

# Earthteaching News, November 1995

## Earthteaching News

from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum

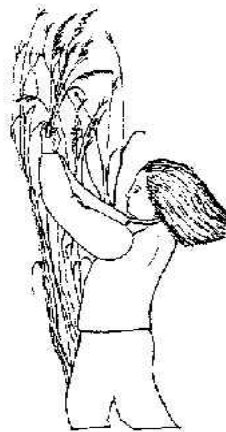
### Earth Partnership for Schools Program

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### Earth Partnership for Families

The Arboretum is pleased to announce our Earth Partnership for Families program. The program provides children and their families experiences which will encourage them to develop a sense of partnership with natural communities and the natural landscape. Eleven Saturday morning programs will run from October 1995 through September 1996. Programs are seasonal and will center around themes such as seed dispersal, food webs, natural phenology and Native Americans. This one-year pilot program is made possible by support from the Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation. Take advantage of this opportunity to get your students and their families involved! For more information, call Cheryl at the Arboretum at 262-9925.



### 1996 Summer Workshop An Exciting Opportunity

We will be starting another two year program for teachers interested in getting a school-wide prairie restoration initiative going. If you are an alum who was part of one of our early short workshops, you may be eligible for participation in this two-year program. We will run a two-week workshop for a pair of teachers from a single school this summer from

June 17-28. We will then run a second two-week workshop during July 1997 for the teacher pair to return with 4-6 other teachers from their school. In addition, there is substantial support and contact during the school year. Two UW-Madison credits will be available for each workshop, and it is likely that stipends will be offered. Give us a call if you are interested. Also, if you know of others who might be interested, please pass this information to them. The deadline for application is February 15, 1996. Call Cheryl or Robin at 262-9925 for more information or an application.



### **Are You Using Us As Much As You Can?**

Yes, we mean it! We have resources available for all alums in the Earth Partnership Program. But you must tell us what you need. Below are some of the ways we might be able to help you at your school.

**Consulting:** Would you like one of us to come to your school and help with site analysis, management or design questions? Would you like a staff inservice or brief presentation at a staff meeting? Would you like someone to meet with your curriculum committee and talk about using the prairie in the classroom (or to give a brief presentation on prairie classroom activities)? Or is there some other format that would work for you and your school? We are available for this type of consulting, although we have to limit our time to about 2 hours of contact time per alum. Phone consultations are welcome too. Contact Cheryl or Robin.



**Arboretum Tours:** Each alum has available two free Arboretum tours. Each tour is 1 1/2 hours and accommodates up to 30 students. We will pay guide costs; you are responsible for transportation costs. In addition, some teachers have elected to stay at the Arboretum and use it as a teaching center for an additional portion of the day. If you wish

to do this, you are responsible for all the teaching and activities outside of the formal tour (unless you wish to use this for some of your "consulting" time). Contact Cheryl or Robin.

**Research Opportunities:** Are you interested in having your school and classroom become part of a larger research study? Our Young Prairie Study is examining how prairie plants become established on young restorations. Your school can be part of the study. We will provide you with site visits and consultation time, the research plan (what your students can do) and a prairie mix for your 1,000 square foot research prairie. The seed mix contains 2 grasses and 13 forbs that we are interested in studying. The mix will need to be supplemented with some of your own seed. Contact Becky.

## Watch for Another Evening Alum Meeting

Talking and brainstorming with other teachers over tasty Mexican food, a brief walk in the golden fall prairie and trying out new prairie seed activities—this was our fall alumni meeting. About 35 teachers joined us and judging from the feedback we received, it was a success. So we will be hosting another alum meeting late this winter or early spring with the same format. We will notify you by postcard when we schedule the next one. Think about attending and connecting with other teachers who are using prairies or prairie restorations in their teaching. If you have specific suggestions for topics or format for the next meeting, contact us.



## Spring Tours? Sign Up Early

If you are interested in a spring Arboretum tour, sign-up as soon as you know what you want. We run many tours in the spring and you can be better assured a compatible time if you arrange it early. For tour scheduling, call Judy Kingsbury at 265-5872.

## Do You Need Money? Grants Are Available

There are a number of grants available to teachers and schools that can help you fund your prairie restoration work. Many of our teachers have received funding which has enabled them to purchase seed, get sub time for planning meetings, obtain help in site preparation, host community prairie events... you name it. Grants range from local to

national and very modest to quite large. Do not overlook asking help in services or money from local businesses; you'd be surprised how many might be eager to help. Below are a few grant possibilities; this is not a comprehensive list, but it might get you started. We are happy to provide background information on the Earth Partnership program to potential donors to help you in securing funding.

### [NSTA Tapestry Grant](#)

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), through the Toyota/Tapestry Grants, awards at least 40 grants of up to \$410,000 to teachers and students in grades K-12. The grants are given each year to support innovative one-year projects which focus on environmental education or physical science. NSTA also has other awards and competitions each year which recognize students, teachers and others. Give them a call and ask for a list of awards, grants and competitions. FMI contact NSTA, Toyota/Tapestry Grants, 1742 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 (phone: 703- 243-7100).

### [NEETF Funds Special EE Projects](#)

Each year the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF), which funds 15-30 projects that link EE with specific environmental issues, aims to facilitate cooperation between public and private agencies. Elementary and secondary schools, as well as school districts and nonprofit groups, are eligible. Grants generally range from \$5,000 to \$50,000, and are awarded twice each year. FMI contact NEETF, 915 15th St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005 (phone: 202-628-8200).

### [President's Environmental Youth Awards](#)

These annual awards go to students in grades K-12 who have completed projects aimed at improving their environments. Young people from around the country are invited annually to participate, in groups or individually. Deadline is Dec. 31. FMI contact Environmental Education Division, Office of Communications, Education and Public Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW 1707, Washington, D.C. 20460 (phone: 202-260-8749).

### [Phillips Environmental Partnership \(PEP\) Grants](#)

Awards from \$500 to \$5,000 are available through this grants program providing support to thoughtful approaches that meet a local environmental need. Primary schools, secondary schools, adult non-profit community organizations, and nature centers are eligible. FMI write Phillips Petroleum Company, PEP Program, 16 D1 PB, Bartlesville, OK 74004.

If you have been particularly successful in getting money from some source (any amount) let us know, we'd love to pass the information on. You can send it to us at the Earth Partnership Program, or call Libby at 262-9925 or send it via e-mail to [epmccann@wisc.edu](mailto:epmccann@wisc.edu)

# Announcements

**Alum Conferences**: Keep your eye out for alum conferences that we will be hosting throughout the year. (Some even include a free dinner!)

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**Prairie Slide Show**: We have a 20 minute slide show entitled A Prairie Journey and accompanying script available for your use. Contact Cheryl.

Cheryl, Robin and Becky can each be reached at (608) 262-9925.