



Ohio Water Education Program

DRIPS and DROPS

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WRFO—WHAT HAS IT DONE FOR YOU?

The Water Resources Foundation of Ohio (WRFO) is the educational program of the Water Management Association of Ohio, a statewide professional organization of water managers. WRFO currently participates in two major activities: supporting the Ohio Water Education Program (OWEP), and publishing books on Ohio's water resources.

OWEP is, of course, the program that sponsors Ohio Project WET, bringing the nationally-developed *Curriculum and Activity Guide* to Ohio classrooms and non-formal education settings through facilitator and educator workshops. OWEP also supports the Ohio Water Information Center, which is dedicated to making water information more accessible to Ohioans.

WRFO's first publishing project was the development of Ohio Water Firsts, Volume I. Authored by Sherman L. "Jack" Frost & Wayne S. Nichols and edited by Bea Cornelius, the book presents 28 vignettes of historic firsts related to water resources in Ohio. It was published in 1988. Following this publication, Jack Frost went to work on Ohio Water Firsts,

Volume II and with the help of James R. Hanson, Daniel M. Hill, David J. Williams, and Bea Cornelius as editor, completed it in 1997. Volume II presents additional sagas of the events and the people who helped make water history in the Buckeye State. Both publications have been provided to all Ohio middle and high school libraries as well as to all public libraries in the state. Be sure to look for these two excellent books on Ohio water history.

There are currently two more WRFO publications in progress. The first is Water? So What? by David J. Williams. It is designed for middle school students and features chapters describing the importance of water for various purposes, including waste disposal, agriculture, recreation, power, and industry. It is scheduled for publication in 1999. The other publication will be entitled Water Titans and will detail the contributions of 100 people who have guided the development and management of Ohio's water resources over the past 200 years. It is planned for publication in the year 2000.

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*

THE OHIO PROJECT WET COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

by Lenn Black

Greetings and Happy Holidays! I am happy to report that the OWEP web-site is nearing completion and is now accessible for your inspection and use. You may recall that we received a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund to develop the web-site, and we will have fulfilled our grant obligations by the end of the calendar year. The web-site has many useful features, including internet links to other web-sites which provide water education and science & environmental education resources, government resources for environmental information, and on-line classrooms. If you've surfed the net much, you know how much garbage there is to maneuver through to find useful information, and you quickly learn to save the good web-sites when you find them. Well, we've found them and saved them and put them on the web-site for you to use! The OWEP web-site also contains a listing of Enviroscope® and ground water flow models available for lending, and a bibliography of environmental education literature. The core feature of the web-site, though, is the listing of Project WET facilitators and water resource professional volunteers who have agreed to be put on the web-site to be available to answer water-related questions and assist with water resource education projects. By clicking on any county from either a county list or a state map, users can pull up the lists of facilitators and water resource professional volunteers in that county. The web-site address is <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/water/educate/educate.html>. I would appreciate hearing from you, through the OWEP web-site. If you see mistakes or deficiencies, don't hesitate to point them out.

Over the past few months, we've also been working with our Project WET facilitators files to: .update our facilitator contact information; to obtain permission to put the facilitator contact information on the web site, and to gauge the level of continuing interest our facilitators have in Project WET. You may recall receiving a notice requesting your updated information and asking whether you wished to remain in active status or be placed in inactive status. Thank you to all who responded. So far, 22 facilitators have opted to be placed in inactive status and 147 have indicated they wish to remain active and have their contact information put on the web-site. A third category has been added for those facilitators who wish to remain active but (because they conduct what we call "closed" workshops for specialized audiences and do not wish to be contacted by the general public for workshops) do not want their contact information put on the web-site. So far, 11 facilitators have been put in this category. There are still 151 facilitators who have not responded. I will be re-contacting these people soon after the first of the year to complete the facilitator status update.

I also wanted to let you know that OWEP staff person Jean Morris has resigned her position. Jean was a charter member of the OWEP team in 1995, and served as database coordinator, newsletter editor, and (like all the OWEP staff) did numerous other things that came up. I want to offer Jean my sincerest thanks for all the work she did and all the extra effort she put forth, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any ideas that you would like to share with others or know of any activities or upcoming events that might be of interest to other water resources people or environmental

educators, please contact Carol Moody at the Ohio Water Education program office at 614 292-6108 or fax her at 614 292-9448.

CANTRELL RECOGNIZED FOR PROJECT WET WORK

At its recent annual meeting, the Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) presented former Ohio Project WET Coordinator Diane Cantrell with its 1998 Distinguished Service Award. The inscription on the plaque read as follows: *This award is given to Diane C. Cantrell for her contributions to Ohio Project WET. Dr. Cantrell, Deputy Chief of the Division of Soil & Water Conservation at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, was instrumental in bringing the national Water Education for Teachers (WET) program to Ohio and in developing and field testing the national Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide. She served as state coordinator for Ohio Project*

WET for the first three years of the program. Dr. Cantrell directed the development of Leadership Workshops to train selected Ohio educators to conduct local Educator Workshops. She subsequently led seven of these Leadership Workshops, certifying 331 Project WET facilitators. These facilitators have since conducted more than 250 Educator Workshops, certifying more than 4,300 Project WET educators. Dr. Cantrell has also participated in two Advanced Leadership Workshops conducted to further educate and motivate Project WET facilitators, and has effectively promoted the Project WET program to educators and education organizations throughout Ohio.

LOST FACILITATORS

It is said that we live in a mobile society, and the number of facilitators who have changed addresses since their facilitator training is clear evidence of it. Several facilitators have moved to destinations currently unknown to OWEP staff. They are: Debbie Ferguson (formerly with the Guernsey SWCD), Carol Gleason (formerly with the Clark SWCD), Claire Oberst (formerly associated with the CVEEC), Rhonda Purcell (formerly with the Highland SWCD), Becky Reimbold (formerly associated with the CVEEC), Pam Thompson (formerly with the Guernsey SWCD), and Brenda Williams (formerly with the Auglaize SWCD). If you know one of these people and where they currently can be contacted, would you please call Lenn Black at 614 265-6758, send him a fax at 614 447-9503, or e-mail him at Leonard.Black@dnr.state.oh.us).

EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

Since the first of September, 313 educators have participated in training and received the Project WET *Curriculum and Activity Guides*. Excellent work! The following facilitators conducted workshops: Ron Bowerman, Francis S. Broadway, Cindy Folck, Glenna Hoff, Diana Hunn (3), Marti Kolb, Janice Matteucci, Mark Mazzei, Irene Moore, Teresa Mourad & Joe Heimlich, Paul Sherwood & Debbie Nofzinger, Clare Thorn, and Carmen Trisler. Many thanks to these facilitators!

Speaking of excellent work, there are five facilitators who have led or assisted with more than 10 Educator Workshops since the beginning of the program. They are Linda Pettit, Deb Bigelow, Diana Hunn, Stan Rosenblatt, and Pam Barnes. A special word of thanks goes to these special people.

SUGGESTED HOLIDAY READING (OR VIEWING): [A Civil Action](#), by Jonathon Harr. The story chronicles an environmental dispute in Woburn, Massachusetts. The book provides many insights into the scientific research behind the litigation. There is also a movie version starring John Travolta.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The next Project WET Facilitator Workshop will be conducted March 10-11, 1999 at the Proctor Center near London, Ohio. At this activity-packed workshop you will become a certified Project WET facilitator and learn to conduct 6-hour Educator Workshops to teach others how to use the Project WET *Curriculum and Activity Guide*. You will participate in about 18 hands-on Project WET activities, make a rainstick, participate in peer teaching exercises, learn about the Project Wet program, and more. Notices will be going out very soon and registration will be limited to 40, so get your registration applications returned early.

The next Project WET Advanced Leadership Workshop will be conducted June 16-17, 1999 also at the Proctor Center near London, Ohio. The theme for this workshop will be "Project WET and the Ohio Proficiency Standards" and Diane Cantrell has agreed to serve as co-leader. With so much emphasis in our schools on the proficiency standards and with the changes in continuing education requirements for teachers, this is a workshop you won't want to miss. This important workshop will be open to those who have completed a Project WET Educator's Workshop as well as to Project WET facilitators. Notices will be going out soon after the first of the year and registration will be limited to 40 participants, so make your plans early and mark your calendars now.

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