

NREM Update

APRIL 2011

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- Dr. James Eflin
- Dr. John Pichtel
- Susan Taylor
- Laura Waldron

NREM Alumni Awards Dinner From Ball State Alumni Association Web site

On Friday, April 15, we honored the accomplishments of five outstanding alumni and friends at the 2011 NREM Alumni Awards Dinner at the Ball State University Alumni Center.

Phil Tevis, '89, NREM Award of Achievement

Founder, FlatLand Resources, LLC and Project Director, Delaware County Greenways, Inc.

Scott Carpenter, '84, NREM Award of Achievement

General Manager-Emissions & Funding, RJ Corman Railpower

Kelly (Clark) Dungan, '02, NREM Award of Merit

Eighth Grade Science Teacher, Centerville Junior High School

Abby McCoy, '06, NREM Award of Merit

Horticulturist, Indianapolis Zoo

Barry Banks, Friend of NREM Award

Executive Director, Red-tail Conservancy

The Natural Resources & Environmental Management Alumni Society accepts recommendations annually for the awards. To see award parameters and nominate someone for a 2012 NREM award, visit the NREM Alumni Society Awards Web site.

Join us next year for cocktails and dinner as we honor our next round of NREM Alumni Awards!



2011 NREM Alumni Award Winners (from left to right)
Kelly Dungan; Barry Banks; Phil Tevis; Abby McCoy;
Scott Carpenter

Earth Day's Humble Beginnings

By Carrie Olinger, NREM Senior

In 1962, Senator Gaylord Nelson brought the overlooked topic of the environment to the public's attention by convincing President John F. Kennedy to undertake a five-day, eleven-state conservation tour to promote environmental issues. Although the tour did not garner many headlines, it was the "germ" that started the Earth Day mania. It wasn't until six years after the president's tour that Nelson came up with the idea of Earth Day, where environmental advocates would march and utilize sit-ins, as did the protesters of the Vietnam War. The event, held on April 22, 1970, focused the same passion and emotion of the war solely on the problems of the environment. Much to the surprise of Earth Day coordinators, who did not have the time or the resources to organize a large event, over 20 million demonstrators and over a thousand schools and communities participated. "The remarkable thing about Earth Day," said Senator Nelson, was that "it organized itself." *Source: How the First Earth Day Came About, by Senator Gaylord Nelson. Retrieved from <http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>*

Earth Day at Ball State over the past 41 years certainly does not organize itself, but rather is spearheaded by the Natural Resources Club (NR Club) in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Since its inception, BSU Earth Day has evolved into a week-long celebration. In past years, NR Club hosted events such as concerts, games, movies, and speakers all embracing an environmental theme. Earth Day is evolving once again at Ball State with a host of activities designed to encourage students to think more about their effect on the environment.

BSU Earth Week Events Calendar

By Carrie Olinger



Phi Mu fraternity's winning Recycle Wars entry

Ball State University celebrated their own Earth Week festivities from April 15 to April 22. Companies, clubs, and other organizations spoke with students about their environmental initiatives on April 15 in the Student Center for the Earth Day exhibition. The 180 people in attendance all received free t-shirts and food, as well as were able to view art created by student groups for Recycle Wars.

During Recycle Wars, the Natural Resources Club encouraged student groups to collect recyclables and build an art project representing a person, place or thing. Amidst a total of seven entries, Phi Mu fraternity created the winning lion made primarily from cardboard boxes and old newspaper. They received a certificate, framed photograph of their creation, and a \$100 gift card to the t-shirt company Cool Cayenne.

Ball State students were also encouraged to sign up at several community service sites around Muncie throughout the week. The

Natural Resources Club provided transportation to Animal Resqu Huas and twice to Prairie Creek Reservoir for approximately 5-6 students each trip. At Animal Resqu Haus, volunteers painted and cleaned bird cages. Volunteers at Prairie Creek Reservoir aided Barry Banks of the Red-Tail Conservancy in pulling invasive garlic mustard.

If interested in helping out with next year's activities, being a vendor for 2012 Earth Day, or joining the Natural Resources Club, please email nrclub@bsu.edu.

Summer 2011 Field Studies

By Lanette Erby, NREM Graduate Student

Southern Colorado/Northern New Mexico

Students visiting Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico with Dr. Amy Gregg for three weeks in late May and early June will learn to blend natural and cultural resource management with community planning by studying railroad growth, water rights, the public-versus-private-land debate, and other land use issues. Aside from braving the whitewater of the Arkansas River and standing in four states at once at the Four Corners, students will learn to understand western development through Zuni and Navajo Native American site visits. They will also take a ride through mining country on the historic Durango-Silverton Railroad, trips to Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon to analyze ancient community planning and hike through Great Sand Dunes National Monument and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.



Students raft the Arkansas River

Boundary Waters, Minnesota

Students braving the backcountry of Minnesota with Dr. Josh Gruver for two weeks in June will spend time in a designated wilderness area while learning how to conduct human dimensions of natural resources research. For potential publication, students will collect interview data from study participants in Ely concerning recent copper and nickel mining activity. Students will also undergo Leave-No-Trace environmental ethics training while on a six-day backcountry canoe trip.

Interested students that exhibit leadership skills, are committed to the objectives of the trip, and have the desire to write and learn basic research skills in human dimensions of natural resources management, are welcome to contact Josh Gruver for additional details.



Students welcomed to Colorado during last year's CO and NM Field study.

Students Represent BSU at NAI Conference

By Brittainy Wallick, NREM Senior

"Renew, Restore, Revitalize," was the theme of this year's National Association of Interpretation Region 4 Conference, and several students from Ball State University showed those in attendance what that theme was all about. Two NREM and three anthropology students gave presentations ranging from the discovery and restoration of historic sites and landmarks in Indiana, to how Indiana State Park programs helped to instill a passion for interpretation.



Amy Gregg and Brittainy Wallick take part in an interpretive

coming full circle and now working as an interpretive naturalist, and giving an explorer patch to a young girl.

The NREM presentation given by Ball State senior Brittainy Wallick was part of a special studies project begun during the summer. It educated the public about a historical toll house and its journey from nearly being demolished to make room for an asphalt parking lot, to now being fully restored with potential to be turned in to an interpretive center for local Indiana fourth grade students.

The two NREM students attended the conference for four days, accompanied by Dr. Amy Gregg. Students gained experience in presentation skills and gained invaluable networking potential. Along with giving presentations, students were able to participate in many other learning opportunities through programs and presentations given by other NAI members.



Brittainy Wallick poses with NAI member, Will Redding

Ball State sophomore Kristie Ridgeway came to the conference for the first time as one of the student presenters. She spoke about her experiences as a young child attending interpretive programs and receiving her first explorer patch, to



NAI members tour U.S. National Landmark, Marengo Cave

FSEEC Provides Learning Opportunities for All Ages From FSEEC Web site

Ball State's Field Station and Environmental Education Center (FSEEC) provides hands-on learning and observation of nature, and encourages exploration of natural processes for over 1,000 school kids and other visitors every year. The center is a collaboration of the Departments of Biology, Natural Resources and Environmental Management, Landscape Architecture, and Geology. FSEEC is composed of six properties totaling 425 acres. Click on the name of each property to learn about its history, tours, and educational experiences for students and other organizations.

Christy Woods: Christy Woods is a 17-acre outdoor teaching laboratory filled with mature deciduous forest, tallgrass prairie, and other plant communities that emphasize native plants and native ecosystems of Indiana. Christy Woods supports research by faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and applied research intrinsic to the management of Christy Woods and other properties within the field station.

Greenhouses: Ball State University has two greenhouses located in Christy Woods. The first houses the Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank given to the university by W.O. and Goldie Wheeler. The second, the Teaching and Research Greenhouse, houses a collection of plants from around the world for students to examine; provides plant material and growing space for research projects; and produces

plant lab material for students studying botany.

Cooper Farm and the Skinner Field Area: These properties offer an excellent site for class field trips and research. There are a number of distinct micro-environments, including wildlife plantings, forest, a small farm pond, several vernal ponds located inside the woods, a tallgrass prairie, a successional meadow and woods, agricultural fields, and ephemeral wetlands. Management of Cooper Farm consists primarily of controlling invasive exotic plants and introducing native plants, mowing, burning, and assisting with research and education efforts on property.



Field Station Manager, John Taylor, spraying for garlic mustard in Christy Woods

Ginn Woods: This 161-acre property supports the second largest stand of old-growth forest remaining in Indiana. It is the only accessible area in Delaware County where certain field procedures can be taught and where certain animals and plants may be found. The primary management principle is that no activity shall be allowed that would damage or diminish this last remnant of a natural community that once covered most of the region.

Donald E. Miller Wildlife Preserve: This 16.5-acre area located on the north bank of the White River is a site for nature

study and field experiences for students from pre-K through college. The Miller area is a remnant of White River bottomland isolated when the Army Corps of Engineers straightened the river channel and constructed a levee in the late 1940s. The transitional status of the woods, the topographic moisture gradient, and the presence of the oxbow pond create a diverse habitat for many plant and animal species. Current management goals for Miller Wildlife Area include maintenance of trails and establishment of access lanes for research efforts. This is a labor-intensive effort and volunteers are encouraged to assist

Hults Environmental Learning Center: A visitor to the center may view wildflowers of the prairie, hike on a trail through a mature hardwood forest, study a wetland, and observe the interactions of plants and animals in natural areas.



Prescribed burn at Hults

Management of Hults is targeted at offering educational activities, retaining existing habitat, and restoring additional areas to native plant and animal species. Grounds

maintenance, such as mowing, prescribed burns, and other land management techniques, are also employed on this property. Research activities are directed toward understanding human impact on ecological processes and communities.

NREM students are involved with a number of research and management activities at the properties. Read more on page 5.

Students Get Hands Dirty at Hults

By Jennifer Crawford, NREM Grad Student; and Brian Lepore, NREM Faculty

NREM students aren't afraid to get their hands dirty! NREM 304/504 Students have embarked on a practical food production exercise using the Hults Environmental Learning Center property.



Students assemble cold-frame at Hults

Students have broken into five garden groups. Because of the timing of the course, other students have built season extension capability so that by the end of the semester the class will harvest and enjoy the fruits (vegetables in this case) of their labor. Students planted cool season vegetables, starting with vegetables from the Christy Woods cold frame and transferring them to Hults. The

experience of gardening isn't one with which every student grows up, and this hands-on, immersive project is intended to expose them to the types of decisions farmers must make every year to

produce food and still remain economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

One of the groups involved in the Sustainable Agriculture class is collaborating with BSU Dining Services and BSU Facilities Planning and Management to execute a food waste composting pilot study for Ball State. It is a hands-on

experience for graduate students Melanie Baugh and Jennifer Crawford, and a team of hardy undergraduates. Vegetable, fruit, and bread waste is gathered twice weekly from LaFollette Dining's American Buffet Salad Bar. It is transported, weighed, and processed with leaves and office paper into one of three different composting systems: vermicompost bin, turned piles, or an aerated static pile. This project will result in a cradle-to-cradle nutrient-rich soil amendment, an enhanced environmental educational program at Hults, and a food waste audit for Dining Services, all of which will be featured on April 22 at the Earth Day exhibits.



Melanie Baugh getting dirty in the compost pile

For more information about upcoming events, becoming involved or general information about the Natural Resources & Environmental Management Department, please contact Ms. Connie Tyner, Administrative Coordinator (information provided on right).

The NREM community would like to thank everyone who helped contribute to the development of this newsletter.

Natural Resources & Environmental Management

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Sharing News and Donating to NREM

If you have news to share or are interested in NREM Alumni Society membership, please contact Mrs. Sue Taylor at alumni1@bsu.edu.

If you would like to make a donation to the Natural Resources and Environmental Management Department, please visit [here](#) or use the link provided on the NREM [Web site](#) and click on "How to Make a Gift." Below are some of the areas that you may consider when making your donation.

Thank you for your support of Ball State University's Natural Resources and Environmental Management program. The contribution you make to the NREM department may benefit any one or several of the accounts below:

- Funding for the general welfare of the NREM department: #6201
- Operation of the Hults Environmental Learning Center: #6203
- Activities and awards of the NREM Alumni Society: #6204
- Funding for research projects within the department: #6216
- Funding for soil research projects within the department: #6217
- Funding for activities to aid in the understanding of soil and water conservation: #6218
- Funding for renewable energy & industrial ecology research and teaching: #6219
- NREM Scholarship: #6250
- Clyde Hibbs Scholarship: #6253
- Alex and Anna Nicoloff Scholarship: #6254
- Charles Mortensen Fellowship: #6255

For more information on giving to NREM, contact [Kelly Shrock](#) at 765-285-7055 or kkshrock@bsu.edu. If you are interested in supporting the creation of a new scholarship, please contact [Dr. James Eflin](#), NREM Department Chair, at (765) 285-2327 or jeflin1@bsu.edu.