

June 16, 2009

*To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.*

-Helen Keller

Greetings Project WILD, Project WET, and Project Learning Tree Facilitators,

No doubt you have been as anxious for summer as we have, and we hope it has found you well. There are several new faces in our network to meet and it is time once again to plan to attend the annual facilitator conference to get the latest updates from the DNR and PLT, WILD, WET, and have a little fun with bats, too!

## **Welcome New Facilitators**

**Beth Carreno** (photo from the Great Lakes WET workshop) Beth joins us from Kansas where she served as a Coordinator for Education Programs with the Kansas Assn. for Conservation and Environmental Education. She coordinated Kansas Project WET, the Topeka Water Festival, and provided training in Project Learning Tree (Secondary workshops also), Project WILD, Leopold Education Project and many more programs. We are excited to have Beth in Wisconsin to share her enthusiasm and extensive experience in delivering training through our programs now at [Ellwood H. May Environmental Park](#).

**Kathrin Schmid** – Karen works at the [Milwaukee Public Museum](#) and completed her mentorship in Project Learning Tree with Dawn Koceja. She has guided cultural tours in Milwaukee for several years and has experience teaching diverse groups about cultural and environmental topics. Kathrin enjoys trying new activities and ways to keep participants motivated. Congratulations Kathrin.

**Erin Gilliland** – Erin is a student and also works at the [Milwaukee Public Museum](#). She was mentored in Project WILD by Dawn Koceja. Erin loves the excitement of educators while they're learning and especially enjoys working with early learning groups. Congratulations and welcome Erin.

**Cathy Ney** – Cathy has moved back to Wisconsin from Virginia, is retired, and lives in Minong. She substitutes and is working with the local school district to use their mile-long nature trail to meet curriculum goals. She has taught Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree in Virginia for 20 years. She wrote the Connections Units that matched the WET, WILD and PLT activities to elementary trade books and the state standards in the late 1990s. Cathy stars in the VA Dept. Of Education Outdoor Classroom video, and her school was recognized as a Virginia Naturally School. She is the winner of the Distinguished PLT award. Check out her work and photos at: [neyture.info](#). We're delighted to have you back in Wisconsin.

## **Announcements**

**Facilitator Conference: August 18 – 19, Central Wisconsin Environmental Station, Amherst Junction.** We invite and encourage all facilitators to attend our facilitator conference this summer at beautiful CWES, located on Sunset Lake in Amherst

Junction. This is a unique opportunity for facilitators to get to know DNR staff and connect with other facilitators from the state. In addition to networking, you'll receive our newly updated Facilitator Handbook, and learn about new developments in WILD, PLT, and WET. In the evening, you'll meet bat biologist Dave Redell, who will discuss bat conservation in Wisconsin, citizen based monitoring, and take us on a night time hike to conduct an acoustic survey. For more information and to register for this free event, contact Annie Kalson (608) 264-6280, [annemarie.kalson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:annemarie.kalson@wisconsin.gov). Deadline: July 20. Registration materials are posted on the [Facilitator Niche web page](#). We hope to see you there!

**New Facilitator Training for Project Learning Tree: Early Childhood and Project WET: September 25 & 26, Location TBA.** Have you been thinking of becoming a facilitator for WET, or Early Childhood? Do you know of past workshop participants who have expressed an interest in facilitating? Now's the time! We are currently recruiting new facilitators for Project WET and Project Learning Tree: Early Childhood. Attending a DNR-run training is a fantastic way to begin your position as a facilitator. In just one day you'll be trained to facilitate workshops and be exposed to all the latest developments in the curriculum. For information and to receive an application, contact Annie Kalson (608) 264-6280, [annemarie.kalson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:annemarie.kalson@wisconsin.gov).

**Scholarships for Early Childhood:** There is still funding available through a WEEB Forestry Education Grant to offer workshop scholarships FREE to in-home and child care center staff (can be through an early childhood association conference/in-service), Head Start programs, and Milwaukee Public Schools (k-1st grade teachers). If you would like to hold a free workshop for any of these groups in your area, please contact Annie Kalson ([dnrpltwildwet@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrpltwildwet@wisconsin.gov)). Workshops must be held by **December 1, 2009**. More funding is available in 2010, but please help us meet our goal for this year and reach as many educators as possible.

**Project Teaching:** As you've facilitated a workshop you may have spoken with a participant who mentioned that he or she is fulfilling a requirement for a teaching license. Teacher candidates and practicing teachers who need to fulfill the environmental education requirement for their license may have been sent your way by Mark Stensvold. Mark has been a facilitator since 1995. He operates Project Teaching: a program to help folks with bachelor's degrees in shortage areas become licensed teachers, and EdNova: a program to help current teachers meet additional license requirements. For more information on these programs contact Mark ([mark@norda.us](mailto:mark@norda.us), web: [www.norda.us](http://www.norda.us)). The information at stipulations workshops is at <http://norda.us/workshops.aspx>.

**Attn: WET Facilitators- The Great Lakes Workshop Makes a Splash!** On May 1, 2009, facilitators Amalia Baldwin (Project WET Assistant Coordinator) and Beth Carreno (Sheboygan-Maywood based facilitator) delivered the first Great Lakes Focused Project WET workshop to 16 participants in Sturgeon Bay. All of the Project WET activities used in the workshop were tweaked to give them a Great Lakes focus and workshop participants received a packet of Great Lakes resources for use in their classrooms and nature centers. The workshop was a hit with participants! One high school teacher commented, "I think these programs help us do authentic science that has so much more import to the students. Thank you!" Each participant left with a smile and a bag full of maps, charts, posters, and other Great Lakes resources.

There are Great Lakes packets (including a sample agenda) available for Project WET facilitators to use. Teachers are eager to learn more about our giant backyard water bodies, so host your own Great Lakes workshop this summer! Contact Amalia Baldwin (608) 264-8930, [amalia.baldwin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:amalia.baldwin@wisconsin.gov) for more information.

### **Facilitator Selected to Attend National PLT Conference**

[Dawn Koceja](#) (pictured right) was selected to attend the national Project Learning Tree conference in May on behalf of the Wisconsin Project Learning Tree program. Dawn has delivered an amazing number of early childhood workshops at the Milwaukee Public Museum as well as other parts of the state-even River Falls recently. She is very active within the early learning community as a leader in environmental education. Dawn traveled to Indiana in May and provided her expertise in the development of the national Project Learning Tree early childhood supplement, a hybrid of the Wisconsin and Minnesota guides, and has subsequently been invited to serve on their committee. She brought back many great ideas and also danced with Billy B and met our former state coordinator, Al Stenstrup in action. Thanks Dawn for representing our state at this important conference.

## **Summer Workshops**

June 22-26. [Exploring Wisconsin's Natural Resources In and Out of the Classroom.](#) Sally Ride Academy, West Allis. A week-long course on Wisconsin's Natural Resources, including Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree. Graduate credit is offered. Contact [Carrie Morgan](#), (608) 267-5239.

July 13-17. [Where You Live-Explore Nature While You Teach and Learn.](#) Christa McAuliffe Academy, Appleton. Wisconsin DNR educators will be bringing their weeklong workshop to the northeast. Graduate credit is offered. Contact [Mary Hamel](#), (608) 267-7409.

July 30. [Project WET Workshop.](#) Focus on Great Lakes. Maywood Environmental Park, Sheboygan. Contact [Beth Carreno](#), (920) 459-3906.

August 20. [Project WET Workshop.](#) Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha. Contact [Jayne Jenks](#), (262) 896-8305.

## **Program Connections**

### **DNR Now Offers New Subscription Service for Web Page Updates**

Remember those brightly colored stickers advertising the [DNR Education Newsletter](#)? The address is the same, the service is called GovDelivery. The electronic newsletter will still be sent 3-4 times a year, but you can also subscribe to some web pages for more immediate updates. Just click on the "Subscribe to DNR Updates" button on Web pages that are included in this service, such as the [Teacher Workshop & Events Calendar](#) or the [What's New Teacher page](#) on EEK!. Simply check the subjects that interest you, and indicate the how often you want to get the notices. If there's a significant change to the page, you'll get a notice. Please alert workshop participants, local educators, school district administrators or curriculum specialists about this new service. There are many new DNR topics to choose from.

### **PLT Newsletter Wins Award**

Project Learning Tree's quarterly online newsletter, [The Branch](#), received the Outstanding Achievement in Network Publications from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Each issue features PLT updates, environmental education news, educator tips, environmental education resources, and feature articles. Facilitators are welcome to submit a tip, resource, news, or an article. **Please encourage your workshop participants to learn more and stay connected to PLT by subscribing.**

### **Climate Change Guide News**

We have some fantastic new items available to complement our [Climate Change: A Wisconsin Activity Guide for grades 7-12](#). The [leaf bookmark](#) (Pub # EI-7052) makes a perfect addition to the Tree of Pledges Activity. Space is provided on the leaf to write your pledge to improve the environment and the leaf shape is perfect for hanging on your pledge tree or it can remind you of your pledge as you open your favorite book. We have also printed an [Ecosystem Relationships Poster](#) (Pub # EI-7053) from the guide artwork to go with the Ecosystem Relationships Activity. A Project WILD Aquatic Activity *Blue Ribbon Niche* is included on the back. All of these new materials will now be included with any orders of the Climate Change Guide. If you haven't received a copy of the guide yet, please e-mail [DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov) and provide your name, e-mail and mailing address. Please let us know if you would like classroom quantities of the poster or bookmark.

One correction to the guide has been updated ~ in the *Power to the People* Activity; the formulas at the bottom of Page 35 have been corrected. Newly ordered guides have been updated while educators with older guides can find the new version online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/teacher/Climateguide/pdf/02-3035-powerpeople.pdf>.

### **More Resources to Check Out**

[Monthly U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Climate Change Updates from USFWS.](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Bird Management announces \*Birds of Conservation Concern 2008\*.](#)

[UW-Extension Develops Songs to Raise Awareness about Aquatic Invasives](#)

[Wisconsin "Forests and Climate Change" webinar now available!](#)

*Have a great summer!*

*The PLT/WILD/WET Team,*

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