

EEAI Projects Update

Project Learning Tree®

Having already trained over 330 participants, Project Learning Tree (PLT) is celebrating its first anniversary with EEAI in January. This productive year would not have been possible without the team of 26 dedicated EEAI Project Learning Tree Facilitators who provide training throughout the state. EEAI is further honored to have the support of so many dedicated secondary education Projects providers who believe in the importance of pre-service environmental education. During this quarter alone, almost 100 graduating pre-service teachers from Western and Northern Illinois Universities received the full PLT training and guides before they venture into the classroom next year—thanks to dedicated instructors like Don Powers and Bob



Carter. Already for the spring of 2012, there are four new secondary education pre-service PLT trainings scheduled with EEAI, and we encourage you to increase this number even further. EEAI invites individuals who are affiliated with universities and community colleges to contact us. Find out how you can make Project Learning Tree or Growing Up WILD a component of your curriculum using science methods, early childhood curriculum design, and a suite of other course integration opportunities. We believe that these Projects are a priceless resource for new educators, and we look forward to working with you toward your environmental education goals.

Facilitator High Fives!

Patti Brown with The Nature Institute in Godfrey has led the charge for Growing up WILD (GUW) this year by personally facilitating seven trainings and reaching over 246 participants! Patti has also presented at regional and state conferences on behalf of GUW, and for this we say, "Thank you, Patti!"

As the Agricultural Literacy Coordinator for UI Extension in Macoupin County, Connie Niemann has led several public and private GUW and PLT trainings. In addition, Connie and Patti have worked together to promote and train for the Projects at conference and symposium events. Facilitators like Patti and Connie are truly the fuel that has made this successful program take off.

Betsy Irwin with Lincoln Memorial Gardens in Springfield recently worked with the teachers at Pleasant Plains Elementary to host a specially-designed PLT that focused on their currently under-utilized outdoor acreage and habitat to familiarize teachers with this resource and encourage student participation in the space. The event was highly successful. This was more than simply a PLT workshop; it was a reintroduction to their backyard and how to use it with their students. Kudos to Besty!



Pre-service Students at a PLT Workshop

EEAI Projects Update *(continued)*

Growing Up WILD™

From Rock Island to Alton, Jerseyville to Chicago, Growing Up WILD (G UW) was all over the state this quarter! Now having hosted just under 500 participants since G UW's adoption by EEA I in June 2010, we have certainly made an impact in early childhood classrooms throughout the state. Again, this outreach is only achieved through EEA I's stellar team of 19 G UW Facilitators who make early childhood EE a priority. As Illinois hosted the 2011



Midwest Head Start Conference, EEA I was honored to offer the Midwest G UW training on November 2nd in Chicago for a full crowd from across five states. Region-based Child Care Resource and Referral Services (CCRRS) are an important audience for G UW, as they are charged with providing professional development to in-home daycare providers as well as many other early childhood programs. Reach out to your regional CCRRS to inquire if G UW could be invited to your area! Enjoy the seasonal outdoors with the G UW activity "Tracks!" as you make mashed potato "snow tracks" in the classroom!

EEAI Projects® Coordinator

Sarah Livesay; (217)469-0289; s.livesay@comcast.net

Photos from a recent Growing Up WILD workshop:

