributions and impacts of environmental education programs and research in colleges and universities around the world will be addressed.

For more information, including registration forms and conference schedules, visit NAAEE’s Web site at http://www.naee.org or write to NAAEE, 410 Tarvin Road, Rock Spring, GA 30739, USA.
2002 EECOM/AQPERE Conference

The 2002 Conference of the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM), is scheduled to take place August 12–15, in Montréal, Quebec. Co-hosts of the meeting are EECOM and AQPERE, the Quebec Association for Environmental Education. The conference theme is “Communit’ee and its Challenge.” Participants will explore how education can help create solidarity on environmental issues within culturally diverse communities. The conference is structured around three threads:

- **Culture.** This thread examines cultural pride and cultural milieus (from city to country, including native life and multiculturalism). It also looks at educational approaches that use diverse artistic media to create links with the community.

- **Solidarity.** The focus of this thread is how environmental education facilitates the creation of links between people, as well as links between people and other life forms. Participants will discuss how environmental education can lead to the gift of voluntary reciprocity and other ethical conduct toward the natural world.

- **Action.** The connections between educational practice and environmental action are the core of this thread.

Simultaneous translation will be provided for the major presentations, which will be in French or English. For more information, visit www.eecom.org, e-mail aqpere@crosemont.qc.ca, or write to AQPERE, 6400 16th Avenue, Montréal, QC H1X 2S9, Canada.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATURE INTERPRETATION IN DENMARK

The Danish Forest and Nature Agency, the Danish Outdoor Council, and the Green Fund in Denmark will sponsor a conference in Elsinore, Denmark, from September 9-13, 2002. The theme of the meeting is “Nature Interpretation as a Tool in Promoting Sustainable Development.” Objectives of the conference are:

- To share the knowledge and experience of using nature interpretation as a tool in promoting sustainable development;

- To produce a “Code of Conduct” for nature interpretation as a way to encourage sustainable development; and

- To present examples of “best practices” and guidelines for nature
Participants are invited to give presentations on best practices of nature interpretation for sustainable development. Examples of best practices should be related to the workshops that are scheduled for September 11 and 12. The deadline for submitting proposals is April 1, 2002.

To learn about workshop topics and registration, visit www.interpretation2002.dk, e-mail conf2002@friluftsraadet.dk, or write to World Conference 2002, Friluftsraadet, Scandiagade 13, DK-2450 Copenhagen, Denmark; Tel. +45 33 79 0079.
England. For more information, visit www.new-cue.org or contact Barbara Ward Klein at 845-398-4247.

CALL FOR PAPERS: TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY AT UNIVERSITIES

As a part of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (commonly known as Rio + 10), a book entitled *Teaching Sustainability at Universities: Towards Curriculum Greening* will be launched at the summit meetings in Johannesburg, South Africa (September 2–11, 2002). Peter Lang Scientific Publishers will publish the book as the eleventh volume of its award-winning series Environmental Education, Communication, and Sustainability. It will contain state-of-the-art examples of approaches, methods, and projects that have been targeted towards integrating environmental issues, as a whole, and sustainable development components, in particular, in the context of university teaching programs. Teaching is and will continue to be a vital aspect of university life, but it is still difficult to incorporate sustainability into curricula. The book will describe various ways to overcome barriers to teaching sustainability.

Individuals interested in submitting a chapter for possible publication should contact the editor as soon as possible. Proposals must include a short summary (200 words) outlining the title, aim, and focus of the paper, as well as contact information for the author or authors. Send proposals to een@projekte.org

EASTERN COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Eastern (USA) Communication Association’s 93rd annual conference will be held April 24–28, 2002, in New York City at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Park Avenue at Grand Central Station. The Applied Communication interest group, which sponsored the panel “Risk Communication: Research on Communicating Physical Hazards” at the 2001 conference, may be of particular interest to AEEC readers.

The meeting theme, “Building Community Through Communication,” encourages participants to reach out to their communities. Conference organizers believe that communication research and scholarship often do not reach the people in our communities who need them most. Although scholars have met the challenge of understanding communication in a variety of contexts, their task now is to make that knowledge mainstream.
To register for the conference, contact the Grand Hyatt New York, Park Avenue at Grand Central, New York, NY 10017, USA; Tel. 212-883-1234/Fax. 212-697-3772.

WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2002, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

The World Summit on Sustainable Development, sponsored by the United Nations, will take place September 2–11, 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Numerous heads of state, government officials, national delegates, and leaders of nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and other groups will attend. The summit will focus on turning plans into action, looking especially at achievements in sustainable development efforts since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, as well as obstacles to global sustainability.

The United Nations identifies three areas in which nations must act to promote sustainability:

- **Economic growth and equity.** Today’s interlinked, global economic systems demand an integrated approach in order to foster responsible long-term growth while ensuring that no nation or community is left behind.

- **Conserving natural resources and the environment.** To conserve our environmental heritage and natural resources for future generations, economically viable solutions must be developed to reduce resource consumption, stop pollution, and conserve natural habitats.

- **Social development.** Throughout the world, people require jobs, food, education, energy, health care, water, and sanitation. While addressing these needs, the world community must also ensure that the rich fabric of cultural and social diversity, and the rights of workers, are respected, and that all members of society are empowered to play a role in determining their futures.

For more information, visit the official Web site of the United Nations Secretariat for the Summit at http://www.johannesburgsummit.org. General questions may be e-mailed to 2002participation@un.org. Registration questions should be directed to summitregister@un.org.

Summit activities will be held at the Sandton Convention Centre, and a nongovernmental forum will take place at the nearby Gallagher Estate. Logistical organization of the summit within South Africa is managed by the Johannesburg World Summit Company (JOWSCO). Visit JOWSCO’s Web site for information on the NGO forum or summit logistics: http://www.joburgsummit2002.com
SIXTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION AND ENVIRONMENT

The University of Cincinnati’s Center for Environmental Communication Studies and Department of Communication hosted the Sixth Biennial Conference on Communication and Environment at the Kingsgate Conference Center on the University of Cincinnati campus from July 27–30, 2001. The conference was attended by nearly one hundred scholars, community members, and government officials from the United States and other countries, including Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, and Sweden.

The conference theme was “Environmental Communication and Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making.” Over half of the papers presented at the conference were related to this important issue. Excellent papers were also presented on other topics related to environmental communication and practice. In keeping with the meeting’s theme, a number of other special programs and events took place at the conference, including:

- A keynote address from Dr. Robert C. Bullard, professor of sociology at Clark Atlanta University and director of the Environmental Justice Center;
- “Fruit of the Orchard—Pollution, Environmental Justice, and Social Responsibility,” a photography exhibit prepared by Tammy Cromer-Campbell that documents one Texas community’s struggle with the environmental hazards posed by local industries (for more information, visit http://www.cep.unt.edu/foto/);
- Participation throughout the conference by various local community organizations, such as the Environmental Community Organization, the Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center, the Sierra Club, the Urban Appalachian Council, the Winton Hills Citizen Action Association, and Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH);
- Paper presentations by representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy on policies and initiatives relevant to public participation, new communication technologies, and environmental justice; and
- Three “toxic tours” of Cincinnati communities adversely impacted by industrial growth and development. Over sixty conference attendees and community members took the tours, which were led by members of local environmental groups.

Conference proceedings are available by contacting Marie-France Aepli (mf.aepli@uc.edu).
The Orion Society’s Stories in the Land teaching fellowships help teachers undertake place-based studies with their students. Fellowship recipients develop lessons that explore local landscapes and histories, engage in community projects, and build a life-long commitment to the place where they live. The Orion Society awards up to ten fellowships to elementary and secondary school teachers in the United States and Canada each year. The $1000 fellowship grant must be applied toward activities and resources that help the teacher achieve the goals listed above. Examples include field guides, maps, journals, art supplies, photographic equipment, field trips, and guest speakers.

Fellowship recipients are required to submit interim and final reports that fully document their experience and are also expected to promote the Stories in the Land approach to place-based education throughout their school districts and communities by sharing lessons with other teachers and involving community members in their projects.

Additional information and application instructions are available from The Orion Society’s Web site at http://www.oriononline.org/sil.html or by calling 413-528-4422 or sending e-mail to dabrams@orionsociety.org

The Biodiversity Education Public Awareness (BEPA) Online project is a new initiative designed to create a common meeting place on the Internet for professionals involved in biodiversity work around the world. Although expert knowledge on biodiversity has increased in recent years, BEPA Online’s organizers...
recognized that there has not been an accessible forum for exchanging knowledge at the international level. The project is sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management, and Fisheries, the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, and “Learning for Sustainability,” a Dutch Interministerial Program.

The BEPA Web site was officially launched at a meeting of biodiversity experts last October in Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands. Its goal of facilitating the exchange of ideas and knowledge is accomplished through two unique features, a directory of personal profiles: and a set of “meeting points” based on specific issues within the field of biodiversity.

Individuals who want to participate in BEPA Online’s programs are asked to complete a registration form (found at the Web site) that includes a questionnaire used to generate a personal profile that introduces the individual to the community. Once registered, participants are free to visit any number of meeting points, which are similar to bulletin boards, to read posted comments and to submit their own ideas. Examples of meeting point topics that arose from the October meeting include:

- **Policy.** How can the Conference of the Parties process be used to influence national policy development and stimulate education and public awareness initiatives?
- **Roots of learning.** Why should people care about biodiversity? Does creating a new field of biodiversity education weaken existing education about the environment?
- **Marketing:** What are the best strategies for marketing biodiversity to different target audiences?

Users may also establish new meeting points on subjects of interest to the community. To join the BEPA Online project, visit http://www.bepa-online.org.

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**YOUNG JOURNALISTS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS DESK**

The Youth Environmental News Desk, a joint project of HORIZON International and the Environment News Service (ENS), holds monthly journalism contests for participants 19 years of age and younger. Winning articles are published and distributed worldwide by ENS and featured online at the ENS Web site, http://ens-news.com, and at the HORIZON Solutions site, http://www.solutions-site.org.

Articles chosen for publication will also be translated and distributed in Spanish, English, German, Portuguese, Swedish, Mandarin, Swahili,
French, Nepali, Punjabi, Hindi, Tamil, and Urdu, with distribution in other languages in the future.

Entries are invited from all countries and should address workable solutions to current environmental problems from an unbiased perspective. Potential topics include, but are not limited to: energy efficiency measures, corporate pollution reduction, biodiversity preservation, and agricultural practice. Current and past winners of the United Nations Environment Program’s Global 500 Youth Awards are especially encouraged to submit work.

Submissions for publication are due by the first of each month. One or more articles will be chosen for publication on the 15th of the month. All submissions will be reviewed by a seven-member international panel chosen by HORIZON and ENS. The authors of articles selected for publication will receive a byline and monetary compensation for their work.

Contest applicants should send an article and short personal resumé to the ENS editorial desk at news@ens-news.com. Only e-mailed submissions will be accepted and the words “Youth Desk” should appear in the subject line of the e-mail message. For more information, visit the Environment News Service at http://ens-news.com or HORIZON Solutions at http://www.solutions-site.org

**JOURNALIST RESOURCE: ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS NETWORK**

For journalists who need up-to-date information on environment and natural resource issues, the Environmental News Network’s Web site provides the latest headlines and press releases from major newswires such as the Associated Press and from environmental organizations such as the Prairie Rivers Network and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

The ENN site is also organized by major topics, including global warming and alternative energy sources, among others. Visitors may download a free Windows Media Player to take advantage of a number of multimedia and interactive features such as ENN Newscast, a five-minute news update, Earthnews, a nationally syndicated ninety-second program, and Environmental Update, a daily report from ENN’s multimedia affiliates.

The Interact page lists environmental charitable organizations (with a click-to-donate option), a calendar of events, a search engine for researching legislation and contacting elected representatives, media connections, and an on-line forum and chat rooms. ENN’s Environmental Marketplace features consumer and business products from companies committed to “healthy living and environmental responsibility.”
Although not an extensive listing, the site also contains classified advertisements for major events, educational opportunities, job listings, travel, and other categories.

The Environmental News Network is located at http://www.enn.com

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION LINKED TO EDUCATION REFORM

Environmental problem-solving activities can connect to state learning standards in science, social studies, math, and language arts, according to a policy brief released by one of the nation’s largest education associations.

“Environmental Education: Moving into the Educational Mainstream,” published in *InfoBrief*, a quarterly policy report from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), highlights the use of environmental teaching strategies to promote educational achievement and draws a connection between environmental education and state learning standards.

“Those interested in the current national dialogue about education reform will want to pay attention to what ASCD has to say about environmental education,” said Bert Grover, former Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction. According to the report, “current evidence supports the premise that, compared to traditional educational approaches, environmental-based education improves academic performance across the curriculum.”

Evidence cited includes a comparison by the State Education and Environment Roundtable (SEER) of student test scores from forty U.S. schools with integrated environmental learning programs and scores from schools without such programs. The study found that schools with integrated environmental lessons across the curriculum performed higher on standardized tests.

Whereas environmental education (EE) traditionally has been considered an add-on to or enhancement of science programs, the ASCD *InfoBrief* tells a much different story, according to Gus Medina, Project Manager for the Environmental Education and Training Partnership.

“ASCD’s decision to feature environmental education signals a growing recognition by the formal education community of the role EE can play in achieving broad educational goals,” said Medina.

“Largely because of its focus on citizenship, environmental education is compatible with other educational approaches such as service learning, character education, and education for democratic participation,” said
Dr. Deborah Simmons of the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education, which was also quoted in the report.

Although the policy brief primarily focuses on environmental education’s potential to improve education quality, it also describes the many challenges to implementing EE in the nation’s schools. The report notes that only eighteen states have EE curriculum requirements, and only nine states require teachers to receive any training in EE methods as part of their certification.

CALL FOR NEWS AND NOTES

AEEC welcomes suggestions for items to include in “News and Notes” (conferences, calls for papers, major campaign announcements, funding sources). Maximum length is 100 words. Logos or other graphics are used to accompany text. We encourage you to send quality images that highlight the information contained in your announcement. Submit suggestions, accompanied by your name, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address, to Julia Brooks, AEEC/Academy for Educational Development, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009, USA; e-mail AEEC@aed.org; Tel. 202-884-8072; Fax 202-884-8997.