New Auburn High School Environmental Science Class Takes Field Trip

New Auburn High School's Environmental Science class recently traveled to Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center near Ashland, WI. The Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center is to help “people connect historic, cultural, and natural resources of the Northern Great Lakes Region through customer-based information, services, and educational programs.” Construction of the center took three years and began in 1995 with a grand opening in May of 1998. Partners of the center include the following: The US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Historical Society, University of Wisconsin - Extension, and the Friends of the Center Alliance, Limited.

This visitor center offers an educational Northern Voices Show, historical archives reflective of the area, variety of detailed exhibits in the exhibit hall, an indoor mural, a second floor art gallery, an observation tower, and hiking trails. A variety of programs, exhibits, and events are held at the center throughout the year.

Students were engaged in the exhibits and displays offered at the center and experienced hiking the outdoor nature trails which complimented their time at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center.

Adding to their environmental experiences during the field trip was a visit to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility. The overall mission of this facility is “to promote public education and advance the discovery, dissemination and application of knowledge for sustainable aquaculture in a northern climate.”

During the student’s tour of the aquaculture facility they were able to observe aquaculture research in action, acquire knowledge related to aquaculture production within Wisconsin, and discover some of the best management practices used for a sustainable environment. They also participated in a hands-on lab activity under the direction of Emma Wiermaa, Outreach Specialist, with the facility.

Mr. Greg Fischer serves as the Facility Operations Manager and provided students with an overview of some of the research projects currently underway. Students also gained knowledge about the processes utilized in the outside ponds. While at the facility students were able to recognize the innovation and advancements taking place in the aquaculture industry. Students became familiar with Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) which allows operation on “significantly less water than a traditional flow-through facility.” Through the facility’s projects they “show how RAS technology is more environmentally responsible and sustainable for future aquaculture.”
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June 23, 2016

To: Staff of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility
Ref: Student Tour, Gratitude
From: Brenda J. Scheil, New Auburn Agriscience Instructor

On behalf of the New Auburn Agriscience Department, I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank you for the outstanding tour that was provided to our agriscience students. Everyone was impressed by the expertise of your faculty along with the outstanding facilities.

Thank you, also, for the shared photographs that you sent through email. It was very much appreciated and valued.

I have enclosed a copy of a news article that was included in our local newspaper dated May 4, 2016 highlighting our visit and tour. Thank you for your invested time and energy in working to make a positive difference in the lives of students.

Respectfully,

Brenda J. Scheil
New Auburn Agriscience Instructor/FFA Advisor