

Ohio Environmental Education Fund General Grants Awarded in SFY 2001



During the Fall, 2000, and Spring, 2001, grant rounds, the OEEF awarded twelve general grants, for a total of \$492,743.02.

SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park, Native Prairie Restoration and Education Program, \$35,180.00, April 2001 - November 2003, Montgomery County, Audience K-12, #01G-009

Demonstrates prairie ecosystems and medicinal uses of prairie plants by Native Americans, for students and the general public. Visits include seasonal trips to the prairie and an educational curriculum focused on planting and maintenance of plant activity. Funds the work of an education intern to develop the curriculum and a gardener to head up the planting effort, seed and materials/equipment for students to complete the projects in the restoration curriculum. Collaborators include the Marionist Environmental Education Center, Five Rivers Metro Parks, Antioch College, Miami Conservancy District, and ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

Erie Huron CAC Recycling and Litter Prevention, Low Income Pre-School Science Education, \$26,402.00, November 2000 - June 2002, Erie and Huron Counties, Audience K-12, #01G-020

Provides hands-on environmental activities and equipment for 550 pre-school children. Includes a resource library for pre-school educators to utilize when preparing to introduce environmental concepts in the classroom. Program partly facilitated by Head Start teachers, whose time will be an in-kind donation from the Head Start program. Funds equipment, program coordinator & staff salary, educational materials for the resource center and environmental activity projects that students will take home to reach an adult audience.

Pickerington Local Schools - Tussing Elementary, Changing Places: Weaving Sound Connections, \$50,000.00, December 2000 - June 2003, Fairfield County, Audience K-12, #01G-024

Builds on a previously funded OEEF project (#98G-023), to provide students with the experiences of monitoring and maintaining indigenous habitats on their school grounds, including a half mile walking path and bluebird trail, a quarter mile wetland, and several gardens and forested areas. Partners with a humpback whale listening station in Alaska for children to monitor activities of marine animals. Additional funds will be used to bring several guest artists to the school including; authors, a film maker, an illustrator and a marine biologist to the school for teacher in-service workshops and projects with students. Student experiences will be documented through a variety of media including books and film productions for community display.

National Audubon Society, *Developing Birding Festivals as an Environmental Education Opportunity*, \$50,000.00, January 2001 - June 2002, Adams, Erie, Lorain and Ottawa Counties, Audience General Public, #01G-025

Creates a birding festival in Adams County through a workshop to train 35 adults from 15 community organizations. Enhances an existing birding festival with an additional workshop serving Erie, Lorain and Ottawa Counties for the Lake Erie Wing Watch. Demonstrates to local communities the economic as well as environmental value of habitat preservation through birding-related ecotourism. Also provides 20 K-8 classrooms with hands-on, proficiency linked education regarding birdlife and habitats in their community. Funds salaries for staff to plan and conduct the workshops, provides supplies, printing and partnership activities. Collaborators include the ODNR Division of Wildlife, Cincinnati Museum Center, the Nature Conservancy, P.A.C.T. - A Citizen's Forum, Black River and Firelands Audubon Societies, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Visitors Bureaus in Adams, Erie/Sandusky, and Ottawa Counties.

Stratford Ecological Center, *"Manure to Meadow to Milkshake": Connecting Students to their Environment and Food System*, \$49,500.00, November 2000 - October 2002, Delaware County, Audience K-12, #01G-027

Proposes to teach students about the source of food, where it comes from and the impact of farming on the environment through hands-on activities on a demonstration farm. 4000 students in grades K-8 will visit the outdoor learning laboratory at Stratford Ecological Center, assisted by high school student mentors. Additionally, two multi-agency summer in-service seminars will be held to help elementary and middle school teachers incorporate agricultural issues into age-appropriate classroom and outdoor lessons and activities. Project incorporates *Ag in the Classroom* and *Project Food Land and People* curriculum materials. Collaborators include the Franklin/Delaware Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 4-H extension agents, the Delaware and Columbus City school districts, Ohio Wesleyan and Ohio State Universities.

Collins Career Center (Lawrence County JVS), *Integrated Ecology Community Forestry (IECF) Project*, \$49,628.00, June 2001- May 2003, Lawrence County, Audience K-12 (Middle and High School), #01G-037

Collaboration between the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, the Ohio State University Extension Office in Piketon, the Wayne National Forest, and an advisory consortium of community leaders, environmentalists and educators representing eight school districts. Between 30-60 junior and senior JVS students will participate in a series of forest stewardship learning modules, and manage a forest plot and sawmill on the JVS school's

farm complex. Students will document actions taken to improve the forest: responsible timber harvesting, reforestation, water and soil improvement, re-establishment of wildlife habitat. These natural resource and agri-science students will work with carpentry, business management and marketing students to demonstrate economic and entrepreneurship opportunities available in responsible ecosystem management. They will also share the results through nature walks, field days, and demonstrations for the district's elementary and middle school students, local farmers, and citizens. Lumber, firewood, and by-products generated at the site will be donated to community projects.

City of Toledo Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, *Partners in PARK-IT! Building Community Resources for Environmental Education*, \$26,413.00, June 2001 - June 2003, Lucas County, Audience K-12 (elementary), #01G-045

Expands a previous OEEF Outstanding Project that created land labs in city parks adjacent to elementary schools, and a curriculum activity guide that won several state and national awards. Through collaboration with the University of Toledo and four Toledo Public Schools, the new grant will provide at least two additional science field applications per school year for 60 K-6 teachers and 1800 students. Two workshops for teachers each year will provide additional resources and skills to enhance their use of the land lab sites, based on "Wild School Sites", "Habitats for Learning", and "Project Wild". A University of Toledo environmental science graduate student will evaluate the effectiveness of each of the 25 lessons in the curriculum guide.

Greenacres Foundation, *Developing the Educational Capabilities of an Online Volunteer Monitoring Database and Demonstrating Its Potential for Replication*, \$49,998.28, June 2001 - June 2003, Hamilton County, Audience General Public, #01G-052

Builds on a previous OEEF mini grant, to enhance and replicate an existing database of water quality information collected by volunteers in the Little Miami watershed. The new grant will make it possible to display the data in map form, to better educate local residents about water quality in their watershed. The system is designed to allow trained volunteers from school and community groups to collect stream data for entry into the database from remote locations. The project will also enhance the data's usefulness to water management professionals by pre-sorting it into computer files compatible with state and federal agency formats, to support local water management efforts such as Total Maximum Daily Load implementation, NPDES Phase II compliance, and flood plain management programs. The database will be replicated in the Mill Creek watershed, as a first step toward establishing a centralized system for reporting reliable, high quality, volunteer-collected information in a consistent format statewide.

Clermont County Educational Service Center, *Clermont County Environment Project for High School Students*, \$49,983.00, June 2001 - November 2003, Clermont County, Audience K-12 (High School), #01G-055

Builds on a previous general grant and OEEF Outstanding Project which enabled students from all ten Clermont County high schools to study the interconnectedness of aquatic and terrestrial systems by sampling drinking water, ground water, surface water, stream biodiversity, and wastewater treatment. Monitoring of water chemistry and macro-invertebrates in local streams will now be expanded to include terrestrial monitoring of the surrounding watershed by collecting moth species and their host plants. Students will enter data into the county's databases and Geographic Information System (GIS), evaluating patterns and trends related to land use changes as the county experiences rapid development. Results will be compared with sampling data from Ohio EPA and the other participating schools at a county-wide water quality summit, with participation by local and state environmental professionals.

Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, *Birds, Flight and the Wrights*, \$50,000.00, June 2001 - August 2003, Montgomery County, Audience K-12 (Elementary and Middle), #01G-056

Two-year pilot education initiative which will relate nature, science and flight with core curriculum areas for children in grades 4-8. During the first year, 25 4th and 5th grade gifted students from Englewood Elementary will work with teachers and Aullwood educators to design a curriculum, field experiences and display relating birds, flight, and the Wright Brothers. The interactive display will then be fabricated by a professional design firm, and seen/used by 80,000 Aullwood visitors. All 350 Englewood students and 25 teachers will participate in four field experiences integrating state science outcomes and natural history. Two full-day workshops will help teachers integrate pre-and post-visit activities. In the second year of the program, an additional 1,000 Dayton-area students in grades 4-8 will participate in field trips to Aullwood and distance learning experiences linked to Wright Brothers- and flight-related sites in Ohio, North and South Carolina, and 25 more teachers will participate in a four-hour workshop to integrate these activities.

Mahoning Valley NE Ohio Camp Fire Council, *Kaleidoscope of Environmental Experiences 2*, \$11,690.74, July 2001 - June 2002, Mahoning County, Audience K-12 (Elementary), #01G-062

Provides for a weekly hands-on, interactive lesson and follow-up activities for 45 inner-city students ages 5-10 through a summer program to improve science grades. Learning activities will emphasize the human/environment

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interrelationship through topics such as geology and topology, grasslands, wetlands, deserts, skulls and skeletons, energy, reptiles, habitats, and careers. Builds on a previous OEEF grant by including a field trip to the Carnegie Museum, and two student service projects, such as a foodbank garden, bird and bat houses for local parks, or a litter clean-up campaign.

Ohio Hospital Association, *Greening Ohio's Hospitals*, \$43,948.00, July 2001 - June 2002, Statewide, Audience Regulated Community, #01G-063

Provides infrastructure and resources to advance pollution prevention (P2) in hospitals throughout the state, including reduction and proper management of solid, hazardous, infectious, radioactive, liquid and confidential wastes. An OHA working group will initiate a peer-to-peer training network, and working groups to reduce or eliminate mercury and persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs), so that by 2002, more than 50% of hospitals are participating in the Mercury Challenge Program. A set of scorekeeping tools will help at least 50% of Ohio hospitals conduct a baseline waste assessment and measure results as they implement comprehensive pollution prevention plans. Provides two rounds of train-the-trainer workshops on mercury reduction and pollution prevention auditing for hospital administrators. Includes recognition programs, a directory of key resource personnel, a list-serv and statewide conference call seminar series for ongoing discussion, and a case study book on best practices in Ohio hospitals.

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