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WILDLANDS SCHOOL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AUGUSTA  
AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL  
AUGUSTA, WI 54722

# Welcome Back to Wildlands

Welcome back! Another year at Wildlands is in progress. With new ideas, plans, and projects we are excited to see what this year will be like.

Since we only have a few new students in the High School, the rest being returning students, we know the drill and can hop back into action. On the other side of the building, Mr. Hadorn and the Middle School will start their alternating curriculum which will allow the new and returning students to learn new things and get back into the swing of the school year.

We love being active and taking advantage of the nice weather while we can. We have already had a canoe day, spent a day biking at Lowes Creek, and gone to the Renaissance Faire in Minnesota.

High School students are actively performing a bioblitz on the Wetland restoration sites, aging fish from a local fish pond, building authentic furniture for our trapper's cabin, adding finish-

ing touches to the new *Elliot Trail* at Beaver Creek Reserve, and many of them are elbow deep in lots of individual projects!

The Middle School has spent the first few months studying cultural landscapes of the area, identifying prairie plants, teaching the Augusta third grade class about stream water quality, collecting ideas from the Renaissance Faire in Minnesota, and spending time on teambuilding activities. Four middle school students, Nate Larson, Jim Goings, Briahna Vlcek, and Matthew Stanek, were all award winners at the Eau Claire County Land Conservation speaking contest held at Beaver Creek Reserve in early October. Goings has advanced through regionals to the state competition in Steven's Point on November 6th.

If you look at the articles students have written, you can get a more detailed description of what some of the projects entail. Wildlands offers so

many outlets you just need to find them and get plugged in.

This fall we have a lot of new faces at Wildlands School. For the first nine weeks of school we are fortunate to have three student teachers to help with projects and keep us on our toes. Miss Erin Byrne is working with the Middle School & Mr. Hadorn, and Mr. John Bowman & Mr. Jon Erickson are in the High School to help Mrs. Seubert & Mr. Tweed. The High School also welcomed one more staff member, Mr. Chuck Forseth, a retired teacher from Augusta, who will be the High School's third teacher for the year.

As you can tell, Wildlands School doesn't sit back and watch from behind a desk, we are engaged in lots of hands-on activities and this year is going to be awesome!

- Rebekah Wood 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

## The High School is Going to Chicago!

Wildlands High School students are eagerly anticipating a historical and cultural field trip to the windy city of Chicago!

In early November we will charter a coach bus, make the long drive to Chicago, and spend two days exploring the city. The first day we plan to visit the Field Museum, get a behind the scenes tour of Soldier Field, and spend the evening on Navy Pier. On day two we will explore the Museum of Science and Industry, and see how strong our stomachs are on the

103rd floor of the Willis Tower—also known as the Sears Tower Sky Deck.

It will be a brief trip with lots of learning opportunities along the way.

Your support for our school and specifically donations to our school help make unique field trips like this happen. We are using donations to help cover the cost of the charter coach bus for the trip—and we haven't reached our full goal yet. If you'd like to make a donation for our Chicago trip, please fill out the donation form on the back of this news-

letter—check the Chicago field trip line. We really appreciate your continued support (in so many ways!) of our school.

We'll be sure to tell you the highlights of our trip in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

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# Spectacular Adventures with Second Graders!

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Wildlands students hosted the Augusta second graders for the day. The second graders rotated through four different activities including: soil, camouflage, build a pond, and fabulous fish. Here is just a little overview about what was done when the second grade class came for an exiting day at Wildlands School.

In the soil group, the 2nd graders had the opportunity to dig in the soil and find the bugs that live there. They also learned how to identify the different parts of bugs: head, thorax, abdomen, antennae, eyes, and legs.

With the fabulous fish group, the kids did an activity called "fashion a fish". They were able to create their own unique fish. In doing this activity, the second grade class learned all about adaptations. With this knowledge, they made their own unique adaptations to their paper fish.

For the "create a pond" activity, there was a tarp set up filled with mucky water containing lots of different bug species. The second graders used their little

hands to sift through the water and collect bugs. Using a tweezers they again practiced identifying different parts of bugs.

In the "camouflage" group, the little munchkins were taught all about different kinds of camouflage, and how animals and insects use it to survive. They also participated in a bug hunt and got to explore the nature center.

The second graders and their teachers ate lunch with us, and played games with them outside afterwards. At the end of the day, after all of the kids had rotated through all of the activities, they got to make their own bugs out of frosting, candy, and pretzels. Over all, the day went very well and all of the second graders enjoyed themselves immensely. It was very crazy having them with us for the day. I think that it was a great learning experience for all of us.

-Sophie Black, 9th Grade

*Stay tuned! We've asked the 2nd graders to be our reading buddies!*



## What's Going on with the Cabin?

Last school year a few high school students, including myself, came up with plans for building a bed, table, counter, and other miscellaneous items to furnish the historic trappers cabin that the school is restoring. After drawing up the plans for the various items, we came up with a materials list and bought the needed supplies.

We cut the wood for constructing the bed and table last year, but only ended up making the bed. Even though we constructed the bed, we weren't done with it yet. The design we were using was a rope bed, which meant it needed rope going from end to end and across it upon which to lay a mattress. This meant we still had to drill holes in the bed frame to put the rope through.

This fall we drilled holes in the bed frame, put the rope through the holes, and secured the rope to the bed frame. After finishing the rope bed, we built the table for the cabin. Soon, we will be starting construction on another item for the cabin, and hope to have a counter, shelving, stools, and a small night stand built by the end of the school year. After the furniture has been built, we will accessorize the cabin with your donated antiques! Thanks for your contributions!

- Brett Lewallen, 11th Grade



## Prehistoric Timeline Trail

My project is a prehistoric timeline that will go along a 4000 meter trail. There are 14 eras that will be covered on the timeline, starting with the Archean and ending with the Quaternary. The purpose of this project is to teach people, including myself, about how life has evolved. I will also learn about the events that happened in those time periods, and my trail sections will represent the length of each era.

I used something called ArcMap that allowed me to accurately measure a 4000 meter trail. It also helped me measure out where the signs would go on the trail. The signs needed to be the correct distance apart

to correspond to how many years they were covering. Every two steps that you take on the timeline trail is equivalent to 1 million years!

Once I am done making signs for my timeline, I will put them on the trail according to where I measured them on ArcMap. After that, I will make a brochure telling people about the different time periods and about some things that lived during those times. Once everything is finished, I will take the school on a tour of the prehistoric timeline trail.

- Clare Nelson, 9th Grade

## Videos for a Good Cause

Wildlands School has had the pleasure of having schools from all around the state come to tour our facility. Some of them want to have their students do projects that Wildlands students have done in the past, but unfortunately, many of them don't quite know how to go about doing these projects. That's why Wildlands had received a dissemination grant to produce video tutorials that will help other schools out. The video library will be located right on the Wildlands School website so a specific video will be easy to find.

The videos are produced primarily by Wildlands students with some help from the staff. Each of these videos will show how to complete a project from start to finish. No detail will be left out; they will show the necessary materials, explain how to perform the procedures,

and show how to analyze the recorded data. Most videos will be only a few minutes long, meaning they will be to the point, to clearly and efficiently convey information.

The videos are produced on a professional level, thanks to the equipment we have available. The footage for each video is recorded in High Definition, edited in Final Cut Pro or iMovie and the final product can be viewed in HD right on YouTube. (The new Wildlands School YouTube channel is located at [www.youtube.com/WildlandSchoolVideo](http://www.youtube.com/WildlandSchoolVideo)) Hopefully, students, teachers, and the public will find these videos helpful and informative.

Of course, these kind of videos need to have an introduction, or signature, to show that they were produced by staff and students at Wildlands School.

For a while, work was put into making a few creative introduction clips. After a video has been edited, one of these introductions is added to the very beginning and credits are put on the end of the video. Once this has been done the video is ready to be uploaded to YouTube, and it is linked to the Wildlands School video library.

I really enjoy being a part of the video production team. We got off to a great start making our instructional videos, but there are still lots of them that need to be made. This will be a lot of work, but it will definitely be rewarding and enjoyable knowing the videos are made for a good cause.

-Asher Velin, 12th Grade

## A Trip to the Faire

On Friday, October 1st the Wildlands Middle School took a trip to the Renaissance Faire in Minnesota. The faire was filled with old-fashioned games, stores and shows. The Middle School enjoyed a variety of activities including watching jousting, eating turkey legs and watching shows such as hypnotists and magicians.

The Wildlands' students went to the faire for research. We will be doing a Medieval Festival in the spring, and so went to the faire to gather ideas.

-Felicia Deering, 7th Grade



*Wildlands students have started to uncover artifacts from the original settlement in Fall Creek. Look for a full article in our next newsletter!*

Don't we look AmAzInG in color?!

## Accessorizing the Elliot Trail



Sophie Black and I (Moriah Vlcek) started a project that has to do with one of the Beaver Creek trails. We decided to help Beaver Creek out by making, benches, a shelter, a picnic table, and some maps for their new Elliot trail.

We started by walking the Elliot trail, taking GPS's with us, so we could see our tracks. The second time we walked the trail we marked all the spots where we wanted to put a bench, a shelter, or a picnic table. After we got our tracks and marks, we went back to school and downloaded the tracks and waypoints. (A waypoint is a geographical location marked on the GPS.)

Once the trail was mapped, we got a bench plan from Mr. Forseth and found a really good picnic table plan on the internet. For the shelter, we got measurements from an existing one on the Beaver Creek Reserve property.

Once we had our plans, we had to figure out what materials to use and how much materials we needed. When we had a supplies list made up we called Lamperts and asked what the cost of the different boards would be. After we had the list of supplies and what they cost, we added them up to make sure we had all we needed. The last thing we did was order the wood.

When we had all our wood we measured and cut all the boards. We have now started making the benches, the shelter and the picnic table. We hope to get everything done and out on the trail before it snows!

- Moriah Vlcek, 9th Grade

## Meet our Student Teachers

### Introducing Mr. Erickson...



Mr. Erickson is the most interesting man in the world. Mr. Erickson is a senior biology education major from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. He grew up in Jim Falls, Wisconsin and graduated from Cornell High School in 2005. He is currently completing his last semester of his student teaching experiences.

He has been at Wildlands since the first week of September, and will be here until November 9<sup>th</sup>. After Wildlands, Mr. Erickson will be teaching at Cumberland Middle School for the second quarter of the school year. When asked why he likes teaching at Wildlands, Mr. Erickson said, "I enjoy working with students on projects that they are very passionate about. The things these students come up with are incredible and it is fun to watch them as they progress through their projects." Mr. Erickson is an avid outdoorsman with particular interest in bow hunting, fishing, and biking.

### Introducing Miss. Byrne...



My story begins in Milwaukee, WI and is currently being written from Eau Claire, WI where the fall air is brisk, but the surroundings are breathtaking. I left Milwaukee searching for the answer to the question, "What am I going to do with the rest of my life," and in Eau Claire I found just that. When I started out at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, I majored in Chemistry, but soon realized that a life as a pharmacist would not be a fulfilling one.

I was undecided in collage, and unlike most of my fellow freshman, was restless to discover what profession would allow me to offer my talents to the world. It was not until my much younger sister Julia started Kindergarten that I realized that teaching was the life long profession for me.

When I found out that I was placed at Wildlands for my first student teaching assignment I was both nervous and exited at the same time. Despite my nervous feelings, I have loved my time here at Wildlands immensely. I am sad to see my time here over already! I know that what I have learned during my time at Wildlands will help me as I start student teaching in Ireland. I have gained so much knowledge about teaching project based learning, and acquired a great amount of hands on learning about teaching in general.

#### Newsletter Team:

Editor in Chief—Maddie Black

Support Staff—Max McCormick and Sam Larson

### Introducing Mr. Bowman...



Mr. Bowman is the most interesting man in the world. He was born in 1985 at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He graduated from Memorial High-school in 2003 with an interest in marine sciences. From 2003 -2006 he attended Northland College, an Environmental Liberal Arts school (located in Ashland, WI) where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Biology.

During college, Mr. Bowman obtained his *Divemaster* certification from the PADI school of dive instructors and planned on moving to Honduras to study marine biology and SCUBA dive. However, just before he graduated from Northland College in December 2006, Mr. Bowman met a girl, fell in love, and a while later got married. While his fiancé was finishing school (for biology), Mr. Bowman began substitute teaching in the Ashland school district and discovered an unknown passion for teaching.

After getting married, Mr. Bowman and his wife, Reena, moved to Eau Claire to be closer to their families. Mr. Bowman started substitute teaching in the Eau Claire Area School District and enrolled in classes to earn his teaching license. When asked what he thought about his experience at Wildlands, Mr. Bowman said, "I think that this school represents the future of education, and it's one of the coolest things I've ever participated in. I love teaching science and to be in an environment with such resources and enthusiastic students is absolutely incredible!"



Clockwise, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Bowman, and Miss. Byrne help students with various projects throughout the first nine weeks of school. We're going to miss them when they leave!



# Mushroom Bioblitz

This fall, four students have been doing a Bio Blitz on searching for various types of fungi. The main focus was on mushrooms. We traveled Mr. Tweed's property and searched in places we knew that mushrooms grew, such as wet and moist places and acidic spots. We went out to Mr. Tweed's property three times and found tons of mushrooms. We brought them back to the school for identification. Mushrooms are the hardest thing we have ever tried identify! We used four mushrooms identification books to help us in this adventure of identifying! With lots of help from Mr. Bowman, one of the student teachers, we were able to identify some (not many) of the mushrooms.

Things we used were the identification books, containers for the mushrooms, GPS to mark the mushrooms locations, camera to take pictures of the surrounding area the mushrooms were growing in, and a scalpel to cut them precisely for better examination. We also used Light Microscopes to get a close up view of the spores and other features of the mushroom.



There are three key identification areas to help identify the mushrooms. The first thing we look at is color. The reason we look at the color is because it's one of the main distinction between mushrooms. The next thing we look at is to see if it has gills or polypores. If it has gill, we look at how it's attached to the stem/stock. The third thing we look at is the color of the spores. There are two ways we can look at the color of the spore. We can use the microscope, as we had said before, and get close up views of the spore in between the gills or polypores. The other way we could look at spores is doing spore prints, which is actually a really interesting way to see the color. You remove the stem/stock of the mushroom and lay the head of the mushroom down on a piece of paper gill side down. Gravity pulls the spores down onto the piece of paper which leaves a clear print of the spore pattern. Spore color is an important characteristic used in the identification of mushrooms.

After doing the mushroom project we learned how to correctly identify mushrooms and carefully harvest them. We had a hard time identifying them, but we had fun doing it. I hope you take interest in this and try it out yourself.

-Sarah Rosenquist & Mike Barton, 10th Grade

## Conservatively Speaking

Once again, Wildlands middle school students qualified to go to the next level in the Eau Claire conservation speech contest. First, the students had to write a speech about nature resources. Next, they gave their speech to the teachers and class while the teacher judged the speech. The teacher chose the students with the best speeches. Four of the students from Wildlands school went, including: Nate Larson (6<sup>th</sup> grade), Jim

Goings (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Matt Stanek (8<sup>th</sup> grade), and Briahna Vleck (7<sup>th</sup> grade). At the county level, Matt Stanek got 3<sup>rd</sup> place, I got 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Jim Goings got 1<sup>st</sup> - overall in the junior division. Nate Larson got 1<sup>st</sup> place in elementary level. Wildlands School is very pleased with the accomplishment of their students.

Goings has advanced to the state competition in Steven's Point. Good luck Jim!  
-Briahna Vleck, 7th Grade



## Drum Lessons

Going to High School at Wildlands offers many advantages. We have more freedom to learn about the things that we are most interested in, and we have far more independence than at any other school. In fact, one of the only disadvantages that we have is that we have no music classes. Sure, some of the students were able to take guitar lessons from Mr. Tweed, but for people who are interested in other instruments there isn't much we can do.

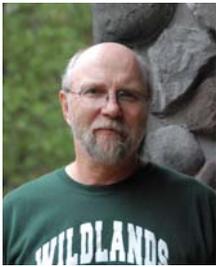
This bothered me for quite a while. By the end of Middle School I was finally getting started with some harder, more interesting drum stuff, but because of the different schedule in the High School I had to cut my time in band short. For the past two years I've had my drum set sitting in the corner collecting dust and taking up space.

It wasn't until sometime last summer that I found a solution. I was searching on Youtube, when I found a link to a website called 'freedrumlessons.com.' At first I was tentative, thinking it was probably just a way for some doofus to put viruses on my computer. After I finally gave it a try, I found it could actually be just what I was looking for. It had lessons about everything that I wanted to know, and it was set up in a way that I could pick up right where I left off.

Even though I'm just getting started with it, I'm confident it that will greatly enhance what I know about drumming and music in general, and will help provide me with a worthwhile, lifelong hobby.

-Riley McCormick, 11th Grade

# Q & A with Mr. Forseth



Q. How long have you been teaching?

A. This will be my 36 year of teaching. I taught 33 years at Augusta High School, 2 years at a private residential treatment center, and now I am at Wildlands.

Q. What is your favorite project that you have worked on in your teaching career?

A. I have worked on quite a few projects in my teaching career; it is hard to pick a favorite. One project that I have enjoyed was one that I worked on with Mr. Tweed and Mr. Hadorn. During the project we worked with students from all different backgrounds and abilities on stream and lake studies. We ran pretty vigorous tests on lakes and streams such as Coon Fork Lake, and Lake Eau Claire. A more recent project that was one of my favorites, was building a 17 foot cedar strip canoe, with my students at Augusta.

Q. Why are you at Wildlands?

A. That is a good question. There are three specific reasons why I am here at Wildlands.

1. I believe that all students learn in a variety of different delivery systems. Wildlands teachers know that, and are able to work with students in the way that they learn best.
2. I have had the privilege of working with both Mr. Hadorn and Mr. Tweed on several occasions, and we have a great working relationship, so when the opportunity came to work with them again, I wanted to jump at it.
3. Because Wildlands School was awarded the Dissemination Grant, it made it possible for me to be hired here. I am here to help, and to stand in for Mr. Tweed when Dissemination Grant activities take him away from school.

Q. What is your favorite part of Wildlands?

A. The students.

Q. Where did you go to college, and what did you major in?

A. I Graduated from UW Stevens Point in 1973 with a Major in Biology and a Minor in Psychology. I received my Masters Degree in special education from UW Oshkosh in 1977.

Q. What are your hobbies and favorite activities outside of school?

A. I like to hunt, fish, canoe, kayak, bike, run, and play basketball with Mr. Hadorn. My family is my top hobby though. I have will be married for 38 years in December and have two grown sons and five grandchildren ages 5-18.

*Thanks Mr. Forseth! We're glad to have you as part of the Wildlands Family!*

## Building a Longboard



One of my major hobbies is riding a longboard, or longboarding. A longboard is exactly what it sounds like, a longboard! It is basically a long skateboard with larger wheels that make it perform better at higher speeds when you are riding larger hills. It is more for cruising and a form of transportation.

I wanted a new deck for my board and the price of a new deck is very expensive, I came to the conclusion that I should try to build one myself. I had always thought that building a board like those you can buy was impossible. I had a little experience building decks with my cousin, but they were crude and of low quality.

I researched different types of boards and found a multitude of building styles. I figured out that the type of constructing I would be doing would require a thin air press. I talked with Mr. Forseth and found out that he had built boards in a previous project with a

different school. Lucky for me, Mr. Forseth went to the school and asked if we could borrow some of the supplies that I would have needed to buy. I ended up being able to borrow the thin air press, as well as the forms that would be used in the building process.

The forms are what the board takes shape to, giving it concave and an angled nose and tail. I discovered that a deck is built of many thin layers of wood pressed into a specific shape. I ended up buying enough wood for two decks that I will custom design and build. I think I will really enjoy this project because it is a blend of my two favorite hobbies, wood working and longboarding. I think it will be very rewarding to be able to ride something that I built, and be able to tell others that I built it.

- Kevin Kalmon, 11th Grade

## Prairie Life

Starting the week of October 20th, students from the Wildlands middle school began a project on prairies. So far, the middle school students have surveyed the Bill and Pat Hanke farm for certain species of plant life, as well as create short PowerPoint presentations on four prairie plants and their classifications along with any distinguishing features or descriptions. In the next few weeks the students plan to perform experiments on the amount of seed found within a field and weights of various flowers or



grasses. Also, the middle school plans to create unique games and resources involving prairie life.

-Noah Plewa, 8th Grade

Identified Prairie Grass: Big Bluestem

## Another Preview:

Wildlands Middle School students spent the day at Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls doing stream testing with the Augusta 3rd graders. Watch for the full article and pictures in our next newsletter.

**BONUS!** The middle school students will be reading buddies with the 3rd graders; more to come on that, too.

# Wildlands Supporters

Special thanks to the following individuals, families, and organizations whose generous contributions help make Wildland School successful year after year.

- Charter Bank Eau Claire
- Mega Pick and Save
- Gordy's County Market
- Pepsi of Eau Claire
- Randy's Family Restaurant
- Festival Foods
- Ted and Jan Tweed
- Paul and Joni Holmes
- The Beaver Creek Staff
- The William Spraez Family
- Jim and Sandy Casetta

You can support Wildlands School by purchasing or renewing a magazine subscription! Everything is done online and it's super easy. Just go to this website:



<http://www.efundraisingonline.com/WildlandsSchool>

And click on the "support us" button.

## Successful Spring Festival

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the students and staff of Wildlands School held their second bi-annual Spring Festival. The School held this festival in conjunction with the Beaver Creek Reserve Native plant sale. This year, the day of the festival was a cold, windy, and rainy day. It was a good thing for us that the native plant fans were willing to brave even the harshest weather for their beautiful native plants. As you will learn from the following, the festival was a huge success!

After much deliberation and consideration; we decided that for this years Spring Festival we would stick to just a bake sale, a raffle, as well as a few craft vendors.

Wildlands students spent the day carrying plants, working the bake sale, selling raffle tickets, directing traffic, and being wonderful representatives of Wildlands School!

Megan Rather, one of the graduating seniors, took on the task of organizing and creating the raffle, and making sure students sold the tickets. The prizes awarded were fifteen- \$20.00, six- \$50.00, one- \$100.00, one- \$300.00 and one- \$500.00. The lucky winners of these prizes are as follows:

**\$20 winners:** Tina Jacobson, Sheila Hampton, Rena Hammon, Anna Mares, Paul Holmes, Brian Seubert, Joe Satnik, Margaret Walker, Tony Biese, Keith Hug, Scott Lindhart, Audra Bissen, Jennifer Stanek, Jim Casetta, Megan Peters.

**\$50 winners:** Mark Goings, Tess Grosenick, Nancy Forde, Laura Lewallen, Megan Peters, Margie Wiseman

**\$100 winner:** John Plewa

**\$300 winner:** Marty & Diane Degenhardt

**\$500 winner:** Mark & Sue Barton

*Thanks to all of you who won and then donated your winnings back to Wildlands School; we are so blessed and grateful to have such generous supporters!*

Parent volunteer, Susan Miller, organized a wonderful bake sale. Thank you so much to Susan and to all of the people who donated baked goods and/or helped work the bake sale – it is one of the biggest money makers for the school. It would not have been such a success without you!

Spring festival vendors included Judy Dorf, Jeremy Trainer and me. I sold jewelry through my jewelry business Vita Bona Jewelry; Judy Dorf also sold gorgeous jewelry creations, and Jeremy Trainer sold cabin decor and bird houses made with natural materials. Thank you



to all of the vendors who came out and supported us, we are extremely grateful!

All of the students and staff of Wildlands School

would like to give a great big thank you to Mega Pick and Save, Randy's Family Restaurant, Festival Foods, Pepsi of Eau Claire, and Gordy's County Market for their support of our second bi-annual Spring Festival. They provided many of the items that were sold at our concession stand.

Even though the weather conditions for the spring festival felt more like winter than spring, we were still able to make the festival a success thanks to the students, parents, Beaver Creek Reserve, customers, vendors and teachers who participated! Thanks everyone!

-Maddie Black, 11th Grade





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### Wildlands needs your support.

Wildlands has established a 501c(3) non-profit organization to support student research and activities. If you would like to help us provide students with unique learning opportunities please use the form below. All donations are tax deductible.

### Benefits of supporting Wildlands:

1. With a donation of \$50.00 or more, you will be recognized as a contributor in our Wildlands' Newsletter.
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