



Environmental Concern Presents:



NOW! News on Wetlands

A Quarterly Newsletter for Wetland Educators

Summer 2006

Perrymont Elementary Comes Alive!

At the bottom of a steep hill in Lynchburg, Virginia change is underway! What was once a channel for runoff from tennis courts, a major road, and Perrymont Elementary School, is now a thriving wetland for plants, animals and humans to enjoy. With *POW! The Planning of Wetlands* techniques, and a lot of volunteer work the wetland took shape. Ten local non-profit organizations and government agencies donated their time, including, Lynchburg College, Robert E. Lee Soil and Water District

and Citizens for a Clean Lynchburg.

The wetland is broken into two separate pond areas where water is slowed as it drains downhill and collects, supporting plants including Blue Flag, Shadbush, Silky Dogwood, Marsh Hibiscus, Cardinal Flower, Bayberry, Ferns, and more.

The entire school took part in the planting day. Students learned the importance of wetlands, sang their new Perrymont Wetland Song and

planted a plant that they learned about and can keep track of for years to come.

The wetland is a new addition to the green areas of the school. Complete with an access path, put in as an Eagle Scout project, the wetland provides students the opportunity to link learning to the landscape.

The wetland also benefits the watershed as it slows and filters the rainwater on its way to Blackwater Creek, a tributary of the James River in the



Chesapeake Bay watershed.

For more information about Perrymont, log on *Schoolyard Habitat Success Stories* at www.wetland.org

Write On! Wetlands Challenge 2006

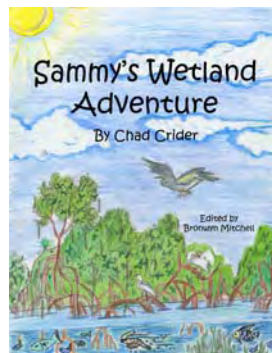
To celebrate American Wetlands Month, Environmental Concern held its second annual Write On! Wetlands Challenge. During March and April, middle school students throughout the country set out to write a story about a wetland adventure. Chad Crider, an 8th grader from Orangeburg, South Carolina was this year's winning writer with "Sammy's Wetland Adventure", the story of a shrimp

on a mission.

In May, the story was posted online along with a call for illustrators. Hundreds of entries from around the globe found their way to Environmental Concern. Community volunteers were called on to help with the difficult judging.

"Sammy" is the second volume of the growing library of wetland books written and illustrated for children by children. *Support the pro-*

gram by purchasing a copy of this delightful tale by calling (410) 745-9620. Make plans to get your students involved.



Whooping Cranes: the Comeback Cranes!

In June, smiles ran amok among the folks out at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Necedah, Wisconsin, and for good reason: for the first time in over 100 years, two Whooping crane chicks hatched successfully in the wild wetlands of Wisconsin! The chicks are the offspring of a pair of cranes that was raised in captivity, but trained to migrate using an ultra-light plane as a guide. The cranes graduated with the Class of 2002, migrated to wintering grounds on Florida's coast, and finally returned to Wisconsin to nest in May. Bi-

ologists hope that this nesting success will be followed by many more in years to come, boosting the number of wild, self-sustaining Whooping cranes.

The population of the Whooping crane reached an all time



low of about 20 individuals in the 1940's. This alarming decline in population was largely due to the loss of prairie marsh habitat in the mid-west, where the cranes nest. After many years of captive breeding and release programs, scientists have elevated the current population to about 300 individuals. The hope to create a self-sustaining population remains strong with the addition of the two wild-born chicks of Necedah!

For more information check out: www.fws.gov/midwest/necedah/

Sampling of Upcoming Workshops. For a complete listing and registration details, log on to www.wetland.org

August

- 3- WOW! Baraboo, WI
- 4- WOW! Facilitator Baraboo, WI
- 9-11 Wetland Plants: Know'em and Grow'em, St Michaels, MD
- 23/24- WOW!/POW! Albany, NY

September

- 6- POW! Kitty Hawk, NC
- 8/9-WOW!/POW! Wilmington, NC
- 14-POW! Greensboro, NC
- 15-WOW! Facilitator Greensboro NC

October

- 3-POW! Pasadena, MD
- 7/8-WOW!/POW! Santa Rosa, CA

Don't see a course in your neck of the woods? Call the Education Department to learn how easy it is to become a workshop partner.

We are actively scheduling for fall 2006 and well into 2007. (410) 745-9620



Welcome to Our Newest Wetland Educator!

Environmental Concern is excited to welcome Marianne Muth to its education team. A graduate of the University of Vermont, Marianne brings with her a wealth of environmental education experience gained from her tenure with the Bucks County Audubon Society in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Marianne can be reached at wow@wetland.org.