

## 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

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## Topics for Today's Webcast

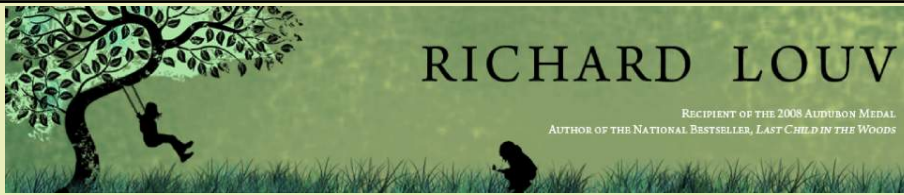
- ▶ Helping children rediscover nature through wetlands exploration
- ▶ Working with children of all ages in wetlands education activities
- ▶ Working with the Earth Conservation Corps to engage children



## 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

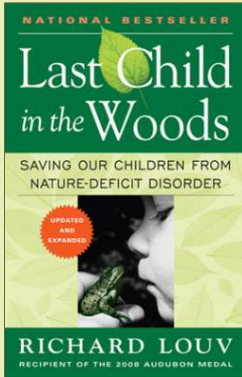




RICHARD LOUV

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](http://www.childrenandnature.org)



[www.naturerocks.org](http://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](http://www.wetland.org)

## A Place to Explore



This 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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## 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](http://www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts)