

## Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network Newsletter November 2008

Greetings! I'm pleased to announce that the Wisconsin Environmental Science Course Framework and associated digital resource library are now complete. These resources were created by Wisconsin environmental science teachers and are available to you for FREE. [Check them out!](#) Please contact me with any questions or visit our web site for more information: [www.uwsp.edu/wcee/envsci](http://www.uwsp.edu/wcee/envsci).  
~ *Sunshine Buchholz*, Network Coordinator (sbuchhol@uwsp.edu)

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### News

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- 1) **2008 Environmental Science Teacher Summit a Success!**  
The first statewide gathering of the Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network was held Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at UW-Stevens Point. The theme of the day was *Sharing Successes, Exploring New Ideas*. The successful event had a great turn out of nearly 100 participants. A major outcome was of the Summit was the unveiling of the new [Wisconsin Environmental Science Course Framework and associated Digital Resource Library](#). For a summary of the day including photos, the keynote addresses, PowerPoints and handouts from presenters visit: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/summit.htm>
- 2) **National Environmental Science Teaching Award Winner – Pat Arndt, Berlin Area School District**  
Pat Arndt of Berlin High School is recipient of the 2008 Ecology/Environmental Science Teaching Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). This award is given to a secondary school teacher who has successfully developed and demonstrated an innovative approach in the teaching of ecology/environmental science and has carried his/her commitment to the environment into the community. Congratulations Pat!
- 3) **2008 Governor's High School Conference on the Environment – Impressive Student Presentations**  
The 17<sup>th</sup> Governor's High School Conference on the Environment was a huge success with over 350 participants. The event was held in the Dreyfus University Center at UW-Stevens Point on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Forty one schools from across Wisconsin sent representatives to explore "Student Power: Conserving Your Future with Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy." In addition to 15 professional presentations, eight student groups gave presentations on projects they are conducting on topics ranging from biodiesel to school building efficiency to alternative transportation. Energy-related careers were explored throughout the day as students networked with one another, energy professionals, and post-secondary school representatives. Learn more on the conference web site: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/youthconference/>

#### 4) **International News: Ecuador Gives Nature Legal Rights**

In late September, Ecuador scored a victory for Mother Nature (or *Pachamama* as she is called by the indigenous people) by becoming the first country in the world to establish a Bill of Rights for the environment. Initial results say that 65 percent of Ecuadorians voted to approve a new constitution that includes a bill to grant inalienable rights to nature, blending Western modes of legal thought with native Ecuadorian respect for the natural world. Read more:

[http://www.plentymag.com/thecurrent/2008/09/ecuador\\_gives\\_nature\\_legal\\_rig.php](http://www.plentymag.com/thecurrent/2008/09/ecuador_gives_nature_legal_rig.php) and  
<http://www.celdf.org/Default.aspx?tabid=548>

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#### **Events**

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#### 5) **2009 Wisconsin Envirothon – Biodiversity in a Changing World**

The 2009 Envirothon will be held Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI. Registration is due by March 25, 2009. The Envirothon provides a unique opportunity for students to learn about and compete on their knowledge of natural resources. Learning objectives, which cover over 50% of the state's science and environmental education academic standards, are available to team leaders as a guide to facilitate the learning process and assist the team in their preparation for the event. Full information: <http://www.wlwca.org/> under WLWCA Programs – Youth & Education – Wisconsin Envirothon.

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#### **Resources and Opportunities**

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#### 6) **Completed Wisconsin Environmental Science Course Framework**

After months of hard work and revision, the Wisconsin Environmental Science Course Framework is complete and available for free download. The framework outlines an ideal year-long high school environmental science course. Topics in the framework are prioritized to help in planning courses of varied length and include ecological principles, human systems, energy, air, land, water, and living resources. Thank you to all the educators who helped develop the Framework! Download the framework: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/Framework/Overview/index.htm>

#### 7) **Environmental Science Digital Library**

A resource library has been created online to support the Wisconsin Environmental Science Course Framework. Resources include activities; assessment strategies; labs; web sites; and video, field trip, and guest speaker suggestions. Use of the materials is free and postings include teaching suggestions. The strength of this library depends on your contributions so post your best environmental science resources today. Library access: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/Framework/Overview/index.htm>

#### 8) **Environmental Education Grants Available – proposals due February 14, 2009**

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is seeking proposals for the 2009-2010 grant cycle. The Board anticipates awarding \$85,000 for general environmental education grants, \$190,000 for forestry grants, \$190,000 for school forest grants, and \$38,000 for energy education grants. Projects must be designed for Wisconsin residents and assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education (EE). Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, nonstock) are eligible for WEEB grants. **Proposals are due February 14, 2009.** For an application packet or more information about the program see the Board's website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb> or contact Ginny Carlton, Administrative Specialist, at 715-346-3805, email: [weeb@uwsp.edu](mailto:weeb@uwsp.edu).

#### 9) **EE Grant Writing Workshop – December 11**

There is a WEEB grant writing workshop being held at the CESA 7 Office in Green Bay on Thursday, December 11 for individuals affiliated with a school district, nature center, or non-profit organization interested in submitting a WEEB grant proposal for a forestry education or school forest education project and educators in the Focus on Energy territory interested in energy grants. More information: <http://eeinwisconsin.org/net/calendar/details.aspx?c=1404741&s=77834.0.0.2209>

#### 10) **Bright Idea Fundraiser**

Sign up for KEEP's popular Bright Idea Fundraiser, in which students sell ENERGY STAR® compact

fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and LED holiday lights. Energy efficient bulbs help reduce air pollution emissions from power plants so the fundraiser is a great way to help the environment. Students earn \$2 for every CFL sold and \$3 for every LED holiday light sold. There are a limited number of spots left so sign up today! For more information:

[http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep/StudentInvolvement/CFL\\_Fundraiser/BIF.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep/StudentInvolvement/CFL_Fundraiser/BIF.htm)

**11) Wisconsinites' Opinions on Environmental Issues – Spring 2008 Badger Poll Results**

The spring 2008 Badger Poll asked Wisconsin residents about a variety of environmental issues. Results show 66% of Wisconsinites rate the natural environment of the state as excellent or good. Most Wisconsinites currently do not believe that climate change will be extremely problematic (only 18%). Nearly one-third believe climate change will not be problematic at all or only slightly problematic in the state. For full results visit: [http://www.uwsc.wisc.edu/BP26PressRelease3\\_ENV2008.pdf](http://www.uwsc.wisc.edu/BP26PressRelease3_ENV2008.pdf). Have your students conduct a poll and see how results in your school compare.

**12) Online Water Cycle Diagram**

The USGS offers a comprehensive web site about the water cycle which features a good diagram of the water cycle and an in-depth discussion of each of the 15 topics on the diagram.

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html>

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This email was generated by the Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network at UW-Stevens Point.

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