

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Awards Grants to Ten Central Wisconsin Programs

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will award 49 grants worth \$451,969. Projects comprise both statewide and grass roots initiatives. These initiatives use a variety of topics to enable the target audiences to obtain a better understanding of and appreciation for both the built and natural environments. Projects may begin on July 1, 2003 and may run through December 31, 2004.

Recent grant cycles reveal a strong interest in the program. The 104 proposals received this year requested a total of \$1,071,421. Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, non-stock) are eligible for WEEB grants. Requests for forestry and energy projects cannot exceed \$20,000. Requests for other topic areas cannot exceed \$5,000. 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."

Summary information regarding 2003-2004 Central Wisconsin recipients can be found on page two of this release. For a complete list of this year's applicants and description of recipients' projects please see our website <http://cps.uwsp.edu/weeb/Grants.aspx>

For more information on the WEEB's environmental education grant program, including current grant opportunities, contact Administrative Specialist Ginny Carlton at (715) 346-3805. The email address is weeb@uwsp.edu

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council will receive \$16,652 to fund "A Training Program for Forest Landowners to Improve Forestry Environmental Education". The goal is to provide support to private forest landowners who are interested in serving as "guest speakers" for their local school and/or hosting school groups at their properties as they learn more about forestry and forestry issues across Wisconsin. For more information contact William Ebert at (715) 343-6215.

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Stevens Point Area School District: Boston School Forest

This \$18,473 project, entitled "A Forest for the Future" is actually a two-fold project. Grant funds will enable staff to learn about new curriculums on forestry and biodiversity and create lessons on these topics for students visiting the Boston School Forest. The other portion of the project will allow over 5,000 school children who visit the forest each year to learn about biodiversity and sustainable forestry management practices in a hands-on way. School forest staff members, UWSP wildlife and forestry professionals, a student intern majoring in wildlife/forestry at UWSP, along with community volunteers will be involved in the creation of study areas within the forest showing prairie and oak savannah restoration and sustainable forestry management. For more information contact Karen Dostal at (715) 345-7383.

UW-Stevens Point: Center for Land Use Education

The \$17,302 award for "Forest Planning for Wisconsin's Future" will develop a multi-faceted educational program focused on forest planning. Specifically, the project will develop an on-line "course" and regional workshops for local government officials and the general public. The on-line forest planning "course" will provide the increasingly computer-savvy public with access to forest planning information at the click of a mouse 24 hours a day. For more information contact Lynn Markham at (715) 346-2386.

UW-Stevens Point: College of Natural Resources

The College of Natural Resources will receive \$5,000 for the "Development and Evaluation of a Nature Journaling Guide" for use by upper elementary and middle school teachers and their students. The journaling activities will be designed to foster the students' sense of place and naturalist intelligence and to advance the goals of environmental education. For more information contact Joe Passineau at (715) 346-3764.

UW-Stevens Point: Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry (LEAF)

The Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry (LEAF) program was awarded \$19,968 for a project entitled "Updating School Forest Management Plans" The project will review current state statutes that deal with school forests, collect input from school forest coordinators and foresters, and develop guidelines, recommendations, materials and training programs to assist school districts in their efforts to fully utilize their local school forests. For more information about this project contact Jeremy Solin, at (715) 346-4907.

UW-Stevens Point: Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education

The Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education was awarded \$4,968 to host a one-day conference for high school students. The grant funds will be used to alter the format of this annual event to include more student participation and leadership skill development. For more information contact Deborah Engel-Di Mauro at (715) 346-4973.

Waupaca School District

A \$983 award will provide resources for "Solar Energy An Alternative Energy Source." The district will develop a conceptual framework to facilitate the development and implementation of energy education with an emphasis on alternative energy resources. Student will analyze current energy use practices and evaluate how they affect their quality of life. For more information contact David Furstenberg at (715) 258-4141.

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Wild Rose School District

A \$995 grant will allow eighth grade students who currently design and construct electric powered race cars to race them on a track operated with grid electricity, direct solar electricity, and indirect solar electricity and make comparisons. For more information contact Allan Dickman at (920) 622-4201.

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education

This organization received two grants. The first for \$1,000 will enable the association to contract for a keynote speaker for their 2003 fall conference—designed to celebrate the “Year of Water”. For more information contact Mary Pardee at (715) 346-4978. The second grant will enable the association to get started on planning “Growing Toward the Future: 100 Years of Forestry in Wisconsin” activities slated to occur in 2004. For more information contact Sterling Strathe at (715) 346-4956.

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