



# Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education

## Annual Report

2009-2010

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

Karla Lockman, Chair Elect  
2010-2012  
Stevens Point Area High School

Tom Quinn, Past Chair  
2008-2010  
Central Wisconsin  
Environmental Station

Nicole Swanson  
2010  
Wisconsin Center for  
Environmental Education

Victoria Bahe  
2009-2011  
Urban Ecology Center

Sara Krauskopf  
2010-2011  
Great Lakes BioEnergy Research  
Center

Renae Prell-Mitchell  
2010-2012

Cassie Bauer  
2010-2012

Joan Voigt  
2009-2011  
Wild Rose Fish Hatchery

Meagan Leatherbury  
2010-2011  
Student Board Member

Kim Ness  
2009-2011  
Student Board Member

Administrative Assistant  
Jodi Hermesen

### From the Chair...

The Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education has had a very strong year. The commitment of the WAAEE board and its membership is what keeps us strong. Working on advocacy in EE, recognition for those in the field of EE, and providing opportunities for networking between EE professionals, we are always working towards our mission.

With a strong WAAEE board we continue to be determined to make WAAEE a recognizable name and an organization that welcomes educators formal and non-formal. We continue to partner with like minded individuals and organizations and we are making progress. In addition, we have goals in place that continue to support the field of environmental education on a legislative level as well as give recognition to those in the field, and to provide some great networking opportunities for environmental educators.

Financially we remain "in the black" and continue to manage our previous conference profits towards their intended uses, this includes the educator and student scholarships you see available at this year's Fall Conference as well as funding advocacy events such as our EE breakfast held in partnership with the League of Conservation Voters at Conservation Lobby Day this past spring in Madison.

Wonderful things are happening in WAAEE with Great energy from the board and members, great projects and partnerships in place. My three year term is coming to an end and I have enjoyed my time serving the organization as a board member, treasurer, and Chair. I have to give special thanks to our Administrative Assistant, Jodi Hermesen who has only been with the organization this past year. However, her dedication, organization skills and efficiency have made holding the position of WAAEE Chair flow smoothly and made it very enjoyable. Thank you Jodi! J

Thank you WAAEE for a great year, I look forward to watching the organization grow in 2011.



Ruth Ann Lee  
2010 Board Chair



## 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.

## 2011 Winter Workshop

January 28-30, 2011

*Treehaven*

The WAEЕ Winter Workshop will return this winter to Treehaven, a UW Stevens Point field station for the College of Natural Resources located in Tomahawk, WI. Winter Workshop traditionally focuses on networking with others, education opportunities, and renewing our commitment to environmental education. The commitment to learning, sharing and enjoying the outdoors through fun and lively sessions in a beautiful setting is what Winter Workshop is all about. Winter Workshop gives new and experienced educators the opportunity to present on their expertise and to learn more about the field of environmental education.



## 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.

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## Elections

### **WAAE welcomes new Board members with terms beginning in 2010:**

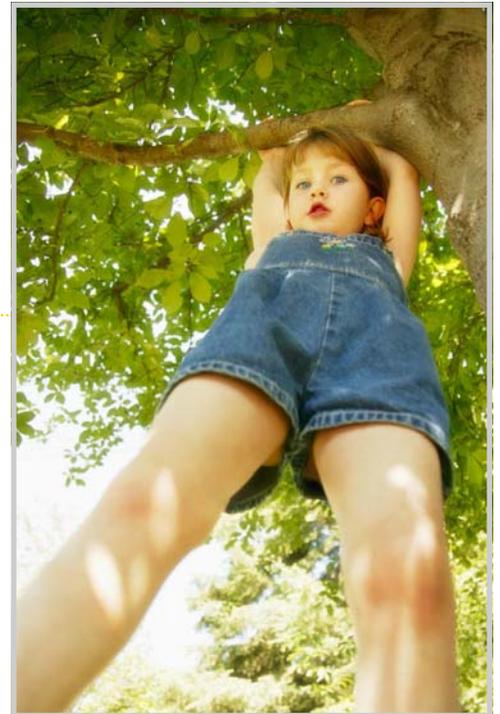
We welcomed additions to the WAAE Board for the 2010 term.. Some filling vacancies others full terms. We welcome Sara Krauskopf, Cassie Bauer, Renae Prell-Mitchell, Kim Ness, and Maegan Leatherbury. They are all strong advocates for opportunities for environmental educators and are serving the organization well.

A special “thank you” to WAAE member David Eagan, our dedicated Elections Chair, for his time and commitment to the WAAE elections process.

**Your chance to serve on the WAAE Board:** Each November, WAAE 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 2011-2013 term. The nomination deadline is November 15th.

### **A Note to WAAE Members Regarding Board**

**Elections:** In the past 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.



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## Membership

### **Current Membership: 372 in good standing**

- \* Organizations - 40
- \* Memberships through organizations - 81
- \* Students - 24
- \* Retired - 6
- \* Family - 7
- \* Individual - 163
- \* Life - 51

The focus of the WAAE Membership Committee was to increase membership by participating in and promoting WAAE at workshops for environmental educators and making WAAE a recognizable name. Membership numbers have increased as a direct result of visibility at local events and through continued liasonships.

As you can see from the Financial Statement, WAAE relies on your continued membership and support to sustain the organization. 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 continue to be increasing “lifetime” and “corporate” memberships thru name recognition.

## Financial Statement

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

\* WAEE 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 WAEE.

\* WAEE 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 WAEE when users of this on-line search engine select WAEE as the recipient organization.

\*\* 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.

### WAEE Budget 2009-2010

Category	Income	Expense
Membership	7,140	2,350
2010 Fall Conference	3,400	825
2010 Winter Workshop	8,050	5,875
2009 Fall Conference	42,400	16,110
Bank Credits	880	
Fundraising	400	
MEEC Disbursement		4,850
Administration		27,400
Board expenses		1,400
Awards		450
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$62,270</b>	<b>\$59,260</b>

### WAEE Projected Budget 2010-2011

Category	Income	Expense
Membership	5,600	1,075
2010 Fall Conference	34,925	17,125
2011 Winter Workshop	9,250	7,106
2011 Fall Conference	3,500	1,300
Bank Credits	880	
Fundraising	4,650	
Networking & Advocacy		250
Administration		27,736
Board expenses		850
Awards		900
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$58,805</b>	<b>\$56,342</b>

