Coordinator’s Corner

Janet is currently serving on a national team of State Coordinators to revise activities in Project WILD for a future major update. Read more below. She has been involved with planning the upcoming awards ceremony for excellence in environmental education, and has been scheduling workshops for the Green and Healthy Schools water conservation workshops (read more below). Janet also attended the 13th Annual 21st Century Community Learning Centers Conference held by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Keep sending your workshop proposal forms to the program e-mail box at: dntwildwet@wisconsin.gov for the quickest processing. Workshop agendas are required with your reporting materials, thanks!

2014 Facilitators of the Year Named

The DNR will recognize two outstanding facilitators on November 8, at the WAEE Awards Ceremony entitled “A Celebration of Excellence in Environmental Education” for their excellence in providing training in Projects WET and WILD in Wisconsin over the years. All facilitators are encouraged to join in the celebration. Registration for this awards ceremony and fund-raising event can be found at: waee.org. Learn more about these two outstanding leaders below.

Joe Raboin, Wisconsin Project WET Facilitator of the Year

Joe serves as the high school life sciences teacher and district environmental education coordinator for Tri-County School District in Plainfield, Wisconsin. Each summer he offers a school forest counselor training course for incoming high school juniors focused on natural resources and prepares counselors to be educators. Students learn to write lessons, manage groups, and peer-teach using Project WET as well as WILD and PLT. These youth teachers then lead a real school forest field trip for about 100 younger students in the school district and then serve as a bridge between school and community as well as between generations. Joe has many future goals as a facilitator including keeping current on demographics, new technologies, scientific discoveries, and new teaching techniques and activities. He hopes to recruit more males and minorities into his workshops, promote active lifestyles focused on the outdoors, and foster an appreciation and enjoyment (“land ethic”) of the natural world in his student leaders. Joe’s favorite thing about being a facilitator is empowering students with the knowledge, skills, and passion necessary for them to serve as teachers, leaders, and role models. He values the ability to reach hundreds of students and community members each year through this training model and appreciates being able to make a positive impact on the lives of many individuals, as well as the community and world as a whole.
Dawn Koceja, Wisconsin Project WILD Facilitator of the Year
Dawn began as a Project WILD Facilitator to inner-city educators in environmental education and Project Wild Curriculum was the perfect tool. Dawn combines training with museum exhibits with walks outside in downtown Milwaukee, exploring different habitats and biomes. Dawn’s workshops have ranged from Early Childhood teachers to experienced teachers looking for an environmental education refresher. Her largest audiences are the college students at several universities and colleges where she shares Project Wild as part of science methods classes. She feels that Project WILD is the perfect curriculum for an Education major to have, and use, throughout their studies, especially when they begin their student teaching and curriculum planning. As the Multigenerational Education Coordinator at the Milwaukee Public Museum, she uses Project Wild in her own programming from summer camps for kids, to staff professional development and even working with aging adults with dementia; she has used the content to engage many visitors and groups, using butterflies and bugs as icebreakers. Dawn hopes to continue working with the colleges and universities to share the curriculum with students aspiring to become teachers as a foundation of environmental education. Her favorite thing about being a facilitator is hearing stories, ideas and excitement after a workshop about what participants have learned.

Facilitator Niche News
Education Connection, the DNR’s preK-12 education materials listing, has been updated and can be found under “Required Forms” on the Facilitator Niche webpage. By using these publications, you are providing a vital link to information about our state’s natural resources. Please use it to order your “supplemental materials” from now on and be sure to include the number of publications you need in the margin. Please submit it along with your workshop proposal each time. Also, be sure to notify workshop participants about how Education Connection which can be access from the “Education” web page at dnr.wi.gov.

Project WET Needs Facilitator Input
The Project WET Foundation is trying to assess the use and impact of the Project WET programs throughout the U.S. Your input is valuable in helping Project WET improve its programs regardless of how often or how little you use Project WET. Please take three minutes to complete the survey by using the link below. If you have taken this survey already please do not take it again. Thank you for helping improve Project WET’s program and materials.
http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e5umd9vth1dmzs5a/start

Funding For Workshop Enhancement Available. Do you have innovative ideas to attract participants to your Project WET or WILD workshops that require funding? Need science equipment or supplies to create more interactive demonstrations of the activities for participants? Consider applying for the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) general grants. More funding is available this year and the water grants have been melded into the “general” grant category. Incorporate some action components into your workshop by featuring citizen-based monitoring or Green and Healthy School topics. Proposals are due mid-February. Watch the WEEB website for updates this fall, or contact Ginny Carlton at 715-346-3805 for details.
Making Wisconsin Connections

Green & Healthy Schools + Water Conservation
A series of workshops are being scheduled around the state at key locations to enable schools who have pledged to become Green and Healthy to realize their goals. These one-day professional development workshops will provide training in both Project WET and Project Learning Tree and target water conservation and other key focus areas. Locations, registration, and details can be found on the Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin webpage. Thanks to all the facilitators who have partnered with our team to provide this grant-funded opportunity.

News from the Council for Environmental Education: Project WILD
For the last year, a major Project WILD (terrestrial) expansion project has been underway. Teams have gathered to identify activities for deletion, combining, and updating, as well as targeting opportunities to meeting new standards. New outdoor components will be added to activities as well as “In Step with STEM” and “WILD Work” components to mirror the new Aquatic WILD guide. The guide is slated to be printed in 2016 depending on funding.

The Project WILD correlations webpage has been updated with links to the most recent sets of correlations to national education standards which have expanded. Please highlight standards correlations in every workshop. See http://www.projectwild.org/Correlations.htm for new links to:
1. Aquatic WILD/ Common Core English Language Arts correlations, and
2. Project WILD (Terrestrial) NGSS Performance Expectations correlations.

Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife guide is being retired by the national program and there are 17 guides available in the state office to be used in workshops on a first-come first-served basis until they are gone. These guides will not be reordered. Click on the link above to learn more about this secondary education guide.

News from the DNR
Try the New Wisconsin State Parks and Forests mobile app that offers many tools to help users learn more about and use our beautiful state parks, forests, trails and recreation areas. Use it as a technology connection for education!

Announcing the 2015 State Park Sticker Design Contest See Project WILD’s activity “Wildlife on Coins and Stamps” for connections.

DNR Education News brings you information on the newest publications, workshop & training listings, program news, and much more.