

**From:**  
**Sent:**

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Wednesday, January 04, 2012 1:15 PM

Idaho Environmental Education  
Association



## News You Can Use! Winter 2012

*Idaho's Voice for Environmental Literacy and Education!*

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### *12th Annual Idaho Environmental Education Conference*

*March 2-3, 2012 in Boise, Idaho*

#### *The environment, it's where we live!*

The Idaho Environmental Education Association (IdEEA) is proud to once again host the Idaho Environmental Education Conference. The conference will be held at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel in Boise March 2-3, 2012. As the state's premier gathering for those passionate about learning and our environment, the conference attracts over 125 formal and non-formal educators from around the state.

Attendees will gather under the theme *Natural Partners - Environmental Education and Green STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)*. Special attention will be paid to the complimentary roles of environmental education and STEM as key components of an effective interdisciplinary educational

approach. The conference highlights effective, affordable Idaho programs for both formal and non-formal educators, especially those which are local, hands on, encourage academic achievement and get kids outside, learning about Idaho's exceptional environment.

Join us to help celebrate IdEEA's 30th anniversary as Idaho's only organization dedicated solely to serving those passionate about learning and our environment. Special activities are planned.

**Conference Registration** (click [here](#) to register)

Early bird conference registration rates are as follows:

- \$100 Individual (IdEEA member)
- \$35 Full time student (IdEEA member)
- \$150 Individual (non-member)
- \$45 Full time student (non-member)

**Registration fee includes:** 1) conference registration; 2) field trips; 3) attendance at the Missoula Children's Theatre Friday night performance; 4) Friday - light breakfast, morning break, full lunch, and yummy evening hors d'oeuvres; and 5) Saturday - light breakfast and morning break.

Renew or sign up today! With a \$30 IdEEA membership (\$15 for students), you will qualify for the member rates shown above.

**Save money!** Take advantage of these special early bird rates. Register before Friday, February 3.

**2012 Conference Overview** (click [here](#) for details)

**Conference Welcome**

City of Boise Mayor David Bietor will address the importance of environmental education and STEM opportunities for Boise-area students, teachers and citizens.

**Keynote panel**

Idaho experts explore the complimentary roles of environmental education and green STEM. Confirmed panelists include Dr. Louis Nadelson (BSU), Dr. James Gregson (UI), Chris Taylor (Boise junior high teacher), Dr. Karla Eitel (UI/McCall Outdoor Science School), Virgil Moore (Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game), and a Micron Technology, Inc. representative.

**Concurrent Sessions**

Confirmed sessions to date include Wilderness Investigations in the Classroom, Grant Writing Essentials, Meet Idaho's Environmental Literacy Plan, Winter Ecology, Teens Restoring Earth's Environment Club and Eco-caching, Biodiversity: Does It Really Matter?, and The Missoula Children's Theater.

**Field Investigations**

Half-day, off-site field trip options include: 1) behind the scenes at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Eagle Fish Genetics and Health Lab, 2) Building Green (straw bale house, LEEDS

building & carbon offsetting in Africa), 3) winter ecology on snowshoes at Bogus Basin Snow School, 4) City of Boise's Watersheds, Wetlands and Beaver, Oh My!, and 5) an intimate visit to The Peregrine Fund/World Center for Birds of Prey.

#### **Friday Night EE Celebration**

The renowned Missoula Children's Theater (MCT) will bring their talents to the Idaho Environmental Education Conference plus offer 3 school assembly workshops and host a week-long residency at a local Title 1 school in a Boise area school. MCT's visit will culminate Friday evening with a performance at the conference of *The Secret Garden* featuring the children trained during MCT's school residency. *The Secret Garden* is the quintessential story of children discovering a neglected environment and nurturing it back to health and abundance. The performance will be open to the public. In addition, MCT will offer a session at the conference.

#### **Environmental Educators of the Year Award**

Outstanding primary, secondary and non-formal educators and green schools will be recognized for their achievements. EE awards are sponsored annually by the Idaho Conservation League.

#### ***Showcase of Student Work***

Idaho students will present inspiring examples of service-learning and project-based work and be on hand to share their research and discoveries with attendees. The showcase is a potent reminder of the power of inspired education.

#### **Exhibitor Tables**

Environmental education, sustainability and conservation resources offered by non-profit organizations, businesses, and local, state and federal agencies will be highlighted.

#### ***Serving Idaho's EE Community - Scholarships and CEUs***

Each year, IdEEA offers conference registration scholarships for qualifying formal and non-formal educators. Amounts will depend on available funds. In addition, the Simplot Education Council (Pocatello) Scholarship is available to School District #25 teachers only. Current IdEEA members will be given preference. Funds are limited, so please fill out an application early. Click [here](#) for details.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for teachers! One professional development credit will be available for certified and pre-service teachers participating in the Idaho Environmental Education Conference. This service is provided for an additional fee and will require completion of a short written evaluation in addition to attendance on both days of the conference, including one of our field trips. Most years ISU, BSU and UI provide credits. Academic registration forms and payment of required academic fees will be available at the conference.

#### ***Call for Presenters***

We invite you to join us as a presenter at the 12th Annual Idaho Environmental Education Conference. We seek session proposals on educationally sound, useable, and Idaho-related resources, especially those connected to this year's theme Natural Partners: Environmental Education and Green STEM. **Deadline for submissions is January 27, 2012.** For more details, download the Call for Presenters form [here](#).

### **Call for Exhibitors**

Consider joining us as a conference exhibitor! The Conference is the premier event in our state for K-12 practitioners of environmental education, both classroom teachers and representatives of local, state, tribal, federal, industry, university, and non-profit EE providers. Each year, the conference serves as a forum for statewide planning and networking as well as a celebration of accomplishments.

Exhibitors will include a wide variety of organizations and agencies with programs, activities, training and other resources of interest to Idaho's formal and non-formal environmental educators. Come display your wares to this exceptional audience. **Space is limited so first come, first served.** Session presenters must register for the Conference. For more details, download the Exhibitor Registration form [here](#).

### **IdEEA Celebrates 30 Years of History and Accomplishments**

Thirty years ago, members of the Intermountain Environmental Education Training Team met in Caldwell, Idaho, recognized a need and formed the Idaho Society for Energy and Environmental Education (ISEEE). Here are a few highlights of what's happened since then. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- 1990-1991 ISEEE initiates teacher scholarships and excellence awards for environmental education; supports workshops for youth and teachers; initiates annual conferences; hosts Intermountain EE Leadership Conference in Sun Valley
- 1996 Enters into formal partnership with the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) as their official affiliate organization in Idaho.
- 2001 Hires first executive director and legally assumes a new business name - Idaho Environmental Education Association (IdEEA)
- 2001 IdEEA hosts the first Idaho Conservation Education Summit (now Idaho Environmental Education Conference). Between 2007 and 2011 the conference serves 500 educators directly (37% formal, 51% nonformal, 12% students). Estimates of secondary conference impacts start at an additional 135,000 students, parents and teachers and go up.
- 2001-2007 Establishes the *Greater Yellowstone EIC School Network*, to demonstrate model EE schools using The Environment as the Integrating Context (EIC) Model™ for learning. Enrolls over 1,700 students of which 21% are ethnic

minorities. Trains, supports, and evaluates 12 Idaho schools in The EIC Model. Exports network model to Montana and Wyoming. Funded by \$160,000 Turner Foundation Grant.

- 2006 Coordinates Idaho's involvement in the NAAEE's *National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education*
- 2006 Receives NAAEE's Outstanding Affiliate Organization Award given annually to recognize the importance, vitality, and accomplishments of EE associations affiliated with NAAEE which demonstrate substantial accomplishments.
- 2010-2011 Spearheads development of Idaho's first environmental literacy plan (ELP), completed in June 2011, developed with key partners statewide and citizen input. Leads creation of the Idaho Environmental Literacy Coalition, tasked to build continued support for and facilitate approval and implementation of the Idaho ELP. Funded by \$33,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant.



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