

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Awards Grants to Four Madison Area Institutions**

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will award 30 grants worth more than \$400,000. Projects comprise both statewide and grass roots initiatives. These initiatives enable the target audiences to obtain a better understanding of and appreciation for both the built and natural environments. Projects will begin on July 1, 2000 and may run through December 31, 2001.

Recent grant cycles reveal a strong interest in the program. The 79 proposals received this year requested a total of \$1,046,094. To date the Board has received over 1,200 proposals totaling over 12 million dollars. Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, non-stock) are eligible for WEEB grants. Requests cannot exceed \$20,000. Projects must be designed for Wisconsin residents and assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education.

Initiated in 1990, the WEEB's mission is 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, work places, and communities."

Board members include State Representatives Neal Kedzie (Elkhorn) and Mark Miller (Monona) as well as State Senators Brian Burke (Milwaukee) and Brian Rude (Coon Valley). "Leadership on both sides of the aisle and in both houses of the legislature has been a critical component of our success," said WEEB chairperson Rick Koziel. Koziel is the Director of the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek.

For a complete list of this years applicants and description of recipients' projects please see our website <http://weeb.uwsp.edu/database/2000applicants.htm> and <http://weeb.uwsp.edu/database/2000recipients.htm>

For more information on the WEEB's environmental education grant program contact Administrative Liaison Ginny Carlton at (715) 346-3805. The email address is [weeb@uwsp.edu](mailto:weeb@uwsp.edu)

### **1000 Friends of Wisconsin Land Use Institute-Madison**

The 1000 Friends of Wisconsin Land Use Institute was awarded \$19,941.00 for a project entitled "Education to Combat the Effects of Fragmented Land Ownership on Sustainable Forestry". The goal for the project is to help owners of private non-industrial forests to understand the adverse consequences of forest fragmentation. The project will also provide a forum for business leaders, government officials, and members of forest oriented organizations at which the ways and means of combating forest fragmentation can be identified. For more information contact the project director, David Cieslewicz, at 608-259-1000

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### **Department of Natural Resources-Madison**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was awarded \$13,620.00 for a project entitled "Forestry Education:Using Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards". The project is designed to increase the use of forestry learning activities in existing school district curricula. DNR staff will develop a guide showing the correlation between PLT PreK-8 classroom and outdoor activities and Wisconsin's Model Academic Performance Standards for varying disciplines. Workshops demonstrating the use of these PLT activities and correlation guides will be offered. For more information contact the project director, Jen Richards, at 608-264-6282.

### **University of Wisconsin Extension-Madison**

The University of Wisconsin Extension was awarded \$8,568.00 for a project entitled "Master Woodland Manager:Train-the Trainer Program". A 30 hour program will teach 30 individuals from the 17 northern Wisconsin county area the principles of sustainable forestry and how to teach the curriculum to non-industrial private forest owners. The program will be modeled after the successful "Master Gardner" program. For more information contact the project director, Cathy Techtmann, at 715-685-2671.

### **Nature Net-Monona**

Nature Net, a coalition of local facilities, was awarded \$4,862.00 for a project entitled "How to Use the Outdoors to make Academic Standards Fun!--an experience-based workshop for teachers." Forty teachers will participate in a workshop designed to show how outdoor programs and integrated environmental education can help their students attain the new Model Academic Standards. Forty teachers will participate in a workshop designed to show how outdoor programs and integrated environmental education can help their students attain the new Model Academic Standards. For more information contact the project director, Kathe Crowley Conn, at 608-221-0472.

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