



## 2022 End of Year Summary

### Welcome New Staff!



Rachael Lewandowski-Sarette is our new program coordinator. She has spent the past 4 school years working at Environmental Learning Centers from California to Minnesota and has spent her summers working in a Minnesota summer camp for people with disabilities. She is excited to spend time exploring Wisconsin while helping visitors create the best experience possible at Upham Woods. She has a BA in Environmental Science from Northwestern University and an MS in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England.

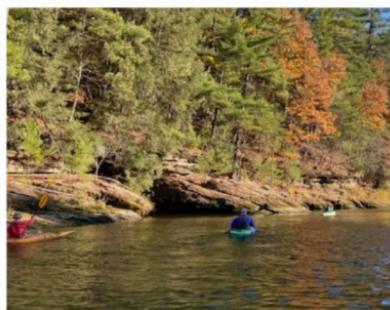


Oliver Meldrum is our new naturalist. He has spent the past two years working as a software developer in Madison and learning about trees in the UW-Arboretum. Before that, he worked on a trail crew in Montana, attended Oberlin College, and taught at middle and high school summer programs. He grew up in Berkeley, CA, and enjoyed backpacking in the Sierras. He is very excited to get to know the woods on Blackhawk Island and go canoeing on the Wisconsin River while helping to make sure visitors have enjoyable and inspiring experiences at Upham.



Brian Kline will be acting as our Interim Office Operations Associate. Brian has been providing fiscal, grant management, and human resources support, to the talented professionals of the NRI since 2017. Before joining the Environmental Resources Center in 2017, he had previous careers in the U.S. Marine Corps and manufacturing operations. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a BS in mathematics and an MBA from UW-Madison.

### JOIN OUR TEAM!



Do you or someone you know want to be the next new employee at Upham Woods? Check out current opportunities on our employment page:

[Current Openings](#)

UW-Madison is committed to providing opportunities to people from all backgrounds to help create a welcoming, empowered, and inclusive community. UW-Madison encourages women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities to apply.

## Upham Woods Celebrates Staff Transitions

The past few months have led to some staffing changes at Upham Woods, which means lots of celebrations as staff move forward with new opportunities!

Isabelle Herde, our Program Director, became the Manager of Innovation and Community Engagement at the Milwaukee Zoo. She would love for everyone to come visit her and all of the animals!

John Celley, our Facility and Operations Director of 3 years, transitioned into a new position with the city of Baraboo in October. We are excited that he is staying close so we can stay in contact.

Jennifer Loveland, our Office Operations Associate for 6 years and former camp counselor, took a job in November as the executive staff assistant with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.



Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Upham Woods over the years. We wish you the best of luck and are excited to hear stories from your new jobs!

## November and December at Upham Woods

Ice is forming and snow has already fallen, which means that winter quickly is coming to Upham Woods. Thanks to all of our visitors the last two months!

- Outreach Programming with Ronald Reagan High School
- Mad City Paddlers
- Outreach Programming with Vincent High School
- Skillet Creek 4-H.
- UW-Madison Natural Resources Institute
- UW-Madison Department of Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences
- Rural Urban Flow
- N-Gage Academy



**Vincent High School  
Research Accelerators**  
Date: November 9, 11, & 16, 2021  
Location: Vincent HS, Milwaukee

**Summary:** Over the course of 3 visits, the environmental science classes used science to explore and understand the world around them. We started with guided experiments, then eventually students designed their own.

**Some terms we learned:**  
Opposite: leaves are paired at a node  
Alternate: leaves are single at each node  
Terminal Bud: grows at the tip of a shoot and causes the shoot to grow longer



### Day 1: Forest Biodiversity

Some species we identified:



For more information, check out our website:  
<http://fyi.uwex.edu/environmentaleducation/>



**Vincent High School  
Biodiversity Around Us**  
Date: November 9, 11, & 16, 2021  
Location: Vincent HS, Milwaukee

**How healthy is the Wisconsin River and the Little Menomonee River?**



### Day 2: Water Quality

	Wisconsin River	Little Menomonee
Dissolved Oxygen	4 ppm Good	2 ppm Fair
pH	7 Excellent	6 Good
Nitrate	5 ppm Good	5 ppm Good
Phosphate	2 ppm Good	2 ppm Good
Bioindicator	2.75 Good	--
Overall	Good+	Good-

Conclusion: Both rivers were healthier than we expected. Per our data, the Wisconsin River is healthier than the Little Menomonee. We wonder how our results would be different if we also did a macroinvertebrate study in the Little Menomonee.



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Day 3: Independent Research

How does the pot size affect soil moisture and soil temperature?

**Controls:** All plants were watered at 8am. All plants were the same species.



Pot Size	Moisture (% saturation)	Soil Temperature (F)
Small	80	73.8
Small	90	66.3
Large	60	69.1
Large	80	66.5



We expected different pot sizes to hold moisture differently. We found that large and small plants have a similar amount of moisture. We also found that the cooler the pot, the more moist it was. The variables may differ based on the placement of plants in the greenhouse.



For more information, check out our website: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/environmentaleducation/>

## Natural Resources Institute Day of Service

Fellow employees from the Natural Resources Institute came out to Upham for a day of professional development, building connections and service. Thanks to 14 volunteers, we were able to clean garden beds, inventory winter equipment, stack picnic tables and move life jackets away from the mice. Our very own Program Coordinator, Rachael, led the learning opportunity on Universal Design for Learning which left everyone with many ideas on creating more accessible programming.



### 2022 Highlights:

- We reached over 4,000 participants this year.
- The busiest month was May with over 1,200 participants.
- May also marked the opening of our new building.
- August saw the return of our first overnight adult group in over 18 months!
- In September we celebrated our 80th Anniversary.

**Covid-19 Update:** The University of Wisconsin continues to refine program safety guidance in alignment with updated recommendations from the CDC. Current communication from the University suggests that multiday overnight youth visits to Upham Woods will be possible this spring. After the new year we will have updated Covid-19 policies outlining the implementation of multiday overnight youth visits in a conscientious way. You can expect further Covid-19 policy updates in the future.

## Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center

N194 County Rd N  
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin  
(608) 254-6461



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



UPHAM  
WOODS

