



The Green-Beat

Turning Bluewater Green!

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 10

SUMMER 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Forest Festival
- Survey
- Workshops

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Bluewater ECO-Schools Earn Gold and Silver Recognition!

Congratulations and rounds of applause are in order for five Bluewater schools who achieved Ontario Eco-Schools recognition this year, most for the first time. GC Huston achieved gold status for the second year in a row! Joining GC Huston with gold status are Hillcrest Central School and Saugeen District Secondary School. Derby Public

School and the Institute for Outdoor Education achieved silver status. Way to go!

Schools are acknowledged through the Ontario Eco-Schools program for their efforts to minimize waste and energy use, green their school yards, and incorporate environmental education and community involvement into their

school's curriculum. Student involvement is the crucial element in the success of this program. The engagement of students in positive actions to improve the environment and their school is palpable when you enter an Ontario Eco-School. Staff and students at these five schools should be very proud of their accomplishments – congratulations!

Green at Heart Committee Sets Priorities for Next Year, Recruits New Members

The Green at Heart Committee had its final meeting for this school year on May 16th, 2011, during which priorities were set for next school year. The proposed areas of focus next year will be on the following topics:

Recycling: student driven promotion and awareness;
Production of a calendar highlighting "Green Events"
Eco-Schools promotional presentations
No Idling Policy Implementation
Community E-Waste Drop Days
Recruitment of Green Lesson Plans from

Bluewater Educators to Share on The Teaching and Learning Hub
Earth Day Lead Up – Curriculum Connections
Green at Heart Environmental Stewardship Award for Science Fair Project with an Environmental Theme
Through the Green at Heart survey, circulated in March and April, many Bluewater staff members have stepped forward to help keep everyone informed of green developments in Bluewater. We thank you for taking this on, and look forward to working with you next school year!



Next

Green at Heart

Meeting

Sept. 15, 2011

4:30 pm

BWDSB Education
Centre in Chesley

Everyone welcome!

Survey Reveals Bluewater's Green Side

The results are in! Bluewater is morphing to green, with more exciting projects to come. This spring a survey was circulated to all schools in Bluewater by the Green at Heart Committee. Twenty-nine schools responded, including 5 secondary schools, the Keystone Residence, and the Outdoor Education Centre. Here are some of the more interesting revelations about Bluewater:

Of the schools that responded:

11 have a school environmental club,

6 have classes whose focus is on ecology and/or the environment,

23 reported celebrating environmentally focused days such as Earth Day, World Water Day, or World Wetlands Day,

23 felt more education is required about the new Waste Management recycling program,

17 reported they have no way of disposing of fluorescent light-bulbs,

19 have some kind of system in place to monitor paper-use, and 18 have a pro-

gram to promote the use of GOOS (good on one side) paper,

25 already use dual-sided printing, where possible, and 11 more expressed interest in finding out more about this option,

19 expressed an interest in learning more about the Ontario Eco-Schools program,

20 are aware of BWDSB's No Idling Policy, and 12 schools reported they are enforcing the policy, and

...of the 16 schools who responded to say they do sell bottled water, 11 stated this was a fundraiser for their school. The amounts raised in each school varied from \$50 month to between \$7,000 and \$10,000 for the year. This money supports school sports, special presentations, literacy programs, general funds, school trips for students who would not otherwise afford them, bussing for extra-curriculars, and DL programming. Seventeen schools have sold, or otherwise provided, reusable water bottles.

The Green at Heart Committee will follow up this survey with an action plan to

address gaps, and increase environmental awareness in Bluewater in the 2011 -2012 school year. It is our hope that schools will continue to strive to green their practices in support of student learning around environmental issues, and more importantly, positive changes we can all take to truly make a difference.

Thank-you to those who took the time to answer the survey, and to the committee members who helped compose the survey.



Stay Tuned

for more monthly updates and tips from your Green at Heart Committee!

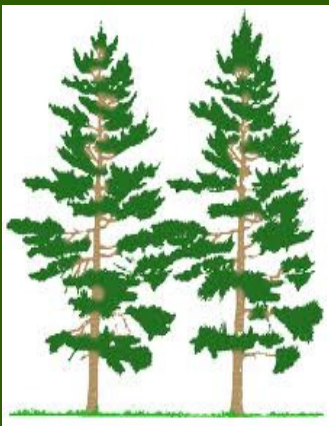
Bruce Grey Forest Festival Returns to Bluewater, October 2011

<http://www.forestfestival.ca/>

After the great success of last year's festival, the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority is planning for the 2011 Bruce Grey Forest Festival. This curriculum linked, outdoor program for grade 7 students is held in

October at the Allan Park Management Area. This year's festival will be held October 18, 20 and 21st. Grade 7 teachers may register by emailing Karen Mortimer at the email address listed below. Secondary students are also invited to volunteer as a leadership

experience. Secondary teachers wishing to bring their class should also contact Karen Mortimer at coordinator@forestfestival.ca



News from the Outdoor Education Centre

Summer Star-Gazer Series at the E.S Fox Astronomy Observatory

Using the large reflector telescope donated by the University of Guelph, BAS tour guides show some of the many astronomical delights that can be observed from the dark skies of this area. The evenings will focus on practical, back-yard astronomy and are followed by star-gazing at the E.S. Fox Astronomy Centre (at the Outdoor Education Centre).

This series of star talks and observing sessions is for

the general public (no age restrictions), especially campers and visitors to our area who enjoy being in a dark-sky environment.

July 26th, August 2, 9, and 16th, 2011

Outdoor Education Centre near Wiarton, 3092 Bruce County Road 13

\$10 single lecture, 2nd adult 1/2 price Family (4 people), \$25

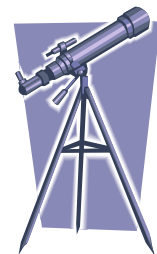
Contact John Hlynialuk or Joan Skelton for more information.

stargazer@wightman.ca or andromeda@qto.net

Astronomy Day Camp in August at the OEC – Space Available (Excuse the Pun!)

www.oec.bwdsb.on.ca

Click on Day Camp link above.



Join the Green at
Heart Committee!

Teacher Resources, Workshops, and Conferences...

Ministry of Education Expectations for Environmental Education

The Ministry of Education has updated documents to help teachers bring the environment into every subject they teach in their classrooms. See the following links for the Scope and Sequence documents:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/environ18curr.pdf>

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/environ9to12curr.pdf>

The Art of Mentoring – Nature Education As It Should Be...

<http://www.pineproject.org/programs/youth-programs/art-of-mentoring/>

“This is nature education as it should be: mysterious, timeless, hopeful, evocative, and playful.” – David Sobel, Author of “Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education”

“Join us as the International Art of Mentoring movement continues and grows in Ontario in 2011! The Art of Mentoring is an immersion into a living culture of nature connection, community building, and self-awareness. This week long

workshop provides participants with inspiration, knowledge, and tools to create a greater depth of nature connection in all areas of your life and community.”

August 22 – 27th, 2011,
Norval Outdoor School,
Georgetown
Recommended for educators, parents, and anyone interested in connecting kids with nature.

Wonder Earth Workshops in Canada with Clifford Knapp, Northern Illinois Emeritus Professor

<http://www.wonderearth.org/>

“Using the outdoors...

...to address alienation and indifference to the natural world...

...to create awareness of the importance of natural places and sustainable living..

...to improve intellectual, social, emotional, physical and spiritual health...”

Leaders in Environmental Education, \$50 Summer Workshops for Teachers

Thank-you to Stan Kozak for this item

<https://event-wizard.com/summerprogram2011/register/>

Work with teacher participants identified for their in-

terest and experience in using the environment and environmental education strategies to address curriculum expectations in all subject areas. This session will provide a rare opportunity to deeply examine learning issues and practices relevant to Ontario schools today. This professional development session is intended to push the boundaries of environmental education practice to achieve the potential it offers. Esteemed facilitators will guide the workshops. A number of recently released documents and resources will be used, including: Natural Curiosities – <http://www.naturalcuriosity.ca/> Connecting the Dots – <http://www.lsf-1st.ca/en/projects/teacher-resources/dots>

July 12 – 14, McMaster University (Bruce Trail)

July 18 – 20, Mississauga – focus on advanced environmental education practice
August 3 – 5, Niagara-on-the-Lake

August 10 – 12, Kingston (Greenbelt)

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Monarch Monitoring Teacher Workshops This Summer – Hanover and More [http://
events.trca.on.ca/monarch-
teacher-network-c59.php](http://events.trca.on.ca/monarch-teacher-network-c59.php)

Monarch Teacher Network is offering another butterfly workshop this summer in the former Saugeen Conservation Headquarters in Hanover, soon to be called Sulphur Springs Conservation Area. The dates are July 21 and 22.

This is fantastic P.D. - lots of interdisciplinary connections across many grades.

Integrating Language & Landscape, Art & Culture: Voices From the Land
See the attached poster for details.

The Voices from the Land project and this workshop explore oral and written language through science,

art, performance and technology. This two-day workshop will be held September 17 & 18, 2011 at GC Huston School in Southampton.

Council of Outdoor Educators Conference – Harnessing the Power of Adventure
[www.coeoe.org/
conference.html](http://www.coeoe.org/conference.html)

Harnessing the Power of Adventure, will examine how we as educators can engage, inspire, empower, and educate Ontario's youth. Learn best practices, new ideas and perspectives, and refocus yourself for the year ahead. The COEO conference this September will be held at Camp Kitchikewana on Beausoleil Island. For registration details, go to the website above. Early-bird rates are in effect until August 31st.

Science, Wise Choices, Healthy Planet – Science Teachers Association of Ontario Conference, November 10 – 12, 2011
[http://stao.ca/conf2/
conference.php](http://stao.ca/conf2/conference.php)

"We noticed that our beloved planet is developing a fever and that we are the cause of this increase in temperature. Awareness is global, however knowledge is power. As science educators, it is our duty to inform our students to make wise choices pertaining to the environment and use of energy so that we can keep this planet (and thereby our future!) healthy."

General Interest

Compete for a \$20,000 Outdoor Classroom for Your School!

Majesta (a paper company) and Tree Canada are inviting schools to compete for a \$20,000 outdoor classroom. Tree Canada will provide the technical advice, and Focus on Forests will provide teaching resources. Go to <http://>

[www.majestatreesofknowl
edge.ca](http://www.majestatreesofknowledge.ca) for details!

Reviews and Tips for Outdoor Gear and Fun Skills

[http://
www.woodsmonkey.com/](http://www.woodsmonkey.com/)

General Interest Continued...

Summer Sun Screen Review by the Environmental Working Group

People with children will be especially interested in the article released by the Environmental Working Group on the safety, or lack thereof, of sunscreen products. This report is raising red-flags for outdoor enthusiasts and beach-goers, along with doctors and researchers. In spite of 30 years of research into skin protection, the sunscreen industry has very little real research on which to base their products.

At this link you will find information on the role of sunscreen in increasing your risk of melanoma and releasing free-radicals into your system; the role of Vitamin A, a common sunscreen ingredient, in speeding the development of tumours and lesions; and more. On the hopeful side, the article also includes recommendations for the preferred methods of sun protection to play it safe in the outdoors this summer.

<http://breaking-news.ewg.org/2011/sunscreen/>

Raising Elijah by Sandra Steingraber, A Compelling Summer Read

The following description of the book, *Raising Elijah*, featured on CBC's, The Current was taken from <http://steingraber.com/>. Steingraber addresses parents as she calls for big solutions to the big environmental problems we face, and sometimes find easier to ignore.

“Our children face an environment more threatening to their health than any generation in history. Sandra Steingraber confronts this crisis with precise science and a lyrical, witty, moving memoir. Each lively chapter of this unique book focuses on one of the universals of childhood – milk, laundry, pizza, homework, the “Big Talk” – and explores the hidden, social, political, and historical forces behind it. Throughout, Steingraber demonstrates how closely the intimate world of parenting con-

nects to the public world of policy-making and how the ongoing environmental crisis is, fundamentally, a crisis of family life.”

Also at this link, view the trailer for the documentary based on Steingraber's book.





Join us for a unique workshop



Integrating Language and Landscape, Art and Culture: **Voices from the Land**

Sept 17 and Sept 18 2011 – GC Huston School, Southampton, ON

The *Voices from the Land* project and this workshop (for teachers, grandparents and other adults) is an exploration and celebration of oral and written language... of natural science, art, performance and technology. Taught by experienced teachers, workshop participants experience all elements of a *Voices* project. They learn strategies for connecting children to local landscapes... fostering a love for the natural world.

In a *Voices* project, children use art concepts and skills to create art from natural materials. They use digital technologies to document and share their art. They use communication skills... both oral and written... to create, edit and publish poetry. They can layout, design and publish a full-color book of their art and poetry... or design full-color posters showcasing their work. Finally, they develop performance strategies to share their work. In the *Voices* process, children:

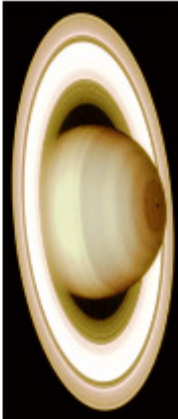


- Generate writing and develop communication skills across the curriculum
- Communicate, collaborate and negotiate as a member of a creative team
- Embed math and science skills and concepts in everyday experiences
- Use internet-based applications to document, lay-out and design final products
- Draw inspiration for writing and art from the land that sustains us all

Voices projects have been successfully implemented in preschool through secondary level classrooms... with students of average, gifted or special needs... in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Turkey and New Zealand. Examples of student generated books and posters from different schools and countries, in multiple languages, will be on display at the workshop.

For more details, visit: www.MonarchTeacherNetwork.org

Astronomy Camp
Aug 8 to 12, 2011
(8 to 13 year olds)
9 am to 3:30 pm daily
IOEES



Kids Astronomy Camp is a week of fun astronomy activities for kids from 8 to 13 years of age. It includes daytime indoor and outdoor activities in space science and astronomy and is based on the Gr. 6 and Gr. 9 Ontario Ministry of Education Astronomy curriculum. There is one (optional) night time stargazing session midweek where we observe from the ES Fox Astronomy Centre. The instructors are Joan Skelton and John Hlyniak, veteran astronomy educators of the Bluewater Astronomical Society.



Out of this World! Astronomy!
Fun! Star Gazing!
Space!

Dr Albert makes a Comet!

Here is a brief day by day schedule:

Mon Aug 8: Introduction to astronomy, our moon and moon phases, what's to see on Earth and in the night sky, rockets - how they work.

Tue Aug 9: The planets, constellations and water bottle rockets; optional night time star gazing ES Fox Astronomy Centre.

Wed Aug 10: Daytime astronomy, sun dials and sun spots, solar system scale model.

Thu Aug 11: The Sun as a star, clusters and galaxies in deep space. We hunt for space rocks and Dr. Albert makes a comet.

Fri Aug 12: How to live in space, astronaut dress-up, rocket launch day and "ALIENS DAY"!



Registration Information:
Cost: \$150.00 (plus HST)
 For more information contact:
 stargazer@wightman.ca
 (519)-371-0670 or
 andromeda@grt.net
 (519) 376-9554

Camper Info for Pre-registration:
 Name: _____
 Age:(as of Aug 2011): _____
 Address: _____ Prov _____
 City: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Parent Info: _____
 Name: _____
 email: _____
 Home Ph. _____
 Work Ph. _____

Please mail this information (plus \$50 deposit) before July 8 to:
 Astronomy Kids Camp
 c/o Joan Skelton
 2485 6th Ave W.
 Owen Sound ON N4K 5J7

Please fill in the form above and send it to the address shown with a deposit cheque for \$50 (\$25 non-refundable after July 15). Make cheque payable to Bluewater Astronomical Society. You will receive a full registration package by return mail. Please fill that out and return to the address provided in the package by July 15, 2011 with a cheque for the balance of the amount.

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