



Ohio Water Education Program

DRIPS and DROPS

February 2001

OWEP SPONSORS: *The Ohio State University Water Resources Center, the Water Management Association of Ohio & the Water Resources Foundation of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency*

NEWS FROM OHIO PROJECT WET

Greetings to all Ohio Project WET facilitators. The year-long *Drips and Drops* drought has ended with this, the first 2001 edition of the newsletter! As I told you last time, Carol Moody resigned her position with the Ohio Water Education Program (OWEP) to take another job at OSU. While this made for a short-term hardship to the program, it did allow us (actually force us) to consolidate our operations at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Water (ODNR-Water). Conversion of the databases (to MS Access) has been completed, a storage space for Project WET materials (other than my office) has been procured, and a new staff person with Project WET responsibilities has been hired. The year 2000 was a transition year for OWEP, but hopefully in 2001 we will be able to return to normal operations and even make some improvements!

--Leonard Black, Ohio Project WET Coordinator & OWEP Program Manager

NEW OWEP STAFF

Valerie Winland was hired recently as an Environmental Specialist with ODNR-Water. One quarter of her time has been assigned to OWEP and Ohio Project WET, which doubles our staff time allotted to these programs. Valerie holds BS and MS degrees in Natural Resources with specialization in Sustainable Resource Management from The Ohio State University. She has considerable educational and work experience with water

resources issues and has also worked as a substitute teacher. She will be the Ohio Project WET co-coordinator.

The ODNR-Water Chief's new secretary, Debbie Lindsley, also has OWEP and Project WET in her job description, so we will be getting some administrative support for our programs as well.

MURPHY'S LAW AT WORK WITH OWEP BROCHURES

Last autumn, we printed 12,000 copies of the new OWEP brochure. It contained the contact information for the OWEP program manager, Carol Moody. It was only a few months later that Carol departed, leaving us with about 10,000 brochures containing incorrect contact information. We've been debating what to do about the brochures--it appears the best alternative is to dispose of the ones we have left (recycling them, of course) and publish an updated version. Until we get that done, we are continuing to use the old brochures. So, when you distribute them to participants of Educator

Workshops, please explain that the contact information for the OWEP program manager is incorrect and that, if they need the OWEP staff, they should contact Leonard Black, whose contact information on the brochure is correct.

On a related topic, please remember to send your Project WET Workshop Proposal Forms to Leonard Black at ODNR-Water. In case you have an old Workshop Proposal form with Carol's address on it, we are sending along a copy of the new form, which contains the correct address.

OEEF GRANT APPLICATION

Last month, OWEPE submitted an application for a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund. The application is entitled "Correlating Project WET Activities to Ohio Proficiency Test Learning Outcomes." We'll find out if we have been awarded the grant by the end of April, and (assuming that we are awarded the grant), we'll initiate work in June. We've proposed to recruit 12 educators to assist in identifying the correlations between Project WET activities and the learning outcomes (3 for the 4th & 6th grade writing, reading, and citizenship; 3 for the 4th & 6th grade science and math; 3 for the Graduation Test & 12th grade writing, reading, and citizenship; and 3 for the Graduation Test & 12th grade science and math). We've proposed that these educators participate in a one-day training session in Columbus in June,

undertake independent identification of correlations on their own during July, and participate in group meetings to reach consensus on the correlations in Columbus in early August. Educators recruited must hold current teacher certification, have at least two years classroom teaching experience, and be certified as Project WET educators or facilitators. Each educator doing the writing, reading, and citizenship correlations will receive a stipend of \$1,000, and each educator doing the science and math correlations will receive a stipend of \$1,250 (there are more Project WET activities with potential correlations to the Science and Math learning outcomes). If you are interested in participating in this project, send your resumé to Leonard Black at ODNR-Water. Remember that it's not a sure thing yet that we will get the grant.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATED

The OWEPE staff is initiating a Strategic Plan by reaching out to Project WET facilitators with a survey, from which we hope to get information about where the program should go and how OWEPE can best implement its primary role, Project

WET. A copy of the survey is included in this mailing. Your opinion matters to us! Please take the time to complete the survey and return it to the OWEPE office.

FAREWELL DEPARTED FACILITATORS

Since Ohio Project WET began in 1995, 34 facilitators have officially departed from the program. Before they departed, 14 of these were involved in conducting at least one Educator Workshop. Three were involved in conducting 3 or more Educator Workshops, and have been named to the newly-created Ohio Project WET Honor Roll. Walter Smith conducted six workshops before moving to Indiana, Becky Reimbold also conducted six workshops before moving to Wisconsin, and Elvina Ewing conducted three workshops before moving to Louisiana. Other facilitators who completed at least one workshop before leaving Ohio include: Chad Tussing (who moved to South

Dakota), Melanie Stewart (who moved to Wisconsin), Lindsey Piech (who moved to Michigan), Gilbert DiSanto (who moved to New Hampshire), Edie Dondero DiSanto (who also moved to New Hampshire), and Michael Kirschman (who moved to American Samoa, where he is the Project WET coordinator). Other departed facilitators who completed at least one workshop include: Charles Swaney (who passed away), Rodney Zirkle (who was unable to continue his involvement), and Renee Davis, Carol Gleason, and Julie Brown (all of whom I have lost track of and given up finding again). Thanks to these departed facilitators who have contributed to the success of Ohio Project WET!

COOL WATER WEBSITES

Looking for water resource educational information? Try the USGS Water Science for Schools website at <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/>. It provides considerable information about water science and water use, provides a data library, picture and map galleries, a Water Questions and Answers forum, links to other water-related websites, and an interactive Activity Center featuring questionnaires, opinion surveys, and challenge questions. This site is well worth a look.