A Look Back into Schoolyard Ecology

by Pamela Snow,
Harvard Forest LTER Schoolyard Coordinator

Photos were contributed by participating Teachers, Coaches and Schoolyard Staff
Harvard Forest Schoolyard Ecology

Real Science

Real Scientists

Real Issues*

*Summer Institute 2007 teacher evaluation
Collaboration

- Schoolyard Long Term Ecological Research program, National Science Foundation

- Environmental Organizations:
  - Millers River Environmental Center
  - Nashua River Watershed Association
  - Massachusetts Audubon Society
  - U.S.D.A. Forest Service

- Over 60 classes in Public and Private School Districts

- Harvard Forest

- Private Donors
Kate Bennett receives
Formal Educator Award
New England Environmental Education Association
2008 Secretary’s Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affairs

Students from Wildwood School Amherst at the State House
Judi Miller
Athol-Royalston
Students from Wildwood School, Amherst
The Hall of Flags, Mass. State House
Schoolyard Ecology
Field Work
Ralph C. Mahar Middle School
Orange
Bagnall Elementary School
Groveland
Empty Vernal Pool
Athol-Royalston Middle School
Budburst Prep: Forcing Buds
Edward Devotion School
Brookline
Worcester Academy
Communicating Results: Poster Session
West Springfield Middle School
The MacDuffie School
Ashburnham Field Trip
Pedagogical Motivations for Participation in Buds, Litaves and Global Warming

1. Concerns about scientific literacy of the American public in general
2. Concerns over lack of student knowledge/interest in nature
Summer Institute 2008

Sadly, these are our only pics from Summer Inst. this year due to technical difficulties.
Data Workshop
Level I November 2008
Introducing our Newest Workshop:

Data Workshop Level II

Betsy Colburn
Spring Workshop for Teachers
March 26, 2009
Field Walks
Teacher Presentations
Do the Classic Draw A Scientist Activity

- Give students ½ sheet of paper (because we don’t want to kill more trees than we must).
- Ask them to draw a scientist. Resist all temptation to give any further directions, except to reassure them that they will not get a “bad grade” for stick figures.
- Survey the class...
  - How many students drew males? Females?
  - What race do they consider the “average”?
  - For example, “What does the ‘average’ scientist look like? How do they think we should treat them?”

Harvard Forest Science Fair

- This is not a paper for the forest science fair.
- It’s not understood by the scientists.
Ode to John O’Keefe
As he Officially Retires From Harvard Forest and Continues as Schoolyard Ecology Scientist 😊
Gift to JOK from Austin Preparatory School
In the end we will conserve only what we love;
We will love only what we understand;
We will understand only what we have been taught.

-Baba Dioum
Thanks for all you do!

- Schoolyard Teachers and Students
- Millers River Environmental Center, The Nashua River Watershed Association, Massachusetts Audubon Society, USDA Forest Service
- Harvard Forest scientists and staff
- National Science Foundation, Schoolyard LTER
- Individual Donors