

2006 DCEEC Accomplishments

Organizational Development

1. Developed a three year strategic plan
2. Revised the by-laws and committee structure
3. Developed the DCEEC website, www.dcnaturally.org, offering the following venues: home page, calendar of events, news, job postings, members, links, etc
4. Received a \$10,000 grant from the NOAA, B-Wet program to provide MWEE training for teachers
5. Participated in the development of two Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) videos
6. Received \$2,000 from the Urban Ecology Collaborative Cities Grant to travel to the various UEC meetings and for the DCEEC website.
7. Became a dues paying membership organization comprised of 18 organizations, 11 individual members, and 32 teachers
8. Strengthened ties with DCPS schools by developing relationships with Dr. Wilma Bonner, Director of Instruction and Curriculum, Dr. Michael Kaspar, Director of Science and the DCPS Cable TV station
9. Attended DCPS Science teachers' meetings showing MWEE video, distributing DCEEC membership list, taking about services offered to teachers and distributing watershed resources
10. Several DCEEC partners and DCPS submitted a joint B-Wet application to NOAA
11. Submitted testimony to the DCPS Board of Education on the Master Facilities Plan
12. The Schoolyard Greening Consortium merged with DCEEC, has a listserv of 77 members and revised and changed their website to reflect the change
13. Developed the Schoolyard Greening Portfolio – list of all greening projects in DC schools
14. Identified K-6 DCPS Science Power Standards applicable to schoolyard greening
15. Updated the Schoolyard Greening Grants for Teachers - a list of funding sources and other resources for schoolyard greening
16. Contributed to the Green Schools Agenda on behalf of DCEEC for the Mayoral Forum
17. Printed 2,000 copies of the DC watershed map developed by AWS

Teacher Training Workshops

1. ***Watershed Wise D.C.: On the River, On the Bank*** was a day-long professional development workshop exposing educators to the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE). It was sponsored by DCEEC, endorsed by DC Public Schools (DCPS) and funded through B-WET, and there were twenty-four teachers in attendance who each receive 6 Professional Learning Units. Teachers participated in an on-the-water field experience on Living Classroom's boat where they engaged in hands-on learning that included fish trawling, boat navigating, and water quality testing. Teachers also learned about other DC MWEE opportunities, about gardening skills, tree identification, invasive plant

issues, and lessons on soils. A wealth of resources was distributed to participants, and the Evaluation Forms showed that the teachers truly enjoyed the day and were pleased with the various outdoor experiences and resources received.

2. **Participated in the DCPS Staff Development Training conducting meaningful watershed educational experiences on the following topics:**
 - Wetlands – Environmental Concern and National Park Service
 - Water Quality - Earth Force
 - The Anacostia River – Earth Conservation Corps
3. ***“The Importance of Plants”*** was an 8 hour schoolyard greening workshop conducted for 32 teachers on May 4 and 6 at Bancroft Elementary School. The topics were herbs, Composting, Composting Critters and Plant Structure. Plants, curricula and activities were distributed to the teachers.

Presentations and Trainings for DCEEC Members and the Community

- The University of Wisconsin presented a day long “Diversity Training” was conducted for 20 people on June 6. The workshop was interactive using role-playing, case studies and discussion about the needs of citizens in the District of Columbia.
- A two hour “Standards Worksheets” workshop was attended by 20 people lead by Standards Work on November 27. The workshop instructed environmental educators how to compose a DCPS Worksheet.
- A two hour “Workshop to Learn How to Effectively Apply for B-WET Funds” was presented by NOAA for 10 people on September 25.
- Presentations were made on the following topics:
 - State Education Grants- Ashaki Goodall, Director
 - DCPS Professional Development - Dr. Michael Kaspar, Science Director
 - B-WET Grant – Shannon Sprague, Director NOAA B-WET Grant
- Held the annual schoolyard greening tour on October 21, 2006 attended by 15 people showcasing the following school projects:

Cardozo Senior High School: Cardozo’s Peace Garden was started in 2002 in response to the events of 9/11. Designed to be a place of tranquility and escape from the world, it is used by both history and science teachers.

Children’s Studio School: An asphalt courtyard was transformed into an organic container garden with seasonal vegetables, to be used in the school’s lunch program, and more. This garden received the 2006 Mantis Award honoring youth and community gardens.

Leckie Elementary School: In partnership with American Institute of Architects (AIA), students and teachers designed and built a memorial garden for those lost at

the Pentagon on 9/11. The garden is used by the school's registered Junior Master Gardener group.

Seaton Elementary School: In partnership with the DC Watershed Protection, Project Learning Tree, and Environmental Concern, students enhanced their "Outdoor Lab" by installing a pond and wetland area and planting new trees.

Stanton Elementary School: With a reading garden and a butterfly garden, students at Stanton have the opportunity to observe growth, study life cycles and measure and compile garden-related data.

Thank You

We lost three of our very strong active members this year: Heather Langsford, Ric Zellers and Ashley Lidman. We wish them well and acknowledge their contribution to DCEEC's growth and success. Jennifer McDonnell and Gilda Allen, Co-Presidents for 2006 would like to thank all DCEEC members for their productivity and contribution to the organization's success. Thank you for a job well done.