



Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education

Annual Report

2008-2009

Tom Quinn, Chair
2008-2010
Central Wisconsin
Environmental Station

Ruth Ann Lee, Chair
Elect
2008-2010
MacKenzie Environmental
Education Center

Betsy Parker, Past Chair
2007-2009
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Victoria Bahe
2009-2011
Urban Ecology Center

Karla Lockman
2009
Stevens Point Area High
School

Molly McKay
2009
University of Wisconsin -
Stevens Point

Amanda Pohlod
2009
University of Wisconsin -
Stevens Point

Glen Reindel
2008-2010
Wisconsin River Academy

Joan Voigt
2009-2011
Wild Rose Fish Hatchery

Administrative Assistant
Abbie Enlund

From the Chair...

2009 has been a year of hope. With the commitment of the WAEE membership and its board members, we have been able to transform hope into results. From advocacy and networking, to recognition, we have made headway in all three of our mission keystones. Through letters of support to our governing officers, we have seen the position of Environmental Education Consultant in the Department of Public Instruction make its way through a difficult budget. The potential for this is very promising. WAEE has been involved from the beginning with the Wisconsin No Child Left Inside Coalition which is aimed at developing an Environmental Literacy Plan for the K-12 audience.



Tom Quinn
2009 Board Chair

After a productive Spring Retreat, the WAEE Board determined we needed to have a pledge drive to maintain our goal of financial stability to meet our proposed budget. The response was great and we appreciate your support. We remain in the black and continue to manage our previous conference profits towards their intended uses, including the educator and student scholarships you see available at this year's Fall Conference.

Speaking of the Fall Conference, I am so excited that WAEE received 2 WEEB grants this year, both conference related. The Energy and Education toolkit grant distributes technology and lesson material to educators. It includes a Watt meter, CFL light bulb, and educational resources on how to use this technology in a classroom, field station or nature center. Our Student Board Member wrote the grant that brings Will Steger as our keynote presenter! Opportunities for networking and learning abound thanks to these two grants. With all of the wonderful things that have happened over the course of the year, we are sad to say goodbye to the person who has kept the office moving so efficiently. Abbie Enlund, our Administrative Assistant, is relocating to Madison with her husband Chris, daughter Samantha, and a new child on the way. Abbie has done such an amazing job fueling the fire for the WAEE Board, planning and promoting our conferences, and updating all of the membership through her wonderful newsletters. We will miss her passion and productivity immensely. I hope you will all thank her while at the same time welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Jodi Hermsen. Jodi is another overachiever and WAEE member who looks forward to taking on this challenging position.

I have truly enjoyed working with such a dedicated Board this past year and look forward to completing my three year term with current friends, new board members, and Ruth Ann Lee as Board Chair!



WAEE
8 Nelson Hall
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-346-2796
Fax: 715-346-3835
Email: wae@uwsp.edu
www.uwsp.edu/wae

Awards

WAEЕ was proud to announce the 2008 award winners at the Fall Conference Awards Banquet in Milwaukee. In addition to supporting the work of members through state-wide initiatives and professional resources, recognition is a primary goal of the WAEЕ.

In 2008, there were five award recipients. The WAEЕ “Dave Engelson” Award was awarded to Plum Creek Timber Company. Through their internships, co-op student programs, Trees for Tomorrow scholarships, and job shadowing opportunities, Plum Creek strives to educate the public, especially the next generation, on sustainable forestry and environmental consciousness.

Emily Hill was awarded the WAEЕ Student Award. As a UW-Stevens Point graduate student, Emily developed the Leave No Family Inside program at the Boston School Forest and was active in community and campus environmental events.

The Formal Educator of the Year Award went to Pat Arndt. Pat is an environmental science teacher at Berlin High School where he is a leader in engaging his students and school district in the Green and Healthy School program. Pat is an enthusiastic and committed teacher who helped to build the environmental science framework.

Advocacy & Networking

The WAEЕ Board and membership worked hard to encourage the reinstatement of the Department of Public Instruction’s EE Consultant Position with letters to the Governor during his budget amendment process. It’s an amazing statement in such a fiscally tight time for a priority such as ours to not be cut from the state budget. We hope as an organization to support this position and assist the DPI in ensuring it fosters the work you, our membership, conduct on a daily basis.

We also have seen great “grassroots” success in bringing the No Child Left Inside Act (NCLI) to our state representative’s attention. Representative Ron Kind is now a co-sponsor on the bill and Governor Doyle signed a letter of support to the Secretary of Education. While the NCLI Act is currently stalled, Wisconsin is not resting on its laurels. WAEЕ Board representatives are serving on the No Child Left Inside Coalition which, spearheaded by the Wisconsin Center for EE, is making great strides in meeting the Environmental Literacy Plan requirements and ensuring Wisconsin is poised for action when the bill passes.

WAEЕ representatives are also working closely with the WEEB Education Committee in fostering Environmental Literacy for the entire state. More updates on this front will be forthcoming in 2010.

The WAEЕ Advocacy & Networking Committee has made efforts to keep contact with the State Superintendent’s office and is pleased with the election of Tony Evers as he has indicated he is dedicated to EE in our state schools.

WAEЕ is still offering assistance to the Wisconsin Volunteer Naturalist Program (WiVN) by way of serving on their steering committee. This Program stands to offer accreditation to adults who wish to learn more about Wisconsin ecosystems and pass their knowledge on in the form of education, volunteerism and citizen monitoring.

We also are in contact with the League of Conservation Voters who may be able to help bolster our cause in the political realm by educating our membership on advocacy issues and making EE one of their top priorities—we may be calling on your help in this arena in the coming year.

Awards continued

Sunshine Buchholz was awarded the Non-Formal Educator of the Year Award. Sunshine has developed and coordinated innovative and important resources and tools for the Wisconsin environmental education community including environmental science framework, LEAF resources, and the EE in Wisconsin website.

WAEЕ awarded Jerry Runice of the Berlin Area School District with the Administrator of the Year. Jerry’s environmental leadership has resulted in staff development opportunities, improved environmental curriculum, responsible energy management for all school buildings and school forest site development.

WAEЕ strives to recognize and support outstanding individuals and groups in their contributions to the field of environmental education. The awards winners of 2008 are certainly a deserving group. Congratulations to all award winners. Your efforts in environmental education are most appreciated.

2010 Winter Workshop

January 29-31, 2010

CWES

This year, due to construction at Treehaven, the WAEЕ Winter Workshop will be held at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station in Amherst Junction, just outside of Stevens Point. Winter Workshop traditionally focuses on networking with others, education opportunities, and renewing our commitment to environmental education. Though the venue has changed, the commitment to learning, sharing and enjoying the outdoors has not. Through fun and lively sessions in a beautiful lake-side setting, Winter Workshop gives new and experienced educators the opportunity to present on their expertise and to learn more about the field of environmental education.



Students

During the 2008-09 school year, WAEE was fortunate enough to have two dedicated student members, Molly McKay and Amanda Pohlod, serve as Student Representative on the Board. Amanda and Molly encouraged students all over the state to get involved with WAEE both by attending the Fall Conference and by becoming WAEE members. Molly submitted and won a WEEB grant to support the Fall Conference keynote speaker, Will Steger.

Two new students representatives, Alexis Sohlden and Elena Krieger, were elected to the Board for the 2009-2010 school year. Both are students at UW Stevens Point. Alexis is a senior environmental education and interpretation major with minors in adventure education and international resource management. Elena is a second year Master's student focusing on environmental education and interpretation. The two are looking forward to a great year with increased student involvement. One way they intend to achieve this is by providing more student scholarships to the Fall Conference with increased funding from the Fall Conference Auction and a t-shirt sale. They also are on the Winter Workshop planning committee and will keep students' interests in mind when planning this event. They also hope to plan several small events throughout Wisconsin aimed at students' specific needs, such as networking and job-hunting.

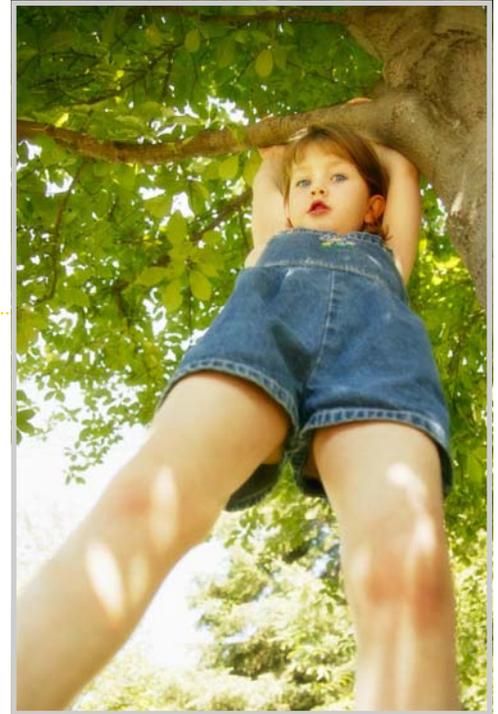
Elections

WAEE welcomes new Board members with terms beginning in 2009:

Two welcome additions were made to the WAEE Board for the 2009-11 term. Victoria (Tory) Bahe from Milwaukee's Urban Ecology Center joins the Board in a more official capacity after serving on the Fall Conference Committee in 2008. Her experience in Conference preparation is a welcome asset to the Board. Joan Voigt, a Naturalist from the Department of Natural Resources Wild Rose Fish Hatchery, is also serving on the 2009-11 Board term. She is a strong advocate for networking opportunities for environmental educators as well as community education. A special "thank you" to WAEE member David Eagan, our dedicated Elections Chair, for his time and commitment to the WAEE elections process.

Your chance to serve on the WAEE Board: Each November, WAEE members must elect three new Directors to its eleven-person Board. Self nominated or invited by others, candidates serve a three-year term beginning January 1st. Board members must attend 75% of the annual board meetings, the spring retreat, and actively serve on one committee. The Board has three openings for the 2010-2012 term. There is also one vacancy on the Board, creating a one-year term which can, according to WAEE bylaws, be filled by a Board-appointed nominee. The nomination deadline is November 15th.

A Note to WAEE Members Regarding Board Elections: In the past two election cycles fewer candidates have run than available seats on the Board. In 2008 less than 5% of our membership voted in the election. As with any election, the most effective results regarding leadership, guidance and decision making for the organization are achieved through greater participation from the membership.



Membership

Current Membership: 340 in good standing

- * Organizations - 35
- * Memberships through organizations - 76
- * Students - 23
- * Retired - 6
- * Family - 3
- * Individual - 146
- * Life - 51

In 2008-09, the focus of the WAEE Membership Committee was to increase membership by participating in and promoting WAEE at workshops for environmental educators. A member pledge drive was initiated and a membership renewal campaign was directed at WAEE members with lapsed memberships. Board members made efforts to make personal contact with members and organizational members encouraging them to attend, exhibit or present at the 2009 WAEE Fall Conference. Membership numbers have increased as a direct result of visibility at local events such as Spring Adventure Workshop, the Environmental Teachers Summit, and through continued liasionships. As you can see from the Financial Statement, WAEE relies on your continued membership and support to sustain the organization. On a related note, the Board was pleased with the results of our donation appeal. This appeal helped cover the rising costs of effectively running the organization. Thank you for your support.

Our membership was active this year in volunteering to serve as WEEB grant reviewers, writing letters to our state representatives in support of EE, and committing time to help make the Fall Conference a success.

This year's Membership goals are to increase "lifetime" and "corporate" memberships.

Financial Statement

Financial sustainability continues to be a main goal of the WAAE Board. WAAE works toward this goal in several different ways:

* WAAE received another clean audit of our finances by an outside accounting firm.

* The Board continues to be active in writing grants for both conference support and project based funding. Some grants have been funded, others have not; but the Board continues to endeavor to financially support WAAE.

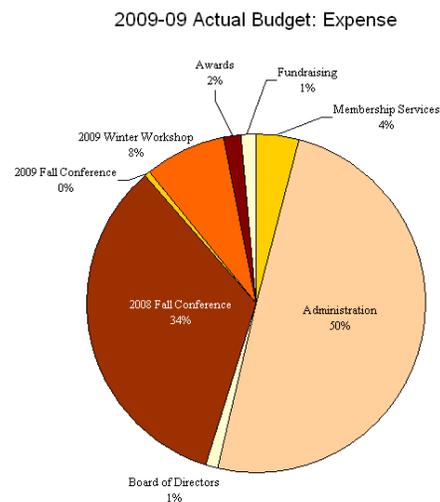
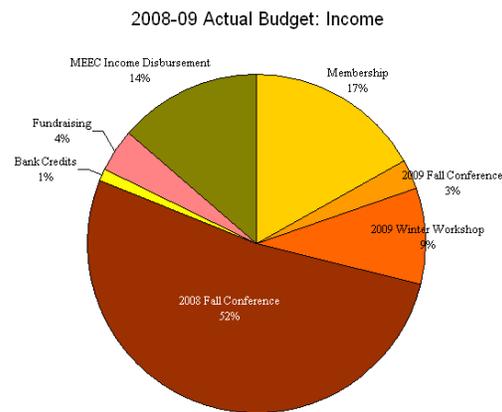
* WAAE continues to participate in programs that result in income, including the State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) which provides a unique opportunity for state employees to donate to non-profit organizations, and goodsearch.com which provides funding to WAAE when users of this on-line search engine select WAAE as the recipient organization.

* With the transition of our Administrative Assistant, the Board has selected a replacement candidate that has accounting experience and knowledge of the accounting software WAAE currently uses to maintain its accounts.

* The Board Treasurer meets regularly with the Administrative Assistant to help with the oversight of the accounting software and management of funds.

* The Board continue to honor the priorities set forth by the Financial Task Force in use of MEEC proceeds.

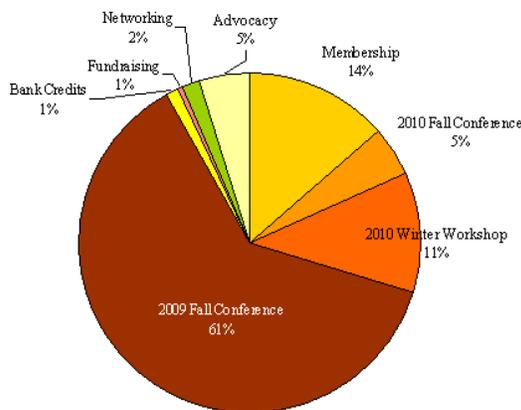
WAAE Budget 2008-09		
Category	Income	Expense
Membership	7,888	1,990
2009 Fall Conference	1,300	182
2009 Winter Workshop	4,356	3,852
2008 Fall Conference (Milwaukee)	24,334	16,764
Bank Credits	520	
Fundraising	1,953	687
MEEC Disbursement	6,334	
Administration		24,416
Board expenses		433
Awards		845
TOTAL:	\$46,685	\$49,169



WAAE Projected Budget 2009-10		
Category	Income	Expense
Membership	10,140	3,050
2009 Fall Conference (Eau Claire)	46,025	29,235
2010 Winter Workshop	8,500	5,875
2010 Fall Conference	3,400	825
Bank Credits	880	
Fundraising	400	
Networking & Advocacy	4,750	4,850
Administration		27,900
Board expenses		1,400
Awards		950
TOTAL:	\$74,095	\$74,085



2009-10 Proposed Budget: Income



2009-10 Proposed Budget: Expenses

