



Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education (ISEE)

June 6, 2013; 1 – 4 PM Eastern Time Zone

Cane Rune Elementary & Future Farmers of America “Food for All” Garden: Louisville, KY

IN ATTENDANCE: James Bauman, Elizabeth McNulty, Steve Meredith, Elizabeth Schmitz, Michelle Shane, Jill Stoltz, and Andrea Wright.

Presentations:

Fourth grade teacher Deborah Glover and two students (one who just graduated from the school) led the group on a tour of **Cane Run Elementary**, an environmental magnet school within the Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) district. During the tour we were also welcomed by Principal Gwen Goffner.

Ms. Glover came to the school with no formal training in environmental education (EE), only a willingness to learn about how to integrate EE into her teaching. She spoke with enthusiasm about using the environment as a theme for learning, and how she uses EE to teach all aspects of the 4th grade standards, including English language arts, math, social studies, history, and science.

Our tour focused on the outdoor classroom aspect of the school. Almost the entire campus of the school is an outdoor classroom with multiple stations, including:

- An old-growth, decomposing log (soil is accumulating on top, from which a watermelon sprouted last year);
- A pond (we heard about ducks, dragonflies, frogs, and more);
- Multiple gardens, including a pizza garden that is used for calculating fractions, a butterfly garden that is used for calculating perimeter, and a Muhammad Ali Peace Garden;
- “Reading trees” surrounded by sitting stones (two of these);
- An amphitheater;
- A walking trail that is also used by the community;
- A time capsule;
- A paved and covered outdoor classroom space with wifi access; and
- An orchard.

Follow up item: Andrea Wright works in JCPS with student nutrition and health. After the tour, the group discussed where graduates go (they move on to a number of different schools) and if anybody offers them continued support in the environmental education arena. Ms. Wright and E. Schmitz are planning a follow up meeting to discuss the possibilities.

After the school tour, we traveled to a **Future Farmers of America “Food for All”** garden, a grant-funded initiative coordinated by ISEE member Steve Meredith. The garden is located behind the Louisville Fair Grounds. The garden will be harvested and the produce donated to charity as a service learning project

during the national FFA meeting, which is in Louisville October 30-November 2, 2013. We had a fascinating discussion about heirloom crops, no-till agriculture, genetically engineered crops, and more. We also got close to several beehives, and Steve let us peer into one (no bees or people were harmed). We were all so engaged that we did not disband until 5 PM.

Keep America Beautiful funded this FFA garden and a second one, which is located at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. In the next year, thousands of students will tour these two gardens.

The next Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2013, from 1 – 4 PM. Location is TBA. Please contact Elizabeth Schmitz if you would like to be a presenter on the agenda or are interested in hosting future meetings.