



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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*Each new year is a surprise to us.  
We find that we had virtually forgotten the note of each bird,  
and when we hear it again it is remembered like in a dream,  
reminding us of a previous state of existence.  
How happens it that the associations it awakens  
are always pleasing, never saddening;  
reminiscences of our sanest hours?  
The voice of nature is always encouraging.*  
-Henry David Thoreau

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

### **Office Matters**

Outside our office here in Madison there is still snow and ice visible on the sidewalks, but inside we are busy planning for our spring and summer workshops, conferences, and events. Lately we have had so many requests for workshops that we can't possibly fulfill them all- we certainly aren't complaining though. It's wonderful to have so many educators committed to environmental education. Our many thanks go out to all of you who continue to facilitate informational and engaging workshops throughout the state.

### **2009 Facilitator Conference**

We know that it's difficult for all of us to find the time to do all the things we'd like to do, but we are committed to making time our facilitator conference. We look forward to this event because it means we can put some faces to well known names and get to know each other better. We want to hear from you what you think of things and the chance to talk with you about changes and new opportunities. We're hoping that you'll find it valuable to spend some time with us and other Wisconsin facilitators, too. Our conference will be held August 18 – 19, at the beautiful [Sandhill Wildlife Area](#). You are welcome to bring spouses/partners, and/or children. Overnight indoor facilities are available, as are campgrounds. There is no charge for this event. Please email Annie with your interest, [annemarie.kalson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:annemarie.kalson@wisconsin.gov).

### **Facilitator Training**

As many of you are aware, it has been a long, long time since DNR staff have held an open facilitator training. This year we plan to change that. September 25-26 we will hold a facilitator training for [Project WET](#) and the [PLT:Early Childhood](#) program. If you are interested in participating in this free 2-day training, please email Annie at [annemarie.kalson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:annemarie.kalson@wisconsin.gov) and let her know where in the state you reside and if/how far you are willing to travel. We will strive to choose a location that is convenient for as many of you as possible.

### **Wisconsin Initiatives**

#### **Water Conservation and You Contest Deadline Approaching**

The Wisconsin Rural Water Association and local water utilities invite teachers throughout Wisconsin to enter student artwork in WRWA's 2009 Water Conservation Poster Contest. The contest is open to all Wisconsin public and private school 1st – 6th graders. Winners will receive prizes and have a chance at a prize for their school. The theme for the contest is "Water Conservation and You". If you know of teachers who could use this, have them act fast! Entries are due March 11, 2009. More details are available on EE in Wisconsin: <http://www.eeinwisconsin.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=79759.0.16.2209..>

#### **New Arbor Day webpage offers celebration activities and ideas!**

Arbor Day is a nationally-recognized observance that encourages tree planting and care. In Wisconsin, Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April, and this year it falls on April 24. Formal and non-formal educators alike are encouraged to celebrate Arbor Day with children and students. A new webpage on the *EEK!* – *Environmental Education for Kids* website offers background information, resources, lesson ideas and tree planting activities to help you celebrate Arbor Day in your own special way. Check it out at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/teacher/arborday.htm>

### **New Climate Change Activity Guide**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is proud to introduce a new climate change guide for educators. Designed to teach 7th to 12th grade students about how climate change affects all of us, Climate Change: A Wisconsin Activity Guide includes twelve engaging activities suitable for classes in English and language arts, environmental education, math, science, art and social studies.

Using this guide, teachers can help students investigate the evidence and causes of climate change, examine its impacts on ecosystems, explore and discuss varied social and cultural perspectives, and get involved helping to solve this local and global predicament.

Educators can preview this guide at [dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/climatechangeguide.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/climatechangeguide.htm)

and can order free copies by sending their mailing and email addresses to [DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov)

### **Angling for Adventure**

The DNR's Junior Angler program is an excellent way to get kids (and teachers!) learning about and enjoying Wisconsin's water-y environments. Projects WET and WILD also provide fantastic opportunities for increasing aquatic knowledge in classrooms and nature centers across the state. So why not combine the three into a fun-filled and educational workshop, program, or classroom unit? The new "Junior Angler Correlations Sheet" makes connecting the Junior Angler program to activities in Project WET, Project WILD, and Project WILD Aquatic easy. The sheet also connects Junior Angler activities to the many resources the DNR and other government agencies have available for educators to use. If you'd like a copy of the correlations sheet, you can contact Amalia Baldwin (608-264-8930, [amalia.baldwin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:amalia.baldwin@wisconsin.gov)) or download one from the DNR's Educational Resources page: [dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/pltwild/edres.htm#pub](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/pltwild/edres.htm#pub).

### **National Project Learning Tree Initiatives**

#### **PLT & LEAF Workshops - The Best of Both Worlds**

PLT & LEAF are teaming up for three workshops coming in March and April. This will mark the first time the two programs have put on a workshop together and we're positive that many more collaborations will come in the future! Registration is limited and graduate credit scholarships are available for the first 10 educators to sign up. The workshop runs Friday (4:30pm - 8:30pm) through Saturday (8am-4:30pm). For more information: Contact [LEAF](#) at (715) 346-4956 or [Wisconsin PLT](#) at (608) 264-6280. You may also find additional information at this website: [http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/educators/calendar\\_workshops.aspx](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/educators/calendar_workshops.aspx)

#### **Head Start & PLT Early Childhood**

Christopher Tall hosted two PLT Early Childhood Workshops at the [Wisconsin Head Start](#) Association Conference in early February. With the generous support of a WEEB grant, we were able to give scholarships to all eighty workshop attendees as well as develop a Discovery Kit of goodies for the Head Start teachers. Head Start educators welcomed the PLT Early Childhood Guide and Music CD and made several requests to have workshops available in their hometowns. Head Start educators seemed like a perfect audience for PLT Early Childhood Guide. Please consider hosting a workshop for a local Head Start program near you.

#### **GreenWorks! Grants**

Your promotion of the *GreenWorks!* grants is paying off for Wisconsin educators and children. Washington, D.C.-Project Learning Tree, the environmental program of the American Forest Foundation, announced in early March that two projects in Wisconsin that bring together students and community partners will receive *GreenWorks!* grants.

**Aldo Leopold Nature Center** in Monona will host a youth-organized and staffed Arbor Day celebration on April 25, 2009, in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of Blackhawk Council. With training of leaders and Scouts beforehand, the Scouts will take the lead in designing and carrying out activities for the event.

**Suring FFA Chapter and Suring School District:** Students will construct "Discovery Trails" to create a living classroom in the school's 160-acre forest. The goal is to make the school forest more user-friendly and increase use.

Keep promoting the grant program in your PLT workshops! Look for the new promotional business cards for *GreenWorks!* to hand out. The application deadlines for 2009 are April 30 and October 31. For more information about *GreenWorks!* grants, visit [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org).

### **National Project WILD Initiatives**

Project WILD offers Many Resources on Website. Get Project WILD Students Worksheets from all activity guides online, and also supplemental resources such as the Migration Headache habitat cards, technology connections, and topical links. <http://www.projectwild.org/EducatorResources.htm>.

**National Project WET Initiatives**

**Great Lakes in Our Future**

Thanks to some water-loving folks up in Door County, we are about to hold the first Great Lakes Focused Project WET workshop in Sturgeon Bay on May 1, 2009. The workshop will use Project WET activities with a Great Lakes twist and provide educators with a host of Great Lakes focused materials. If you know of someone who would like to attend, please provide them with the flyer ([click here](#)). If you know a bunch of people who would like to attend, host a Great Lakes workshop of your own! Contact Amalia Baldwin, [amalia.baldwin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:amalia.baldwin@wisconsin.gov) or (608) 264-8930 for more information.



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**Visit us on the Web:** [dnr.wi.gov/education/pltwildwet/](http://dnr.wi.gov/education/pltwildwet/)