

Penn State Study Probes Environmental Education

Agricultural educators at Pennsylvania State University are providing leadership for a national study to develop instructional materials for careers in natural resources and en-

vironmental programs. Directing the project is Dr. James M. Mortensen of the department of agricultural education.

The project is supported by Phi Delta Kappa national education fraternity which has 90,000 teachers and educators in 400 U.S. chapters. Dr. Frank Anthony in agricultural education at Penn State proposed the study as coordinator for the fraternity's activities in the Commonwealth. Dr. H. S. Fowler of the College of Education at Penn State will assist in developing the course material for environmental education.

Objectives of the survey were discussed recently during a meeting of 11 Pennsylvania chapters of Phi Delta Kappa at University Park. Conference delegates said a strong demand exists for resource materials to be utilized by teachers of environmental education.

Accordingly, the analysis will show teachers how to identify environmental problems within a community. Opportunities for careers in environmental concerns will be determined. Job skills vital for employment in environmental occupations will be defined. And means will be outlined to use the so-called "school land laboratories" to teach environmental science.

The latter point on "land school laboratories" was advocated during the Phi Delta Kappa meeting by L. Arthur Watres of Lake Ariel, Wayne County, co-owner of the Lacawac Sanctuary. Featuring a glacial lake, the Lacawac Sanctuary is located on Mr. Watres' home property and is used as a biological research station by the University of

Pennsylvania and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Preserved for public benefit, the sanctuary is a registered natural landmark as designated by the U. S. Department of the Interior.

"We need to look at the number of Pennsylvania natural land sanctuaries which can serve a variety of educational and scientific purposes," Mr. Watres affirmed. "Natural areas best serve the community by relating land-use policies to human welfare," he added.

An avid conservationist and world traveler, Mr. Watres believes that human welfare and survival are closely related to the preservation of natural areas.

The natural undertaking to study career opportunities in environmental concerns is now underway and should be completed by late 1974, project director Mortensen said.

From this work will come a resource guide for teachers of environmental science in high

schools. The guide will list career opportunities in environmental programs. It will identify job skills needed by workers in environmental occupations. It will also identify appropriate occupational opportunities for "special education" students. A set of slides and a script describing land laboratories for teaching environmental science will be developed.

Mount Joy Club Finishes Projects

The president of the second year group of the Mount Joy Sewing Club called the meeting to order and the secretary called the roll of 11 member.

A game was led by the game leader and the Club learned a new song. Club members also finished their skirt projects for the Round-up next week, July 30.

Marcia Groff
News Reporter

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