

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Board of Directors Meeting
December 8th, 2007

Updates from the Education Committee include:

1. Mark your calendars! Youth Education Expo will be held in Beaver Dam May 15 & 16, 2008. The WWF will again coordinate the Wildlife Camp focusing on wildlife habitat, calling and identification.
 - a. We hope to have a MEC station at this event again; keeping with the theme but promoting MEC to teachers as a follow up field trip.
 - b. VOLUNTEERS are needed to help staff the wildlife camp and work along side environmental educators; sharing your knowledge with the visiting students. Please let me know if you are interested!

2. Planning for a new traveling education trunk featuring WI Mammals is underway. If you are a trapper and would like to donate furs, skulls, etc for the hands-on component of this trunk please contact me (Ruth Ann 608-635-8105) for a list of the items needed to enhance the WI Mammals curriculum.

3. MacKenzie Environmental Education Center (MEEC) Updates.
 - a. Updating the education programming has been a major project of the education staff over the past few months. We hope to present our new program layout and lessons just after the first of the year. This new program address' several issues that face teachers when going on off-site on overnight fieldtrips; such as planning, state standards and overnight liability. By addressing these concerns of some schools; we hope to make MEEC a popular field trip designation, and to grow the program.
 - b. We have officially welcomed Nicole Hayes as a new staff member to our MacKenzie family. Nicole's position as an Educator is thru the AmeriCorp program with WWF acting as her sponsor thru a large grant written by the Natural Resource Foundation. Nicole is a recent graduate of UW Madison with a degree in Botany. Nicole is working on forestry related lessons for the visiting schools and creating a new interpretive plan for our trails; again focusing on forest related themes.
 - c. Support MEEC this holiday season! You can still fulfill some needs that we still have at the center with year end donations. (Tax deductible of course!) With tight budgets we always have a need for the following: bird seed, bird suet cakes, gas fuel cards, flashlights, kick balls, volleyball, 8' step ladder) Any gift large or small is always appreciated. ☺ Thank you.
 - d. Upcoming programs:
 - i. Maplefest...our Maple Syrup Festival is Saturday, April 5th. Come enjoy the sugar bush, horse drawn wagon rides, maple ice-cream sundaes and more! Event is free and open to the public.
 - ii. Outdoor Skills Day...Saturday, July 12th, 2008. A free public program featuring "how to" with outdoor skills. Volunteers will be need to help staff the skill stations such as archery, fishing, trapping, outdoor cooking, air guns, hikes, and more.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Ruth Ann Lee
Education Committee; Chair
MacKenzie EE Center; Lead Educator
Email: ruthann@wiwf.org
Phone: 608-635-8105