

Environmental-Education Goals Set

"Your environment is where you are," Dr. Jerry Underfer, of the University of Toledo, reminded participants in an environmental education meeting this week at Crosby Gardens.

Environment, therefore, can be man-made, it can be either urban or rural, Dr. Underfer said.

The meeting, 1 of 12 state-wide regional meetings, was cosponsored by Crosby Gardens and the Ohio Academy of Science. It was designed to give citizens a chance to help formulate a state-wide environmental education policy.

The participants for the afternoon session, about 30 men and women, included a

large number of educators and students, and a sprinkling of industry and special interest group representatives. An evening session also was held.

Following a series of slides on environmental concerns, and a worksheet to help raise the consciousness of the individual, participants divided into three discussion groups to help plan goals for environmental education.

Among the suggestions which resulted from the afternoon of discussion were:

That the group work to make environmental education a certifiable area for teachers;

That environmental education be incorporated into the entire curriculum, rather than be taught as a separate unit, and that it must not end in the school. To this end, there should be more in-service training for teachers, and more training to help individual citizens become better communicators about environmental problems;

That people must be convinced that time needs to be taken to educate themselves about the environment;

That a photographic pool or library on environment should be established;

That there is a need for training and experience in how to write grants.

Each participant was asked to fill out a questionnaire about environmental education, which will be compiled by the Ohio Academy of Science.

A follow-up meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. June 1 in Crosby Gardens. —Carole Williams.