

September 28, 2006

"Perhaps when I feel beauty, I am feeling a sense of welcome. A welcome of the spirit."

-Waldo Frank, *The Unwelcome Man*

Dear Arts in Education Fall Conference Participant,

Greetings! This letter is a confirmation of your registration for the 2006 Arts in Education Conference: **Arts, Peacemaking and the Environment**, Oct. 6-8 at the Sargent Outdoor Education Center in Hancock, NH. We are delighted you will be joining us. Please take the time to read this communication carefully, and to respond ASAP.

The first part of this email is a letter about what to think about as you prepare for the conference. The second part includes important information on parking, accommodations, program sites, what to bring, etc. Both parts are also attached as a more readable Word document.

It would be a great help if you can reply ASAP, to confirm your receipt of this email, to clarify the days and meals you'll be attending, and to let us know if you have any questions. Sargent Center would like to prepare the right amount of food, so please let us know which of these meals you'll be with us for:

Friday lunch Friday dinner
 Saturday breakfast Saturday lunch Saturday dinner
 Sunday breakfast Sunday lunch

Workshop choice (if you haven't already sent in or can't remember if you have):

Friday (if applicable):
 Saturday (if applicable):

Are you planning to display or share materials at the Eco-Arts/Arts in Education Exhibits on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.? Yes No

If yes, would you like table space for exhibiting materials? Yes No

What will you be exhibiting?

From Catherine:

Creativity can be exercised anywhere -- people have written novels in prison, painted landscapes in concentration camps -- but the creative act is most likely to thrive in an environment that fosters it. This does not necessarily mean ideally located and well-equipped studios, although they help. More critical is what in Paris might be called *ambience*, and, in San Francisco, *vibes*. It is as hard to pin down as to deny. A welcoming trust is part of it. We hope to give you a taste of such an environment.

We would like you to consider some of the following questions, as you participate in workshops, informal conversations and dialogue with our panel presenters and performers -- artists and teachers who are passionate about the arts and the environment, living and exploring their interrelationship daily.

- ☀️ How do the arts contribute to and encourage awareness, observations and understanding of the environment (our own and that of our students)?
- ☀️ How can the arts be a tool for peacemaking and resilience in ourselves, our classrooms and communities? As a community of teaching artists, educators and parents, what can we do to effect positive changes at the classroom, local, state and national levels?
- ☀️ How does the environment influence the lives and work of artists and writers?
- ☀️ What sort of imagination does it require for students to think "seven generations" ahead to preserve our bio-diversity and environment?
- ☀️ How does the environment (aesthetics...seasons...beauty...colors...smells...trees...gardens...factories...pollution) affect an individual's and community's sense of inner and outer peace?
- ☀️ How do artists, teachers and students, transform and reflect their inner and outside conflicts through the arts, and personal or community art making?
- ☀️ What is a Nature Writer, or an Eco-Artist? Are these kinds of labels positive or negative?
- ☀️ How can we--and our students--find the motivation to inspire others to appreciate and sustain our environment, and not become paralyzed by fear of pandemics, ozone depletion, warming of the atmosphere, diseased mosquitoes, etc....?
- ☀️ How can we change our classrooms, schools and communities through the arts and peacemaking to create better environments or atmospheres for student learning and genuine teaching experiences?

And now, logistics:

ABOUT SARGENT OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER: Sargent Center in Hancock includes 700 acres with open fields, forested land, streams, a 20-acre meadow, 60-acre Halfmoon Pond, and 22 miles of trails. To help you find your way around, we will have an orientation Friday night, and there will be a map in your conference folder, with designated meeting and workshop sites noted. Most of our sessions and meals will happen at Northern Lodge and Southern Lodge. For directions, a site map and other information, please go to the Sargent Center's website at: www.bu.edu/outdoor. Please allow extra drive time (for road repairs and traffic) in order to arrive on time.

☀️ **Green tip:** We encourage carpooling - to reduce fuel consumption and the number of vehicles on site. If you are interested in traveling with someone from your region, you can check with Frumie to see if anyone is registered.

ARRIVAL & PARKING OF VEHICLES

Friday-morning workshop attendees: Signs will direct you to Southern Lodge, where you can register. Following registration, please move your car to the main lot and keep your things in your car until rooms are available to us at 4 p.m. Friday.

Conference guests: Registration begins at 4 p.m. Friday in Northern Lodge. Please park in the main lot, leaving your belongings in your car until after registration.

Signs will guide you to Northern Lodge. You may drive to your housing to ease unloading; however, all cars should be parked in the main lot for the duration of the conference.

HOUSING: Linens will be provided to all resident guests in cabins and dorms; yurt guests must bring their own – including a sleeping bag (highly recommended), pillow and pillow case, towel, etc. While the cabins and dorm rooms are heated, we encourage you to be prepared for cold weather, and to bring sleeping bags, toiletries, an extra towel, flash light and an alarm clock. We are not assigning rooms, but we have plenty available, and those of you who have indicated roommate preferences can choose your space together. Women will be in Frost, men in Cather, except for couples, who will have their own cabin.

TELEPHONES: There are no telephones in the cabins or dormitories, although your cell phone should work. There is one pay phone in Northern Lodge. Sargent staff and local EMS (911) can be accessed from this phone toll free, 24 hours a day, using directions posted next to the phone. You'll need a calling card to make long-distance calls from the pay phone.

RECEIVING MESSAGES WHILE AT SARGENT CENTER: Guests may receive telephones messages through the main office. A message will be taken and delivered to the conference coordinators (Catherine or Frumie) as soon as possible after it is received. The main number of Sargent Center is (603) 525-3311. In most cases, callers on weekend, or after 4 pm on weekdays, will be instructed to leave a message. In an emergency, the caller will be prompted with special instructions that will immediately access a pager carried by Sargent staff.

FOOD & DRINK: Iced tea, coffee, hot tea, hot chocolate, and delicious well water will be available throughout the conference. Please bring snacks and drinks to share at our informal Social Hours on Friday and Saturday. The Sargent Center does not serve soda or have vending machines, so please bring your own soda if you need it.

WORKSHOPS, ROOM AND MEALS RESERVATIONS: After October 1st, we cannot guarantee your meals, workshop choice, or overnight accommodations. We still have room in many of the workshops. If you know of someone interested in attending, please have them contact Catherine or Frumie ASAP!

EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: The Friday-night Barn Dance with Two Fiddles and the Saturday-night program of music and stories will be open to residents of Hancock and the surrounding towns.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM, AGENDA AND WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:

To review the conference agenda or workshop descriptions please go to WWW.NH.GOV/NHARTS or WWW.AANNH.ORG. We will post a final update, with additional presenter bios, and Sunday Eco-Venture ideas, next week.

SPECIAL SALES: We will have one-of-a-kind collectors' conference T-shirts available for purchase, some raffle items, and books for sale, so bring your checkbook if you might be interested in buying anything. We will be selling our special guest Diana Beresford-Kroeger's books at a 10% discount:

Arboretum America: A Philosophy of the Forest, \$26.10 (regular price \$29)

and

A Garden for Life: The Natural Approach to Designing, Planting, and Maintaining a North Temperate Garden, \$22.45 (regular price \$24.95)

WHAT TO BRING: We are of course hoping for great weather, but ask you to come prepared for cold and rain. Recommended footwear is a close-toed, athletic shoe that does not come off while climbing or hiking; boots are best for rainy weather. Sandals, slip-ons, and clogs are appropriate for classroom meetings and waterfront only. Comfortable, loose-fitting, casual clothing is appropriate. Waterproof raingear and/or an umbrella is advised. All guests, regardless of the season, are advised to bring multiple clothing layers including long-sleeve shirts, long pants, socks, and a hat -- as this is the best way to stave off unpredictable weather and flying insects. Please note that cabins will not be locked, so we recommend leaving valuables at home or in your car. For full weekend participants, at least one full change of clothing is advised.

SUGGESTED Packing LIST:

- Raingear, hat and umbrella
- Sturdy shoes
- Journals, markers or other favorite/personal art supplies
- Musical instruments
- Warm & waterproof clothing for the weather, including gloves, long johns or sweat suit, extra socks
- Sleeping bag (or warm blanket)
- Extra towel and personal toiletries
- Favorite haiku or short poem - for the letterpress printing
- Checkbook or \$\$ money for books, conference t-shirts, special materials
- Snacks to share (bring a dozen or bag) & favorite beverage for social hour
- Green tip! Water bottle - with your name on it and/or a reusable hot-drink mug**
- Heavy-duty flashlight....that really works... w/ extra batteries – a headlamp is preferred
- Your AIR album...photos...PowerPoint...displays of special projects
- Resources*favorite websites*titles *grants opportunities that relate to our themes
- Pajamas and teddy bear
- Camera
- Daypack or fanny pack
- Recycle an old folder or two - we will give you a fresh label and contents**
- A copy of your AIR grant & calendar, if you are meeting with your artist/s

You'll spend time outside rain or shine, so please arrive prepared!

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

A full agenda with room locations will be in your packet, which you can pick up at registration, but we thought you'd like a sense of where/what/when we'll be doing.

All Meals (except for Friday lunch) are in the Northern Lodge

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

Friday Early Registration, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m., Southern Lodge.

Once you have registered and received your conference folder, you will make your own sandwich for a bag lunch that you will take with you to your workshop. We will offer water and milk; please bring your own beverage if you like. The fixings will be out on tables in Southern Lodge until 10 am.

Morning workshops will convene in Southern Lodge at 10 a.m.; most will continue outdoors, weather permitting, so please dress for weather conditions. Workshops include: School & Artist Partnerships

Along the Silk Road: Introduction to an Integrated Arts Curriculum

Native American Medicine Walk in the Woods

Nature Notebook: Developing the Art of Learning to See

Learn, Explore, and Develop an Eco-Arts Project on Site

Friday Afternoon Registration, 4 to 5 p.m., Northern Lodge Porch

Social Hour (BYO) will also take place on the porch. Dinner and our Barn Dance will be in Northern Lodge; Storytelling & Music at the CATS Campground, and our outdoor campfire near Southern Lodge—follow the tiki torches!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

7-8 am, Wake-Up Nature Dance: Beginning Classroom, NL

Registration (for new arrivals): 8-9 am, Northern Lodge (NL)

9-9:45 am Keynote with Diana Beresford-Kroeger, NL

The following workshops will meet at designated sites from 10 am to noon

- 1) An Acorn & A Shovel: Beginning Classroom, NL
- 2) Intro to Abenaki Culture: Middle Earth Classroom, NL
- 3) Russian Matryoshka Doll Painting: Mushroom Room, NL
- 4) A "Peace" of Nature: Porch or Dining Hall, NL
- 5) Latest News from Past (folk music): Corner of Dining Hall, NL
- 8) Writer's Block...Children's Books: Southern Lodge (SL) upstairs Large Room
- 10) An Invitation to Teach Peace: Upstairs Room, SL, small room
- 11) Wool Works! Fiber Arts: Downstairs space, SL
- 12) Introduction to Habitat Books: Nature Center by the Lake
- 13) Eco-Arts Project continues: Outdoor designated site, downstairs SL

2-4 pm, Eco-Arts Exhibits: NL

5-6 pm, BYO Social Hour: SL

8-10 pm, Evening Program: NL, where sign-up sheet for participants will be posted

10 pm, Late-night music & singing: SL or CATS Campfire

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

All activities in Northern Lodge

7-8 am, Wake-Up Nature Dance: Beginning Classroom,

9 am, Drumming & Dancing for Peace

9:30 am, Green Perspectives: A Conversation with NH Artists, Environmentalists & Educators

LAST-MINUTE HELP OR QUESTIONS FOR COORDINATORS:

Catherine O'Brian, State Council on the Arts

Email: Catherine.R.O'Brian@dcr.nh.gov

Direct line: 603-271-0795

Main Office tel. is 603-271-0795 Fax: 603-271-3584

or Frumie Selchen, Arts Alliance of Northern NH

Email: ArtsallianceNNH@cs.com

Leave a message: 603-323-7302 Fax: 603-323-7733

Note: After Thurs. noon we may be out of the office setting up.

☀️That's it for now! Please say some prayers to the weather gods for sunny weather!