

2025 Fall Conference



Beaver Creek Reserve

Strong Roots, Igniting Change

Thursday, November 13 - Saturday, November 15, 2025

WAE

**wisconsin association
for environmental education**

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Check out the Exhibitors!

Where: Main Lodge

When: Dedicated times listed in schedule & check them out whenever you have free time!

- Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
- Field Edventures
- Ice Age Trail Alliance
- UW-Madison College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
- Teacher-Powered Schools
- Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin
- Wisconsin's K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
- Beaver Creek Reserve

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Ecosystem Level



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

Habitat Level



Nest Level



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Sponsors

Keynote Speakers: Green Team
When: Thursday, Nov. 13 @ 4:30 PM
Where: Auditorium

Led by seniors Chloe Johnson, Ellie Crosby, & Zoey Eckwright (pictured L to R), the Chippewa Falls Green Team has achieved remarkable success in sustainability and innovation. With work spanning renewable energy projects, community engagement, and statewide advocacy, the Green Team's dedication to building a sustainable future not only benefits their community but also inspires others to take action. Join the Green Team for a short introduction and informal Q&A session at Thursday's keynote.



Keynote Speaker: Dexter Patterson
When: Friday, Nov. 14 @ 11:15 AM
Where: Auditorium

Birding is for Everyone: A Journey Through Joy, Nature, and Belonging

Join Dexter Patterson—also known as the Wisco Birder—for a heartfelt and inspiring session exploring birdwatching's power to bring people together. Drawing from his new book *Birds of the Great Lakes*, along with his dynamic storytelling and joyful energy, Dexter shares how connecting with birds helped him find healing, purpose, and community. From beginner tips to inclusive outreach strategies, this talk is perfect for anyone curious about how birding can promote mental wellness, environmental stewardship, and social connection. Discover how the simple act of watching birds can open hearts and build bridges.



8 - 11:30am **Field Trips**

11:30am - 1pm **Lunch** (on your own)

1 - 4pm **Check In & Registration**
Wise Nature Center - Lobby

"Get To Know BCR" Scavenger Hunt!

4pm **Opening Remarks & Keynote: Green Team**
Wise Nature Center - Auditorium

6 - 7pm **Dinner**
Main Lodge

Exhibitor Time
in Main Lodge
5:30 - 6pm

7 - 8pm **Member Meeting & Student Social**
Main Lodge **Night Hike: Meet Outside**
Main Lodge

8 - 9pm **Evening Activities**

- Star Gazing: Hobbs Observatory
- Campfire & S'mores: Fire Pavilion
- Board Games: Main Lodge

Thursday Morning Field Trips

8 - 11:30am	Explore the River Doc Nature Conservancy Presenters: Cate Lucas, Randy Drost, Bert Richard, & Carol Olson <i>Meeting Point:</i> River Doc Nature Conservancy in Rice Lake	Guided Geomorphology Paddle of the Eau Claire River Presenters: Megan Giefer-Schimmel & Grace Bowe <i>Meeting Point:</i> Wise Nature Center at Beaver Creek Reserve	Urban Nature Adventure Tour Presenters: John Muetz & Kristen Giefer <i>Meeting Point:</i> The Local Store in Eau Claire	9:15 - 11:30am
	Connecting Youth with the Ice Age Trail Presenters: Kathy Waldera & Samira Payne <i>Meeting Point:</i> See details on pg. 10!			

Find more details about Thursday Morning Field Trips on page 10!

7:30 - 8:15am	Bird Banding Wise Nature Center - Woodland Room	
8 - 8:45am	Breakfast & Grounding Remarks Main Lodge	
9 - 11am	Morning Sessions	
11:15am - 12:15pm	Keynote: Dexter Patterson Wise Nature Center - Auditorium	
12:15 - 1:15pm	Lunch Main Lodge	Exhibitor Time in Main Lodge 12:15 - 1:15pm
1:15 - 1:45pm	Yoga Auditorium	
2 - 4pm	Afternoon Sessions and Field Trips	
5 - 6pm	Poster Session Outdoor Classroom	Exhibitor Time in Main Lodge 5 - 6pm
6 - 7pm	Dinner Main Lodge	
7 - 9pm	Trivia and Live Auction Main Lodge	

Friday Morning Sessions

	Hobbs	Woodland	Savannah		Main Lodge	OC*	Auditorium	CSC**
9 - 11am	Earn a Badge for Your Classroom, School, or District! Presenter: Xia Lowery	Paths to Disability Inclusion Presenter: Rachael Lewandowski Sarette	Winter Tree & Shrub ID Presenter: Jim Schwiebert	9 - 9:45am	Engaging with Community Partners to Enhance Instruction Presenter: Peter Jaeger	Conservation Science to Policy - A Road Map for Civic Engagement Presenters: Kate Reilly & Dolly Ledin	Together for Birds Presenter: Nicole Filizetti	
				9:45 - 10:15am = Transition/Break				
				10:15 - 11am	Rooted in Standards: Changing EE Presenter: Victoria Rydberg-Nania	Goin' Off Grid (& Living More with Less) Presenter: David Welder	How Well Do You Know the Great Lakes? Presenter: Ginny Carlton	Project-Based Learning to Teach EE Presenter: Andrew Johnson



Find more details about Friday Sessions on pages 11-13!

Friday Sessions

Friday Afternoon Sessions

	Wise NC	Woodland	Savannah	Field Trips			
2 - 4pm	Seeds of Sustainability Presenter: Esther Portnoy	Traditional & Medicinal Uses of Common Plants Presenter: Licia Johnson & Jenna Richardson	Agrivoltaics: Solar & Farming Presenters: Kaitlin Ripley & Gina Smith	Bryophyte Buddies Presenter: Brittany Arnold <i>Meeting Point: Cedar Lodge</i>	Off-Grid Living Presenters: David & Veronica Welder <i>Meeting Point: Citizen Science Center</i>	Rooted in Place: A Justice-Centered Walk Through Nature Presenters: Samira Payne & John Muetz <i>Meeting Point: Main Lodge</i>	Forest Bathing (Session 1) Presenter: Carol Accola <i>Meeting Point: Outdoor Classroom</i>

* OC = Outdoor Classroom

** CSC = Citizen Science Center

7 - 8:15am

Birding

Meet at Lake Front Park in Altoona

8 - 8:45am

Breakfast & Grounding Remarks

Main Lodge

9 - 11am

Morning Sessions

**Exhibitor Time
in Main Lodge
11am - 12pm**

12 - 1pm

Lunch

Main Lodge

1 - 2:45pm

Afternoon Sessions

3 - 4pm

Closing Reflection and Remarks

Outdoor Classroom



Thank you to the 2025 Conference Planning Committee!

Tara Von Dollen - Co-chair
 Skylar Primm - Co-chair
 Megan Giefer-Schimmel - BCR Liaison
 Kristen Giefer - BCR Liaison
 Beca Borkowski - Sponsorships & Registration
 Victoria Rydberg-Nania - Communications & Registration
 Isabelle Bieser - Schedule
 Alex Mentele - Schedule & Program
 Meg Högfeldt - Schedule & Program
 Rachael Lewandowski Sarette - Auctioneer
 Xia Lowery - Student Liaison

Saturday Morning Sessions

Auditorium		Main Lodge	OC*	Savannah	Woodland	CSC**	
8:30am - 12pm	Outdoor Education with Project WILD Presenters: Craig Fischer & Beth Mittemaier	8:30 - 9am = Transition/Break					
		Balancing Carbon Sources & Sinks: The Energy + Forest Equation Presenters: Nicole Filizetti & Gina Smith	Conifer Herbalism: Make Your Own Tea & Salve Presenters: Grace Bowe & Ali Bowe	The Participatory Nature Center Presenter: Alex Mentele	9 - 9:45am	Community Apiaries: Beekeeping for Everyone Presenters: Don Hauser & Corey Grotte	Saving Our Sturgeon: Books & Conservation Stories Presenters: Rebecca Wojahn & Anne Moser
					9:45 - 10:15am = Transition/Break		
					10:15 - 11am	Bringing Pollinators to Your Organization Presenter: Megan Giefer-Schimmel	Creative Change-making: Journaling & Art for Exploring & Stewarding Our Environment Presenter: Mia Forslund

Find more details about Saturday Sessions on pages 14-16!



Saturday Sessions

Saturday Afternoon Sessions

OC*		Auditorium	CSC** (A)		Hobbs	Woodland	Fire Pavilion
1 - 2:45pm	Nature Journaling to Cultivate Curiosity: Tips, Practice, Sharing Presenter: Marjorie Rhine	Aligning EE Curriculum to WI State Standards Presenters: John Muetz & Wendy Nelson	Archie the Algae vs. Hermie the HAB Presenter: Shannon Davis-Foust	1 - 1:45pm	Leave the Leaves Presenter: Jane Mohler, Ron Waits & Cindy Harper	Planning a Native Garden for Pollinators Presenters: Sue Crisp	They're Done - Now What? Presenter: Emily Stangel Philips
				1:45 - 2pm = Transition/Break			
				2 - 2:45pm	Savannah Seeding Change at Writing Camp: A Model for Youth Activist Writing Presenter: Skylar Primm	CSC** (B) EE Through a Faith Community Presenter: Kendra Liddicoat	

* OC = Outdoor Classroom

** CSC = Citizen Science Center

Thursday Morning Field Trips

Explore the River Doc Nature Conservancy

8:30am-12pm • Meeting Point: River Doc Nature Conservancy in Rice Lake

Hear a firsthand account of the history and development of the River Doc Nature Conservancy, a district-wide environmental education program in the Rice Lake Area School District. Walk away with the basic tools to implement a hands-on/minds-on environmental education program that improves children’s cognitive development, buffers the impact of life stress on students, and reduces antisocial behavior such as violence, bullying, and absenteeism. *Presented by Cate Lucas, Randy Drost, Bert Richard, & Carol Olson.*

Guided Geomorphology Paddle of the Eau Claire River

8:30am-12pm • Meeting Point: Wise Nature Center at Beaver Creek Reserve

Join Beaver Creek Reserve Naturalists for a paddle exploring the Eau Claire River and how it was formed. During this paddle you will gain an in-depth understanding of what makes the Eau Claire River unique and enjoy the beauty that surrounds it! Kayaks, paddles, and lifejackets are provided. *Presented by Megan Giefer-Schimmel & Grace Bowe.*

Urban Nature Adventure Tour

8:30am-12pm • Meeting Point: The Local Store in Eau Claire

Explore Eau Claire’s hidden natural space on this unique Urban Nature Trolley Tour. This tour is an ongoing partnership with the Naturalists from Beaver Creek Reserve and the Chippewa River Trolley Company designed to get people into the great outdoors, even within city limits! Guides will escort you off the trolley on short hikes into four hidden urban forests filled with plant life, rock formations, birds, butterflies, mammals, and more. You’ll hear surprising natural histories, fascinating facts, and maybe a bird call or two as you explore hidden trails and access points unknown to the majority of locals. This tour highlights the ways in which environment, society, and culture intersect and tells the local history of “strong roots, igniting change!” We’ll traverse concealed trails high above the Eau Claire River, discover low-lying trails near small waterfall rapids along the Chippewa River, explore the new Half Moon Lake Boardwalk Trail to identify wetland and riparian native species, and summit a key peak of local elevation overlooking the historically crucial Dells Pond waterway. Between each point, enjoy open-air trolley transportation with bonus narration, trivia, and more. *Presented by John Muetz & Kristen Giefer.*

Connecting Youth with the Ice Age Trail

9:15am-12pm • Meeting Point: Wise Nature Center (9:15am) OR Cornell Visitor Center (10:15am)

The Ice Age Trail Alliance believes strongly in sharing natural stories with tomorrow’s leaders through immersive, hands-on experiences. We’ll share specific ways to get students outside (on the Ice Age Trail or other green spaces), along with tips for planning and implementing your own trip. Join us on a walk and talk to learn more! The hike is a gentle 1.5 mile hike along the river and ends in the Ice Age Trail Community of Cornell. Bring a little cash if interested in stopping for ice cream, coffee or both! At this time of year, IATA recommends blaze orange and/or bright colors along the hike. At 9:15am, we’ll meet in the Wise Nature Center parking lot at Beaver Creek, leaving at 9:30am. If participants want to meet there or drive their own vehicle, our anticipated arrival at the Cornell Visitor Center parking lot at 51 Bridge Street is 10:15am. *Presented by Samira Payne & Kathy Waldera.*



Friday Morning Sessions

Earn a Badge for Your Classroom, School, or District!

Workshop • 9-11am • Hobbs Observatory

Join us to discover the exciting new badge system launched by Green & Healthy Schools WI, a collaborative initiative of the Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and Public Instruction. This innovative program recognizes and celebrates the sustainable actions of classrooms, schools, and districts, transforming environmental education into a fun, hands-on learning experience. *Presented by Xia Lowery.*

Paths to Disability Inclusion

Workshop • 9-11am • Woodland Room, Wise Nature Center

Disability inclusion benefits all! Join UW-Madison Extension's Youth with Disabilities Champions to learn practical strategies for creating inclusive spaces. This session explores tools like "Paths to Disability Inclusion" and accessibility kits, empowering you to help young people of all abilities thrive. Get ready to enhance your inclusive practices! *Presented by Rachael Lewandowski Sarette.*

Winter Tree and Shrub ID

Workshop • 9-11am • Savannah Room, Wise Nature Center

No leaves? No problem! Winter is the perfect time to discover trees and shrubs in a whole new way. Learn to identify many native species by their unique bud and bark characteristics and gain a fresh appreciation for the beauty and variety of our winter woodlands. *Presented by Jim Schwiebert.*

Engaging with Community Partners to Enhance Instruction

Concurrent Session • 9-9:45am • Main Lodge

Collaborating with people and organizations in your community can increase the relevance of instructional content. These partnerships can be developed to encourage students to apply their learning to help groups wrestle with environmental issues in their area. *Presented by Peter Jaeger.*

Conservation Science to Policy - A Road Map for Civic Engagement

Concurrent Session • 9-9:45am • Outdoor Classroom

The Road Map uses conservation stories to illustrate how scientists, elected officials, and the public work together to solve issues. Your students and community will discover how science informs policy, how laws and regulations are made, and how everyone can engage in the process. *Presented by Kate Reilly and Dolly Ledin.*

Together for Birds

Concurrent Session • 9-9:45am • Auditorium, Wise Nature Center

What birds live in our communities, and how do they get what they need to live? Outdoors, we'll try three updated PLT activities that help elementary students learn about the outside world and gain an understanding of the interconnectedness of nature. Free e-book included! *Presented by Nicole Filizetti.*

Rooted in Standards: Changing Environmental Education

Concurrent Session • 10:15-11am • Main Lodge

Transforming your EE program but overwhelmed by standards and educational jargon? Unsure how to help teachers see the relevance of EE? Explore Wisconsin's EE standards in connection to the NGSS and other content area standards to provide a fresh framework for novice or experienced formal and non-formal educators. *Presented by Victoria Rydberg-Nania.*

Goin' Off Grid (& Living More with Less)

Concurrent Session • 10:15-11am • Outdoor Classroom

Osseo-based environmental engineer, artist, naturalist and author of "Forth to Basics: A Guide to Goin' Off Grid," Dave will share his journey of transitioning from city life to a fulfilling off-grid lifestyle. Through storytelling, David blends humor and wisdom, offering a unique perspective on sustainable living. *Presented by David Welder.*

How Well Do You Know the Great Lakes?

Concurrent Session • 10:15-12pm • Auditorium, Wise Nature Center

Wisconsin is fortunate to border two Great Lakes. The lakes are indeed great — containing 20% of the world's surface freshwater and more than 10,000 miles of coastline. This session will share activities that help participants get more familiar with the lakes as they visualize the differences in area, shoreline length, human distribution, and fish populations. *Presented by Ginny Carlton.*

Project-Based Learning to Teach Environmental Education

Concurrent Session • 11:15am-12pm • Citizen Science Center

Join Wildlands School Lead Teacher Andrew Johnson on a tour of Wildlands School. Wildlands is a public charter school that opened in 2005, and meets each day at Beaver Creek Reserve. Wildlands is a project-based school, with a strong emphasis on outdoor and environmental education. The tour will discuss a number of environmental education themed projects that Wildlands has led in the past, and showcase the power of project-based learning in the outdoor and environmental education realm. *Presented by Andrew Johnson.*

Friday Afternoon Workshops & Field Trips

Seeds of Sustainability

Workshop • 2-4pm • Wise Nature Center

Students will learn about habitat restoration, how to identify native plants, and why we collect seeds for invasive species management. They will then collect seeds and learn how to process different types of native seed for revegetation of degraded areas on Lynden's grounds. *Presented by Esther Portnoy.*

Traditional and Medicinal Uses of Common Plants

Workshop • 2-4pm • Woodland Room, Wise Nature Center

Participants will learn how to identify, sustainably harvest, and safely use common, wild plants and trees that are found across Wisconsin. We will teach attendees how to make an antibiotic ointment, soothing balm, and needle tea blend that they will get to take home. Please note: this session has a limited capacity of 12 participants and a \$10 fee to cover the cost of materials. *Presented by Jenna Richardson & Licia Johnson.*

Agrivoltaics: Solar and Farming

Workshop • 2-4pm • Savannah Room, Wise Nature Center

How can we balance our need for renewable energy with our need for agriculture? One answer may be agrivoltaics! In this hands-on session, you'll discover the benefits of dual land-use and experiment to find the best layout for an agrivoltaic site. Learn about free resources available to help you teach in engaging, inquiry-based ways. *Presented by Kaitlin Ripley & Gina Smith.*

Bryophyte Buddies

Field Trip • 2-4pm • Meeting Point: Cedar Lodge

For this on-site field trip at BCR participants will be exploring the often overlooked world of mosses and lichens. You'll walk away with a new appreciation for the little parts of the ecosystem we usually don't pay attention to. Brittany will provide moss maps. *Presented by Brittany Arnold.*

Off Grid Living

Field Trip • 2-4pm • Meeting Point: Citizen Science Center

Hosts David and Veronica, WI Certified Master Naturalists, have been living (comfortably) off-grid for 8 years on 20 acres of oak and maple forest at the northern edge of Wisconsin's driftless region. The workshop will start and finish with group Q & A and will include an informal tour of the buildings and surrounding forest. Those wishing to can hike 1/4 mile to a small creek. It's a walking and talking "show-n-tell" education for all ages. Those who wish to hike the trails should be prepared with water-resistant footwear. *Presented by David & Veronica Welder.*

Rooted in Place: A Justice-Centered Walk Through Nature

Field Trip • 2-4pm • Meeting Point: Main Lodge

This hike is inspired by the work of Outdoor Afro — a national network that celebrates and uplifts Black leadership in nature. We'll explore the trail together not just for the beauty of the land, but with an awareness of how our identities, histories, and relationships with nature shape our experiences. While Outdoor Afro centers Black joy and connection to nature, this walk invites us all to consider our own roots, stories, and responsibilities. Explore the beauty of two hidden gems, Beaver Creek Reserve and Big Falls County Park! Catch some late-changing trees or fall colors, discover plants and animals along the way, and explore the unique geology of Big Falls where the Eau Claire River has eroded through the landscape over time. We will take a short break at the falls itself to check out geologic features and admire its beauty this time of year. This hike is 2.5 miles round trip. Please wear long pants and hiking shoes, and bring water for the trek. The terrain is rugged and unpaved, with some rocky and thinner sections of trail along the way. *Presented by Samira Payne & John Muetz.*

Forest Bathing

Field Trip • Session 1: 2-3pm; Session 2: 3-4pm • Meeting Point: Outdoor Classroom

Do forests make you think of work? Forest Bathing (Shinrin Yoku) is a practice of meditation that has been proven to be effective in managing stress. Spend an hour learning a little about this practice, and experiencing how the forests can improve your health. Please dress for the weather, and bring whatever will make you comfortable during your meditation. Please note: Limited capacity of 15 people for this session. *Presented by Carol Accola.*

Friday Evening Poster Session

Visit the Outdoor Classroom from 5-6pm on Friday to talk with students and researchers about their recent projects and fascinating findings!

Skills Important to Success as Environmental Educators and Interpreters: Insights from Graduates

The North American Association for Environmental Education and the National Association for Interpretation provide guidelines for preparation of environmental educators and interpreters. By surveying alumni with related undergraduate degrees, we explored which skills emerging professionals find most important and how prepared they were upon graduation. This poster presents our findings. *Presented by Becca Franzen & Kendra Liddicoat.*

Eco-Anxiety of Demographic Groups of College Students in an Introductory Natural Resource Course

An analysis of the eco-anxiety of college students in an introductory natural resource class at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point through an optional survey. *Presented by Grace Anderson & Gretchen Bruegger.*

Roving: Engagement of Spontaneous Interactions at Schmeckle Reserve

Roving interpretation is intended as a spontaneous interaction with visitors in an informal setting. This practice is widely used, but actual research on the topic and its effectiveness is lacking. This student research project was intended to determine if starting a roving interpretation program at Schmeckle Reserve would be worthwhile. *Presented by Emily Sinclair & Adasyn Bullard.*

Wildland Charter School Posters

Join the middle and high schools students from Wildlands Charter School at Beaver Creek Reserve to explore learning in a project-based environmental research school! *Presented by Wildlands Charter School Students*



Saturday Morning Sessions

Outdoor Education with Project WILD

Workshop • 8:30am-12pm • Auditorium, Wise Nature Center

Take learning outside as a certified Project WILD educator! The Project WILD K-12 Curriculum Guide contains over 80 standards-aligned activities. With WILD Work and In-Step-With-STEM connections, students will learn about wildlife management in a fun, engaging, and thorough manner. Significant portions of the workshop will be spent outdoors. Footwear and attire should be selected for moderate activity. *Presented by Craig Fischer & Beth Mitemaier.*

Balancing Carbon Sources & Sinks: The Energy + Forest Equation

Workshop • 9-11am • Main Lodge

Forest and energy topics add up to powerful climate learning opportunities for students! Learn how solar energy, building efficiency, carbon cycling, urban tree canopy and sustainable forest management lessons work together to help students make sense of the big picture of climate change, while also optimizing opportunities for place-based learning. *Presented by Gina Smith & Nicole Filizetti.*

Conifer Herbalism: Make Your Own Tea & Salve

Workshop • 9-11am • Outdoor Classroom

Explore the powerful properties of conifer trees! We will be starting the class foraging on a hike and ending the class making pine needle tea and a pine chest rub to help with congestion in the upcoming winter months. Please note: this session has a \$10 fee to cover the cost of materials. *Presented by Grace Bowe & Ali Bowe.*

The Participatory Nature Center

Workshop • 9-11am • Savannah Room, Wise Nature Center

Does your nature center have an exhibit space? Are you curious about incorporating more hands-on, participation-based opportunities for visitors? Join this session to not only advance research efforts* into nature center exhibit spaces, but to learn more about participatory practices and their potential to help you create meaningful experiences for visitors! *Presented by Alex Mentele.*

*This session will include a focus group discussion that will be recorded for research purposes and requires informed consent. Your insight and experience is valuable, no matter your level of knowledge around participatory practices!



Community Apiaries: Beekeeping for Everyone

Concurrent Session • 9-9:45am • Woodland Room, Wise Nature Center

The Community Apiary is a collaboration between the Chippewa Valley Beekeepers Association and Xcel Energy designed for beginning beekeepers who might not have a place to site their hive. Youth scholarships are available, providing equipment and mentoring throughout the season. Some adults have an option of renting equipment to decide if beekeeping is for them. Learn about how the collaboration began and continues to operate. *Presented by Don Hauser & Corey Grotte.*

Saving Our Sturgeon: Books & Conservation Stories

Concurrent Session • 9-9:45am • Citizen Science Center

Author Rebecca Hogue Wojahn and Sea Grant Librarian Anne Moser recount the conservation success story about one remarkable (and plenty peculiar) species of fish and share how attendees can help protect these incredible creatures now. Based on their new book *Saving Our Sturgeon: Protecting Wisconsin's Ancient Fish from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press*. *Presented by Rebecca Wojahn & Anne Moser.*

Bringing Pollinators to Your Organization

Concurrent Session • 10:15-11am • Hobbs Observatory

Pollinators are essential to Wisconsin and our world! Come listen and learn ways you can get started or expand pollinator activities, programs, and gardens at your school or organization. *Presented by Megan Giefer-Schimmel.*

Creative Change-making: Journaling & Art for Exploring & Stewarding Our Environment

Concurrent Session • 10:15-11am • Citizen Science Center

From field notebooks to canvases, having spaces to record our observations, questions, and ideas can enhance our experiences outdoors and inspire us to act for our environment. In this session, we'll explore short snippets from new multimedia projects that showcase these creative acts and do some recording and making ourselves. *Presented by Mia Forslund.*

Saturday Afternoon Sessions

Nature Journaling to Cultivate Curiosity: Tips, Practice, Sharing Workshop • 1-2:45pm • Outdoor Classroom

Join us for some nature journaling! We'll look at examples, practice basic strategies and spend time journaling, as well as discuss how the three strands of the Wisconsin Standards for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (Connect, Explore, Engage) weave through the practice of nature journaling. *Presented by Marjorie Rhine.*

Aligning EE Curriculum to WI State Standards Workshop • 1-2:45pm • Auditorium, Wise Nature Center

Join Wendy Nelson, an Education Consultant representing CESA 10, and John Muetz, a Beaver Creek Reserve Naturalist for this workshop intended to help you navigate and integrate Wisconsin Standards for Science and the Next Generation Science Standards into your organization's environmental education curriculum. Having a deeper understanding of the pacing, skills, and concepts that the students and teachers who visit your facility are working on in their science classes will foster more impactful learning experiences outside the classroom while they are out gaining hands-on experience in nature. Participants are encouraged to bring along a lesson plan or two to practice aligning their curriculum to the science standards. This workshop will serve as a good refresher for our formal teachers, and a great introduction to curriculum design for those educators that teach in outdoor interpretive spaces. Equip yourself to be on the same team as your partnering districts and help visiting teachers meet their curriculum goals! *Presented by Wendy Nelson & John Muetz.*

Archie the Algae vs. Herbie the HAB

Workshop • 1-2:45pm • Citizen Science Center, Room A

This session will cover outreach activities we developed as part of an NSF grant at UW Oshkosh to help people of all ages better understand good algae versus harmful algal blooms (HABs). As weather permits, we will be both outside and inside doing activities in relation to water quality. *Presented by Shannon Davis-Foust.*



Leave the Leaves

Concurrent Session • 1-1:45pm • Hobbs Observatory

Participants will be able to identify key overwintering habitat types essential for Wisconsin native bees and beneficial insects, explain how "Leave the Leaves" practices support pollinator conservation through winter months, plan one specific habitat modification for their home, school, or workplace, and access learning resources through BCR's QR-coded trail system for continued education. *Presented by Jane Mohler, Ron Waits, & Cindy Harper.*

Planning a Native Garden for Pollinators

Concurrent Session • 1-1:45pm • Woodland Room, Wise Nature Center

I will be presenting on how to plan a pollinator garden, where to establish the garden, and why we need pollinator-friendly gardens. *Presented by Sue Crisp.*

They're Done - Now What?

Concurrent Session • 1-1:45pm • Fire Pavilion

We can plan extra activities and learning opportunities for groups, but sometimes they just finish too soon. Stuck with 5 minutes to spare before you're done with class? Leave this session with specific ideas and activities that you can keep in your back pocket to use with the next group that finishes early. *Presented by Emily Stangel Philips.*

Seeding Change at Writing Camp: A Model for Youth Activist Writing

Concurrent Session • 2-2:45pm • Savannah Room, Wise Nature Center

Rise Up & Write, a program of the Greater Madison Writing Project, has been amplifying young activists since 2017. During a weeklong summer session, teens research an issue and develop written campaigns for change. We'll explore strategies for fostering youth activist writing that are adaptable to any environmental education setting. *Presented by Skylar Primm.*

EE Through a Faith Community

Concurrent Session • 2-2:45pm • Citizen Science Center, Room B

Growing vegetables for food pantries, picking up litter, sharing environmental poems, composting food waste, planting trees, organizing panel discussions, installing solar panels, and more! Hear how a church green team has been educating community members and taking action for 25 years. Be inspired to make change through your own communities. *Presented by Kendra Liddicoat.*



Need a break?

Head to the Quiet Room for a rest from the hustle

What? Calming activities like journaling, reading, stretching

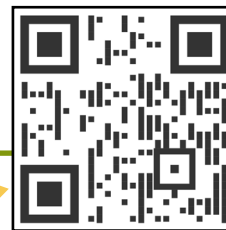
Where? Cedar Lodge communal space

When? Open times posted on the door



Support WAEE

Check out info
by scanning QR
code or go to:
www.waee.org



Become a Member

WAEE Members include teachers, administrators, environmental educators, natural resource professionals, students, supporters, and volunteers. Besides individuals, organizational memberships are available for schools and districts, governmental, not-for-profit, and private entities whose missions align with our work. Memberships are subject to approval.

Become a Sustainer or Sponsor

Be part of expanding environmental education efforts in the state. Consider a recurring monthly donation to make giving effortless!

Volunteer

WAEE has statewide volunteer opportunities. Become a member & learn about those opportunities!

Join a Committee

WAEE needs your help to accomplish our goals! Please consider participating in one or more volunteer committees. You will be added to the committee listserv and the committee chair(s) will be notified. Your participation level will be totally your choice.

Shop

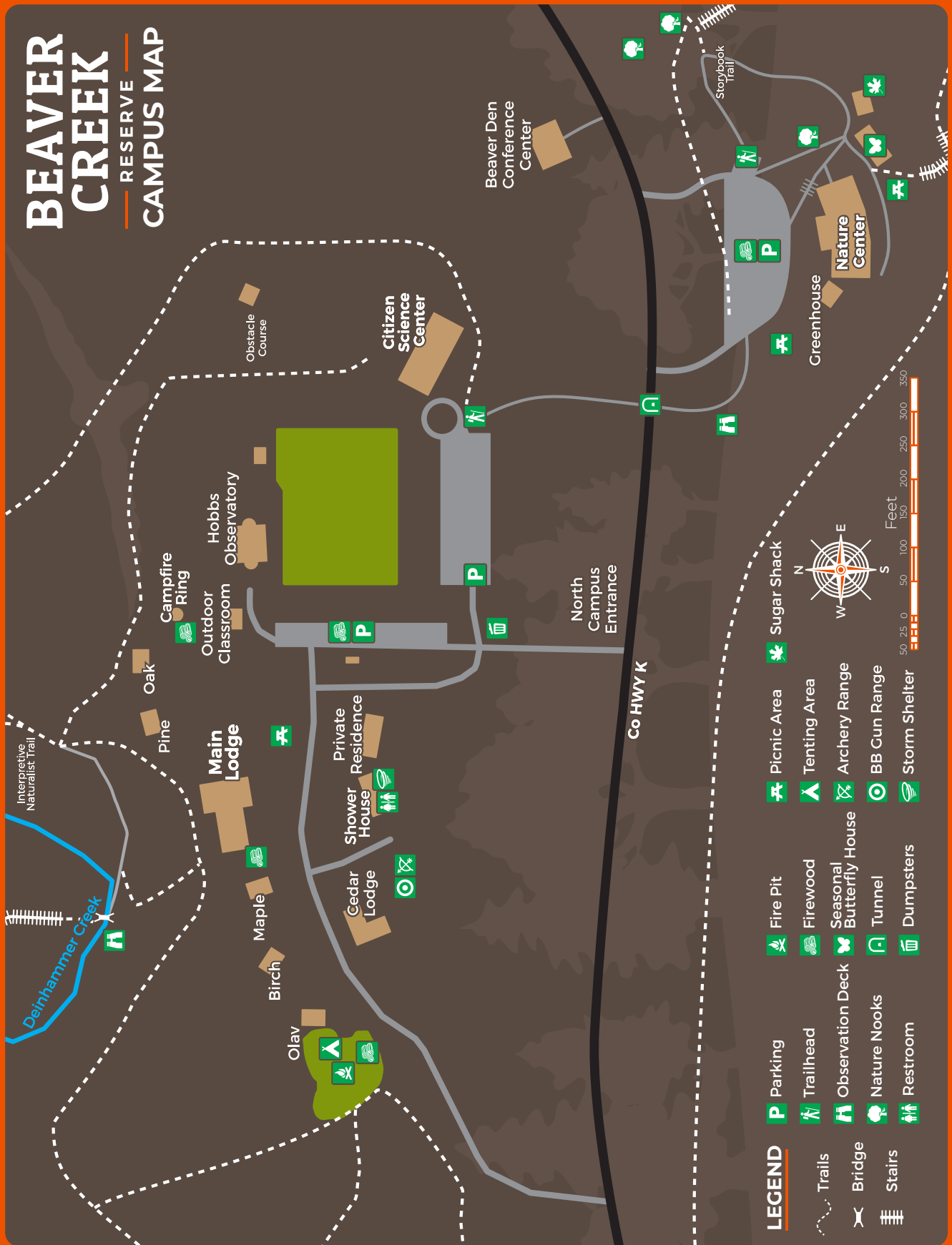
WAEE Merch can be purchased during the conference near the registration table!

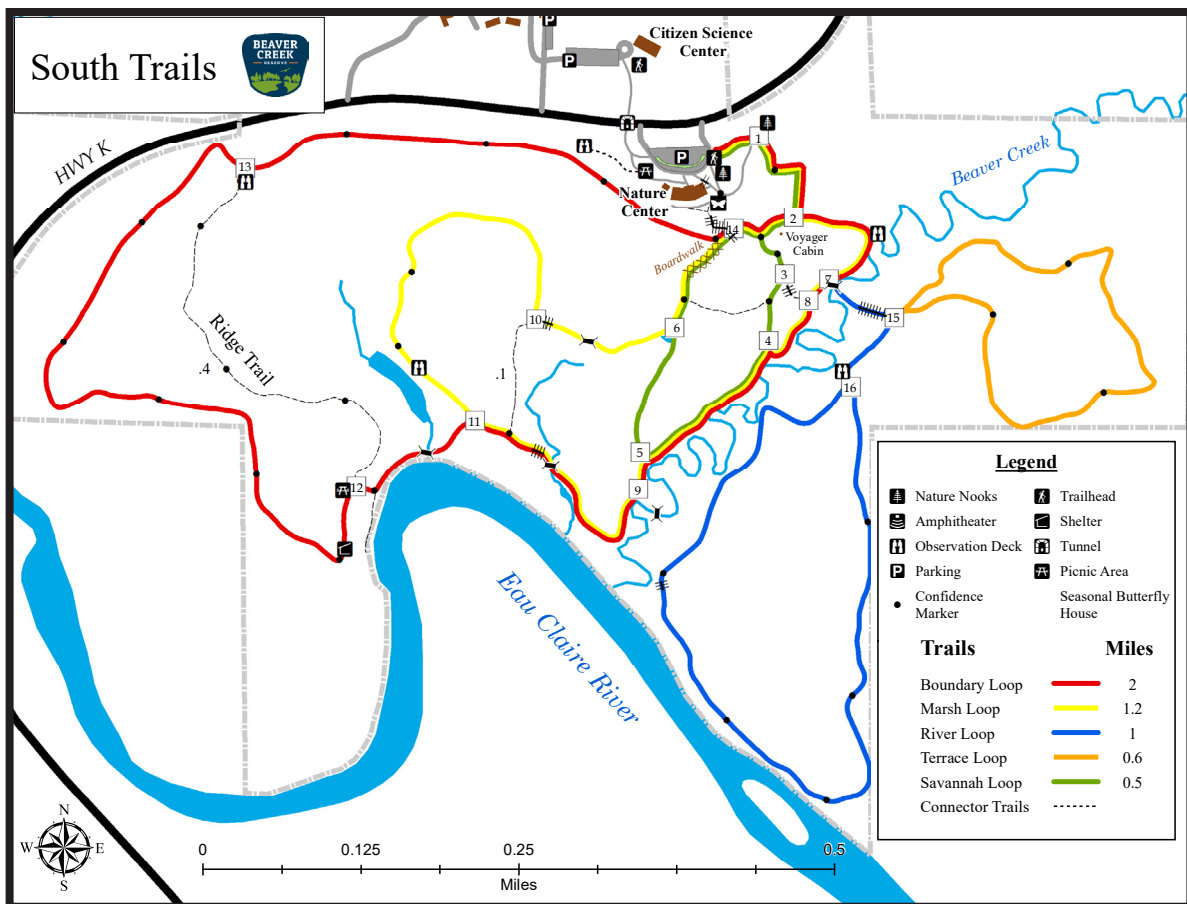
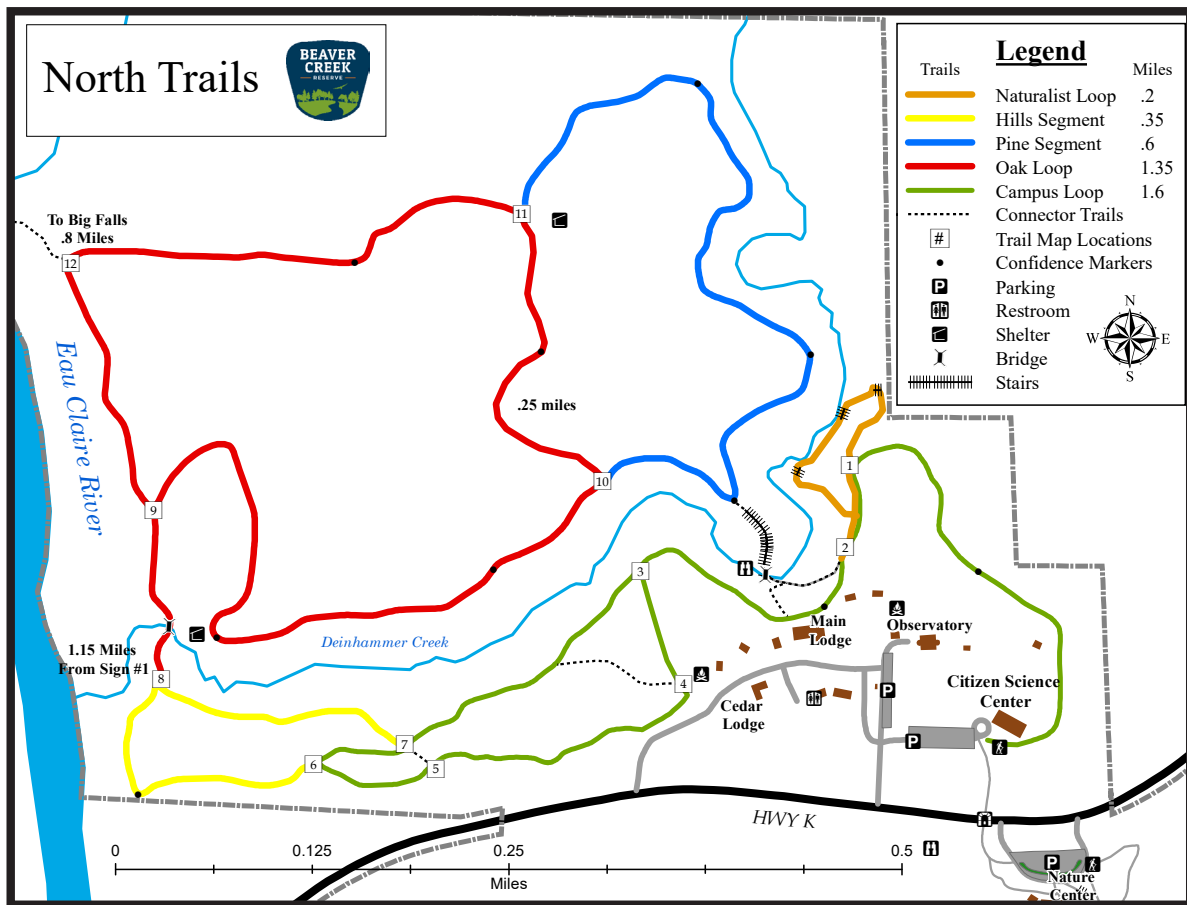


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Maps

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