

Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network Newsletter December 2007

Greetings from the Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network! The Network helps ES teachers connect with one another, resources, and professional development opportunities. Please contact me with any questions or visit our web site for more information: www.uwsp.edu/wcee/envsci.
~ *Sunshine Buchholz, Network Coordinator* (sbuchhol@uwsp.edu)

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News

1) **ES Teachers in the News**

Environmental science teacher **Matt Berg** and his students from Grantsburg High School were recently awarded the 2007 Outstanding Achievements in Youth Monitoring award for their work analyzing mussel communities in northwestern Wisconsin from the Citizen-Based Monitoring Network of Wisconsin.

Debra Weitzel, environmental studies and chemistry teacher at Middleton High School, was recently awarded the first Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award from the National Environmental Education Foundation.

Read their stories on the Network web site: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/EnvSci/news.htm>. If you know of an environmental science teacher in Wisconsin who is making news, please email sbuchhol@uwsp.edu and tell me their story.

2) **[2007 Governor's High School Conference on the Environment Summary](#)**

Kudos to all of you who participated and brought students to the event. This year's conference was a success! The number of environmental monitoring projects in which students are participating is very impressive. The event themed, *Students Making a Difference: Citizen Science Monitoring*, was held in Stevens Point on November 14th. To view photos, read a summary of the event, and explore action plans created by participants, visit the conference web site: www.uwsp.edu/wcee/youthconference.

3) **[Environmental Club Feature](#)** – Luxemburg-Casco Conservation Club

Charlie Frisk has been providing students at Luxemburg-Casco High School opportunities to experience the outdoors and practice environmental stewardship for 24 years. "It gives me an opportunity to give students a closer relationship with nature. By getting students involved in field research, canoeing, cross country skiing, and other outdoor activities it is possible to create interests that will last a lifetime. It has been said that people will only save what they know and love and my goal is to help create that knowledge and love." Charlie offers these tips for club advisors: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/clubs.htm>

Events

4) [Sharing Successes, Exploring New Ideas](#)

You are invited to the first gathering of your Environmental Science Teacher Network! Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, August 19, 2008**. This day-long event will celebrate environmental science education in Wisconsin. Take advantage of this opportunity to network with others, share your ideas, take pride in your work, and grow professionally. The event will feature keynote speakers, concurrent sessions, and resource sharing. A pre-event will allow you to extend the experience in the outdoors and the opportunity to earn graduate credit will be available. Information will be posted on this web page as it becomes available: www.uwsp.edu/wcee/summit.

5) **Enhancing Ecological Thought by Linking Research and Education Educator Day 2008 – Wednesday, August 6, 2008**

[93rd Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting](#) – Milwaukee, WI

The day's events will include special speakers, hands-on workshops, ecological field trips and presentations showcasing effective ecology education for K-12 audiences that meet science education content standards taking place in schools, research field stations, and nature centers. Teachers of both classroom and non-formal settings are welcome to interact with eminent ecologists and thinkers in ecology education. This is a golden opportunity to meet more than 3,000 scientists and learn about the latest findings in the ecological sciences. Sign up to receive email updates: www.esa.org/meetings/teachers-registration.php

Resources

6) **New video series - The Habitable Planet: A Systems Approach to Environmental Science**

The 13 programs guide viewers through topics including the atmosphere, oceans, and ecosystems, as well as the impact of human activities and population growth on water and food resources, biodiversity, energy use, and global pollution. Each of the programs in the series includes two case studies featuring the work of top scientists in the field. The course materials were created in association with the Harvard University Center for the Environment. Materials include a coordinated website with a downloadable guide, online textbook, interactive teaching and learning tools, and Video on Demand. Use The Habitable Planet as a teaching aid in the classroom or register for professional development. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series209.html>

7) **AP Environmental Science Resource**

For a limited time instructors can receive a FREE TRIAL (expires January 15, 2008) of Environmental Science Interactive from RAMAS®. Environmental Science Interactive is a series of interactive, inquiry-based environmental science simulations and exercises suitable for AP or college environmental studies courses. <http://www.webschoolofscience.com/esi2007>

Topics covered: Scientific method, Risk and uncertainty, Biodiversity, Genetics and evolution, Human population dynamics, Conservation of endangered species, Interactions among species, Energy resources, Water resources, Waste management, Atmosphere and climate, Air pollution, Natural resource use and planning, Policy and decision-making

8) **Environmental Education Grant Program**

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is seeking proposals for the 2008-2009 grant cycle. The Board anticipates awarding \$45,000 for general environmental education grants, \$190,000 for forestry grants, \$190,000 for school forest grants, and \$85,000 for energy education grants. Projects must be designed for Wisconsin residents (any age) and assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education (EE). Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, nonstock) are eligible for WEEB grants. Proposals are due February 15, 2008. For an application packet or more information, visit: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb>. WEEB grants are a great way to fund your classroom projects!

9) [Puerto Rico Study Tour](#)

Global Environmental Teachings is offering a unique opportunity to explore Puerto Rico with local teachers. Teachers will travel to Puerto Rico for two weeks in the summer of 2008 to learn about island ecology and

participate in a teacher exchange. All formal K-12 teachers are eligible to participate. Applications are taken on a first-come, first served basis. More information: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/get/puertorico.asp>

10) [Global Climate Change Research Explorer](#)

A great overall site for climate change...links to real-time NOAA imagery and graphs with explanations that are clear enough for students. You can explore scientific data relating to the atmosphere, the oceans, the areas covered by ice and snow, and the living organisms in all these domains. You'll also get a sense of how scientists study natural phenomena and how researchers gather evidence, test theories, and come to conclusions. <http://www.exploratorium.edu/climate/index.html>

11) Using a Winogradsky Column to Analyze Microbial Communities

In this investigation, students use easily obtained materials to study ecological succession in a microbiological community.

Activity description: <http://www.accessexcellence.org/AE/AEPC/WWC/1991/microbial.html>

Animated tutorial: <http://www.sumanasinc.com/webcontent/animations/content/winogradsky.html>

This email was generated by the Wisconsin Environmental Science Teacher Network at UW-Stevens Point.

To receive email updates from the network sign up at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/signup.htm>

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