



LEAFlet Spring 2008

A Quarterly Publication of LEAF, the Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Education Program
YOUR SOURCE FOR THE LATEST IN FORESTRY EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

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“Planting the Seeds of Tomorrow Today” Remember ARBOR DAY, April 25th

Arbor Day is just around the corner. Go straight to the source for information on just about anything about trees and Arbor Day. The [Arbor Day Foundation website](#) has classroom lessons, background information, and resources to help you celebrate.

Don't forget that LEAF has its own tree planting lesson. The [4th grade Field Enhancement #3: Caring for the Future of Forests](#) helps you lead a tree planting with your class, includes the history of Arbor Day, and, as always, highlights nifty tips and resources to make the lesson fun and successful. Still want more Arbor Day options? Then check out EEK! The EEK! website has more fun activities and great information about trees at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/teacher/plnttre.htm>. You can also find more information directly on Wisconsin DNR's site at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/arborday.htm>

LEAF's “TREE of the YEAR”



Photo courtesy of Dennis Yockers

There is a beautiful sugar maple right outside our building . . . and we want to share it with our readers. Each issue of the LEAFlet, over the next four seasons, we'll show how our adopted tree is changing with the passing of time. (You may want to try this “tracking” activity with your students, too! – If you need help identifying your tree, see LEAF's Tree ID Key: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/treeid.shtml>) The sugar maple is Wisconsin's state tree. Spring is the season for sugar maple “tapping” for syrup. An average maple will produce about 20 gallons of sap in the spring, which amounts to 2 quarts of syrup. Here are a few more “tidbits” on the sugar maple:

*“The sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) was selected as the state tree by school children in a statewide vote in 1893. Oaks, pines, and elms were also favorites, but the maple won out. A second vote of school children in our centennial year, 1948, reaffirmed support for the sugar maple. Legislators created a new section of the statutes to authorize the designation of official state symbols. So a state tree, state flower and state bird were all selected during the centennial session and became official state symbols in 1949. Did you know that Wisconsin's champion (or largest) sugar maple is located in Waupaca County in the town of Union? Check it out! Sugar maples are also known and loved for their brilliant orange-red colors in fall and their fame for producing the best sap for making maple syrup. Find out more about leaf colors in A Tree's True Color.”*

Excerpted from the [Wisconsin DNR - Environmental Education for Kids! \(EEK!\) website](#)

Watch your email-box for future issues of the LEAFlet with updates on “our” tree.

It's Spring! Change is happening ... outdoors and within LEAF

After 6 years of leadership of the LEAF program, Sterling Strathe has decided to pursue other passions. Sterling oversaw the birth and development of the LEAF program from an idea to an invaluable resource for educators teaching about Wisconsin's forests. We'll miss his dedication to forestry education, creativity, and sense of humor. Thank you, Sterling, for all you have done for LEAF!



Jeremy Solin has moved from the school forest position to become the (interim) director of the program. He is excited about the future of the LEAF program. There is incredible opportunity to expand our audience to ensure that we are able to sustain our forests. We'll continue and expand our leadership in forestry and environmental education across the state. LEAF is accomplishing great things and there are lots of exciting things happening in the near and far future for the LEAF program and for forestry education, in general. This edition of the LEAFlet highlights some of our accomplishments and provides a look at some of the exciting upcoming opportunities.

School Forest Position

With Jeremy moving into the LEAF director position, LEAF's school forest position is currently vacant. LEAF remains committed to the school forest program, but will integrate coordination of school forests more fully into the rest of the LEAF program. We will be working to fill the position this spring with the expectation to hire someone this summer. The position will have broader responsibilities than school forests, but will also get more support from other LEAF staff in school forest efforts. This will provide for continued enhancement to school forests and the LEAF program.

What's LEAF Working On?

LEAF is continually working to advance excellence in K-12 forestry education by expanding materials and professional development opportunities available to teachers. In addition to the excellent resources we currently have, we're working on creating these additional opportunities and resources:

- Expanding our partnership with other environmental education programs to provide collaborative professional development offerings. An example is the Earth Partnership for Schools (EPS) summer institute. We're working with EPS to enhance their forest restoration curriculum materials while helping to facilitate future institutes in Stevens Point and around the state.
- Developing a Wisconsin forest history assembly program. We're just beginning the planning to bring "Lumberjack Louie" to your school. The assembly program will provide a fun and engaging living history interpretation focusing on Wisconsin's forest history. LEAF will then provide an after-school workshop to give teachers background information about Wisconsin's forests and provide access to the LEAF lesson guides.
- Creating the on-line LEAF Library. The LEAF Library will be an incredible collection of digital resources to enhance your teaching of Wisconsin forestry. The Library will include curriculum materials and other digital resources connected to the LEAF lesson guides.

LEAF Accomplishments

We thought we'd share some of LEAF's significant accomplishments of 2007. We thank all of our partners for their contributions to expanding our audience and sharing the value of LEAF's resources and services. We also thank our course participants for their commitment to forestry education.

- LEAF has reached teachers in 244 school districts in Wisconsin, or 57% of all districts.
- 1,339 teachers have been trained in LEAF workshops and in-services since July, 2003.
- Formal and non-formal educator enrollment in LEAF's professional development offerings grew by 18% over 2006 to 372 people in 2007.
- The LEAF website continues to be a popular stop for people looking for forestry information. Our site has an average of about 2,570 hits each week.
- The LEAF online newsletter reaches over 2,600 people four times a year with updates on the program, upcoming opportunities, and forestry-related news.
- LEAF's third annual Field Day in June gave participants the chance to see and learn about urban forests.
- 3,245 LEAF Lesson Guide units and supplements have been distributed to educators since 2003:
 - K-1: 215
 - 2-3: 206
 - 4: 252
 - 5-6: 246
 - 7-8: 276
 - 9-12: 225
 - Wildland Fire: 425
 - Urban Forestry: 1,400

Upcoming LEAF Learning Opportunities

Wilderness Writing for Wild Youth

August 20, 2008, 1pm-5pm, Boston School Forest (Stevens Point)

This is an experiential, hands-on workshop for teachers and environmental educators who want to incorporate creative and scientific writing into their courses with elementary, middle, and high school students. Learn how to create an environmental writing program at your school, utilizing creative writing and environmental journalism meeting Wisconsin State Standards in English and Science for middle and high school. Explore the wild side of nature, develop your own writing style, and strengthen the environmental literacy skills of your students. Walk away with a solid nature writing curriculum and the ability to lead your students confidently into the wild and deeper into discovering the wonders of life.

Our workshop will be led by Jan D. Wellik, founder and executive director of Eco Expressions, a nature writing program for youth. She is the author of *Nature Writing Field Guide for Teachers*. The fee is \$25 and includes the recently published, *Nature Writing Field Guide for Teachers* (\$25 value). More information is available [HERE](#).

From Forest to Finish: A community-based learning course for school forest educators

Reedsburg School Forest - July 21-23, 2008

Elcho School Forest - August 11-13, 2008

The LEAF Program and the Wisconsin Forest Resources Education Alliance are offering a three-day, community-based learning course for 4th-12th grade teachers and non-formal educators. The course will apply project-based learning methods to research the question "What is the environmental impact of using wood products?" Participants will conduct forest research; develop a forest management plan; harvest trees; and, process lumber. The course will provide information, model activities, and development tools to help participants create interdisciplinary, standards-based forestry field programs at their school forests.

Registration of \$30 will include food (prepared on-site by the group), lodging (camping at Reedsburg School Forest, dorm bunks at Elcho School Forest), and curriculum resources. One graduate credit will be available for additional cost. Registration will be available soon on the LEAF website.

Earth Partnership for Schools Institute

You are invited to participate in an **Earth Partnership for Schools WI RESTORE Leadership Institute**, July 8 – 18, 2008 at the UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison, WI. Learn how to use ecological restoration as a broad context for teaching and learning. Restoring a native ecosystem is an exciting, real-life project that weaves through the K-12 curriculum and includes science, math, social studies, language and the arts.

During the two-week institute, two teachers from each school are trained in the ecological restoration process. Together, teams of teachers and Arboretum and resource staff begin to develop individualized curricula and school action plans to create meaningful experiences for students through the process of restoring a school site. Team members will **receive a total of 3 college credits and a travel stipend for participation in the institute**. Tuition will be waived by UW-Madison.

Any K-12 team may apply. The primary requirement is a long-term commitment to the school restoration site as an educational project. Other criteria include leadership skills and the potential to bring together a strong team from your school. School teams bring additional teachers and lead some activities during the follow-up one-week institute held in their local region. **Contact Sarah Gilbert at LEAF for more information: sarah.gilbert@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4924.**

WCEE Resource Library – Check it Out!

Many people are unaware that the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at UW-SP houses the [Environmental Education \(EE\) Resources Library](#) for use by educators in Wisconsin. It is centrally located in Stevens Point, Wisconsin in the Learning Resources Center of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The Resources Library holds an up-to-date collection of environmental education materials including:

- Curriculum and activity guides
- Children's books
- Reference books
- Periodicals
- Multimedia - DVD, CD, VHS, cassette
- [WEEB](#)-funded grant proposals and products
- Demonstration materials, games, puppets, posters, and more

Included are [forestry education resources](#). Visit the Resource Library at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/library/index.htm>

A Wonderful Resource – for YOU: [eeinwisconsin.org](http://www.eeinwisconsin.org)

Want to find out about an EE course offering in your area? Interested in discovering EE information specific to Wisconsin? Need to find funding resources for a promising project your school or nature center would like to implement? Want to list your organization, school, resource, event, announcement, professional development opportunity, contest, award, grant, or job? [A new one-stop shopping source is now available to you:](http://www.eeinwisconsin.org)

"EE in Wisconsin" at www.eeinwisconsin.org

This new clearinghouse provides the most up-to-date guide to Wisconsin's environmental education organizations, facilities, programs, materials, and professionals around the state. It's easy to search and share EE information! IN ADDITION – anyone can add their EE offerings to this clearinghouse (fyi - there is an approval process incorporated). The site is very new and is dependent on everyone out there to populate it with their profiles, events and resources. As time goes by, the entire EE community will turn to this clearinghouse for statewide EE information. We encourage you to take a look and contribute to the site by adding your school, organization, school forest, grant opportunities, jobs . . . whatever touches on expanding EE in Wisconsin.

The site includes:

About Us: Learn about environmental education and its role in Wisconsin

What's New: Get up-to-date information on environmental education resources, opportunities, contests, awards, grants, and jobs

Calendar: Locate upcoming environmental education events around the state

Resources: Browse environmental education resources of all kinds

Organizations: Discover the wealth of environmental education organizations, sites, and programs in Wisconsin

Schools: Explore schools in Wisconsin with strong environmental programs

Wisconsin Naturally: Find environmental information specific to Wisconsin

NEWS to ponder . . .

[Scientific American: Are We Afraid of the Outdoors?](#)

By *David Biello* | Scientific American February 5, 2008

[Buy Local Mantra Moves into Timber / Wisconsin State Journal](#)

By *Barry Adams* | The Wisconsin State Journal January 28, 2008 edition

Interesting Opportunities for You



KEEP Summer Courses

The [Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program \(KEEP\)](#) is offering two professional development courses at UW-Stevens Point this July.

- NRES 730 *Energy Education in the Classroom*
- NRES 732 *Doable Renewables: Renewable Energy Education in the Classroom*

With a utility scholarship obtained through KEEP, 1 graduate credit from UW-Stevens Point costs K-12 teachers only \$75. For more information visit the [KEEP Web site](#) and click on *Professional Development*.



Project WILD Training

April 19 - Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee

Kids love wildlife and that's why teachers and nonformal educators will love this exciting conservation and environmental education program. Over 150 activities designed to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and the environments they depend upon. Cost \$45. Contact [Dawn Kocejka](#) at (414) 278-6943.



Numb3rs in N8ture

May 1. 12:30-2:00 p.m. - Wisconsin Mathematics Council Annual Conference, Green Lake

Discover how to use the natural world as a tool to teach mathematics to students with a variety of learning styles in a fun, hands-on way. Participants will learn how to use mathematics related activities from the award-winning Project Learning Tree activity guide and other Wisconsin DNR education resources to teach topics such as graphing, percentages, measurement, and geometry. Contact Janet Hutchens at janet.hutchens@wisconsin.gov or go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/pltwildwet/>



Geared for elementary teachers: Increase your knowledge about shade trees and their intrinsic, ecological and economic benefits! You will experience indoor, outdoor, and technology-based investigations and create a variety of lessons and activities for use in your classroom. One Graduate Credit. Registration Deadline: April 4, 2008. Call (920)465-2480 or visit <http://www.uwgb.edu/educationoutreach/index.aspx>



Environmental Education Online Courses offered through UW-Stevens Point

To learn more about these courses, visit the course web site: <http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/>

To learn more about EETAP visit the EETAP website at <http://www.eetap.org/>

Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation

Summer 2008 course dates: June 2 – August 22

Fall 2008 course dates: September 8 – December 5

Fundamentals of Environmental Education

Summer 2008 course dates: June 2 – August 15

Fall 2008 course dates: September 8 – November 28

Leadership Development in Natural Resources: Strategic Planning and Implementation

Fall 2008 course dates: Check online course website for course dates

NEW COURSE!!

Making EE Relevant for Culturally Diverse Audiences

Fall 2008 course dates: Check online course website for course dates



2008 Natural History Workshops at the UW-M Field Station

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Field Station: 3095 Blue Goose Rd, Saukville, WI 53080

Contact: Cynthia Boettcher at 262-675-6844 / cboettcher@uwm.edu / www.uwm.edu/Dept/fieldstation

(you might need to check their website for updates on these workshops)

Field Herpetology: Identification of Wisconsin

Amphibians and Reptiles

May 30 & 31 (Friday & Saturday), June 1 (Sunday) optional

Vegetation of Wisconsin

June 9-14 (Monday-Saturday)

Sedges: Identification and Ecology

June 20 & 21 (Fri-Sat)

Ecological Geology

July 7-11 (Monday-Friday)

Fishes of Wisconsin: Identification and Ecology

July 18 & 19 (Friday & Saturday)

Common and Nuisance Algae

July 25 & 26 (Friday & Saturday)

Wetland Delineation

Sept. 12 & 13 (Friday & Saturday)

Paying Attention??

You could win a "NATIVE WILDFLOWERS" or "GARDEN HERBS" poster by correctly answering the following question by April 18th:

Q. Within the article, [Scientific American: Are We Afraid of the Outdoors?](#), conservationists believe that what has supplanted the natural world as the leading diversion from everyday life? Let us know what it is at leaf@uwsp.edu.

Congratulations to the winner of our Winter 2007 Quiz Contest – Michael E. Werdeo, a biology teacher at Antigo High School.

The question was: "Within the article, *Trees Giving Bizarre Clues to Climate Change*, the name and acronym for a potential nationwide network of ecological monitoring stations is mentioned." The answer: **NEON: National Ecological Observatory Network**.

Michael's name was chosen from a random drawing of all correct answers submitted. His prize was the book, "WINTER BOTANY: An identification guide to native trees and shrubs". Thanks to all our quiz contestants. Check out this issue's quiz and you just might be our next winner!!

Interesting Online Resources

National EE Week: www.eeweek.org/

A Tree for Every Child: www.americanforests.org/resources/kids/a_tree_for_every_child/

Kids Ecology Corp: www.kidsecologycorps.org/

Trees Forever: www.treesforever.org/

Tree Trust: www.treetrust.org/

Alliance for Community Trees: actrees.org/site/index.php

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin: www.ipaw.org/

Sustainable Woods Association: www.sustainablewoods.net/

Urban Greening: www.ecoiq.com/urbangreening/

Wisconsin Family Forests: www.sustainablewoods.net/NetworkGroup.aspx?GroupID=14&GroupPage=1

Community Forestry Resource Center: www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm

Family Forest Alliance: www.dovetailinc.org/familyforestsalliance.html

Forest Stewardship Council: www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/family_forests_program.php



Tell Us a Story! Win Something Fun!

We know kids are learning about Wisconsin's forests. And we know teachers are using LEAF to teach them. Well, we want to hear your stories and learn about the fun! Send us your stories, and pictures, if you have some (with student permissions), and you'll be entered in our drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Acorn Naturalists (<http://www.acornnaturalists.com/>) which has resources for the trail and classroom.

**Here's our winning story from our last issue, shared by JENNIFER KOLBERG of Brillion Nature Center.
Thank you, Jennifer, for bringing a smile to our faces!**

"I was working with a group of preschoolers, discussing the different parts of a tree and what function each part serves. As the children gathered around an 8" diameter maple, we looked at the leaves, branches, trunk, and finally, began to discuss the roots. I explained that roots grew at the bottom of the tree and in order to see them, we would need to push the tree over. The kids immediately surrounded the small tree and began pushing (on all sides) for all they were worth. After about twenty seconds of pushing, I stepped back, wiped the back of my hand across my forehead and exclaimed, "Whew! Why can't we push this tree over?" The children stopped pushing and looked at the tree for a few seconds. Finally, a little girl with short brown hair and big brown eyes looked up at me and with a shrug of her shoulders explained, "It's too stood!" "

You could be our next winner! Just send your story to: leaf@uwsp.edu

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