

# Extending Education

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## Editorial

The Annual Conference was held this year on June 22-24 at the New Jersey State School of Conservation, at Branchville. This extensive camp is located in the Stokes State Forest, and it is the center for most of the outdoor experiences for the State Colleges and for many of the public schools of the state. All sections of the country had some representation at the meetings.

The conference theme: "Outdoor Education Overview" was fitting, as there has been much progress in the past three years to be reviewed. Both speakers and "group meetings" tended to draw together the principles and policies that would seem to be winning powerful adherents everywhere. The tone of the conference was confidence and strength.

Clifford and "Ginger" Emanuelson, who direct the School, were hosts to the many members and visitors who came in from their work on all of the educational levels—from kindergarten teachers to college presidents and state education officials. And all joined hands and shared experiences to advance the cause of education beyond the schoolroom.

The movement is larger than it was last year, two years ago, three years ago. Its members are no less intense about their conclusions, but are more relaxed. The advances, and the specific accomplishments of the past few years have been substantial. There is a greater unity now among the several points of view that have served to bring groups of people together to consider the education value of the out-of-doors. Powerful individuals and institutions have put themselves on record as endorsers. The challenge and the responsibility of members of the Association is thus increased.

Best of all is the good feeling that through the schools, the outdoors is now touching the lives of increasing thousands of young people.

—LARRY CONRAD.

## THE PLACE OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE SCHOOL OF CONSERVATION IN THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION MOVEMENT

By ALLAN ROSEBROCK, Director  
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I think it should be said that if it were not for L. B. Sharp, this program would not exist. His influence was here long before mine. I am a newcomer to this project, preceding Cliff Emanuelson only by a couple of years. L. B. Sharp ran Life Camp a number of years ago over across the river, not too far from our present location. And a lot of bright young people came to learn about outdoor education from him. Among them were several people from New Jersey, notably De Partridge, the President of Montclair State College, and Ed Ambry, who is the Director of Field Services over there. And then Cliff Emanuelson came along, too.

To make a long story short, L. B. and Dr. Partridge and the folks back twelve years or more now became aware that this camp was available and got together with the folks from the Conservation Department. Jules Marron was among them, and others who may be here. This group decided if we could get this as an educational center here, it would be a tremendous thing for New Jersey.

It finally worked out after much negotiation and planning and for the first ten years this operation here was essentially a summertime operation. We ran a children's camp—Camp Wapalanne—and in June, July, and August, courses for teachers. The experience of the teachers here during those years was overwhelmingly positive.

Then the college presidents became interested in this project from this point of view. Many public school teachers have had narrow experiences, and many of our college students from New Jersey have come from the city. Let me summarize by quickly saying that the college presidents felt that in terms of the general education of those preparing to teach, this kind of experience is very valuable. This was looked upon at its inception as a general education experience, *per se*, not a professional experience in a narrow sense at all. We were not preparing teachers to do a specific thing in the schools. We were giving them a broadening experience.

Couple that up with the economic development, the sociological development that has taken place, the increased leisure, and picture millions of people lined up on the roads, millions of people who are working a four-day work week or less, and get the picture of a tremendous need for people to be educated in such a way that they can use this leisure time.

Here we have all the resources and, of course, many people have not had the kinds of experiences that allow them to use these resources in a way that they consider pleasant and profitable. Five years ago we brought ten students from each state college here. And again, the experience and the testimony from the youngsters was just tremendous. The presidents decided to recommend to the Commissioner that this kind of experience be made a required part of the college program for every future teacher in the six state colleges. And this was done.

The first problem we had was finding somebody to head this up. And as you know we have been very fortunate. We found Cliff Emanuelson. And he has been tremendous. He moved in with no staff, just Cliff Emanuelson in an unwinterized facility. Two years ago we added another professional person and last year we added a third. Now we have three professional people doing the work that we have started to do here.

There are many facets of it. The biggest program is the sophomore program of the state colleges. But then, along with this, we decided that there was such a tremendous need for facilities and somebody to help public school children, that the public school program has become a second leg on this table and now we have a large program involving public school children.