



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Educational Programs



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FIELD TRIPS

CAMP GROUPS

Field Trips

1. **Macroinvertebrate Sampling.** Mayflies, dragonflies, scuds and crayfish all have a lot to tell us about our local streams. Under the guidance of a wildlife biologist, students get to find and identify some of the wondrous creatures that live in a stream or pond. Depending on grade level, students can learn what the bugs say about water quality. This field trip can be conducted at a site near your school, or one near WPWA headquarters. Supplies such as nets, waders, and sorting pans are provided.
1.5-2 hours, Maximum 30 students, \$120.
2. **Water Quality Sampling.** Students get a chance to be true scientists and really see what is going on with a river, pond, or stream near them. They will test two or more sites for water quality, using different indicators such as dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, nutrients, and habitat assessments. *1.5-2 hours, Maximum 30 students, \$120.*
3. **A Tour of the Watershed.** Take a ride around the Pawcatuck Watershed and explore a few of the interesting spots that make it unique. This 3-5 hour guided bus tour starts in the Arcadia Management Area at the headwaters of the Wood River and ends at Napatree Point in Westerly at the mouth of the Pawcatuck River. Stops may include historic mills and mill villages, waste treatment facilities, or a walk on the Charlestown Moraine. Topics of discussion on the tour can be the historic, social, geological, and ecological aspects of the watershed. *3-5 hours, \$200.*

Field trips can be adapted to curriculum needs. Larger groups can be accommodated by special arrangements. It is the school's responsibility to provide transportation and chaperones.

Summer Camps (June-September, also available for schools)

1. **Wood River Kayak.** Kids delight in learning paddling basics as they explore the most pristine river in RI and gain a real appreciation for natural systems. Appropriate for children 10 years or older; each group must be accompanied by at least two responsible adults. *2 ½ hours, Minimum 6, Maximum 28, \$25 per person - includes kayak, paddle, life vest, instruction, and guided tour.*
2. **River Exploration.** Combine our kayaking program above with active aquatic exploration and a lunch spot on the banks of the Wood River for a full day of river enjoyment. After the paddle, budding young naturalists get a chance to wade in a beautiful river as they search for all sorts of interesting critters. A great way to spend a summer day and learn while having fun!
5 hours, Minimum 6, Maximum 28, \$30 per person - includes kayak, paddle, life vest, instruction, guided tour, and all equipment for macroinvertebrate sampling.



TEACHER TRAINING

1. Watershed Science Workshops

These workshops are based on the Active Watershed Education (AWESome!) curriculum developed by the Southern RI Conservation District. The workshops are designed to train teachers in watershed education with an emphasis on understanding the natural processes of a watershed and the results of human interaction with these processes. The goal is to provide teachers with basic scientific information and interactive lessons that span multiple disciplines. Materials are designed for use by grades 4 through 8, but educators at all levels are invited to participate and adapt materials to suit their needs. Two 6-hour workshops are offered:

—*Waters, Wetlands, & Water Quality*
—*Watershed Science*

Check Events page for fees.

2. Project WILD Aquatic

Project WILD Aquatic K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide emphasizes aquatic wildlife and ecosystems in this 6-hour workshop. Based on the Project WILD conceptual framework, these activities are designed for integration into existing courses of study. Instructors may use one, many, or the entire set of activities as the basis for a course of study. All participants will receive a Growing Up WILD curriculum guide free through the RIDEM Fish and Wildlife Aquatic Resource Education (ARE) Program.

\$25 per teacher.



3. Growing Up WILD



Want to teach kids how to eat like a bird? Swim like a fish? Lunch with a bear? Join us for a 4-hour workshop on the Growing Up WILD early childhood education program developed by the

Project WILD Program. This unique curriculum is designed for children 3-7 years old. The workshop will appeal to a variety of educators, including pre school to 2nd grade teachers, day care staff, homeschool parents, and other non-formal educators who teach that age group. All participants will receive a Growing Up WILD curriculum guide free through the ARE Program.

\$25 per teacher.

4. Project WET

Create better water lessons with this 6-hour workshop based on the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands environmental education curriculum guides. These nationally recognized guides are packed with over 100 activities for classroom use to teach students about water and its impact on our lives. Teachers will receive the curriculum guides free through the ARE Program.

\$25 per teacher.

5. Macroinvertebrate Sampling

Provide your students with a chance to explore the science of nature while having fun during this 3-hour workshop. Learn how to conduct a field trip to find and identify aquatic insects and other invertebrates. Selection of sites, methods, and equipment needs will be discussed. References will be provided, including simple invertebrate key guides.

Minimum 4, Maximum 20. \$180 per session.

6. Water Quality Monitoring as a Curriculum Tool

Water quality monitoring requires observational skills, problem solving, and good scientific method. Monitoring can be used for teaching life sciences, mathematics, geography, and language arts. It may also result in a student's insight into, and concern for, their own part of the world. This 3-hour workshop will show how to integrate the study of a nearby water



body into your curriculum. Materials and lesson plans will be provided.

Minimum 4, Maximum 20.

\$180 per session.

Classroom Programs

\$80 each (45 to 60 minute presentation).

1. Watersheds & Stormwater Management.

Students actively use maps, models, and water quality tests to illustrate the terminology and concepts of watershed science. This program compliments Land and Water and Ecosystem kits.

2. Groundwater & Drinking Water.

Key concepts are demonstrated using maps, models, and other materials to help foster an understanding of groundwater. This program compliments Land and Water and Ecosystem kits.

3. Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Ecology.

Bugs have a lot to tell us about the water in which they live. This presentation covers basic facts about aquatic insects and their habitats. It can be combined with the Macroinvertebrate Sampling Field Trip and compliments the Insects and Ecosystem kits.

4. Water Quality in Your Own Backyard.

What is water quality? How do we measure it? What does it tell us? This program looks at different methods for measuring and interpreting water quality. It can be combined with Water Quality Sampling Field Trips and compliments the Ecosystem kit.

5. What About Wetlands?

Swamps, bogs, ponds, streams, and marshes are unique habitats that perform many functions on which we depend. This illustrated discussion will focus on types of wetlands, their natural functions, their value to humans, and how they are under attack today. Appropriate for use with the Land and Water and Ecosystem kits.

Any of the courses listed in this brochure may be adapted to fit the teachers' needs.

WPWA Educators

Denise Poyer has a B.S. in Environmental Management and Wildlife Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Education. She is on the Board of Directors for the RI Environmental Education Association and is a GEMS-Net Mentor.

Heather Hamilton has a B.S. in Environmental Management and Wildlife Biology and a M.A. in Education. She is a former elementary and middle school science teacher and environmental scientist for the State of RI.



Check www.wpwa.org/events.php for dates offered.