

Wetlands—Reconnecting Youth with Nature

Webcast Sponsored by EPA's Watershed Academy

Thursday, May 28, 2009 1–3 pm Eastern

Richard Louv
Children & Nature Network

Suzanne Pittenger-Slear
Environmental Concern Inc.

Davon Kenneth Johnson
Earth Conservation Corps

Guide to Our Webcasts

For Technical Support click the “**Help**” button

- ▶ **To Ask a Question** - Type your question in the text box located in the lower left-hand corner of your screen and click on the “Submit Question” button
- ▶ **To Answer Poll Question** – Click on the radio button to the left of your choice and click submit. Do not type your answer in the “Ask a Question” box
- ▶ **To See Closed Captioning** – Turn your pop-up blocker off and click on the “closed captioning” button
- ▶ **To Complete the Survey** – Turn off your pop-up blocker



Topics for Today's Webcast

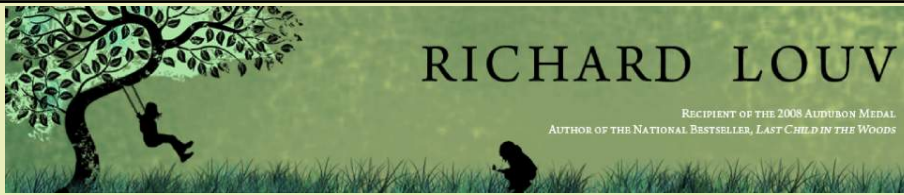
- ▶ Helping children rediscover nature through wetlands exploration
- ▶ Working with children of all ages in wetlands education activities
- ▶ Working with the Earth Conservation Corps to engage children



Inspiration for Today's Webcast

- ▶ Award-winning DVD produced by EPA's Denver Office
- ▶ Inspired by "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv
- ▶ Importance of Urban / Suburban Wetlands

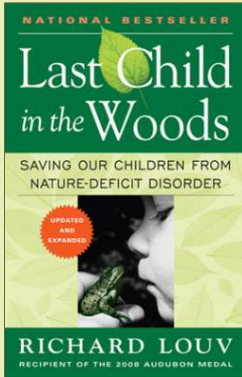




RICHARD LOUV

RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 AUDUBON MEDAL
AUTHOR OF THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER, *LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS*

Richard Louv
Renowned Author and Chairman, Children & Nature Network



www.childrenandnature.org



www.naturerocks.org



Questions



Environmental Concern Connecting Children with Nature



Suzanne Pittenger-Slear,
President and CEO of Environmental Concern, Inc

Environmental Concern's Wetland Learning Center St. Michaels, MD



Celebrating 37 Years of
Wetland Stewardship



www.wetland.org

A Place to Explore



This 4th grade class is participating in the Wetland Survivor course. The day-long class includes an activity which challenges the students to find native plant and animal species.

Can You Dig It



A wetland is a living textbook that improves academic performance and stimulates inquiry.

Getting Wet and Muddy



*No gloves or boots
allowed!*



Custom wetland courses are designed for all age groups.

Bring Them Out of the Classroom and They Will Smile!



Wetlands are amazing places to learn.



EC's educators travel to schools to build schoolyard wetland habitats.

Taking Ownership



Student Owned – Student Operated

Students Create Reef Balls



Wetlands are turned into a discovery zone, where students can explore the natural world and create a connection to it.

The artificial reef modules are placed in the Bay to form reef habitat.



Marsh Explorers



Through hands-on activities, interactive games, and direct exploration, students will discover the components that make wetlands unique. They will discover how plants and animals adapt to their environment.

Looking Beyond Four Walls



Students using microscopes to identify benthic organisms.

Plugging Into Nature



Recent research proves that exposure to natural settings reduces the symptoms of ADHD.

Encouraging Environmental Stewardship...



...and lifelong interest.

Teamwork



Commitment



Students are pushed to new limits when faced with uncomfortable weather conditions and lots of mud.

Community



YMCA students practically apply textbook knowledge to make a difference in the community and the environment.

Wetland Survivor



This program puts physical, mental, and strategic limits to the test. Participants must rely on their wetland knowledge as they compete in field-day style challenges which introduces them to the functions and values of wetlands.

A Muse in the Marsh: Wetland Poetry Workshop

An amazing day of wetlands and words



Students use hands-on activities and fun creative prompts to combine science and poetry out in the wetlands.

From Seed to Shoreline



Seed propagation



Plant preparation



Shoreline planting

Green Side Up



Books Bugs and Bogs is a fun, engaging and hands-on program designed to introduce 4-8 year olds to wetlands through dress- up, crafts, felt boards and books.

They Get It!



Restoring the earth...one wetland at a time.

Questions



The Earth Conservation Corps and Their Work in Wetlands



Davon (Kenny) Johnson
Earth Conservation Corps

History of the Earth Conservation Corps



- ▶ History and Founding of ECC
- ▶ Matthew Henson/ Hubbard Award
- ▶ River Expedition Patrol 10,000 people

My Life at the Earth Conservation Corps

- ▶ Early Life
- ▶ The First Term
- ▶ Second Term
- ▶ Short and Long term goals
- ▶ The Trip to New York to speak at the United Nations



The Wetlands



- ▶ Kingman and Heritage Island
- ▶ Lower Beaverdam

The End

Special Thanks:
The Earth Conservation Corps
US EPA
And Many More



Questions



Contact Information

- ▶ **Richard Louv**
Children & Nature Network
info@childrenandnature.org

- ▶ **Suzanne Pittenger-Slear**
Environmental Concern Inc.
admin@wetland.org

- ▶ **Davon Kenneth Johnson**
Earth Conservation Corps
djohnsonp4@yahoo.com

Next Watershed Academy Webcast

Intro to Clean Water Act –
Water Quality Standards
July 8, 2009



Registration will open approximately
three weeks prior to the Webcast at:
www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts