

The ECO-TYPE

Founded By Francis Parks and Jim & Helen Cope in 1992



Issue 3, Volume 21

NEW VOLUNTEERS ON THE BLOCK

How Kate Hogg's class is shaking up Cope

At Cope, we believe that time spent outdoors is never time wasted, especially for school-aged kids. This fall and winter, we have one superstar class that has truly embraced this concept.

Kate Hogg's class from Richmond Friends School comes out to Cope about once every two weeks. Unlike other classes, their time spent here does not consist of apple cider-making or mucking around in the wetlands. Instead, Kate's class has picked a variety of service projects to complete while they're visiting. Projects include planting turnips and lettuce in the community garden and removing invasives from the Children of Indiana Nature Park. As Kate says, "Each time [we] partake in service learning at Cope, [the students] become more invested and energized to help out! Gardening, trail maintenance, and invasive removal have become educational games for the kids."

Their latest project is building new habitats for Cope's program animals. The class paired off and did extensive research on each animal to find out not only what they need for basic survival, but what they like in their native habitats. Kate added that "the task of creating animal habitats for the new education center was a welcomed challenge for the students. They can't wait to see how they turn out!"

"They love to be outdoors and understand the importance of preservation."
-Kate Hogg



New is the word of the month here at Cope. Visit page 4 for more information on our new staffers!



Our building is almost complete! Come visit us to learn more about the Living Building Challenge or read about it on page 5!





PARTNERS & FRIENDS

Ruth Coffey, Program and Development Coordinator

For more information about making a gift, contact Ruth at r.coffey@copeenvironmental.org.



Challenge Match MET! Thank you to the Wayne County Foundation for matching donations during the Nov. 7-14 match period! We received \$57,185 in financial support from our community! Whether your donation was large or small, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Cope Environmental Center would not be able to function without your continued monetary support. Because of your donations, our center continues to thrive. From the classrooms that take field trips here to the volunteers who nourish their own love of nature by working tirelessly to keep our property beautiful, your gift makes an impact. We hope you will visit CEC to see all that your dollars support!

Fall Foliage 5k/10k Sponsors

THANK YOU!

Rodefeld, Kassens & North

Reid Health

First Bank Richmond

Richmond Baking Company

Barnhizer & Associates

VanVleet Insurance

Hill's Pet Nutrition

Dot Foods

Alternative Giving

Give differently this year! Who needs another tie? Another pair of socks? Give a gift that will have a direct positive impact on another's life. Show the people you love how much you care by donating to their favorite charity in their honor- it's the sustainable thing to do! You can make a gift to Cope like this anytime at 765-855-3188! Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like using your money to help connect kids with the outdoors!

Planned Giving

Contact Cope Environmental Center for more information on how your life legacy can partner with the Cope legacy for future education and conservation.

Sample Bequest Wording:

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to Cope Environmental Center, a nonprofit corporation with principal offices in Centerville, Indiana, the sum of ____ dollars (\$) as an unrestricted gift to be used in the area of greatest need at the time the gift is received."

Community Giving

Cope Environmental Center is once again the proud recipient of a grant from The Stamm Koechlein Family Foundation.

We are so grateful for their recent gift of \$10,000 supporting our educational initiatives for early childhood and underserved minorities in Wayne County. For more information, go to www.stammkoechlein.org.

Start the new year off right with a charitable gift to Cope Environmental Center! We hope you will use the enclosed envelope to help kick-start our efforts to help our community become more sustainable!



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Aubrey Blue, Program Director; Ruth Coffey, Program & Development Coordinator

Call 765-855-3188 or email a.blue@copeenvironmental.org to register for CEC programs!

Upcoming Events and Programs

Indiana Master Naturalist

Want to learn more about our natural environment? We will be hosting an Indiana Master Naturalist course at Cope Environmental Center in 2017! Back by popular demand, we will enjoy some of our regular presenters, but also we will welcome some new talents! A few of the topics will be: Birds of Indiana, Reptiles and Amphibians of Indiana and Insects of Our Region (with a focus on nocturnal insects).

Dates: Every Thursday beginning April 6, 2017 through May 25, 2017

Times: May vary. Mostly 5:30-8:30pm.

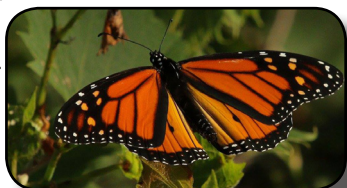
Place: CEC's new building!

Fee: TBD

Registration: REQUIRED. Please call or email Aubrey. (Max. 30 people.)

Why I Love This Animal-Poetry Contest

Indiana is home to many amazing and interesting wild animals. Do you have a favorite one? Let us know which animal you love by writing a poem about it! Then submit that poem to ChildrenOfIndianaNaturePark@tnc.org and you could win a visit from the Indiana Poet Laureate Shari Wagner to your school or group! This contest is open to all school-aged children in the state of Indiana. For more information, visit ilovemyland.org/outdoor-fun



Christmas Tree Recycling

Not sure what to do with your old Christmas tree? Bring it on over to Cope! Recycle your Christmas tree at CEC and go green this holiday season. We'll take it off your hands and mulch it for our trails! Start the New Year by truly embracing the three R's: reduce, reuse, and recycle! You can drop your trees off at the lower lot at the south entrance (on Shoemaker Road). Please remember to take off your decorations. We thank you in advance!



3rd Sat. of Month- Rosa's FREE E-waste Collection

Rosa's Office Plus has partnered with Cope Environmental Center! Come to Rosa's every third Saturday of the month from 9am-12pm to recycle your e-waste, used toner cartridges, old cell phones, and documents to be shredded. *PLEASE NOTE* There is a \$5 charge per box of paper for shredding. Please call for latest information on T.V. recycling. Please note that E-waste Collection will not take place in December. We will resume E-recycling on January 21.



Summer Adventure Programs Sneak Peek!

This summer at CEC, our programs look a little different! Camps are designed for the grade your child will be entering in the fall. 4th-6th graders are able to volunteer as "Jr. Rangers" free of charge for any of the Pre-K/K or 1st-3rd programs in the mornings. Lunch will be from noon-1pm. Be sure to inquire about our scholarship program!

The tentative schedule is as follows:

June 5-9: Art in Nature (Two groups)

9am-1pm Pre-K/K

9am-1pm 1st-3rd

1pm-5pm Pre-K-6th

June 12-16: Jr. Naturalist Certification (Two groups)

9am-1pm Pre-K/K

9am-1pm 1st-3rd

1pm-5pm Pre-K-6th

June 19-23: Conservation Camp

9am-3pm 4th-6th

June 26-30: Knows What Grows (Two groups)

9am-1pm Pre-K/K

9am-1pm 1st-3rd

1pm-5pm Pre-K-6th

July 10-14: Underground Adventures (Two groups)

9am-1pm Pre-K/K

9am-1pm 1st-3rd

1pm-5pm Pre-K-6th

July 17-21: Wilderness Survival

9am-3pm 7th-8th

July 24-28: Feces-Fest! (Two groups)

9am-1pm Pre-K/K

9am-1pm 1st-3rd

1pm-5pm Pre-K-6th

Weekly Fees: Morning programs:

\$80 for non-member; \$70 for members

Afternoon programs:

\$50 for non-member; \$40 for members

Wilderness Survival & Conservation Camp:

\$160 for non-members; \$140 for members

Registration: REQUIRED. Please call or email Aubrey. Maximum of 15 in Pre-K/K; Maximum of 20 all other programs.

Toddler Times 2016-2017

Join us monthly as kids explore the outdoors at CEC through a story, hands-on activities, crafts, and a hike. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Be sure to dress for the weather!



January 18 -- **The Woods in Winter**

February 15 -- **Whoo Loves Owls?**

March 15 -- **Wake Up, Trees!**

Date: Every 3rd Wed.

Time: 10-11am

Place: CEC's new building!

Fee: \$3 per toddler

Registration: REQUIRED. Please call Ruth at 765-855-3188 no later than the Monday before the program. (Max. 15 toddlers.)



WHAT'S NEW AT COPE?

Kaitlyn Blansett, Community Outreach Coordinator

Meet Our New Visiting Naturalist

We have a few new faces at CEC. First, meet our naturally witty and intelligent Visiting Naturalist Cara Tegeler! Cara is an IUE grad and a Richmond native with a degree in biotechnology and chemistry. Thanks to the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust for supporting her work!



Q: What kind of connection did you have with Cope before you worked here?

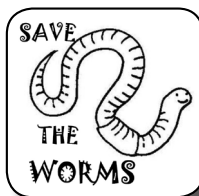
A: I hiked around here when I was in college to free my mind and be less stressed out.

Q: What is your favorite part about Cope so far?

A: The volunteer snacks! Just kidding. My favorite part is working with the Head Start groups because they are so thrilled with everything you have to tell them. I told the kids today that worms can't swim. Then one worm fell in the compost tea and a kid exclaimed, "Worms can't swim!" and rescued it. He was very attached to the worms. One of the teachers said they're going to make a "save the worms" bumper sticker for me. They love their worm bins.

Q: Why do you like doing programming?

A: We're teaching kids to love their environment, get outside more, and be closer to nature. I love kids. They always come up and give me hugs and high fives.



Q: What does sustainability mean to you, and how do you translate that through your work with kids?

A: Sustainability to me means keeping our environment healthy for future generations. Kids don't seem to have the natural inclination to be outdoors anymore and we won't always be around to help them understand why that's important.

Q: What is your specific project?

A: Restoring the wetlands. The wetlands were installed in 1998. One was seeded, one plugged, one left to nature. Naturally, the cattails took over, so now we're trying to get rid of both the cattails and the willows. The project is aiming to restore the wetlands to make them healthier, and to provide a better habitat for waterfowl as well as for the amphibians and macroinvertebrates.

Q: Well, what are your favorite things to do?

A: I love to cook, hike, camp, and play piano. I compost and garden, and I'm always spending time with my nieces and nephews.



Meet our new building as well on 1730 Airport Road

Meet Our New Community Outreach Coordinator

Kaitlyn Blansett joined the Cope team in August as the new Community Outreach Coordinator. Kaitlyn received her bachelor of arts in spanish and history in May of 2016.



Q: How did you find this hidden gem?

A: I started working for Cope the summer after I graduated from high school, leading the summer programs for a few years. Then in the summer of 2015, I began vetting materials for the new building.

Q: What's your favorite part about your job?

A: I love the programming parts of it. I love spending time with kids, bringing out critters and teaching them to not be afraid of bugs and snakes. I love watching them learn, grow, and investigate. I also enjoy the design work that I get to do. I'm a very creative person and I love that I get to share that with CEC.

Q: How do you hope to help this organization?

A: I hope to expand our reach into the broader community.

I hope to pull people into Cope that have never been here before. It's so important to spend time outdoors.

Q: How has Cope impacted your life?

A: Cope sparked in me an interest in protecting nature. Working at Cope has also taught me so much about *how* to work. I spend my days with some of the most hard-working people I've ever met. There's never a stopping point. You keep pushing through obstacles until the job gets done. It's so refreshing and revitalizing.

Want more news?

Want to stay updated on the happenings at Cope? Is a bimonthly newsletter just not enough? Send your email to k.blansett@copeenvironmental.org, and get on the biweekly email list! You'll never miss out again!



VOLUNTEER ARMY

Traci Lewis, Volunteer Coordinator

Call 765-855-3188 or email t.lewis@copeenvironmental.org to join!

Introducing Our Crazy Good



Pictured left to right are Bob, Charlie, Bill, Mike, and Duane. Not included in the above picture are Danny Stackleather and Bill Fribley (pictured below).

What does it take to complete a Living Building Challenge Project? Research, patience, and the indispensable help of some amazing volunteers! We cannot emphasize enough the incredible impact our volunteers have had working on the construction of our new facility. This month, we want to specifically highlight a few of the greats.

"Wood" you like to meet our woodworkers? Introducing Charlie Probasco, Mike Johnson, Bill Miller, Duane Bane, Danny Stackleather (from Countertop Manufacturing!) and Bob Ferrell. Our fearless leader Alison Zajdel said it best when she stated "Their dedication to this project has been unmatched. It makes the building so personable, so Cope-like. We're in love with their work."

It all started with Bill Miller and a couple of adirondack chairs. Knowing we had even more talent on our volunteer list, and upon receiving an incredibly generous donation of wood from an anonymous donor in Hagerstown, we rallied the troops. Soon, a couple of pieces of furniture turned into the trim for all of the rooms in the entire building, along with the treads of the stairs, stair railing, and all the cabinets. Wood from our own property made its way into the building as well!

These men have dedicated many hours contributing their carpentry talents to our new building -- and it shows! We would like to say thank you from the bottom of our tree-hugging hearts to our volunteer carpenters! Your dedication is unmatched and very much appreciated!



**VOLUNTEER
STATS
2016**

ALL VOLUNTEERS JAN.-OCT.

6,210 HRS.

BUILDING VOLUNTEERS

824 HRS.

*Thank
you
all!*

Would you like to be a part of our volunteer army?

Contact Traci Lewis at
765-855-3188 or
t.lewis@copeenvironmental.org



"Once again Cope did an excellent job making science
relatable and fun for small inquiring minds."
- Jenny Sizelove, Crestdale Elementary

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Feb. 4, 2016 **EARLY CLASSICAL GEMS**
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Apr. 1, 2017 **PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE**
TICKETS: RichmondSymphony.org | 765.966.5181

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