

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Fall 2011

By Ms. Bonnie Smith



Drawing inspiration from the natural world is one special aspect of a Doane Academy education. Doane students have a chance to learn in the great outdoors, especially along our front yard, the Delaware River! These opportunities come in Discovery courses (PreK-3), special opportunities such as the September voyage on New Jersey's Tall Ship the A.J. Meerwald, "Rocks, Roots and Wings", and field trips for both Lower and Upper School students.

Here is a glance at some of the new outdoor education opportunities Doane Academy students had in the month of October 2011.

Burlington County Parks Overview

Did you know that there are nine official nature parks in Burlington County? Our fourth - sixth graders do! Burlington County Park Naturalist Jen Bulava visited Doane Academy on October 14 to tell students about all the natural wonders, wildlife, plants and activities they have to offer visitors so close to home.

Fly Fishing at Smithville Park

Mrs. Stacy Anderson's fourth grade class received an introduction to Fly Fishing at Smithville Park in Eastampton on October 17. They practiced casting on land with yarn at the end of the line at first, trying to "catch" the center of a frisbee or small hula hoop. Then they tried their luck at casting with hooks on their lines off the docks at Smithville Lake. Alas, no fish dinner that night! Fourth grade is learning about wetlands, watersheds, rivers and the plants and animals that call those places home. They look toward more fishing in the spring.





Canoe Paddle on Rancocas Creek

Mrs. Peggy Majane's Fifth graders had their first canoeing adventure on the Rancocas Creek on October 20. Under the guidance of Burlington County Park Ranger Chris Derkes, the Fifth Graders paddled from Burlington County College in Pemberton to Clark's Canoe Rental, a creek distance of just over three miles. Paddle Onward, Fifth Grade!

World Water Monitoring Day

Dr. Pam McCormick's Upper School Biology and A.P. Biology students joined over 220,000 people from 85 countries around the world by participating in World Water Monitoring Day activities at historic Batsto Village on October 21. The day's activities enabled middle and upper school students from area schools to learn about monitoring local water quality and safeguarding natural resources. Read the front-page *Burlington County Times* article [here](#).



By Dennis Mc Donald BCT staff photographer

Alex Mason '15 (left) uses a net to help with water monitoring efforts.

Forest Resource Education Center

Ms. Meghan Hadalski's Third Grade class, Doane Academy's official "Tree Team" took a trip to the Forest Resource Education Center and NJ Forest Tree Nursery in Jackson, NJ on October 24. Students experienced the work involved in collecting, sorting, processing, and germinating seeds of trees. They toured greenhouses, nursery fields, and seed orchards.



After sponsoring a school wide acorn collection at Doane Academy in October, Third Graders delivered their 15 bags of donated and identified acorns and enjoyed planting some of them.

Conserve Wildlife Foundation Presentation



Maria Grace (left), Education and Outreach Manager of Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, gave her first presentation on threatened and endangered animal species to Third through Sixth Grade students in the Chapel on October 27. Maria will be conducting a series of presentations for various groups of students during the course of the school year.

Classroom, Art, Computer, and Library teachers of Fifth and Sixth Graders will be working in collaboration with the students as they prepare Essay and Art projects they hope to put on display this winter. Maria's next presentation is scheduled for mid-November.

These events made this season's edition of *Outdoor Education* but we are blessed to have Nature Discovery happen at Doane Academy every day. It would take a book to include everything!

Stay tuned for more news on Doane in the Great Outdoors.

Ms. Bonnie Smith



Discovery isn't just for Lower School. AP Language visited with Ms. Smith to better understand nature analogies in literature.