

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2008

Updates from the Education Committee include:

1. Mark your calendars! Outdoor 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. Traveling Education Trunks are still a strong program for WWF! With little time in the office all three (wolf, bear, crane) they travel to classrooms for hands-on lessons. Teachers use them for teaching a variety of concepts such as; behavior, predator-prey, endangered species, habitat, biology of the animals, and so much MORE!
 - a. Watch for information on a new mammal's trunk soon that I reported on in December.

3. MacKenzie Environmental Education Center (MEEC) Updates.
 - a. Marketing plans are underway to help sell the new programming and MEEC facility. Programs are growing daily and staff is very excited to get groups and individuals using the facility year round!
 - b. Snow, snow, snow; just like at home, staff has been busy with snow removal this winter. But the signs of spring are coming as we gear up for our Maple Syrup Program for school groups the entire month of March! Kids learn to everything from tree ID, tapping a Maple tree, WI sugar bush history and how to make the sweet treat the Maple trees give us!
 - c. Upcoming programs...you're invited to join us!
 - i. Maple Syrup Festival is Saturday, April 5th, 2008. Come enjoy the sugar bush, horse drawn wagon rides, old fashioned music, pancake breakfast, maple ice-cream sundaes and more! Event is free and open to the public and very family friendly. In 2007 we drew 1000+ people to this event.
 - 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.
 - d. Visits Welcome! I encourage you to stop by MEEC to see the facility and staff in action. The lodge has a very different energy to it with 60+ kids in and around the grounds. Call the office ahead of time to give us a "heads up" and we'll be happy to accommodate you with a tour and to see the action first hand.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Ruth Ann Lee
Education Committee; Chair
MacKenzie EE Center; Lead Educator
Email: ruth.lee@wisconsin.gov
Phone: 608-635-8105

