

**June 3, 2005**

For immediate release

**International watershed seminar fosters cooperation**

Information below includes a seminar schedule indicating when the group will be in your area, and brief background on participants. Attendees are fluent in English and can be available for interviews.

For more information, to arrange interviews and photos or to accompany the group on a field visit, contact: Wes Halverson, GEM Watersheds Program Manager, 715-340-4212, cell; 346-3806, office.

More information about the GEM watersheds program is at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gem/intlwater/> and information about GEM is at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/GEM/programs.whatwedo.htm>

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STEVENS POINT – Wisconsin waters will provide the outdoor classroom for watershed managers from around the globe during the 4<sup>th</sup> International Seminar on Watershed Management, a 17-day field-based workshop designed to give participants tools they need to plan for the sustainable use of resources in their communities.

Scheduled for June 14-30, the seminar is sponsored by the USDA Forest Service Office of International Programs and conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Global Environmental Management Education Center (GEM).

This year's class will host 19 mid- and senior-level managers from 13 different countries, including China, Zimbabwe and war-torn Afghanistan.

The seminar will feature more than a dozen site visits, ranging from the Milwaukee River Watershed Restoration Project and a discussion of groundwater depletion issues, to Bayfield for a look at ecotourism and to Onalaska for a meeting with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources professionals working on the Upper Mississippi Watershed Management Initiative.

This year, for the first time, participants are taking an online course before arriving in Wisconsin, which will give them a head start on understanding the issues and give students and faculty a chance to learn a little about each other before they meet.

"Each year the program is getting stronger and stronger," said Wes Halverson, GEM Watersheds Program Manager. "The surprising thing is, we learn as much from the participants as they learn from us."

That's because the program includes ample time for discussion and requires each participant to make a presentation to the group about his or her home watershed.

Seminar themes include providing a global perspective of watershed management strategies; seeing watersheds as "nature's boundaries" where land and water resources are connected; management based on sound science; and partnership and stakeholder involvement.

Wisconsin is ideally suited to host this event, according to Victor Phillips, GEM Director. “We have 34,000 miles of rivers and 15,000 lakes within the state, and hundreds of miles of shoreline on two of the world’s Great Lakes, the Mississippi River on our western border, plus our buried treasure, our groundwater resources,” Phillips said.

Since the program’s inception in 2002, 59 people from nearly 30 countries have attended the seminars here in Wisconsin, sharing their knowledge and taking home new ideas. Ongoing partnerships have been forged with several of those participants. Three GEM Student Ambassadors from UWSP, for example, are currently working on a pilot project in the Kat River region of South Africa.

The International Watersheds Management Program is one of nearly a dozen programs at GEM that use practical, hands-on learning to help solve natural resource problems in Wisconsin and worldwide. GEM was launched in 2000 within the College of Natural Resources at UWSP with the goal of linking people internationally to work toward sustainable use of land and water resources.

Phillips, who conceived the GEM concept and serves as its founding director, stated, “The International Seminar on Watershed Management is a great example of how GEM and its partners globally work with local citizens to build a sustainable future—one stream segment, one farm field, one factory, one village at a time.”

#### Seminar participants for 2005:

Haixia Zheng	Assistant Professor	Institute of Agricultural Economics (CAAS)	Beijing	China
Ghad Mugiri	Senior Warden	Uganda Wildlife Authority	Kisoro	Uganda
Ismail Belen	Head of Department	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, General Directorate of Afforestation and Erosion Control	Ankara	Turkey
Bolivar Pou	Deputy Chief of Party	Academy of Educational Development		Panama
Carlos Andrade	Commissioner/OBSC Senior Official	Ministry of Water and Energy	Luanda	Angola
Jiang Sannai	Forestry Official	State Forestry Administration	Beijing	P.R. China
David Jorge Manuel	Agronomist, OBSC member	Ministry of Agriculture	Luanda	Angola
Valema Ziwase	Pollution and Environmental Officer	Zambezi River Authority	Kariba	Zimbabwe
Clarisa Jimenez Banelos	Bioculture Coordinator	Estudios Rurales Y Asesoría	Oaxaca	Mexico
Shimori Gabor	Chief Engineer for Buildings and Infrastructure	J.N.F. (KKL) Israel	Haifa 26103	Israel
Dr. Raed Jazi Al-Tabini	Head of Local Community Development	Badia Research and Development Center	Amman	Jordan
Fadi Awad Ameiryin	Reserve Manager	Mujib Reserve, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature		Jordan

Abdul Ghani Ghuriani	Director of Forest Improvement	Ministry of Agriculture Bebe Mehro Forestry Nursery Station	Kabul	Afghanistan
Waheed Ismail	Officer	Paghman Forest Nursery Station	Kabul	Afghanistan
Farooq Hassan	Technical Advisor		Kabul	Afghanistan
Jorge Luis De Olarte Tristan	President of CEETyDeS		Lima	Peru
Juan Andres Martin Carrillo	Coordinator of Forestry Projects	Agros Foundation		Guatemala
Nassim Abou Hamad	Agriculture and Irrigation Engineer Officer of International Cooperation	Litani River Authority	Jounieh	Lebanon
Anar Enkhbold	Department	Ministry of Nature and Environment	Ulaanbaatar-11A	Mongolia

### **4th International Seminar on Watershed Management**

**June 14-June 30, 2005**

#### **Tentative Schedule of Events**

**Escorts: Wes Halverson: (715) 340-4212 cellular 346-3806 office**

**Wes.Halverson@uwsp.edu**

**UWSP Project Assistant: Marlo Jenson (715) 346-4754**

**Marlo.Jenson@uwsp.edu**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Lodging/Locations</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>
June 14 Tuesday	Arrival at Milwaukee General Mitchell Airport. UWSP shuttle from airport or travelers can use the Airport Connection (800) 236-5450 for \$10 located near baggage carousels #2 and #3. Hospitality room will be open all day and evening.	The Astor Hotel (*&***) in downtown Milwaukee at 920 E. Juneau Ave Hospitality Suite and 28 rooms reserved.	<b>Cynthia Smith</b> (catering and meeting rooms) (414) 283-4827
June 15 Wednesday	8-12:00 Orientation and Introductions: <b>Geography of Wisconsin and WI Tour Route. Introduce the Wingspread Model for Watershed Management</b> (Continental breakfast) <b>12-2:00</b> Free Time <b>2:00</b> Tour Milwaukee River Watershed Restoration Project, stormwater management, and groundwater depletion issues. <b>7:00-9:00</b> Dinner at the Astor Hotel. Keynoter: <b>Tom Davenport</b> , US-EPA International Watershed Scientist	Conference Room at The Astor Hotel for morning orientation and evening dinner. USFS Russell A. LaFayette Regional Hydrologist, Water Quality Program Manager; Mike Chaveas, USFS International Programs.	<b>Janette Marsh</b> , EPA Region 5 Associate Director of Watersheds & Sustainable Development is the tour contact person. (312) 886-4856
June 16 Thursday	<b>7-8:00</b> Check out of Astor Hotel <b>8-9:30</b> Travel to a Discovery Farm between Milwaukee and Appleton. Tour agricultural landscape and discuss <b>“Wisconsin Dairy Agriculture, Change and Water Quality Impacts”</b>	Overnight in Appleton at Wingate Inn (*&***) 300 North Mall Drive (920) 993-1200	<b>George Kraft</b> , Director of UWSP Watershed Center (715) 346-2964 will coordinate with Fred Madison and Dennis Frame (UW-EX Discovery Farms)

June 17 Friday	<b>9:00</b> Superfund cleanup operation to remove toxic chemicals deposited in the Fox River by industrial operations (paper mills) and river restoration work after the cleanup.	Overnight in Appleton at the Wingate Inn.	<b>Linda Stoll</b> , Environmental Consultant will organize tour (920) 725-7321
June 18 Saturday	<b>9:00</b> Check out and drive to Custer: Tour the Midwest Alternative Energy Fair (lunch out there) Evening Barbecue (CNR/GEM faculty invited)	Comfort Suites (**) 300 Division Street North in Stevens Point. (715) 341-6000	Evening Barbecue at the <b>Halverson</b> residence, 430 West Mapleridge Drive near Jackson Elementary (715) 344-6877
June 19 Sunday	Sunday morning off for rest or church visit. <b>12:00</b> Meet CNR faculty and staff for luncheon picnic at Schmeckle Reserve and home visits in the afternoon. Some people will travel out to Little Wolf River for overnight at the Shoup residence near Big Falls.	Comfort Suites	Jane and Stefan Shoup (NEWLT) and <b>Jim and Mary</b> Hlaban (Fox Valley TU and Friends of the Little Wolf Headwaters) (920) 244-7456
June 20 Monday	10:00 Morning tour of UWSP Watershed Center (WEAL) and afternoon tour of Whiting Drinking Water Treatment Plant (nitrogen removal). Luncheon with WEAL staff and GEM student ambassadors.	Comfort Suites	<b>Richard Stevens and Bill DeVita</b> on WEAL services to home owners and water researchers. Someone else will lead Whiting tour.
June 21 Tuesday	<b>9:00</b> Check out and travel to Menominee Reservation for sustainable forestry tour. Native American philosophy of resource management	Holiday Express (*&***) in Rhinelander, 668 W. Kemp Street near Hwy 8 and Hwy 47 (715) 369-3600	Menominee contacts: Mike Schuessler <b>Marshall Pecore</b> (715-799-3896, Ext. 2222) Matt Duval
June 22 Wednesday	<b>8:00</b> Check out and travel to Chequamegon National Forest (federal protected area) for tour of multiple use forest management strategies, then travel up to Ashland and Lake Superior that afternoon.	American Inn (*&***) of Ashland, 3009 Lakeshore Drive (715) 682-9950	Main USFS contact: <b>Dale Higgins</b> (715-762-2461, Ext. (181) fax (715) 762-5179 with <b>Sue Reinecke</b> , Ann Archie and Randy Moore (Region 9) (414- 297-3765)
June 23 Thursday	<b>8:00</b> Check out and drive up to Bayfield for Apostle Island Cruise (Lake Superior National Seashore) and visit the Great Lakes Visitors Center on return from Bayfield. Ecotourism destination and International Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact (Annex 2001) 7 states and 2 provinces of Canada. <b>4:00</b> Join Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) conference in Cable for presentation and evening barbecue.	Telemark Resort (***) in Cable, 42225 Telemark Road (715) 798-3999	Contact <b>Mike Kroenke</b> , UWEX Basin Educator (715) 685-2674  <b>John Haack</b> , UWEX St. Croix Basin Educator arranged WAL participation. (715) 635-7406
June 24 Friday	Morning WAL keynote speech by Mike Dombeck (UWSP faculty). <b>11:00</b> Check out and leave for Excelsior Company erosion materials testing facility in Rice Lake. Evening outdoor fish boil dinner at Blue Hills Inn near Rice Lake with Excelsior staff and leaders of the Long Lake Preservation Association.	Microtel Inn and Suites (***) in Rice Lake. 2771 Decker Drive off of Hwy 53, Exit 140 (715) 736-2010	<b>Kurt Kelsey</b> (Excelsior) (715) 236-5643  Eric Olson (UWSP/LLPA) 346-2278

June 25 Saturday	<b>8:00</b> Check out and travel to LaCrosse and visit Mississippi River Lock 9 (Dresbach Dam) in the afternoon. <b>7:15 pm</b> Dinner Cruise on the Island Girl Cruiseline	Hampton Inn (*&***) in Onalaska, 308 Hampton Court off Interstate 90 (608) 779-5000	Barry Johnson, USGS <b>Samuel Osinde</b> , WI-DNR Upper Mississippi Forestry Partnerships
June 26 Sunday	Morning free for rest or church visit. Luncheon with WI-DNR folks working on Upper Mississippi Watershed Management Initiative. Afternoon visit to Wyalusing State Park south of Prairie du Chien.	Hampton Inn Onalaska	<b>Scott Johnson</b> , WI-DNR contact for Wyalusing State Park
June 27 Monday	<b>8:00</b> Check out and visit Coon Valley Soil and Water Conservation District in the morning and travel to Madison in the afternoon. Stop at Taliesin in Spring Green to visit Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural school.	Best Western Inn on the Park (*&***) , downtown Madison 22 S. Carroll Street near capital. (800) 279-8811	<b>Jeff Hastings</b> , Conservationist for Vernon County (608) 637-5477 with Kelly Jacobs
June 28 Tuesday	State government day and statewide NGO leaders meeting on outcomes of 2003 Year of Water and new initiative on the Changing Landscapes of Rural Wisconsin <b>9:00-11:30 am Pyle Center; 11:30-12:30 lunch Pyle Center; 1:00 Capitol Tour; 2:00-5:00 meet with legislatures GAR Room in the capital building.</b>	Best Western Inn on the Park	Contacts: <b>Pyle Center</b> (Gail) (608)-262-0881; <b>Capitol Tour</b> (608)-266-1485; Mark at Louis Molepske's office for the <b>GAR Room</b> (608) 267-9649 <b>Stan Grusznski</b> , (contact 715-346-3767) UWSP Rural Initiative
June 29 Wednesday	<b>8:00</b> Check out and travel back to Milwaukee. Luncheon and awards ceremony at the hotel. Afternoon for final sightseeing and shopping.	Best Western of Milwaukee (*&***) at 5105 South Howell Ave near airport (414) 831-3655	
June 30 Thursday	Travel to Denver, Colorado. Free shuttle from the Best Western Hotel.	Milwaukee General Mitchell Airport	
July 1-5	Tour arid landscapes around Denver with the USFS Inventory and Monitoring Institute Staff		<b>Chuck Troendle</b> , USFS contact person in Denver
July 6	Return flights back home from the Denver Airport		

**Useful Web sites: More Information**

- **Alternative Energy Fair:** [http://www.the-mrea.org/energy\\_fair.php](http://www.the-mrea.org/energy_fair.php)
- **Chequamegon National Forest:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/>
- **Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection:** <http://datcp.state.wi.us/index.html>
- **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:** <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/>
- **United States Geological Survey in Wisconsin:** <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/>