



March 2021

## Upham Woods Hosts Virtual Equinox Storytelling Summit



2021 Equinox

# Storytelling Summit

Featuring biologist, historian, and writer

**Curt Meine**

Join us, virtually, on **March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** at **1 PM** for an afternoon of storytelling, sharing, and community centered on moments of observation found in Wisconsin's nature.

After Curt's presentation, we'll hear from you! You can come just as a listener or submit your own story to share. From the submissions we receive, we'll ask some of you to share with the gathering.

**We want to hear from you!**  
**Anyone can participate. All you need to do is:**

1. **Pick a Place.**
2. **Make Observations.**
3. **Tell Your Story.**
4. **Let Us Know.**

[For more information on the event, to register, or for more instructions on how to build your story, visit our website.](#)

Want to contribute to the Upham Woods story? Watch for and share your observations on our bi-weekly posts as we tell the story of the spring thaw as seen from our shores of the Wisconsin River.

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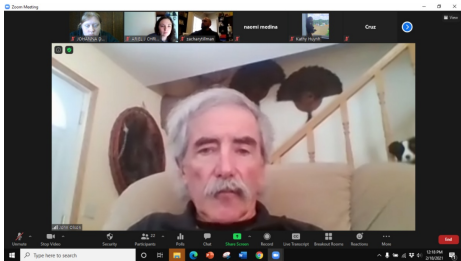
## Science Strikes Back! Community Science Fair Goes Virtual




The Annual Science Strikes Back! Community Science Fair successfully adapted to a virtual world on Feb 3. The fair used ZOOM as the virtual platform for the event utilizing collaborative features like break-out rooms and a group

chat. The event kicked off with a Keynote Presentation led by conservation professional, Christine Bohn with the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust sharing how they use goats to help control invasive species. Everyone then went to their breakout rooms which each had two presentations scheduled in them. Science Strikes Back is a unique science fair open to students and community members alike. Science Strikes Back aims to encourage youth and community members in Milwaukee to critically analyze environmental issues and solve problems in their communities. While there are awards, Science Strikes Back emphasizes passion and curiosity above perfect execution. The event boasts weird science, projects in progress, and a judging rubric that accounts for originality, voice, community contribution and team collaboration.

## Research Accelerators Focus on Environmental Careers

Ronald Reagan High School students were joined by David Ventrano, a retired DNR Fish biologist, for a session on different Environmental Careers. We started by introducing types of environmental jobs: environmental education, academia, working for a non-profit, working as an environmental consultant, and working for the government. Upham Program Coordinator Ariel Christian told the students about environmental education and gave examples of the different types of careers you can have in environmental education. She also spoke about UW Stevens Point, her experiences there, and the different opportunities. Upham Program Coordinator Johanna Desprez spoke about the job opportunities related to working in academia, non-profit, working as an environmental consultant, and mentioned working for the government. We then had our guest speaker David Ventrano talk about his job, how he got there, what it is like to work for the government and lastly advice he has for people trying to get into the field. We ended by giving the students and opportunity to ask questions.





Upham Staff, along with David Ventrano, retired furbearer, joined Ronald Reagan High School students during their virtual science class to discuss environmental careers.


**We explored five different Career Paths:**

- Environmental Education
- Academia
- Working for a non-profit
- Working as an Environmental Consultant
- Working for the Government

For more information, contact Justin Hougham, or check out our website:  
justin.hougham@wisc.edu • (608) 254-6461 • <http://fyi.uwex.edu/environmentaleducation/>

**Environmental Careers**  
**Ronald Reagan High School**  
**Mr. Tillman's A1& A2 & A5 class**  
**Scientific Story**  
**Date: February 19, 2021**

This program is partially funded by the USGS Award # G16AP00092

**David Ventrano-DNR Fisheries Biologist**

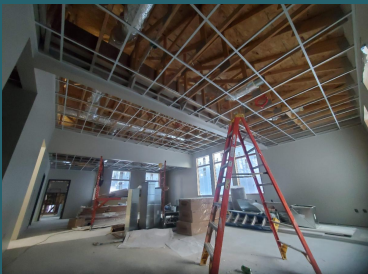
David Ventrano shared his experience working as a DNR Fisheries Biologist. He talked about his fishery restoration projects that led to not needing to restock local streams. He has also worked with farmers to increase the use of regenerative farming that helps protect water sources and fish populations.

**Students asked some great Questions!**

- "Any favorite memories of your career"
- "Was it an easy transition from school into the work field?"
- "What What kind of projects did you do to reestablish trout habitat?"
- "What skills/ qualities did you gain with experience? (adaptability, persistence, etc.)"

## New Construction Update

Here is a quick sneak peek of some of the progress made on the inside of the nearly-completed Upper Dells Education and Research Center, showcasing some drywall and painting work. We're also so proud of our new signage!



Second Floor:  
View of hallway in front  
of staff offices

Second Floor:  
View of work area for our  
program staff

Check out our beautiful  
new signage on Hwy N!

# Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center

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