



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

Scott Walker, Governor

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Dear Teachers, Parents and Friends,

The Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species, in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, is pleased to announce our 2012 “**Slow the Spread by Boat and Tread**” Poster Contest! This contest is open to 4th and 5th grade students throughout the state and asks children to create a poster about invasive plants or animals that threaten the long term health of Wisconsin’s natural habitats, especially wetlands and shorelines.

The contest, as part of Wisconsin’s Invasive Species Awareness Month in June, encourages children to learn more about the aquatic invasive species that cause problems for native plants, animals, and ecosystems. Once prepared with background information, children will create posters highlighting one or more invasive species or ways to slow the spread of invasive species in wetlands. More information about invasive species and links to cool sites can be found at: <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov> and www.dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/isamcontest.htm. We encourage you to look through these sites to find additional information about aquatic invasive species that you may want to share with children. Given that Earth Day is April 22, why not use this contest as a fun and creative way for your children to learn more about the environment!

Wisconsin waters and landscapes are being invaded! Invasive species cost the U.S. over \$137 billion annually, both in control costs and in lost productivity, and this cost will only continue to rise. Therefore, it is important that we educate tomorrow’s leaders so they are prepared to meet the challenge of reducing the impacts of invasive species.

Please review the information on the EEK! website for the contest rules and requirements. Note that you can either do this exercise together as a classroom, or send it home with children to complete on their own. Contest rules and details can be found on-line at: www.dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/isamcontest.htm. Questions should be directed to Belle Bergner at isam_wi@yahoo.com. Entries must be postmarked by Monday, **April 2nd 2012**.

Please share this letter with fellow teachers and parents. This is a contest worthy of every student’s time. We are looking forward to reviewing the creativity of Wisconsin’s schoolchildren expressed in their poster submissions!

Sincerely,

Paul Schumacher
Chair

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Chair

Wisconsin Association of Lakes
Madison

Jack Sullivan

Department of Natural Resources
Madison

Shelly Allness

Department of Tourism
Madison

Charles Henriksen

Henriksen Fisheries
Baileys Harbor

Travis Olson

Department of Administration
Madison

Gregory D. Long, ASLA

Private Member
New Berlin

Kenneth Raffa

University of Wisconsin
Madison

James Reinartz

University of Wisconsin
Milwaukee Field Station
Saukville

Todd Matheson

Department of Transportation
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Brian Kuhn

Department of Agriculture, Trade and
Consumer Protection
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Pat Morton

The Nature Conservancy
Whitewater