

ECO Education / Pontoon Classroom
September 2010

“3rd Pontoon Classroom / ECO Field Trip”.

By the time the POA had planned the 3rd event, September '10 several key learnings had taken place.

1. We needed to form an Education Committee to further develop the program.
2. We needed to purchase equipment to support the program and also to support the considerable hands on opportunities we planned for the students.
3. We would need some funding to support the purchases, and through our WDNR contacts we found we could apply for a Small-scale planning grant for Lake Education. In August of 2010 we applied for and were granted a \$3000 grant from the WDNR in October 2010.

For the 3rd field trip we adjusted slightly from the first fall program, by dropping the Sand bar lake exploration, and only utilized the Middle Eau Claire experience. We conducted three segments of 45 minutes each. Water Quality, Aquatic Plants identification and Shoreline stewardship/Fish sticks. POA volunteers were utilized for the teaching and support operations as in year 1. This school year we were introduced to the new science teacher, Andy Arthur and he assured us that he would like to continue on with what we had started with Steve Stipetich, who retired over the summer. This class held 36 students. Equipment purchased through the grant was introduced on this field trip to provide a more hands on experience. Equipment used included, Seechi Discs, DO water meters, rakes, sunscreen, underwater cameras, clipboards, pencils.

We conducted two in class sessions to introduce the students to Aquatic plants, AIS and shoreline restoration to manage storm water run off. Ann Brovold from the M&M Greenhouse was a guest speaker for the shoreline portion, and John Kudlas presented the class on Aquatic plants along with Stefania Strzalkowska from the Bayfield Co. AIS coordinator.