Wetlands—Reconnecting Youth with Nature

Webcast Sponsored by EPA's Watershed Academy
Thursday, May 28, 2009 1–3 pm Eastern

Richard Louv
Children & Nature Network

Suzanne Pittenger-Slear
Environmental Concern Inc.

Davon Kenneth Johnson
Earth Conservation Corps

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Topics for Today’s Webcast

► Helping children rediscover nature through wetlands exploration
► Working with children of all ages in wetlands education activities
► Working with the Earth Conservation Corps to engage children

Inspiration for Today’s Webcast

► Award-winning DVD produced by EPA’s Denver Office
► Inspired by “Last Child in the Woods” by Richard Louv
► Importance of Urban / Suburban Wetlands
Environmental Concern
Connecting Children with Nature

Suzanne Pittenger-Slear,
President and CEO of Environmental Concern, Inc

Environmental Concern’s Wetland Learning Center
St. Michaels, MD

Celebrating 37 Years of Wetland Stewardship

www.wetland.org
A Place to Explore

This 4th grade class is participating in the Wetland Survivor course. The day-long class includes an activity which challenges the students to find native plant and animal species.

Can You Dig It

A wetland is a living textbook that improves academic performance and stimulates inquiry.
Getting Wet and Muddy

No gloves or boots allowed!

Custom wetland courses are designed for all age groups.

Bring Them Out of the Classroom and They Will Smile!

Wetlands are amazing places to learn.

EC’s educators travel to schools to build schoolyard wetland habitats.
Taking Ownership

Student Owned – Student Operated

Students Create Reef Balls

Wetlands are turned into a discovery zone, where students can explore the natural world and create a connection to it.

The artificial reef modules are placed in the Bay to form reef habitat.
Marsh Explorers

Through hands-on activities, interactive games, and direct exploration, students will discover the components that make wetlands unique. They will discover how plants and animals adapt to their environment.

Looking Beyond Four Walls

Students using microscopes to identify benthic organisms.
Plugging Into Nature

Recent research proves that exposure to natural settings reduces the symptoms of ADHD.

Encouraging Environmental Stewardship…

…and lifelong interest.
Teamwork

Students are pushed to new limits when faced with uncomfortable weather conditions and lots of mud.

Commitment
Community

YMCA students practically apply textbook knowledge to make a difference in the community and the environment.

Wetland Survivor

This program puts physical, mental, and strategic limits to the test. Participants must rely on their wetland knowledge as they compete in field-day style challenges which introduces them to the functions and values of wetlands.
A Muse in the Marsh: Wetland Poetry Workshop
An amazing day of wetlands and words

Students use hands-on activities and fun creative prompts to combine science and poetry out in the wetlands.

From Seed to Shoreline

Seed propagation
Plant preparation
Shoreline planting
Books Bugs and Bogs is a fun, engaging and hands-on program designed to introduce 4-8 year olds to wetlands through dress-up, crafts, felt boards and books.

They Get It!

Restoring the earth…one wetland at a time.
Questions

The Earth Conservation Corps and Their Work in Wetlands

Davon (Kenny) Johnson
Earth Conservation Corps
History of the Earth Conservation Corps

- History and Founding of ECC
- Matthew Henson/Hubbard Award
- River Expedition Patrol 10,000 people

My Life at the Earth Conservation Corps

- Early Life
- The First Term
- Second Term
- Short and Long term goals
- The Trip to New York to speak at the United Nations
The Wetlands

- Kingman and Heritage Island
- Lower Beaverdam

The End

Special Thanks:
The Earth Conservation Corps
US EPA
And Many More
Questions

Contact Information

- Richard Louv
  Children & Nature Network
  info@childrenandnature.org

- Suzanne Pittenger-Slear
  Environmental Concern Inc.
  admin@wetland.org

- Davon Kenneth Johnson
  Earth Conservation Corps
  djohnsonp4@yahoo.com
Next Watershed Academy Webcast

Intro to Clean Water Act –
Water Quality Standards
July 8, 2009

Registration will open approximately three weeks prior to the Webcast at: www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts