



WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION BOARD





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October 2013



The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is comprised of representatives from a wide range of sectors including business & industry, labor, forestry, energy, agriculture, higher education, and informal education who are concerned about the development of environmental literacy and the promotion of sustainable communities. These individuals are joined by four members of the State Legislature and designees from the University of Wisconsin System, Wisconsin Technical College System, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to provide leadership in a variety of ways for environmental education efforts across the State.

The WEEB has several working groups that ensure important tasks are completed in a timely manner, including committees on education, research, grants, development, legislative relations, planning, nominations, and communication. In addition, close collaborations exist with the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF), the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE), and the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEI). Only through these collaborations and the corresponding coordinated work can real progress be made toward environmental literacy for all Wisconsin residents. As an example, a joint fund raising project took place within the past year to provide the essential resources needed to sponsor a water education grant program. This program is now providing funding for eight projects across the State to help everyone from four-year-olds to adult professionals achieve goals and objectives related to our precious water resources.

First and foremost, the WEEB operates a highly successful grants program. Up to \$20,000 of funding per project provides the needed resources to support grassroots environmental initiatives for both school children and adults concerning many different aspects of the environment, such as water, forestry, animals, plants, and invasive species. Through these grants, the WEEB and its partners are working to meet the goals and priorities outlined within two strategic planning documents: *Wisconsin's Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities* and *Wisconsin's Plan to Advance Environmental Literacy and Sustainability in PK-12 Schools*. This report provides an overview of the projects funded by the WEEB's grant program. As in prior years, these projects range from elementary school to secondary school to informal education settings, such as nature centers and zoos; subject matters that include not only science, but also mathematics, social studies, language arts, the fine arts, and physical education; and that are geographically dispersed across the state.

WEEB members are proud of the work that has been accomplished and look forward to continuing to serve Wisconsin residents as we provide leadership for the promotion of environmental literacy and the building of sustainable communities.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Ashmann, Ph.D.
Chairperson





SCOTT WALKER

Governor
State of Wisconsin



Wisconsin's outdoors are abounding and expansive. We are the home to two Great Lakes and our natural resources draw thousands of families from across the state and the nation each year. Wisconsin's lakes and woods provide ample opportunity to explore the outdoors firsthand, in activities such as hunting, biking, camping, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, and more. It is our duty to protect these natural resources and be good stewards of the land, water, and air.

As an Eagle Scout, I was taught how to appreciate the outdoors while preserving it for those who follow. It is up to us to ensure that our environment is here to be enjoyed now and for generations to come. The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board is charged with promoting environmental education and conservation. I thank them for their continuing dedication to Wisconsin's natural resources and for their work on this report.



The UW System is proud to promote environmental education in its many forms, fulfilling society's growing need for "sustainability-literate" college graduates. These educated citizens will be the next generation of scientists, engineers, planners, and business and government leaders destined for careers in the public and private sector of the emerging green economy. Wisconsin will increasingly rely on these highly qualified workers to develop the innovative, sustainable practices of the future. They will be critical to enhancing our state's economic strength, improving the health of our environment, and creating more livable communities.

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is one of the state's most credible – and incredible – sources of education and research-based information, empowering people with the knowledge they need to preserve Wisconsin's precious natural areas. The UW System strongly shares and supports WEEB's commitment to this vital cause.

Kevin Reilly, President
University of Wisconsin System



The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) has made great strides to increase environmental literacy across the state. By providing leadership through *Wisconsin's Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities*, WEEB has provided strategic direction to build capacity for effective education and outreach for all age levels. In addition, through *Wisconsin's Plan to Advance Education for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability in PK-12 Schools*, clear direction has been provided for those working with the PK-12 education system to effectively meet environmental education standards. This plan underscores the importance of children getting outside and leading healthy lifestyles while learning about both the natural and built environments.

By providing leadership for initiatives such as Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin and awarding grant funds in the effort to enhance environmental education preparation for future teachers, WEEB will continue the legacy of environmental stewardship. This stewardship is a cornerstone of Wisconsin's history. By upholding this conservation heritage and strengthening our connection to the natural resources that are so vital to the state's economy, health, and well-being, WEEB is helping move Wisconsin forward.

Tony Evers, State
Superintendent of Public
Instruction



The Wisconsin Technical College System is proud to collaborate with the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) to provide education and training that values Wisconsin's natural resources. Our System enjoys a 100-year history at the center of economic and community development efforts throughout the state. To forge and maintain the dynamic employer partnerships that make that role possible, and to sustain our strong record of student success, Wisconsin's technical colleges remain on the cutting edge of program development. Our emphasis on delivering programs that benefit Wisconsin – including a focus on renewable energy, sustainability and the incorporation of "green" technologies and principles into existing programs and facilities – has and will always be at the core of our mission. WEEB clearly shares this conviction.

Morna K. Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College
System



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is committed to environmental education. We know that education is the foundation for protecting and managing the state's natural resources and that outdoor experiences are important for both children and adults. The department continues to work with educators, students, and youth and citizen groups to provide environmental and outdoor education opportunities.

The DNR is proud to work with the WI Environmental Education Board to ensure that the citizens of the state have the opportunity to learn more about natural resources and the great place we call home. I look forward to continuing our partnership and supporting the efforts of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources



Agriculture

Darlene Arneson, Madison 2007-

Business & Industry

David Callewaert, Franksville 2010-2013

Jim Jenson, Madison 2013-

Conservation and Environmental Organizations

Cheryl Riley, Hudson 2010-2012

Ruth Ann Lee, Poynette 2012-

Department of Natural Resources

Matthew Frank, Secretary 2007-2011

Cathy Stepp, Secretary 2011-

Julie Sauer, Designee 2011-2013

Carrie Morgan, Designee 2013-

Department of Public Instruction

Tony Evers, Superintendent 2009-

Victoria Rydberg, Designee 2010-

Energy Industry

Chip Bircher, Green Bay 2010-

Connie Lawniczak, Green Bay 2013-

Environmental Educators

Kathe Crowley Conn, Monona 2008-2011

Debra Weitzel, Middleton 2011-

Forestry

Gerry Mich, Appleton 2005-2011

Donald Peterson, Florence 2011-

Higher Education

Scott Ashmann, Green Bay 2008-

Labor

William Neuhaus, Kenosha 1990-2012

Theresa Lehman, Neenah 2012-

Legislative Representative, State Assembly

Donald Friske, Merrill 2005-2011

Louis Molepske, Stevens Point 2005-2012

Jeffrey Mursau, Crivitz 2011-

Chris Danou, Trempealeau 2013-

Legislative Representative, State Senate

Neal Kedzie, Elkhorn 2003-

Fred Risser, Madison 2003-

Nature Centers/Museums/Zoos

Debra McRae, Franklin 2007-2013

Beth Carreno, Sheboygan 2013-

University of Wisconsin-System

Kevin Reilly, President 2004-

Robin Harris, Designee 1996-

Wisconsin Technical College System

Daniel Clancy, President 2004-2012

Morna Foy, President 2013-

Randy Zogbaum, Designee 2008-

Ann Westrich, Designee 2008-


Ginny Carlton 1997-

Administrative Program Specialist

Randy Champeau, WCEE Liaison 1990-2012

Jeremy Solin, WCEE Liaison 2012-





THE WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION BOARD (WEEB)



The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is made up of the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources; the Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction; the President of the University of Wisconsin System; the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System; one majority and one minority party senator and one majority and one minority party representative; and nine members representing agriculture, business and industry, conservation and environmental organizations, energy, environmental educators, faculty of public and private institutions of higher education, forestry, labor, and nature centers, museums and zoos.

The WEEB employs one part-time staff person (0.5 FTE on GPR funds with additional time as contracts allow). The employee is supervised via the administrative structure of the College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point.

Our Mission

To provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, workplaces, and communities.

OUR PRIMARY DUTIES ESTABLISHED BY 1989 WISCONSIN ACT 299 ARE TO:

- Identify needs and establish priorities for environmental education in Wisconsin.
- Create and maintain a competitive grants program that is in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the Board through continual appraisal and evaluation.
- Be a catalyst in seeking private funds in support of the grants program.

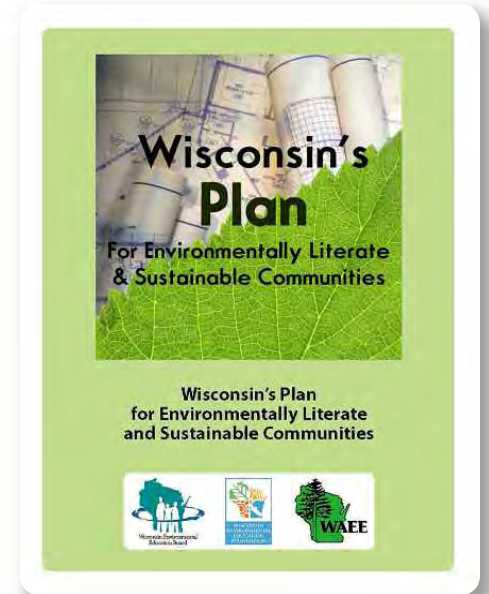
OUR FOUR CENTRAL PURPOSES ARE TO:

- Provide positive leadership, advocacy and policy making in the area of environmental literacy and education.
- Support the development of local leaders and their fellow citizens to become environmentally aware and concerned enough to act positively on environmental issues.
- Advocate the development and implementation of interdisciplinary environmentally-based curricula at all levels of the educational system.
- Support the continuing professional development of staff working at all levels of formal or informal education to enable them to accomplish needed environmental education goals.

THE STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (EE) IN WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board works with individuals, non-profit organizations, governmental entities, and business partners to achieve its mission and four central purposes. Common processes include: strategic planning, coalition and network building, advocacy and legislative action and capacity building.

The WEEB's primary mechanism for promoting its mission and central purposes is through grants to local, regional, and statewide projects. All grants awarded within the timeframe of this biennial report (2011-2013) are highlighted within the "Grant Program" section of this document. A few projects are also highlighted here as documentation of the WEEB's efforts to achieve its four central purposes.



CENTRAL PURPOSE ONE: LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND POLICY MAKING

Since its inception, the WEEB has been a very active, hands-on working group. In addition to operating an environmental grants program, the WEEB has become recognized as a consensus-building group on environmental education issues. The unique make-up and mission of the WEEB positions it to provide needed leadership to environmental education while recognizing the importance of establishing a common purpose and direction among diverse stakeholders.

The WEEB's strategy for leadership, advocacy and policy making has included strategic planning, coalition building, enhanced networking, development of communication strategies and advocating for additional resources to support environmental education.

Strategic Planning

The WEEB reviews and revises its state Environmental Education Plan on a five-year basis. This timeframe ensures the plan maintains the state's strong EE her-

itage, responds to contemporary circumstances, and establishes a proactive agenda. On a ten-year cycle (i.e., in 2020, 2030 etc.), the WEEB expects to provide for enhanced public input as part of its planning process. In November 2011, the WEEB, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF) and the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAAE), released *Wisconsin's Plan for Environmental Literacy and Sustainable Communities*. The five identified priorities are:

1. **Communication:** Build awareness of environmental literacy and sustainable communities.
2. **Education:** Promote access to information and educational experiences needed to support environmental literacy and sustainable communities at work, school, home, and play.
3. **Community Resources:** Build the capacity of individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments to advance environmental literacy and sustainable communities.
4. **Research and Assessment:** Promote research and assessment to identify strategies that advance environmental literacy and sustainable communities.
5. **Funding:** Identify, develop share and secure funding strategies and resources to advance environmental literacy and sustainable communities.

Coalition Building/K-12 Environmental Literacy Plan

The WEEB has worked with the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation, and ten other organizations that serve on the Steering Committee of Wisconsin's No Child Left Inside Coalition. This group, working with the broader Coalition of over 100 businesses, health, youth, faith, recreational, environmental, conservation, and educational groups representing over 70,000 people in Wisconsin, was charged with the task of creating an environmental literacy plan for Wisconsin's pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade schools. The plan includes:

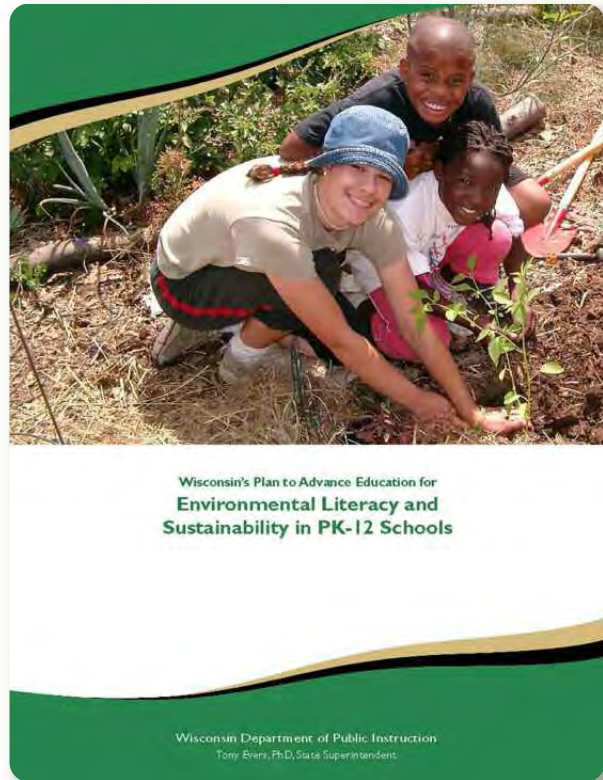
1. Specific content standards, content areas, and courses or subjects where instruction will take place.
2. A description of how state high school graduation requirements will ensure that graduates are environmentally literate.
3. A description of programs for professional development of teachers to improve their environmental content knowledge, skill in teaching about environmental issues, and field-based pedagogical skills.
4. A description of how the state education agency will measure the environmental literacy of students.
5. A description of how the state education agency will implement the plan, including securing funding and other necessary support.

Wisconsin's Plan to Advance Education for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability in PK-12 Schools may be viewed on the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) website and at www.ncliwisconsin.org

EE Consultant

Through the efforts of many individuals and organizations this integral position for promoting environmental education within the state's PreK-12 and higher education institution was filled. Tasks performed by the consultant include:

- **Providing leadership in the redesign, implementation, and evaluation of the Green and Healthy School program and integration with the U.S. Department of Education**



Green Ribbon Schools program.

- **Identifying, analyzing, and synthesizing promising approaches to improve EE learning by schools, districts, organizations, and institutions throughout the state.**
- **Collaborating with state and national higher education institutions to implement the federal No Child Left Behind Act under Title 2, Part B.**
- **Working with federal institutions in an effort to bring federal grant dollars into Wisconsin.**

Enhanced Networking and Communication

The WEEB believes an informed citizenry is essential to economically and environmentally sustainable communities. Networking and communication are important tools to facilitate the development of an informed and environmentally literate citizenry. It is extremely important to match the communication tool to the audience. The WEEB will continue to reach out to under-served audiences and bring people together using newly emerging technologies. While the WEEB continues to support traditional networking and communication efforts such as professional conferences, the project described here provides insight into how the WEEB has helped to facilitate networking and communication.



**Fox Cities Passport to Nature
Friends of 1000 Islands Environmental
Center \$4,648**

This project enabled five area public libraries and six outdoor centers to partner to encourage children to spend time outside and participate in the summer reading program. The 2011 program focused on the wildlife found in Wisconsin and how they compare to other wildlife found around the world. The 2012 program encouraged families to take part in the Bat Detectives citizen science monitoring program. This program gave children and adults the opportunity to use Anabat detectors and handheld computers at night to investigate what species of bats are found in the Fox Valley and what their populations are.

The 2011 program saw participation grow by almost 10% and the 2012 program grew another 38%. A total of 1,819 individuals were served and 71 volunteers contributed more than 1200 hours.

**CENTRAL PURPOSE TWO:
DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL
LEADERS**

Since environmental literacy includes citizen action experience as a fundamental tenet, it is not surprising that the WEEB has made on-going efforts to encourage and financially support programming to develop local

leaders. Objective 1.3 within *Wisconsin's Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities* document states, "Develop and strengthen the capacity of community leaders to communicate the value of environmental literacy and sustainable practices." Many of these programs are based on a "train-the-trainer" model in which one individual receives training with the understanding that he/she will then train additional individuals.

Educating County Employees for an Energy Efficient Future

Fond du Lac County \$4,008

Grant funds supported the creation of a knowledgeable team of energy educators within Fond du Lac County government who taught their peers about energy issues and led county efforts to address energy usage strategically throughout the organization. The project used 16 volunteers to serve 200 individuals. When asked to indicate "To what extent do you currently conserve energy at work?" a pre-post survey was up 14%. Similarly when asked "To what extent do you currently influence coworkers and peers to conserve energy at work" a pre-post survey was up 19%.

**CENTRAL PURPOSE THREE:
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT,
DISSEMINATION, AND
IMPLEMENTATION**

The WEEB's efforts to promote quality environmental education opportunities for all segments of society (preschoolers to adult learners) in multiple settings (schools, nature centers, parks, workplaces, etc.) have continued to be the foundation for developing lifelong learners that are informed and involved citizens who will help ensure an ecologically and economically sustainable environment.

Engaging Digital Natives Outdoors

UW Extension-Upham Woods

\$10,000

Using iPad applications, multimedia journaling (digital video, audio and photos), and select internet applications, this pilot project involves developing and testing creative uses for emerging technology within environ-





mental lessons as well as conducting evaluations to discover the effect of the technology integration on students' feelings of connection to, engagement with, and understanding of nature.

Incorporating Technology into the Outdoor Classroom

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation:
MacKenzie Environmental Center** **\$7,835**

To enhance educational activities conducted for school groups by incorporating computer tablet technology into existing programming. These tablets would be used to complement the process of data collection in the field and provide enhancements to classes through the use of video clips and audio files. Specific uses include teaching students about tree identification using the *Audubon Trees* application, bird call identification using *Audubon Birds*, and as a resource in tours of the wildlife exhibit to demonstrate animal vocalizations using *Audubon Mammals*. Applications to use with stream study classes are anticipated.

School Forest Education Plans
91 school districts **Over \$450,000+**

Since the program's inception in 2005, the WEEB has invested over \$450,000 to assist 91 school districts with their efforts to create a school forest education plan. These written plans provide detail related to:

- the rationale for having the school forest,

- the school forest site,
- the educational connections that can be made at the school forest or to the school forest, and
- the methods the district intends to use to sustain the school forest program in the short- and long-term.

The plans also provide the foundation upon which future site management, curricular, and staff development decisions are made. With the 2008 grant cycle, the WEEB limited eligibility for the school forest education implementation grant funds to districts that have a registered school forest and an approved school forest education plan on file.

CENTRAL PURPOSE FOUR: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Environmental education is a lifelong learning process. Programs should address the needs of all citizen ages, from all walks of life. The more environmentally literate Wisconsin citizens are, the better equipped they are to participate in public decisions affecting our working, living, and recreational environments.

While many grants were provided for the professional development of teachers within our K-12 schools, several grant projects provided educational opportunities for others.



Land Ethic Leader Program

Aldo Leopold Foundation **\$3,620**

This project provides opportunities for teachers, high school and college students, environmental educators, conservation professionals, and community leaders in religious, business, and government circles to develop the skills to understand and address environmental challenges as well as create programs that help educate and engage people in their communities. During the two day workshop, participants "observe, participate, reflect" in order to build their leadership skills and empower them with tools to bring land ethic focused programs back to their communities. Two thirds of the participants were not part of the Foundation's network.

From Planning to Implementation: Teacher Educators Network for Environmental Education

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point **\$7,650**

In July 2012, twenty representatives from 11 of the 32 institutions of higher education gathered to network about environmental education teacher preparation in Wisconsin. Staff from the Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation facilitated exploration of strategies to increase and improve environmental education for pre-

service teacher instruction. Specifics included discussions related to Next Generation Science Standards, licensing, and early findings of a dissertation study on environmental education in elementary teacher education programs. Three working groups focused on establishing criteria for preservice teacher education in EE, statewide environmental literacy assessment, and research needs and opportunities.

Evaluation and Literacy

Assessment is important to determine the environmental literacy of Wisconsin citizens. Wisconsin statutes state that the environmental literacy of Wisconsin students must be assessed (see 1989 Wisconsin Act 209). The 2001-2003 biennial report to the legislature indicated the WSAS/Knowledge and Skills tests at the fourth, eighth, and tenth grades provide a very incomplete picture of the environmental literacy of Wisconsin students and that it would be incorrect to suggest these tools are designed to assess environmental literacy.

In August 2009, the DPI announced that the state would be transitioning away from the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concept Exams (WKCE). As the new assessment protocols are developed, the WEEB will continue to advocate to include tools that can indicate more completely students' level of environmental literacy.



The WEEB, through its request for proposal (RFP) materials, has strongly encouraged evaluation and assessment work be undertaken. Unfortunately very few proposals of this type have been submitted. The *Wisconsin's Plan for Environmental Literacy and Sustainable Communities* contains both "research" and "assessment" as goals. The WEEB has also established a research committee to help set a research agenda.

Future Directions

In the next few years, the WEEB will continue to actively partner with the:

- 🌿 **No Child Left Inside Coalition to implement *Wisconsin's Plan to Advance Education for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability in PK-12 Schools.***
- 🌿 **Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation to continue to seek private funds to support the WEEB's work.**
- 🌿 **Other state and federal agencies, legislators, and stakeholders interested in promoting and enhancing environmental education for Wisconsin's citizens as we collectively work to implement *Wisconsin's Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities* in all segments of society.**

While the WEEB has accomplished a great deal, the "to do list" continues to identify important initiatives.









GRANT PROGRAM

Since its creation in 1990, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board's (WEEB) grant program has provided communities, schools, and organizations with funds to enhance environmental education programs.

Source of Grant Funds

Funds to support the grant program are provided by donations and state appropriations. For the 2011-2013 budget period, annual appropriations to the WEEB included \$200,000 from the forestry account of the conservation fund (of which up to 5% can be used toward administrative expenses); and a 5% assessment on state environmental fines with pre-July 1, 2009 violations and a 14% assessment on state environmental fines with a post July 1, 2009 date.

For the 2013 grant cycle, \$55,000 from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation and its program sponsors was available for water education initiatives. Lead program sponsors included the Madison Gas & Electric Foundation, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Energy Foundation. For a list of all sponsors, please see the Development Report on page 46.

Grant Requests & Awards

In 2011, 101 grant proposals were submitted; 40 (totaling \$363,024) were funded. In 2012, 84 grant proposals were submitted; 47 (totaling \$390,200) were funded. In 2013, 74 proposals were submitted; 37 (totaling \$321,760) were funded. Grant requests ranged from \$913 to \$30,000 (the maximum allowed in 2011).

Since 1997, when the WEEB was transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the UW-System, the WEEB has awarded more than 7.6 million dollars to more than 1,060 projects. Of the awards, more than 6 million dollars has been distributed. The funded projects have generated well beyond the 25 percent match required. The matching funding from the projects, with the majority of the 2012 and 2013 proposals yet to report their matching contributions, conservatively totals over \$6.2 million. During this time period 1,729 grant applications were received requesting over \$16.2 million.

Grant Review Process

The WEEB has received requests for proposals from every corner of the state and from virtually every type of organization, agency, and group eligible to receive funding. Each grant proposal submitted receives a rigorous review by volunteer committees. These volunteers represent the many entities interested and/or involved in educating the citizens of Wisconsin about the environment. A list of reviewers for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 cycles can be found on page 42. Each project is evaluated at three levels: 1) completeness and accuracy of program requirements, 2) technical review, and 3) merit review.

The technical review team evaluates each project on the following:

- adherence to the WEEB priorities,
- budget accuracy and funding contributions,
- thoroughness of application page and statement of need,
- project goals, objectives, activities, and evaluations.

The merit review team then continues evaluation of those projects that passed the technical review to determine:

- overall quality and value of the project,
- ability to achieve goals,
- development of partnerships,
- use of existing resources, and
- promotion of community environmental education.

General Guidelines

Projects need to assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education. The projects need to help people become environmentally aware, knowledgeable, skilled, and committed to work individually and collectively to defend, improve, and sustain the quality of the natural and built environments on behalf of present and future citizens.

Eligibility

WEEB grants are available to the following Wisconsin entities:

- Corporations (nonstock, nonprofit corporations organized under chapter 181 of state statutes)
- Public agencies (counties, cities, villages, towns, public

inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, school districts and cooperative educational service agencies)

- 🍃 State agencies, tribal governments, public colleges and universities
- 🍃 Non-public education institutions (with some restrictions)

The following are NOT eligible:

- 🍃 Individuals
- 🍃 Pervasively sectarian education institutions
- 🍃 For profit businesses

Funding Restrictions

No more than one third of grant funds may be awarded to state agencies.

Project Duration

Grants awarded as part of the 2011 grant cycle were made for the period of July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012. Grants awarded as part of the 2012 grant cycle were made for the period of July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013.

Funding Priorities for 2011

The funded grants reflect the strategic priorities that were in effect in 2011. They include:

- 🍃 **Goal I. Focus content of environmental education on holistic outcomes.**
- 🍃 **Goal II. Support and enhance cooperation and communication within the environmental education community.**
- 🍃 **Goal III. Support and enhance environmental education in PreK-12 schools.**
- 🍃 **Goal IV. Support and enhance the implementation of environmental literacy in institutions of higher education.**
- 🍃 **Goal V. Support and enhance the expansion of non-formal and non-traditional environmental education.**
- 🍃 **Goal VI. Develop a research and evaluation agenda for environmental education.**

Funding Priorities for 2012

The funded grants reflect the strategic priorities that were in effect in 2012. They include:

- 🍃 **Goal I. Communicating the Value of EE. Build awareness of environmental literacy and sustainable communities.**
- 🍃 **Goal II. Education. Promote access to information and educational experiences needed to support environmental literacy and sustainable communities at work, school, home, and play.**
- 🍃 **Goal III. Community Resources. Build the capacity of individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments to advance environmental literacy and sustainable communities.**



- 🍃 **Goal IV. Research. Promote research and identify strategies to advance environmental literacy and sustainable communities.**
- 🍃 **Goal V. Assessment. Assess progress toward environmental literacy and sustainable communities.**
- 🍃 **Goal VI. Funding. Identify and share funding strategies and resources to advance environmental literacy and sustainable communities**

Assistance for Applicants

Information on past projects can be searched through the Internet.

Copies of funded proposals are available via the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan System.

Final reports from grant recipients may be viewed at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education Resource Library, UW-Stevens Point.

For a copy of the Request for Proposal (application form), please contact:

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board

110 Trainer Natural Resources Building
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
800 Reserve Street
Stevens Point WI 54481
(715) 346-3805
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb
weeb@uwsp.edu



2011 GRANTS



Stump Sitting, Aldo Leopold Nature Center



Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc.

\$17,378

MONONA

Woodland Writers and Ramblers

To allow identified Madison Metropolitan School District students and teachers not currently participating in forestry education programs to participate in daily forest investigations.

Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc.

\$9,940



MONONA

Wonder Bugs Preschool Program

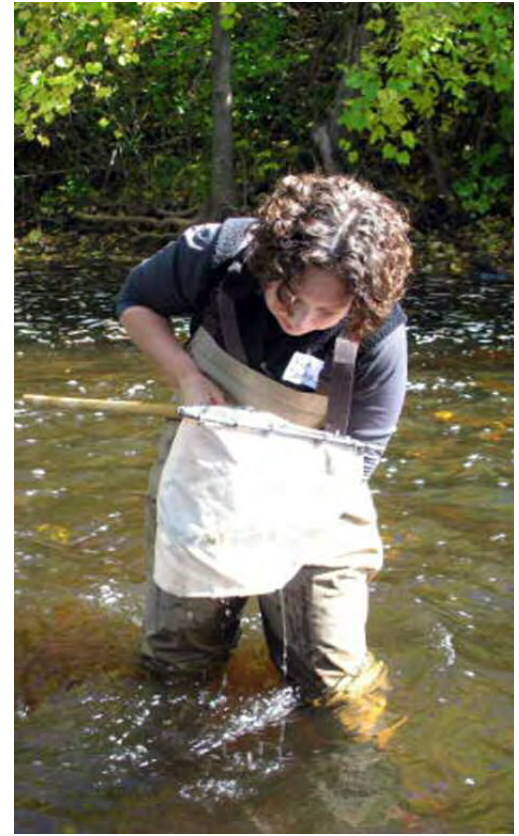
To provide children, parents, and caregivers opportunities to explore and learn in the outdoors through guided activities in an expert-led, seasonally-based, hands-on weekly (50 weeks) program that reflects developmental stages through age-appropriate activities.



Wonder Bug on the Run, Aldo Leopold Nature Center



Log Carry, Appleton Area School District



Biotic Sampling, Bad River Watershed Association



**Appleton Area School District
Fox River Academy Environmental
Charter School**

\$1000

APPLETON

A Forest for Every Classroom Workshop

To enable four teachers in grades 1-8 to participate in the *A Forest for Every Classroom* workshop. Through this workshop staff will create a curriculum that will provide hands-on, project-based education for the students.

**Board of Regents of the University
of Wisconsin System: UW-Extension
MADISON**

\$8,551



Educating Citizens Through a Sustainability Fair

To provide various levels of workshops from introductory through advanced in order to accommodate the diverse levels of environmental literacy. Workshops and trainings will be geared toward actions individuals, families, and businesses can take to lessen their environmental impact and increase their economic advantage.



**Bad River Watershed Association
ASHLAND**

\$4,961

**Citizen Stewardship in the Bad River Watershed:
Baseline Macroinvertebrate Sampling**

To provide local citizens and elected town officials with environmental education on how our community can determine existing water quality condition of streams in the area, how ongoing monitoring can track change over time, and how the data can strengthen local decision making.



Sustainability Fair, Board of Regents, UW-Extension



Forestry Education at Bookworm Gardens



**Top: Outdoor Teaching, Boscobel
Above: Urban Forestry at Camp Whitcomb Mason**



**Bookworm Gardens
SHEBOYGAN**

\$28,000

Forestry Education at Bookworm Gardens

To develop and deliver high quality, effective forestry and environmental education programs at Bookworm Gardens that utilize existing Wisconsin EE materials such as LEAF and Project Learning Tree, optimizing the gardens and its urban setting.




**Boscobel Area School District
BOSCOBEL**

\$23,180

Continuing the Dream

To provide teachers with the opportunity to attend local workshops; to have experts demonstrate how to teach in the outdoors and provide expert knowledge on specific topics pertinent to their curriculum; and to purchase materials necessary to enhance school forest activities.

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee: \$26,289 
**Mardak Center for Administration and Training
MILWAUKEE**

Camp Whitcomb Mason: Forest History and Urban Forest Program

To educate central city youth from predominantly low income families about the forests' role on Wisconsin's history, present, and future and to provide a free event for community members to participate in maple syrup demonstrations, "lumberjack games" and a lumberjack brunch.

**Cable Natural History Museum \$3,396
CABLE**

Birding: Gateway to Environmental Stewardship and Advocacy

To assemble 20 basic birding kits containing binoculars, a bird identification book, seasonal bird lists, and trail



A Kid Can be a Farmer, Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens

**City of Superior
SUPERIOR**

\$3,770

**The Importance of Trees: Drawing Connections
Between Stormwater and Forestry Management**

To present K-12 students in the Superior School District with information on the integral connection between stormwater, trees, and forest management. Students will learn stormwater best management practices with an emphasis on tree stewardship and the importance of managing and maintaining both urban and rural forests.

**Clintonville School District
CLINTONVILLE**

\$4,975

An Education Plan for Clintonville School Forests

To support the School Forest Committee in drafting and validating a school forest education plan. Support services will be provided by the Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist, WDNR-Waupaca County Forester and Waupaca County/UW Extension. The plan will be reviewed by Clintonville teaching staff, administration, school board and community partners.

**Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens
MADISON**

\$6,185 📺

A Kid Can Be a Farmer

To provide a diverse population of 500 elementary, middle and high school students with a safe, supportive environment in the city where they can participate in hands-on activities to learn to grow and prepare nutritious foods. This program will allow participants to experience the whole cycle of food production from seed to table.

**Council for Spanish Speaking
MILWAUKEE**

\$29,805

Urban Sustainable Forestry Project

To design and implement a systems-based integrated biology and algebra course for Loyola students that includes six units: urban forest connections, benefits, management decisions, biodiversity, issues and actions. Also to develop an after-school environmental club which will: follow-up with school-wide vermicomposting; plan, design and create an outdoor classroom; work with Community Pies; and learn about statewide forest ecosystems. Also to develop and lead a 13-day summer science course in which students will garden and participate in a week-long camping trip.



Passport to Nature, Friends of 1000 Islands Environmental Center



Measuring the Depth of a Sink Hole, Friends of Madison School Forest

Cumberland Public Schools

\$30,000

CUMBERLAND

Reboot and Reconnect

To provide the necessary resources for all teachers to be able to “lace up their boots” and “reconnect” their students with the natural environment.

Elmwood School District

\$929

ELMWOOD

School Forest Navigation Project

To order handheld navigation devices that will be used in forestry and environmental education lessons throughout our school forest.

Fond du Lac County

\$4,008

FOND DU LAC

Educating Fond du Lac County Employees for an Energy Efficient Future

To establish an Energy Team to learn about energy issues, adult education techniques, leadership skills, local approaches to energy efficiency in the private sector, and resources available to support energy education and decision-making within county government. It is expected that this project will develop knowledgeable leaders, decrease energy costs within county buildings and county employees’ homes, and have lasting environmental benefits.

Friends of 1000 Islands Environmental Center

\$4,648 

KAUKAUNA

2011-2012 Fox Cities Passport to Nature

To hire a part-time project coordinator to work with six different outdoor centers and five public libraries in the Fox Valley area to manage the Fox Cities Passport to Nature program in order to achieve better accountability for our goals and objectives.

Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve

\$1,000

FALL CREEK

Family Adventures Geocaching

To present classes to introduce families to the sport of geocaching, the use of GPS units, and offer mini challenges and competitions that keep families visiting and exploring new natural areas.

Friends of Madison School Forest

\$9,375 

MADISON

Down and Dirty in the Driftless

To provide a citizen-science geology program for Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) 7th grade science teachers and their students that includes a field study, a classroom-based lesson plan, an educator training workshop, educator and student assessment tools and a web page. The program will enable students to measure and map the karst collapse features (sink holes)



Forestry Education Focus Tour, Madison Children's Museum

located at the Madison School Forest and learn about the connection between the shape of the land surface and our underground water supply.

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) \$1,000

STEVENS POINT

Young Explorers

To purchase field backpacks and quality resource tools so students may easily explore the nearby natural resources.

Iola-Scandinavia School District \$5,000

IOLA

An Education Plan for the Iola-Scandinavia School Forest Sites

To support the I-S School Forests Committee in drafting and validating a school forest education plan. Support services will be provided by the Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist, Waupaca County DNR Forester and Waupaca County UW Extension. The plan will be reviewed by Iola-Scandinavia teaching staff, School Forest Committee members, administration, school board and community partners.



Why Guides, Madison Children's Museum

Janesville School District \$3,500
JANESVILLE

A Forest Education Plan for the Janesville School's Outdoor Laboratory (JSOL)

To write a Forest Education Plan to expand environmental education programs beyond our current 4th grade use.

Lincoln County Sports Club \$1,091

MERRILL

Bringing Environmental Education to Trinity School

For staff training in *Project Learning Tree*, *Project Wild*, and LEAF courses, and development of curriculum and lesson plans based on state standards and proven practices.

Madison Children's Museum \$4,014

MADISON

Forestry Education Focus Tour

To enable children ages 3-8 to participate in a 30 minute staff-guided activity followed by a 60 minute self-guided tour. During the activity session, children will use the museum exhibits to learn vocabulary; compare leaf specimens, and count rings on a tree round. During the self-guided Capitol Tree Trek, children will see and identify real trees growing in a familiar urban setting.



 **Madison Children's Museum** **\$5,000**

MADISON

Why Guides

To engage college interns in professional development activities by having them develop an activity kit related to his or her area of expertise and research interest in environmental education. Each finished activity kit will first be presented to visitors in a free special workshop coordinated by the Why Guide intern, and will be made available for subsequent use by visitors and volunteers.

Marion School District **\$5,000**

MARION

An Education Plan for the Marion School Forest Sites

To form a School Forest Outdoor Education Team/Grant Writing Committee and charge these members with drafting and validating a school forest education plan.

 **Milwaukee Public Theatre** **\$8,892**

MILWAUKEE

FLOW: The Traveling Water Circus Summer Tour

To present eight performances of FLOW: The Traveling Water Circus to youth summer camp participants. Using circus skills and highly visual, verbal, musical and kinetic theatrics, FLOW features a troupe of water-loving characters who discover they must learn more about where fresh water comes from, how it's used, and what they can do to conserve this irreplaceable resource.

Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton Area Schools **\$1,000**

ONTARIO

Electric Vehicle Technology Development

To help offset the costs of designing and building an electric vehicle that will compete in the Wisconsin Electrathon Competition. Six specific objectives focus this project and provide a framework for student learning.

1. Learn about different electrical systems and how to make them more efficient; 2. Learn the value of leadership and teamwork and how those qualities are necessary to accomplish goals; 3. Develop efficient mechanical systems; 4. Build and race a well-running car that doesn't strain the environment; 5. Explore how aerodynamics and mechanical efficiencies affect the performance of a vehicle; and 6. Study ways to get the most endurance and power out of DC electrical currents.



FLOW: The Traveling Water Circus Summer Tour, Milwaukee Public Theatre

Pittsville School District **\$29,854**

PITTSVILLE

Pittsville Environmental Education Project (PEEP)

To provide additional staff development; construct an outdoor shelter; further develop the trails for greater accessibility and to provide opportunities for community members and parents to be involved in the development of the School Forest.

Riveredge Nature Center **\$6,943**

NEWBURG

Meeting Environmental Education Needs within a Public School System

To partner with Lac Lawrann Conservancy to provide EE programs to 3,000 school students, grades K-6, from six elementary and two middle schools in the West Bend Joint School District. Riveredge will also develop an integrated EE curriculum framework designed so students participate in multiple programs over the years.

School District of Butternut **\$29,761**

BUTTERNUT

We Care about Wisconsin's Forests

To put expanded educational and forest site resources in place and implement regular, integrated teaching/learning experiences for children in all grades about forestry and environmental issues that build student understanding and action skills. Also to provide regular communication initiatives to advise others in the community



**Woodburning, Urban Sustainable Forestry Project,
Council for Spanish Speaking**

and beyond about forestry education materials used in the district, instructional activities and special community events that are intended to foster citizen awareness, knowledge and action experiences.

UW-Stevens Point (UWSP) \$7,670
STEVENS POINT

Teacher Educators Networking for Environmental Education III

For 20 preservice education methods instructors from Wisconsin universities to gather to share and revise the ways they prepare students desiring to become classroom teachers to teach environmental education. An overview of PI 34.02 teacher education standards related to EE, the NAAEE guidelines for excellence, syllabi from courses, goal six of the No Child Left Inside environmental literacy plan, and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Resources Database will be shared.

 **UW-System: Board of Regents \$14,000**
MADISON

Learning from the Land: Leopold's Legacy in Action

For high school students from school districts with school forests including Madison, Monona Grove, Middleton, McFarland, Cambridge and Verona to participate in a week-long Earth Partnership Youth Leadership Institute that includes hands-on experiences, field trips, readings from Aldo Leopold, and guest speakers.



Leopold's Legacy in Action, UW-System: Board of Regents

Students will learn scientific inquiry methods, ecological landscape restoration, communication, service-learning and leadership skills. At least two teachers from each school district will serve as instructors and mentors to guide students in independent projects throughout the school year in their home districts.

UW-System: Board of Regents \$10,000
MADISON

Science on Wheels

Traveling by bike will be used as a pedagogical tool to enable students to explore the world around them and introduce them to environmental studies in a fun, hands-on approach. SOW will also address the social-emotional issues that most disadvantaged gifted and talented students usually experience.

Waupaca School District \$4,975
WAUPACA

An Education Plan for the Waupaca School Forest Sites

To support a School Forest Committee that will draft a school forest education plan. Assistance will be provided by the Wisconsin School Forest Specialist, Waupaca County DNR Forester and Waupaca County UW-Extension. The plan will be reviewed by Waupaca School District teachers, school board, administration and community partners like the Waupaca Parks and Recreation, River Ridge Trail Group and WC Master Gardeners.



Celebrating Wisconsin's EE Partnerships, Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAE)

Weyauwega-Fremont School District **\$4,975**

WEYAUWEGA

An Education Plan for Our Backyard (W-F School Forests)

To support the Our Backyard subcommittee of the W-F School Forests Committee in its efforts to draft and validate a school forest education plan. The Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist, Waupaca County DNR Forester, and Waupaca County UW Extension will provide support services. Additionally, Weyauwega-Fremont teaching staff, administration, and the school board will review the plan.

leaders. After hearing him speak, conference attendees will feel empowered to take the lead on building new partnerships and keep moving forward.

 **Wisconsin Association for Environmental** **\$3,000**

Education (WAE)

STEVENS POINT

Keynote Presentation at the 2011 WAE Fall Conference: Celebrating Wisconsin's EE Partnerships

To allow for a motivational keynote speaker that shows conference participants how to focus on their strengths rather than their weaknesses in order to become better



Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEE) \$5,000

STEVENS POINT

Create the GreenPrint: An Environmental Literacy Plan for Wisconsin

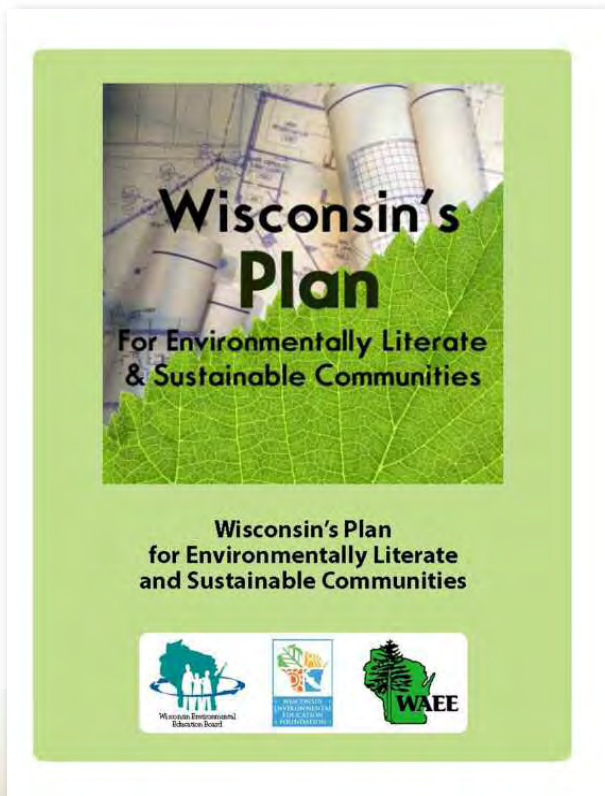
To create a strategic plan for environmental education for the state that incorporates the views of various stakeholder groups.

Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF) \$109,372

STEVENS POINT

Advancing K-12 Forestry Education through the LEAF Program

To develop and deliver exceptional vision-driven curriculum materials and resources to educate students about Wisconsin's forests; provide on-going professional development opportunities for teachers that increase their commitment and ability to teach about Wisconsin's forests; and to serve as the central source for forestry education resources and networking for K-12 audiences.







2012 GRANTS



Land Ethic Leader Program, Aldo Leopold Foundation



Aldo Leopold Foundation

\$3,620

BARABOO

Land Ethic Leader Program

To provide opportunities for teachers, high school and college students, environmental educators, conservation professionals, and community leaders in religious, business, and government circles to develop the skills to understand and address environmental challenges as well as create programs that help educate and engage people in their communities. During the two-day workshop, participants "observe, participate, reflect" in order to build their leadership skills and empower them with tools to bring land ethic focused programs back to their communities.

Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc.

\$9,689

MONONA

**Field Methods and Mentoring in Wisconsin's Forests:
Pass it On!**

To provide a field-based forestry education program along with the ability for high school students to mentor younger students through the planning and leading of summer forestry camps.

Baldwin-Woodville Area School District

\$5,000

WOODVILLE

**An Education Plan for the Baldwin-Woodville Area
School District**

To develop an education plan that connects and inte-



Sensory Exploration in Nature and Fairy Garden, Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens

grates environmental education standards in the classroom curriculum. The teaching staff will be further introduced to the educational possibilities of land donated from the Giezendanner estate for use as a school forest.

physiology, and ecosystem niche. What an animal leaves behind gives clues as to how it interacts as part of a community. This program will present the idea that studying scat is science, not crude humor.

Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System: UW-Extension WISCONSIN DELLS

\$10,000

Engaging Digital Natives Outdoors

This evaluation project will use quantitative data collected through youth participant post-lesson questionnaires and also qualitative data collected through adult participant observation to determine if students' feeling of connection to, engagement with, and understanding of nature were affected through the integration of new and emerging technology within environmental education lessons.

Central Rivers Farmshed STEVENS POINT

\$5,818

Students Help Connect Central Wisconsin Eaters with Local Farmers

To educate students, teachers, parents and community members about the value of local and environmentally grown food and connect them with local sustainable farmers. We piloted this with two Stevens Point schools in 2010, expanded it to four schools in 2011, and look forward to improving and expanding to reach more students with greater educational opportunities.

Bookworm Gardens SHEBOYGAN

\$7,750

Student Leadership and Family Outdoor Environmental Education Programs

For two projects: the implementation of an environmental investigation student leadership program for middle and high school students; and developing a family resource and activity book that links literature and literacy to outdoor and environmental education.

Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens

\$8,038 

MADISON Earth Artists: Sensory Exploration in Nature

To provide a diverse, low-income population of 350 children with a safe, supportive environment in the city where they can explore nature through artistic (sculpture, drama, painting and culinary arts) and sensory activities to develop a lasting respect and affection for nature; to provide 15 college-aged students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and support to grow as environmental educators as they facilitate hands-on learning; and to provide garden-based EE training and guidance for 35 k-12 and non-formal community educators from Madison area schools, community/youth centers and school-based childcare programs.

Cable Natural History Museum CABLE

\$499

Scatology

To enable participants to learn how scat provides scientists with valuable information about a species' lifestyle, health,



Building a Sense of Place Sustainability Curriculum, Edgewood College

Cooperative Educational Service Agency #10 \$9,273

CHIPPEWA FALLS

KEEP-STEM

To create an energy themed STEM university course whose activities integrate logical thinking, innovation, and inquiry by using 21st century skills, the engineering design process, and a collaborative atmosphere where participants learn to answer questions, solve problems, and reflect on their experiences; to deliver the course to 15 teachers; and to support teachers to use this model and the resources they receive to implement the STEM-energy activities in their own classrooms.

Eagle School of Madison

\$999

FITCHBURG

Teaching Students about Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship

To begin assessing biodiversity in the surrounding marsh, grass and woodlands; to begin prairie restoration by growing young oak trees and prairie plants in a nursery for later transplantation into the larger prairie; and to design a landscape plan for the prairie that includes

educational space in order to eventually restore the grassland to an oak savannah and develop the area for use in environmental education and recreational purposes.

Edgewood College

\$9,898 

FITCHBURG

Building a Sustainable Sense of Place

To create a coherent, sequential, place-based (Lake Wingra Watershed) sustainability curriculum for approximately 350 K-8 Edgewood Campus School students. The curriculum will be designed by 15 ECS teachers from a variety of disciplines who have completed a professional development summer course.

Energy Exchange Inc.

\$10,000

MILWAUKEE

Hands-On Water Management Workshops for Landscape Design Professionals, Business Leaders and Policy Makers

Six interactive Water Management workshops will be developed and hosted in order to build the capacity of 300 industry professionals, local business leaders and

government officials to advance state-of-the-art water conservation and storm water management techniques in our community.

Friends of Wehr Nature Center **\$8,439**
FRANKLIN

Ben Franklin's Forest: Transforming a Forest into a Classroom and Children into Citizens

Fifth graders at Ben Franklin Elementary in Franklin School District will participate in transformative learning as they work with Wehr Nature Center staff to turn an unused oak forest at their school into an outdoor learning lab.

Friends of Mukwonago River **\$9,990**
EAGLE

Mukwonago River Watershed Camp Consortium

To work with local youth camp organizations who oversee large land holdings and water frontages (over 2,000 acres on seven different water bodies) to engage thousands of youth and parents in meaningful educational activities and stewardship initiatives in order to increase the number of current and future local citizens who can lead by example to influence decisions that will minimize negative impacts on this pristine watershed.

Gillett School District **\$19,999**
GILLETT

Implementation of Hands-on-Forestry and Stewardship for Gillett School District

To develop curriculum for and establish a district forestry course for grades 9-12 during the 2012-2013 school year. Also to develop curriculum and implement a summer outdoor education course for grades K-8 during the 2012 and 2013 school years that will use newly obtained educational resources to enhance the use of the Gillett School Forest and promote environmental stewardship.

Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development **\$4,800**
GREEN BAY

2013 Winter Woodland Owner's Conference

To educate private woodland landowners about forest health issues, invasive species control, cost-sharing opportunities, managed forest law, timber sale contracts,



wildlife opportunities, water quality protection and markets for forest products.

Green Bay Botanical Garden **\$5,000**
GREEN BAY

Educational Horticulture Displays and Exhibits

To create educational displays and exhibits within the Horticultural Resource Center housed within the existing Visitor Center. The HRC features an adult and children's library, a Plant Health Clinic, a small theater and an interpretive area. These displays and associated educational programming will enable us to teach many more visitors about the natural world.

Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Inc. **\$7,735**
MENASHA

Fox Valley Bat Detectives Citizen Monitoring Collaboration

To enable citizen scientists associated with five environmental centers the opportunity to help collect baseline data on bat populations using electric monitoring equipment. The collected data will be available to researchers and the Wisconsin DNR, and may be useful in the event white nose fungus decimates the state's bat populations and population recovery plans need to be developed. Engaging the public in the collection of real-world data will expand environmental literacy and foster an ethic of environmental stewardship.

Highland School District **\$3,000**

HIGHLAND

Highland Community Forest Revitalization

To ensure the forest is accessible and safe for all ages and abilities of students by enhancing the system of trails, seating options, and learning stations. Also, for faculty to develop a forest-centered environmental education curriculum that utilizes the space.



Citizen Scientist, Manitowoc School District

Kimberly Area School District **\$4,899**

COMBINED LOCKS

Educational Plan for the Kimberly School Forest

To formulate an education plan that will be a resource for and include input from all subject areas, grade levels, and school buildings within the district. This Educational Plan will detail opportunities for utilization of the School Forest and provide connections to the classroom curriculum and state education standards. It will provide Kimberly teachers with the framework upon which future curriculum and outdoor learning experiences can be built.

La Crosse School District **\$750**

LA CROSSE

An Educational Plan for Summit Environmental School's School Forest

Summit Environmental School's Outdoor Education

Committee, a subcommittee of the school's Environmental Education Steering Committee, will be charged with drafting and validating a school forest education plan. The Summit Environmental School Forest will be used to enhance classroom instruction through experiential outdoor education that meets state education standards, integrates environmental education throughout the curriculum, and demonstrates sustainable natural resources management.

Lake View Parent Teacher Organization **\$10,000**
MADISON

Creating an Urban Sustainable Schoolyard Science Forestry Program

Early aerial photos (from 1937) of the Lake View area indicate while all the original oak savannah surrounding Lake View was cleared and farmed, the Lake View grounds remained reasonably undisturbed. The school site provides an affordable, accessible and native ecosystem for our students and community to explore and investigate, using what they learn to improve where they live locally and globally.

Manitowoc School District **\$14,618** 
MANITOWOC

Citizen Scientists of the School Forest

To enable sixth grade students to research the ecosystems, learn about biodiversity, and then share that information with our community, state biologists, and ultimately the world. This project will create an on-going list of all biotic life at the School Forest and provide a foundation for the creation of a School Forest field guide.

Merrill Area School District **\$10,000** 
MERRILL

Pine River Natural Playscape

To enable low income and special needs three, four and five year olds to explore life under rocks; investigate different plants, shrubs and trees; experiment with flowing water; observe logs as they decay; examine worms, slugs and crickets with care and return them to their habitats; and to observe garden growth via another natural playscape in the Township of Pine River. Also to share previously developed environmental education lessons with early childhood educators from around the state.



Exploring in Pine River Natural Playscape, Merrill Area School District

**Merrill Area School District
MERRILL**

\$18,000

Ponder the Pond

To install an aeration system and a dock, provide an instructional in-service for teachers and volunteers and purchase the discovery oriented equipment necessary for children to learn how water quality affects recreational uses and animal habitats and that water quality can be improved when resources and human efforts are applied.

**Merrill Area School District: 4K at
New Testament Church
MERRILL**

\$347

Talking about Trees

To provide additional teaching tools, so students may further utilize the 10+ acre site as an outdoor classroom for identify trees and leaves. Additionally, to incorporate animal stories, art projects and music in order to instill an appreciation for nature.

Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) **\$3,865**

CUSTER

Educational Tours at the ReNew the Earth Institute

To create self-guided audio tours and ten interpretative signs about: solar electricity, solar thermal, wind electricity, composting, alternative construction, permaculture, energy conservation, passive solar construction, masonry heating, and electric car charging. Through this project, individuals can acquire knowledge they can use to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Mount Horeb Area School District **\$3,993**

MOUNT HOREB

An Educational Plan for Mt. Horeb Area School District's School Forest

To form a School Forest Education Plan Task Force (a subcommittee of the School Forest Committee) and charge it with drafting and validating a school forest education plan. An education plan that details opportunities and provides connections to the classroom curriculum and state education standards will provide the MHASD staff with the framework upon which future curriculum and lessons can be built.

Namekagon River Partnership **\$1,000**

HAYWARD

Canoe ECO-Adventure Workshop

To deploy a "Canoe ECO-Adventure" curriculum—developed in partnership with the Water Action Volunteers' statewide coordinator, several middle-school teachers in northwestern Wisconsin, Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters, and local individuals with a strong interest in helping shape the natural resource stewards of tomorrow. Also, to prepare middle-school teachers by providing an in-water canoe management and river safety training session, in order to help them get their students outside on Wisconsin waters learning (by doing) how to judge the health of their local rivers and streams.

Nicolet High School District **\$5,000**

GLENDALE

An Education Plan for the Nicolet School Forest

The Nicolet School District will form a School Forest Education Plan Task Force (a subcommittee of the School Forest Committee) and charge it with drafting and validating a school forest education plan.



Icing Aquatic Invasive Species in Oneida County, Oneida County: Land and Water Department

Oneida County: Land and Water Department **\$2,858** 

RHINELANDER

Icing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Oneida County

To broaden the scope of the County's aquatic invasive educational outreach programs with the first phase occurring during the ice fishing season. During the months of January and February of 2013, we hope to reach hundreds, if not thousands, of ice anglers at tournaments and landings throughout the County. Phase two will be designed to increase the number of open-water anglers that drain livewells and who are willing to ice their catch. It is hoped by performing this type of non-traditional outreach, anglers will become educated about Wisconsin's 'No Transport' laws.



Strengthening Connections, Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI), Antigo

**Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI) \$771
ANTIGO**

Raptor Education Traveling Trunk: Strengthening Connections

To provide teachers with a traveling trunk of educational tools and lessons, so that teachers may prepare for a live raptor program, or continue that learning in the classroom after we leave. Traveling trunks would also present an opportunity for teachers who lack the funds to have a live bird program provide alternative bird education resources in their classrooms.

will collaborate with Wisconsin DNR, UW-Extension, local counties, nature centers, and regional natural resource organizations to improve the environmental literacy of southwest Wisconsin residents. Specifically, grant funds will provide fifty landowners with forest stewardship woods walks lasting 4-5 hours each; engage eighty adults at workshops and presentations; educate 300 school children through school programs; and provide 400 acres of forest stewardship planning.

**Southwest Badger Resource \$9,981
Conservation & Development
PLATTEVILLE**

Retaining Forest Stewards and Generating More

This project focuses attention on the environmental education gap in southwest Wisconsin. Southwest Badger

**Sparta Area School District \$14,244
SPARTA**

Continuing on the Path for Education at the Sparta School Forest

The project includes three major goals that address continuing needs: (1) Teachers, students, and Sparta area community members will utilize the SSF as an important resource for environmental literacy and sustainability; (2)



Forest Fest Woodcarver, Trees for Tomorrow



Natural Resource Careers Workshop, Trees for Tomorrow

Integrate and align environmental literacy and sustainability concepts with Wisconsin Standards throughout the PK-12 curriculum; (3) Provide professional development related to environmental literacy and sustainability for teachers in the SASD. The evaluation design for this project uses a variety of quantitative assessment tools that will measure cognitive, affective, and behavioral changes to members of our target audiences.

Superior School District
SUPERIOR

\$10,102

Woods to Water: A Superior Journey

To integrate forestry and watershed education into Superior classrooms using GIS technology, field experiences and school-based citizen action projects in order to improve student understanding of the relationship between forestry practices, land use, and water quality.

Sustainable Resources Institute
FLORENCE

\$950

Private Lands Forester Training

To provide a field day training event open to all land foresters (public and private).

Trees For Tomorrow

\$7,145 

EAGLE RIVER

Forest Fest

To celebrate Wisconsin's forest history, sustainable forest management and the forest products industry via educational activities presented by TFT's professional naturalists, other professional resource managers, and forest product industry representatives. Topics to include: tree identification, invasive species, fire prevention, urban forestry, woody biomass, forest critters, papermaking, wood carving and logging truck demonstrations. By combining engaging hands-on learning at Forest Fest and interactions with forestry professionals, children and adults will gain knowledge and build skills that help them become more effective decision-makers and to take positive action on natural resource issues in their communities.

Trees For Tomorrow

\$8,774 

EAGLE RIVER

Natural Resource Careers Workshop

To hold a five-day summer career workshop for thirty Wisconsin high school students. Students will meet with foresters, fisheries and wildlife biologists, water resource



Educating Citizens about Importance of Pollinators, UW-Eau Claire

specialists, conservation wardens, recreation land managers, and college representatives to discuss natural resource programs and degrees. Students will also participate in natural resource field work and thereby enhance their outdoor skills and expertise with the use of field equipment.



UW-Eau Claire

\$5,263

EAU CLAIRE

Educating Citizens to Create and Steward Pollinator Habitats

To create and deliver an honor's course that fosters students' environmental civic agency by teaching them specific techniques for community action and offering them opportunities to use social-networking, problem-solving, decision-making, communication, and technological skills. Students will partner with community agencies to create outreach documents – in print, video, and interactive child activity formats – to educate the public about the importance of pollinators and how to steward pollinator habitat. In collaboration with partner agencies, students will also participate in planting pollinator habitat and may participate in monitoring wild bees and other pollinator species. Ultimately, this project seeks to build a community-wide neighbor-to-neighbor network of pollinator stewards.

UW-Madison

\$10,000

MADISON

Science on Wheels

Traveling by bike will be used as a pedagogical tool to



Teacher Educators Network for Environmental Education, UW-Stevens Point

enable minority and disadvantaged gifted students to explore the world around them and introduce them to environmental studies in a fun, hands-on approach.

UW-Parkside

\$10,000

KENOSHA

Root River Renaissance: A Community Partnership to Spark Environmental Education

To support a series of eight environmental education programs for 100 youth; two community development planning sessions and paddling excursions led by the Root River Council; two UW-Parkside student internships to help create and implement promotional and operational plans to increase recreational use of the Racine Community Center and Root River; and a hillside restoration project by faculty and student researchers in collaboration with the Racine County Workforce Development Center.

UW-Stevens Point

\$7,670 

STEVENS POINT

From Planning to Implementation: Teacher Educators Network for Environmental Education

Reconvene TENFEE in August 2012 to provide continued opportunities for 20 preservice education methods instructors from Wisconsin universities and colleges to share and revise ways they prepare teachers to teach environmental education.



Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education Conference

Verona Area School District **\$3,193**
VERONA
Badger Mill Creek Monitoring, Restoration, and Community Awareness Project
 For scientific water monitoring data collection, analysis, and interpretation; storm water treatment; fisheries management; stream bank erosion and solutions; invasive species identification and removal; and a culminating canoe appreciation trip. In addition, students will work with the Verona Public Works Department to educate the community about storm water drain issues by distributing educational leaflets and stenciling "Dump No Waste Leads to Stream" on neighborhood storm drains throughout the city.

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAE) **\$3,000** 📺
STEVENS POINT
Conference PR & Scholarships
 To reach new audiences with publicity via mailings and posters about the fall conference event. To provide scholarships to educators within a 100 mile radius of the conference site to attend the event.

Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF) **\$250**
STEVENS POINT
Leopold Education Project Materials
 To purchase 12 copies of *Lessons in GPS Technology*:



Traveling High School Forestry Education Trunk, Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF)

Connecting Students to Nature to include in the Traveling High School Forestry Education Kits.

Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF) **\$25,840**

STEVENS POINT Forestry Kits and/or Training


To purchase materials to create forestry education kits and/or to provide forestry education opportunities to educators utilizing partnering organizations.

To increase access to forestry education resources for teachers throughout Wisconsin. Kits contain Biltmore sticks, clinometers, GPS units, field guides, and lesson plans.

Wisconsin Green Schools Network **\$10,000**
PORTAGE

No Teacher Left Inside: Weekend Workshop

To host three weekend workshops for teachers during the school year. Workshop topics will include: environmental project-based learning, advancing environmental literacy through common core state standards, and integrating the environment into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education through field-based learning and outdoor skills.

 **Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF)** **\$35,125**

STEVENS POINT Traveling High School Forestry Education Trunks

 **Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools** **\$1,000**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

Bird Basics Project

Human impact on birds will become a first-hand experience for students while they feed birds at our school feeders, monitor the active nests of cavity nesting birds and bring in donations for disabled birds housed at the Raptor Education Group. These hands-on learning experiences will provide examples of simple ways students can give back to nature now and in the future.



Bird Basics, Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation: **\$7,835**

MacKenzie Environmental Center

POYNETTE

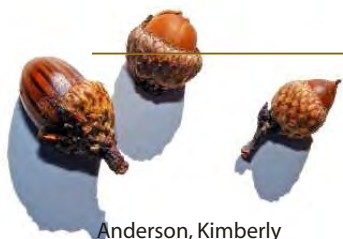
Incorporating Technology into the Outdoor Classroom

To enhance educational activities conducted for school groups by incorporating computer tablet technology into existing programming. These tablets would be used to complement the process of data collection in the field and provide enhancements to classes through the use of video clips and audio files.





Sensory Exploration in Nature, Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens



GRANT REVIEWERS

Anderson, Kimberly DNR: Project WET, Project WILD, Angler Education	2013	Jockisch, Sierra Trees for Tomorrow	2013
Bauer-Armstrong, Cheryl UW Madison Arboretum	2011	Kane, Daniel Illinois DNR, Boone County Conservation District	2013
Bohn, Amanda Trees for Tomorrow, Gordon Bubolz Nature Center	2012	Kelley, JoAnn Madison Gas and Electric Company Foundation (MG & E)	2012
Callewaert, Dave Retired, SC Johnson	2011,2012,2013	Knutson, Jan Beloit School District	2011,2012,2013
Carlton, Ginny WI Environmental Education Board	2011,2012,2013	Krszjanek, Eric Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)	2011
Church, Jim UW-Stout: Biology Department	2013	Kubish, Bobbi UW-Stevens Point	2011,2013
Dostal, Karen Stevens Point Area School District	2011,2012,2013	Kuehnhold, Joel Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools: Lincoln High School	2012,2013
Duckert, Cindy Lawrence University: Biology Department	2011,2012	Kuntz, Chris Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)	2011,2012
Eberhardy, Teri Franzen, Karl	2011,2012,2013 2012	Lane, Jennie WI K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)	2011
Franzen, Rebecca UWSP: Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education	2011,2012,2013	Langenfeld, Chris Renewable World Energies	2013
Freivalds, Zaiga Gordon Bubolz Nature Center	2012	Linde, Alec Liddicoat, Kendra	2011 2013
Gass, Rebecca DNR: Division of Forestry	2012	UWSP: Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education	
Gavin, Leslie WI Energy Conservation Corporation	2012	Magyar, Rick Sierra Club: Chippewa Valley Chapter	2011
Gilbert, Sarah Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)	2012,2013	Maher, Patty Manitowoc Public School District	2012
Haney, Jesse Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF)	2011	Marquard, Kristin Stevens Point Area School District	2011,2012,2013
Heft, Bethany Trees For Tomorrow	2012	McKay, Molly Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI)	2011,2012
Held, Kirsten DNR: Division of Forestry	2013	McKenzie, Kay McRae, Deb	2013 2012
Hermesen, Jodi Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEE)	2012,2013	Wehr Nature Center Mich, Gerry	2011,2012,2013
Horst, David Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region	2012	Wisconsin Family Forest Miess, Derek	2011
Huntoon, Sarah Jackson, Ellie	2012 2012	Substitute Teacher Miresse (Sinisi), Gina	2011
Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)		Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)	

Mollica, Jamie WI K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)	2011	Turnbull, Mirian Trees for Tomorrow	2013
Morgan, Carrie DNR: Office of Communication	2011,2012,2013	Vander Wyst, Gary WI Dept. of Natural Resources	2011,2012
Moubry, Cindy Energy Conservation Corporation	2011	Vennie Vollrath, Erin DNR: Water Quality: Lakes & Rivers Section	2013
Olson, Eric UWSP: Center for Watershed Science and Education	2013	Vennie Vollrath, Jacob UW-Stout	2013
Peterson, Don Sustainable Resource Institute	2012	Verkullen, Lena Welty Environmental Center	2011,2012,2013
Ponlod, Amanda WAAE Board	2012	Weitzel, Deb Retired, Middleton-Cross Plains School District	2012,2013
Quinn, Tom UWSP: Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES)	2011,2012,2013	Whalley, Thomas Retired, Tri-County Schools	2011,2012,2013
Rice (Swanson), Nicole Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE)	2011	Windjue, Sara WI K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)	2013
Rickert, Melissa K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)	2011	Zagrzebski, Kelly Wisconsin Public Service	2011,2012
Robinson-Klug, Colleen DNR: Division of Forestry	2012	<h2>SITE REVIEWERS</h2>	
Schiebel, Amy Edgewood College	2012	Arneson, Darlene WI Farm Bureau	2011,2012,2013
Schramm, Geoff Ozaukee County Land and Water Conservation Department	2011,2012,2013	Ashmann, Scott UW-Green Bay	2011,2012
Schultz, Amy Girl Scouts of America: Woodland Council	2011,2012	Eberhardy, Teri ,Individual Volunteer	2011,2012,2013
Sierk, John Tri-County School Forest Advisory Committee	2011,2012	Haney, Jesse Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE)	2011,2013
Solin, Jeremy Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)	2011	Lehman, Theresa Miron Construction	2013
Tall, Chris DNR: Project Learning Tree	2013	McRae, Debra Wehr Nature Center	2012
Tanguay, Sarah Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)	2012	Moubry, Cindy WI Energy Conservation Corporation	2011
Temte, Jo WDNR: Office of the Great Lakes	2013	Riley, Cheryl Pheasants Forever	2011
Thompson, Barbara West Salem School District	2011,2013	Vander Wyst, Gary WI Department of Natural Resources	2011,2012
Tiles, Kris UW-Extension	2012	Weitzel, Debra Retired, Middleton-Cross Plains School District	2013
Todea, Cheryl Trees for Tomorrow	2011,2012,2013	Wollangk, Amy	2011
Tomaszewski, Jessica LEAF, UWSP-Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education	2011,2012	Zogbaum, Randy Wisconsin Technical College System	2013

GRANT APPLICATION STATISTICS

2011

Total Dollars Requested	\$889,908
Proposals Received	101
Average Request	\$8,811

2012

Total Dollars Requested	\$638,027
Proposals Received	84
Average Request	\$7,595

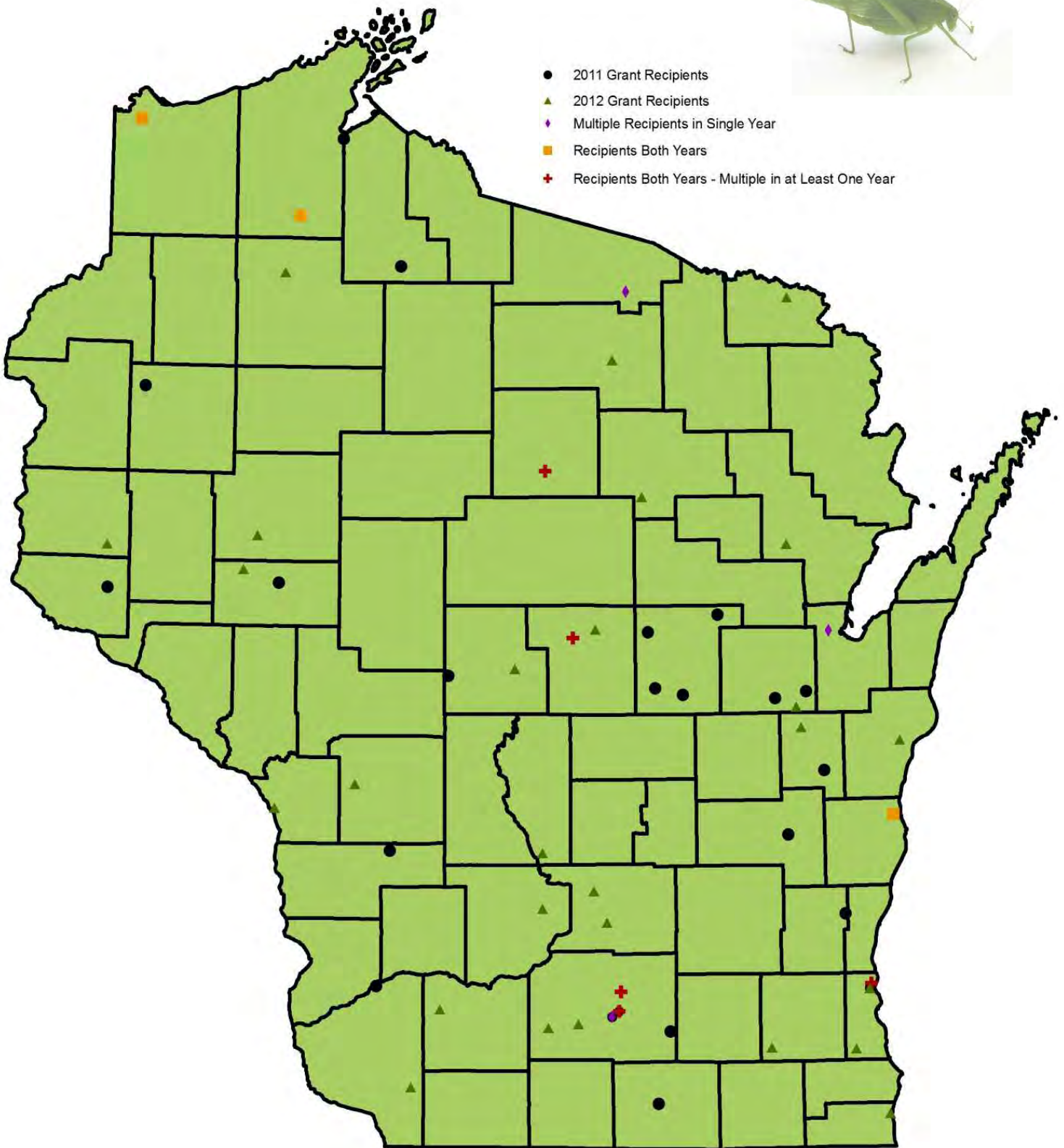
	Projects Funded	Dollar Value Funded
General	17	\$88,904
Forestry	10	\$126,097
School Forest Ed Plan	6	\$28,425
School Forest Implem.	7	\$119,598
Total	40	\$363,024

	Projects Funded	Dollar Value Funded
General	27	\$165,075
Forestry	10	\$124,340
School Forest Ed Plan	5	\$23,822
School Forest Implem.	5	\$76,963
Total	47	\$390,200





- 2011 Grant Recipients
- ▲ 2012 Grant Recipients
- ◆ Multiple Recipients in Single Year
- Recipients Both Years
- ✚ Recipients Both Years - Multiple in at Least One Year



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



As citizens of this state we all have a stake in preserving and enhancing our environmental heritage. We invite your input as we promote learning opportunities for our citizens so that everyone, youngest to oldest, will gain more knowledge and skill to ensure an even more positive legacy of sustainable communities. The WEEB development program is one way Wisconsin residents contribute to our State's rich environmental heritage. These collective and individual efforts make a difference!

Public Support

The annual appropriation from the forestry account of the conservation fund is \$200,000 of which 5% may be used for administrative expenses. The remaining \$190,000 is used to support the forestry and school forest grant programs.

The WEEB also receives a 5% assessment on state environmental fines with pre-July 1, 2009 violations and a 14% assessment on state environmental fines with a post July 1, 2009 date. These funds are used to support the general environmental education grant program. The total amount available varies widely from year to year. For 2011 the amount was \$142,686. For 2012 the amount was \$65,068.

Private Support

1989 Wisconsin Act 299 established the WEEB and authorized it to seek private funds to supplement state support of the grant program.

After extensive efforts to secure private funds produced returns well short of realistic goals, it became evident that raising funds with a directly associated nonprofit corporation as the depository for the funds was essential. In 2004 the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF), a nonstock nonprofit corporation, was registered with the state of Wisconsin; and in 2005 was approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization.

WATER EDUCATION GRANTS

In 2012, the WEEF raised \$55,000 in private donations to support innovative water education and conservation projects in Wisconsin schools and communities. Dollars raised from various funders around Wisconsin were pooled and distributed via a specialized fund within the 2013-2014 WEEB grants program. We are grateful to all of our Water Education Program Sponsors for their support!

Donors included:

Lead Sponsors: Madison Gas & Electric Foundation, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Energy Foundation

Additional support from: Aldo Leopold Foundation, The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, Madison Scuba, LLC, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Wisconsin Water Association, and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

And: Peter Annin, Scott Ashmann, Norman Bair, Chip Bircher, Janet Brandt, Kathy and Mike Carlone, Mary Chickering, Randy Champeau, Sheila Coyle, Michael Dombeck, Diane Drexler, Will Fantle, Carol Fisher, Cliff Fisher, Tina Frailey, Tracey and Tom Furan, Deb and Bernie Gilbert, Stan Gruszynski, Suzanne Harmelink, Steve Hiniker, Robin Harris, Randy and JoAnn Hoffman, Buddy and JoAnn Huffaker, Kathy Konkol, Kathy Kuntz, Anne Lambert, Madelyn Leopold, Charles Newling, Maxine Parsons, Jeffrey Ripp, Beth Ritchie, Victoria Rydberg, Mary Schlaefer, Michelle Walker, Peter and Lynne Weil, Debra Weitzel, Don Wichert, Rick Wilke, Wisconsin Wetlands Association staff, David Wisnefske, Kelly Wright, and Barb Zahn

STATE EMPLOYEES COMBINED CAMPAIGN

In 2007, the WEEF became an umbrella group within the annual State Employee Combined Campaign (SECC) program. The SECC allows state employees to give to

participating charities through a direct payroll deduction, cash, check, or credit card. Leading this program allows WEEF to raise funds for a variety of organizations who are working to advance environmental education at a statewide, regional, or local level. In 2011, \$35,275 was pledged to the WEEF umbrella group and its member charities. In 2012, \$45,519 was pledged to the WEEF umbrella group and its member charities. WEEF member charities in 2011 and/or 2012 included: Forest Exploration Center, Midwest Renewable Energy Association, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Association for Environmental, Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association, and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

WEEF and WEEB will continue to work cooperatively to identify, cultivate, secure, and steward private donations to complement public support for the WEEB grants program. View our website, www.wisconsinEEfoundation.org if you would like to contribute or learn more about the WEEF.







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Hancock, Wisconsin
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110B COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

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