Welcome

Calumet Teachers,

We hope you had a great summer and that you enjoy the fall edition of our Calumet Environmental Education Program e-newsletter. We designed this newsletter to share information on educational program activities and resources with you. We want this newsletter to be helpful to you so please let us know if you have any suggestions for future editions. Look for the newsletter to come out seasonally.

Changes abound in the CEEP staff. Kirk Anne, CEEP Program Manager, is due to have a baby girl any day now so will be away from the office this fall, but will return in January. We'd like to introduce you to Alison Paul, who will be taking over Maggie Baker's role in coordinating the Mighty Acorns field trips and program trainings. Alison has spent the last two summer's coordinating the Ford Environmental Leadership Internship Program that is offered for Calumet Is My Back Yard (CIMBY) students. Betsy Quail (Mighty Acorns additional support), Angie Viands (Earth Force) and Laura Milkert (CIMBY) will continue in their same roles as last school year. We all look forward to working with you!

Best wishes for a wonderful school year,

Kirk Anne, Laura, Betsy, Alison and Angie

Resources to Help Educators Instill a Sense of Place in Youth

You may have heard of the term “placed-based education” but what exactly does it mean? Placed-based education involves students examining their local community to learn more about its history, culture, economy, and natural communities, among other things. Students then work to develop solutions to community issues. Proponents of placed-based education feel that a solid knowledge of one’s own “place” is foundational and should happen before students study broader concepts like national or global issues. They also believe that working on real world community issues increases students ability to problem solve and makes school learning more relevant to students’ everyday lives.

The Mighty Acorns, Earth Force and CIMBY programs that are part of the Calumet Environmental Education Program (CEEP) at The Field Museum promote placed-based education. Listed below are some additional resources you can use to learn more about place-based education and our own unique Chicagoland and Calumet Region.

Resources:

- **Placed-Based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities** by David Sobel. This is a quick read with case studies and academic research that show how connecting classrooms to the surrounding community can enhance students’ connection to the land and help them develop civic skills.

- **Green Teacher Magazine: Education for Planet Earth**: Green Teacher is a seasonal magazine that is chock full of classroom lessons for students in grades K-12 related to nature and culture.

- **Promise of Place**: Promise of Place is a website with information and resources related to placed-based education.

Journey Through Calumet: Journey through Calumet is a Field Museum website with interactive information (videos, pictures, commentary, etc.) about the Calumet Region

South of Chicago: Suburbs, Steel Mills, and Shoreline: South of Chicago is a video tour hosted by Geoffrey Baer and has some important historical information about the Calumet Region.

Calumet Beginnings: Ancient Shorelines and Settlements at the South End of Lake Michigan by Kenneth Schoon. This book details the geographic history of the region and the history of human settlements.

It’s Officially Fall!

It’s officially fall; we’ve brought out the hooded sweatshirts and layers, and find ourselves turning inwards. Days will gradually be getting shorter than the nights. The resulting photoperiod sends signals to the trees, birds, butterflies, and mammals around us that the time for growth and reproduction has past, at least for this season. October—with leaves dropping from the trees, clear skies, and abundant harvest—is the Full Hunter’s Moon or Full Harvest Moon. The giant planet Jupiter dominates the night sky this month, as it rises, brighter than any star, in the east-northeast after evening twilight.

Keep your eyes open this time of year for phenological/seasonal changes such as:
Late-blooming wildflowers like the New England Aster contrast against the warm hues of fall, changing leaves, and the browns of prairie grasses. This is our last chance to get our botany on for the season. It’s a season of storing things away for the winter, of collecting seeds, a highlight of restoration activities for many people.

What’s that I hear?
Birds on the move...keep your eyes to the sky, ears open, as our feathered friends migrate south (geese and sand-hill cranes are among the most distinctive) but over 300 different species of birds pass through Chicago each fall.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities:

- Unraveling DNA With Your Students (Grades 6-12) Field Trip Programs (Year Round) at The Field Museum: Investigate the fundamental principles of DNA and genetics while learning about the scientific research conducted at The Field Museum. Students will extract DNA in a lab and connect with real scientists in the DNA Discovery Center! Meets ILS goals 11, 12, 13. Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., includes 30 min. for lunch Cost: $4.50 per student. Call 312.665.7500 to register. Pre-registration required.

- Bike the Calumet: Discover the mysteries of the Calumet. See Chicago’s “second lake” and other major river, marshes, migratory birds, legal and illegal landfills; featuring the nearly 600 acres of newly acquired Park District property, and a world class golfcourse built on a garbage dump. Register online or between 9a.m. and 9:30 at the start location: Harborside International Golf Course (northwest corner of parking lot) 11100 S. Doty Ave. East (111th & I-94 Bishop Ford X-Way). Donation request: $10 adults /$5 under 16 (light lunch & beverages included).

- Calumet Heritage Partnership Conference & Canoeing the Little Calumet: The City of Blue Island hosts this year’s Annual Calumet Heritage Conference. Robert Lewis, author of the recently published Chicago Made: Factory Networks in the Industrial Metropolis, will be the keynote speaker and will begin the morning’s focus on the heritage of industrial satellite cities like Blue Island. After lunch (on your own in downtown Blue Island), participants have a choice of two field trips: a walking tour of historic uptown Blue Island or a canoe trip on the Little Calumet River and Calumet-Sag Channel highlighting historical bridges, industrial archeology sites, current restoration efforts and future plans. See the Calumet HeritagePartnership’s website or call Michael Siola at (773) 995-2964, for more info. Blue Island Education Center/Moraine Valley Community College, 12940 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL. Open to all ($10 for conference; price TBD for canoe trip).
• **Restoring Earth Exhibit opens at The Field Museum November 4:** The Field Museum’s newest permanent exhibition immerses visitors in adventure, discovery, and beauty as it tells the story of what conservation is and why preserving biodiversity is important. Restoring Earth follows museum scientists as they promote conservation from South America to the Pacific coral reefs and showcases conservation action right here in the Chicago region using large-scale photographs, videos, and fun, hands-on learning tools. For more information, visit: [http://www.fieldmuseum.org/happening/exhibits/abbott-hall-conservation-restoring-earth](http://www.fieldmuseum.org/happening/exhibits/abbott-hall-conservation-restoring-earth).

• **Earth Force Watershed Workshop for 7th and 8th grade teachers:** Friday, October 21, 2011, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Are fellow teachers at your school interested in incorporating exciting outdoor field experiences and service learning into their teaching? Join Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and The Field Museum’s Calumet Environmental Education Program (CEEP) for a educator workshop on developing watershed service learning projects with students during the 2011-2012 school year. Get classroom materials and C.P.D.U’s as well as access to classroom support and funds for watershed projects. Substitute fees will be covered! Where: Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave. South Holland, IL 60473. Contact Angie Viands to RSVP at aviands@fieldmuseum.org, or by phone at 312-665-7441. RSVP by Friday, October 14th, to reserve your spot.