

Contact: Kevin Masarik, 715-346-4276

Email: kmasarik@uwsp.edu

Entry Date: January 2010

File Under: Environment, Water, Conferences/Workshop,

GROUNDWATER MODELS AWARDED TO EDUCATORS

GREEN BAY, SPOONER, MT. HOREB – Twenty-four Wisconsin educators recently were awarded sand-tank groundwater models for their school or nature center. The model is a plexiglass tank filled with sand that enables students to see groundwater – Wisconsin’s buried treasure. Colored dye is used to show the direction that groundwater moves and can also be used to represent various pollutants as they travel throughout groundwater aquifers.

The models have been described as a “necessity for groundwater education” and “the best visual aid available to teach about a resource that you normally can’t see” by some teachers who have previously attended these workshops. They are a great addition to any science curriculum.

In addition to receiving the models, teachers attended a one-day workshop that provided instruction on using the model incorporating additional groundwater activities into their classrooms. Groundwater specialists from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin-Extension all contributed in hosting the workshops.

Since 2001, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has teamed up with staff from UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey to give away groundwater models to Wisconsin schools and nature centers. To date, more than 200 groundwater models have been incorporated into Wisconsin’s schools and nature centers. The workshops have been an effective way to educate Wisconsin’s future leaders about an important resource which 95% of Wisconsin communities rely on as their principle water supply. The workshops are supported by funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Wellhead Protection funds.

Three groundwater model workshops were held on January 20, January 27, and February 3, 2010. Representatives from the following schools and nature centers attended the workshops:

Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Green Bay Botanical Garden, Greenville Middle School, Hortonville Middle School, Hortonville High School, Oneida Nation School System, Port Washington High School, Riverveiw Academy High School, Seymour High School, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Washington Island School and Nature Center, Drummond Area School District, Flambeau School District, Hudson Middle School, Northwestern Middle School Spooner High School, Whitehall Memorial High School, Rib Lake High School Stanton Mead Education and Visitor Center, Belmont School District, Central Wisconsin Environmental Center, Mead School, Rufus King High School, Mitchell Elementary School, Port Edwards School District, Randall Consolidated School, Severson Learning Center, Walworth County Extension , Westby Area High School, Oak Creek Middle School

For more information on the groundwater model teacher workshops please contact Kevin Masarik at 715-346-4276.