

NHEE - Bringing EE Online: Connecting Teachers and Environmental Educators

A Zoom Conversation: 4/9/20 - 4:00-5:00 PM

Thank you all for joining us for this conversation. Below are notes from the meeting and links and suggestions from the chat window.

If you have resources you would like NHEE to share via our FaceBook page, email list, or website please send to nhee.org@gmail.com.

Links to collections of resources for bringing EE online:

North American Association for Environmental Education is continuously updating this site:

<https://naaee.org/eeepro/blog/resources-during-covid-19-resources>

(Joining eePro is free and we highly recommend you join if you haven't already!)

Resource collections from some of our neighboring states EE organizations:

Maine Environmental Education Association: <https://www.meeassociation.org/>

Massachusetts Environmental Education Society: <https://massmees.org/>

Chat Window Notes:

- Is there a way to make a concerted effort to gather that data and share it without every organization reaching out to teachers? I just wonder about teachers getting all these surveys from multiple organizations asking the same questions.
- Something that pops into my mind is also the difference between synchronous and asynchronous online learning. I would think that asynchronous is easier for students with intermittent internet access.
- VT is using school buses to deliver food. Not sure what the policies are for distributing materials.
- Helpful to think about what can be delivered as a phone call, e-mail, etc. There is a whole world of activities, and some are more conducive to being delivered across all media
- I like the idea of sharing activities through one venue ie NHEE website. But the logistics of that?
- We're writing up activities to get kids outside (or observing the natural world from a window if they can't get outside) and emailing PDFs once a week to our teacher network. Wondering if NHEE would be willing to share these via the email list or on Facebook?
- NHEE would be happy to share that via our website or social media and email
- iNaturalist is an app for both apple and android
- check out Seacoast Science Center's weekly 'Your Learning Connection' on website
- But there is also a website. inaturalist.org
- iNaturalist has a kids version too
- What's the best way to get things to NHEE? Email?
- YES - nhee.org@gmail.com
- projectbudburst.org
- Nature's Notebook also has a bunch of activities and curricula for teachers

- The "Seek" app is a nice addition to the iNaturalist. It's like an instant identification app
- GLOBE observer app <https://observer.globe.gov/>
- Someone asked for Beaver Brook Forest Bathing page (when our trails reopen) : <https://www.beaverbrook.org/hike-for-health/>
- <https://www.inaturalist.org>
- Useful nature journalling curriculum: <https://johnmuirlaws.com/journaling-curriculum/>
- iNaturalist gives people the capability to create "events" for people to join in and input data. It also gives you the option to take the pictures, etc. and upload them to the app when you come back into internet range.
- You can create your own projects in iNaturalists for a group you want to pool data with <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/new>
- Observation skills would be great. Use your senses
- Naturalist John Muir Laws has released his "How to Teach Nature Journaling" book as a free PDF download. <https://johnmuirlaws.com/product/how-to-teach-nature-journaling-free-pdf-download/>
- <https://info.flipgrid.com/>
- For anyone who wants access to online resources you can view things through the "Search Site" box of Transition-Studies" at <http://transition-studies.net>
- Another -- somewhat dated -- list of organizations is available at: Institutions Working on the Transition ... to a Post Carbon-Fueled World - <https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/institutions-of-note/>

Notes from conversations:

- Comments from a formal educator: goal is to not have kids spend whole time online or in front of a screen. 58% of kids don't have internet access (<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-04-09-who-s-doing-remote-learning-depends-on-who-you-ask-and-how-wealthy-they-are>)
- Looking for a toolbox of activities that teachers can send out to kids that they can do on their own and check back with their teacher.
- Seacoast Science Center is posting short videos that direct kids to go outside to do an activity or make an observation. Check their FB page.
- Follow phenology - Project Budburst is a great resource and citizen science program.
- Could NHEE post a daily phenology post that kids can check out and then compare to what they see where they live?
- Teachers can't collect paper packets back from students because of contamination issues. Flip Grid is a helpful app where kids share their work with short videos.
- Some teachers are calling students individually on the phone if they can't connect with them online to give activities/instruction and to check-in.
- A helpful resource for classroom teachers would be an idea list/activity collection that teachers can select from to send to students to get them outside.
- Hard to balance not creating more work for parents while still getting kids outside.
- This is a great time for nature journaling. Send prompts each day. Follow signs of spring.

- Blind contour drawing - great nature journaling activity. Great equalizer for kids who are self-conscious about their artistic skills. Share drawing and object via Flip Grid videos (middle schoolers).
- MarcoPolo is an app that starts a conversation and people build on it. You can see the previous person's response or answer and you comment or add to it. (note: that may not be a good summary of how this app actually works!)
- There is state funding to support summer education programs through schools. If schools aren't able to hold summer sessions perhaps this money could be available to nonformal educators to support independent outdoor learning?