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Preface

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Preface

Cover Page Footnote

Note: Copies of the previous nine volumes are still available from the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors. Contact <http://www.outdooredcoalition.org>

Preface

This tenth volume of *Research in Outdoor Education* is published by the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors (CEO) and an outgrowth of its Tenth Biennial CEO Research Symposium. Although CEO has existed for 24 years and the symposium for nearly 20, both are new to some people, making the background and progress of CEO worth recounting.

The Coalition for Education in the Outdoors (CEO) is a network of organizations, businesses, institutions, centers, agencies, and associations linked and communicating in support of the broad purpose of education in, for, and about the outdoors. CEO takes a board view of outdoor education and seeks not to duplicate or compete with the work of organizations, but to provide services not easily performed by other groups, most of which have a more special focus. This publication is an example of such a service.

That mission and the concept of a coalition were framed in 1987 at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cortland by a group of outdoor educators from around the country following a retreat at SUNY Cortland's Outdoor Education Center on Raquette Lake in the Adirondacks. That group included such legendary outdoor education scholars as Phyllis Ford and Cliff Knapp, widely respected practitioners as Judy Myer and Bud Eyermann, and emerging scholars as Camille Bunting and Rita Yerkes. Co-facilitating the meeting, I tried to listen well.

The CEO debuted in 1987 by partnering with the New York State Outdoor Education Association to sponsor "Outdoor Education Across America," a national conference attended by over 500 people from the U.S. and Canada. That same year, CEO launched *The CEO Newsletter*, which became *Taproot: A Journal of Outdoor Education* a few years later. While *Taproot* retained much of the newsletter's content, listing of conferences and resources for outdoor educators, it became better known for substantive and timely articles. Not a few outdoor educators first learned of Richard Louv's work through *Taproot*. The most recent issue celebrates the 150th anniversary of organized camping with an in-depth interview with Peg Smith, Executive Director of the American Camp Association, and a review of 80 years of camp research by Deb Bialeschki and Jim Sibthorp.

The founders of CEO envisioned that it could play an important role in addressing the research needs of the field. In its early years, CEO formed a research committee, which led to the organization of these biennial research symposia and the refereed publication now known as *Research in Outdoor Education*. The mission was clear; CEO assists outdoor educators in advancing the empirical, theoretical, and philosophical bases of outdoor education. It does so in several ways. First, the symposium enables scholars to present their work to one another and, through *Research in Outdoor Education*, to others in the field. Second, the symposium fosters conversations and builds a sense of community among researchers in outdoor education. Third, the symposium provides a forum to address areas of new or ongoing concern to researchers and scholars in outdoor education.

Over its twenty year history, the CEO Research Symposium has become a highly successful and highly anticipated event. Attendance has more than doubled. The number of papers presented has tripled. Fortunately, the event is still not too large. On the evaluations, attendees praise the high quality of papers, the warm and relaxed atmosphere, the presence of persons not seen at other conferences, and the "amazing interaction" throughout the weekend.

Not content to rest on past success, the CEO Research Committee continues to explore ways of improving our contributions to the field. Noting the increased number of papers presented at our symposium and at more recently established symposia of other organizations, the committee hopes to publish *Research in Outdoor Education* annually (or more often if possible). We also plan to improve electronic access to CEO publications through the CEO website, collaboration with other organizations, and databases such as EBSCO's Academic Search Complete.

I hope readers of this volume will join me in thanking some of the many people who make the research symposium and publication possible. The reviewers, the CEO Research Committee, and the authors, all listed later, are the ones who bring this program and publication to life. Anyone who has been to Bradford Woods knows what a wonderful place it is. We thank John Koenig and his staff who make getting there and being there so comfortable. Bradford Woods is an extension of the Department of Recreation and Park Administration at Indiana University, headed by Dave Compton. We thank that department, both faculty and students, for their continued support of Bradford Woods and the CEO Research Symposium. Routledge Publishers of the Taylor & Francis Group and Human Kinetics Publishers also provided support for the symposium. Amy Shellman, lead editor, guided the review process, timetable, and final editing with much grace and competence. Co-editors Sharon Todd and Jim Sibthorp played critical roles every step of the way. Finally, our thanks go to SUNY Cortland President, Erik Bitterbaum, and Provost, Mark Prus, for their continued support of the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors and to Charles Yapple and Angelique Bovee who keep it going.

Anderson Young
For the CEO Research Committee