

# *The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board*

A state board created to promote  
environmental education  
within all segments of society.



**1997-1999 BIENNIAL REPORT**

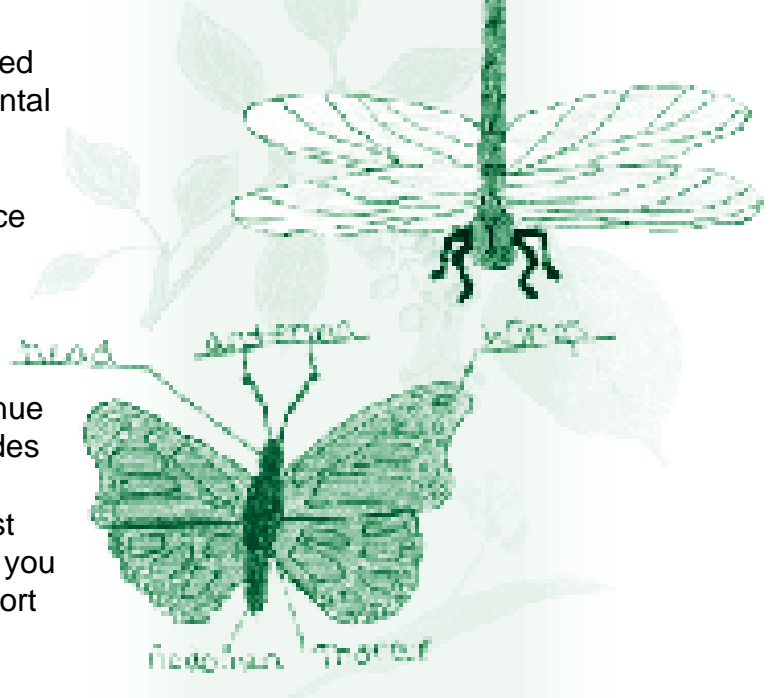


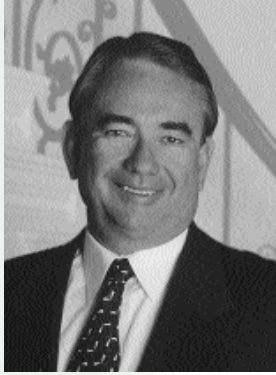
May, 2000

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board has worked diligently the past few years to provide opportunities for Wisconsin citizens to learn more about our environment. Partnerships with the Governor's Council on Forestry and the Wisconsin Energy Bureau have provided additional funding for grants in forestry and energy education. Improvements in the grant application, review and evaluation process ensure that the most worthy projects are funded. The creation of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Fund has provided a place to accept donations for environmental education. The "EE Works for Wisconsin" campaign helped raise awareness of environmental education and its importance to maintaining sustainable economic and ecological environments in the state. Environmental education ensures our Wisconsin heritage of concern and stewardship for our environment will continue for generations to come. This report provides an overview of all the wonderful programs that have been made possible over the last two years by the WEEB Grant Program. If you have any questions as you review this report please don't hesitate to call.



Rick Koziel, Chairperson





"The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, via the grants program, has enabled citizens across Wisconsin to gain an appreciation of the natural and built environment, investigate all facets of environmental issues and resolve environmental conflicts in a balanced way. Providing funds to grass roots organizations has empowered and motivated people to become involved in maintaining the environmental quality of our great State while balancing social, ecological and economic needs. On behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin, I applaud and thank the Board for their efforts. Education continues to be an outstanding way to achieve environmental quality."

Governor Tommy G. Thompson



"The mission of the Department of Natural Resources includes the statement, 'To work with people to understand each other's views and to carry out the public will. And in this partnership consider the future and generations to follow.' This ties in nicely with the mission of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board. It is a forward-looking perspective that helps insure decisions made today do not adversely effect our environment of the future. I commend the WEEB on its efforts to help citizens to learn to investigate all sides of environmental issues and how to resolve these issues in a balanced way. The WEEB continues to make a significant impact by providing venues for public education, communication and participation in the resolution of environmental issues. Ultimately, an educated and skilled public is our best guarantee of generating creative solutions that will provide for environmental stewardship, a strong, sustainable economy and a high quality of life here in Wisconsin."

George Meyer, Secretary Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



"The University of Wisconsin System welcomes the WEEB to its new home-base under the UW System umbrella. I am confident that the close proximity of the WEEB, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, and the UW Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, will result in synergies and partnerships that will be beneficial to environmental education in Wisconsin. The UW System looks forward to cooperating with the WEEB in promoting balanced environmental education within the State."

Katharine Lyall, President University of Wisconsin System



"The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Grants Program has enabled school districts across the state to foster and expand the environmental education components of their curriculum. The diversity of projects undertaken attests to the creativity, ingenuity and resourcefulness of the dedicated professionals we call "teachers." These initiatives have enabled students and staff opportunities to obtain the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to undertake a balanced analysis of social, economic and ecological needs.

I applaud the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board for funding the development and publication of the *Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education*. This document defines the criteria by which one can judge the quality of environmental education programs, and due to the WEEB Grants Program, those occurring in Wisconsin schools are among the finest in the nation."

John T. Benson, Superintendent Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

## Board Members

**Spencer Black** 1995-1999  
*Legislative Representative, State Assembly*  
Madison

**Debra Blomberg** 1998-  
*Business and Industry*  
Ogema

**Brian Burke** 1995-  
*Legislative Representative, State Senate*  
Milwaukee

**Bill Buckley** 1997-  
*Environmental Organizations*  
Marshfield

**Jack Finger** 1990-1998  
*Environmental Educators*  
Waukesha

**Susan Grady** 1997-1999  
*Department of Public Instruction Designee*  
Madison

**Cynthia Georgeson** 1994-1998  
*Business and Industry*  
Racine

**Robin Harris** 1996-  
*University of Wisconsin System Designee*  
Madison

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*Department of Natural Resources Designee*  
Madison

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Elkhorn

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Fall Creek

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Sun Prairie

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*Environmental Educators*  
Iola

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*Legislative Representative, State Assembly*  
Monona

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*Labor*  
Kenosha

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Madison

**Thomas Ourada** 1990-1998  
*Legislative Representative, State Assembly*  
Antigo

**William Rockwell** 1991-  
*Wisconsin Technical College System*  
Madison

**Brian Rude** 1999-  
*Legislative Representative, State Senate*  
Coon Valley

**Al Stenstrup** 1999-  
*Department of Natural Resources Designee*  
Madison

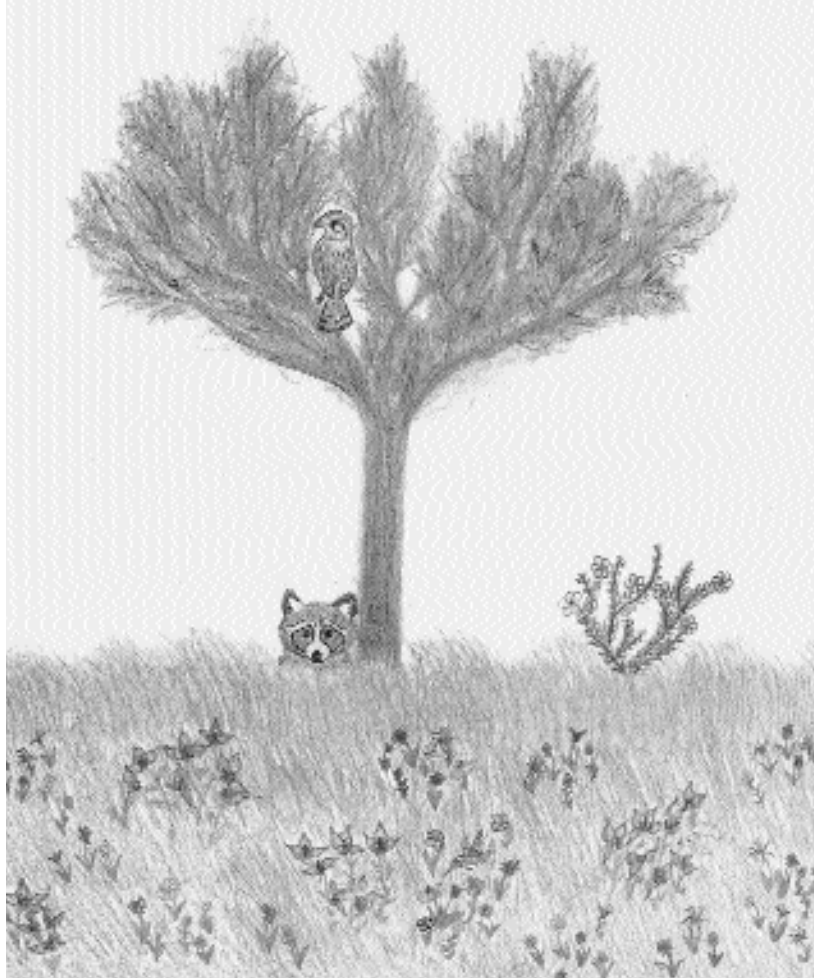
**Richard Wilke** 1990-  
*Higher Education Faculty*  
Stevens Point

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**Ginny Carlton**  
*Administrative Liaison*

**Randy Champeau**  
*WCEE Liaison*





Cover and sidebar artwork are composites of individual illustrations created by New Berlin middle school students for their *Eisenhower Outdoor Classroom Field Guides* publications.

See "Environmental Stewardship Flows from Students to Community" (log number 1998-0068).

Used by permission of New Berlin School District.

## Who We Are

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is made up of representatives of the Department of Natural Resources; Department of Public Instruction; University of Wisconsin System; Wisconsin Technical College System; one majority and one minority party senator and one majority and one minority party representative; and seven members representing environmental educators, conservation and environmental organizations, business and industry, agriculture, labor, faculty of public and private institutions of higher education, and nature centers and zoos.

## Our Mission

To provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, workplaces, and communities.

### **Our primary duties established by 1989 Wisconsin Act 299 are:**

- Identify needs and establish priorities for environmental education in Wisconsin
- Create and maintain a competitive grants program that is in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the board through continual appraisal and evaluation
- Be a catalyst in seeking private funds in support of the grants program

### **Our four central purposes are:**

- Provide positive leadership, advocacy and policy making in the area of environmental literacy and education.
- Support the development of local leaders and their fellow citizens to become environmentally aware and concerned enough to act positively on environmental issues.
- Advocate the development and implementation of interdisciplinary environmentally-based curricula at all levels of the educational system.
- Support the continuing professional development of staff working at all levels of formal or informal education to enable them to accomplish needed environmental education goals.

## 1997-1999 Accomplishments

### **Enhanced Networking and Communication**

With the passage of the 1997-1999 State biennial budget, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board was transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the University of Wisconsin System. The move from Madison to Stevens Point was designed to facilitate closer networking with the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE). [A formal partnership between WEEB and the WCEE was initiated in 1990, when the WCEE agreed to house public copies of all completed grant projects and materials.]

The WEEB was also instrumental in the state-wide "EE Works for Wisconsin" public relations campaign. Governor Thompson, via proclamation, and the Legislature, via Assembly Joint Resolution 115, declared April 22, 1998 (commonly known as Earth Day) as "EE Works for Wisconsin Day."

## **Expanded Grant Program**

The WEEB, in consultation with the Governor's Council on Forestry, now administers a \$190,000 annual forestry education grant program. While forestry education projects had been funded during previous grant cycles, these additional funds allowed for expanded work in this content area. Funds are derived from the forestry account of the state conservation fund.

The WEEB, in cooperation with the Department of Administration's Energy Bureau, also served as the administrating agency for a \$65,000 energy education grant program. Funds were derived from Governor Thompson's 1996 Stripper Well Oil overcharge agreement.

The forestry education and energy education projects are required to meet the EE goals and the process for solicitation, review, selection, oversight, and evaluation of proposals and projects corresponds to those already established for the general environmental education grant program. [See pages 7 and 8.]

**For a copy of the Request for Proposal (application form), contact:**  
**Wisconsin Environmental Education Board**

110B College of Natural Resources  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
Stevens Point WI 54481  
(715) 346-3805  
<http://weeb.uwsp.edu>  
[weeb@uwsp.edu](mailto:weeb@uwsp.edu)

## Grant Program

Since its creation in 1990, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board's grant program has provided communities, schools, and organizations with funds to enhance environmental education programs. In 1997 and 1998 there were a total of 228 grant applications submitted; 71 were funded. Grant requests ranged from \$506 to \$20,000 (the maximum allowed).

Funds to support the grant program are provided by legislation. The WEEB receives \$200,000 from General Program Revenue (GPR) funds, \$200,000 from the forestry account of the conservation fund (of which up to 5% can be used toward administrative expenses) and a 5% assessment allocation of state environmental fines levied and collected. In the past, the board has also received other state funds and donations to support specific project areas such as energy education.

Since the program began, the WEEB has distributed \$1.8 million to 234 projects, directly impacting over 399,800 citizens. The funded projects have generated well beyond the 25 percent match required. In fact the matching funding totals over \$5.08 million. To date, over 1,100 applications have been received, requesting over \$9.8 million. Obviously only a small portion of the applicants receive funding.

The WEEB has received requests for funding from every corner of the state and from virtually every type of organization, agency, or group that is eligible to receive funding. Each grant proposal submitted receives a rigorous review by volunteer committees. These volunteers represent the many entities which are interested and/or involved in educating the citizens of Wisconsin about the

environment. Each project is evaluated at three levels: 1) completeness and accuracy of program requirements, 2) technical review, and 3) merit review.

The technical review team evaluates each project on the following criteria: 1) adherence to the WEEB priorities, 2) budget accuracy and funding contributions, 3) thoroughness of application page and statement of need, and 4) project goals, objectives, activities, and evaluations. The merit review team then continues evaluation of those projects that passed the technical review to determine overall quality and value of the project, ability to achieve goals, development of partnerships and use of existing resources, and promotion of community environmental education.

## General Guidelines

Grant projects needed to assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education. The projects needed to help people become environmentally aware, knowledgeable, skilled, and dedicated to commit to work individually and collectively, to defend, improve, and sustain the quality of the environment on behalf of present and future citizens.

## Eligibility

- Corporations (meaning nonstock, nonprofit corporations organized under Ch. 181, Wis Stats.)
- All units of government
- Public and non-public education institutions (with some restrictions)

The following are NOT eligible:

- Individuals
- Private foundations
- Pervasively sectarian nonprofit colleges



## Project Duration

Grants were made for the period of July 1, 1997 through December 31, 1998 or July 1, 1998 through December 31, 1999.

## Funding Priorities for 1997 and 1998

The funded grants reflect the priorities that were in effect at the time. They included:

- A. Promote broad community environmental education through the development and implementation of community environmental education projects. Projects should increase:
  1. the number of individuals and/or organizations involved in environmental education
  2. community knowledge of specific environmental issues or problems
  3. community participation in the resolution of environmental problems
- B. Make new uses of existing resources and successful projects. This does not include support of the ongoing operations of a program. Existing resources and successful projects are defined as:
  1. interdisciplinary environmental curricula
  2. environmental education training for staff or group leaders
  3. environmental education programs developed for use on outdoor sites
  4. successful programs or WEEB projects developed by the applicant or another entity

- C. Assist the WEEB in meeting state-wide initiatives, including:
  1. evaluation of the WEEB Grants program
  2. communicating the value of EE to Wisconsin citizens
  3. conducting research and reporting on EE needs in Wisconsin

Funding priorities are reviewed and set annually during the board's July planning meeting.

## Preferred Characteristics:

- Develops partnerships and cooperative ventures with organizations or agencies
- Reaches large numbers of individuals
- Attains realistic and localized goals
- Shows change in the actions or behaviors of the learners
- Provides opportunities for learners to become actively involved in examining and resolving environmental issues
- Provides learning experiences using sites outside of classroom/workplace
- Includes activities that draw upon multiple intelligence's of learners
- Includes activities that emphasize the process of inquiry

## Assistance for Applicants

Information on past successful projects can be searched through the Internet. The WEEB home page is <http://weeb.uwsp.edu>. Copies of funded proposals are available via the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan System. Request each volume by its call number: ED.1/2:E 58/ 2/ XXXX (XXXX = the year).

Grant recipients are required to submit final reports. Reports may be viewed at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education Resource Library, UW-Stevens Point.

# “Snap Shots” of Funded Projects

Highlighting eight of the 71 funded 1997 and 1998 projects.

## Positive Leadership, Advocacy and Policy Making

**Department of Public Instruction**  
*Environmental Education Standards*  
Log # 1997-0006

This grant project resulted in the publication of model academic standards for environmental education. While these standards are not mandated, and are not intended to limit local districts, they do provide a framework for defining the criteria by which one can judge the quality of environmental education programs.

The standards were composed by a task force made up of educators, parents, business people, and agency personnel. Forums, focus groups, and the solicitation of written testimony provided an opportunity for public input into the process.

**Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
*Forestry Education Coordinator*  
Log # 1998-0112

Staff coordinated existing forestry education programs; marketed and created an awareness of existing materials, programs, and speakers; promoted the use of school forests; and the office served as a clearinghouse for educational materials and speaker requests.

## Development of Local Leaders

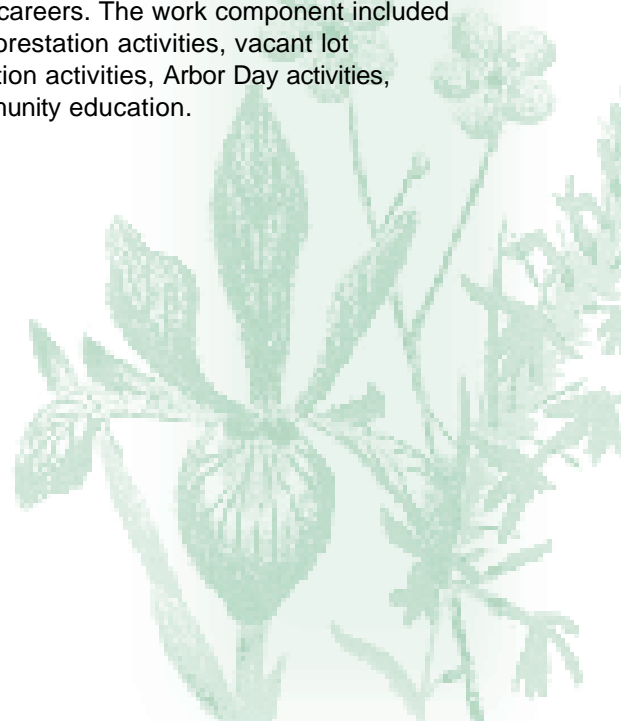
**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**  
*Expansion of Master Composter Training*  
Log # 1997-0086

This project provided additional training and support to past participants of the train-the-trainer home composting program. The program trained volunteers who then taught residents about easy, economical options for handling their home yard waste, which is banned from state landfills.

The grant also allowed for the expansion of the program to residents of the Hmong community by creating teaching tools in the Hmong language.

**City of Milwaukee-Office of Employment and Youth Services**  
*Urban Forestry Youth Start Up Program*  
Log # 1998-0077

This was a school-to-work program, combining classroom and paid work-based learning. The program offered 50 low to very low income Muir Middle School and Vincent High School students an opportunity to learn about urban ecosystems, urban forestry and explore natural resource careers. The work component included urban reforestation activities, vacant lot rehabilitation activities, Arbor Day activities, and community education.



## Development and Implementation of Curricula

### Green Bay Public Schools

*Electric Truck Conversion Program*

Log #1997-0023

The curriculum developed included research regarding the benefits and limitations of electric vehicles and the actual conversion of a light-weight pick-up truck from a gasoline powered internal combustion engine to an electric powered vehicle.

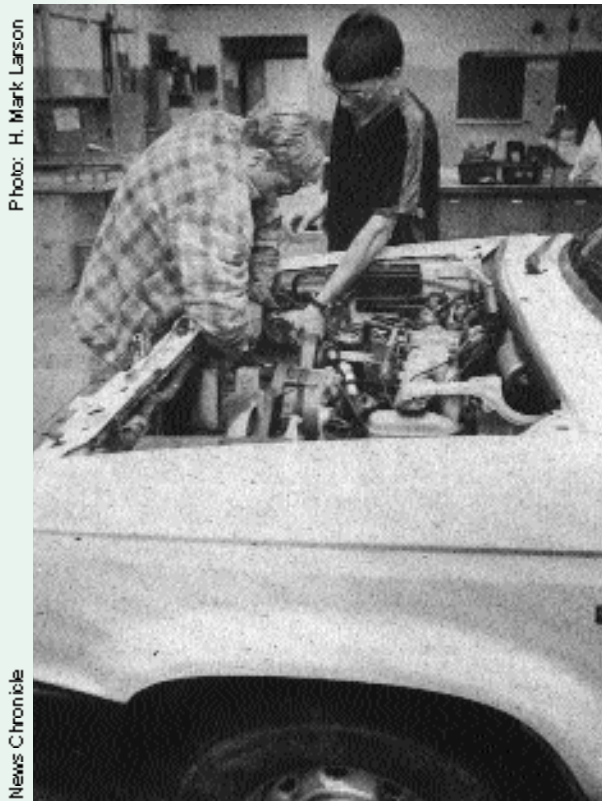


Photo: H. Mark Larson

News Chronicle

Students also informed the general public about electric vehicles by writing articles for local newspapers, creating a web page, and visiting 10 other high schools to share information.

Through the financial support of Wisconsin Public Service, Inc. the project was carried one step further. Solar panels were attached to the school's roof and are used to charge the vehicle's batteries.

### Zoological Society of Milwaukee County Birds Without Borders:

*Aves Sin Fronteras*

Log # 1998-0087

Children used the "One Bird, Two Habitats" curriculum developed by the Department of Natural Resources. Children were shown how birds are caught in mist nets, banded, and released.

Students did actual research, observing when the first song birds returned to their school yards in spring, what they eat, and where they nest. Field guides, binoculars, and field notebooks were provided.

Students in grades six through twelve from 11 Wisconsin schools participated. Students from the Central American country of Belize, where many Wisconsin songbirds spend the winter, also participated in the project.



## Professional Development

### Wisconsin Public Service Community Foundation

*Northeast Wisconsin Renewable Energy*  
Log #1997-0019

During this project, a three-week renewable energy curriculum package was developed by an Antigo High School science teacher. The curriculum contains three units: energy, renewable energy, and solar energy.



Twenty-three teachers from ten selected high schools attended a one-day curriculum training workshop. These teachers implemented the materials with approximately 3,000 students. Solar Olympics, a one-day interschool renewable energy fair was held. Students displayed water heaters, cookers, and model cars that they had designed and constructed.

### Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association *Forest Learning Curriculum Guides* Log #1998-0050

The project developed a coalition of resource educators and professionals in southeastern Wisconsin who shared resources regarding environmental education issues. Twenty-five educators were involved in the project and were asked to develop and use forest-based activity and curricula guides at the Seno Woodland Management Center and/or at their school sites.

These are just a few examples of the creative projects funded by the grants program. For information about other projects please consult our web page at: <http://weeb.uwsp.edu> and refer to the remainder of this document.





# 1997 Wisconsin Environmental Education Grants

**Augusta School District**                      **\$4,880**  
(Augusta)  
*Middle Level Environmental Discovery Unit*

For creating 20 environmental discovery units designed to encourage interaction between middle level students and their parents.

**Augusta School District**                      **\$8,484**  
(Augusta)  
*Junior Naturalist Club*

For middle and high school teachers and students and community mentors to create twelve nature discovery resource kits to be used by junior naturalists and parents who would like an environmentally structured activity to use with their middle level students.

**Centro De La Comunidad Unida**            **\$7,101**  
**United Community Center**  
(Milwaukee)  
*Multicultural Urban Environmental Education*

For creation of an "Environmental Action Plan" group made up of students, parents, teachers and Community Center members who with the assistance of the project consultant will design programs that incorporate organic gardening, composting, indoor gardening, and nutrition concepts.

**Department of Natural Resources**       **\$18,872**  
(Madison)  
*EEK! Environmental Education for Kids*

For development of an online environmental education magazine for children in grades 4-6 in which students have the opportunity to participate in research activities, learn more about careers in natural resources, and share stories, poems, and artwork.

**Department of Public Instruction**       **\$20,000**  
(Madison)  
*Environmental Education Standards*

For development of environmental education academic standards.

**Friends of Whitefish Dunes**               **\$4,910**  
(Sturgeon Bay)  
*Adopt-A-Park*

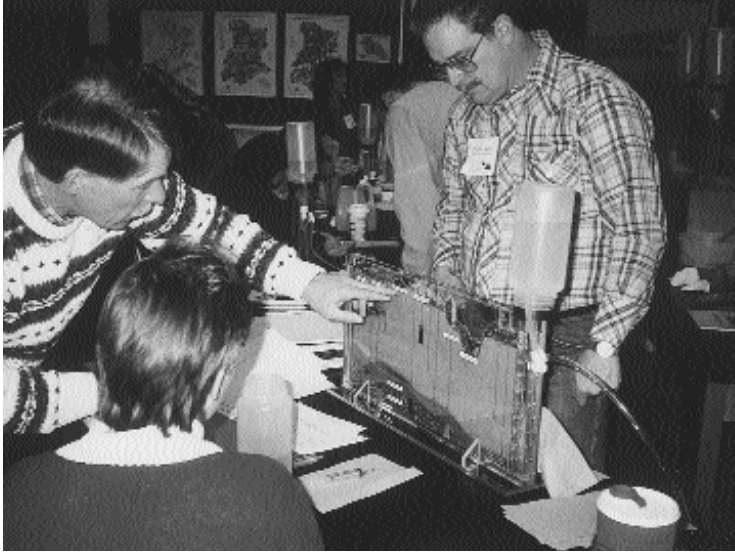
For development of six thematic units, one for each elementary grade plus one for the special education classes. The units include school site activities and park based activities.

**Cadott School District**                      **\$5,000**  
(Cadott)  
*Curriculum Development for Teachers*

For a teacher training workshop and development of a sequential grade K-12 forest curriculum.



**Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Center**      **\$3,511**  
(Stevens Point)  
*Groundwater Flow Models Teacher Training*



For teacher training in the use of a 3-dimensional model designed to allow students to “see” groundwater flow.

**\* Green Bay Public Schools**      **\$19,994**  
(Green Bay)  
*Electric Truck Conversion Program*

For design of a curriculum that includes the conversion of a light-weight internal combustion engine pick-up truck into an electric vehicle and demonstration of the vehicle at 10 other high schools.

**Hayward Community Schools**      **\$5,086**  
(Hayward)  
*Environmental Research Class*

For high school students to participate in an experiential, inquiry-based learning project that will benefit the community and also serve as mentors and instructors for eighth grade students through a field trip to a nearby wetland.

**Lake States Forestry Alliance, Inc.**      **\$15,990**  
(Hayward)  
*Timber, Tourism, & Forest Based Communities*

For training community facilitators to involve the public in a collaborative learning process to develop creative strategies at the local level to enhance environmental protection and economic prosperity in timber/tourism based forest communities.

**Levi Leonard Elementary School**      **\$2,931**  
(Evansville)  
*Expanding the Concept of Community*

For developing interdisciplinary activities that will increase the awareness and knowledge of teachers and students regarding the importance of diversity in their “community”.

**\* Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)**      **\$19,995**  
(Amherst Junction)  
*Energy Education Lab*

For MREA to host two workshops at Northland College, focusing on energy efficient building design and construction.

**Milwaukee County Extension**      **\$19,789**  
(Milwaukee)  
*Buds-N-Sprouts: Connecting Through Growing*

For completion of the Buds-N-Sprouts handbook, training materials for adults working with children in gardening projects, and environmental education curriculum-related programs for both school field trips and a weekly summer gardening program.

**\* Proposals funded under an agreement with the Department of Administration.**



**Milwaukee Public Schools**                      **\$3,578**  
(Milwaukee)  
*Toxic Substance Reduction Project*

For teacher and student training by governmental and community agencies in water testing techniques, assessment of household toxic wastes, and impacts of lead in drinking water.



**Sauk Prairie School District**                      **\$9,829**  
(Sauk Prairie)  
*Local Environmental Area Resource Network*

For developing an environmental education curriculum scope and sequence and unit lessons that utilize local sites, such as the Prairie Dam.

**Sauk Prairie School District**                      **\$12,368**  
**Middle School**  
(Sauk Prairie)  
*Sauk Prairie River Integrated Curriculum*

For developing an integrated environmental curriculum for grades 6-12 with the primary focus on the Wisconsin River and surrounding areas.



**Milwaukee Public Schools**                      **\$4,915**  
(Milwaukee)  
*Courtyard Nature Center*

For developing a formal environmental program which will involve students and teachers in the planning, planting, and care of various garden plots within the courtyard of the Milwaukee Spanish Immersion school.



**Stoughton**    **\$4,910**  
**Fox Prairie Elementary**  
(Stoughton)  
*Elementary Habitat Restoration*

For staff time to develop lessons which integrate habitat restoration into the current curriculum, while also directly involving students in the restoration activities.

**Sturgeon Bay Public Schools**                      **\$4,884**  
(Sturgeon Bay)  
*Infusing EE Through Curriculum Standards*

For production of grade level binders containing background information, lessons, and activities (cross-referenced to curriculum standards) and purchase of materials corresponding to curriculum standards and grade level benchmarks in non-science elementary level disciplines.

**The Nature Conservancy**                      **\$4,878**  
(Madison)  
*Teacher Naturalists at Lulu Lake*

For training and curriculum development services to elementary, middle and high school teachers from three southern Wisconsin school districts to facilitate the use of Lulu Lake preserve as an outdoor site for environmental education.

**Tomahawk School District**                      **\$15,754**  
(Tomahawk)  
*Riverlinks*

For an environmental education project which links the riverine habitats of a local outdoor learning site with teachers, students, Tenneco Packaging professionals and community members from Tomahawk and with students in Counce, Tennessee, near the site of another Tenneco facility.

**University of Wisconsin Arboretum**                      **\$17,896**  
(Madison)  
*Earth Partnership-School Site Restoration*

For production of a book prototype for elementary and secondary teachers who want to transform school landscapes into outdoor classroom sites.

**University of Wisconsin Stevens Point**                      **\$16,016**  
(Stevens Point)  
*Expansion of Master Composter Training*

For additional training and support to past participants of the train-the-trainer home composting program and expansion of the program to residents of the Hmong community.

**Wisconsin Association For Environmental Education (WAE)**                      **\$3,048**  
(Amherst Junction)  
*1997 Midwest EE Conference: Sense of Place*

For a forum for educators to learn about each other's efforts and to share ideas for development, implementation, and evaluation of curricula and programs.



**\* Wisconsin Public Service Community Foundation**                      **\$19,000**  
(Green Bay)  
*Northeast Wisconsin Renewable Energy*

For teachers from ten northeast Wisconsin public high schools to participate in a renewable energy education curriculum project.

\* Proposals funded under an agreement with the Department of Administration.



# 1998 Wisconsin Environmental Education Grants

*Note: This was the first year of the forestry education grant program.*

**\* Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc. \$2,550**  
 (Monona)  
*Hands-On Energy in Nature: An Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Energy Education*

For infusing basic energy facts and concepts into existing hands-on outdoor nature instruction for young children.

**Board of Regents \$4,893**  
**University of Wisconsin System**  
 (Madison)  
*Wisconsin Water Education Resource Center Network*



For developing new Water Education Resource Centers (WERCs). Centers to provide water conservation and pollution prevention programs to students, businesses and the agricultural community.

**Bong Naturalist Association \$1,470**  
 (Kansasville)  
*Interpretive Signs for Bong State Recreation Area's Observation Platform*

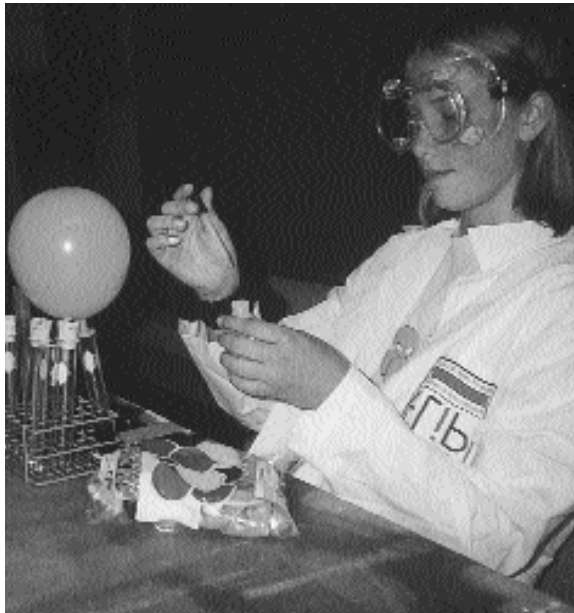
For design, construction, and installation of interpretive signs (two dealing with marsh birds, two dealing with the function and protection of wetlands).



**Cable Natural History Museum \$1,298**  
 (Cable)  
*Museum in a Box*

For teachers in the Drummond and Hayward School Districts to access props and artifacts from the museum's excess specimens.

**\* Cable Natural History Museum**      **\$506**  
 (Cable)  
*Still Mad About Energy*



For updating energy education curricula, currently being used by six school districts, to make it more “inquiry based”.

**Central Wisconsin Environmental Station**      **\$3,143**  
 (Amherst Junction)  
*Forest and Forestry Education for Boy Scouts Visiting C.W.E.S.*

For an environmental education lesson about forests to help promote better stewardship and encourage Boy Scouts to participate in an Arbor Day/Earth Day event for the general public.

**Chippewa Falls Unified Schools**      **\$4,614**  
 (Chippewa Falls)  
*Adopt Lake Wissota/Duncan Creek Project*

For “at risk” students and Lake Wissota Residents Association members to do water quality sampling, environmental and habitat evaluations, land & water use investigations, and an overall assessment of the condition of Lake Wissota.

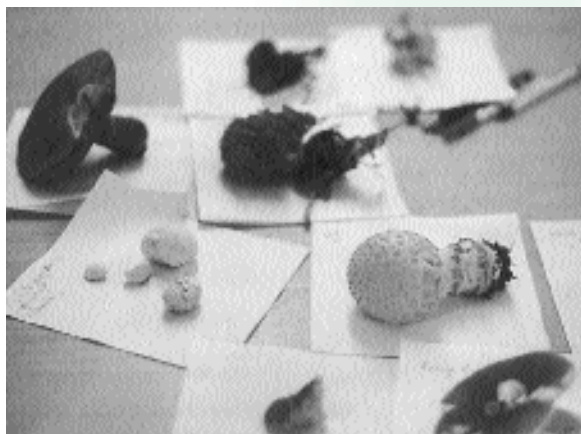
**City of Milwaukee- Office of Employment and Youth Services**      **\$20,000**  
 (Milwaukee)  
*Urban Forestry Youth Start Up Program*

For a school-to-work urban forestry program for low-income middle and high school students.

**Cooperative Educational Service Agency #1**      **\$19,000**  
 (West Allis)  
*Translating Concepts into Action: Developing an Urban Field Guide*

For production of a regional guide to assist 44 districts in southeastern Wisconsin to conduct local field trips, support environmental education instructional practices, assess students, and incorporate Youth Service Learning Projects.

**Cooperative Educational Services Agency #7**      **\$2,841**  
 (Green Bay)  
*Biomes of Coniferous-Northern Hardwoods, Private Woodlands, Management and Cooperative Educational Uses of Them*



For a Providence Academy student and teacher conducted forest management project on eight acres of privately owned coniferous-northern hardwood forest.

**\* Proposals funded under an agreement with the Department of Administration.**

**De Soto Area Schools**                      **\$4,940**  
 (De Soto)  
*Bats, Birds, and Butterflies at the Little Park on the Prairie*



For developing a school/community program to educate and increase participation in environmental projects through activities involving birds, bats and butterflies.

**De Forest Area School District**        **\$10,641**  
 (De Forest)  
*Big Hill Outdoor Learning Center*

For establishing an outdoor learning center and developing an environmental education curriculum.

**Department of Natural Resources**    **\$7,662**  
 (Madison)  
*The Forest Around Us*

For producing a forestry resources curriculum to use with third and fourth grade students.

**\* Energy Center of Wisconsin**        **\$16,299**  
 (Madison)  
*Promising Energy Education Practices in Wisconsin*

For production of a document in which over 1,500 teachers can announce and share their endeavors and achievements in energy education and thereby build a statewide network of energy educators.

**Friends of the Center Alliance, Inc.**    **\$4,000**  
 (Ashland)  
*Voyageurs Paddle Chequamegon Bay*



For small groups of northern Wisconsin residents and summer visitors to experience a two-hour canoe trip on Chequamegon Bay. Trip highlights the early trade history, as well as the current usage concerns of the Bay.

**Golden Sands RC & D Council**        **\$3,889**  
 (Stevens Point)  
*Groundwater Flow Model Teacher Training Workshop Reunion*

For updating previously trained teachers on new community groundwater education projects, groundwater research, and methods of using



groundwater flow models.

**Hayward Community Schools**                   **\$5,685**  
(Hayward)  
*Taking Action in Our Community*

For students enrolled in the district's environmental research class to reach out to community members, tourists, and other K-12 students to educate them about environmental science.

**Lake Superior Center**                               **\$4,571**  
(Duluth)  
*Thinking Like a Watershed: The Lake Superior Community Education Project*



For a two-week study tour around Lake Superior in which students and teachers visit parks, pollution hot spots, and other communities to collect information that serves as the basis for multimedia presentations to service clubs regarding the Lake Superior watershed.

**Lumberjack Resource**                               **\$4,710**  
**Conservation and Development Council, Inc.**  
(Tomahawk)  
*Managing Our Forests for Aesthetics, Water Quality, and Wildlife Habitat Considerations*

For a teacher training workshop for middle and high school teachers to enhance their understanding of how non-timber natural resource amenities (wildlife habitat, air quality, water quality) and aesthetics are addressed when

conducting forest management activities.

**Lumberjack Resource**                               **\$20,000**  
**Conservation and Development Council, Inc.**  
(Tomahawk)  
*Forestry Education Coordinator*

For coordinating existing forestry education programs; marketing and creating awareness of existing materials, programs, and speakers; promoting the use of school forests; and serving as a clearinghouse for educational materials, speaker requests, etc.

**Manitowoc County**                                       **\$1,750**  
**Soil & Water Conservation Dept.**  
(Manitowoc)  
*Watershed Education in the Classroom*

For middle school science and agriculture teacher training workshop on watershed concepts, non-point source pollution and specific classroom activities.

**Marinette School District**                               **\$3,965**  
(Marinette)  
*In the Air*

For helping teachers gain the skills needed to develop an interdisciplinary unit on air quality.

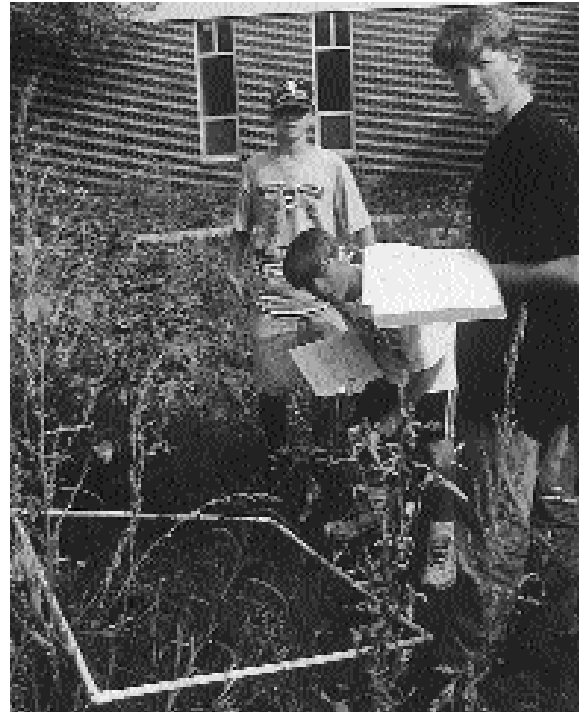
**Milwaukee Public Schools**                               **\$3,825**  
**Elm Creative Arts School**  
(Milwaukee)  
*Environmental Issues in the City*

For development of student created plays, skits, and songs which will encourage others to take an active part in improving the world around them. Content to include friendly planting, composting, fertilizing, and weed and pest control of home and school gardens.





**Natural Resources Foundation  
of Wisconsin**      **\$12,750**  
(Madison)  
*Wisconsin State Park Packs*



curricular materials and the outdoor site.

For assembly of backpacks filled with sustainable forestry activities and materials to be used by teachers, youth group leaders, and camping families while visiting the State parks.

**New Berlin Public Schools**      **\$15,986**  
(New Berlin)  
*Environmental Stewardship Flows From Students to Community*

For Eisenhower Middle School students to learn about the environmental features of their developing outdoor classroom and then utilize their knowledge to partner with the City of New Berlin in their goal of educating 30,000 citizens about the City's storm-water management, woodland preservation, and stewardship master plans.

**Oregon High School**      **\$2,345**  
(Oregon)  
*A Microcosm of Wisconsin-An Outdoor Classroom Curriculum*

For developing a curriculum for the environmental science class and training the high school staff on using the newly created multidisciplinary

**Racine Unified School District  
Washington Park High School**      **\$3,255**  
(Racine)  
*Root River 2000*

For student involvement in the Root River 2000 program including collecting and analyzing data, writing newsletter articles, posting information on a web site, and making recommendations for a community action plan for river improvement.



**Rosholt School District**                      **\$15,245**  
(Rosholt)  
*The Outdoor Classroom: Teacher Training and Curriculum Connections*

Photo: Dennis Yockers



For training teachers to utilize a 23-acre area adjacent to the schools to meet curricular and environmental education goals.

**School District of Mellen**                      **\$20,000**  
(Mellen)  
*Portrait of a Mining District: Generating Community Understanding*

For a multidisciplinary, lab-oriented study of the upper Bad River watershed and the social, cultural, political, and environmental impacts of mining within this watershed.

**School District of Three Lakes**              **\$19,506**  
(Three Lakes)  
*Shoreline Stewardship Model Program*

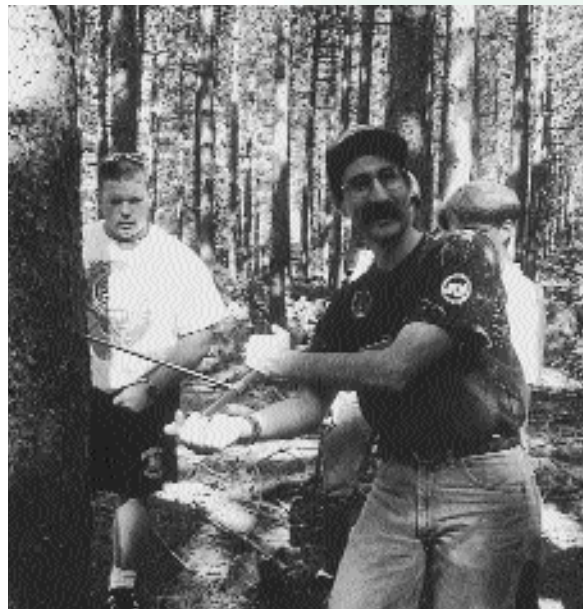
For completing research and then using the data to produce a video for lake shore property owners on the need for and techniques of shoreline stewardship.

**Sturgeon Bay Education Foundation**              **\$4,985**  
(Sturgeon Bay)  
*Northeast Wisconsin Envirothon Forestry Study Kits and Skills Training*

For training 30 adults to serve as coaches for the forestry component of the Envirothon. The Envirothon is a natural resource and environmental problem-solving competition for high school students.

**Trees for Tomorrow**                              **\$12,833**  
(Eagle River)  
*Developing and Using Your School Forest: A Workshop for Teacher Teams*

For hosting a five day workshop for teachers and administrators to create plans to develop and use their school forests.



**University of Wisconsin Extension**     **\$4,995**  
(Stevens Point)  
*Leap Into Lakes and Get WET!  
A Multi-Program Workshop Model*

For Adopt-A-Lake/Project WET workshops for teachers, adult leaders, or youth interested in establishing water quality monitoring projects in their community.

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**     **\$18,327**  
(Madison)  
*Working With Private Landowners to Inventory and Monitor Forest Wildlife*

For developing forest wildlife survey kits to be used by private, non-industrial forest landowners during an annual wildlife inventorying and monitoring program.

**University of Wisconsin**     **\$19,455**  
**Stevens Point-College of Natural Resources**  
(Stevens Point)  
*Evaluation of the WEEB Grant Program*

For an investigation of the effectiveness of the WEEB grant program.

**University of Wisconsin**     **\$7,581**  
**Stevens Point-Treehaven Field Station**  
(Tomahawk)  
*A Tale of Two Trees*

For a cooperative project between Rhinelander, West DePere, and Wrightstown School Districts, Treehaven Natural Resources Center, Fallen Timbers Environmental Center and St. Norbert College in which fourth grade students select two "personal" study trees, record their reactions to "reconnecting" activities through drawings and journal entries, and have the entries compiled into "A Tale of Two Trees" document.

**Visions Junior Senior High School**     **\$740**  
(Wittenberg)  
*Environmental Science Curriculum*

For designing a flexible environmental education curriculum to be used with clients who attend the residential treatment school program for as little as thirty days or for more than two years.

**Wisconsin Center for**     **\$10,882**  
**Environmental Education**  
(Stevens Point)  
*Environmental Education Information Network*

For the support of the Environmental Education Network so that it may reach a minimum of 1,500 educators.

**Wisconsin Geographic Alliance**     **\$7,270**  
(Eau Claire)  
*Integrating Environmental Education with Geography Education: A WIGA Workshop*

For hosting a five day workshop for thirty K-12 teachers to investigate and develop classroom teaching activities that focus on the environmental and economic impacts of the paper industry.



**Wisconsin Lake Schooner**     **\$13,386**  
**Education Association**  
(Milwaukee)  
*Sailing on Natural Resources-Forestry Education at Wisconsin Lake Schooner*

For integrating forestry education activities into Wisconsin Lake Schooner's environmental education curriculum in order to highlight the relationship between our State's forests and

our maritime heritage.

**Wisconsin Woodland Owners' Association Foundation** **\$6,875**  
(Stevens Point)  
*Forest Learning Curriculum Guides*

For developing a coalition of resource educators and professionals in southeastern Wisconsin who will create forest-based activity and curricula guides and train educators in their use.

**Wonewoc-Center Public Schools** **\$20,000**  
(Wonewoc)  
*Youth Environmental Education*

For hiring an environmental education coordinator/instructor and developing an integrated K-12 environmental education curriculum.

**Woodruff Joint District #1** **\$14,213**  
(Woodruff)  
*Kids Teaching Kids*

For training seventy middle school students to teach approximately 180 third, fourth, and fifth grade students hands-on environmental science activities at the school forest.



**YWCA River Bend Nature Center** **\$4,850**  
(Racine)  
*YESC Training*

For training Racine middle and high school students in basic ecological concepts to enable them to provide future training for their peers.

**Zoological Society of Milwaukee** **\$18,854**  
(Milwaukee)  
*Birds Without Borders: Aves Sin Fronteras*

For integrating seventh to tenth grade students and their teachers into a multi-year international conservation, research, and education project designed to monitor species of birds that breed in Wisconsin and winter in Belize, Central America.





# Grant Application Statistics

## 1997

Total Dollars Requested	\$1,255,338
Average Request	11,732
Proposals Received	107
Projects Funded	26

### Dollar Value Funded

General EE	\$214,630
Energy Ed.	58,989

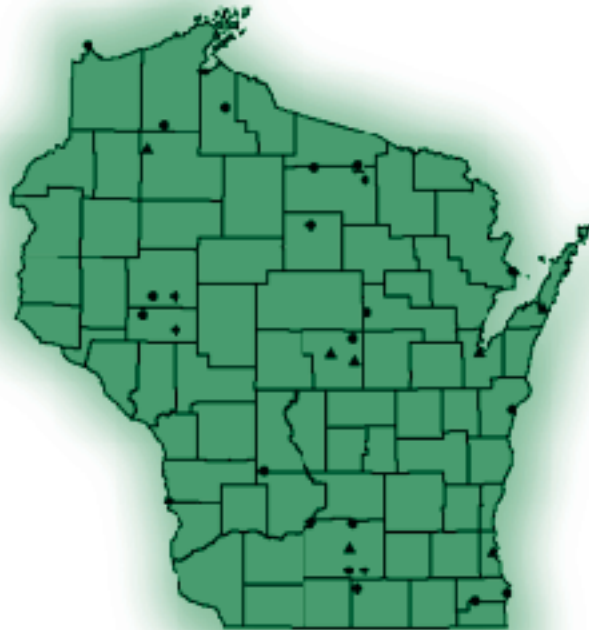
## 1998

Total Dollars Requested	\$1,153,861
Average Request	9,536
Proposals Received	121
Projects Funded	45

### Dollar Value Funded

General EE	\$224,122
Energy Ed.	19,355
Forestry Ed.	182,462

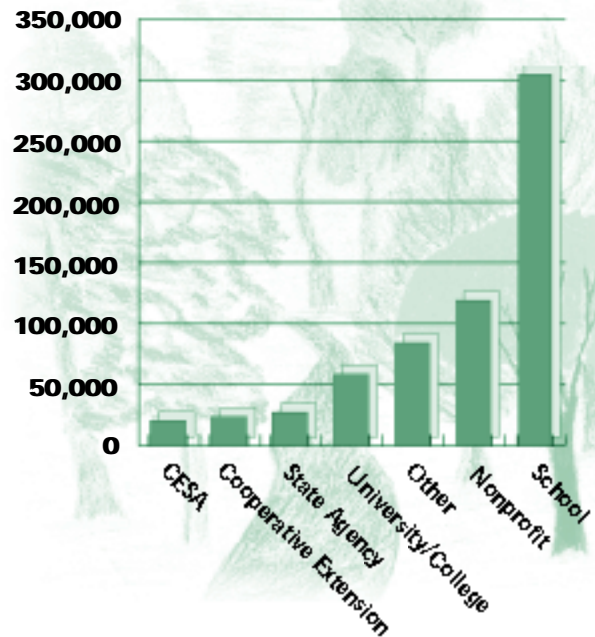
## Grant Cities



- 1997 grant recipient
- 1998 grant recipient
- + multiple recipients in the same year
- ▲ recipients in both years

## Historical Record of All Projects

Type of Agency	Total Value Funded
CESA	\$21,841.00
Cooperative Extension	24,994.50
State Agency	28,334.00
University/College	58,382.60
Other	85,078.75
Nonprofit	120,477.02
School	304,261.75



## Development Program

One of the primary duties for the WEEB as directed by 1989 Wisconsin Act 299 is to be a catalyst in seeking private funds in support of the grants program. While the WEEB was under the auspices of the Department of Public Instruction (1990-1997), efforts to carry out this directive were limited to solicitations to assist with specific program initiatives (e.g., energy education.)

With the transfer of the WEEB to the University System, WEEB initiated a more general solicitation campaign. During 1998 charters were drawn up and administrative policies were adopted. In the spring of 1999 the WEEB created the "Environmental Education Fund of Wisconsin". This fund is designed to be the repository of gifts that support the grant program. The EE Fund is comprised of an immediate dispersal account and a sustainable account. Contributions to the immediate dispersal account are withdrawn each April and the funds are used to supplement the annual grant program. Contributions to the sustainable account remain in the fund, while the interest generated will eventually be used to supplement the annual grant program.

At this time, current and former WEEB members, and current members of the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAAEE) have been solicited. The balance of the Immediate Dispersal Account is \$1,134.82 while the balance of the Sustainable Account is \$3,905.00.

## The Status of EE in Wisconsin

Current information on the status of environmental education in Wisconsin is limited. The elimination of the Environmental Education Consultant position at the Department of Public Instruction has significantly impacted the Board's ability to monitor teacher training programs; curriculum development, dissemination and implementation programs; and student literacy levels.

With only a single half time GPR employee, the WEEB itself does not have the staff to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the status of environmental education in the State. Episodic data can be gathered via a review of the grantee's quarterly and final reports, site review data forms, and the "need statements" included within the grant proposals.

The WEEB's efforts to promote quality environmental education continue. For example, through a grant to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (1997-0006), the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board was able to facilitate the creation of *Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education*. A copy of this publication was mailed to every school district (both public and private) within the State. The purpose of this document is to support districts as they conduct their curricular processes. While information pertaining solely to the adoption of the environmental education standards is unavailable, the majority of school districts have adopted the Model Academic Standards.

## Future Directions

### Grant Program

Through a grant to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (1998-0121), the WEEB initiated an evaluation of the grant program. The final report for this grant project highlights strengths and weaknesses of the current grant program. Additional discussions regarding the future direction and administration of the grant program will occur at the July 2000 quarterly board meeting when priorities for future cycles are determined.

### Development Program

During the spring of 2000, the Development Committee will undertake an evaluation of the solicitation program and identify strategies and timelines for the solicitation of additional funds.

### State-wide Initiatives

Since its inception, the board has been a very active “hands on” working group. In addition to operating an environmental grants program, the board has become recognized as a consensus-building group on environmental education issues. The unique make-up and mission of the board position it to provide needed leadership to environmental education while recognizing the importance of building common purpose and direction among diverse stakeholders.

In April 2000, the WEEB facilitated “EE 2005, A Plan for Advancing Environmental Education in Wisconsin”. The plan represents the thinking and input of hundreds of stakeholders across Wisconsin. It identifies six major priorities.

They are:

- Support the Implementation of EE in Schools
- Develop Leadership in Environmental Education
- Expand Non-Formal Environmental Education
- Conduct Environmental Literacy Assessment
- Communicate the Environmental Education Message
- Expand Private Sector Funding for Environmental Education

The major priorities and objectives are designed to guide educators, policy-makers and the WEEB for the next five years. During the summer of 2000, the document should be available for public comment.

As citizens of this state we all have a stake in preserving and enhancing our environmental heritage. We invite your input as we promote learning opportunities for our citizens so that everyone, youngest to oldest, will gain more knowledge and skill to ensure an even more positive legacy for our environment. Each individual's efforts do make a difference!

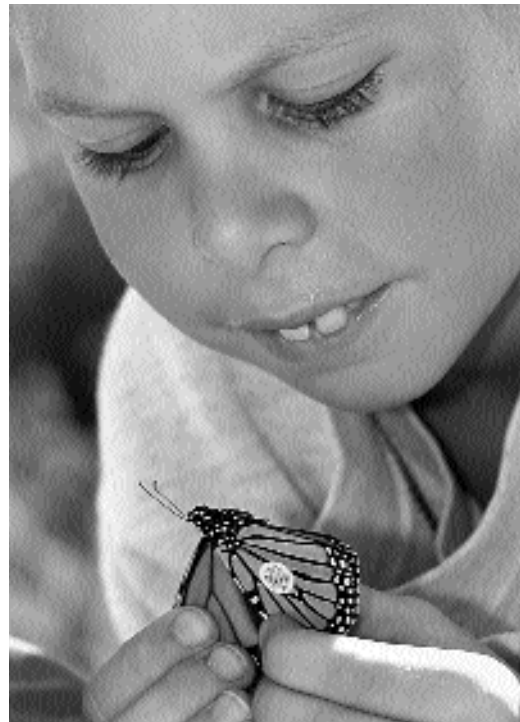
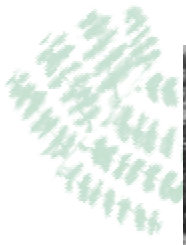
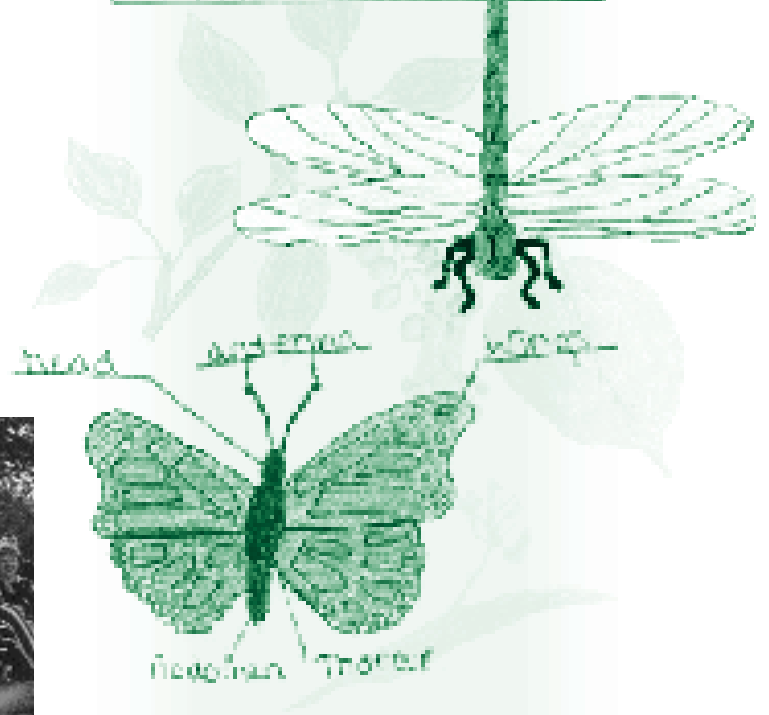
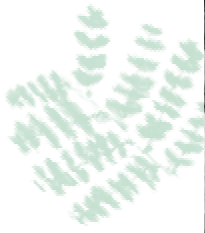


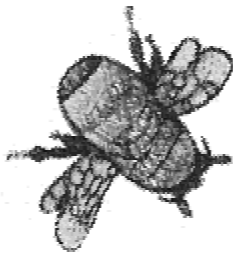
Photo: Ron Johnson

LaCrosse Tribune









WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION BOARD  
110B COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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