2026 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

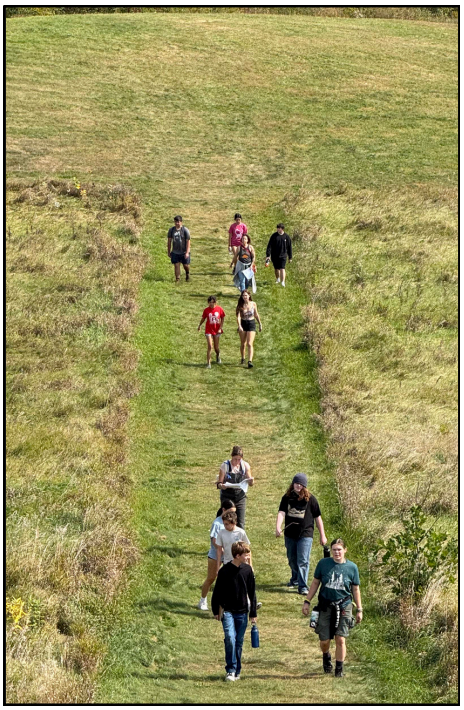
THE CRAFT OF CONNECTION: NATURE, COMMUNITY, & FOOD

Pictured are students doing various outdoor activities at Koshkonong Trails School.











THURSDAY, NOV. 5 - SATURDAY, NOV. 7

3 Venue Locations in Green Bay, WI

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CHECK OUT THE EXHIBITORS!

Exhibitors will be at the Neville Public Museum in the 2nd floor Mezzanine.

Complete the **Exhibitor Challenge** on the last page (p.22) of the program and turn it into folks at registration to enter a prize drawing!



- Green Bay Wild Ones
- Fox Valley Wild Ones
- Lynden Sculpture Garden
- Children's Health Alliance of WI
- LEAF-WI K-12 Forestry Education Program
- Green & Healthy Schools
- Legacy Solar Co-op
- Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
- Field Edventures
- Teacher Powered Schools/Education Evolving
- Wisconsin Citizens' Climate Lobby

THANK YOU CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

BIOME LEVEL

Natural Resources FOUNDATION of Wisconsin

Funded in part by WISCONSIN HUMANITIES

ECOSYSTEM LEVEL

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

FIELD Edventures

HABITAT LEVEL

Wisconsin's K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin

ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

WILD ONES®
Fox Valley & Green Bay Chapters

teacher-powered schools

NEST LEVEL

Sweet Willow herbals and cafe

Beaver Creek Reserve

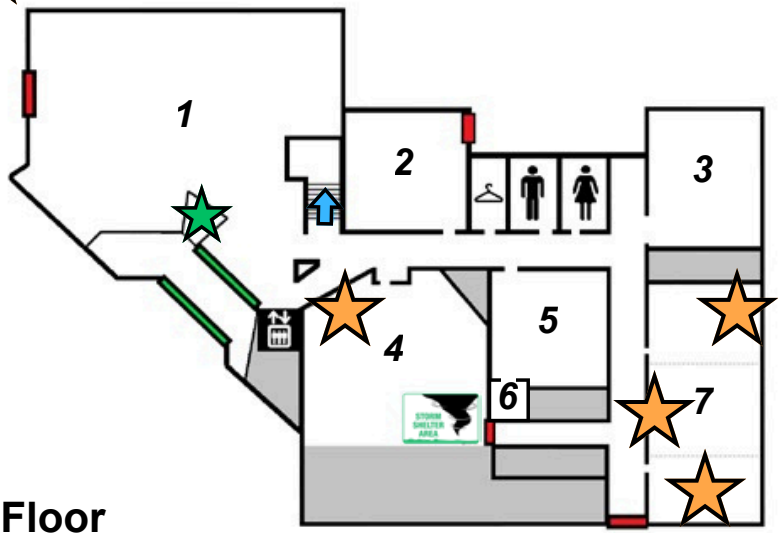
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Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin

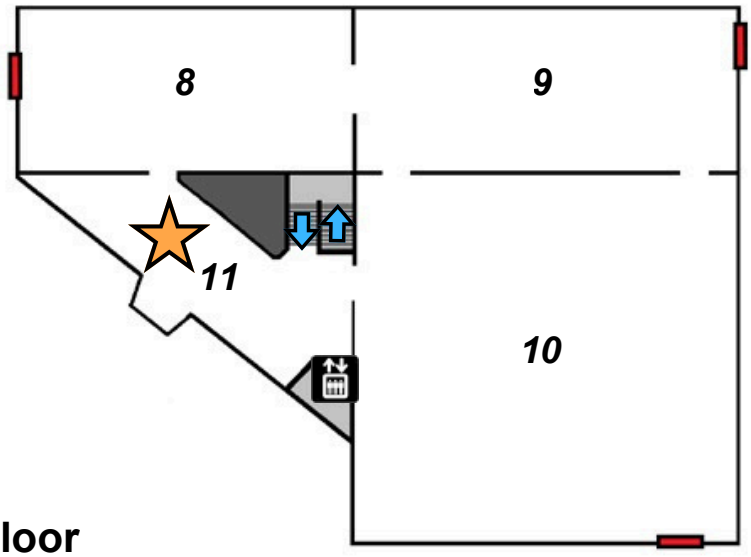
FRIDAY - NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM MAP

NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM
of Brown County

All indoor activities will be held in the rooms with gold stars and boxes around RM descriptions.



1st Floor



2nd Floor

Admissions Desk	Restrooms
Entry/Exit Doors	Coat Room
Emergency Exits	Staircase
Storm Shelter	Elevator

1st Floor

Admission Desk
- FirstAid
- Accessibility Cabinet: Borrow noise-canceling headphones, light sensitivity glasses, tablets, fidgets, and more!

1 - Spectacular Science
- Gears
- Candy Chemistry
- Science of Light
- Weather

2 - Neville Gift Shop
- Featuring regional art and whimsical gifts!

3 - Discovery Play Room
- All ages play space
- Recently renovated!

4 - Neville Auditorium
- International film
- Event & Rental space

5 - Community Room
- New Island - Lee Mothes (September '26-January'27)
- Youth Art Month (YAM) (January'27 - February'27)

6 - Privacy Room
- A private room for nursing or just a quiet space.

7 - Meeting Rooms
- Event & Rental Space

2nd Floor

8 - WPSGallery
- 81stArt Annual (September '26-November'26)
- Holiday Memories (November '26-January'27)
- 112th Green Bay Art Colony (January'27- March'27)

9 - Byram-Manger Gallery
- A Place at the Table (March26 - September27)

10 - Generations Gallery
- Regional Historyfromthe Neville's Permanent collection
- Abstract Art
- Exposed Collection (Rotated Annually!)

11 - Mezzanine
- Event & Rental Space

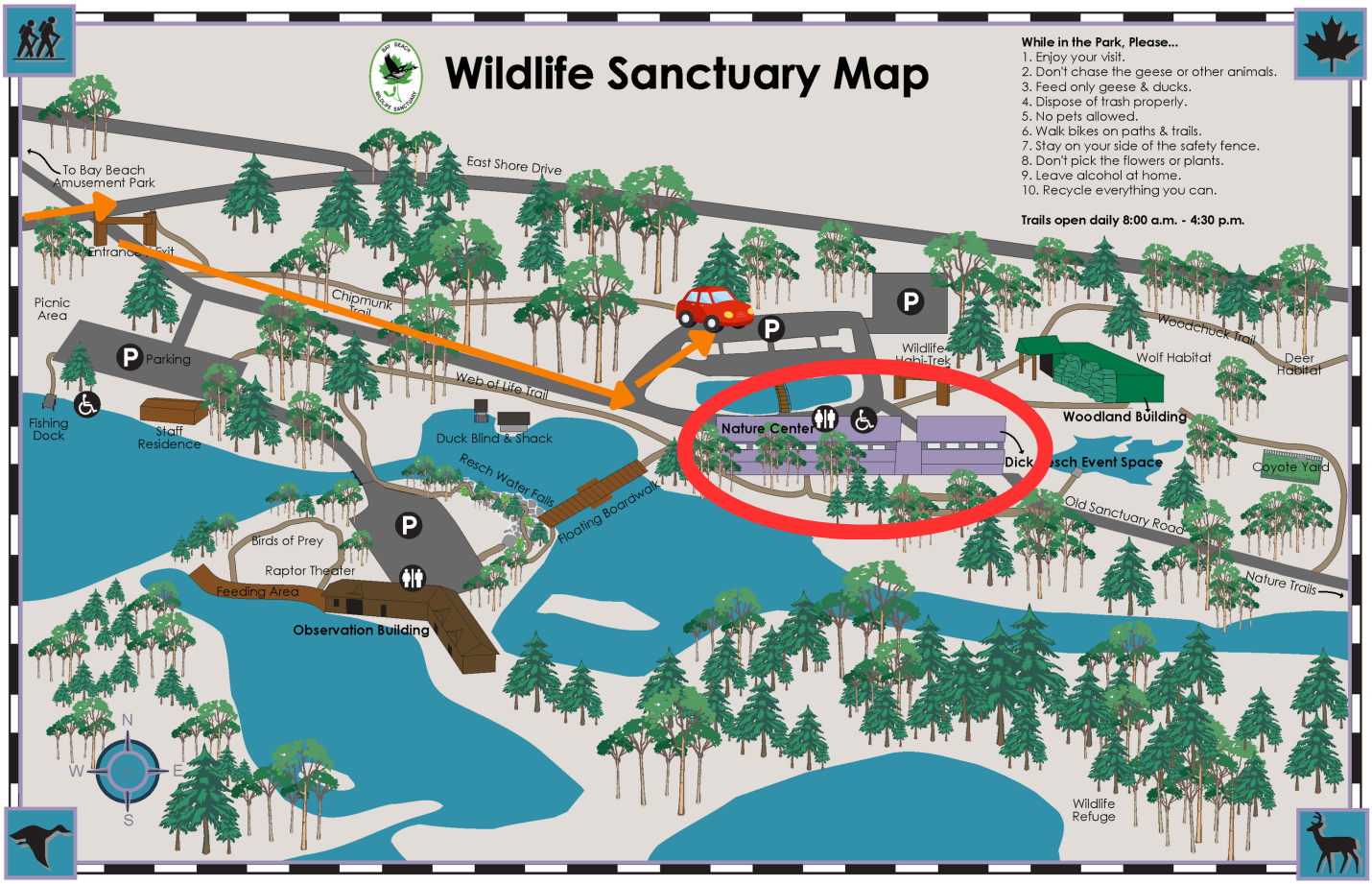
**Exhibit Opening/Closing Dates Subject to Change*

SATURDAY - BAY BEACH SANCTUARY MAP

All sessions will be in the Nature Center
(PURPLE BUILDING - circled in red).

DIRECTIONS & PARKING

From downtown Green Bay, take a right off E Shore Dr.
onto Sanctuary Rd., and park at designated parking lot.



THANK YOU, WILD PLUME & RENARD'S, FOR CATERING! YUM!

WILD PLUME
INDIGENOUS INFUSIONED FOOD

EST. 1984 Renard's

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

DAY 1: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

THURSDAY DETAILS STARTING ON PAGE 8



FIELD TRIPS

- **Online Silent Auction Open until Satuday @ 1 PM!**
- **9:30 - 11:30 AM** Valentine Gardens Tour (Green Bay)
- **9 AM - 3 PM** Kāēyas Mamāceqtawak: The Ancient Ones Workshop (Shiocton)
- **1 - 3 PM** Learning from Ancestors & Seed Relatives (Bowler)
- **1 - 3 PM** Connect to the Land: Ice Age Trail Hike (Point Beach, Two Rivers)
- **1 - 4 PM** Green Bay Botanical Garden Tour & Program Exploration (Green Bay)



EVENING ACTIVITIES @ THE TARLTON THEATRE 6 - 9 PM

405-409 Walnut St., Green Bay, WI

DINNER ON YOUR OWN!

- **5:15 - 6:30 PM** Welcome & Registration
- **6:30 PM** Member Meeting at The Tarlton Theater
- **7 PM** "Invitation to Wonder" film at The Tarlton Theater

DAY 2: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6





SESSIONS AT NEVILLE MUSEUM

210 Museum Place, Green Bay, WI

- **Online Silent Auction Open until Satuday @ 1 PM!**
- **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Registration, Volunteer Check-in, & Exhibitor Coffee Hour
- **9:30 AM** Flow Project Art Display Opens
- Keynote speakers & Featured Lunch Speaker!
- Additional off-site workshops will be held in the area.

FRIDAY DETAILS STARTING ON PAGE 11



EVENING ACTIVITIES AT TITLETOWN BREWING CO 6 PM

320 N. Broadway, Green Bay, WI

DINNER ON YOUR OWN!

Join for a relaxing informal evening with tabletop trivia!

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

DAY 3: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7



BAY BEACH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY 9 AM - 3:30 PM

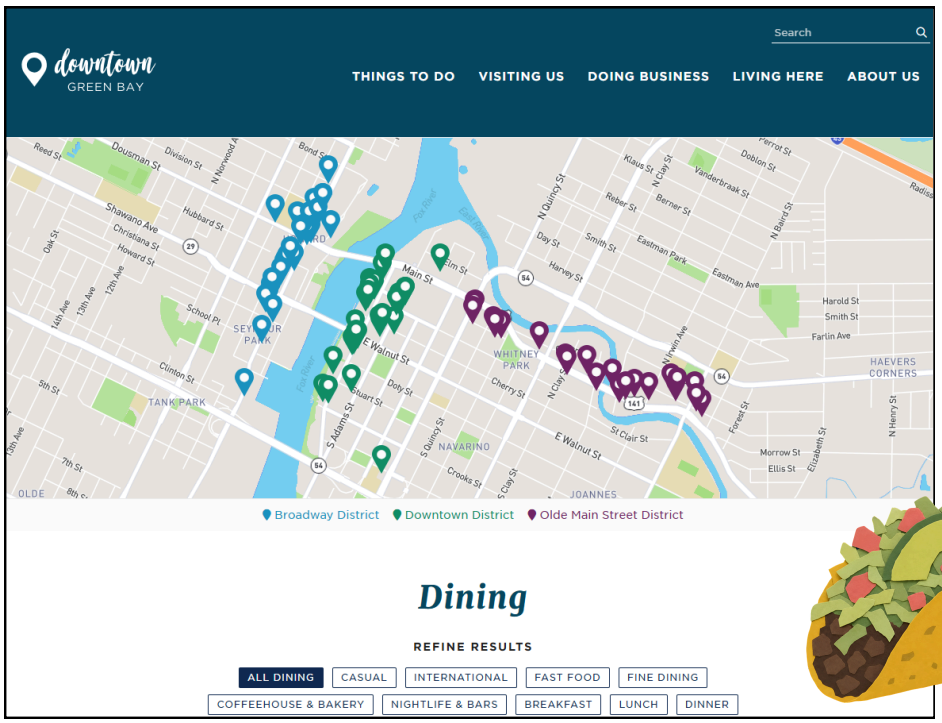
1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay, WI

SATURDAY DETAILS STARTING ON PAGE 15

- **Online Silent Auction Open until Satuday @ 1 PM!**
- **8 - 9 AM** Morning Activity: Historical Aquatic Ecology Walk
- **9 - 9:30 AM** Registration, Volunteer Check-in, & Coffee
- **9 - 9:30 AM** Student Social @ Nature Center Entrance
- **9 - 4 PM** Women + Water Art Display
- Morning keynote, sessions, lunch, and afternoon closing.

GREEN BAY BREAKFAST & DINNER LOCATIONS:

Downtown Green Bay has many great places to eat. **Scan the QR code to check out a restaurant downtown!**









STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



SAM THAYER (FRIDAY @ 9:30 AM)

Neville Public Museum • Auditorium

Rekindling Our Sacred Connection to Wild Food

For untold ages, people have gathered wild food, passing that knowledge from one generation to the next. When we eat something that comes directly from nature, wildness is literally transformed into our bodies. This profound connection strengthens with each foraging experience, building gratitude and awareness. I believe there is no better way to foster young people's interest in the outdoors than to share the ancient knowledge of gathering food. With stories and practical examples, I hope to inspire you to make wild food one of the pillars of your outdoor education programming.

LISA POUPART (FRIDAY @ 5 PM)

Neville Public Museum • Auditorium

Lisa Poupart, Ph.D., is a member of the Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Anishinaabeg. She is an associate professor of First Nations Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and Humanities at UW Green Bay. Dr. Poupart's work is concerned with healing First Nations generational historic trauma. She is also involved in a number of initiatives to standardize First Nations Studies curriculum in K-16. Her collaborative book "Connective Pedagogy: Elder Epistemology, Oral Tradition and Community" explores the traditional knowledge and teaching methodology of the Tribal World (2013, Aboriginal Issues Press/University of Manitoba). Dr. Poupart works with First Nations oral traditional Elders and First Nations youth in higher education settings.



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

FEATURED LUNCH SPEAKER



ROBIN GREENFIELD (FRIDAY @ 1:15 PM)

NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM • AUDITORIUM

Robin Greenfield is an activist, social reformer and servant to Earth, humanity and the plants and animals we share our home with. His life is an experiment with truth and integrity. At the heart of Robin's action-based philosophy is his dedication to living simply and sustainably as a means of active resistance to systems of destruction and exploitation. Through living closely connected to Earth, he is on a path of personal liberation. Through living simply, he rejects societal standards of consumerism that contribute to great inequity and injustice.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MARY BURNS (SATURDAY @ 9:30 AM)

Bay Beach Sanctuary • Auditorium

The creation of an art exhibit can lead to an experience that not only inspires its audience, but educates them—and moves them. Mary Burns' latest exhibit, Women and Water: Woven Portraits From Around the World, gives viewers the opportunity to learn about extraordinary women and their work with water as protectors and advocates, scientists and water-walkers, teachers and farmers, healers and activists. By honoring these women and sharing their stories, the exhibit invites the viewer to consider their own relationship with water and the natural world—offering a learning experience for the head, and also for the heart.



THURSDAY, NOV. 5 SCHEDULE



9 AM - 4 PM
Field Trips (p. 9)

LUNCH IS NOT PROVIDE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

9 AM - 3 PM
Kāēyas Mamāceqtawak: The Ancient Ones Workshop (Shiocton)

9:30 - 11:30 AM
Valentine Gardens (Shiocton)

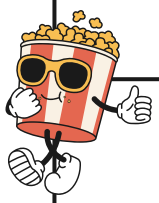
1 - 3 PM
Connect to the Land: Ice Age Trail Hike (Point Beach)

1 - 3 PM
Learning from Ancestors and Seed Relatives (Bowler)

1 - 4 PM
Green Bay Botanical Garden Tour & Program Exploration (Green Bay)

5:15 - 6:30 PM @ THE TARLTON THEATRE
Registration, Volunteer Check-in, & Welcome

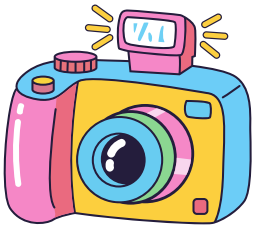
DINNER ON YOUR OWN!



6:30 PM Member Meeting

7 PM Film Screening: Invitation to Wonder
PBS WI & Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH US!



THURSDAY DETAILS

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">Field Trips</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">9 AM - 3 PM
Kāēyas Mamāceqtawak: The Ancient Ones Workshop (Shiocton)</td><td colspan="3">9:30 - 11:30 AM
Valentine Gardens (Shiocton)</td></tr>
<tr><td>1 - 3 PM
Connect to the Land: Ice Age Trail Hike (Point Beach)</td><td>1 - 3 PM
Learning from Our Ancestors and Seed Relatives (Bowler)</td><td>1 - 4 PM
Green Bay Botanical Garden Tour & Program Exploration (Green Bay)</td></tr>
</table>

Valentine Gardens Tour (3026 Nicolet Dr, Green Bay, WI 54311 - driveway on Church Rd.)
Speaker: Sarah Valentine
Description: Valentine Gardens is a 5-acre urban organic farm that strives to work with nature to grow diverse produce, raise pastured livestock, tend a 100 tree orchard and a small apiary. Mark and Sarah Valentine are both educators who offer sustainable living and agriculture education to kids and adults. This field trip will offer participants a farm tour as well as a chance to engage in some local food and farm education activities.

Kāēyas Mamāceqtawak: The Ancient Ones Workshop (Shadows on the Wolf Education Center, N 5575 Old 54 Rd, Shiocton)
Speakers: Anahkwet (Guy) Reiter (Menīkānaehkem Community Rebuilders), Lela Schwitzer (Bonduel Elementary), Sandy Benton (FIELD Edventures), and Anne Moser (UW-Madison Sea Grant Institute)
Description: Through storytelling, discussion and immersive hands-on experiences, participants will gain a deeper understanding of Menominee People and their connection to the sturgeon, gain access to lessons to use in their classroom or teaching contexts, and a bibliography of children's literature written by Native authors to support curriculum. Each participant will receive the book Saving our Sturgeon: Protecting Wisconsin's Ancient Fish and an accompanying curriculum guide, the Aquatic WILD curriculum guide, and other helpful resources. Portions of the workshop will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Learning from Our Ancestors and Seed Relatives (Ancient Roots Homestead, 139 E. Railroad Street, Bowler)
Speaker: Lucy Gringon, Ancient Roots Homestead
Description: At the height of the pandemic, Lucy Grignon and her husband, Waqnahwew, needed a change and founded Ancient Roots Homestead in Bowler. Lucy transitioned from teaching in a modern colonial classroom into working as an educator of Ancient Indigenous skills, ideas, and traditions guided by the ways of her ancestors, and Waqnahwew is a teacher of traditional Menominee arts.

THURSDAY DETAILS

Connect to the Land: Ice Age Trail Hike (Neshotah Park Beach Loop Trailhead)
Speaker: Kathy Waldera
Description: This hike will have us sauntering along the Point Beach segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail as we connect to nature from a November point of view. We hope to inspire wonder and insight into the history of the land we now call Wisconsin. Hike Leaders will also share information about the IATA's Think Outside program which engages 4th graders across the state to connect to their "place", their community.

Scan QR code for directions!

Green Bay Botanical Garden Tour (2600 Larsen Rd, Green Bay)
Speaker: Linda Gustke
Description: At Green Bay Botanical Garden, Nature, Community, and Food all come together! Tour the Garden then go behind-the-scenes into our growing spaces. Discover community connections around food, pollinators, and education. Then head into our classroom to explore the lessons and activities we provide to outside groups.

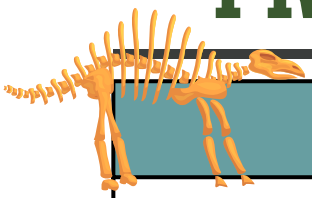
CHECK OUT THE 2026 ONLINE AUCTION!

CLOSES SATURDAY @ 1 PM

All proceeds go to support Conference Scholoarships - thank you!



FRIDAY, NOV. 6 SCHEDULE



BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN!

NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM



8:30 - 9:30 AM
Registration, Volunteer Check-in, & Exhibitor Coffee Hour (Mezzanine)

9:30 AM (all day display!)
Flow Project Art Display Opens

9:30 - 10:15 AM
Keynote Speaker: Sam Thayer (Auditorium) p. 6

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
Off-site workshop: Food as Medicine (De Pere) p.12

10:30 - 11:20 PM & 11:30 - 12:20 PM
Morning Sessions p. 12

12:30 - 1:10 PM
Lunch (Wild Plume - Indigenous Caterer) & Exhibitor Time

1:15 - 1:55 PM
Featured Speaker: Robin Greenfield p. 7

2 - 3:50 PM
Off-site workshop: Preserving Tribal Land, Culture, & Sovereignty (Oneida) p. 14

2 - 2:50 PM & 3 - 3:50 PM
Afternoon Sessions p.14



4 - 5 PM
Exhibitor Challenge p. 21

5 - 5:45 PM
Keynote Speaker: Lisa Poupart (Auditorium) p. 6

DINNER ON YOUR OWN!

6 PM
Evening Activities @ Titletown Brewery
2 ROUNDS OF TABLETOP TRIVIA - COMPLETE BY 8:30 PM

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION DETAILS

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">10:30 - 12:20 AM
Food as Medicine (Sweet Willow Herbals and Cafe, De Pere)</td><td colspan="4">10:30 - 11:20 AM</td></tr>
<tr><td>Growing Learning Opportunities with New Resources (Auditorium)</td><td>Promoting the Full Range of Multi-Cultural Environmental Values in the School Setting (Meeting RM 1)</td><td>Teaching Tiny Explorers Through Nature Play (Meeting RM 2)</td><td>Fashioning a Model Response (Meeting RM 3)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">11:30 AM - 12:20 PM</td></tr>
<tr><td>Braiding Connections, Blooming Change (Auditorium)</td><td>Making Waves: Connecting Students with Wisconsin's Freshwater (Meeting RM 1)</td><td>Bringing Together Early Childhood and Environmental Education in Wisconsin (Meeting RM 2)</td><td>Improving Wellbeing for Ambassador Animals in the Classroom (Meeting RM 3)</td></tr>
</table>

Food as Medicine (Sweet Willow Herbals and Cafe, 109 S Broadway, De Pere)
Speakers: Kathleen Ratteree (Sweet Willow Herbals and Cafe) and Myone Melchert
Description: Participants will work with Sweet Willow Herbals and Cafe co-owner Kathleen Ratteree in partnership with Myone Melchert, an herbalist from the Oneida Nation, to learn about traditional medicines and herbal products.

Growing Learning Opportunities with New Resources (Auditorium)
Speaker: Mia Forslund, PBS WI Education Engagement Specialist
Description: Get to know changemakers who are researching and taking action to sustain foods that nourish cultural and community connections in PBS Wisconsin Education's new series, Field Notes on Climate. Join us in conversations around how these multimedia resources can feed explorations of relationships, foodways, and environmental stewardship.

Promoting the Full Range of Multi-Cultural Environmental Values in the School Setting (Mting RM 1)
Speaker: Lori Huntoon, Founder of Huntoon Environmental Risk Advisors
Description: Environmental stewardship is an excellent forum to bring diverse communities together. Build collaborations among students, staff, and families by celebrating the various ways their families and generations before them showed respect to the environment.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION DETAILS

Teaching Tiny Explorers Through Nature Play (Meeting RM 2)
Speakers: Maddie Jenks & Andrea Bierbrauer, Heckrodt Wetland Reserve Naturalist
Description: This presentation will equip educators with the knowledge and tools needed to engage Early Childhood students in nature. We will explore hands-on learning stations, focusing on sensory exploration, processed-based art and nature play. This presentation will feature activities that can be easily adapted for your own programs. Our goal is to help make environmental education more engaging, accessible and meaningful for our youngest learners.

Fashioning a Model Response (Meeting RM 3)
Speaker: Ginny Carlton, Wisconsin Sea Grant Education Outreach Specialist
Description: According to the United Nations Environment Programme, "the fashion industry is responsible for one-fifth of the 300 million tons of plastic produced globally each year." This session will showcase efforts by Mount Mary University Fashion Department students to utilize sustainable fabrics and feature the Trash Trunk, and Plastic Panic! educational kits which may be borrowed for free.

Braiding Connections, Blooming Change: A Community of Practice approach to Indigenous Models of Sustainability in Environmental Education (Auditorium)
Speaker: Jodi Williams, UWSP Educational Sustainability Doctoral Student
Description: This session discusses the learning and connections that emerged from a year-long collaboration between the Sustainability Development Institute at the College of Menominee Nation and the Environmental Education Department at the School District of Waukesha, centered on the Menominee Theoretical Model of Sustainability and rooted to the place we call home, Wisconsin.

Making Waves: Connecting Students with Wisconsin's Freshwater (Meeting RM 1)
Speakers: Liz Sutton, UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences Outreach Manager
Description: Discover practical ways to connect students with Wisconsin's freshwater through classroom activities, community partnerships, and career exploration. Participants will share ideas, explore free resources from the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin Outreach Network, and leave with ready-to-use strategies that inspire environmental stewardship and meaningful connections to local freshwater.

Bringing Together Early Childhood and Environmental Education in Wisconsin (Meeting RM 2)
Speakers: Tara Von Dollen, WAEE, & Victoria Rydberg-Nania, Wisconsin DPI
Description: Do you help young learners connect with nature? WAEE has been leading statewide coordination and collaboration across early childhood and environmental fields, strengthening the essential overlap. Find out what resources are available to support your teaching and network with others who love fostering a connection with the natural world.

Improving Wellbeing for Ambassador Animals in the Classroom (Meeting RM 3)
Speakers: Isabelle Bieser, Zoological Society of Milwaukee
Description: This session will detail the efforts to improve the well-being of our ambassador animals on education programs with new presentation habitats, well-being data collection, and improved training procedures. These practices have helped us provide more natural presentation methods and have helped us connect our community to nature through empathy messaging.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION DETAILS

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">2 - 3:50 PM
Preserving Tribal Land, Culture, and Sovereignty (Oneida Nation Reservation)</td><td colspan="4">2 - 2:50 PM</td></tr>
<tr><td>Where Nature Meets Innovation: Building a Schoolwide Culture of Outdoor Learning (Auditorium)</td><td>Water Wise = "Water Solutions" (Meeting RM 1)</td><td>Who Already Cares? Finding Hidden Environmental Partners (Meeting RM 2)</td><td>Second Best: Using Props and Models to Interpret and Play (Meeting RM 3)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">3 - 3:50 PM</td></tr>
<tr><td>Future and opportunities for water curriculum in Wisconsin (Auditorium)</td><td>Building Community and Possibility through Outdoor Experiences in Urban Spaces (Meeting RM 1)</td><td>Igniting Climate Action in Wisconsin (Meeting RM 2)</td><td>Small Acts, Stronger Community (Meeting RM 3)</td></tr>
</table>

Preserving Tribal Land, Culture, and Sovereignty - Scan QR code for meeting location!
Speakers: Lea Zeise, Ohe·láku | Among the Cornstalks, & Tony Kuchma, Oneida Land, Environmental, Agriculture, & Food Division
Description: Originally from upstate New York, the Oneida Nation has called 65,400-acres along Duck Creek home for over 200 years. Participants will tour the Ohe:láku (Among the Cornstalks) farm whose mission is to re-learn to care for our ancestral seed relatives and pass on our cultural teachings to the next generations, as well as a bird monitoring project happening on the wetlands in the Oneida Nation Reservation in collaboration with the North East Wisconsin Bird Alliance. Participants will receive a booklet about land use, access, and sovereignty from the Oneida Nation.

Where Nature Meets Innovation: Building a Schoolwide Culture of Outdoor Learning (Auditorium)
Speakers: Melanie Bawek, Lindsay Bagniewski, & Dustin Lovell (Trempealeau Elementary School)
Description: Discover how Trempealeau Elementary transformed outdoor learning into a schoolwide culture. Learn how every student and staff member participates in Outdoor Classroom Days using trails, ponds, gardens, and natural spaces to support academics, wellness, and exploration. Leave with practical ideas to build staff confidence and create meaningful, year-round outdoor learning experiences.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION DETAILS

Water Wise = "Water Solutions" (Meeting RM 1)
Speaker: Jamian Knuth, Harborside Academy
Description: We will showcase the phases of students' work at Harborside Academy, the resources for the students' ideas, how to incorporate the local government, use of university experts, coordination of non-profit organizations, fieldwork in the natural community, and cross-curricular incorporation. Participants will have the ability to interact with students' work from Harborside Academy and see if this student-led project is a fit for them and their community!

Who Already Cares? Finding Hidden Environmental Partners (Meeting RM 2)
Speaker: Carly Hinz & Cassie Bauer, Urban Ecology Center
Description: Your community is full of people, groups, and organizations that care and want to make a difference... you just may not know them yet! In this hands-on workshop, you'll discover the hidden strengths, skills, ideas, and resources already in your community, practice a simple asset-mapping tool, and learn how to build partnerships that strengthen your environmental work.

Second Best: Using Props and Models to Interpret and Play (Meeting RM 3)
Speaker: Beth Mittermaier
Description: Of course, touching nature is best, but is there a second best? I'll share how I have engaged audiences with roadkill butterflies, oversized ant colonies, painted snakes, and more. We'll explore using different media to take a second look at nearby nature and imagine hands-on ways to interpret and play.

Future and opportunities for water curriculum in Wisconsin (Auditorium)
Speaker: Taylor Hamblin, UW-La Crosse
Description: This session explores opportunities for advancing water education in Wisconsin through interdisciplinary, inquiry-based curriculum that connects science, social studies, and civic engagement. Participants will examine lessons from Protecting Nebraska Waters, explore strategies for local adaptation, and leave with classroom resources, inquiry lessons, and implementation ideas for Wisconsin schools.

Building Community and Possibility through Outdoor Experiences in Urban Spaces (Meeting RM 1)
Speakers: Lori Klein, Jodi Hundt, & Pavithra Jadav (Urban Ecology Center)
Description: This session will provide an overview of the Urban Ecology Center, a non-profit with three campuses serving local communities. Presenters will share their experiences as Environmental Education staff. We'll also reflect on food access in the city, and imagine equitable and abundant foodscapes in the future.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION DETAILS

Igniting Climate Action in Wisconsin (Meeting RM 2)
Speakers: Victoria Rydberg-Nania, Wisconsin DPI; Becca Frazen, UWSP; and Crystal Schelonka, UWSP
Description: Climate education is heating up in Wisconsin. New data from educators is informing the development of resources and professional learning opportunities. Join Wisconsin partners to explore what is available, share what you are doing, and learn how you can fire up students to move from anxiety to action.

Small Acts, Stronger Community (Meeting RM 3)
Speakers: Skylar Primm and Amanda Bolan (Koshkonong Trails School)
Description: At Koshkonong Trails School, students participate in monthly service projects to care for our home at the Severson Learning Center. These days evolved from an isolated annual Earth Day tree planting into monthly opportunities to practice stewardship, learn new skills, and build community. Hear from two teachers about this journey.

WAEE MEMBER RECOGNITION!



DEAN SAUERS

This will be Dean's

55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE!



"ALL IN A ROW, NEVER MISSED ONE."

Dean, we're glad you're part of WAEE!

SATURDAY, NOV. 7 SCHEDULE



BAY BEACH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN!

8 - 9 AM
Historical Aquatic Ecology Walk

9 - 9:30 AM Registration, Volunteer Check-in, & Coffee **Student Social @ Nature Center Entrance**	**9 AM** Women & Water Art Display all day!
9:30 - 10:15 AM Keynote Speaker: Mary Burns p. 7	
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Ishkode: The Story of Fire (Fireplace RM) p. 18	**10:30 - 11:20 AM & 11:30 - 12:20 PM** Morning Sessions p. 18
12:30 - 1:20 PM **Taco Bar - Rendards Catering**	
1:30 - 3:20 PM Afternoon Workshops p. 21	
3:30 - 4 PM Conference Closing & Reflection (Outdoor Amphitheater)	



SATURDAY MORNING SESSION DETAILS

10:30 - 11:20 AM				
Bridging Nonformal and Classroom Education Through Green & Healthy Schools (Fireplace RM)	Creating Recycling Champions: Building Community Through Environmental Education (Meeting RM Annex)	Navigating iNaturalist (Auditorium)	To Know Them is to Love Them: A Forestry Refresher (Balcony)	Setting up Seasonal Staff for Camp Success (Picnic Area)
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM				
Ishkode: The Story of Fire (Fireplace RM)	Dig In: Living Soil, Connected Communities (Meeting RM Annex)	AgriSolar Innovations: nature + food + energy (Auditorium)	Advocacy in Action: Voices Advancing Environmental Education (Amphitheater)	

Bridging Nonformal and Classroom Education Through Green & Healthy Schools (Fireplace RM)
Speaker: Xia Lowery, Wisconsin DNR
Description: Nonformal educators, nature centers, and community organizations can support healthier, more sustainable schools through Green & Healthy Schools (GHS). This session explores how your programming can help schools earn badges and recognition, how organizations can become ambassadors, and ways to build meaningful partnerships with local schools through environmental education, student projects, and community connections.

Creating Recycling Champions: Building Community Through Environmental Education (Meeting RM Annex)
Speaker: Kelly Reyer, Winnebago County Solid Waste
Description: Strong communities are built by informed and engaged residents. This presentation will showcase how Winnebago County and the Tri-County Recycling Partnership is cultivating recycling champions through a variety of educational programs designed for classrooms, community groups, and lifelong learners. Explore the development and impact of the Recycle Right Master Class, Resource Trunks, the ABC's of Recycling Right book, and other outreach efforts that empower individuals to share knowledge within their own networks. Learn practical approaches for building community ownership of environmental initiatives and inspiring collective action.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION DETAILS

Navigating iNaturalist (Auditorium)
Speaker: Paul List, Northeast WI Land Trust Conservation Engagement Specialist
Description: Learn ways to enhance your work with iNaturalist: a citizen science project for documenting biodiversity. We will show you how iNaturalist works, share ideas for community events, demonstrate how to create a project that collects all observations on your site, and more.

To Know Them is to Love Them: A Forestry Refresher (Balcony)
Speakers: Nicole Filizetti and Gina Smith, LEAF/Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
Description: Understanding our forests helps us connect more deeply with them. This hands-on workshop will be a refresher on Wisconsin's trees and forests through a dive into the LEAF K-12 Forestry Program's ready-to-use lessons. We will spend some time outside measuring and identifying trees and learning about sustainable forest management.

Setting up Seasonal Staff for Camp Success (Picnic Area)
Speakers: Angela Rivera (Dane County Parks), Lynn Anders (Urban Ecology Center), and Rachael Lewandowski Sarette (Upham Woods)
Description: Join the summer camp coordinators on the panel in examining how to provide summer camp staff with valuable insights, practical strategies, and professional guidance. By engaging with these experts who have extensive backgrounds in outdoor recreation, environmental education and camp leadership - participants will gain a deeper understanding of effective staff training to increase camper outdoor engagement, safety practices, leadership techniques, and program management. The panel discussion will create opportunities for seasonal staff to deliver a safe, inclusive, and memorable outdoor summer camp experience for all campers.

Ishkode: The Story of Fire (Fireplace RM)
Speaker: Evan Larson, Co-Author
Description: This session aims to gather educators of all backgrounds together to collaboratively envision learning activities that could be developed around the new illustrated children's book Ishkode: A Story of Fire (https://www.ishkode.org/ishkode-story-of-fire).

Dig In: Living Soil, Connected Communities (Meeting RM Annex)
Speaker: Mike Aprill, SubjectToClimate WI State Lead for WI Climate Education Hub
Description: Discover how garden-based soil investigations connect ecological science to climate solutions. Experience hands-on, inquiry-driven activities that link soil health to food systems and community stewardship. Leave with free Wisconsin Climate Education Hub resources to facilitate inclusive, place-based learning that honors diverse cultural relationships with the land.

AgriSolar Innovations: Nature + Food + Energy (Auditorium)
Speakers: Gina Smith (KEEP - WI's K-12 Energy Education Program/WI Center for EE) & Angela Rivera (Lussier Family Heritage Center, Dane County Land & Water Resources)
Description: How can one piece of land support food, ecosystems, and energy? Join KEEP and Angela Rivera to explore KEEP's new AgriSolar kit and activities. Discover strategies and tools you can use to engage learners in real-world problem-solving and spark conversations about sustainable communities and innovative land use.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION DETAILS

Advocacy in Action: Voices Advancing Environmental Education (Amphitheater)
Speaker: Xia Lowery, WAEE Advocacy Committee Chair
Description: Advocating for environmental education looks different in every community. Join a panel featuring an elected official, nonprofit leader, educator, and student as they share strategies, successes, and lessons learned from advocating for environmental education in schools and communities. Participants will gain practical insights, inspiration, and tools to strengthen their own advocacy efforts and create lasting change.

THANK YOU, CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, FOR ALL THAT YOU DID FOR THE CONFERENCE!!

- Chris Bory
- Licia Johnson
- Shannon Davis-Foust
- Skylar Primm
- Jenna Richardson
- Rachael Lewandowski Sarette
- Tara Von Dollen
- Victoria Rydberg-Nania
- Megan Giefer-Schimmel
- Xiayou Lowery
- Beca Borkowski
- Zaynab Baalbaki
- Cate Lucas
- Alex Mentele
- Meg Högfeldt

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOP DETAILS

1:30 - 3:20 PM			
Mary Burns - Weaving Workshop (Meeting RM Annex)	Human Ecology Games for People and Wildlife (Auditorium)	Phenology: Leveraging Regular Nature Observations as a Restorative Practice (Picnic Area)	Eating Our Way through PLT's "Trees & Me" Guide (Kitchen)

Mary Burns - Weaving Workshop (Meeting RM Annex)
Description: Weaving is an integral part of nature from plants that anchor a shoreline to mycorrhizal fungi. This introduction to weaving will cover basic techniques – from warping to weaving and finishing your colorful pieces. We will be working on small wooden looms that you will keep and use again

Human Ecology Games for People and Wildlife (Auditorium)
Speaker: Howard Aprill, Wehr Nature Center Naturalist
Description: Engage in games to explore how habitats provide for the needs of animals and plants, how human population pressures and activities often impact habitats, and how people can cooperate to sustainably manage shared natural resources. Raise environmental literacy while building skills in scientific inquiry, critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration.

Phenology: Leveraging Regular Nature Observations as a Restorative Practice (Picnic Area)
Speaker: Kate Witkowski, Northern Waters Environmental School
Description: Students at Northern Waters Environmental School participate in regular phenological observations on our school grounds and beyond. Field journals act as personal nature diaries, in which students are able to focus on the world around them and make connections to the world inside them. In this session, we will discuss getting started with building field journals for each student and using the work of local naturalists to help guide student observations, all while grounding student energy towards focused curiosity.

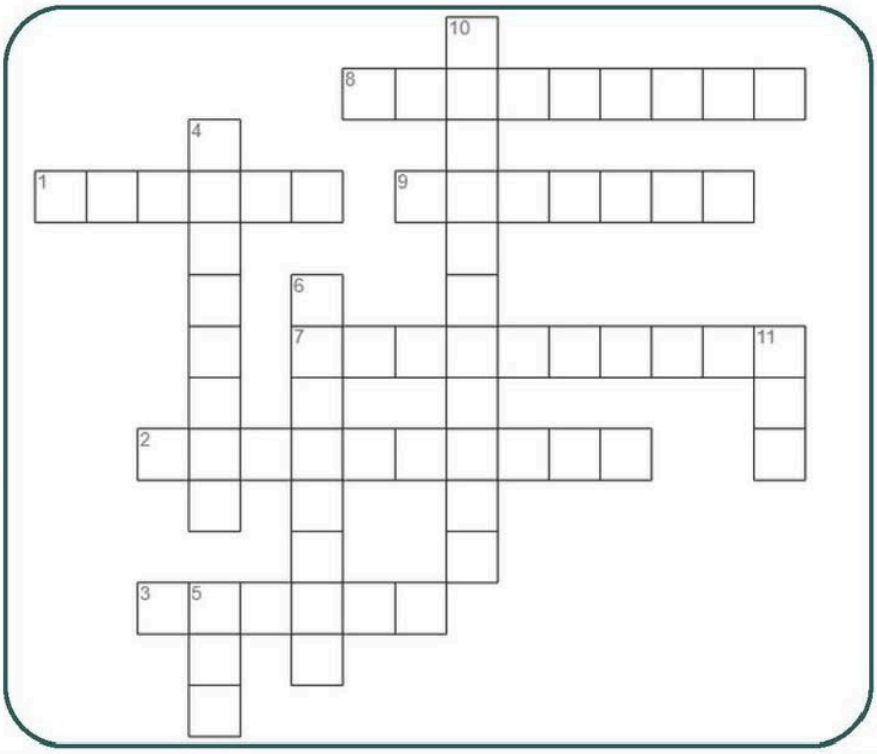
Eating Our Way through PLT's "Trees & Me" Guide (Kitchen)
Speaker: Nicole Filizetti, LEAF/Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
Description: Young nature explorers get HUNGRY! Use snack time as an opportunity to extend the learning. In this participant-driven workshop we will make nature-themed snacks (and some art too!) and explore how food connects us to nature. Participants receive the PLT guide. Note: tree nuts, dairy and gluten will be present.

EXHIBITOR CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Complete & turn into registration table by Friday @ 5 PM to enter your name for a chance to win a prize!

Directions: The number and name of the Exhibitor corresponds with the crossword questions.

1. Education Evolving/ Teacher Powered School
2. Legacy Solar Co-op
3. Green Bay Wild Ones
4. Fox Valley Wild Ones
5. Children's Health Alliance of WI
6. Wisconsin Citizens' Climate Lobby
7. Lynden Sculpture Garden
8. Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
9. Green & Healthy Schools
10. LEAF
11. Field Edventures



ACROSS

1. Our three strategic levers are Thought Leadership, ___ Advocacy, and Educator Support.
2. Communities build this when churches, libraries, schools, & municipalities develop solar.
3. Wisconsin supports the world's largest populations of endangered ___ blue butterfly.
7. Virtual tours and resources are available in our _____ Educators Institute.
8. In 2026 NRF WI celebrated its 40th anniversary and 15th annual Great Wisconsin ___.
9. Schools earn badges to be recognized as a Sprout, Seedling, ___, and Sugar Maple.

DOWN

4. Larval host plant for monarch butterflies.
5. The AQI rates ___ for healthy or hazardous
6. A healthy environment and economy can be achieved by a Carbon Fee & ___.
10. All the trees and plants in and around a city, town, or village; people and animals too!
11. Where to find videos, activities, and games about WI ecology and natural resources.

TEAR HERE