



Raboin receives Facilitator of the Year award

Janet Hutchens, DNR Project Water Education for Teachers (WET) coordinator, recently presented the Project Water Education for Teachers (WET) Wisconsin Facilitator of the Year award to Joe Raboin, Tri-County High School environmental education coordinator and teacher. Raboin was presented this award for his continued dedication to Project WET as well as for his partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Joe Raboin named Project WET Facilitator of the Year

Joe Raboin, Tri-County High School environmental education coordinator and teacher, was recently honored as the Wisconsin Project Water Education for Teachers (WET) facilitator of the year.

Project WET is a worldwide organization that provides water resources education to youth leaders with a goal to promote awareness and empower students to take action in their communities to help solve local water resource issues. These resources are available to teachers and other educators through training workshops offered by experienced facilitators statewide.

“This award is given to facilitators who have provided outstanding contributions to this program,” said Janet Hutchens, DNR Project WILD and Project WET coordinator. “Award recipients have strengthened literacy focused on water conservation and have provided citizens with a greater understanding of Wisconsin’s rich natural resources and their management, along with effectively demonstrating the use of the program’s materials. These individuals

have demonstrated a sustained active dedication to the program’s goals and serve as a valued partner of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.”

Each summer, Raboin offers a school forest counselor in training course for incoming high school juniors focused on natural resources and prepares counselors to be educators. Students begin the course by building a base of knowledge, experience, and skills concerning wildlife, soils, forestry, and water resources. Students then learn to write lessons, manage groups, and peer-teach using Project WET as well as Project WILD and Project Learning Tree.

The youth teachers then lead a real school forest field trip for about 100 younger students in the school district and ultimately serve the student’s of Tri-County as school forest counselors.

This is Raboin’s ninth year in this role and hopes to recruit a more diverse audience into his workshops, promote active lifestyles focused on the outdoors, as well as foster an appreciation and enjoyment of the natural world in his student leaders.