

Hello everyone,

I wanted to write you once more before the workshop starts June 27th. Please arrive by 5 pm on June 27th and the workshop will end at noon on July 1st. We have updated the web site to include most everything including new materials. If you look under "schedules" on the web page (http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/iecws/schedules.html) you will find directions to the University of New England. Between 3pm and 5pm we will register everyone, show you your room, and then provide a BBQ supper for you to get to know one another. The four days will be packed with activities, many of which will be outside so bring your rain gear because we are going out regardless of the New England weather. I suggest that you either fly to Portland Maine or Boston Massachusetts and then rent a car. The train goes from Boston to Portland but does not stop in Biddeford Maine. The closest train station to the workshop is in Saco Maine. If you decide to take the train (<http://www.amtrak.com/trains/downeaster.html>) the train stations in Portland and Boston are not close to the airports so you will have to take a cab from the airport to the train station and then from the train station in Saco Maine to UNE. Renting a car is probably the better option and will give you the flexibility to travel throughout Maine before or after the workshop. Please car pool if possible. If you are going by the airport or train station you might want to give another participant a lift.

We will supply pencil, paper, tons of educational materials, food and lodging at the workshop. You will be working with a tremendous cadre of teachers from around the country and Ghana at the workshop and hopefully far into the future. Together we will share your teaching experiences and prepare for developing your own educational materials based on your experience at the workshop.

You will be staying in UNE dorm rooms, two people to a room. The dorm have rest rooms at the end of each hall. We will be only a few miles from Biddeford Maine

but I do not anticipate there being any time during the workshop to run to town for supplies. Meals will be family style and traditional cafeteria style. The dorm rooms do have sheets but no towels. Also, there is no internet service in the dorm rooms. UNE is on the Saco River Harbor near Hills Beach. If you have time before or after the workshop there is a lot to explore just in this part of Maine. The general information phone number at UNE is 207-283-0170. I do not carry a cell phone.

The weather in Maine can be fickle so I suggest that you pack for every eventuality from cool rain to hot sun. It will probably be between 50 and 75 degrees F. There will be ocean breezes which often make the mornings cool. Please also be aware that there are Lyme disease ticks in this area and we can discuss that more at UNE. For the current weather see <http://www.wunderground.com>

Things to bring-
rain coat/wellies or water shoes
sweater
personal items
camera
hat
wind breaker or light jacket
water bottle
sunscreen
bug spray
sun glasses
sneakers/sturdy shoes
day pack
bring your lap top if you have one

All of our field trips will be short (<3 miles with elevation gains of < 500') and sneakers or sturdy shoes should be adequate. We will be walking through fields and forests each day.

One of the goals for the workshop series is to help everyone utilize all of the educational materials available via the Wright Center and other sources. To do this we need to align the materials to your state

and national education standards, both science and non science. I know there are some common "threads" between all of our national/state standards that will help us help you to incorporate the educational materials into your classroom instruction. Please bring copies of your standards with you to the workshop. You might also want to bring a copy of your class curriculum to share with others. We have time scheduled at the workshop to talk and investigate the best ways to connect environmental materials to meet your needs/requirements.

The three main goals for the workshop are:

1. To encourage teachers to take a global systems approach when thinking about environmental change
2. To provide direct experience with environmental change research and education
3. To enhance networking with our international educators

The topics we will cover in this workshop are:

The biosphere

Changes in the biosphere, globally and especially in the local Wells area

GIS

Communicating about climate change

Developing student activities

underlying themes include:

Structure of the Earth System

Energy and energy transfer

Understanding climate data

I am looking forward to a very exciting time and look forward to meeting you all in Maine on the 27th.

Please do a little reading from the reading list. If you have not read the 70s classic Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance I believe you will enjoy it.

If you have any questions please give me a holler - and periodically check the IECWS web site for updates. Get psyched and have a great end of the school year.

Oh, and one more thing. Please take a couple minutes to calculate your environmental footprint. Warning - this may lead to changing your life style.

Cheers

Zach

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