



Symposium

June 2—4, 2004

University of Wisconsin
Madison

Best Education Practices (BEPs) for Water Outreach Professionals Defining BEPs, Refining New Resources and Recommending Future Actions

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal Deadline: January 30, 2004

The USDA Cooperative Extension Service and the University of Wisconsin – Environmental Resources Center invite educators and researchers from all regions of the United States to submit proposals for papers and posters to be presented at the June 2004 Best Education Practices (BEPs) Symposium for water outreach and education. The proposal deadline is January 30, 2004. Submission details are available below and on-line at <http://www.uwex.edu/erc/waterbeps>. Registration materials will be available later this fall.

The Water Outreach Education Project, also known as the Best Education Practices (BEP) Project, is collecting audience-specific best education practices and topic-specific water outreach resources. Expansion of the collection hinges on identification of relevant research, discovery of links to published information about water management topics, and access to case studies that demonstrate best education practices.

The University of Wisconsin – Environmental Resources Center invites water outreach educators and researchers to help build the BEP resource by sharing knowledge you have developed for your work. We seek papers and posters that relate to one of the following content areas:

- **Papers that review and summarize multiple studies of audience specific Best Education Practices**
- **Papers or posters that report on research about audience specific Best Education Practices**
- **Posters that describe a case study where Best Education Practices have been applied**

Key Dates and Deadlines for Presenters

December 2003

Registration materials available

January 30, 2004

Proposals due

February 27, 2004

Response from Organizing
Committee

March 31, 2004

Early Registration (required for
accepted papers and posters)

May 3, 2004

Registration Deadline

June 3, 2004

Accepted Papers Due

Your paper or poster proposal should identify best education practices for one of these Target Audiences .	In addition, your research or case study should relate to one of the following Education/Outreach Purposes and/or Theories Contributing to Best Education Practices.	
	Education/Outreach Purposes	Education/Outreach Theories Contributing to BEPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Decision and Policy Makers • Agency Partners • Industrial Water Users • Recreational Water Users • Recreational Businesses (water-related) • Retailers of Water Recreation Equipment • Agricultural Commodity Groups • Farmers • Landowners • Households • Homeowners • Neighborhood Organizations • Service Clubs • Environmental/Conservation Nongovernment Organizations • Soil and Water Conservation Districts • Specific Ethnic Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information (one way) • Communication (two way) • Education (formalized process with a goal) • Capacity building (community management of the environment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Theory • Principles of Adult Education • Principles of Youth Education • Technology Transfer and Diffusion of Innovation • Social Marketing • Civic Empowerment • Communication • Leadership • Citizen Participation/Community Involvement • Non-economic Social Sciences

Best education practices (BEPs) refer to “... a program or practice that has been clearly defined, refined through repeated delivery, and supported by a substantial body of research”.¹ Paper and posters about research should focus on identifying best education practices for one of the target audiences listed above. Case studies should refer to an education/outreach purpose, one of the theories that contributes to Best Education Practices, or both. See the table above for guidance.

Background

The *Water Outreach Education—Facilitating Access to Resources and Best Practices* (BEP) Project is a collaborative effort of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and other public and private clean and safe water partners to identify Best Education Practices and promote their use for water-management education, and to improve access to education resources and strategies. The project is conducted by staff of the University of Wisconsin, Environmental Resources Center (ERC), under the guidance of a project advisory team of natural resource management, outreach, and education professionals from across the country. Please go to the Water Outreach Education/BEP Project Web site at <http://www.uwex.edu/erc/waterbeps> to learn more about this national facilitation effort.

One goal of the BEP Project is to facilitate access to education practices that water education professionals can be confident are *best* practices for educating specific audiences. To call an education technique a *best* practice,

¹ Anthony Fedler. 2001. *Defining Best Practices in Boating, Fishing, and Stewardship Education*. Report to the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Alexandria, VA.

requires that its outcomes be compared through research to the outcomes of a range of educational practices that have been used in multiple cases to educate like audiences.

Although many environmental education research papers recommend education practices, few of these papers focus on adult audiences, and few identify education practices that are best for specific audience groups. Few resource management papers test specific education practices, relying instead on the admonition that good resource management needs to be accompanied by outreach to the public or to a target audience.

A BEP project review of thousands of papers—through an extensive search of multiple education, environmental, resource, and resource management journals and journal databases—identified few if any studies of adult outreach and education that could claim to identify *best* education practices for specific audiences. This call for proposals invites you to contribute to the sparse literature identifying BEPs for water outreach and education of specific audiences.

Symposium Purpose

The BEP Symposium will engage national Extension water quality coordinators, outreach professionals, and key stakeholders in fine-tuning BEP Project products and marketing strategy to best assist natural resource professionals in meeting their water management education and outreach objectives. Meeting sessions will provide a mix of speakers, paper presentations, interactive events, poster sessions and networking opportunities.

Paper Presentations and Poster Sessions

Paper and poster presentations will showcase water management research projects and programs that have successfully incorporated best education practices. These sessions will provide the backbone of our symposium discussions.

• Paper presentation sessions

Each presenter will have 20 minutes for presentation and a 10 minute question and answer period. Papers should follow standard research paper format and are limited to a maximum of 3,000 words.

• Poster presentation sessions

Posters will be displayed Wednesday evening and Thursday, 7:30 AM—5:30 PM. Poster presenters will have the opportunity to showcase their successful water management research projects and programs during the 1½-2 hour lunch period on Thursday, June 3. Specifications for poster format and display will be available on the BEP Web site after the acceptance process is complete.

Criteria for Selection

Papers and research posters

Must be supported by a significant body of research.

Must discuss at least one of the target audiences listed on page 2.

Must reference or illustrate ideas included in one or more of the education/outreach theories contributing to Best Education Practices. (See table on page 2.)

Must be a recent work (completed in the last 3 years).

Must indicate whether the paper has been peer reviewed or published. (Neither is required for acceptance but we would like to know the status of the paper.)

Case Studies

Must discuss at least one of the target audiences. (See table on page 2.)

Must reference or illustrate ideas included in one or more of the education/outreach theories contributing to Best Education Practices. (See table on page 2.)

Must be a recent work (completed in the last 3 years).

Must be broadly representative of water resource education/outreach problems.

Papers and poster descriptions will be published in a BEP Symposium Proceedings to be available on-line and in limited print copies. Paper, poster and symposium findings will be incorporated into BEP information available to water management and water outreach professionals through the BEP website and other products produced as part of this project.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Water education professionals, researchers, and other stakeholders are invited to submit a proposal for the 2004 Best Education Practices Symposium. **One author for each accepted paper will receive a symposium scholarship to cover the registration fee and lodging costs (2 nights) if the presenter registers for the event on or before March 31, 2004.** No scholarships are available for poster presenters. The registration fee for the symposium will be subsidized in part by grant resources. PROPOSALS ARE DUE JANUARY 30, 2004.

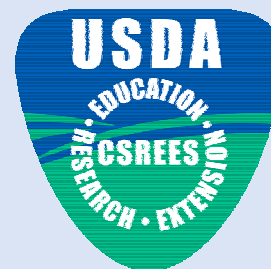
Proposals of up to 250 words must be submitted via E-mail. No FAX or post proposals will be accepted. Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged via E-mail within 5 days.

A submission implies that at least one author will register for the conference and be present at the time designated in the conference program. See key dates and deadlines on page 1.

E-Mail submissions to Sheila Voss at srvoss@wisc.edu with the following subject line: **BEP Symposium Proposal**. Proposals may be submitted in the body of the E-mail or as a MSWord attachment. Each submission must include the following information:

1. Title page that contains:
 - a. Proposed title
 - b. Target audience (from list on page 2)
 - c. Geographic area where research event or case study occurred
 - d. Education/Outreach Purpose of work with target audience (refer to list)
 - e. Education/Outreach Theory related to work with target audience (refer to list)
 - f. Keywords that describe the research or case study (not more than 5)
 - g. Name(s) of the author(s)
 - h. Name of contact person, if different than lead author
 - i. Department(s) and/or affiliation(s)
 - j. Mailing address(es)
 - k. E-mail address(es)
 - l. Telephone number(s)
 - m. FAX number(s)
2. Abstract of presentation (# 250 words)
3. Type of presentation preferred:
 - a. Paper presentation (30 minute session, June 3rd)
 - b. Poster presentation (1½ - 2 hour period over lunch break, June 3rd)

Project Partners



- Ohio State University Extension
- Ohio DNR, Division of Soil and Water Conservation
- The Groundwater Foundation
- The Water Education Foundation
- University of California Extension
- University of Nebraska Extension
- U.S. EPA Office of Water
- U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Education

Symposium information is posted at:

www.uwex.edu/erc/waterbeps

Environmental Resources Center
University of Wisconsin
Hiram Smith Hall, Room 210
1545 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706-1289
1-800-WATER20

