

**PCEE Director Presents Workshop at
Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators Conference**

***“Virtual Tools for Educators at PCEE.ORG” Familiarizes Educators with
Source of Useful Resources***

SLIPPERY ROCK, PA – March 8, 2008 – Staff of the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) were highly visible at the recent annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators, in Bolivar. Slippery Rock University graduate students staffed an interactive exhibit, and Kathleen Paul, PCEE Director, offered an animated workshop on current and upcoming resources.

The PCEE workshop, “Virtual Tools for Educators at PCEE.ORG” presented an overview of the educational resources available on the PCEE website, as well as information about how to publicize environmental events and facilities through the site.

“One of the Center’s primary missions is to link anyone engaged in environmental education to the resources they need to teach the Environment & Ecology standards. We don’t think teachers need to ‘reinvent the wheel’ when it comes to development of lesson plans and educational tools. At www.pcee.org, they can find links to all of the resources they need,” noted Ms. Paul. “Our purpose at the conference was to make educators aware of the free resources they will find at our website, and to invite nature centers and other environmental organizations to publicize their facilities and events through us.”

Ms. Paul also gave a sneak-peek of the Center’s new website and latest online educational program: “Critter Quest: PA Species Search.” The new website design will address Pennsylvanians’ environmental educational needs by asking users to identify with one of seven user groups (including Childhood Education, Agriculture and General Public) and will offer links to a wide variety of services and resources targeted to the needs of each group. “Critter Quest” is an interactive mapping tool and database program that allows users to identify where each of the 460+ Pennsylvania animal species might be living throughout the state. The program also provides links to additional information on each species. The new website and educational program will be available online this summer at www.pcee.org.

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 by 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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