



Wisconsin School Forest News

Tools for School Forest Success

The following tools have been created to help you track progress at the school forest. You can find these tools on the [LEAF School Forest Website](#).

School Forest Use Tracking Tool: use this worksheet to track the details of your school forest field trips. You can record the number of students, grade levels, lessons, and parent volunteers for each year. Use this data to complete the annual school forest survey in May.

School Forest Field Trip Evaluation Form: this form can be completed by the teacher(s) who participated in a field trip to the forest. It allows for each lesson to be evaluated and an assessment of the trip overall.

School Forest Handbook: the handbook contains great information about setting-up and sustaining your school forest program.

Educational Resources

School Forest Science Lessons Curriculum connections and lessons are available to support content in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Human Anatomy & Physiology. If you have lessons that you currently do with students at the school forests in these content areas, please submit them so that the online resource can continue to grow!

Forestry Education Kits are available for FREE check-out throughout the state. They are free and contain equipment and materials for teaching tree measurement, identification, lesson plans, and orienteering. They also contain 10 GPS units.

The **Wisconsin Environmental Education (EE) Resources Library** collection contains over 6,000 environmental and sustainability education materials including curriculum guides, children's books, puppets, posters, dvds, reference books, and **educational kits**. Most items can be shipped through interlibrary loan to you. Check it out today!

Citizen Science projects are an excellent way to incorporate scientific inquiry, math, language arts, real world research, and Next Gen Science Standards. Check out the diverse list of opportunities on the **School Forest Environmental Monitoring** webpage. All of these projects are relevant for K-12 students (however some are more appropriate at specific grade levels). There is something of interest for everyone!

Wisconsin Worm Watch: Survey your school forest for the impacts of invasive earth worms. The data collected through the **Wisconsin Worm Watch survey** is very valuable to Forest Health Specialists in the WDNR. Information provided in the surveys helps them understand the distribution of invasive earthworms across Wisconsin and their impact on local forests. In this lesson, students will use language arts, science, critical thinking, and math skills to participate in a citizen science project and determine if invasive earthworms are present in a forest.

Smartphone Apps:

Merlin Bird ID : Instant bird identification help for 400 North American birds from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Fifty Trees of the Midwest from Purdue University Extension is now available. Visit this news article to learn more about the app and how to purchase it.

Key to Woody Plants of Wisconsin Forests provides an easy-to-use tool for identifying Wisconsin trees, shrubs and vines. The key includes 85 species of trees and 57 species of shrubs and vines that are native to Wisconsin or exotic and invasive.

River on the Web includes stream study data collection and information to understand the data that was collected in sections for site profiles, chemical and bacterial sampling, and macro invertebrates.



Upcoming Fall LEAF Workshops and Courses—scholarships available **Registration deadlines approaching!**

More information about each can be found on [LEAF's Professional Development calendar](#).



NRES 621- Greening Your Math: This workshop focuses on outdoor and hands-on applications of algebra, geometry and trigonometry. In addition to inspiring ideas, you'll also get mathematics-related LEAF lesson materials to take back to your classroom. A limited number of scholarships are available, bringing the cost to \$150, which includes one graduate credit, 4 meals, and dorm style lodging on Saturday night at Treehaven.

*Saturday, October 18th and Sunday, October 19th at Treehaven in Tomahawk. Instructor: Dr. Roger Jones

NRES 620- Forestry Education in the Wisconsin K-12 Classroom: The class teaches you key forestry principles, demonstrates teaching techniques, and gives you great interdisciplinary activities so you can easily integrate forestry education into your indoor or outdoor classroom. LEAF activities help you meet standards for natural resources, science, math, and social studies, as well as Common Core State Standards for Literacy in All Subjects. The hybrid class includes online discussion and assignments and one Saturday or two evenings of a face-to-face meeting. A limited number of scholarships are available, bringing the cost of one graduate credit to \$85. Choose from:

*October 3rd to November 10th: meeting in **Waupaca** on Mon., Oct 13 and Wed., Oct 22 from 4:30 to 8:30 PM.

*October 20th to November 21st: meeting in **Hayward** on Saturday, November 1st from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

A **Forest For Every Classroom** is back in a new format. There are 5 different workshops throughout the year. You can sign up for as many as you like. Participants have substitute reimbursement available and a \$200 mini-grant to implement a project at their school. Participant cost (estimated) \$15. This is too good to pass up! Contact LEAF's own [Sarah Gilbert](#) for more info.

Topics covered include:

- *Accessibility and Inclusivity (1 day in Milwaukee area) – October
- *Service Learning (1 day location TBD) – fall
- *Winter Ecology and Tree id (2 day with optional credit at Treehaven in Tomahawk) – Jan or Feb
- *Citizen Science (1 day location TBD) – spring
- *Climate Change (1 day location TBD) – spring

Grants!

[WEEB Grants](#). Start thinking now if you would like to apply for a School Forest Education Plan Grant or School Forest Grant from WEEB. Applications are not due until February. The education plan grant allows up to \$5,000 for a team to write the plan. The school forest implementation grant award maximum is \$20,000 and allows you to execute your education plan by providing professional development, purchasing equipment or supplies, creating trails, and/or upgrading facilities.



There are numerous grants available to help fund education and improvements at your forests. Search the grants section of the eeinwisconsin.org webpage. It is organized by the month in which the grant is due.

Green Apple Day of Service - Fall 2014

All school forests that are planning projects between August and October 2014 are encouraged to register your activities with the Green Apple Day of Service. This is an effort to showcase how people around the world are improving school environments through service projects, education, community events and more. The theme is Recycling & Waste Management, **but school projects are not limited to the theme**. Any type of service project is applicable, **including forest management... like invasive species control**. If you do any projects or events at the school forest this fall, please register them. We want Wisconsin to be well represented! For more information: <http://wgba.shuttlepod.org/wgbagados>

DEADLINE APPROACHING! School Forest Award Nominations

Do you have an outstanding person or student group in your school or community who has helped make the school forest program successful?

We are now accepting nominations for the 2014 School Forest Awards. We love to recognize those individuals or groups throughout Wisconsin who have helped make our school forests an excellent place for students to learn.

Do you know an **outstanding teacher** (or group of teachers) in your district who has worked above and beyond to make the school forest an exceptional learning environment for students?

Has a **student** or group of students done outstanding work at your school forest? Honor them for their hard work, dedication, and passion!

Is your school **administrator** incredibly supportive of the work being done at your school forest? Does your administrator encourage and champion the forest's use for student learning?

Are you fortunate to have a **resource professional** who is available to help answer questions, provide guidance, or help sustainably manage your school forest land?

Would your school forest program be a wonderful resource for your school without the help of a **community member**?

Please take some time to reflect on your program and decide if there is someone you would like to nominate! The nomination [application can be found here](#). Deadline is Sept 26, 2014.

Celebrate Excellence in Environmental Education

Please join the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to recognize outstanding leaders of environmental education in our schools and communities.

What: Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education's 37th Annual Awards Ceremony

Where: BTC Promega Corporation, Madison, Wisconsin

When: November 8th, 2014



Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin

Schools across Wisconsin are demonstrating their commitment to a more sustainable Earth, stronger communities and healthier, more productive learning environments for students by choosing to become [Green & Healthy Schools](#). If you are not a Green & Healthy School, [register now](#)! There are nine focus areas of this program and school forests are located within the [School Site](#) section. If you have answers to the following questions, you will be able to complete this section!....

- * Describe how your school encourages educational use of the school grounds, school forests, and outdoor teaching sites. (Examples: field trips, education plans, etc.)
- * Describe professional development offered to staff regarding use of school grounds school forest, and/or outdoor teaching sites. (Examples: In-services, LEAF courses, PLT courses, etc)
- * Describe additional progress your school has made to encourage educational use of the school grounds, school forests, and outdoor teaching sites.

Contact me with any school forest related questions!

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