EP Press Release

Last week local teachers participated in the Earth Partnership for Schools Institute. This program, founded by the UW-Madison Arboretum, was hosted by Hudson School District and the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development (SCISCD) of UW-River Falls. The workshop was organized by Cindy Landers and was funded by grant money from the Hudson Education Foundation. Participants gained a rich understanding of the ecological systems in our local area and were given a variety of lessons to bring back into their classrooms.

In addition, guest speakers presented in-depth perspectives on sustainability, current status of our local waters and prairie ecosystems, as well as an artistic approach to teaching. Guest speakers included Buck Malick with the St. Croix River Alliance, Kelly Cain from SCISCD at UWRF, Rick Hall of UW-Madison Arboretum, Liz Malanaphy a local artist, Troy Meacham with LandCraft Seed and Services, and Tammy Whittmer and Aleisha Miller with St. Croix Land and Water Conservation.

The inquiry-based workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to form teams and collaborate on potential ecological restoration projects at their school sites and learn of additional community connections.

Quotes from participants: “You know it is a great class when you can’t wait to get to school.” “What a fun week!” “This is the best continuing education class I’ve ever taken.” “I loved every minute!” “Such an awesome week of learning and explorations.” “I can’t wait to share with the children.” “This was such a beneficial week – one which I’ll utilize for years to come and will benefit my students, family and community.”

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