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K-16 STEM in the NEWS

Bowsher Rain Garden - A Teaching Tool and Local Watershed Purifier

Bowsher High School in Toledo Public Schools is the site of a new rain garden. The University of Toledo geology department assisted with soil testing; Hull and Associates aided with engineering and design aspects; the Rain Garden Initiative and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources guided plant selection; and Naturally Native Nursery in Bowling Green supplied plants at a reduced cost. David Bourland, chairman of the Bowsher science department, directed the installation.

"Bowsher students conducted fundraisers and grants were obtained. No money from Toledo Public Schools was used," Mr. Bourland said. Total cost will be about \$6,000. The rain garden stretches 110 feet by 15 feet. It will channel water from pavement to plants where root systems and soil form a natural filtering system. ([read more](#))



May STEM e-news correction

We regret that Ottoville Schools was omitted from the Putnam County news story in the May STEM e-news. Ottoville Local Schools, one of the recipients of the STEM Consortium Grant in

northwest Ohio, is developing a series of new classes and curricula. Principles of Engineering, Environmental Science, and Video Production classes are planned for the high school this fall and will be made available via distance to other high school students across Putnam County.

Community STEM in the NEWS

Students Awarded Netbook Computers at Imagination Station Through Taylor Automotive and Blade Program

As presenting sponsor of the Forces and Motion educational program at Imagination Station in Toledo, Ohio, Taylor Automotive Family, in conjunction with The Blade, "adopted" roughly 2,000 Toledo Public School students and teachers for a concentrated program to improve science performance. The program provided field trips to the science center for all 5th grade students at TPS. Additionally, 20 science festivals and 60 Workshops on Wheels (WOWs) were awarded to 5th grade classrooms and schools in TPS to help drive home the concepts learned during their field trips. ([read more](#))

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STEM Opportunities

The Rain Garden Initiative Loan Boxes Now Available

Two loan boxes containing activities and tools to assist educators and students in exploring, designing, and installing rain gardens are now available! The loan boxes were designed for use with the **Rain Garden Curricular Sampler**, a series of lesson plans for students in grades K-12, developed by the Earth Stewardship for Schools Program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. **Teachers may pick up loan boxes from Toledo Zoo's Education Department and the Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District in Maumee.** The standard loan period for a box is two weeks. A \$25.00 deposit is required, with all but \$5.00 refunded when the materials are returned. **Contact the Toledo Zoo at 419-385-5721 ext. 2049 or the Lucas SWCD at 419-893-1966** for more information or to reserve a loan box.

Best of the Outdoors Page Educator Reception and Workshop

Celebrating 15 years of Nature in Northwest Ohio and Beyond with Steve Pollick and Jeff Basting

Date and Time: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 from 4-7pm

Place: Secor Metropark's National Center for Nature Photography, 10001 W. Central Avenue, Toledo, Ohio

Cost: \$20 (includes refreshments, contact hours, book, and materials)

Meet Steve Pollick, *Blade* outdoor editor, and Jeff Basting, *Blade* illustrator/designer, who have teamed up to bring the best of their nationally-acclaimed, award-winning Outdoors Page to book form. Visit the National Center for Nature Photography and join us for refreshments, attend professional development sessions, and receive your own signed copy of the freshly published, atlas-sized, coffee table-styled book. Three contact hours will be awarded for this event.

Register at <http://www.nwocenter.org/outdoorworkshop.htm>

Sponsored by *The Blade, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, and NWO*

Primary Energy Professional Development (Grades 1-3)

New Summer Workshop 2011

Dates and Times: Wednesday, June 29 or August 3, from 9am-3pm

Place: Worthington, Ohio

The Ohio Energy Project is excited to offer a new program for 1st-3rd grade teachers. This professional development workshop provides training, energy curriculum, and a kit of classroom activities. Workshop content includes:

- Ten Sources of Energy
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- School and Home Energy Efficiency

For an application, go to http://www.ohioenergy.org/pdf/Primary_Workshop_Application.pdf or http://www.ohioenergy.org/professional_development.html.

Questions: Contact the Ohio Energy Project at stenney@ohioenergy.org or **614-785-1717**.

Workshop on High School Engineering Service Program

Dates: July 11-14, 2011

Place: West Lafayette, Indiana

Purdue University's college of engineering will hold a workshop for prospective and existing

educators and administrators interested in the Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program for high school students. The EPICS program engages high school teams in project-based service learning for nonprofit organizations while exposing students to science, technology, and engineering fields. There are a limited number of scholarships available to cover workshop expenses. Learn more about EPICS and register at <https://engineering.purdue.edu/EPICSHS>.

Questions: Contact Tom Robertson (robertt1@purdue.edu or 765-494-7220) or Pamela Dexter (pdexter@purdue.edu or 765-496-1889).

High School Teacher Award Nominations Deadline Extended

The deadline for submitting nominations for the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) Leadership in Science Education Prize for High School Teachers has just been extended! Honor the achievements and contributions of an outstanding high school science teacher in your school. **The new deadline is June 30, 2011.** For more information including prize details, nomination forms, and application forms, click http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/hs_scied_leadership/.

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STEM Education Updates

Thank you for your support of NWO, our programs, our activities, and our partners. Please send us updates, press releases, and news of STEM happenings at your school, district, or organization. Please submit to nwo@bgsu.edu. We are always looking for great STEM education stories to feature in upcoming newsletters.

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