




December 2020

Fall Forum 2020

Upham Woods staff and a previous seasonal naturalist, Brandon, attended Wisconsin 4-H Fall Forum in November and hosted 2 sessions. The first session practiced conservation storytelling. We asked the groups what conservation was and what kinds of conservation projects they have done. We shared some virtual conservation projects other 4-Hers have done. Ariel led the groups in a mini leaf inquiry activity to share observations and discuss the leaf life cycle. We brainstormed what conservation activities would support the leaf, and the tree it's connected to, throughout its life.

The second session focused on summer camp and how to be a stellar camp counselor. The group started by sharing camp memories. To create an inclusive and safe conversation for all, Brandon then led the group in creating community guidelines for the group. Once the community guidelines were established, the prospective camp counselors learned more about how people's identities intersect with their camp experiences. Specifically, the group discussed and learned about gender identity through the gender unicorn activity and identity wheel activities. Ariel discussed the importance of planning, mentoring, and teaching as a camp counselor.



Fall Forum
Scientific Storytelling
Friday, November 6, 2020 evening sessions

Lots of smart, fun 4-Hers attended Upham Woods' Scientific Storytelling workshop on Friday during Fall Forum! They discussed what conservation means and how we need to observe our surroundings to better conserve our natural world. Then, everyone observed a leaf or a house plant and created their own story. Our plants and trees have lots of things to say!

"To try not to use more than you have available."

"Honoring the gifts of the land."

"Ensuring resources are available for the future."

"Balancing human interaction and nature."

"To keep the beauty alive."

"What is conservation?"

"I don't know where you came from. It must have been across the street. I'm always amazed at your strength. The center vein is your life line. Everything branches off of it. How do you stay so strong all summer? I'll look for your tree next time I walk the neighborhood."

"Mine is a maple leaf and was planted 14 years ago, the birds have replanted numerous saplings around our house from this tree. it's a beautiful bright orange and yellow tree now."

"this leaf is fat and juicy and very green."

"A piece broke off from a bigger plant, rooted in the soil, and grew into it's own plant."

LIFE CYCLE OF YOUR LEAF



For more information, contact Justin Hougham, or check out our website:
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Upham Woods Gratitude

This year has been tumultuous, and we would not have weathered the pandemic as well as we have without our partners and friends. From our team to yours - Thank You.

- Here are a few things the Upham team is grateful for this year:
- Isabelle, Program Director - Fall sunshine and her family
 - Ariel, Program Coordinator - All the students we have been able to connect with in 2020!
 - Johanna, Program Coordinator - Family and their health
 - Justin, Director - The work our Upham team has accomplished through the pandemic
 - John, Facility & Operations Director - A healthy team at Upham and a healthy family
 - Jennifer, Office Operations - Opportunity to focus on and clearly see how blessed I am
 - Zoe, Research Program Specialist - Natural spaces and time to spend outside with the people and dogs I care about

Research Accelerators

Upham Woods logged another 600+ points of interaction between Upham staff and K12 students in November through the Research Accelerators. Typically, November is when we start to see fewer students. Working virtually through the Research Accelerators is just



another thing we are grateful for. Here's a highlight from a session with Ronald Reagan High School.

Collecting Wacky Water Critters!



experiment by going over the methodology and the biotic dichotomous key. Ariel then took the group through what macroinvertebrates she found in her stream near her house and bioindexing them. Ariel used iNaturalist to help identify a species. The session ended by talking about phenology and why sampling in the winter might not be representative of the stream and the pollution in the stream.

Wacky Water Critters Scientific Story
Ronald Reagan High School
Mr. Tillman's class
Date: November 6, 2020

Upham Woods staff joined Ronald Reagan High School students to examine macro-invertebrates found in Madison, WI. Coordinator, Ariel collected specimens from Starkweather Creek near her home. The students identified them and completed a biotic survey to determine the water quality.

Why is water important?

"We need water for our food to grow so we can eat."
"Water is also used as an economic good and is being privatized, so it makes us money."
"Water allows the cells in our bodies to carry oxygen to our brains."

Data: Macro-invertebrate species

Leech (Group 4: tolerant to pollution)

Pouch snail & Gilled snail (Group 3 & 4: tolerant to pollution)

Laccophilus (related to the predaceous diving beetle)

Study Site: Starkweather Creek

It looks like a damselfly without wings !!"

Scud (Group 3: semi-tolerant to pollution)

Damselfly larva (Group 2: semi-sensitive to pollution)

Index scores:

1.8	How Healthy is the stream?
	Good: 2.6 - 3.5
	Fair: 2.1 - 2.5
	Poor: 1.0 - 2.0

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Science Strikes Back!

Upham Woods and Escuela Verde are excited to announce that Science Strikes Back will move forward for 2021 in a virtual format on February 3rd at 6 PM. Science Strikes Back is an all ages community science fair that welcomes scientists at any stage in their career to share their interests, community concerns, and projects with each other. *Virtually* anything you can think of involves science and since it won't be in person in Milwaukee this year, we encourage you to submit a project from your couch, snow fort, deer stand, or wherever! The rotating category and grand prize theme this year is Lake Michigan but projects submitted under any of the other six categories (STEAM!) can still win the category prize.

SCIENCE STRIKES BACK:

Submission Categories

SAVE THE DATE !

Science: Sustainable communities

Math: Driven by data

Technology: Use the right tool

Weird Science

Engineering: Solutions-based design

GRAND PRIZE CATEGORY: Lake Michigan

Art: Science is beautiful

Participate - For what issue do you want to raise awareness in your community? Submit an entry to be one of our presenters in our community science fair. Entry cost is \$25 per group

Volunteer- Are you interested in learning more about relevant community issues to both youth and adults? Sign up to become a judge or moderate project presentations!

Become a Sponsor - There are many ways to help us make the science fair better every year, from covering the participation fee for a presenting project to sponsoring an entry category.

For more information, visit our website at www.sciencestrikesback.com

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.

New Construction Update

Recently Completed Work

- Rough Plumbing for restrooms on the first floor
- Stairs leading to staff office space on the second floor
- Connection being made to the Lodge is really visible now!



Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center

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Visit our website

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