

2008



Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education

2008: THE YEAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Maryland Blazing a Trail for the Nation

Governor's Partnership in Nature

Executive Order (01.01.2008.06) ensuring that all children in Maryland will grow up with a sacred and significant connection to nature nurtured through systemic environmental education integrated throughout the curriculum.

**Signed April 22, 2008
by Governor Martin O'Malley**

MAEOE: Founding Coalition Member

Today the No Child Left Inside Coalition has grown to over 1000 member organizations, representing more than 47.5 million people, including environmental, education, public health and business groups, all of whom appreciate the value of getting kids outside.

No Child Left Inside Act

- Require states seeking environmental education funding under No Child Left Behind to develop and submit a K-12 plan to ensure that high school graduates are environmentally literate. States receiving such funds would submit status reports on how those plans are being implemented.
- Provide new funding for states to develop, improve, and advance environmental education standards.
- Provide new funding to train qualified teachers to teach environmental education courses and programs.

**Introduced to House of Representatives
by Representative John Sarbanes, MD
Passed House September 19, 2008**



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Sarah Haines
Board President

MAEOE members, partners, and friends:
Here we present our 2008 annual report. We continue to grow as an organization. This year, we inducted 36 new Maryland Green Schools and 5 Green Centers. We continued our Schoolyard Habitat partnership with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, conducting 13 schoolyard habitat trainings and assisting 14 schools in creating habitats on their school grounds. Our 2008 professional development conference held at Rocky Gap Resort was a huge success, with over 500 people attending. This year, we launched the pilot test of our Certified Environmental Educator program. This program will provide opportunities for both formal and non-formal environmental educators to be recognized in their fields as professionals. We are very proud of our accomplishments this year and hope you will be, too. We are looking forward to another prosperous and productive year in 2009.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If not already selected, the word of the year for 2008 should be “Change”. The administration changed; the economy changed; and so too did MAEOE. On the cusp of its 25th Anniversary, the MAEOE Board stopped – but only for a moment – to reflect and strategize. Three major realizations came out of that effort.

1. With a grass-roots heart and a volunteer soul, MAEOE had grown into one of the strongest state environmental education affiliates in the nation.
2. MAEOE is suffering from a bad case of success which has stretched the Board beyond the breaking point.
3. There is still more to be done.

Based on these realizations, the Board decided to set an aggressive agenda for programmatic growth, and hire a full-time executive director. At the beginning of 2008, Nancy Merrill was brought on to fill this roll. Many of you met her at the conference, the Green School Awards Ceremony, or any other MAEOE events/trainings. In June, Nancy decided to move on from MAEOE. While short, during her tenure, Nancy was instrumental in helping position MAEOE to transition from an organization managed by a board to one managed by staff; assisted greatly in fund raising efforts, and strengthened the public relations arm of the organization. The entire MAEOE family thanks Nancy for her contributions to the organization and wishes her best of luck in all future endeavors.



The hole left by Nancy was soon filled by no other than Carol Towle. Though she had already retired from the role of ED to focus more of her time and attention to the Maryland Green School Program, Carol unselfishly and graciously volunteered to step in as Acting ED until a permanent solution was found. Much more could be written about this contribution. However, two words, thank and you, will have to suffice.

With an aggressive strategic plan looming over the Board, a selection committee was formed, and a national search commenced. The MAEOE Board hopes to have the new executive director in place for the 2009 conference in February.

Maryland Green Schools Awards

Certifies the 200th Maryland Green School

23rd Annual Conference

Western Maryland Hosts for the 1st Time

MAEOE's SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Schoolyard Habitats

NOAA Continues Program Support

EE Professional Certification

Program Design Finalized/Begin Test Cases

Maryland Green Schools Awards



"Maryland schools are going green and tens of thousands of students, teachers, and resource professionals are involved! With the new schools and centers recognized in 2008, MAEOE's MD Green Schools Award program has certified 200 public and private PreK-12 schools, and 21 environmental education centers around the State. Another 100 or so are working on applications and re-certifications for 2009-10."

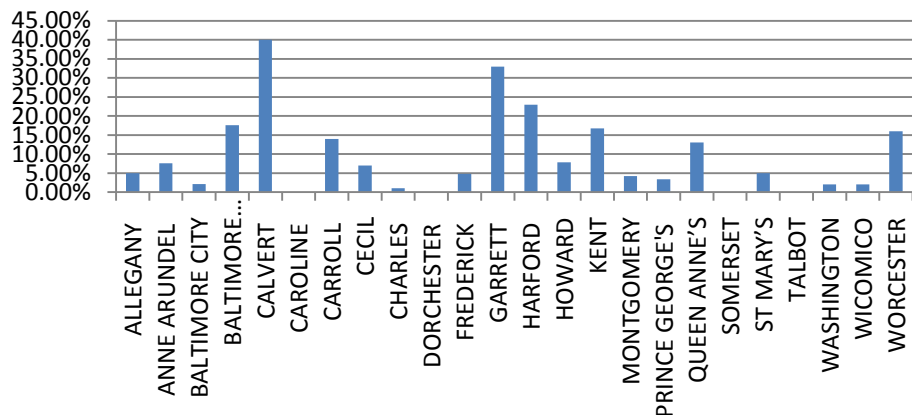
36 New Maryland Green Schools

16 Re-certifications #1 – THREE YEARS STILL GREEN

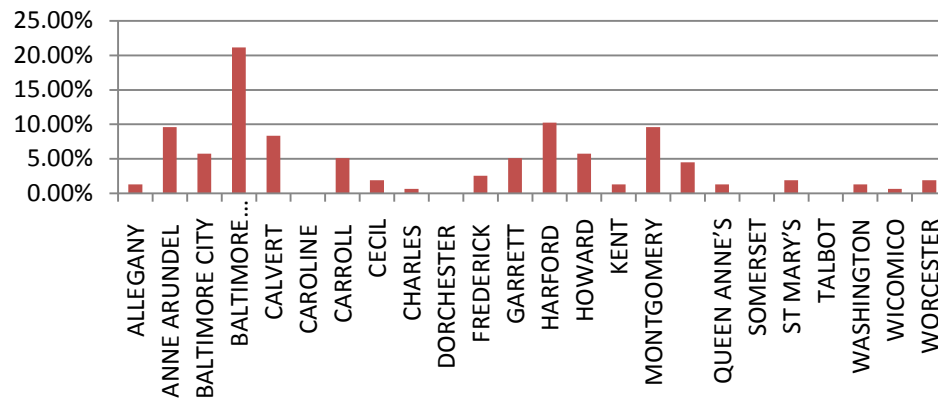
16 Re-certifications #2 – SIX YEARS STILL GREEN

5 New Maryland Green Centers

Percentage Current MD Green Schools to Total Schools Per Co.



Percentage of Total Current MD Green Schools Per County



Rumor has it that Carol Thompson's blood is actually green.

This unusual condition may have begun when she was studying for her Master's Degree at Tulane University in New Orleans, Home of the Green Wave. But those in Maryland's environmental education community know that Carol's blood turned deep green when she began her Green School crusade.

Carol Towle Thompson was instrumental in the development, design, and implementation of MAEOE's Maryland Green School Awards Program. When the program began in 1999 as a good idea, no one sans Carol knew the transformative power in schools, teachers, and students that was to be released.

Today, the Maryland Green School Program is a model for programs in Kentucky, North Carolina, Washington State, Wisconsin Project Learning Tree, Antioch Graduate School of New England in New Hampshire and the National Wildlife Federation.

It is hard to tell sometimes where Carol ends and Green Schools begins because the two have been so inextricably linked. Carol would be the first one to say that the program belongs to the schools and not her. However, each and every one of the now 200 certified Maryland Green Schools and 20 Green Centers has a little piece of Carol in it.

It therefore came as a surprise when Carol announced at the end of 2008 that the next Green School Awards Ceremony would be her last – as she was stepping down from her position as Green School Coordinator.

The goal of the Maryland Green School program is empowerment. So it should come to no surprise that Carol practices what she preaches. Her ideas, energy, and commitment have empowered and inspired emerging EE leaders in the state. Like every good leader, Carol has created a foundation upon which the future growth and development of the program can firmly rest; though Green Schools is not the sort of program that rests. While no longer the coordinator, Carol assumes a much more important role, that of mentor.

The world needs trailblazers. Thank you Carol for blazing the Maryland Green School trail. With you on the sidelines, MAEOE is ready to take the torch and continue the blaze.



Maryland
Green
School

23rd Annual Conference

Elena Takaki
Conference Co-Chair



"It was good to move the conference venue to a new location. We received a lot of positive feedback on the accommodations and venturing to a new part of the state. We look forward to continue providing our members and conference attendees with high-quality professional development opportunities."

**The Largest State EE Conference in the U.S.
151 Workshop Attendees - - 523 Participants**

Featured Speakers

Kevin Coyle - VP of Education & Training National Wildlife Federation

Middleton Evans - Chesapeake Bay Photographer

Karthy Marmet and Robert Strasser - American Chestnut Foundation

Roundtables

Children in Nature

Finding Volunteers

Teacher Generated Research

Organizing Student Groups

Regional EE Networks.

Sunday field trips

Finzel Swamp

Golf Courses and EE

Tracking and Nature

Observation



Convenient Actions
for an Inconvenient Truth

February 1-3, 2008

Rocky Gap Lodge & Golf Resort • Flintstone, Maryland

Robert Finton Outdoor Educator of the Year Award

Bob Finton personified enthusiasm, innovation, and excellence in the field of environmental education. MAEOE's *Robert Finton Outdoor Educator of the Year Award* honors his memory by annually recognizing a non-formal educator who works "in the trenches" challenging, inspiring, and motivating students to understand, appreciate, and work to protect and preserve their natural world - as Bob did.

Andrew McCown

Associate Director
Echo Hill Outdoor School - Worton, Maryland



Andy arrived at Echo Hill in 1978, and never left. In his roles as teacher, naturalist and now Associate Director, Andy has very nearly taught 100,000 students.

- Andy started the "Explore" program which began as a series of overnight canoe trips on the Sassafrea and Chester Rivers and soon expanded into five-day trips using the historic Buy Boat, Annie D. and the Skipjack, Elsworth.
- Andy started the Chesapeake Heritage Initiative which immerses students in the traditions and folklore as well as the science and ecology of the area.
- Andy teaches an average of 6 Bay Studies classes each week, as well as Mystery Tour classes, Farm Ecology and the Search, Find, and Investigate class.
- Andy was a founding board member of the Chester River Association – and served as president for two terms.
- Andy performs with the group, Chesapeake Scenes which provides a blend of local folklore, music and literature.

"Captain Andy personifies the Chesapeake Bay. His knowledge and love of the water, the animals, the literature and the watermen is evident in everything he does."
Penn State student and Echo Hill participant.

Watching Andrew McCown teach is like watching Meryl Steep act or Placido Domingo sing; it is witnessing something very close to perfection. All the teachers at Echo Hill feel the same way.

Professional EE Certification

Sarah Haines,
EE Certification Committee Chair



This year, MAEOE launched the pilot test of our EE Certification Program. We are planning to apply for accreditation from NAAEE in 2009.

Certification will be competency-based. The applicant will demonstrate what they know and can do. The competencies, critical to a professional environmental educator, are modified from the North American Association for Environmental Education's (NAAEE) *Guidelines for the Initial Preparation of Environmental Educators*, and include:

Environmental Literacy	Assessment and Evaluation	Fostering Learning
Planning and Implementing Environmental Education	Foundations of Environmental Education	Professional Responsibilities

**PROFESSIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR
MARYLAND**

“We Are Not Camp Counselors” Keith Williams, NorthBay

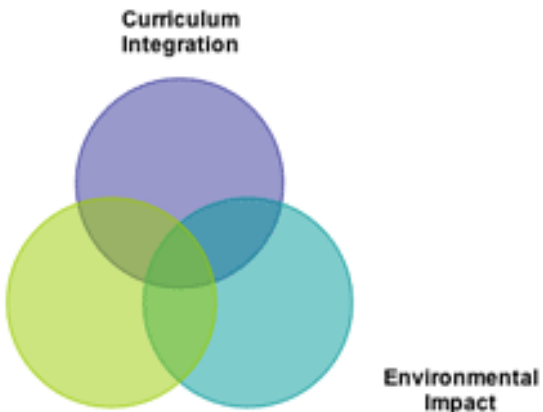
Schoolyard Habitats



Julie Dieguez
SYH Committee Chair

In 2008, the NOAA-BWET funded Schoolyard Habitat Partnership program provided professional development for educators, site consultations, continued to develop groundbreaking online schoolyard habitat resources, and finalized the much anticipated Common Qualities guidelines for model schoolyard habitat projects. The Schoolyard Habitat Partnership is committed to increasing educators' environmental expertise, enabling them to successfully work with students to improve the habitat quality of outdoor spaces in Maryland's many schoolyards.

Common Qualities of Excellent Schoolyard Habitat Programs



Student Participation in Model Projects

675 Students
3 Acres

Technical Site Consultations

14 Schools
5 Counties

Multi-Day Professional Development

5 Trainings
16 Days
90 Educators

Additional Professional Development

8 Sessions
317 Educators

MEMBERSHIP

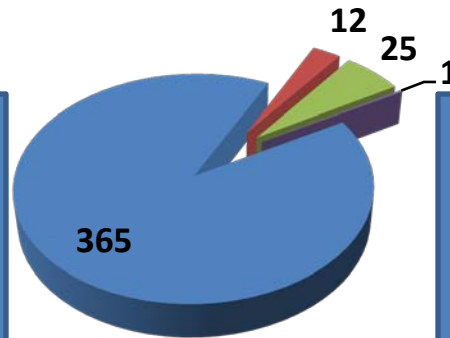
Coreen Weilmünster
Membership Committee Chair



Extracting membership from the conference, and creating a stand-alone program has been a rewarding challenge. Membership is now open. Won't you join?

Membership by Type

■ Individual ■ Student ■ Organization ■ Corporate



**Corporate:
WindCurrent**

ORGANIZATIONS:

Adkins Arboretum
Cacapon Institute
Calleva Outdoors
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Trust
Clean Air Partners
MD Department of Natural Resources
Echo Hill Outdoor School
Eden Mill Nature Center
Environmental Concern Inc.
FLOC Outdoor Education Center
Herring Run Watershed Association

ORGANIZATIONS cont:

Howard County Conservancy
Living Classrooms Foundation
MD Port Administration
McDonogh School
National Aquarium in Baltimore
Newton Marasco Foundation
North Bay
Parks & People Foundation
Phillips Wharf Environmental Center
The James and Anne Robinson Foundation
U.S.F.W.S - Patuxent Research Refuge
Wicomico Day School
University of Maryland

RESEARCH

Five years after the first study proving a link between academic achievement and Maryland Green School designation, MAEOE commissioned a second study to determine if and how academic achievement and Maryland Green School Designation are related in 2008 as compared to 2003. The studies measure achievement in reading and math based on the Maryland State Assessments (MSA) beyond that afforded by differences in socioeconomic status. The study included scores from all Maryland fifth and eighth grades.

Does designation as a Maryland Green School correlate with increased student achievement in...

Fifth Grade Reading Scores?

2003 Study: Green School Designation explains an **additional 4.0%** of the variance in fifth grade reading scores.

2008 Study: Green School Designation explains an **additional 2.9%** of the variance in fifth grade reading scores.

Fifth Grade Mathematics Scores?

2003 Study: No significant difference beyond that afforded by differences in socioeconomics and percentage special services.

2008 Study: Green School Designation alone explains an **additional 2.9%** of the variance in fifth grade mathematics scores.

Eighth Grade Reading Scores?

2003 Study: Green School designation alone explains an **additional 3.4%** of the variance in eighth grade reading scores.

2008 Study: Green School designation alone explains an **additional 6.1%** of the variance in eighth grade reading scores.

Eighth Grade Mathematics Scores?

2003 Study: Green School Designation alone explains an **additional 2.5%** of the variance in eighth grade mathematics scores.

2008 Study: Green School designation alone explains an **additional 5.7%** of the variance in eighth grade mathematics scores.

Setting the Stage for Growth



Intensive strategic planning sessions afforded MAEOE the opportunity to critically analyze the organization's past and present, in order to effectively plan for the future. The result... The MAEOE Board unanimously voted for aggressive and ambitious growth beginning with initiating a nationwide search for a full-time Executive Director.

1985-1993

1994-2008

2009 -

START-UP

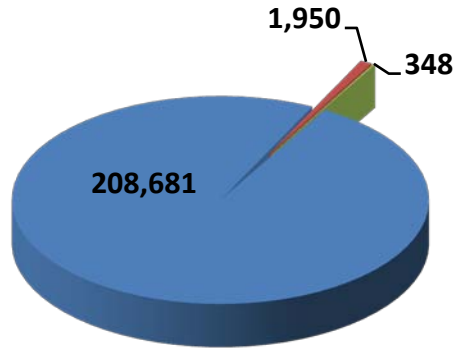
DEVELOPMENT

EXPANSION/
GROWTH

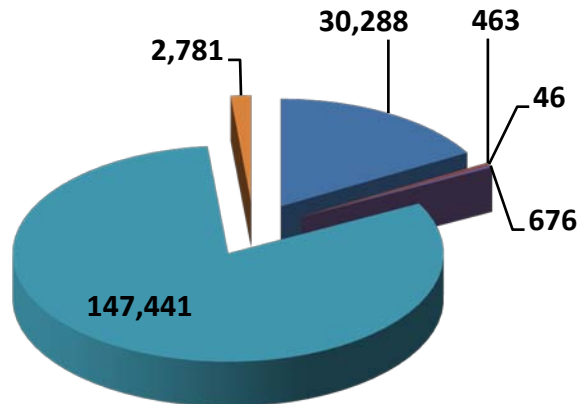


FINANCES

- Program Service Revenue including government grants, fees, and contracts
- Membership
- Investment Income



- Salaries and Benefits
- Professional Fees
- Postage
- Office Expenses
- Program Expenses
- Travel



January– September 30, 2008*

Revenue:	210,979
Expenses:	181,695
Balance:	29,284
Net Assets '07:	96,882
Net Assets '08:	126,166

Human Expenses

Executive Director:	30,288
Green School Coor. (Consultant):	13,182
SYH Coordinator (Consultant):	66,495
SYH Assistant (Consultant):	1,000
TOTAL:	110,965

Non-Human Expenses: 70,730

***Change of Fiscal Year**

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Schoolyard Habitats

MD Green Schools

Conference

EE Certification



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JEANNE ARMACOST
Baltimore County DEPRM

KAREN CIFRANICK
Harford Glenn Outdoor School

JULIE DIEGUEZ
No Child Left Inside Coalition

PAT GHINGHER
Baltimore Co. Public Schools

SARAH HAINES
Towson University

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RICK HOBBS
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FRANK MARSDEN
Eden Mill Nature Center

BRONWYN MITCHELL
Environmental Concern Inc.

MELANIE PARKER
Arlington Echo

JOHN SANDKUHLER
Sheppard Pratt

PAM SHERFEY
Linton Springs Elementary School

ELENA TAKAKI
MD Dept of Natural Resources

COREEN WEILMINSTER
Adkins Aboretum

KEITH WILLIAMS
NorthBay

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Elena Takaki – Incoming President
Karen Cifranick – Treasurer
Coreen Weilminster-Secretary
Bronwyn Mitchell – At Large
Rick Hobbs – At Large

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Bernie Samm
Cindy Etgen
Willy Agee
Carol Thompson

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Schoolyard Habitat – Julie Dieguez
Conference – D. Honchalk/B. Mitchell
EE Certification – Sarah Haines
Communications – Lisa Jones
Membership – Coreen Weilminster



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Special Thanks to Frank Marsden, Eden Mill Nature Center, for graciously allowing his incredible photographs to be used in this publication.

2008

2009