

Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education Director Attends Wildlife Habitat Council Symposium

Slippery Rock, PA – November 22, 2006 – Kathleen Paul, Director of the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE), recently attended the Wildlife Habitat Council's 18th Annual Symposium, "Connecting People and Nature," in Baltimore, MD. Representatives of environmental groups and major national corporations from across the country attended the Symposium, where they:

- Explored ways to create, manage, and enhance open lands, and
- Recognized those corporations that have made significant contributions to the preservation of wildlife habitats through effective use of corporate lands.

David Sobel, a leading expert on place-based education and the author of *Place-based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities*, gave the keynote address.

"The Symposium emphasized the ways in which corporations can put undeveloped lands to use as wildlife preserves and sites for the delivery of environmental education," noted Paul. "Corporations have discovered that participation in corporate habitat projects has several benefits beyond the actual environmental impact, including improved employee morale, enhanced community and public relations, and cost savings associated with mowing and landscaping."

In southwest Pennsylvania, the Wildlife Habitat Council is providing guidance for the Three Rivers Habitat Partnership, which has twenty corporate sites that are managing their lands for wildlife.

"Because PCEE promotes and assists with environmental education projects, I was pleased to note that the emphasis extends beyond land conservation alone," added Paul. "The Symposium also emphasized the importance on including environmental education as a key component in any project. PCEE.org offers information about environmental education and habitat preservation."

About PCEE: The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) was created by Executive Order of the Governor in 1997 to “provide an avenue for increased participation of educators, local officials, citizen and non-profit groups, business and industry as partners in the implementation of quality environmental education on a state-wide basis.” Administered by the PA State System of Higher Education, PCEE is housed at Slippery Rock University.

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