

## Handout C.1

### Activity #4: History of Environmental Education Timeline

#### **AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY (ANSS)**

ANSS was organized to promote critical investigation of all phases of nature-study in schools, especially all studies of nature in elementary schools. ANSS was devoted to the appreciation and understanding of our natural world. ANSS' memorable seven-word slogan: **Excellence in Nature Study, Writing and Appreciation** gave it focus for a century. ANSS' publications, *Nature Study Review* and then, *Nature Magazine*, became a magnet for nature writers.

#### **SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Hugh Bennett, director of the US Soil Erosion Service spoke to Congress about the need to end destructive farming and ranching practices. As if on cue, the chamber was blackened by a cloud of soil that had blown in from the Great Plains states, a distance of 2,000 miles. Bennett's point had been made more powerfully than any words could express. Less than 2 weeks after that episode Congress passed the bill creating the Soil Conservation Service. Conservation, and the education for its need, had finally become a cause célèbre in the USA. Conservation education steadily gained momentum throughout the middle of the twentieth century and remains a robust part of the educational mosaic today.

#### **NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

The National Education Association assumes a leadership role for conservation education in the schools.

#### **WISCONSIN CONSERVATION EDUCATION STATUTE**

Wisconsin becomes the first state to enact a state statute requiring preservice teachers to have "... adequate preparation in the conservation of natural resources."

#### **IUCN – FIRST DOCUMENTED USE OF TERM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Thomas Pritchard, Deputy Director of the Nature Conservancy in Wales, uses the term "environmental education" at the Conference for the Establishment of the International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUCN) in Paris. This is perhaps the first public professional use of the term.

#### **CONSERVATION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

The Conservation Education Association is formed to support the many educators working in the field of conservation education.

#### **ASSOCIATION OF INTERPRETIVE NATURALISTS**

The Association of Interpretive Naturalists (now the National Association for Interpretation) is formed.

#### **RURAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

Rural Studies Association, now known as the National Association for Environmental Education (NAEE), is founded in the United Kingdom.

### **RANGER RICK**

The National Wildlife Federation publishes the first edition of *Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine* which is still going over 50 years later.

### **COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (UNITED KINGDOM)**

The Council for Environmental Education (CEE) is the national strategic organization for environmental education in England. CEE's membership includes 73 national organizations and an ever-increasing, diverse network of organizations with interests in education, the environment and sustainable development.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (JOURNAL)**

Professor Clay Schoenfeld begins the journal, *Environmental Education*, later renamed *The Journal of Environmental Education*.

Dr. William Stapp and his students at the University of Michigan formally develop and publish a definition of "environmental education" in the first edition of the journal.

### **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)**

*The National Environmental Policy Act (P. L. 91-190) is passed. "The purposes of this Act are: To declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality."*

### **EARTH DAY**

Gaylord Nelson, at the time a US Senator from Wisconsin, had for some time envisioned an environmental teach-in (modeled on civil rights and antiwar sit-ins) that would raise public awareness on critical environmental issues. Denis Hays, a Harvard law student collaborated with Nelson in enlisting the aid of campus activists from across the country for an environmental teach-in that became known as Earth Day. It involved an estimated 20 million people with participation by nearly 1,500 college campuses.

### **WESTERN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (WREEC)**

WREEC (now the Council for Environmental Education) is created as a "... unique effort to create a partnership and network between education and natural resource professionals in support of environmental education."

## **ADDRESS TO CONGRESS**

President Nixon stated:

*It is also vital that our entire society develop a new understanding and a new awareness of man's relation to his environment—what might be called "environmental literacy."*

*This will require the development and teaching of environmental concepts at every point in the education process.*

## **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACT**

The National Environmental Education Act authorizes the creation of an Office of Environmental Education in the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare; establishment of a National Advisory Council for environmental education; and establishment of a domestic grants program

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

The National Association for Environmental Education (now the North American Association for Environmental Education or NAAEE) is founded. NAAEE is a professional association for environmental educators.

## **UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment results in a declaration containing 26 principles. Principle 19 of the Stockholm Declaration specifically calls for "education in environmental matters, for the younger generation as well as adults."

Recommendation 96 calls for the provision of environmental education as a means to address environmental issues worldwide.

## **INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia and sponsored by the UNESCO, the workshop resulted in what became known as The Belgrade Charter. The Belgrade Charter built on the framework of Stockholm and described the goals, objectives, audiences, and guiding principles of EE and proposed what has become the most widely accepted definition of EE: *Environmental education is a process aimed at developing a world population that is aware of and concerned about the total environment and its associated problems, and which has the knowledge, attitudes, motivations, commitments, and skills to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones.*

## **PROJECT LEARNING TREE**

Western Regional Environmental Education Council (now the Council for Environmental Education) and the American Forest Institute (now the American Forest Foundation) develop the environmental education program Project Learning Tree.

## **INTERGOVERNMENT CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

The definitive codification of EE as an international enterprise ultimately came out of the world's first Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education held in Tbilisi, Georgia, USSR. The document now known as *The Tbilisi Declaration* was formulated during this conference and in many quarters remains the definitive statement on what EE is and ought to be.

## **AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Australian Association for Environmental Education is founded.

## **FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Members of the European delegations to Tbilisi found the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe to implement the conference recommendations. This organization later expands beyond Europe and currently manages a number of international programs, including Eco-Schools, Green Key, Blue Flag, Learning About Forests, and Young Reporters.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa is founded.

## **PROJECT WILD**

WREEC and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies develop Project WILD. Project WILD sponsors conservation and environmental education programs with a focus on wildlife for grades K-12.

## **CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) was established as a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. As a national institution, CEE's mandate is to promote environmental awareness nationwide.

## **BRUNTLAND REPORT**

The World Commission on Environment and Development publishes the *Brundtland Report*. Also known as *Our Common Future*, this report introduced the idea of sustainable development in which environmental protection and economic growth are viewed as interdependent concepts.

## **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE**

The United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice issues the report *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States: A National Report on the Racial and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Communities with Hazardous Waste Sites*.

## **RHODES UNIVERSITY, SOUTH AFRICA**

The Murray & Roberts Chair of Environmental Education is founded at Rhodes University in Cape Town, South Africa. The Chair establishes Rhodes as a leading organization for environmental education research and academic training in Africa.

## **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACT**

U.S. Congress passes the National Environmental Education Act (P. L. 101-619). The act authorizes the following: An Office of Environmental Education in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; An environmental education and training program; environmental education grants; student fellowships; the President's Environmental Youth Awards; the Federal Task Force and National Advisory Council; the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

The First **National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit** is held in Washington, DC. Summit participants adopt the Principles of Environmental Justice. The following year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency establishes the Office of Environmental Justice.

## **CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

The United Nations conducts the Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Chapter 36 of Agenda 21 focuses on "reorienting education towards sustainable development; increasing public awareness; and promoting training."

## **GUIDELINES FOR EXCELLENCE**

The North American Association for Environmental Education initiates the ***National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education*** which provides guidelines for the development and assessment of EE materials as well as benchmarks for practitioner and student knowledge on environmental topics.

## **PROJECT WET**

The Council for Environmental Education and The Watercourse initiated Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Project WET facilitates and promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources in students K-12.

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY**

UNESCO conducts the *International Conference on Environment and Society: Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability*, in Thessaloniki, Greece (also known as Tbilisi+20). Nearly 1,200 experts from 84 countries attend the conference, which results in the Declaration of Thessaloniki.

## **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

The Australian government publishes a *National Action Plan* for integrating environmental education in both formal and non-formal education sectors.

## **JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT**

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development holds the Johannesburg Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. "The summit brought together tens of thousands of participants to focus the world's attention and direct action toward ...conserving our natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security."

## **DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Centre for Environment Education holds the Education for a Sustainable Future Conference in Ahmedabad, India, the first international gathering of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). More than 800 learners, thinkers, and practitioners from over 40 countries attend the conference. Conference participants produce the Ahmedabad Declaration on education for sustainable development.

## **NCATE STANDARDS**

National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) adopts EE standards in 2007, thus holding EE teacher training programs in NCATE-accredited colleges of education to high standards of performance.

## **NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE**

The United States House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the *No Child Left Inside Act* introduced by Representative John Sarbanes (Maryland) in a bi-partisan vote of 293-109 (the bill failed to pass the United States Senate and become law).

This legislative effort is supported by the No Child Left Inside Coalition, which was led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and included more than 2,000 environmental, educational, business, health care, faith-based, and other organizations from all 50 states, representing more than 50 million people.

## **ROSA PARKS AND GRACE LEE BOGGS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**

NAAEE launches a new award in honor of activists Rosa Parks and Grace Lee Boggs. Each year, this award recognizes a person of color for leadership in educating and promoting action to support environmental education and environmental justice at the local, state, or global level. The first recipient of the award was Abby Ybarra, a member of the Yaqui Nation and educational consultant at Project Indigenous.

## **GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS**

The U.S. Department of Education launches the Green Ribbon Schools Award to recognize schools, districts, and institutions of higher education.

## **DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY**

NAAEE releases *Developing a Framework for Assessing Environmental Literacy*, a comprehensive, research-based description of environmental literacy.

## **TAIWAN EE ACT**

The Taiwan Environmental Education Act - one of the most comprehensive in the world - comes into force. In addition to providing funding for EE and a system of professional certification, the act requires that government agencies, enterprises, organizations and

schools to implement no less than four hours EE every year. This means that even the President must have four hours a year of environmental education.

### **NATURAL START ALLIANCE**

The Natural Start Alliance is a network of people and organizations that believe that all young children need frequent opportunities to experience, learn from, and care for nature and the environment through high-quality education. The Alliance, a project of the North American Association for Environmental Education, serves as a backbone organization to focus and amplify the collective impact of the people and organizations that share this common vision.

### **EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS ACT**

The *Every Child Succeeds Act* becomes law, replacing *No Child Left Behind*. The much-anticipated bill includes language that, for the first time, supports opportunities to provide students with environmental education and hands-on, field-based learning experiences.

### **GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

At the NAAEE conference in Madison, Wisconsin, the Global Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP) celebrates its North American launch. The GEEP is a global partnership committed to advancing environmental literacy to create a more just and sustainable future through the power of education. GEEP's founding partners are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration, and NAAEE.

### **30 UNDER 30**

Each year, NAAEE recognizes individuals from around the world who are making a difference through environmental education.

### **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed an agreement with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to cooperate in the integration of renewable energy and sustainable development in the UAE's education system.