

Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network Newsletter May 2008

Greetings! As you make summer plans I hope you include the Environmental Science Teacher Summit in Stevens Point on August 19th. I look forward to meeting many of you in person at that exciting event. Please contact me with any questions or visit our web site for more information: www.uwsp.edu/wcee/envsci.
~ Sunshine Buchholz, Network Coordinator (sbuchhol@uwsp.edu)

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News

- 1) **St. Catherine's High School Environmental Club – Tackling Invasives and Monitoring Bats**
St. Catherine's High School Environmental Club (advisor Melissa Warner) continues to remove invasive plant species in Colonial Park - a 75 acre area of Racine they want to keep native. The group worked on Earth Day and will have another work day in May. This has been an ongoing project and in 2005 the club received the Invader Crusader award for their work from the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. The Invader Crusader Award was created to honor Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to the prevention or eradication of invasive species that harm Wisconsin's land and waters.

The club has also proposed an ongoing project with the Wisconsin DNR to monitor bat populations. Grants have been written to secure the needed equipment. They will present their bat monitoring plans at the REC (Root River Environmental Education Center) opening May 3. The new center is a joint venture (City of Racine and UW-Parkside) and aims to bring residents of all ages "Back to the Root." Bat monitoring and education is just one of many activities that will take place at the center.

- 2) **Call for Student Presenters - 2008 Governor's High School Conference on the Environment**
High school students are invited to present at the 2008 Governor's High School Conference on the Environment. This annual event will be held **Wednesday, November 12, 2008** in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. This year's theme – *Student Power: Conserving Your Future with Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy* – will provide opportunities for students to share what they are doing in their schools and communities to make energy use more sustainable. We are seeking students to present projects they have conducted as part of class work, independent research, or club activities. Energy projects include experiments, research, and community action plans. Find an online form for submitting presentation information on the conference web site at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/youthconference. **Proposals due May 30, 2008.** For questions, please contact Jennie Lane at jlane@uwsp.edu.

Events

3) 2008 Environmental Science Teacher Summit – Registration Now Open!

How can you go wrong with \$5.00 registration (after stipend; includes lunch), \$24.00 lodging and breakfast, \$150.00 graduate credit, and a chance to win a trip to South Africa? This is your opportunity to network with other environmental science teachers in Wisconsin!

The Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network invites you to its inaugural gathering – *Sharing Successes, Exploring New Ideas* on **August 19, 2008** in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. This day long event will celebrate environmental science education in Wisconsin. The target audience is high school level educators from Wisconsin who teach environmental science, ecology, natural resources, or related courses. Stakeholders who work with environmental science teachers are encouraged to participate.

State Superintendent, Elizabeth Burmaster, will provide the introductory address and George Meyer, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, is the keynote speaker. Morning sessions include Quality Resources; Developing Student Action Projects; Teaching Current Issues; and Addressing Sustainability. Afternoon sessions will highlight ecological principles, human systems, energy, air, land, water, and living resources/biodiversity through a resource exchange. All participants will receive a copy of the newly developed Wisconsin Environmental Science Course Framework.

A pre-event environmental science geocaching activity and campfire social will be held at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) the evening of August 18th. A lodging and breakfast package is available at CWES for only \$24.00. Graduate credit for attending the Summit is available through UWSP for only \$150.00. Fabulous door prizes will be given away including a Global Environmental Teachings travel experience in South Africa in the summer of 2009!

To register for the event, visit: www.uwsp.edu/wcee/summit. Registration is only \$40.00 and \$35.00 travel stipends are available to classroom teachers. If you have questions please contact Sunshine Buchholz, event coordinator, at sbuchhol@uwsp.edu or 715-346-2014.

4) Funds Available for High School Teachers to Attend ESA Meeting

On Wednesday, August 6, 2008 there will be a High School Educators' Ecological Literacy and Research Day held during the Ecological Society of America's (ESA) 93rd Annual Meeting in Milwaukee. The theme of the meeting is "Enhancing Ecological Thought by Linking Research and Education." Applications are now being accepted for travel funds from high school teachers interested in attending the ESA annual meeting. Grant recipients will be expected to participate in the Educator Day events where you will meet other educators, receive teaching resources, and interact with ecologists. Awards are for reimbursement of conference registration and travel expenses. Priority will be given to applicants who attend the full conference. The average award will be \$250. Please submit your application to Christopher Beck, Chair of the Education Section at christopher.beck@emory.edu. More information about the educator event can be found on the ESA web site: http://www.esa.org/milwaukee/highschool_educators.php. **Application due May 19, 2008.**

5) 19th Annual Energy Fair

Attend the 19th annual Energy Fair **June 20-22, 2008** at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) headquarters ReNew the Earth Institute in Custer, WI. Each summer the Energy Fair transforms rural Custer, WI into the global hot spot for renewable energy education. The Energy Fair is the world's largest renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living educational event of its kind. The Energy Fair features hundreds of workshops and exhibits all emphasizing clean energy & sustainable living and is fun for the whole family. In 2007, the Energy Fair hosted over 19,500 attendees. The Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) hosts the Educator Tents and hopes to see you there! Learn more at: http://www.the-mrea.org/energy_fair.php.

Resources and Opportunities

6) Dragonfly Exoskeletons

A message from environmental science teacher Matt Berg: "I'm cleaning out my lab and I have thousands of identified dragonfly exoskeletons from the St. Croix River study we did a couple of years ago. Would you like a labeled set of dragonfly exoskeletons? They might be a nice teaching tool. I will have my advanced research class put together some sets if anyone wants them." To obtain the dragonfly exoskeletons, contact: Matt Berg, Grantsburg High School Biology Department; mberg@grantsburg.k12.wi.us.

7) From Forest to Finish: A Community-based Learning Course for Educators

The LEAF Program and the Wisconsin Forest Resources Education Alliance are offering three-day, community-based learning courses for 4th-12th grade teachers and non-formal educators. The workshops will apply project-based learning methods to research the question "What is the environmental impact of using wood products?" Participants will conduct forest research, develop a forest management plan, harvest trees, and process lumber. The course will provide information, model activities, and development tools to help participants create interdisciplinary, standards-based forestry field programs at their school forests. One graduate credit is available for additional cost.

Where and When: Reedsburg School Forest - July 21-23, 2008; Elcho School Forest - August 11-13, 2008

Registration: \$30 will include food (prepared on-site by the group), lodging (camping at Reedsburg School Forest, dorm bunks at Elcho School Forest), and curriculum resources. The first 10 registrants in each workshop will receive \$100 credit scholarships. For information and registration visit:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/educators/calendar.shtml>. **Registration due May 30, 2008.**

8) KEEP Courses at UWSP this July

NRES 730 Energy Education in the Classroom: Through hands-on activities and class discussions, learn how you can enhance your students' understanding of what energy is, where it comes from, and how it affects their lives. You will also receive a copy of KEEP's comprehensive, easy-to-use Energy Education Activity Guide which features various teaching strategies and assessment techniques to reach students with a broad range of abilities. Teachers be introduced to additional energy-related educational materials. This course is for teachers who want to experience it today and teach it tomorrow. To obtain a registration form email energy@uwsp.edu.

Dates/Times: **Monday, July 14 - Thursday, July 17 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Cost: \$75 with a scholarship from your school's electric utility provider. Contact Jamie Mollica to see if your school qualifies: jamie.mollica@uwsp.edu or 715.346.4818.

NRES 732 Renewable Energy Education in the Classroom: This course offers the next step in renewable energy hands-on activities, class discussions, and classroom based application to help teachers analyze energy information and create strategies and techniques to enhance their students' understanding of energy. The course will highlight renewable energy curriculum designed for K-12 teachers to use in their classroom. To obtain a registration form email energy@uwsp.edu.

Dates/Times: **Monday, July 14 - Thursday, July 17 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

Cost: \$75 with a scholarship from your school's electric utility provider. Contact Jamie Mollica to see if your school qualifies: jamie.mollica@uwsp.edu or 715.346.4818.

9) Online Course – Environmental Science Education: Summer Ecological Field Studies

This course is designed for educators of children in grades 6-12 to learn and practice basic ecological field techniques and integrate them into their instruction. This course focuses on summer field ecological studies including stream, forest, plant and bird studies. All studies will be completed outdoors in your local environment. A wide variety of field study techniques will be presented and the participants will share the results of the studies. Basic ecological concepts will be presented in the context of the field studies. **May 27-July 6, 2008.** Time commitment: 20-25 hours per week. Cost: \$804.45. More information: <http://btc.montana.edu/courses.aspx?TheID=226> **Teaching Resource - Exploring**

10) Teaching Resource - Environmental Issues: Biodiversity

This secondary module uses biodiversity as a window through which secondary students investigate the environment. It permits educators and students to step back from specific issues to examine broader concepts and larger connections-not just biological, but political, cultural, ethical, and economic as well. Students learn that decisions about growth and development, about energy use and water quality, even about health, all rest to some extent on perspectives about biodiversity. Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity was developed by Project Learning Tree (PLT) in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund

(WWF). Educators are permitted to download, print, and use any of the online materials. More information and download: http://plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_16.html.

11) EE in Wisconsin – New Web Site Resource

Don't miss out on this great environmental education (EE) resource...EE in Wisconsin is your online portal to EE information in Wisconsin. Find events, organizations, teaching resources, grants, jobs, and more on this new web site. The search features help you find resources and events by topic or location. Don't know where to begin? Sign up for the electronic newsletter and receive a summary of all the latest environmental education information from around Wisconsin. There is even a section for schools to highlight their environmental education and green and healthy schools successes. Visit: www.eeinwisconsin.org today!

12) Worldometers – World Statistics Updated in Real Time

The information on this web site changes before your eyes. Watch the world population grow or see how much top soil has eroded this year. You'll find up to the second statistics related to the government and economics, education and media, the environment, food, water, energy, and health. Visit: <http://www.worldometers.info/>

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

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