

Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network Newsletter October 2007

Hello! There is much environmental science news to share this fall – and many opportunities and resources for you. I hope to connect with you in person at an upcoming conference this fall.

~ *Sunshine Buchholz, Network Coordinator*

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News

1) Environmental Science Vision Session

In August, a group of environmental science teachers from around Wisconsin met to discuss their needs as educators and to give feedback on what the Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network can do for them. The number one priority identified was the need for an environmental science course framework. Work is already underway on the development of this valuable resource.

2) Environmental Science Course Framework

The Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network is coordinating the development of an environmental science course framework. The framework will be useful to new and veteran teachers. It will identify the topics that should be taught in an environmental science course and suggest prioritization and a timeline. A draft of the framework will be shared at the 2008 Environmental Science Teacher Summit for comment. When complete the framework will include activities, labs, resources, and evaluation suggestions from teachers around the state.

Events

3) Environmental Science Teacher Social

[Midwest Environmental Education Conference](#) (MEEC), Stevens Point, WI

Friday, October 19 - 5:15 pm-6:15 pm

Don't miss the first ever Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network Social! Come visit with other environmental science teachers and learn more about what the Network can do for you. Free refreshments!

P.S. This is going to be a great conference! Don't miss the MEEC – October 18-20. *No Child Left Inside* theme with keynote Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods, Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder." Information: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/waee/Events/fall07.htm>.

4) [2007 Governor's High School Conference on the Environment](#)

Students Making a Difference: Citizen Science Monitoring
Wednesday, November 14th in Stevens Point, WI

The 16th annual High School Conference on the Environment promises to be the most interactive conference yet! Have you sent your registration materials? Have your registrations postmarked by Friday, October 5th and save \$5 per participant. Final registration is due by October 19th.

The Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at UW-Stevens Point is proud to host this leadership and skill-building opportunity that allows students to learn what it takes to go from data collection to community action and understand the value of being an active citizen. Participants will enjoy keynote speakers, concurrent sessions, poster presentations, an exhibit hall, and the opportunity to network with professionals who use citizen science monitoring in their careers. Presentations by a variety of state and national programs will highlight citizen science monitoring opportunities in which students and teachers can become involved.

Each school may send up to eight students to the conference. Space is limited so you must register early to guarantee participation. Registration materials are available on the conference web site: <http://www.uwsp.edu/wcee/youthconference>. For conference information, contact Sunshine Buchholz at (715) 346-2014 or sbuchhol@uwsp.edu.

5) [2008 Environmental Science Teacher Summit](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/summit.htm)

Mark your calendar! You don't want to miss the 2008 Environmental Science Teacher Summit on **Tuesday, August 19th, 2008** at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Thanks to a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) there will be a keynote presentation, concurrent sessions, exhibits, and more! This will be an opportunity to network with other environmental science teachers from around the state. More information will be posted to the Network web site as planning progresses.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/summit.htm>

Resources

6) [GIS/GPS Information for Educators](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/GISGPS.htm)

There is a new page on the Network web site for educators interested in using GIS or GPS technology with students. Find general information, recommendations on software and equipment, and links to lessons. If you have experience using GIS/GPS with students, please share your recommendations, comments, or other useful information by visiting the page and emailing your comments to sbuchhol@uwsp.edu. GIS/GPS web page: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/GISGPS.htm>

7) [Environmental Science Syllabi](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/syllabi.htm)

If you are ever wondering what your peers are teaching in their environmental science courses, check out this web page: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/syllabi.htm>. You will find syllabi from environmental science teachers around the state. I'd like to add more to the site so if you are willing to share please email a copy of your syllabus to sbuchhol@uwsp.edu. Thanks for helping to expand this valuable resource!

8) [School Environmental Clubs in Wisconsin](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/clubs.htm)

Don't forget about the online School Environmental Clubs in Wisconsin booklet and directory. Available online at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/clubs.htm>. You will find information on starting or revitalizing a school environmental club, ideas for environmental involvement in Wisconsin, a list of environmental education resources, and a directory of school environmental clubs in Wisconsin. To have your school's club listed in the directory, submit a listing online: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/ClubForm.htm>.

9) [Biocomplexity and the Habitable Planet – Pilot Teachers Wanted](#)

This is a capstone course that engages high school teachers and students in the science of coupled natural-human systems (CNH). It consists of two semester-long modules that can be taught together in a full-year course or as two individual semester-long courses. The first module focuses on urban ecology, climate change and biodiversity. The second module focuses on suburban sprawl, regional landscape ecology and agriculture. In both modules, students address environmental land use challenges increasingly confronted by society.

Students conduct local field- and lab-based investigations, and work with datasets and GIS images from urban, arctic, suburban and Amazonian ecosystems. Each module encourages students to build evidence-based arguments that support decisions about land or other resource use. Students use two research-based software packages, Fathom for data management and statistical analysis and modeling, and MyWorld for viewing and creating GIS images (both of these will be provided with the curriculum).

When: Teachers can sign up to pilot semester-long modules in Spring and/or Fall 2008. Teachers can field test modules or the full-year curriculum in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009.

What: A stipend of \$300 per module will be paid for participation in surveys and interviews, gathering copies of student work, and providing information on classroom implementation and feedback about curriculum design.

How: If you are interested in either piloting or field-testing the materials, please contact: gilly_puttick@terc.edu; 617-547-0430

10) [Groundwater Workshops](#)

Educators from schools and nature centers that provide environmental training for students (grades 6-12) are invited to apply for a free groundwater sand tank flow model along with training in the use of the model and materials to expand or improve their environmental education or science education program. The workshops will be January 15th in Jefferson, January 23rd in Green Bay and January 30th in Stevens Point. For more information, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gw/educate.htm> and scroll down to Groundwater Model Teacher Workshops.

11) [The People Speak Global Debate](#)

There is still time for high schools to register to participate in this climate change debate. Participating schools will hold a public debate on the best way to lower carbon emissions and organize a vote of the students in the audience. All four-person debate teams (plus two educators) will be eligible to compete to win an all expenses paid trip to the UN Foundation Youth Leadership Summit held at the United Nations in New York in July 2008. More information: <http://www.thepeoplespeak.org/peoplespeak/About/highscho>

12) [Real Time Water Data for the Nation](#)

Use this real-time daily stream flow data to study water trends, intense weather events, climate change, statistical methods, or any number of related topics. Using the most complete long-term water information available from USGS, students can build their own data sets and water budgets for their community, state, or the Nation to see how water availability and use affect all aspects of our daily lives.

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt/>

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

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