



Wisconsin School Forest Summit 2023

Tuesday, July 25

8am Check in - Lodge

9am Welcome, introductions and opening remarks

10am LEAF Field Enhancements workshop - Nicole Filizetti, LEAF Staff

Did you know that each LEAF Curriculum grade band includes lessons for students to experience outside at the school forest or on the school grounds? In this workshop, we will dig into at least one lesson for outdoor forestry education at your grade level and several total! Learn how adaptable the activities are to older or younger learners.

Noon Lunch & Keynote

Forest Stewardship Plans - Bill Millis, WDNR Forester & Friends of Merrill School Forest

What are forest stewardship plans, how are they constructed, and how should they be used to manage your forest and connect to environmental education.

1pm Speed Networking and Discussion of SF Topic(s) - Classroom

2pm School Forest Tour - led by Friends of the Merrill School Forest. Meet outside the lodge.

4pm Lightning Share Session 1

Please bring your favorite game, recreation, or team-building activity to share with participants.

5:30pm Cookout

Pop up Yoga! Samara Hamze, WCEE Staff, will offer gentle yoga if and when enough folks are interested. Be sure to introduce yourself so she knows you are interested! This will be a come-as-you-are practice that focuses on breathwork and very gentle stretches. Bring your own yoga mat.

Wednesday, July 26

6am Ice Age Trail Hike - Rita Weickman, Friends of Merrill School Forest and Ice Age Trail Association - Carpool to parking area north of school forest on Hwy 107. Hike this gorgeous section of Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail back to the school forest.

7:30am Pancake breakfast and maple syrup contest

Bring your best syrup made from sap collected from school forest trees to compete for the title of 2023 WI SF Champion Syrup. Guest judges will determine the winner in a blind taste test.

8:45am Presentation of WI DNR SF Award Board to honor past winners of the WI School Forest Award.

The Plaque will be presented to Heather Berkland, Chief Forester, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

9am Connecting Solar Energy to Your School Forest - Samara Hamze and Wendy Stelzer, KEEP - Wisconsin's K-12 Energy Education Program

In this workshop educators will learn how solar panels work, explore a KEEP lesson that uses the Solar Tilt Kit to generate electricity, and discuss the importance of installed renewable energy as an important climate change solution that school districts can use to support student learning. This session will be held outside the lodge.

- 10am** [Project Learning Tree at Your School Forest](#) – Nicole Filizetti, PLT/LEAF; Jonathan Ismail, LEAF; Rachel Race, Riveredge Nature Center
- Participants in this session will get hands-on practice using a selection of outdoor lessons from Project Learning Tree's Explore Your Environment guide and other PLT resources. We will look at interdisciplinary activities in all K-12 grade bands, and talk about how to adapt activities for different groups and settings. We will also explore how PLT lessons can help build a foundation of forest literacy and forest appreciation for all kinds of students.
- *Participants interested in bringing early childhood students into their school forest may split into a separate group to focus on the new PLT early childhood guide.
- 11am** **Lightning Share Session 2**
- Please bring your school forest science, social studies, or other academic activity to share with participants. Bring a paper copy & share in this google doc. WCEE Staff, Heather Phelps will also give a brief overview of the WCEE Kits program and highlight kits that are especially useful at school forests!
- Noon** **Lunch and Keynote**
[Student & Teacher Autonomy Meet School Forest & King of the Game Birds](#)
Paula Zwicke, Superior Education Solutions and Consulting
- It all started with a single question to two high schoolers in a project-based learning school— What do you know about Ruffed Grouse and the school forest? Through the next half dozen years of a multi-phased Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock Habitat Research Project, one school and a student team would be awarded the Wisconsin School Forest Award, present their research at conferences around the State, and change the way school looked for the next decade. In the end, they influenced how their district managed school forest property and impacted an entire animal species and human community.
- 1pm** [From Seed to Sapling and Beyond: Real Student Projects in the School Forest](#)
Paula Zwicke, Superior Education Solutions and Consulting
- This workshop is for educators interested in using the school forest for inquiry-based learning to affect real impact on students, the school forest, and the global community. Regardless of your experience level with school forests and outdoor learning, plan to learn how to take the seed of any idea or question and turn it into action steps that, through student voice and agency, engages learners in cross-curricular content, community, and citizenship. Be prepared to learn how to immerse students in authentic experiences in the school forest and leave with an understanding of the immense resource that is out the back door of, or down the road from, the school building.
- 2pm** [What's new in the world of research?](#)
Dr. Kendra Liddicoat, Associate Professor of EE, UWSP
Dr. Becca Franzen, Associate Professor of EE, UWSP
- Research can help you improve and justify your programs. Come review recent EE research, discuss applications to your EE site, and make plans to collect your own data. We will begin by sharing a synopsis of recently published research related to EE. Then participants will have a chance to discuss how the findings of these studies could be used to improve and justify their own programs. Lastly, we will share some resources and suggestions in support of doing quality research and evaluation at EE settings in the Midwest. Participants will gain a familiarity with recent research and develop ideas for contributing to such efforts.
- 3pm** Wrap up - group photo, etc.

Please remember to complete the Summit evaluation!



Thursday, July 27 – Optional 3rd Day (Separate registration)

9am – 2:30pm [School Forest Foundational Planning](#)
9am – 2:30pm [PLT Facilitator Training](#)