

# Connecting to the Environment in Non-majors Ecology

**Mary Ann McLean**

St. Mary's University College, 14500 Bannister Rd, SE, Calgary AB T2X 1Z4 CAN

([maryann.mclean@stmu.ca](mailto:maryann.mclean@stmu.ca))

Students do not know species in their local ecosystems. Since environmental protection requires concerned and knowledgeable citizens, it is vital that non-majors ecology students learn about and appreciate their natural surroundings. Field notes following a walkabout accomplish these goals. In early fall, a local naturalist leads a walkabout in a park. We talk about everything we see or hear – birds, insects, plants, mammals. This has a profound effect on students, who begin to realize how much there is to see and hear. This prepares students to write field notes, which emphasize observations of the natural world and connections with lecture topics.

**Link to Original Poster:** [www.ableweb.org/volumes/vol-33/poster?art=48](http://www.ableweb.org/volumes/vol-33/poster?art=48)

---

## Mission, Review Process & Disclaimer

The Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) was founded in 1979 to promote information exchange among university and college educators actively concerned with biology learning and teaching in a laboratory setting. The focus of ABLE is to improve the undergraduate biology laboratory experience by promoting the development and dissemination of interesting, innovative, and reliable laboratory exercises. For more information about ABLE, please visit <http://www.ableweb.org/>

Papers published in *Tested Studies for Laboratory Teaching: Proceedings of the Conference of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education* are evaluated and selected by a committee prior to presentation at the conference, peer-reviewed by participants at the conference, and edited by members of the ABLE Editorial Board.

## Citing This Article

McLean, M.A. 2012. Connecting to the Environment in Non-majors Ecology. *Tested Studies for Laboratory Teaching*, Volume 33 (K. McMahon, Editor). Proceedings of the 33rd Conference of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE), 390 pages. <http://www.ableweb.org/volumes/vol-33/?art=48>

Compilation © 2012 by the Association for Biology Laboratory Education, ISBN 1-890444-15-4. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

ABLE strongly encourages individuals to use the exercises in this proceedings volume in their teaching program. If this exercise is used solely at one's own institution with no intent for profit, it is excluded from the preceding copyright restriction, unless otherwise noted on the copyright notice of the individual chapter in this volume. Proper credit to this publication must be included in your laboratory outline for each use; a sample citation is given above.