



Karla Lockman, Chair
2010-2012
Stevens Point Area Senior High
Stevens Point, WI

Victoria Bahe
2009-2011
Urban Ecology Center
Milwaukee, WI

Joan Voigt
2009-2011
Wild Rose Fish Hatchery
Wautoma, WI

Cassie Bauer
2010-2012
YMCA Camp Minikani
Hubertus, WI

Sara Kauskopf
2010-2011
Great Lakes Bioenergy Research
Center
Madison, WI

Renaë Prell-Mitchell
2010-2011
George Williams College of Aurora
University
Williams Bay, WI

Susan Schuller
2011-2013
Wisconsin Center for Environmental
Education
Stevens Point, WI

Abbie Enlund
2011-2013
Aldo Leopold Nature Ctr
Greening Sam and Avery
Waunakee, WI

Meg Doyle
2011-2013
Parkview Elementary
Cedarburg, WI

Katie Boseo, student
2011-2012
University of Wisconsin-
Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI

Amy Jo Dusick, student
2011-2012
University of Wisconsin –
Madison
Madison, WI

Jodi Hermsen,
WAAE Administrator

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education

Annual Report

2010-2011

From the Chair...

It has certainly been a privilege to represent WAAE as Chair during the 2011 year. This is truly an organization of committed professionals and passionate individuals who work tirelessly to promote and advance environmental literacy to all Wisconsinites. Despite challenges that all educators have faced in the past 12 months, WAAE members have continued to deliver the best environmental education for the children and communities all across the state.



The WAAE Board of Directors has worked hard to achieve the mission of supporting environmental education through advocacy, networking, and recognition. WAAE has partnered with the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation to develop Wisconsin's Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities. This plan looks to build awareness and capacity, promote access to information and experiences, identify strategies, foster research, and assess progress related to environmental literacy and sustainability.

WAAE also supports the Wisconsin Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights which is currently a legislative resolution awaiting confirmation in the Legislature. The Outdoor Bill of Rights mandates that children of Wisconsin have the right to explore, learn, and play in Wisconsin's outdoors.

Environmental educators have enjoyed two successful networking and professional development opportunities this past year. The FamIEE Fall Conference was held at beautiful Upham Woods 4-H Center near the Wisconsin Dells. Members enjoyed field trips, concurrent sessions, and an impromptu keynote presentation by the enthusiastic and entertaining Susan Fowler. The Winter Workshop returned to Treehaven where members enjoyed beautiful snow conditions and newly remodeled dorm facilities.

WAAE launched the exciting new mentorship program at this year's Winter Workshop. The mentorship program actively pairs experienced educators with students or those who are just starting in their career.

It's truly an exciting and dynamic time to be an environmental educator. Many thanks to the past and current Board members, Committee Chairs and members, Jodi Hermsen (WAAE Administrative Assistant), and financial and in-kind sponsors. I wish all the best to you and your organizations in this upcoming year.

WAEF ADVOCACY

WAEF representatives played a critical role in developing the state's strategic plan for EE, "Wisconsin's Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities". This document has been developed with support from WEEB and WEEF and with input from over fifty individuals, each of whom offered a unique perspective on answering "How can Wisconsin residents achieve environmentally literate and sustainable communities?". The responses were creative and insightful, and contributed to creating a meaningful document which "provides a shared set of goals for all people in all sectors of Wisconsin to work towards". The Plan went through an expansive review period, will be published online and announced at the 2011 WAEF Fall Conference. Look for more on this important resource and how WAEF members can help accomplish the Plan's goals on EEinWisconsin.org.

Thanks to WAEF's valuable partnership with the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV), the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is gaining notice in the state political realm. This proclamation declaring that Wisconsin children have the right to enjoy and learn about our state's natural resources may reach the assembly-room floor as early as this

WAEF AWARDS PROGRAM

WAEF recognizes schools, youth groups, individual students, and educators for outstanding environmental efforts each year. WAEF encourages all members to reach for new heights in environmental education by presenting achievement awards annually. The WAEF Awards program is an attempt to recognize and support outstanding individuals and groups (members and nonmembers) in their contributions to the field of environmental education.

The **Non-Formal Educator of the Year** is presented for exhibiting innovative and exemplary effort in providing environmental education opportunities for general audiences. This year's winner was **Mary Pardee**. Mary is the Youth Development Educator with University of WI- Extension Barron County.

The **Formal Educator of the Year** is presented for outstanding, and ongoing efforts in infusing environmental education into their teaching. This year's winner was **Dr. Garry Running**. Like many gifted environmental educators, Dr. Running excels at endowing his students with an understanding of environmental science in the geography courses he teaches at UWEC.

The **David Engleson WAEF Award** is presented for individuals, agencies and organizations making significant contributions to the field of environmental education as exemplified by David Engleson; founding member of WAEF, author, advocate, teacher and environmental education leader across the state and nation. This year's winner was **Nick Hylla**. Nick has created and developed a host of resources and course curricula on an online wiki environment which makes available all of the work he and others have done for free.

Thank you to all who sent in nominations. I encourage you to think about people you work with who have gone above and beyond their job descriptions and really made a difference in their organization and community. Award nomination materials can be found on the WAEF website and are always due by September 30th.

Pictured from left: RuthAnn Lee, Mary Pardee, Garry Running, Karla Lockman



Advocacy Continued...

winter. More details to come on this exciting endeavor and how you or your organization might get involved in promoting this meaningful legislation. To further support and educate others on the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, the WAEF Advocacy Committee hosted a second annual "WAEF Lobby Day Breakfast" last spring. This event, which dovetails with the WLCV's lobby day, highlighted the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and brought together environmental educators (and WAEF members) from across the state. Participants learned about how they can get involved in advocating for EE and the environment and attended the WLCV's informative sessions, one of which featured WAEF members Scott Johnson, Dolly Ledin and Rebecca Clarke as panel experts!

As you likely know, WAEF played a critical role in letter-writing and campaigning for reinstating the Department of Public Instruction's Environmental Education consultant position several years ago. Last July the position was filled by Victoria Rydberg, who makes a point to stay in touch with WAEF and provide updates and relevant information to our members. The WAEF Board is dedicated to supporting this DPI position and fostering the conduit of news and guidance it can provide.

A WAEF representative continues to serve on the Wisconsin Master Naturalist program steering committee and keeps the WAEF Board up to date on this project as it develops. Keep an eye out for instructor pilot training programs coming in 2012.

WAEF EVENTS

Fall Conference

Theme:

FamilEE: Linking families, schools and communities in the real world



Dates: October 28-30, 2010

Location: Upham Woods 4-H Outdoor Learning Center - Wisconsin Dells, WI

Summary:

Upham Woods Outdoor Education Center welcomed the WAEF Fall Conference in 2010. Nestled on the Wisconsin River it was a beautiful setting to bring together formal educators, non-formal educators, resource professionals and students to share, learn and network. The theme, "FamilEE: Linking families, schools and communities in the real world" focused on how environmental education can happen anywhere and involve anyone. With 31 sessions, 4 hands-on workshops and 5 field trips there were many opportunities for participants to learn something new and share something from their experience. Our keynote speaker, Susan Fowler of Harmony By Hand, explored the *Curiosity and the Joy of the Question*. Many thanks to the Co-Chairs RuthAnn Lee and Jodi Hermsen.

Winter Workshop

Theme: "rEEnewal"

Dates: January 28-30, 2011

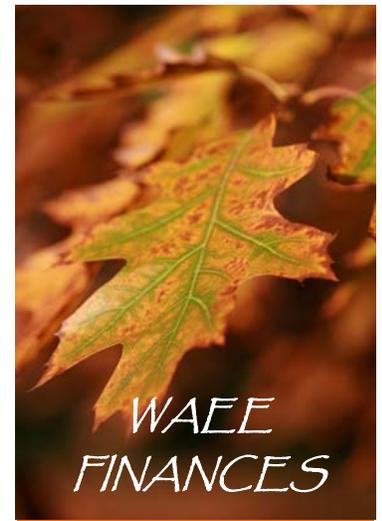
Location: Treehaven, Tomahawk, WI

Summary:

With a theme of "rEEnewal" to guide us, and tracks on "keeping the foundation", the "new face of EE", and "building toward the future", the conference held something for everyone. Saturday morning featured Keynote Paul Fowler, Director of the Wisconsin Institute of Sustainable Technology (WIST) who challenged the audience with fascinating new concepts and ideas about renewable uses of existing resources, and helped us to understand the new face of technologies that stand to change the content of our teachings. Members enjoyed activities such as the Brutal Gourmet, games in the snow hosted by the UWSP student Environmental Education and Naturalists Association (EENA the wildly entertaining and fiercely competitive (but fun) card game of "Nertz". Many thanks to the Chair John Heusinkveld.



Remember that in membership lies our strength, and that the two conferences held by WAEF each year represent not only an outstanding value, but a real opportunity to grow personally and professionally. You owe it to yourself to come, so WAEF looks forward to seeing you next year!



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

- * WAEF 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 WAEF.
- * WAEF 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 WAEF when users of this on-line search engine select WAEF as the recipient organization.
- * The Board Treasurer meets regularly with the Administrator to help with the oversight of the accounts and management of funds.
- * The Board continue to honor the priorities set forth by the Financial Task Force in use of MEEC 2007 conference proceeds.

| WAEF Actual Budget 2010-2011 | | | WAEF Projected Budget 2011-2012 | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Category | Income | Expense | Category | Income | Expense |
| Membership | 5,440 | 0 | Membership | 4,620 | 175 |
| 2011 Fall Conference | 4,100 | 2,106 | 2011 Fall Conference | 42,600 | 24,050 |
| 2011 Winter Workshop | 5,913 | 4,971 | 2011 Winter Workshop | 6,200 | 4,175 |
| 2010 Fall Conference | 21,614 | 11,109 | 2012 Fall Conference | 500 | 1,800 |
| Grants | 13,941 | 9,974 | Grants | 3,000 | |
| Bank Credits | 75 | | Bank Credits | 75 | |
| Fundraising | 599 | | Fundraising | 625 | |
| Networking & Advocacy | 459 | 459 | Administration | | 25,321 |
| Administration | | 21,492 | Board expenses | | 775 |
| Board expenses | 210 | 559 | Awards | | 925 |
| Awards | | 585 | | | |
| TOTAL: | \$52,351 | \$51,255 | TOTAL: | \$57,620 | \$56,721 |



Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/wisconsinassociationforenvironmentaleducation

Follow our Blog at
wisconsinassociationforenvironmentaleducation.wordpress.com



WAAE MEMBERSHIP

Current Membership: 293 total- doing alright! (but we'd like to see this number increase)

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Individual: 115 | Individual Life: 52 | Non-profit Orgs: 25 | Additional Staff: 74 |
| Corporate Life: 4 | Students: 14 | Retired: 5 | Family: 4 |

This past year the focus of the WAAE membership committee was to work in conjunction with our board to increase organizational and corporate memberships. Committee and Board members made connections with various organizations, corporations, and individuals in attempts to increase membership and spread the word about WAAE.

The membership committee also began to look closely at WAAE's online presence. The membership committee along with Board members reviewed our website and decided to make small improvements to our website for potential members looking for information online. There are now new photos and more detailed information on our website.

Additionally our membership committee and board members reached out to fellow environmental educators and teachers to make them aware of WAAE. Our Board members Tory Bahe and Sara Krauskopf attended the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers (WSST) conference in March of this year in order to connect with classroom educators and demonstrate how EE fits into the required curriculum.

Our membership was active this year in writing letters to state representatives, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and the federal government to protect all EPA funds. Members were also highly involved in supporting the No Child Left Inside Coalition as well as the development of Wisconsin's Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities. Our membership has also been instrumental in planning our Fall Conference and the upcoming Winter Workshop.

This year's Membership Committee's goals are to continue to improve WAAE's online presence, increase our organizations name recognition among formal educators, and recruit more corporate and lifetime members. Help us out by sharing your WAAE experiences with your colleagues and encouraging them to join. Benefits include the monthly newsletter, discounted Fall Conference and Winter Workshop registration, and many connections to professionals in the field.

WAAE Networking

WAAE has increased our online and social networking presence by leaps and bounds this year. Our Facebook page has become much more active. We post event updates, news and political action items on the page. Our hope for the Facebook page is to not only reach non-members but also to connect with our current members in more meaningful ways. If you are on Facebook we encourage you to comment on our posts, let us know what you think of events or issues and connect with other members on the page.

WAAE has also entered the world of blogging. The WAAE blog is still very new and we are constantly learning new things to add and new ways to use it. We started the blog because we wanted to have a way to get information to the membership on a more regular basis without flooding everyone's email inboxes. Unlike the website, the blog is very easy to update on a daily basis. So, we are hoping to share member events, WAAE Board news and updates, national EE news and other current interest stories that we think our members might want to hear about. Those members that are interested in staying up to date with what is going on can visit the blog or subscribe to its feed instead of us sending out emails every time to the entire membership. Other features on the blog include listing and links to our organizational and corporate members, links to other EE sites and blogs of interest and reviews of sponsors and auction donations. We are hoping this will help us keep our membership more informed and connected to what other members are up to!

