

Anne Bartels Nomination for the 2022 Brad Matson Youth Education Award

Since Anne became the Marinette County Education Specialist in 2007 she has shown tremendous commitment to youth education. Although Anne did not invent our Teaching Outdoor Awareness (TOAD) program, she did bring it to the pinnacle of success. In 2006, the year before her arrival, TOAD was delivered to 3,035 individuals at 50 programs. In 2019, TOAD was offered to 8,187 people at 268 programs. Sand Lake Conservation Camp numbers went from 27 campers in 2006 to 77 campers in 2019. Our Environmental Field Day for 4th Graders attendance increased from 363 in 2006 to 482 in 2019.

Anne has also been active with the Envirothon for 5 years, developing and proctoring the Wildlife tests. She has also been an active member of the WLW Youth Education Committee since its inception. She has made presentations at the Annual Conference, help me develop some of the youth education programs I delivered and built the Sand Lake display often exhibited at the conference.

Anne is extremely popular with our local educators. She is always willing to deliver TOAD programs on short notice and modify or create new programs to meet the latest curriculum standards. Children may not always remember her name, but they do remember the “bug lady” or the “bird lady” when they see her outside the class room.

If I had to describe Anne with one word, I would pick joyful. With her collection of weird hats and puppets, encyclopedic knowledge of obscure movies, and ready wit, Anne keeps our entire staff laughing.

With the advent of COVID-19 and the cessation of in-person TOAD programs, Anne did not become demoralized. Instead, she refocused herself into creating a new program. The Pollinator Invitation Garden (PIG) program has proved immensely popular. Native pollinators need our help and Anne has installed more than 40 of these “gateway” gardens at school, homes, and businesses across Marinette County.

Anne Bartels
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2022 Outstanding Youth Educator
Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division (Land Information Department)
Information & Education Specialist
14 years

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SHAWANO



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December 20, 2021

WI Land+Water Conservation Association
Professional Improvement Committee
131 W. Wilson St. Suite #601
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Professional Improvement Committee:

While working for the Land Conservation Department (LCD), I have had the great fortune to work with many resource protection minded individuals and organizations over the years. In 2011, Carolyn Scholl asked me to help with Youth Conservation Camp. This was an opportunity for Shawano County LCD to expand its youth education footprint.

In 2012 I got to meet Anne Bartels who assisted with a few environmental education activities at Youth Conservation Camp (then held at Trees For Tomorrow in Eagle River). In talking with Anne, I learned about some of the environmental education programming she was doing for Marinette County LWCD. I had told Anne that in Shawano County we were looking into having a conservation field day for 5th grade students and she invited me to come over that fall to observe one of their events. So on September 27 I went a city park in Peshtigo and learned how they do it which was very helpful. Anne coordinated the event and at her station (see picture below) taught 4th grade students about Herptiles. I was able to see her passion of educating in action. She was so good with the kids.

In 2016 I volunteered to help with WI Envirothon. At the 2018 event I bumped into.....you guessed it, Anne Bartels. She was leading the test station on wildlife. She is one of those people that naturally draws you in and keeps your attention when she talks.

Earlier this year Anne and I were both part of the agenda for the Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties (WAMSCO) annual meeting. WAMSCO is trying to emulate the TOAD program Anne has helped establish. It was during her presentation that I finally got to see how extensive and far reaching her environmental education work has been and continues to be.

It has been a pleasure getting to know and working with Anne. Her passion for educating those about our environment has stood out to me since we first met. For all her efforts I have noted above I cannot think of a better person than Anne Bartels for the Brad Matson Youth Education Award as the 2022 Outstanding Youth Educator.

Best Regards,

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PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

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THE BRAD MATSON YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD 2022 OUTSTANDING YOUTH EDUCATOR NOMINATION

ANNE BARTELS

Anne is one in a million and an amazing resource for the State of Wisconsin. Her passion for youth conservation education is infectious and it will draw you into whatever program she is presenting. Her talent for program delivery and effectiveness is something everyone should strive for, but few will attain because she is that good. Anne has been a member of the Youth Education Committee since its start and has remained active the entire time. Anne has been the wildlife station captain for the Wisconsin Envirothon for numerous years. She has created wildlife test that embedded the annual current issue and students enjoy taking because of its hands-on, interactive nature. Anne has been the mastermind behind the Sand Lake camp for years. The days at camp are exhausting but the logistics and background work to get the campers to camp is remarkable. Anne tackled that task with a smile on her face and contagious laugh to follow. When the Covid pandemic hit, maybe people dialed back but not Anne. Anne developed new programs that could be presented safely and supplied native plants from her own yard in order to pull them off. Anne has the ability to pull off her programs and job duties effortlessly, this is because of her endless attention to details and communication. Brad Matson would be honored to have Anne Bartels receive this award due to her on-going efforts to make young and old understand the natural world we are all surrounded by.

-Tracy Arnold, Portage County and Youth Education Committee Chair

Anne's involvement with environmental education is extensive, not because it is her job, but an obvious passion. Her knowledge of all things nature is mindboggling. Whether volunteering as the Station Caption for Wildlife at the Wisconsin Envirothon, taking on the monumental task of coordinating the Sand Lake Conservation Camp for so many years, or developing and implementing the countless TOAD (Teaching Outdoor Awareness & Discovery) educational programs, Anne is more than willing to share her expertise with every age in ways they will comprehend.

-Patty Benedict, Portage County and Youth Education Committee Member