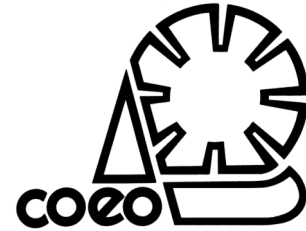


## FRIENDS of COEO NEWSLETTER

The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario

[www.coeo.org](http://www.coeo.org)

Editor: Grant Linney  
February 10th, 2010



*Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter.*

## COEO NEWS

### Special Deal For Friends Of COEO: 1/2 Price Memberships!

For the balance of the current membership year (to August 31, 2010), you can join / re-join COEO for half the price posted on our website at [www.coeo.org/membership.htm](http://www.coeo.org/membership.htm). This will entitle you to the members' version of this newsletter (it includes OEE job postings and occasionally other items not found in the Friends version) as well as the spring and summer issues of our acclaimed **Pathways** journal. It also means that you are an important supportive part of an organization that has accomplished the following:

- All members of the writing team that created the guidelines for the new teachers' AQ course in OEE are COEO members. The Ontario College of Teachers approached our organization as the professional association for the province.
- Both **ERIC** and **EBSCO** have now requested digital copies of all **Pathways** journals for their respective databases. Having just gone through the last 21 years of journals as part of my preparation for writing Lakehead University's outline for the new OEE course, I can readily see why.
- We continue to actively promote the multiple and lasting benefits of OEE through our publications, meeting with political and government officials, and sponsoring an informative and hands-on annual conference that also happens to be loads of fun!!

*Please note that this special offer is only available for those sending a cheque in the mail. Payment by Paypal remains at the regular membership rates.*

**Don't Forget!**

**COEO CONFERENCE 2010**

**September 24-26, 2010**

**Kinark Outdoor Centre, Haliburton, Ontario**

### Outdoor Educator Question of the Month

Do you know how Communism first appeared in the Insect world?

... It was when a wary wasp joined the cagey bee.

... And, this, according to COEO's own Bert Horwood, was during a sting operation ...

*Editor's Note: A couple of folks felt that last month's "question" was inappropriate for this newsletter. I regard humour (in my case, puns) as a delightful means of interaction and thus regret that I have caused some discomfort. I extend my apologies to any others whom I might have offended.*

## Musings on *Avatar* and OEE

I love ***Star Wars***, Episodes 4, 5, and 6, that is. I have never been a “Trekkie” or a major sci-fi fan, but there’s something about being transported into the fairy-tale-like *Star Wars* world/universe, where there are light sabres, vehicles that can go to warp speed, fantastical creatures, and clearly defined forces of good and evil with a few characters in between, tempted to varying degrees by the Dark side.

In the movie ***Avatar***, I once again find myself transported into such a world. Only, this time, it’s in 3-D, and film director James Cameron goes to great lengths to portray the Oneness of the life force found in all its living beings, both plant and animal. There can be little doubt that Cameron’s imagination and cinematic skills are prodigious, and he puts them to highly impressive use in his creation of this fascinating and intricate world. Like the rest of the audience, I am drawn in ... I am fascinated, and I even feel wonder. Despite its 2.5 hour length (at least 30 minutes too long), and despite its annoying surrenders to Hollywood over-the-top battle scenes towards the end, I want to go back and re-experience this world of One, next time with the added “effect” of seeing it on an Imax screen.

This film also causes me great concern, and that’s another reason I want to see it again. In his book *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv quotes a child who expresses a marked preference for his indoor world “where the electrical outlets are,” and, now, here’s James Cameron, brilliantly and joyously showing off what electronic cyberspace can create. It’s so good ... it’s so alluring that our “real” world seems to suffer badly by comparison. *Hey, why don’t we just stay indoors and become enamoured of all these special effects!* ... How sad. How frightening.

We have lost our ability to see and feel and otherwise be aware of the miracle of this planet, though many might contend that most of us have never really had this level of insight. I think we COEO types would all agree that, regardless of our connection with nature in the past, it has been steadily and shockingly diminishing within the past half-century or so. We crave the dramatic and startling, and we have become oblivious to the slow and the silent, however close and beautiful it might be. In so many cases, Earth whispers its beauty, its intricacy, its oneness ... and we simply aren’t listening. Not only that, but we no longer “see,” and we’ve also lost touch. Instead of re-connecting with nature, we have become obsessed with “e-connecting.” And, these fundamental deprivations are directly contributing to our destruction of the life and life support systems of this planet.

The way I see it, we outdoor and environmental educators have an added responsibility in reversing this trend. We must take a leading role in recovering, discovering and creating powerful and lasting use of ways of re-engaging with the life forces of our home, before it is too late. That’s not far away, at all. There is “a clear and present danger,” and our failure to respond to this will be fatal. Unlike ***Star Wars***, we don’t have a Death Star bearing down upon us but, we do have every bit as formidable, immanent and destructive an enemy: as Walt Kelly, the creator of the Pogo comic strip once famously noted, *We have met the enemy, and he is Us.*

Grant Linney

# P.D. OPPORTUNITIES

## ADVENTUREWORKS!

[www.adventureworks.ca](http://www.adventureworks.ca)

### Facilitating Adventure-Based Learning February 11 – 12, 2010.

It's no surprise to us that this is our most popular workshop!

Experience new activities & how you can use them to maximize learning in your program or classroom. This workshop is great for educators, facilitators, and social workers working with children and adults. Kathy Haras, Ph.D., offers her expertise, insight and recommendations for your unique program. Visit the website for registration and more details.

<b><u>Low Ropes Facilitator:</u></b>	April 7 & 8, 2010	FULL!
<b><u>Assistant Ropes Course Instructor:</u></b>	April 7 – 11, 2010	Spaces still available
<b><u>Ropes Course Instructor:</u></b>	April 7 – 11, 2010	Spaces still available

### **Low Ropes Facilitator Level 2:** May 19 – 21, 2010

Individuals in the 24-hour course will enhance their ability to create innovative programs using low ropes course activities. Candidates will develop advanced leadership and facilitation strategies, hone program design skills, and explore risk management issues. Successful completion of this course and testing leads to certification as Level Two Challenge Course Practitioner (Spotted Activities Only).

All courses and workshops are held at Canterbury Hills Camp in Ancaster unless otherwise indicated. Please go to: [www.adventureworks.org](http://www.adventureworks.org) for more dates and locations.

*Register 30 days in advance to take advantage of our Early Bird Pricing.*

*Please contact **Adventureworks** at 905-304-5683, toll-free at 877-311-5683, or by e-mail: [info@adventureworks.org](mailto:info@adventureworks.org) for more information.*

## **BARK LAKE LEADERSHIP CENTRE**

[barklake.com](http://barklake.com)

### **Project WILD Facilitators Training Course** February 19 - 21, 2010

Ready to join a network of hundreds of volunteers from coast to coast?

Eager to lead your own workshops for fellow educators?

Want to spread the word about WILD Education?

This three-day course will allow you to network with other educators in an atmosphere that promotes the exchange of knowledge to enhance student's outdoor experiences. A great resource for the indoor or outdoor classroom. Instructor: Bonnie Anderson, Program Director, OCT [More...](#)

### **Hike Ontario: Safe Hiker and Hike Leader Instructor** March 15 – 19, 2010

These are great certification courses for any individuals and/or groups interested in leading organized hikes and walks in Ontario. They are excellent forums for learning some of the necessary and important tools in leading hikes or walks. [More...](#)

# **P.D. OPPORTUNITIES**

## **BARK LAKE LEADERSHIP CENTRE** (Cont'd)

### **Leave No Trace: Master Educator Course**

May/June 2010

This valuable training is recognized throughout the world by the outdoor industry, land management agencies and the outdoor recreation community. This course strives to provide outdoor enthusiasts with guiding principles to reduce their impacts when they hike, camp, picnic, snowshoe, run, bike, hunt, paddle, ride horses, fish, ski or climb. The program strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts.

### **ORCKA Flatwater (BASIC) Course**

May 2010

Introducing beginners to the skills essential in understanding the fundamentals of canoeing and the proper equipment needed in order to be safe on the water. This certification is a requirement of all outdoor centres and camps when leading and instructing canoeing programs.

For further information, contact Adam Zita [training@barklake.com](mailto:training@barklake.com) 1-888-517-9999

## **LEARNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

[www.lsf-lst.ca](http://www.lsf-lst.ca)

### **Eco League: Linking Education to Action**

This program challenges and motivates students and teachers to engage in community and school-based sustainability action projects. Visit: [www.ecoleague.ca](http://www.ecoleague.ca)

### **Resources for Rethinking:**

This is a free, online database of excellent, peer-reviewed, curriculum-matched resources to help teachers integrate ESD into their classrooms. R4R.ca allows teachers to search by: Province/Territory, language (English/French), subject and grade, and sustainability issue or keyword. Visit: [www.r4r.ca](http://www.r4r.ca)

### **Project FLOW: For the Love of Water**

This program engages teachers and students in hands-on, action projects that model responsible and active citizenship, preparing students to be stewards of our water resources. Visit:

[www.r4r.ca/en/project-flow](http://www.r4r.ca/en/project-flow)

### **Step Outside for Learning**

This program provides teachers with bi-monthly guides that highlight the many environmental education learning opportunities that occur just outside the their school door, in the school yard and neighbourhood.

Visit: [www.r4r.ca/en/step-outside](http://www.r4r.ca/en/step-outside)

### **Sustainability and Education Academy**

This program supports educational system leaders to create a culture of sustainable development, integrated into all aspects of the K – 12 education system.

Visit: [www.lsf-lst.ca/en/projects/transforming-schools/sustainability](http://www.lsf-lst.ca/en/projects/transforming-schools/sustainability)

### **Professional Learning for ESD**

This program provides workshops designed to assist teachers in engaging their students in active, experiential & interdisciplinary learning. Visit: [www.lsf-lst.ca](http://www.lsf-lst.ca)

# P.D. OPPORTUNITIES

## LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY TEACHER AQ COURSES

<http://education.lakeheadu.ca/lifelonglearning>

Stay tuned for further details regarding the ***new OEE AQ course***.  
Initial plans are for this course to be 40% face-to-face in southern Ontario and 60% online, between July 5 and 30, 2010. A three-day residential retreat will provide a common shared experience from which many of the course topics will be approached.



### **Additional Qualifications for Teachers** Professional development that suits your needs!

Lakehead University's Faculty of Education offers over 40 online, blended delivery, and independent study courses designed to help you integrate your professional development into your personal and professional needs.

Now accepting registrations for Spring 2010 (courses start May 3)

- ABQs for Primary, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions
- Teaching Aboriginal Children
- Special Education, Part 1, Part 2, & Specialist (Online)
- Reading, Part 1 & Specialist (Online)
- French As A Second Language, Part 1 & Part 2 (Online)
- English As A Second Language, Part 1 (Independent Study)
- Integration of Information and Computer Technology in Instruction, Part 1 (Independent Study)
- Guidance and Career Education, Part 1 & Specialist (Independent Study)
- Co-operative Education, Part 1 & Specialist (Independent Study)
- Religious Education, Part 1

#### **OUR AQ COURSES OFFER:**

- Flexible Schedules
- Professional Recognition (OCT, QECO, OSSTF)
- Academic Credit
- University Library Access

*Fax or email us  
your  
AQ application  
today!*

#### **NEW COURSES THIS SUMMER!**

- Environmental Science, Part 1
- Outdoor Experiential Education

For information about our offerings, please visit our website.  
If you cannot find the course you are looking for, please contact us to see how we can help you meet your learning needs.



#### **Department of Lifelong Learning**

Phone: (807) 343-8178  
Fax: (807) 346-7882  
faced.pde@lakeheadu.ca  
<http://education.lakeheadu.ca/lifelonglearning>

**Lakehead**  
UNIVERSITY

## **P.D. OPPORTUNITIES:      THE PINE PROJECT**

### **Creating a Culture of Nature Connection:**

### **Speaking and Workshop Tour - February and March 2010**

Mark Morey founder of the Vermont Wilderness School and the Institute for Natural Learning, and Dan Gardoqui, founder of White Pine Programs (both based in New England) will be speaking in Southern Ontario in February and March, 2010.

These events will focus on innovative educational programs designed for educators, outdoor professionals, parents, and communities to help create a stronger culture around nature and nature connection.

The talks and workshops will share knowledge and tools to help students cultivate a stronger relationship with nature, including:

- Effective educational experiences based on the cycles of nature
- Games, activities, and songs that draw people young and old into nature
- The art of storytelling, and how it is used in cultures living close to the earth
- Tracking, the art of questioning, sensory awareness training, personal reflection and group discussion to help build awareness of nature in yourself and others

Many of the philosophies and practices to be discussed are based upon time-tested methods used by indigenous peoples to pass on their culture of nature connection to younger generations, and align with a growing body of modern research on how humans learn best.

Join us to learn more about speaking events and workshops coming soon! Contact [info@pineproject.org](mailto:info@pineproject.org) or 647 991 7463 or go to the [webpage to reserve seats now!](#)

For further information, go to:

<http://www.pineproject.org/programs/adult-programs/art-of-mentoring/creating-a-culture-of-nature-connection-speaking-and-workshop-tour/>

# OTHER OUTDOOR NEWS

## Summer Outdoor Camps: The best remedy for nature deficit disorder

By Dominique Larocque

Nature deficit disorder is a term coined by Richard Louv in his book *Last Child in the Woods*. The book explores the increasing split between children and the natural world. The book also describes the increasing evidence that points to nature as a key ingredient for the development of healthy children and adults. Along with many camp directors, educators, therapists, physical health educators, teachers, program directors and parents, I have become a committed ambassador to the movement.

I devoured the book during my 2005 Christmas break because Louv's research resonated deeply with my own personal experiences as an athlete and nature therapist. How often I have wondered if attention-deficit disorders were a result of getting kids to sit and listen quietly instead of encouraging them to move in the wild and observe the magic of nature unfold.

Retired Olympic athlete Silken Laumann in her book *Child's Play Rediscovering the Joy of Play in Our Families and Communities* shares many similar observations as Louv:

*"Our perception of the world has changed. Our streets and parks don't feel as safe as we'd like and we don't know our neighbors as we used to. While we recognize the need for our kids to be active, our fears, along with our busy lives and the enormous societal pressure to (simultaneously) make athletes, academics and artists out of our children, have led us to schedule their every activity, driving them to and from soccer practice, piano lessons, tutorials".*

After five years of its release, I am still amazed at how many parents still don't know about *Last Child in the Woods'* movement. I can only imagine that other camp directors share the same concern as myself when witnessing the popularity of virtual outdoor facilities like the *Wii Sport Resorts*, offering wakeboarding, archery, canoeing and cycling as a choice of sports to practice. As a sport psychology consultant who works at developing mental toughness, social skills and sportsmanship in her campers, computer animated games offer very little advantages compared to the 'real experience' of summer camps. How can paddling a canoe or pedalling a bike with a plastic Wii console in hand in the comfort of your living room even compare to the exhilaration and sensuality of paddling a river or mountain biking a technical trail with the wind in your hair and the sun on your back with new friends made at camp?

Every summer, my concern grows exponentially as I witness my campers complaining of being 'too hot', 'too tired' or comment on the environment being 'too buggy', 'too wet' and 'too dirty'. It has also become more challenging to find counsellors that possess outdoor skills or teenagers that can go a full day without their smart phone.

I recently read that even James Cameron, epic film writer and director credits Louv's book as an inspiration for his latest film *Avatar*. Cameron depicts the characters in his movie as being more concerned with the avatar versions of themselves than with their own bodies. This is exemplified when Louv states his concern of today's younger generation engagement with online portrayals on social networking sites or videogames.

## Summer Outdoor Camps *(Continued)*

This year I feel an extra urgent need to get more parents on board by encouraging them to slow down and make conscious choices in the pursuit of their recreation pursuits. Where I see the need for more leadership is in the home, schoolyards, and neighbourhoods from 'grow-ups' that resonate with this movement.

Is there hope? Absolutely! I am fortunate to see the numerous possibilities manifest in my culture of 'wild kids and stewards' that participate in my programs. For the past three years, with the help of my campers and staff, I have completely redesigned my mountain bike summer camp curriculum to reflect Louv's philosophy. Our camp slogan is '*Re-Connect, Re-Wild, Re-Wire!*' Re-wiring refers to our ability to become conscious of the mental habits and conditioning that are hardwired in our brain that fuel stress, depression and anxiety and the incredible healing power and wisdom that outdoor re-creation offers in transforming these negative emotions.

Unless more of us get aboard the 'play outside' wagon, the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health of our children and teenagers will suffer dire consequences. Prevention is key! We owe it to our children to re-connect, re-wild and re-wire.

### **Great links to explore:**

<http://richardlouv.com/>

<http://www.sharingnature.com/>

<http://www.kidactive.ca>

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

<http://www.greenteacher.com/>

[www.livinglightly.ca/](http://www.livinglightly.ca/)

[www.childrenandnature.org/](http://www.childrenandnature.org/)

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

<http://www.rewildingchildhood.com/>

<http://thegreatturning.net/>

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

<http://rewiringthebrain.net>

### **About the author**

*Dominique Larocque owns and directs the Creative Wheel Centre (a COEO Organizational Member) located 35 minutes north of Ottawa. You can learn more about her vision and her efforts of getting families, schools and corporations outdoors by visiting [www.creativewheel.ca](http://www.creativewheel.ca)*

# RESOURCES

## NEW BOOK: *Understanding Educational Expeditions*

Dr. Simon Beames, COEO member, Pathways contributor, formerly a student of one Bob Henderson's and now a professor in his own right at the University of Edinburgh, has just released an impressive new book, available through Amazon.

This book explores theory that can be used to inform how educational expeditions are conceptualized, planned, and facilitated. The contributors offer a wide range of perspectives through which expeditions for educational purposes can be considered.

- The British Youth Expedition: Cultural and Historical Perspectives  
(Chris Loynes)
- Virtue Ethics and Expeditions (Paul Stonehouse)
- Interactionism and Expeditions (Simon Beames)
- The Expedition and Rites of Passage (Brent Bell, Simon Beames, & Will Carlson)
- Science on Expeditions (Tim Stott)
- Choices, Values, and Untidy Processes: Personal, Social, and Health Education on Educational Expeditions (Allison & Kris Von Wald)
- Expeditions and Liberal Arts University Education  
(Morton Asfeldt, Glen Hvenegaard, & Ingrid Urberg)
- Understanding Heritage Travel: Story, Place, and Technology  
(Bob Henderson, *obscure Canadian academic*)
- Expeditions for People with Disabilities (John Crosbie)
- Ethics for Expeditions (Andrea Nightingale)
- Current Issues (Simon Beames & Pete Allison)

Aiming to bridge theory and practice, each chapter outlines relevant literature, highlights key areas for consideration, and offers suggestions for real-world application. The book will be of interest to researchers, university students, expedition organizers, and outdoor instructors.

## ANOTHER NEW BOOK: *The 175 Best Camp Games: A Handbook for Leaders*

**By Kathleen, Laura and Mary Fraser**

**With Illustrations by Bernice Lum**

Filled with fun, easy-to-play, adaptable, kid-tested games, *The 175 Best Camp Games* will benefit teachers, coaches, camp leaders, parents and anyone programming activities for children. Most of the games included in this guide are suitable for 4 to 30 players and are easily adaptable to meet the age and developmental needs of children ages 4 to 16 years old. This book is well organized making good use of game categories and headings which help to keep game objectives in mind. The games are clearly explained and generally require no or minimal equipment and preparation.

Drawing on years of experience the Frasers offer helpful tips and make excellent suggestions for game modifications to increase or decrease the difficulty level of the games. This is particularly helpful for children with different skill levels and exceptionalities.

## **RESOURCES**    *The 175 Best Camp Games* (Continued)

Seasoned camp leaders and childcare workers should not look to *The 175 Best Camp Games* for fresh game ideas. Rather this handbook has compiled the best, time-tested children's group games in one simple guide. Overall, this handbook offers an excellent resource that is well laid out, a straightforward guide.

*Thanks to Heather Shaw of the Willowgrove Outdoor Education Centre for this review. The paperback version of this book is available at a price of \$19.95 from bookstores, online booksellers, and Firefly Books (1-800-387-5085; [www.fireflybooks.com](http://www.fireflybooks.com))*

### **Earth Rangers: Bringing Environmental Education to Your School**

Interested in bringing innovative environmental education to your school? Earth Rangers is a charitable organization committed to educating young people about environmental issues and providing them with opportunities to take immediate action for the benefit of the environment.

The cornerstone of our environmental programming is our free School Show which features:

- Live Animal Ambassadors who create a connection between our planet and the living things that share it.
- An accompanying audio and visual multimedia engagement.
- Curriculum-linked programming in three separate Shows: Primary (Grades 1 – 3), Junior (Grades 4 – 6) and Intermediate (Grades 7 – 8) students.
- Accompanying classroom activities which further enhance the overall experience of the show.

This spring, thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we will be heading into eastern Ontario and still have availability for Kingston, Belleville and Peterborough area schools. We will also continue doing our regular school shows in the Greater Toronto Area and have booking availability for February, May and June.

For more information or to book online, please visit our website at <http://www.earthrangers.org/en-us/OurPrograms/SchoolShows/BookaShow.aspx> or email [bookings@earthrangers.com](mailto:bookings@earthrangers.com).

# **RESOURCES**

## **EDWARD BURTYNSKY AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

### **Call for Submissions & Nominations**

*The Institute of Child Study's Edward Burtynsky Award for Teaching Excellence in Environmental Education* was established by The Institute of Child Study Laboratory School at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. This Award is made possible by the Norman and Marian Robertson Charitable Foundation, the generosity of anonymous donors, and by world-renowned Environmentalist and Photographer-Artist, Edward Burtynsky.

This Award was created in order to recognize and celebrate outstanding elementary school teachers in the province of Ontario who, through their exemplary teaching methods, create learning opportunities that inspire students to become environmentally conscious, responsible world citizens who take sustainable actions that protect and restore the environment, thereby preserving our earth and creating hope for future generations.

The first prize winner will receive \$500 towards Environmental Education related professional development opportunities and a signed Edward Burtynsky print. In addition, the first prize winner will receive \$1000 for his or her school towards funding Environmental Education outdoor experiences and field trips. Two runners-up will each receive \$250 toward Environmental Education related professional development opportunities and a book signed by Edward Burtynsky, as well as a signed book for each of their respective school libraries.

As we prepare to launch the first annual award of its kind from the Institute of Child Study, we invite elementary school teachers across Ontario who are worthy of recognition to submit an application. We also ask all Ontarians to look to their school communities for teachers whose commendable practices in Environmental Education make them excellent candidates for this Award. Both self-submissions, and third-party nominations are encouraged. Please read the official Submission Guidelines, Submission Rationale, and Submission Form to find out how to apply:

[http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/ics/site\\_LabSchool/EnvironmentalEducation/Environmental\\_Ed.shtml](http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/ics/site_LabSchool/EnvironmentalEducation/Environmental_Ed.shtml)

Please send your completed submission to the Institute of Child Study, Laboratory School no later than 2 pm EST on April 15th, 2010.

## **ABOUT THIS ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

For consistency, the COEO electronic newsletter is published on the first day of each month. Friends of COEO can receive this newsletter free of charge however, as non-members, they will not receive the outdoor education job postings or other parts of the newsletter. While the "Friends of COEO" edition will generally be posted on the COEO website on the first of the month, non-members will not receive it until several days later.

Anyone having an item of interest to outdoor & experiential educators and desiring publication in this newsletter needs it to submit to the editor at least two days before the publication date. If your organization wishes to post information (e.g., job postings, notice of upcoming events), it needs to be an organizational member of COEO.

Back copies of this newsletter are posted on our website: [www.coeo.org/electon\\_news.htm](http://www.coeo.org/electon_news.htm)