

# “STAFF FAVORITES” ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (02/03)

The following list consists of resources from a variety of topics, all selected because of their all-around excellence. Many are consistent favorites for teachers and WCEE staff alike. Of course, our shelves are full of many more great resources, so please call or visit the WCEE for assistance and/or additional information. All materials listed below are available for loan at the WCEE Resources Library.

## Getting Started in Environmental Education

**Environmental Education in the Schools: Creating a Program that Works** by Judy Braus and David Wood. Peace Corps Information and Exchange, Washington, DC. (1993).

*A great general EE guide. Includes EE background, teaching strategies, planning, evaluation, and many sample activities. Very comprehensive!*

Grade levels: K-12

Length: 500 pages

WCEE call number: AC EG 73

**A Guide to Curriculum Planning in Environmental Education** by David Engleson and Dennis Yockers. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Madison, WI. (1994).

*A Wisconsin-focused EE curriculum guide. Covers background, rationale, mandates, EE goals, educational theory, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Very readable. Comprehensive yet manageable.*

Grade levels: Adult (reference)

Length: 170 pages

WCEE call number: BA EE 83

**Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education** by John Fortier.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Madison, WI. (1998).

*Wisconsin's 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade performance standards for Environmental Education.*

Grade levels: Adult (reference)

Length: 16 pages

WCEE call number: DPI AS 7

**Environmental Education Materials: Guidelines for Excellence.** North American Association for Environmental Education, Troy, OH. (1996).

*NAAEE's suggested guidelines for evaluation of EE materials being considered for classroom use. Additionally, the NAAEE has used these guidelines to evaluate numerous resources, and these reviews can be found in The Environmental Collection: A Review of Resources for Educators Volumes 1-3 (DIR RES 22 vol. 1-3) and a separate biodiversity issue, The Biodiversity Collection (DIR BD 1).*

Grade levels: Adult (reference)

Length: 23 pages

WCEE call number: BA EE 81

# Teaching Activity Guides

**KEEP Energy Education Activity Guide.** Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, Stevens Point, WI. (1995).

Main topic: energy education

*Makes the sometimes intimidating topic of energy understandable to students of all ages.*

*Organized by themes and grade levels to facilitate use in finding appropriate activities.*

*Comprehensive.*

Grade levels: K-12      Length: 44 activities, 800 pages      WCEE call number: AC EN 164

**Project Learning Tree** by the Western Regional Environmental Education Council, et. al. American Forest Foundation, Washington, DC. (1993).

Main topic: general, but focus on forests and forestry

*One of the most-used environmental education activity guides. Comprehensive, well-developed, and usable. Can be used with a variety of environmental education units, but especially those related to forests and forestry.*

Grade levels: PreK-8      Length: 96 lessons, 402 pages      WCEE call number: AC EG 158

**Project WILD** and **Project WILD Aquatic** by Project WILD. Council for Environmental Education, Houston, TX. (2000).

Main topic: general, but focus on wildlife

*One of the definitive activity/curricula guides in environmental education. Numerous subjects, learning styles, topics, etc. covered. Very usable format.*

Grade levels: K-12      Length: 526 and 260 pages      WCEE call number: AC WL 3 and AC WR 2

**Project WET** and **WET in the City** by The Council for Environmental Education. Council for Environmental Education, Houston, TX. (2002).

Main topic: aquatic systems

*Like Projects Wild and Learning Tree, these are two of the most used and usable, comprehensive EE activity guides.*

Grade levels: K-12      Length: 517 and 484 pages      WCEE call number: AC WR 56 and 50

**Wisconsin Forests Forever** by Beth Mittermaier. Wisconsin Forest Resources Education Alliance, Rhinelander, WI. (2000).

Main topic: forest education

*A usable, Wisconsin-focused activity guide that covers the ecological, economic, and management aspects of Wisconsin forests. Also includes a well-produced interactive CD-ROM.*

Grade levels: 4-6      Length: 115 pages      WCEE call number: AC FOR 27

**Windows on the Wild: Biodiversity Basics (Teacher and Student Editions)** by The World Wildlife Fund. Acorn Naturalists, Tustin, CA. (1999).

Main topic: general, but focus on biodiversity

*Developed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), this may be the most comprehensive and usable biodiversity activity guide for the middle school level. Also includes numerous helpful appendices for additional information and cross-referencing.*

Grade levels: 5-9      Length: 34 activities, 477 pages      WCEE call number: AC BD 8

**The Growing Classroom** by Roberta Jaffe and Gary Appel. Dale Seymour, Parsippany, NJ. (1990).

Main topic: garden-based education

*Divided into two main units: Science and Nutrition. Themes covered include Cycles and Changes, Interdependence, Garden Ecology, Food Choices, Nutrients, Consumerism, and many more. The multi- and interdisciplinary activities are laid out in a consistent and usable format, with additional resources lists provided.*

Grade levels: K-6

Length: 480 pages

WCEE call number: AC PL 18

**Earth Matters: Studies for Our Global Future.** Zero Population Growth, Washington, DC. (1991).

Main topic: population

*Organizes activities around 13 student readings. Topics include energy issues, education of women, population dynamics, food and hunger, and more. Usable format.*

Grade levels: 9-12

Length: 32 activities, 177 pages

WCEE call number: AC HP 28

## Videos

**Bill Nye the Science Guy (Series).** Disney Educational Productions, Elk Grove Village, IL.

*Collections from the popular and fast-paced children's show. Each release contains two episodes. The following are available: "Heat" and "Energy" (AV EN 67); "Magnetism" and "Static Electricity" (AV EN 70); "The Sun" and "The Planets" (AV EN 66); "Waves" and "Wind" (AV EN 65); "Friction" and "Simple Machines" (AV EN 64); "Atoms" and "Motion" (AV EN 68); "Electrical Current" and "Light & Optics" (AV EN 69); "Food Web" and "Ocean Life" (AV ECO 14); "Nutrition" and "Populations" (AV ECO 15); "Biodiversity" and "Garbage" (AV BD 11); "Earth's Seasons" and "Climates" (AV EG 52); "Pollution Solutions" and "Archaeology" (AV PU 7); "Plants" and "Forests" (AV PL 2); "Wetlands" and "Rivers & Streams" (AV WR 32); "Water Cycle" and "Oceanography" (AV WR 33); "Lakes & Ponds" and "Caves" (AV WR 34).*

Grade levels: 4-9

Length: Approx. 45 minutes each

WCEE call number: See above

**World Population.** Population Connection, Washington, DC. (2000).

*A classic visual demonstration of the progression of human population/exponential growth. Excellent discussion starter on the topic of population.*

Grade levels: 4-12

Length: 7 minutes

WCEE call number: AV HP 1

**The Cost of Cool.** Video Project, San Francisco, CA. (2001).

*Teenagers grapple with what it means to be "cool" and the environmental price we have to pay to have the latest stuff. Does a good job of refraining from criticism while still encouraging reflection about patterns and motives of consumption.*

Grade levels: 5-12

Length: 26 minutes

WCEE call number: AV LS 15

**Baraka.** MPI Home Video. (1995).

*A visual tour of the diversity of the human population accompanied only by an instrumental soundtrack. Can be used as the seed for discussions of overpopulation, cultural diversity, religion, and more. Quite compelling.*

Grade levels: 5-12

Length: 96 minutes

WCEE call number: AV HP 8

## Books for Youth

**The Lorax** by Dr. Suess. Random House, New York, NY. (1971).

*Fiction. A classic Dr. Suess story about overuse and abuse of natural resources. The ending leaves much room for classroom discussion, especially about topics in sustainability. A video is also available (AV EG 1).*

Grade levels: PreK-12

Length: 60 pages

WCEE call number: BY EG 9

**The Salamander Room** by Anne Mazer. Knopf, New York, NY. (1991).

*Fiction. A boy takes ownership of a salamander to keep as a pet, only to find that its true home is the nature from which it originally came. An excellent springboard for classroom discussion of a variety of topics.*

Grade levels: PreK-4

Length: 24 pages

WCEE call number: BY WL A 1

**Window** by Jeannie Baker. Greenwillow Books, New York, NY. (1991).

*Fiction. A stunningly visual, wordless book focusing on development issues. Collages depict the view from a boy's window from his birth through the time when he moves his family into his own house—a place that outside looks strikingly similar to the original view before development.*

Grade levels: PreK-4

Length: 28 pages

WCEE call number: BY LU 1

**Chipmunk Song** by Joanne Ryder. Lodestar, New York, NY. (1990).

*Fiction. An exploration of natural processes provided through a look at the life of a chipmunk through the eyes of a 4-year-old. Stunning illustrations.*

Grade levels: K-4

Length: 32 pages

WCEE call number: BY WL M 5

**A Log's Life** by Wendy Pfeffer. Simon & Schuster, New York, NY. (1997).

*Fiction. The story follows a tree from life, through decomposition, and to life again. Along the way, the reader is introduced to the variety of life dependent on the tree. The fascinating illustrations were created through a sculpting and collage process.*

Grade levels: K-4

Length: 29 pages

WCEE call number: BY FOR 9

**Beast Feast, Insectlopedia, In the Swim, Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs, Mammalabilia, and On the Wing** by Douglas Florian. Harcourt, Inc., Orlando, FL. (Various pub. dates).

*Fiction. An excellent series of books. A picture and a poem are dedicated to each individual animal. Creative and colorful.*

Grade levels: K-6

Length: Varies

WCEE call number: Varies

**Everybody's Somebody's Lunch** by Cherie Mason. Tilbury House, Gardiner, MN. (1998).

*Fiction. A dramatic story about a girl and her exploration of food chains and predator/prey relationships, stemming from the death of her beloved cat. A good basis for a variety of classroom discussions. See also the accompanying teacher's guide (AC ECO 41).*

Grade levels: K-6

Length: 36 pages

WCEE call number: BY ECO 24

**Henry Hikes to Fitchburg** and **Henry Builds a Cabin** by D.B. Johnson. Houghton Mifflin, New York, NY. (2000 and 2002).

*Fiction. Both books are fictionalized accounts of excerpts from Henry David Thoreau's Walden. The first compares Henry's foot trip through nature to his friends work to save train fare to the same destination. The second looks at the construction of Henry's modest cabin—a cabin where the outdoors is the most important part.*

Grade levels: K-6

Length: Varies

WCEE call number: Varies

**Common Ground: The Water, Earth, and Air We Share** by Molly Bang. Blue Sky Press, New York, NY. (1997).

*Fiction. A story that brings the principles and concepts of Garrett Hardin's famous paper "The Tragedy of the Commons" to a younger audience. Connects overpopulation to problems with resource use. A great resource for initiating class discussions. Wonderful illustrations.*

Grade levels: K-9

Length: 34 pages

WCEE call number: BY PH 20

**One Small Square (Series)** by Donald Silver. Learning Triangle Press, New York, NY. (1993-1999).

*Non-fiction. A series of books that combines narratives, experiments, and "fact boxes" to explore a variety of ecosystems. Titles in the series are: "Backyard" (BY URB 1); "Arctic Tundra" (BY BC TUN 1); "Cactus Desert" (BY BC DS 3); "Pond" (BY BC AQ 11); "Seashore" (BY BC AQ 18); "Swamp" (BY BC AQ 26); "Tropical Rain Forest" (BY BC TRF 16); "Coral Reef" (BY BC AQ 37); "Woods" (BY BC TEF 2); "Cave" (BY BC 3); "African Savannah" (BY BC GR 13); and "The Night Sky" (BY EG 69).*

Grade levels: K-9

Length: Approx. 48 pages each

WCEE call number: See above

## Reference/Background Books

**There's a Hair in My Dirt: A Worm's Story** by Gary Larson. HarperPerennial, New York, NY. (1998).

*From the creator of The Far Side, an humorous cartoon story book about ecology and man's place in nature. Better yet: a story about nature putting man in his place!*

Grade levels: 9-12, adult

Length: 65 pages

WCEE call number: BA ECO 18

**Material World**. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA. (1994).

*An incredible book and CD-ROM that look at the possessions, values, and lifestyles of the people of the countries of the world. Great photography, excellent production.*

Grade levels: 9-12, adult

Length: 255 pages

WCEE call number: BA LS 31 and COM LS 1

**The Sense of Wonder** by Rachel Carson. HarperCollins, New York, NY. (1956).

*Rachel Carson, famous for Silent Spring, writes about sharing the natural world with children. This particular copy is illustrated by the simply stunning nature photography of Nick Kelsh.*

Grade levels: Adult

Length: 111 pages

WCEE call number: BA EE 113

**Greening School Grounds: Creating Habitats for Learning** edited by Tim Grant. New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, BC, Canada. (2001).

*A guide that looks at the planning, creation, and use of schoolyard habitats through the published work of many different authors. Developed in conjunction with Green Teacher magazine.*

Grade levels: Adult

Length: 136 pages

WCEE call number: BA SS 15