

The "101 Alternatives to the Chalkboard"
39th annual Educators' Conference



Inquiry and Awareness

Balancing content and Science-Based Inquiry in our changing environmental education landscape

Saturday October 4, 2014

(with the option of staying Friday and/or Saturday night)

At YMCA Camp Kern (32 miles northeast of Cincinnati)
5291 St Rt 350 Oregonia, Ohio 45054

Cost: \$30

No additional charge for overnight stays or Sunday morning activities. Please register by September 30th
Scholarships and discounts available

This event made possible by YMCA Camp Kern, the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, and the Ohio Environmental Education Fund



For our keynote presenter this year we are happy to welcome

Julie Zickefoose

Artist, author and naturalist, Julie Zickefoose will be presenting on Saturday evenings as well as offering a session during the day on Saturday. Julie has been a major contributor to *Bird Watcher's Digest* since 1986, and has painted 24 covers for the magazine. Her own books include *Letters from Eden* and *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds*. And her commentary has been heard regularly on National Public Radio.





Conference Schedule

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30 | Registration and social time |
| 9:15 | Gathering and announcements |
| 9:30 – 11:00 | Small Group Session I |
| 11:10 – 11:45 | Discovery Hike |
| Noon | Lunch |
| 12:45 -1:30 | Keynote: <u>Ohio Wildlife Laws and What Educators Should Know</u> by Melissa Moser from the ODNR |
| 1:45 to 3:15 | Small Group Session II |
| 3:30 to 5:00 | Small Group Session III |
| 5:30 pm | Dinner |
| 6:30 to 8:00 | An Evening with Julie Zickefoose - <u>Situational Awareness and the Art of Disappearing.</u> |



For those wishing to stay longer (No charge for any of these)

- Enjoy a Campfire, Songs and Stories Saturday evening. **Jim Viles** will again be our MC
- On Sunday Morning we will have a 7am bird walk with **Alli Shaw**, 8am breakfast, and a hike to the Little Miami River.

Want a place Friday and/or Saturday night? We would love to have you. We have cabin space and tent camping is also an option. Give Dave Moran a call or email to see what is available and for tips on local dining and entertainment.

Contact Dave Moran at
YMCA Camp Kern. 5291 St Rt. 350 Oregonia, OH 4504
Phone: 513-932-3756 x1527 Fax 513-932-8607
email: dmoran@daytonymca.org



Small Group Sessions (so far)

Session I 9:30 to 11:00

River Critters

Rod King: SW Ohio Stream Quality Monitoring Coordinator: Scenic Rivers Program, ODNR

Small aquatic organisms (macroinvertebrates) are collected from a stream and surveyed to determine which types are present and how frequently they occur. The organisms are returned to the water and the data are used to determine the health of that portion of the stream.

Macroinvertebrates are highly effective barometers of a river's health because they have varying tolerances of pollution. Surveying the presence, quantity, and diversity of macroinvertebrates can indicate potential problems.

The monitoring process includes seining the same portion of a river 3 or 4 times a year, logging water and weather conditions, and counting macroinvertebrates. The macroinvertebrate survey data is entered into an assessment form and a score is determined for the site. This scoring technique is called the cumulative index value and it helps determine if the quality of the site seined is excellent, good, fair or poor.

Because SQM doesn't require any chemical analysis, biological monitoring is a simple and cost-effective method of testing a stream's health.

Activity Level: participants will have to be prepared to get wet. They will be wading and seining the river for the presence of macroinvertebrates. My session should last between 1.5-2 hours and will be part lecture/discussion and part wading and sampling.



The Genius Challenge

Carolyn Blaine YMCA Camp Kern Lead Educator

Given a map and mission participants complete this demanding course where science, problem solving and teamwork all come together. Relatively simple and mostly replicable challenges are designed to provide students with impactful, hands-on experiences. This will be a moderately active session requiring some walking,

Session II 1:45 to 3:15

Field Investigations with Aquatic Project WILD

Jen Dennison, Wildlife Education Coordinator, ODNR-Division of Wildlife

This year, the New Learning Standards are being implemented in schools across Ohio. These new standards provide a lot of opportunities for project-based learning. The new Aquatic Project WILD guide now includes 8 new field investigation activities that get students out and collecting data and using inquiry to identify processes and patterns in nature. Come learn how to conduct a field investigation with your students and experience some of these new Aquatic WILD activities for yourself. This hands-on double session will have you collecting basic data and drawing conclusions about your findings. And you'll go home with the new Aquatic WILD guide!

This session will be moderate activity, mostly driven by the participants.

This is a double session; please do not sign up for Session III

Beyond the Sugarbush: Exploring Maple Syrup’s Educational Possibilities

Andrew “Huck” Ford, Assistant Director of Nature’s Classroom
In this session we will look at the process of making your own Maple Syrup as an educational project. Participants in the session will leave with: the knowledge of how to make Maple Syrup from start to finish; ways to involve students in the hands-on process; lessons and activities to translate the hands-on experience into classroom learning; the satisfaction that comes from spending an 1 ½ hour with quality people.



CSI: Critter Scene Investigation

Alli Shaw Columbus & Franklin Co. Metro Parks

There has been an incident at the park! Become a 5th grader and work on a research team. Using technology and process skills you will be observing evidence, gathering data, problem solving, and drawing conclusions. This will be a mostly indoor activity and mentally, rather than physically, challenging.

Session III 3:30 to 5:00

An Artist Afield

Julie Zickefoose artist, author and naturalist

Enjoy a roaming autumnal exploration of fields, forest, farm and wetland. This interpretive and interactive hike will give an artist’s insight into sharing the pleasures, wonders, and perspectives of nature. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, comfortable shoes and a zeal for walking.

Outdoor Evidence Builders

Melissa Sabo, former classroom teacher, current School Program Manager, Cincinnati Nature Center
Teaching students how to back up their claims with evidence and reasoning can be a tricky task. Getting them to enjoy the experience can be even tougher! In this session, you’ll put on “student shoes” and participate in an engaging and simple way to use common invertebrates and your schoolyard to develop student understanding. If time allows, we will also cover how literacy, math and social studies can be tied in for deeper learning.

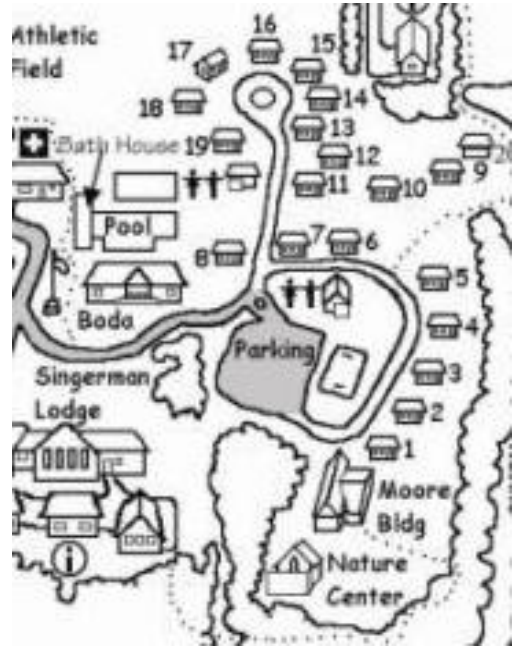
Field Investigations with Aquatic Project WILD - continued



Accommodations:

We will be staying in basic camp cabins (cabins one and two) with bunk beds, a florescent light and a heater. Bathrooms with showers are in a separate, but nearby building. Other groups will also be at camp in adjacent cabins. Please be sure to bring a sleeping bag or bedding. Also bring toiletries, towels, and clothes that will allow you to be outside and comfortable in any kind of weather. Nearby hotel accommodations are available. Recommend you **bring your own mug**, otherwise the option is Styrofoam.

Programs will be in the Moore Building and meals in Singerman Lodge



Directions:

Once in camp, stay on the paved driveway and follow the signs to the guest parking lot. Check in and most activities will be in the Moore Building which is at the far end of the guest parking lot. See the maps in this packet.





Registration Form

The "101 Alternatives to the Chalkboard" 2014 Educators' Conference
Saturday October 4

Don't like this form? No problem, just leave a voice mail or email with your info. I will get back to you with a confirmation. Please register by September 30th

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone:

Are you a vegetarian? _____

Do you need a place to stay Friday and/or Saturday night? _____

Do you have any special needs or concerns? (If so, please list or give Dave M a call or email)



Cost: \$30

- No additional charge for overnight stays or Sunday morning activities.
- Please register by October 1st. Payment can wait until the event
- Scholarships and discounts available, contact Dave M for details
- Checks should be made out to "YMCA Camp Kern"

Contact Dave Moran at YMCA Camp Kern. 5291 St Rt. 350 Oregonia, OH 4504

Phone: 513-932-3756 x1527 Fax 513-932-8607

email: dmoran@daytonymca.org

Please be aware that the activities may carry a risk of injury. Be aware of these risks and your ability. Ask for help when needed. Please let us know if you have any special needs or concerns.

THANK YOU

