

Pontoon Classroom

**A Fun & Educational Experience,
Designed to Teach Participants About the
Different Facets of Lake Ecology, Lake
Protection & Lake Management**

2008 Wisconsin Lake Convention
Engaging Youth In Lake Issues

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The Pontoon Classroom is based on an idea originating from Fox Lake's planning grant in 1994. Mary Danoski, WAL Board Member and retired educator, designed the Pontoon Classroom to help students understand lake ecosystems and develop a stewardship project beneficial to the entire community.

Getting Started

- **Sponsor Group Start Planning 6 - 12 Months Before**

- **When?**

- School Groups – May or September?
- Adult Groups – Summer Weekend?

- **Location?**

- Close to good lake points for Water Stations
- Need good boat access
- Need room for Land Stations
- Restrooms
- Shelter



TARGET AUDIENCE?



- Students – Kindergarten
– Grade 12 - College
- Adults – Property Owners – Lake Users
- Elected Officials
- Policy Makers

Meet With School Contacts

- Provide an Information Packet
- How Many Students? Be Realistic!
- Know Who will Pay for Buses
- Know Time Frames – ½ day – Full Day
- Give School 1-2 Sponsor Group Contacts – Phone & Email
- Be Flexible with Dates and Times

Packet for Teachers

!They Need To Explain Program to Others!

- Brief Description
 - What it is & Benefits for their students
- Who are the sponsors
- Tentative Schedule of the Day
- Proposed Education Stations
- Articles – Photos – Testimonials from Previous Pontoon Classroom Events

Educational Station Ideas

***Number Based on Student
Numbers***





The Watershed Game



Various Methods of Watershed Education



Aquatic Plant Identification



**Resources: DNR – Lake Assn –
Land Conservation Office – UW-
Ext – Teacher – Lake Monitor**

Water Quality Monitoring



**Resources: DNR – Local Water
Quality Monitor – USGS**

Clean Boats – Clean Waters



**Resources: DNR – UW-Ext –
CB/CW Volunteers – Lake
Assn.**

Police Water Patrol



Lake History

**Resources: Lake Assn. –
Sanitary District – Lake
District**

Challenges & Recommendations (Lessons We Have Learned)

How Many Students?

- **Keep Groups Small –**

Number of Total Stations?

Number of Pontoon Boats Available?

Capacity of Each Boat?

Launching Ability

The Schedule

of Pontoon Classrooms: 5

Times on Schedule: 0

Floating Coordinators help groups stay on schedule – (1) on Land – (1) on Water

Cell Number for Pontoon Captains & Station Leaders

BE FLEXIBLE

Organize

Saint Andrews – 33 [3 groups of (10) students] + [1 group of (3) students] Groups A – B - C Group D

Our Redeemer – 29 [1 group of (6) students - join Group of (3) from St. Andrews] + [1 group of (7) students] + [1 group of (10) students] + [1 group of (6) students] Group D Group E Group F Group G

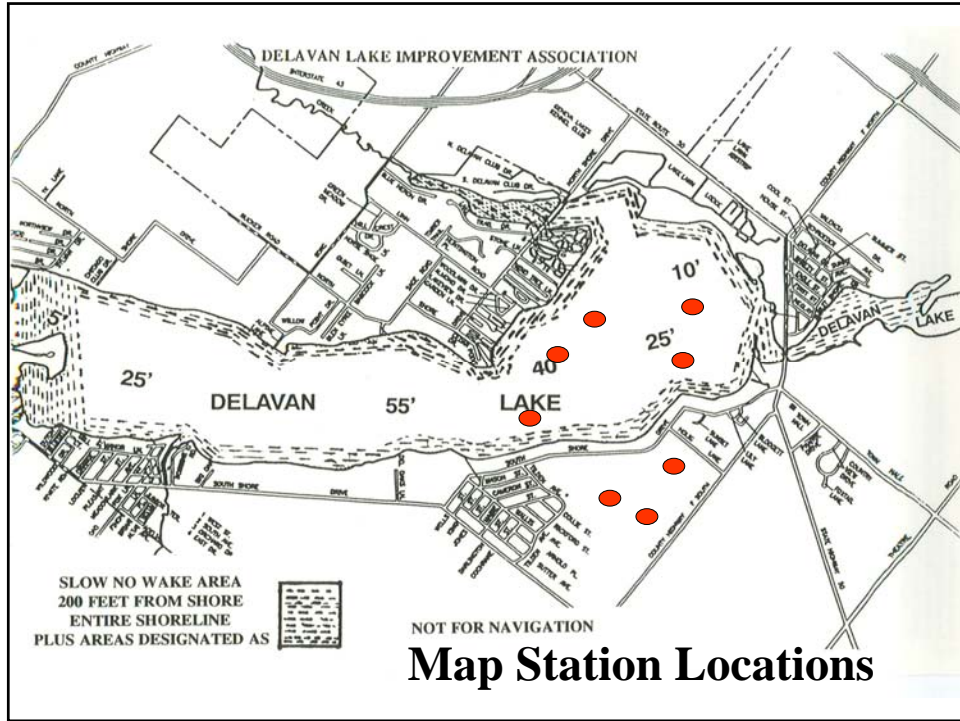
Phoenix MS - 30 [1 group of (4) to join the group of (6) from Our Redeemer] + [1 group of (10) students] + [1 group of (9) students] + [1 Group of 7 Group G

Meet your Captains Know your Boats



Pontoons:

- #1 – Captain: Kevin Mahuge Holds (10) students + 1 chaperone
- #2 – Captain: Joe Nitty Holds (10) students + 1 chaperone
- #3 – Captain: Ed Heferen Holds (10) students + 1 chaperone
- #4 – Captain: Mr. Jordnt Holds (9) students + 1 chaperone
- #5 – Captain: Jack Mudgett Holds (7) students + 1 chaperone
- #6 – Captain : Gary DeVres (Alternate)



Weather

Bad Weather:

**Have Contact Info
for Cancellation**

**Decide Before –
How Bad is Bad
Enough to Cancel**

**Good Weather – High
Winds**

**Have a Back-up Plan
to Bring Stations on
the Land**

SAFETY FIRST!!!!

More Tips

- Bottled Water
- Boxed Lunches
- Life Jackets for Everyone
- Supply Each Captain & Volunteer with Schedule & Map
- Dress for the Weather
- Designate a “Pontoon Classroom” Photographer
- Keep Notes – Reference for Next Year



Questions?

