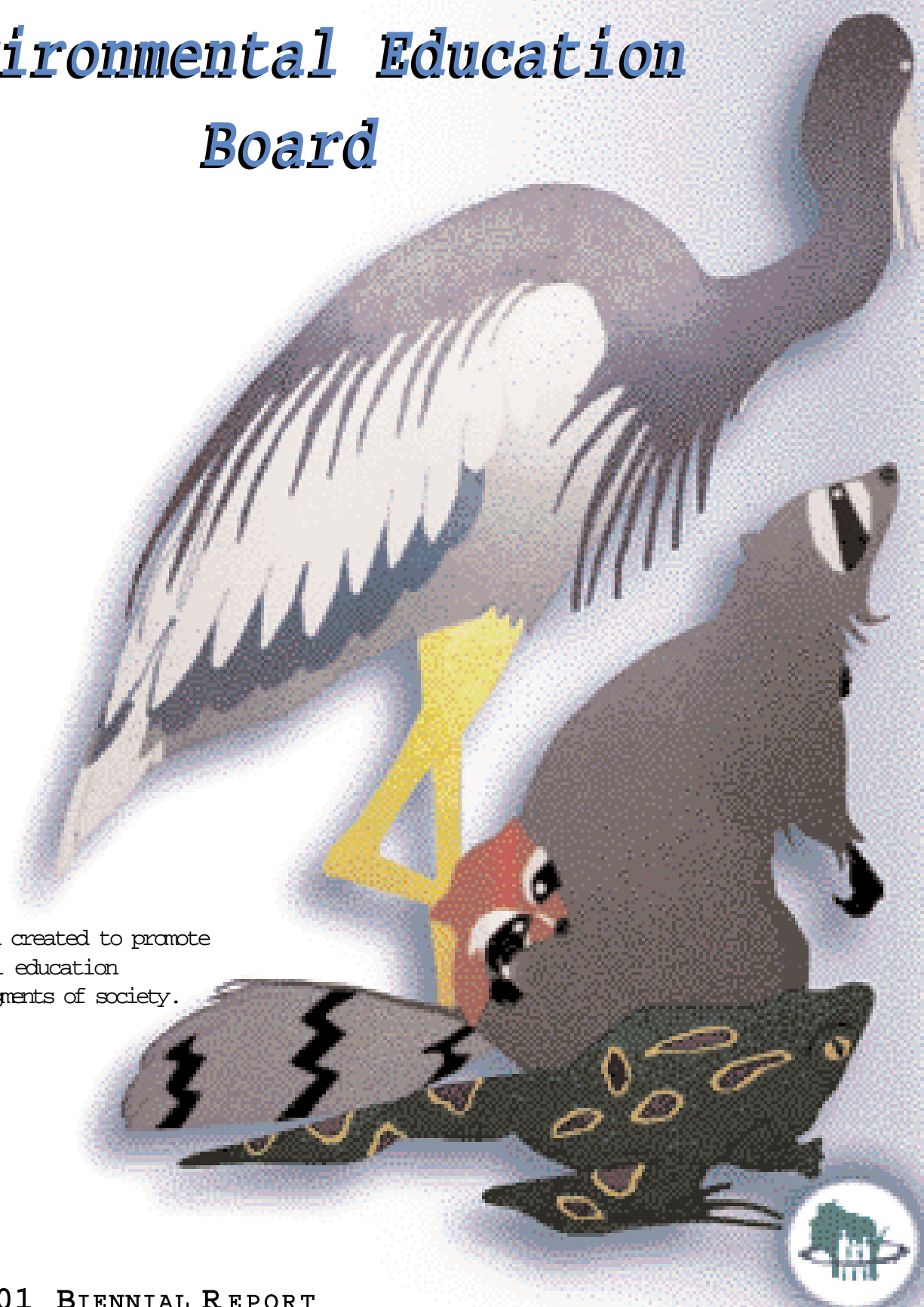


The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board



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



October 2001

Every two years, units of state government are asked to provide a report to the legislature. A statement made by a citizen provides a wonderful testament to the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board's (WEEB) accomplishments: "I never realized the Board is served by just one part-time employee. I envisioned a much larger unit of government than that. You sure do a lot with a little! You had me completely fooled."

While fooling the public is not a WEEB goal, setting the future direction for environmental education in the state is. During this biennial period the WEEB began the implementation of a five-year strategic plan, EE 2005: A Plan for Advancing Environmental Education in Wisconsin.

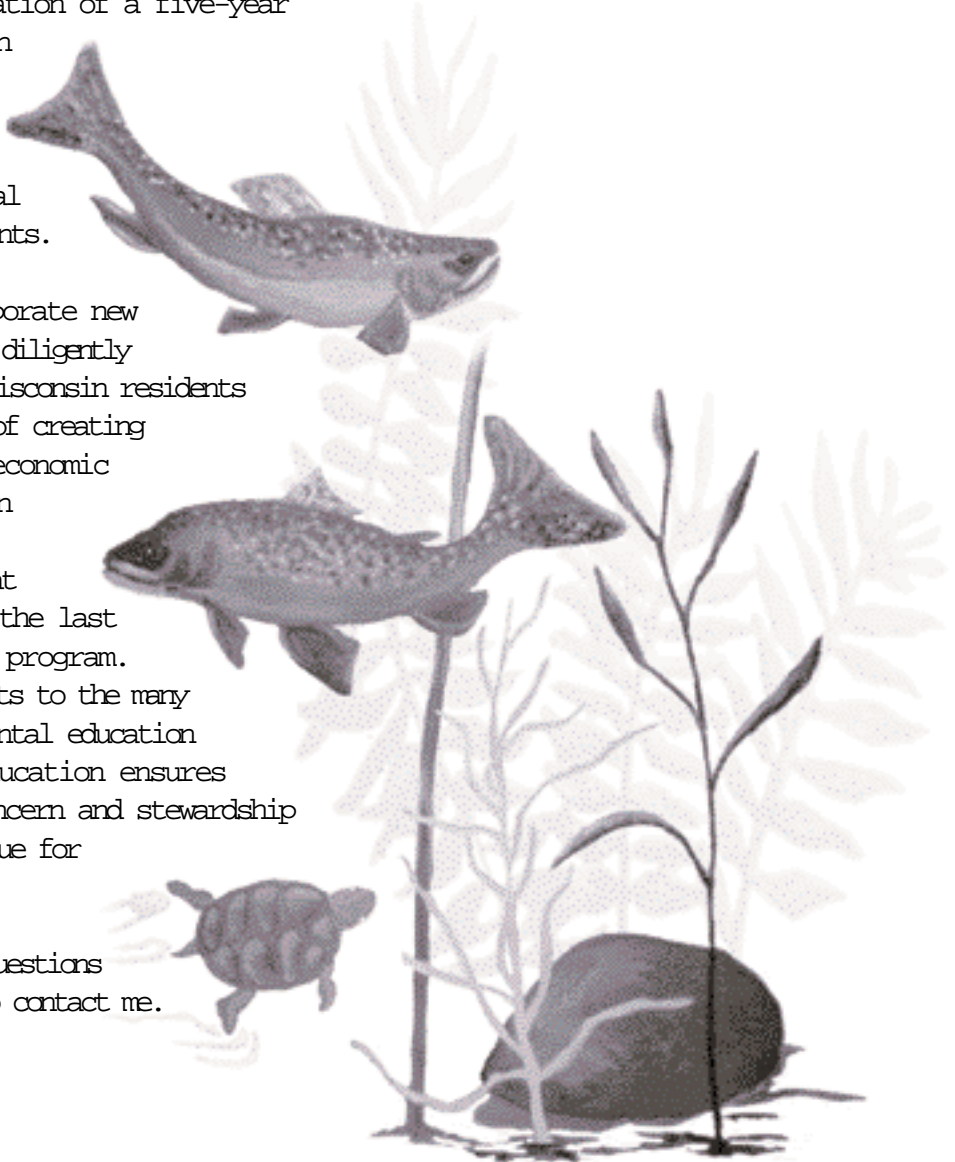
The primary goal of the plan is to enhance the environmental literacy of all Wisconsin residents.

As the WEEB strives to incorporate new initiatives, it continues to work diligently to provide opportunities for Wisconsin residents to learn about the importance of creating and maintaining sustainable economic and ecological environments in the state. This report provides an overview of the projects that have been made possible over the last two years by the WEEB grant program. The diversity of projects attests to the many venues of daily life environmental education permeates. Environmental education ensures our Wisconsin heritage of concern and stewardship for our environment will continue for generations to come.

If, as you review the report, questions arise, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Rick Koziel, Chairperson





"On behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin, I applaud and thank the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board for the contributions it has made toward educating citizens about maintaining the environmental quality of our great State while balancing social, ecological and economic needs. Fifteen years ago, when I ran for Lieutenant Governor, a tenet of my platform was to rebuild confidence in the State's ability to tackle any problem. The WEEB's dedication to providing Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills to do just that is commendable.

Wisconsin has a long and proud history of concern for our environment that has set the stage for our future. Environmental education is based on the premise that daily decisions made in both public and private settings can influence the storyline. Politics is also based on this premise. I am confident future projects funded via the environmental education grant program will continue to enhance environmental quality and increase the likelihood of achieving a happily ever after scenario for all our citizens."

Governor Scott McCallum



"The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board has long recognized the importance of professional development in environmental education and has consistently funded grant proposals that offer such opportunities. I commend the Board for their foresight and dedication to this goal. Enhancing the skills and knowledge base of individuals who serve as educators, whether in the classroom, field, or business community, insures Wisconsin citizens receive the highest quality educational services, and is consistent with our efforts to improve the state public education system from pre-kindergarten through college. The UW System looks forward to continuing to work with the WEEB to promote balanced, knowledge-based environmental education within the State."

Katharine Lyall, President University of Wisconsin System



"Wisconsin is blessed with abundant natural resources. Our forests, agricultural lands, wetlands, rivers and streams directly or indirectly provide a livelihood and sense of place for our citizens. Better water, air and land use; better and more coordinated resource management; and, an everyday commitment from all of us to use our natural resources wisely and prevent their contamination will assure the quality of Wisconsin's natural resources for the future.

The Department of Natural Resources supports the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board on its efforts to provide leadership in the development of quality learning opportunities for our children, teachers and citizens. As a result of the WEEB supported programs and other educational efforts, Wisconsin citizens feel deeply a stewardship for natural resources and a responsibility for passing a clean environment on to our children. Ultimately, an educated citizenry is what has and will continue to protect the special place we call home. The WEEB programs will assure that this tradition continues in Wisconsin."

Darrell Bazzell, Secretary Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



"As I begin my service as your State Superintendent, I have set a course to create a New Wisconsin Promise for our children. Our promise will build on Wisconsin's rich and proud tradition and make a commitment to provide every child in our state the opportunity to a quality education. Partnerships will be a key to our success. I therefore look forward to working with the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board as together we strive to achieve environmental literacy for all citizens of our great state.

The publication of Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education was a first step. Now we must continue down the path to environmental literacy for all by implementing standards and by continuing to assess the environmental literacy of our students.

I ask you to join the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board in this collaborative effort to ensure quality environmental education for every child in Wisconsin."

Elizabeth Bumaster, Superintendent Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Board Members

Spencer Black 1995-1999
Legislative Representative, State Assembly
Madison

Debra Blomberg 1998-2001
Business and Industry
Ogema

Brian Burke 1995-
Legislative Representative, State Senate
Milwaukee

Bill Buckley 1997-
Environmental Organizations
Marshfield

Sabrina Gentile 2000-
Agriculture
Madison

Jim Gibson 2000-
Wisconsin Technical College System
Madison

Susan Grady 1997-1999
Department of Public Instruction Designee
Madison

Robin Harris 1996-
University of Wisconsin System Designee
Madison

Sheila Harsdorf 2001-
Legislative Representative, State Senate
River Falls

Mark Ishihara 2001-
Business and Industry
Germantown

Craig Karr 1996-1999
Department of Natural Resources Designee
Madison

Neil Kedzie 1999-
Legislative Representative, State Assembly
Elkhorn

Rick Koziel 1996-
Nature Centers/Zoos
Fall Creek

Dan Kvalheim 1995-2000
Agriculture
Sun Prairie

Shelley Lee 1999-
Department of Public Instruction Designee
Madison

Pat Marinac 1998-
Environmental Educators
Iola

Mark Miller 2000-
Legislative Representative, State Assembly
Monona

William Neuhaus 1990-
Labor
Kenosha

William Rockwell 1991-2000
Wisconsin Technical College System
Madison

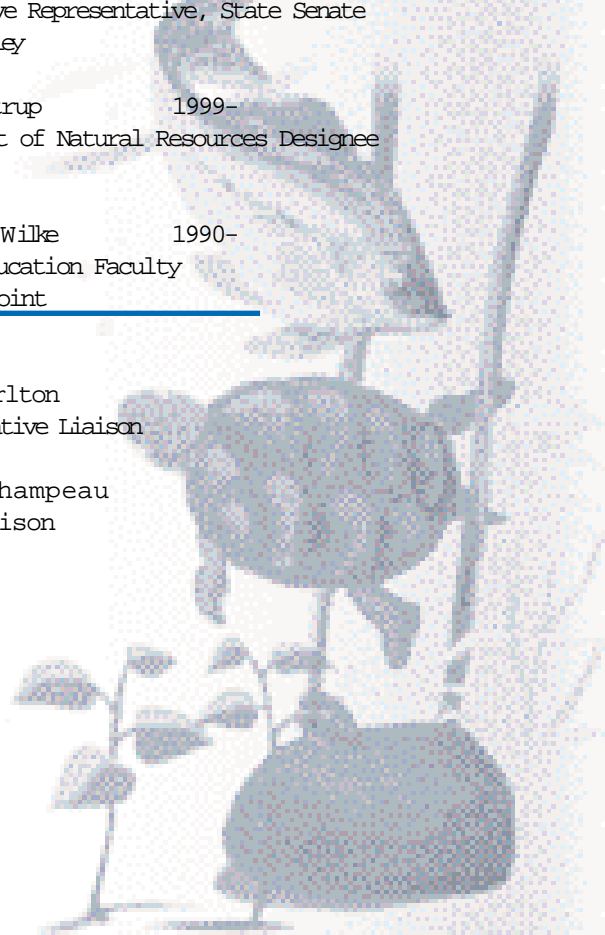
Brian Rude 1999-2000
Legislative Representative, State Senate
Coon Valley

Al Stenstrup 1999-
Department of Natural Resources Designee
Madison

Richard Wilke 1990-
Higher Education Faculty
Stevens Point

Ginny Carlton
Administrative Liaison

Randy Champeau
WCEE Liaison





Leap Into Lakes Murals

Cover and sidebar artwork within this document are composites of illustrations created by Almira Downs, Eau Claire and students from the Chippewa Falls Public School System

Alex Brown
Amanda Degan
Rachel Licht
Kelly Mayer
Holly O Connell
Scott Ramsden
Katharina Weirich

In cooperation with Eau Claire Regional Art Center.

Used by permission of
Evalyn Frasch,
Interim Director



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:

- 1 Identify needs and establish priorities for environmental education in Wisconsin.
- 1 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.
- 1 Be a catalyst in seeking private funds in support of the grants program.

Our four central purposes are:

- 1 Provide positive leadership, advocacy and policy making in the area of environmental literacy and education.
- 1 Support the development of local leaders and their fellow citizens to become environmentally aware and concerned enough to act positively on environmental issues.
- 1 Advocate the development and implementation of interdisciplinary environmentally-based curricula at all levels of the educational system.
- 1 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.

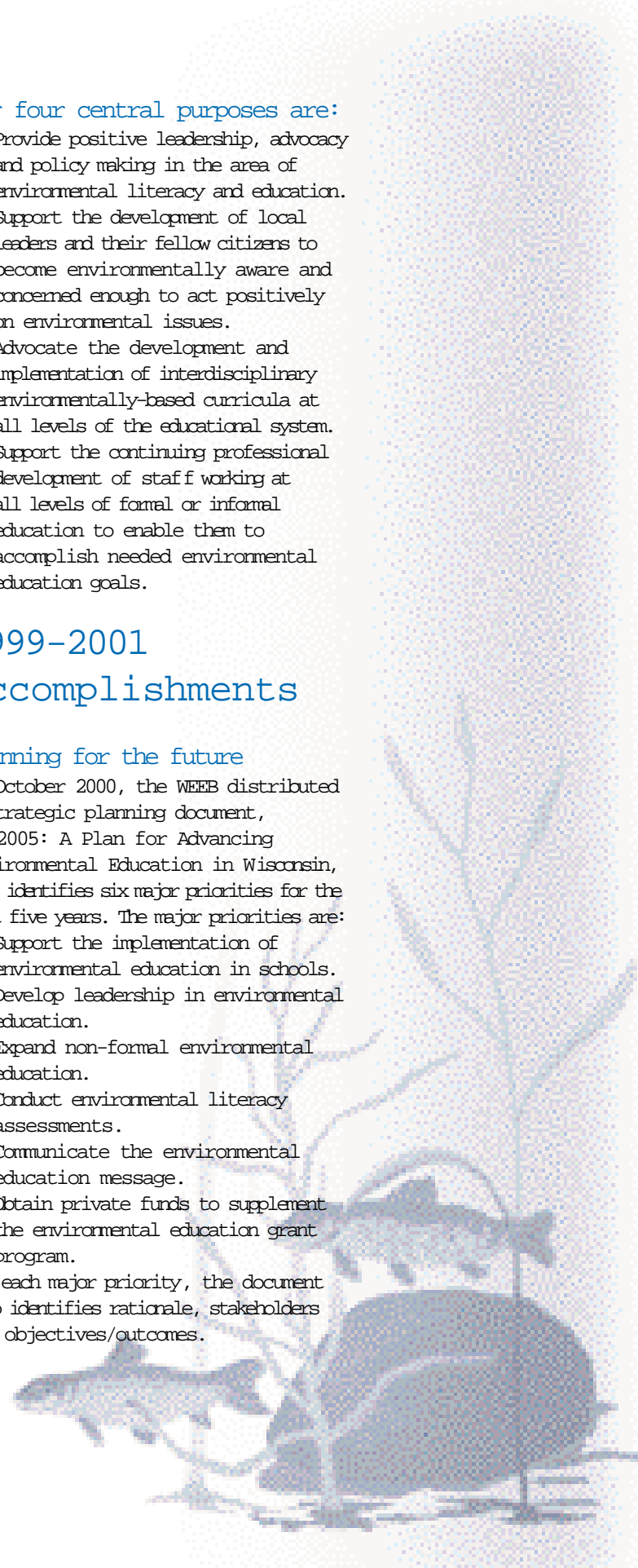
1999-2001 Accomplishments

Planning for the future

In October 2000, the WEEB distributed a strategic planning document, EE 2005: A Plan for Advancing Environmental Education in Wisconsin, that identifies six major priorities for the next five years. The major priorities are:

- 1 Support the implementation of environmental education in schools.
- 1 Develop leadership in environmental education.
- 1 Expand non-formal environmental education.
- 1 Conduct environmental literacy assessments.
- 1 Communicate the environmental education message.
- 1 Obtain private funds to supplement the environmental education grant program.

For each major priority, the document also identifies rationale, stakeholders and objectives/outcomes.



Enhanced Networking and Communication

With the dawn of the 21st century, the WEEB utilized computer technology to reach out to its current and future "customers". An enhanced website provides grant application and reporting forms, grant applicant summaries, a grant recipient database, press releases, and a variety of WEEB reports. Links to other environmental education websites, nature centers, and state agencies enable those seeking on-line environmental education information to access it more readily than ever before.

Expanded Grant Program

The delay of the approval of the 1997-1999 budget adversely impacted a number of 1997 grant recipients. Many recipients were forced to adjust their project timelines and several were unable to complete all proposed activities by the December 31, 1998 deadline. In these instances, project directors often ended up "returning" funds to the WEEB. WEEB reallocated these "returned funds" via a special grant cycle conducted in the spring of 1998. These "quick grant" projects were limited to statewide initiatives. Projects began in mid-March 1998 and were completed by June 30, 1998. For a description of these projects please see the projects identified with a [v] on pages 14 to 22. A similar process was used for the unexpended grant funds originally awarded to the 1998 grant recipients. Please see the projects identified with a [v] on pages 23 to 29.

WEEB, in cooperation with the Department of Administration's Energy Bureau, served as the administrating agency for a \$22,500 renewable energy education grant program. Funds were derived from the Wisconsin Focus on Energy program. Grants were restricted to applicants located within a twenty-three county area of northeastern Wisconsin.

WEEB, in cooperation with the Energy Center of Wisconsin, served as the administrating agency for a \$27,000 energy education grant program. Funds were derived from the Wisconsin Focus on Energy program. Grants were restricted to applicants located within a twenty-three county area of northeastern Wisconsin.

The renewable and general energy education projects were required to meet the environmental education (EE) goals and the process for solicitation, review, selection, oversight, and evaluation of proposals and projects corresponded to those already established for the general environmental education grant program.

[See pages 7 to 9.]



Photo: Paul Tweed

Cluster A Consortium

Grant Program

Since its creation in 1990, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board's (WEEB) grant program has provided communities, schools, and organizations with funds to enhance environmental education programs.

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 1999, the Board received \$22,500 from the Department of Administration for a renewable energy education program and \$27,000 from the Energy Center of Wisconsin for an energy education program.

In 1999 and 2000, there were a total of 174 grant applications submitted during the regular grant cycle; 63 were funded. Grant requests ranged from \$500 to \$20,000 (the maximum allowed).

In 1999 and 2000, there were a total of 22 "quick grant" applications submitted; 17 were funded. These "quick grants" used funds that were originally allocated to the 1997 and 1998 grant recipients during the regular grant cycle and were unexpended by the original grant recipients. Grant requests ranged from \$890 to \$5,000 (the maximum allowed).

In 1999, there were 13 energy projects submitted; 12 were funded. Grant requests ranged from \$514 to \$5,000 (the maximum allowed).

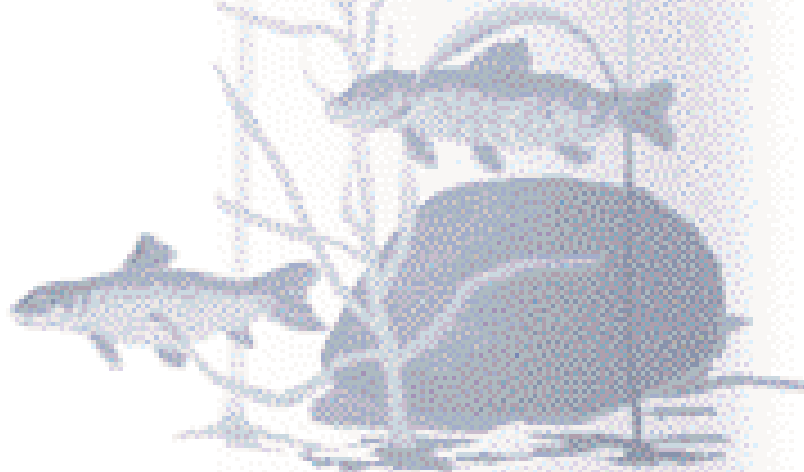
Since the program began, the WEEB has distributed \$2.3 million to 398 projects. The funded projects have generated well beyond the 25 percent match required. In fact, the matching funding totals over \$5.08 million. To date, nearly 1300 applications have been received requesting over \$12.1 million. Obviously not all applicants receive funding.

WEEB has received requests for proposals 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 projects that passed the technical review to determine overall quality and value of the project, ability to achieve goals, development of partnerships, use of existing resources, and promotion of community environmental education.

General Guidelines

Grant projects need to assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education. Projects need 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

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

The following are NOT eligible:

- 1 Individuals
- 1 Private foundations
- 1 Pervasively sectarian nonprofit colleges

Project Duration

Grants awarded as part of the regular grant cycle, renewable energy grant program, and energy grant program were made for the period of July 1, 1999, through December 31, 2000, or July 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001.

Projects awarded as part of the "quick grant cycle" were made for the period of March 15, 1999 through June 30, 1999, or March 15, 2000 through June 30, 2000.

Funding Priorities for 1999 and 2000

The funded grants reflected 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. Promote implementation of Wisconsin's model environmental education academic standards.

- D. Assist the WEEB in meeting statewide initiatives, including:

- 1 communicating the value of EE to Wisconsin citizens
- 2 conducting research and reporting on EE needs in Wisconsin
- 3 statewide assessment of the environmental literacy of Wisconsin citizens
- 4 statewide professional development programs regarding the implementation of Wisconsin's model environmental education academic standards
- 5 statewide environmental education leadership development or enhancement programs

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



Preferred Characteristics:

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



Norwalk Ontario School District

Photo: Fritz Cushing

Assistance for Applicants

Information on past projects can be searched through the Internet. The WEEB home page address is <http://weeb.uwsp.edu>

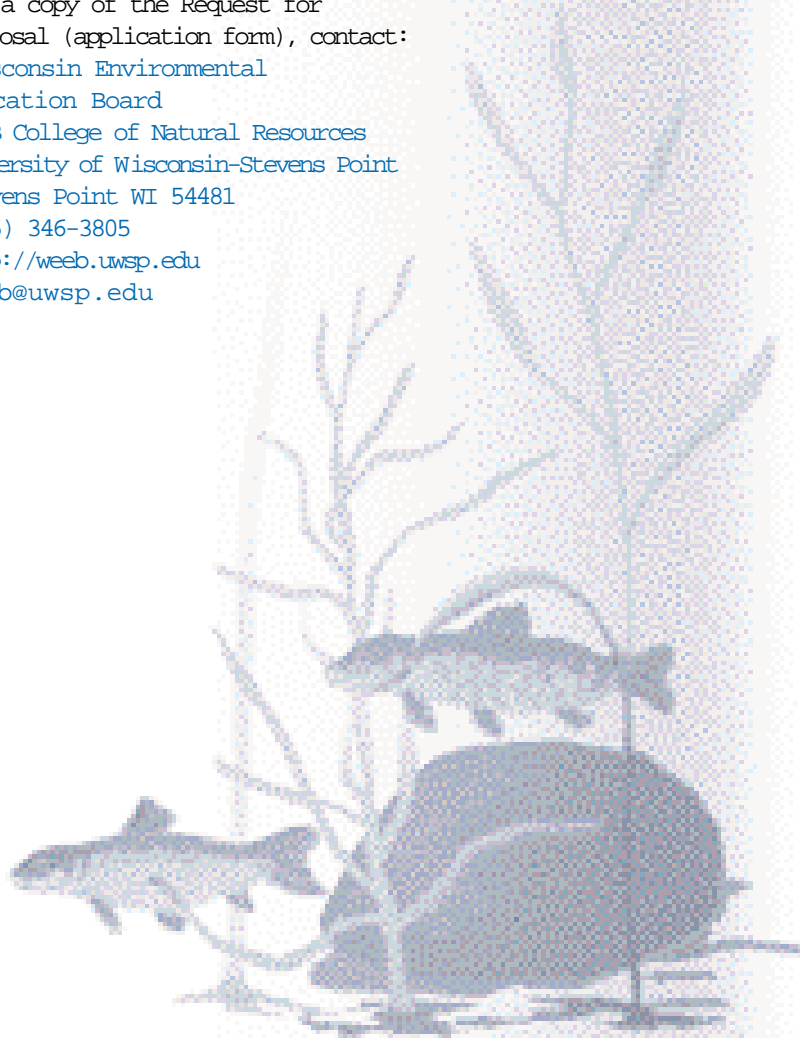
Copies of funded proposals are available via the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan System. Request each volume by its call number: ED.1/2:E 58/ 2/ XXXX (XXXX = the year). The most recent volume is 2002.

The "End of Year Summary" reports from grant recipients are also available via the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan System. Request each volume by its call number: ENV 5.1/2:G 72/ XXXX (XXXX=year). The most recent volume is 1999.

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

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



Snap Shots of Funded Projects

Highlighting 8 of the 92 funded 1999 and 2000 projects.

Positive Leadership, Advocacy and Policy Making

Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department

Northern Rivers: Ribbons of Life
Log # 1999-0026

This grant project resulted in the production of a video designed to educate individuals about the importance of healthy river environments and the use of "best management practices" in land use planning and natural resource management activities.

Historical and underwater footage were incorporated into discussions of concepts such as "run-off," "sedimentation," "direct impacts," and "indirect impacts". Sources of additional information and assistance (e.g., cooperative extension, county zoning boards, natural resource departments, and river associations) were highlighted.

Department of Natural Resources
Forestry Education: Using PLT and Wisconsin s Model Academic Standards
Log # 2000-0019

This project will correlate Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for varying disciplines (e.g., environmental education, science, social studies, math, and language arts) to the Pre K-8 grade Project Learning Tree curriculum. Teachers will be provided with professional development opportunities in which a printed guide and participation in classroom and field activities are used to highlight some of these correlations.

The Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for environmental education were published by the Department of Public Instruction under the auspices of a prior WEEB grant (log # 1997-006). While these standards are not mandated, they do provide a framework for defining criteria by which one can judge the quality of environmental education programs.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is a nationally recognized series of classroom and outdoor activities designed to provide students with opportunities to investigate environmental issues and encourage them to make informed responsible decisions.

Development of Local Leaders

National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP)

Leadership Institute and Seminars
Log # 1999-0093

A two and a half day community outreach leadership clinic was held for members of five local teams (Oshkosh, Eau Claire, Waukesha, Madison and Green Bay). Each team developed a vision for comprehensive environmental education programs in their community. They also developed a goal and a plan for a local EE outreach seminar. Each member of the leadership clinic received an environmental education resource binder.



Photo: Lynn Larson

In Green Bay, a play was written by team members and presented at local middle and high schools. The final act of the play, a culminating event, was conducted at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and involved local environmental education (EE) providers and leaders from the community. A town hall meeting, conducted by the Mayor's wife, enabled local business and community leaders to discuss how environmental education could be strengthened in Green Bay.

In Waukesha, members of the community were invited to a seminar to inform them about the community's school based EE program and future challenges that may come to it as a result of school district budgeting.

The Eau Claire team provided a series of seminars for the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce leadership program and to school district administrators. Oshkosh held a seminar for area school principals. Madison was unable to complete a program within the grant period due to health concerns of individuals associated with the project.



Photo: Joe Knight Eau Claire Leader-Telegram

Projects included:

- 1 Birchwood School District: Students installed habitat structures for brook trout and removed trash from Pigeon Creek at the site of an abandoned farm.
- 1 Bruce School District: Students installed an aeration system into Round Lake. This small lake was once used for sewage disposal, but students have restored the lake and it now supports trout, bass and bluegills.
- 1 Flambeau School District: Students built a mile nature trail adjacent to the school with access to Deer Creek.
- 1 Lake Holcombe School District: Students built signs to warn boaters about introducing exotic plants into lakes and then installed them at boat landings. The students are also monitoring purple loosestrife on Lake Holcombe.
- 1 Ladysmith-Hawkins School District: Students diverted a storm sewer draining runoff from the parking lots of City Forest Company and W eathershield to a man-made wetland to strain sediments and pollutants before the water enters the Flambeau River .
- 1 Weyerhaeuser School District: Students used rocks and logs to narrow Soft Maple Creek, which is a trout stream. This creek section had become broad and muddy due to erosion from cattle grazing.

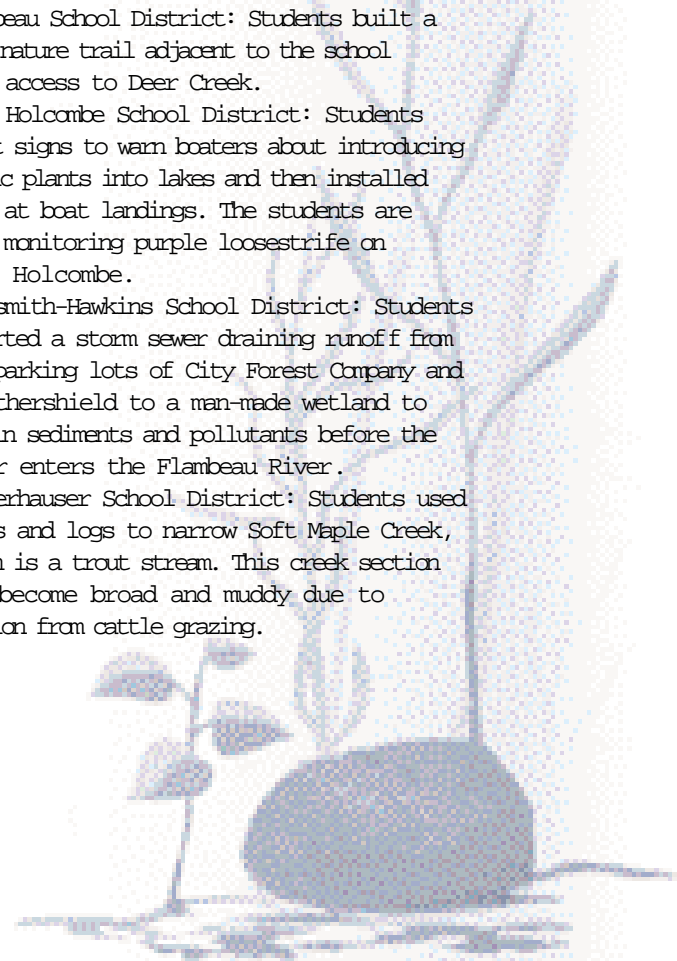


Photo: Karrie Eastman NEEAP

Rusk County

Rusk County Environmental Challenge
Log # 2000-0038

After studying local environmental issues, students from each of the six school districts in the county proposed conservation projects. One project from each district was selected for implementation.



Development and Implementation of Curricula

Cluster A Consortium

Environmental Field Resource Course
Log # 2000-0039

A consortium of five rural school districts in west central Wisconsin developed, implemented and integrated a pilot advanced environmental field research course into their regular year academic curriculum.

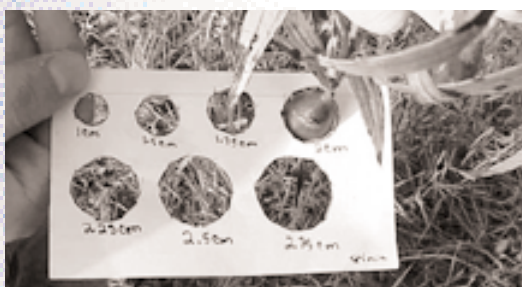


Photo: Denver Stubbe

Augusta High School

The class allowed students to conduct field research either individually or in teams. Mentors and research partners from the community worked with students on investigations including:

- 1 GPS and ArcView GIS mapping of the vegetative communities of the Beaver Creek Reserve Field Research Station.
- 1 winter habitat use and travel paths of white-tailed deer at the Beaver Creek Reserve Field Research Station.
- 1 aquatic biology and limnology of the Beaver Creek headwaters.
- 1 winter bird habitat, feeding, and banding
- 1 reintroduction of orphaned black bear (using radio telemetry to monitor).
- 1 Project Monarch Watch.
- 1 plant and animal interaction research focusing on the predator-prey relationships in the goldenrod gall fly system.



Each project was presented to the public at a symposium using tri-fold posters as visual aids. Each project team submitted a formal scientific research paper and abstracts were posted on a website.

(<http://www.beavercreekreserve.org/rs/index.htm>)

Kickapoo Reserve Management Board

Kickapoo Valley Reserve Field School
Log # 2000-0032

A partnership between the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board, La Farge Public Schools, Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton Public Schools and the Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department facilitated the development of summer courses, teacher in-service sessions, and holiday/non-school day sessions for sixth to twelfth grade students.

The program has included:

- 1 general survey courses for middle school students (geology, archeology, history of the Reserve, forestry, water resources, wildlife, orienteering, and botany).
- 1 an in-service day for teachers, administrators, and school board members from eight area school districts.
- 1 demonstrations of safe, no-trace winter camping.
- 1 guided tours of the geology of the Kickapoo River bluffs.
- 1 a field day program for fifth grade students.
- 1 courses for high school students (water resources, human history and land use, forestry, wildlife, and ecology).



Professional Development

Trees For Tomorrow

Developing and Using Your School Forest
Log # 1999-0003



Twenty-two teachers and administrators from ten school districts attended a five-day workshop designed to:

- 1 help participating school districts develop a long-range vision or plan for their own school forest development.
- 1 provide practical experience in basic forest management, trail/facility development, and in making a strong curriculum connection between in-school curriculum and school forest field studies.
- 1 provide opportunities for networking.

The project was supported by a coalition of agencies including: Consolidated Papers Inc., Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Tri-County School District, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Nature Net

How to Use the Outdoors to Make Academic Standards Fun
Log # 2000-0073

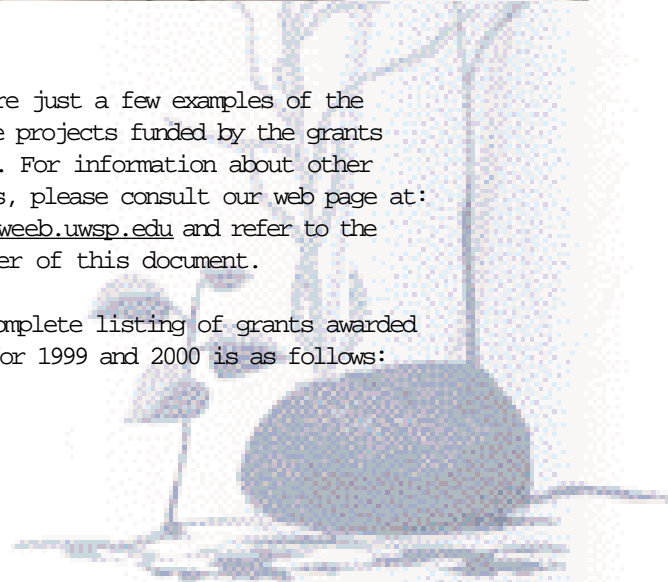
The objectives of this one-day teacher workshop were to: make teachers more comfortable with integrating standards into classroom and field trip experiences; illustrate how EE activities can be helpful to attaining standards; review and create examples for appropriate rubrics and assessment techniques; and familiarize the teachers with available free resources regarding all of the above.

The program was sponsored by a coalition of Madison area agencies including: Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Bethel Horizons Nature Center, International Crane Foundation, Madison School District, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and the University of Wisconsin Madison-Arboretum.



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.

A complete listing of grants awarded for 1999 and 2000 is as follows:



1999 Wisconsin Environmental Education Grants

(* Funded under agreements with the Department of Administration or the Energy Center of Wisconsin. V Funded with unexpended 1997 grant funds.)

Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc. \$4,967
(Monona)
Nature Passport

For a summertime outdoor exploration program for children and their families.

* **Appleton Area School District** \$4,825
(Appleton)
Peddling Our Way to Energy Awareness

To examine existing science curriculum related to energy education in light of district and state science and environmental education standards.

* **Appleton Area School District:**
James Madison Middle School \$2,074
(Appleton)
High Mileage Vehicle

To enable students to design, test, troubleshoot, and build from scratch a one-man gasoline powered vehicle. Students will enter an annual competition held at UW-Stout.

* **Appleton Area School District** \$2,892
(Appleton)
Practical Solar Heating in Conventional Homes

To expose high school students and community businesses to the appropriate application of thermal solar systems to existing homes.

Board of Regents University of Wisconsin System \$12,006
(Madison)

Expanded Audiences: Expanded Partnerships in Forest Resource Education

To conduct a conference for landowners, with little or no long-range forest management planning experience in the philosophy of forest stewardship and sustainability through the presentation of current research based information, long term multiple use and profitability concepts.



Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department \$5,000
(Siren)

Northern Rivers: Ribbons of Life

To produce a video to educate individuals involved in land use planning and management activities about the importance of healthy river environments.



Chippewa County \$19,995
 (Chippewa Falls)
 Community Focused Environmental Education
 Enhancement Project

For a teacher training workshop and training packet about natural resources and resource issues of direct importance to the local community.

Photo: Emily Moore Chippewa County



Chippewa Falls Museum of Industry and Technology \$10,500
 (Chippewa Falls)
 Leap into Lakes

To reuse and update an exhibit created by the Madison Children's Museum to encourage awareness of fresh water resources and water quality issues.

Cooperative Educational Services Agency #10 \$4,924
 (Chippewa Falls)
 Using Outdoor Classrooms to Teach Science/Environmental Education Concepts

To provide elementary school teachers with intensive inservice experiences using outdoor classroom sites as a means of teaching science and environmental concepts.

* DePere High School \$1,960
 (DePere)
 Energy Fair II

For an energy fair for school students and the community.



Photo: Christine Joosen DePere High School

* Energy Center of Wisconsin \$5,000
 (Madison)
 Wisconsin Wind Documentary

To produce a half-hour video documentary on wind power in Wisconsin.

v Energy Center of Wisconsin \$4,980
 (Madison)
 Enhancing Energy Literacy through Hands-on and Visual Support Materials

To supply KEEP instructors with hands-on and visual support materials to enhance the energy literacy of teachers.



Photo: Jennie Lane Energy Center of Wisconsin



Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance (FISTA) \$4,950

(Rhinelander)
Forest Management and Timber Harvesting Class

To develop a curriculum that incorporates a demonstration of logging equipment and techniques and also illustrates how forest management plans are actually carried out.

Forgotten Wisdom, Inc. \$5,000

(Bayfield)
Frogs and Toads: A Musical Presentation About Animals You Know

To develop an interactive informative performance in which children will learn about characteristics of frogs and toads.

Fox Cities Children s Museum \$4,858

(Appleton)
Environmental Energy Education Workshop

To conduct two one-day workshops for teachers on environmental energy, science and technology.

*** Friends of Rock Island State Park \$1,083**
(Washington Island)
Interpreting Renewable Energy on Rock Island State Park

To provide renewable energy education to island visitors and campers using educational signs that focus on the island's switch from non-renewable to renewable energy resources.

*** Green Bay Public Schools \$4,000**
(Green Bay)
Special Delivery Via Sunshine

To convert a van from a diesel to an electric system by high school shop classes.

Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. \$18,890
(Tomahawk)

Wisconsin School Forest Program Coordinator

To deliver school forest workshops at individual local school forests, provide follow-up assistance to teachers, and develop a school forest manual which will identify management information and implementation ideas.

Madison Metropolitan School District \$4,756
(Madison)

Forest Stewardship

To encourage students to become stewards of the school forest through hands-on activities including the control of exotic species.

* **Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)** \$4,100
 (Amherst Junction)
 Sharing Renewables with Children

To develop lessons for 9-14 year old children on renewable resources, electrical generation, and environmental impacts of energy production and use.



MREA

Photo: Tehri Parker

V **Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)** \$4,303
 (Amherst Junction)
 ReNew the Earth Institute Demonstrations

To assist with the development of educational displays, demonstrations, and materials for the Renew the Earth Institute.

Milwaukee Community Services Corps (MCSC) \$3,375
 (Milwaukee)
 Recycling and Waste Reduction Education Program

To provide opportunities for young adults to make recycling and waste reduction classroom presentations to third and fourth grade students in order to increase participation in the City's recycling program.

National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP) \$20,000
 (Stevens Point)
 Leadership Institute and Seminars

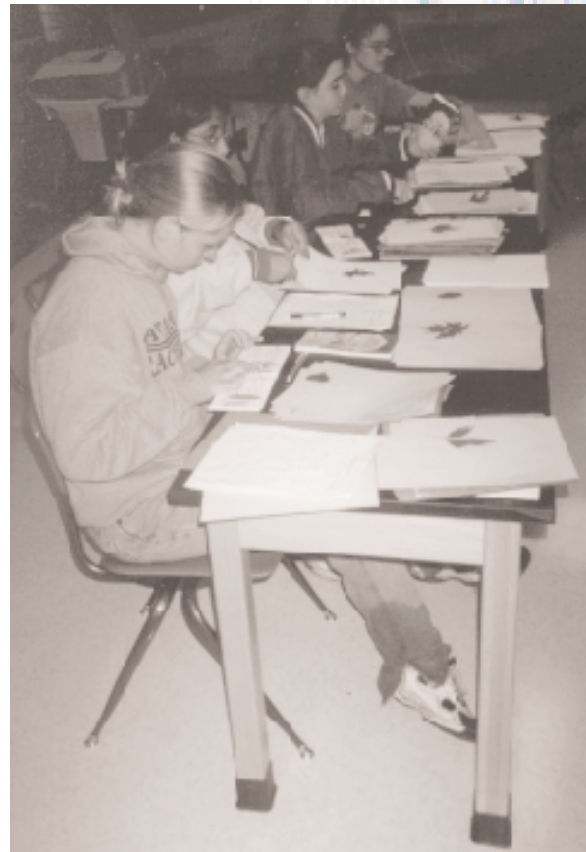
To collaborate with those already involved in state-wide leadership institutes and programs to increase the involvement in and support for implementation of Wisconsin's environmental education programs.

V **National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP)** \$3,715
 (Stevens Point)
 Printing of the "EE Works for Wisconsin" Poster and Rack Card

To communicate the value of EE to Wisconsin citizens via a poster and a brochure.

Norwalk/Ontario School District \$19,050
 (Ontario)
 Kickapoo Valley Reserve Field School

To develop and implement an environmental education curriculum for grades 6-12.



Norwalk Ontario School District

Photo: Fritz Cushing

V 1000 Friends of Wisconsin Land Use Institute, Inc. \$1,300
(Madison)
Cities in the Wisconsin Landscape Anthology

To create an anthology of essays that focus on the positives of urban life in Wisconsin and promote the discussion of land use issues.

Polk County Land Conservation Department \$10,762
(Balsam Lake)
Riparian Education & Stewardship Project

To provide educational programs to County shoreland property owners regarding riparian buffers and their impact on wildlife and water quality.

River Valley School District \$5,000
(Spring Green)
River Valley School Forests Present and Future Use

For a study of the five school forest segments by high school conservation science students.

Riveredge Nature Center \$5,908
(Newburg)
Integrating Wetland Ecology and Systems Technology into the EE Curricula

To train teachers about wetland ecology and systems-based learning by using an Engineered Wetland Wastewater Treatment System as the focal point to learning.

Riverside Urban Environmental Center \$18,258
(Milwaukee)
Consortium for Milwaukee Area EE Providers

To develop an environmental education specialization for a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction to be offered through UW-Milwaukee and to enhance communication between the 17 consortium institutions.

South Milwaukee School District \$19,560
(South Milwaukee)
Integration of Environmental Education

To enable teachers and community youth leaders to participate in an EE training workshop, and implementation of EE units. Scores on state tests will be used to compare the regular curriculum with the enriched EE experience.



Sun Prairie School District \$3,616
(Sun Prairie)
Middle School Discovery Club

To establish an after school discovery club whose members will develop and implement long term small mammal and amphibian monitoring studies at the Patrick Marsh Wildlife Area.



[Trees for Tomorrow](#) \$13,751
 (Eagle River)
 Developing and Using Your School Forest

To train teachers and administrators to develop and use their school forests as effective field teaching sites.

[University of Wisconsin-River Falls](#) \$19,740
 (River Falls)
 1976 Edition of Wisconsin Forestry Manual Revision

To revise this document so that it meets the current curricula and methodology of agricultural education, forestry and environmental education.

[University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: Knutzen Hall](#) \$1,069
 (Stevens Point)
 Youth and the Environment

To bring students from Stevens Point second and third grade classrooms to Knutzen Hall to learn about various environmental topics and their affects on the local community.

* [University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: Knutzen Hall](#) \$514
 (Stevens Point)
 Energy Education in Knutzen Hall

To develop a program aimed at reducing energy use in a university residence hall.

* [University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Extension: Office of Credit Outreach](#) \$5,000
 (Stevens Point)
 Identifying Web Sites for an Internet-based Energy Literacy Course

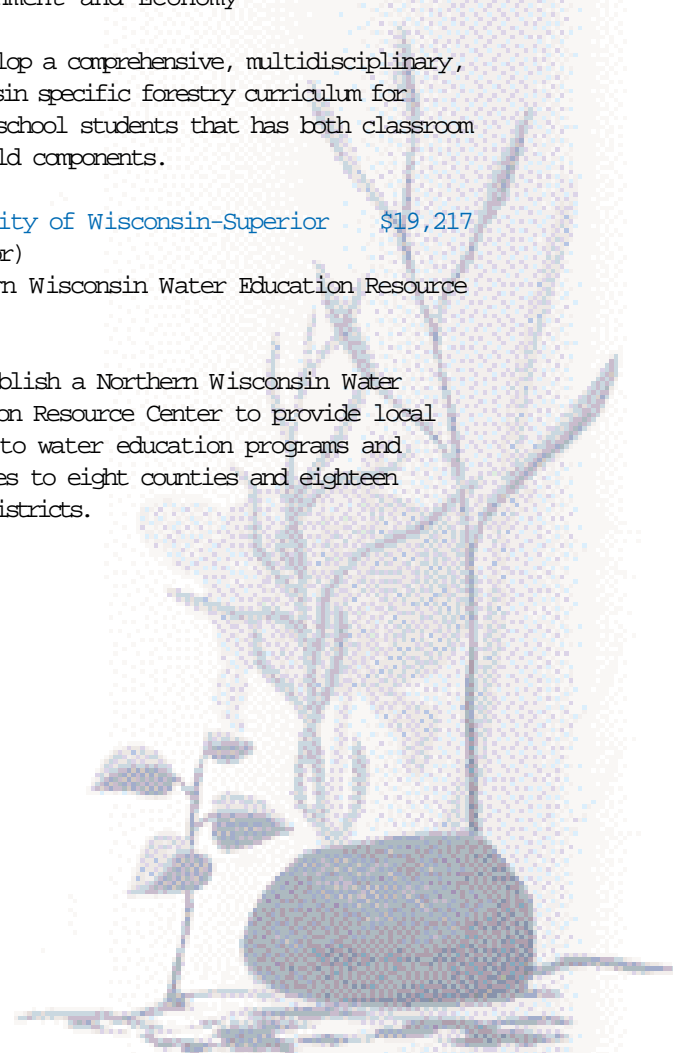
To search and evaluate energy-related web sites that can later be linked to an energy course web site.

[University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Foundation](#) \$20,000
 (Stevens Point)
 Development & Promotion of Wisconsin Forestry Bridging the Gap Between Environment and Economy

To develop a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, Wisconsin specific forestry curriculum for middle school students that has both classroom and field components.

[University of Wisconsin-Superior](#) \$19,217
 (Superior)
 Northern Wisconsin Water Education Resource Center

To establish a Northern Wisconsin Water Education Resource Center to provide local access to water education programs and resources to eight counties and eighteen school districts.



* [Washington Island School](#) \$1,302
 (Washington Island)
 Energy Education for Washington Island School

For a KEEP course for Washington Island and Northern Door County teachers.



[Watertown Unified School District](#) \$19,650
 (Watertown)
 Integrated Science and EE Curriculum

For elementary, middle, and high school teachers to develop environmental units for a new science curriculum and to receive training in utilizing land along the Rock River.



* [Wauaukee Public Schools](#) \$20,000
 (Wauaukee)
 Photovoltaics Project

To create a unified curriculum that includes science, business, and technology education components using a renewable energy focus.



[West Salem School District](#) \$4,774
 (West Salem)
 Project START: Species Tracking by Applying Radiotelemetry

To allow seventh grade students and their teachers to participate in a radiotelemetry project in which they collect, analyze, and interpret data on Blandings turtles; and develop a community awareness program to share their experiences.



West Salem School District \$4,906
(West Salem)
Junior Forester Program

To train the fourth grade staff in the history of the lumber industry, sustainable forestry practices, fire as a forestry tool, tree identification, and use of forest measurement tools.

V

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAAEE) \$3,000
(Stevens Point)
EE Strategies for the 21st Century

To support a program of keynote presentations, workshops, concurrent sessions, and field trips to improve the knowledge and skills of Wisconsin educators to infuse EE across the curriculum, using WI standards, authentic assessment and technology integration.

V

Wisconsin Association of Lakes \$4,990
(Stevens Point)
Testing, Testing .1-2-3

To identify interested and needy youth groups eager to establish a water monitoring program and supply the resources needed.



V

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) \$5,000
(Stevens Point)
School Environmental Clubs in Wisconsin

To update the 1995 directory of "School Environmental Clubs in Wisconsin: Who's Who and What They Do!" in order to provide resources to teachers interested in forming a club.

V

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) \$3,900
(Stevens Point)
Environmental Education Resources Library

To purchase additional EE materials and make these materials available to educators.

Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, Inc. \$18,315
(Stevens Point)

Wisconsin Conservation History: Learning from the Past

To enable large groups to better utilize the facility, including the "Trail of Reflections" which brings history to life as students hike through a natural area.

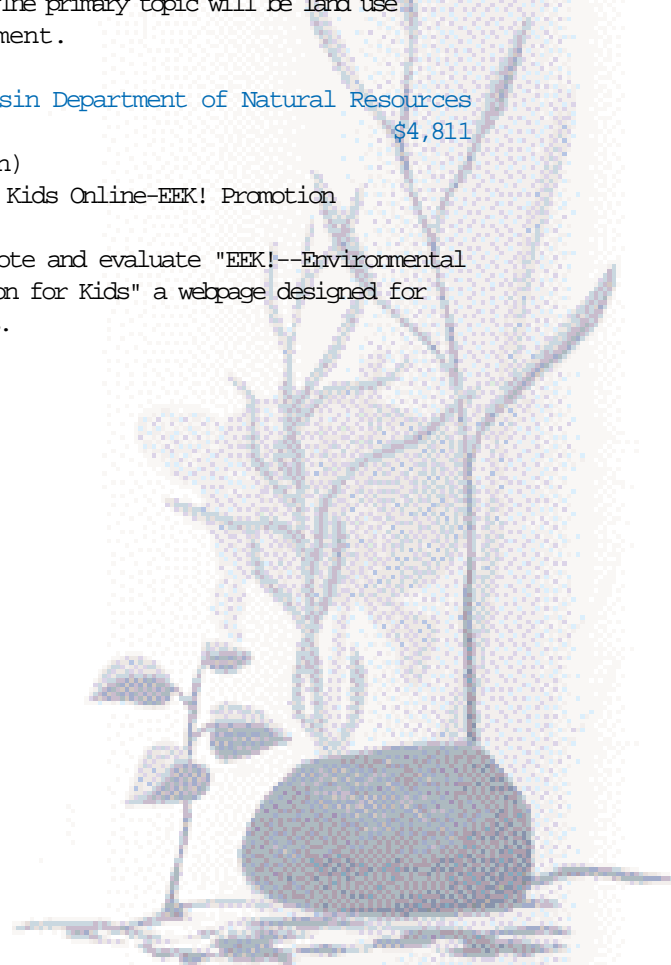
Wisconsin Dells School District \$19,130
(Wisconsin Dells)
Inside Nature, Outside the Classroom

To create an outdoor classroom with supporting curriculum at the Neenah Creek Elementary School. The primary topic will be land use management.

V

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) \$4,811
(Madison)
Getting Kids Online-EEK! Promotion

To promote and evaluate "EEK!--Environmental Education for Kids" a webpage designed for students.



Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program
(KEEP) \$14,484
(Stevens Point)
Energizing Earth Day

To provide teachers with an opportunity to help their students relate their energy use to sustaining environmental quality.

Wisconsin Lake Schooner
Education Association (WLSEA) \$20,000
(Milwaukee)
Forestry Education on the Water and on the Road

To highlight the relationship between two of our state's key natural resources: our forests and our waterways to students in the southeast quarter of Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation
Association \$18,801
(Madison)
Wisconsin Envirothon Test Writing Initiative

To create a document that correlates Envirothon goals and objectives to the state EE standards and also a bank of test questions to be used in the annual Envirothon competition.



2000 Wisconsin Environmental Education Grants

(Note: These projects run through December 31, 2001.)

(✓ Funded with unexpended 1998 grant funds.)

Photo: Rob Nelson, Aldo Leopold Foundation



Central Wisconsin Environmental Station
(CWES) \$20,000
(Amherst Junction)
The Changing of the Land: A Wisconsin
Forestry Unit

For a multidisciplinary 4th grade classroom unit based on WI specific information that will help students understand their historical roots and how past events have helped make our state what it is today.



Aldo Leopold Foundation \$6,100
(Baraboo)
Grassland Restoration & Management
Workshop

For a two-day workshop on grassland restoration and management.

B O W

Photo: Lisa Goodman

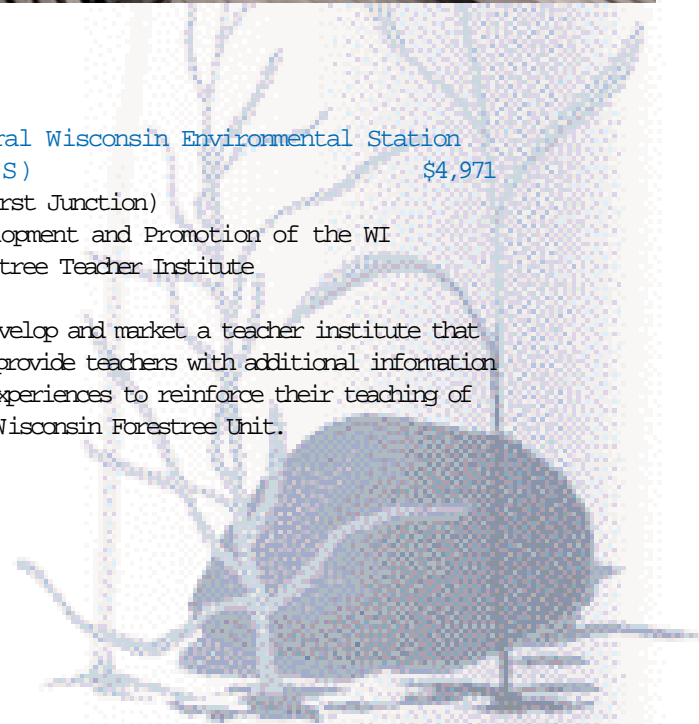


✓
Central Wisconsin Environmental Station
(CWES) \$4,971
(Amherst Junction)
Development and Promotion of the WI
Forestry Teacher Institute

To develop and market a teacher institute that will provide teachers with additional information and experiences to reinforce their teaching of the Wisconsin Forestry Unit.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Inc. \$9,375
(Stevens Point)
Growing Wisconsin: Educating Women in
Forest Stewardship

To create a survey to determine how many women own or co-own non-industrial private forest land in Wisconsin; what their environmental education and forest management needs are; and then provide workshops to address those needs.





Cluster A Consortium \$20,000
(Altoona)
Environmental Field Resource Course

For five rural school districts to cooperatively develop, implement, and integrate an advanced environmental field research class into their regular academic curriculum.

Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance (FISTA) \$12,400
(Rhinelander)
Forest Management and Timber Harvesting Class

For refinement of a forest management information and activities binder to be used by teachers and a one-day outdoor demonstration of logging equipment and techniques.

Friends of Point Beach State Forest \$4,088
(Two Rivers)
Dune Education and Restoration

To educate and involve local community members in the protection of endangered dune species and dune habitat.

V
Friends of Wisconsin State Parks \$5,000
(Madison)
Expanding the Sustainable Forestry Park Packs for Use in State Parks and Schools

To equip 84 state park properties, 12 CESA regions and 5 WDNR offices with Park Packs to assist teachers, youth leaders and families in using state parks as outdoor classrooms.

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. \$15,973
(Stevens Point)
Forming Wisconsin Family Forest Alliance

For a "grass roots" neighbor-to-neighbor approach to educate woodland owners of the importance and value of having a comprehensive forest management plan for their land.



Great Lakes Indian, Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) \$20,000
(Odanah)
Environmental Education for Tribal Youth in Wisconsin

For a multi-agency group to introduce tribal teachers to the Envirothon program and provide them with support and resources to build student teams for the annual competition.



Juda Public School \$5,000
(Juda)
Habitat Stewards Training for Interdisciplinary
K-12 Teachers

For teachers to participate in the National Wildlife Federation's Habitat Steward workshop and then commit to 50 hours of volunteer service, integrating training into multidisciplinary curriculums, using the community as an outdoor lab, having students publish environmental data and host educational meetings.

Kaukauna Area School District \$19,688
(Kaukauna)
Kaukauna Kankupot Creek Forest Project

For the development of a hardwood and bottomland forest site, and implementation of curricula that takes advantage of the uniqueness of the site.

Kickapoo Reserve Management Board
(La Farge) \$19,982
Kickapoo Valley Reserve Field School

For summer courses for students, teacher inservice programs, and opportunities for students to attend sessions during holiday or non-school days.



Luck School District \$13,085
(Luck)
Butternut Lake Shoreline Restoration Project

For a 3 year shoreline restoration project conducted by students, lakeshore property owners, and other members of the community.

Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. \$4,610
(Tomahawk)
Teaching Community Involvement in Forestry Education

To conduct workshops for forest professionals on effective teaching methods, age characteristics of students, and existing forestry education materials in an effort to expand a network of volunteers to conduct classroom presentations and act as a source of information for school teachers.

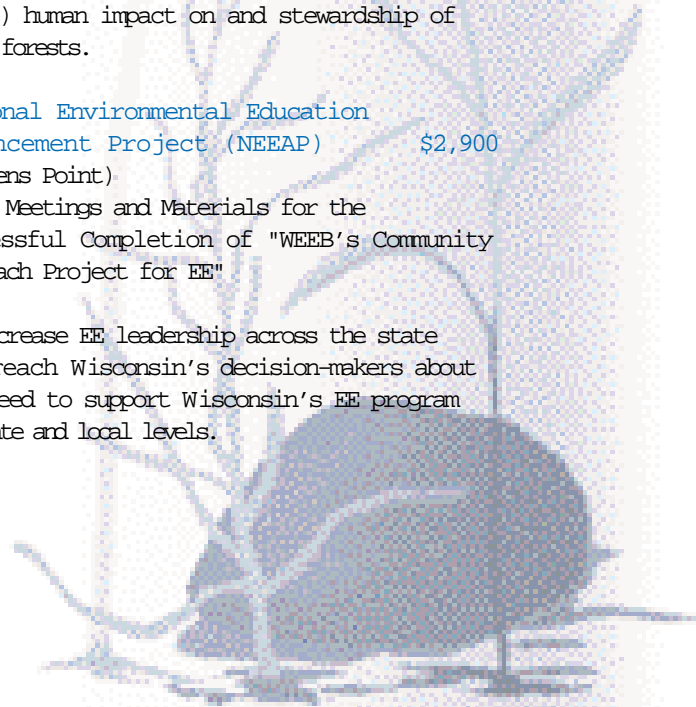
Midtown Neighborhood Association \$15,439
(Milwaukee)
Mobile Forestry Labs at the Milwaukee Urban Tree House

For development of three self-contained lab projects composed of customized curricula, tools, and assessment materials to enable science-based study of 1) urban forest soil and water systems, 2) urban forest ecosystems and 3) human impact on and stewardship of urban forests.

National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP) \$2,900
(Stevens Point)

Local Meetings and Materials for the Successful Completion of "WEEB's Community Outreach Project for EE"

To increase EE leadership across the state and reach Wisconsin's decision-makers about the need to support Wisconsin's EE program at state and local levels.



Nature Net \$4,862
 (Monona)
 How to Use the Outdoors to Make Academic Standards Fun!

For a teacher workshop to show how outdoor programs and integrated environmental education can help students attain the new Model Academic Standards.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin Land Use Institute, Inc. \$19,941
 (Madison)

Education to Combat the Effects of Fragmented Land Ownership on Sustainable Forestry

To help owners of private non-industrial forests to understand the adverse consequences of forest fragmentation, and to provide a forum for business leaders, government officials, and members of forest-oriented organizations to discuss the ways and means of combating

forest fragmentation.

V

1000 Friends of Wisconsin Land Use Institute, Inc. \$1,875
 (Madison)

Benchmarks Report 2000

To publish and disseminate a report to encourage thinking about land use issues to a much deeper level than simple concern



about "sprawl."

Rio Community Schools \$19,894
 (Rio)

The Rio School Forest: A Natural Laboratory

For integration of the school forest into the curriculum, development of a forest management plan, staff training, and the advancement of community knowledge and experience in environmental issues.

Rusk County \$20,000
 (Ladysmith)

Rusk County Environmental Challenge

For students from all six school districts to identify, research, and formulate solutions to environmental problems and issues within the county. Solutions will be judged and one project from each district will be implemented. Implementation will be done by students selected from an applicant pool.

School District of La Crosse \$14,676
 (La Crosse)

Upper Mississippi River Partnership

For student research on the impact of the "Pool 8 Drawdown" on plant life, wildlife, water

Photo: Dorr East
 1000 Friends of Wisconsin

Rio Community Schools
 Photo: Maurine Adams





quality, and human use of the river.

School District of Shiocton \$19,983
(Shiocton)
Shiocton Prairie Restoration & Ecology
Education

For broad-based and prairie specific environmental education teacher training and curriculum development. In addition, students, teachers, and community volunteers will work together to restore to prairie 3/4 of an acre.

South Milwaukee School District \$19,550
(South Milwaukee)
Integration of EE into the Curriculum in Support of Local Academic Standards and Improved Student Achievement in Conjunction with Use of Rawson Park.

For a comprehensive curriculum planning and implementation project that will integrate EE academic standards and programs, develop assessment strategies, and plan for use of Rawson Park.

Stoughton Area School District:
Fox Prairie Elementary \$4,050
(Stoughton)
Infusing Inquiry-Based Activities and Assessments in Environmental Education

To add inquiry-based scientific activities and assessments to existing environmental

education lessons.

The Blue Mounds Project \$12,907
(Mount Horeb)
Encouraging Private Landowner Forest Stewardship in the Blue Mounds Area

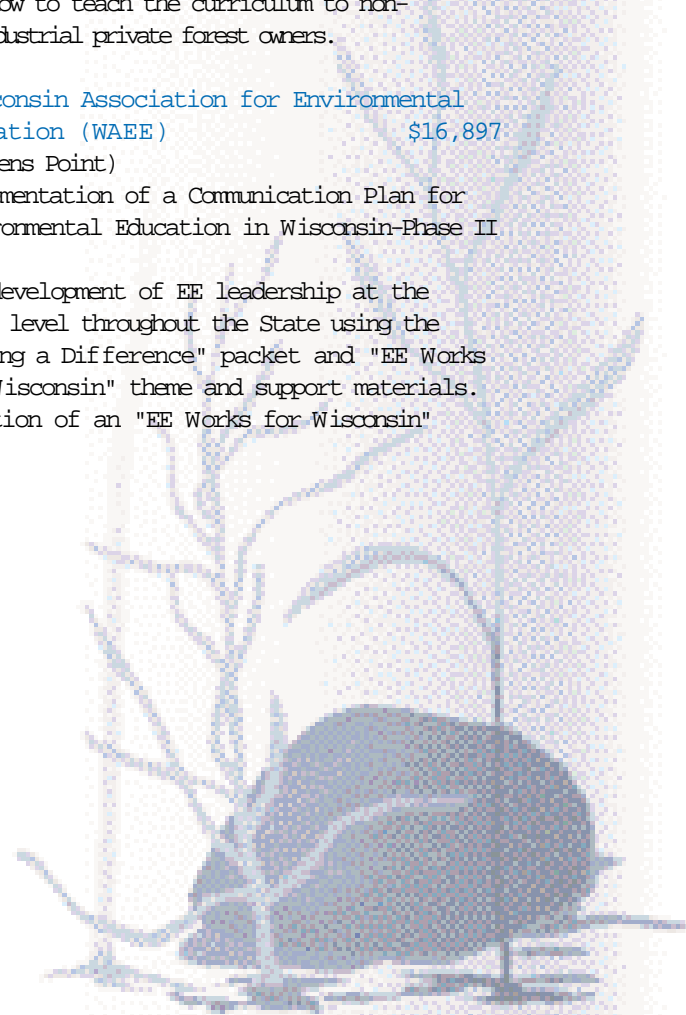
For a three part program in which 1) private landowners receive information on the area's savanna and woodland ecosystems and multi-resource management issues; 2) land owners receive assistance for developing "Ecologically-based Forest Stewardship Plans" and 3) students and teachers participate in a school forest program.

University of Wisconsin-Extension \$8,568
(Madison)
Master Woodland Manager: Train-the Trainer Program

For a train-the-trainer program to teach 30 individuals the principles of sustainable forestry and how to teach the curriculum to non-V industrial private forest owners.

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAAEE) \$16,897
(Stevens Point)
Implementation of a Communication Plan for Environmental Education in Wisconsin-Phase II

For development of EE leadership at the local level throughout the State using the "Making a Difference" packet and "EE Works for Wisconsin" theme and support materials. Creation of an "EE Works for Wisconsin"



✓ interactive website.

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEED) \$4,930
(Stevens Point)
W AEE Fall Conference-2000

To support an environmental education
✓ conference.

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEED) \$3,596
(Stevens Point)
Implementation of a Communication Plan for
EE in Wisconsin

To achieve broader public acceptance and
✓ support of EE in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) \$3,750
(Madison)
2000 Earth Day Project: Forestry Connections

To provide Earth Day flags to schools and
youth groups involved in the Centennial Tree
Planting activities. To provide those involved
with Arbor Day and Centennial Tree Planting
celebrations, and all educators who attend
PLT with Millennium Tree and Taking
Action packets.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) \$13,620
(Madison)
Forestry Education: Using PLT and Wisconsin's
Model Academic Standards

For a guide and training workshops showing
the correlation between PLT Pre K-8 classroom
and outdoor activities and Wisconsin's model
academic performance standards for varying
disciplines.

Wisconsin Forest Productivity Council \$11,783
(Rhineland)
Woodland Workshops: Getting Started in
Forest Management

For workshops to acquaint Wisconsin woodland
owners with the benefits of woodland manage-
ment, and help them get started in managing

✓ their own woodland properties.

Wisconsin Forest Productivity Council \$5,000
(Rhineland)
Caring For Your Woodlands Brochure

To create a brochure to point landowners
toward specific programs and/or organizations
that will meet their needs and provide a
mechanism to request additional information



on a variety of woodland stewardship topics.

Wisconsin Lake Schooner Education Association (WLSEA) \$20,000
(Milwaukee)
Lake Watch Expedition

To design and implement "Lake Watch
Expedition" a hands-on exploration curriculum
of the Great Lakes ecosystem. (Includes a
comprehensive assessment tool which, over a
five year period, will evaluate the extent of the

program's impact on youth and the community)

program.

Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
(WWOA) \$6,048
(Stoughton)
Forest Activity Workshop

To enable educators to use the "Senior Woodland Management Center Activity Guide" to conduct activities either on site or at their



school forests.

Woodland Girl Scout Council \$20,000
(Wisconsin Rapids)
Building Capacity for Environmental Education
in Girl Scouting throughout Central Wisconsin

To integrate existing environmental education
curricula into the time-honored Girl Scout



Grant Application Statistics

1999

Total Dollars Requested	\$1,372,393
Average Request	\$11,436.60
Proposals Received	120
Projects Funded	53
Dollar Value Funded	
General EE	\$271,805
Forestry Education	\$128,923
General Energy Education	\$26,999.40
Renewable Energy Education	\$20,035.18
"Quick" General EE	\$35,999

2000

Total Dollars Requested	\$1,125,026
Average Request	\$12,500
Proposals Received	90
Projects Funded	38
Dollar Value Funded	
General EE	\$228,273
Forestry Education	\$190,246
"Quick" General EE	\$18,721
"Quick" Forestry Education	\$13,301

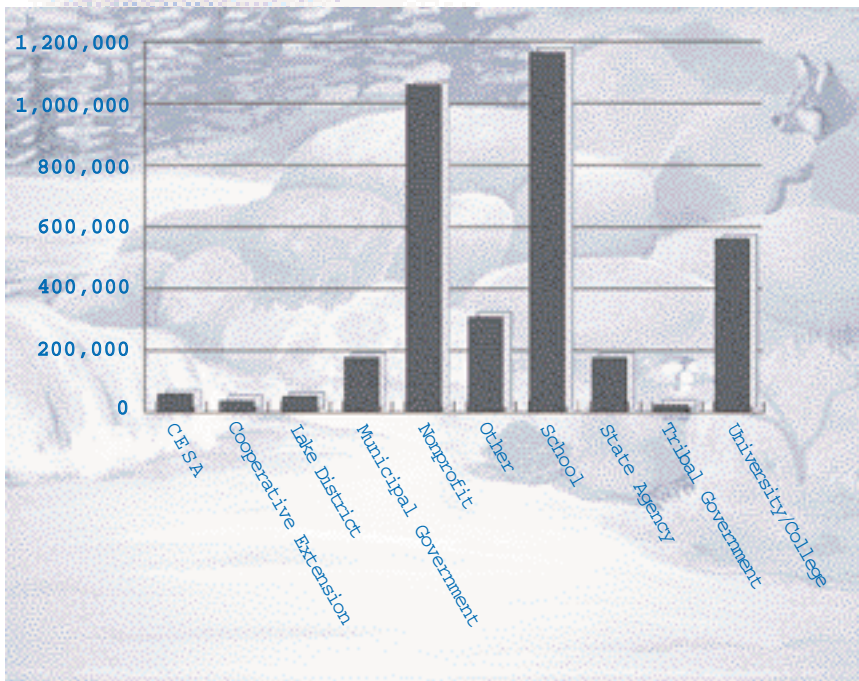
Grant Cities



- l 1999 grant recipient
- n 2000 grant recipient
- : multiple recipients in the same year
- s recipients in both years

Historical Record of All Projects

Type of Agency	Total Value Funded
CESA	\$57,224
Cooperative Extension	\$38,542
Lake District	\$50,887
Municipal Government	\$180,401
Nonprofit	\$1,064,270
Other	\$313,767
School	\$1,169,109
State Agency	\$178,886
Tribal Government	\$21,150
University/College	\$562,450



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. In addition, with only a single three-quarter time 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 grantees' quarterly and final reports, site review data forms, and the "Need Statements" included within the grant proposals.

Nonetheless, the WEEB's efforts to promote quality environmental education have continued. For example, through a grant to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (1997-QG01), the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board was able to facilitate the promotion and evaluation of "EEK!", an electronic environmental education magazine for kids in grades 4-8. The "EEK!" website was created with the support of a prior WEEB grant (1997-0006). The site is designed to teach kids about Wisconsin's natural resources and also offers teaching resources to help educators and youth leaders use the site with students. In 2000, the site received 3,734,856 "hits", 889,129 "page views" and 401,034 "user sessions". The site was awarded the 2000 Conservation Education Award by the National Wildlife Society and has been selected by the National Science Teachers Association to be part of their "SciLinks" program (textbooks are linked to on-line resources). Sample comments from the on-line EEK! survey supported by

the WEEB grant included:

- 1 "Great resource that is so current, so in tune with the interests of my students and so very Wisconsin makes it very useful in my classroom." Karoleen Glenzer, Wisconsin Rapids.
- 1 "I wish that California Department of Environment or Fish and Game would follow your lead." Stephen Hopkins, Pollock Pines, CA

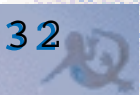
Yet, the WEEB recognizes more needs to be done to determine the status of environmental education in Wisconsin. The 1999-2000 grant program application included, "conducting research and reporting on EE needs in Wisconsin" as a pre-proposal priority. No proposals were submitted in this area. The 2000-2001 application included, "statewide assessment of the environmental literacy of Wisconsin citizens" as a pre-proposal priority. No proposals were submitted in this area.

In July 2000, the WEEB formed an ad-hoc committee on environmental literacy assessment. In April 2001, the group conducted a preliminary review of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations to determine if the tests may serve as an indicator to assess student environmental literacy.

An evaluation of the WEEB environmental education grant program was completed in December 2000. Findings suggested that the projects funded by the WEEB have effects lasting beyond the grant period. For example, over 90% of curricula that have been developed with WEEB funds are still in use. The evaluation also offered the following recommendations:

- 1 A more extensive evaluation of the materials created through WEEB grants.
- 1 Consistent evaluation and follow-up of professional development programs.

The WEEB intends to follow-up on these recommendations. Discussions regarding criteria for curricula to receive "a WEEB star of approval" have begun. The dissemination and evaluation components of the WEEB grant program have been strengthened to help collect data about the effectiveness of the projects the WEEB funds. Copies of the WEEB grant program evaluation report are available from the WEEB office.



Future Directions

Grant Program

The WEEB anticipates previous and future discussions with the administrators of the WI Focus on Energy program will lead to a formalized relationship in which the WEEB will administer an annual \$200,000 energy education grant program.

Development Program

The Development Committee will undertake a revision of the WEEB website in order to more prominently provide information regarding support opportunities.

Statewide 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.

It is with this in mind that the WEEB facilitated EE 2005, A Plan for Advancing Environmental Education in Wisconsin. It is this plan that identifies the statewide initiatives the Board intends to take during the next four years.

The plan represents the thinking and input of hundreds of stakeholders across Wisconsin.

It identifies six major priorities. They are:

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

Copies of the plan are available from the WEEB office or it may be viewed on the WEEB website.

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!



Chippewa County

Photo: Emily Moore

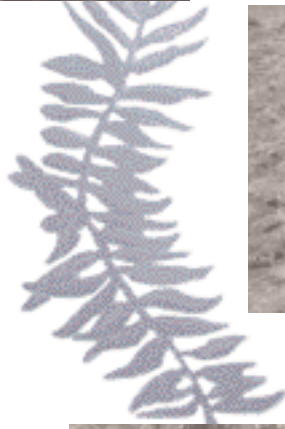
Cool groundwater activity





EE Works For







W ISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION BOARD
110B COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF W ISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT
STEVENS POINT W ISCONSIN 54481

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Artwork: Students from Chippewa Falls Public Schools

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