

Teaching Outdoor Awareness & Discovery: “T.O.A.D.” Programs

Bringing Environmental Education programs to
people of all ages throughout Marinette County



What is T.O.A.D.?

- Offers free, year-round environmental education programs throughout Marinette County - since 2001
- Presents topics on wildlife, water quality & pollution prevention, habitat, forests, conservation, outdoor skills, and more
- Available to Marinette County residents & groups – schools, day care facilities, 4H, scouts/youth groups, libraries, recreation programs, organizations, special events, & general public
- Biggest audience = elementary schoolchildren (preK-6th)
- Complements Wisconsin Standards for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability & Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) (K–12 science content standards)
- Provides mobile environmental programs throughout the county & 1 set of equipment for use by multiple groups

Why Environmental Education?

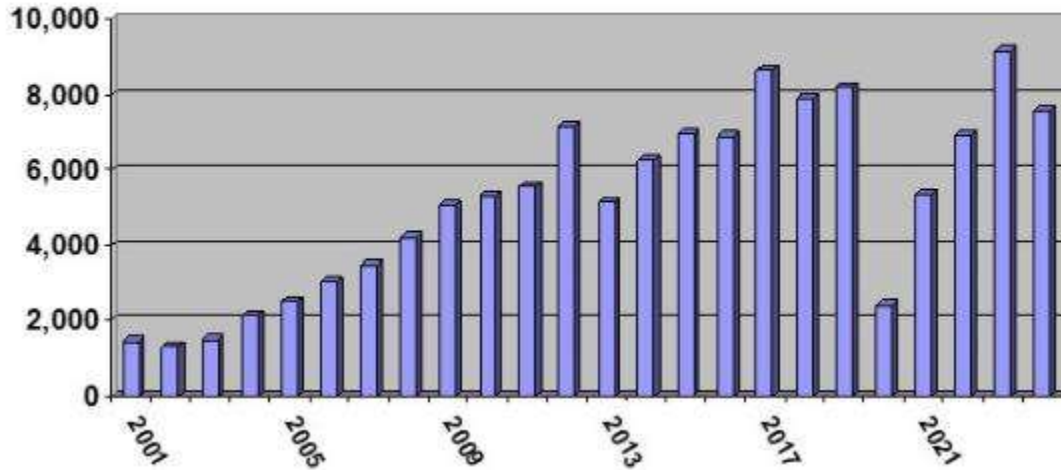
- Introduces people to nature & the outdoors in a fun and interesting way with hands-on activities
- Improves conservation awareness and the importance of natural resources, and emphasizes why we should protect them
- Helps kids form a life-long interest in nature & the outdoors – understanding & appreciation
- Gets kids outside, off the couch, or away from the TV/computer - combats “Nature Deficit Disorder”
- Understanding ➡ Appreciation ➡ Conservation



T.O.A.D. & Our Mission

- Promote protection, conservation, & wise use of Marinette County's land and water resources
- Education helps accomplish our mission & serve the public
- Cooperate with other Marinette County agencies: Extension, Forestry, Parks, Tourism, Libraries
- Cooperate with non-county agencies & groups: DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Master Gardeners, clubs, scouts, youth orgs.
- Local events: Boys & Girls Club Community Kids' Day; YMCA Healthy Kids' Day & summer camp; local festivals & municipal public programs

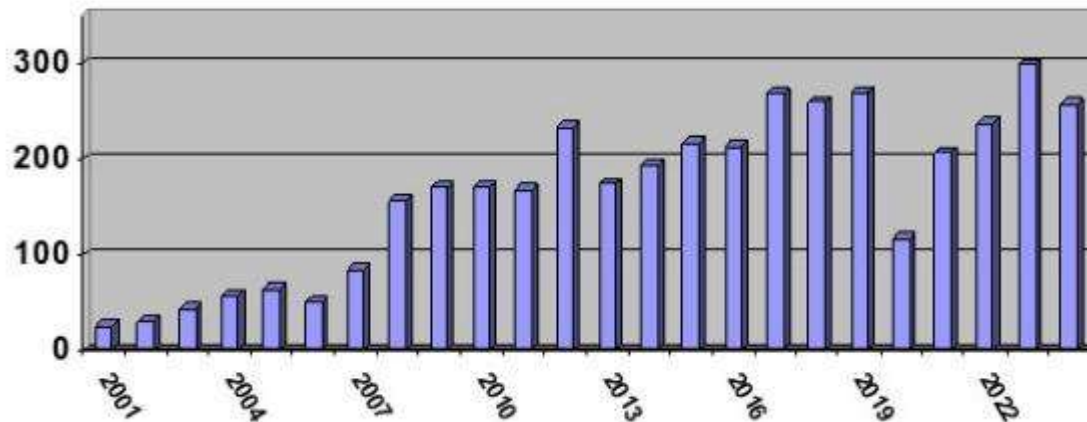
TOAD Attendance Numbers 2001-2024



In 2001, annual attendance was 1,461 with 26 programs. In 2024 = 257 programs, 7,586 people!

In 2023, we had the most annual attendees at 9,160 people & 298 programs!

TOAD Programs Presented 2001-2024



So far in 2025 = 1,687 people & 57 programs.

Since 2001 – 134,202 cumulative total participants & 4,034 programs as of March 25, 2025.

TOAD program & event supplies



More supplies & 'birds on a stick'



The T.O.A.D. trailer





'Aquatic Creepy Critters' & Water Quality Investigation'





'Aquatic Invasive Species' & 'Wetland Ecology'

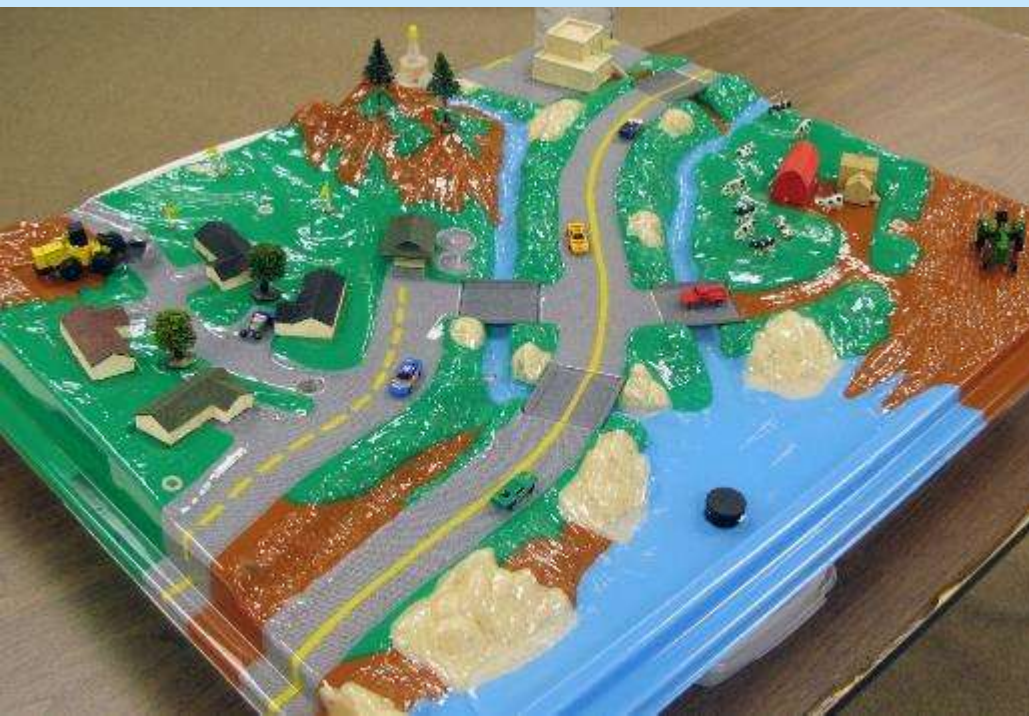
Aquatic Invasive Species



**Land & Water
Conservation
Division**



'Water Conservation & Pollution Prevention', 'Meet Henry Hydro Oxide', and 'Groundwater' programs



'Bingo Bugs' & 'Inspect an Insect'



'Herptiles' (reptiles & amphibians)



Hands-on Nature Table for public events – Marinette Logging & Heritage Festival



'Skins & Skulls' & 'Skullduggery'



'Tree Tots'



Peshtigo 5-6th canoeing & kayaking skills



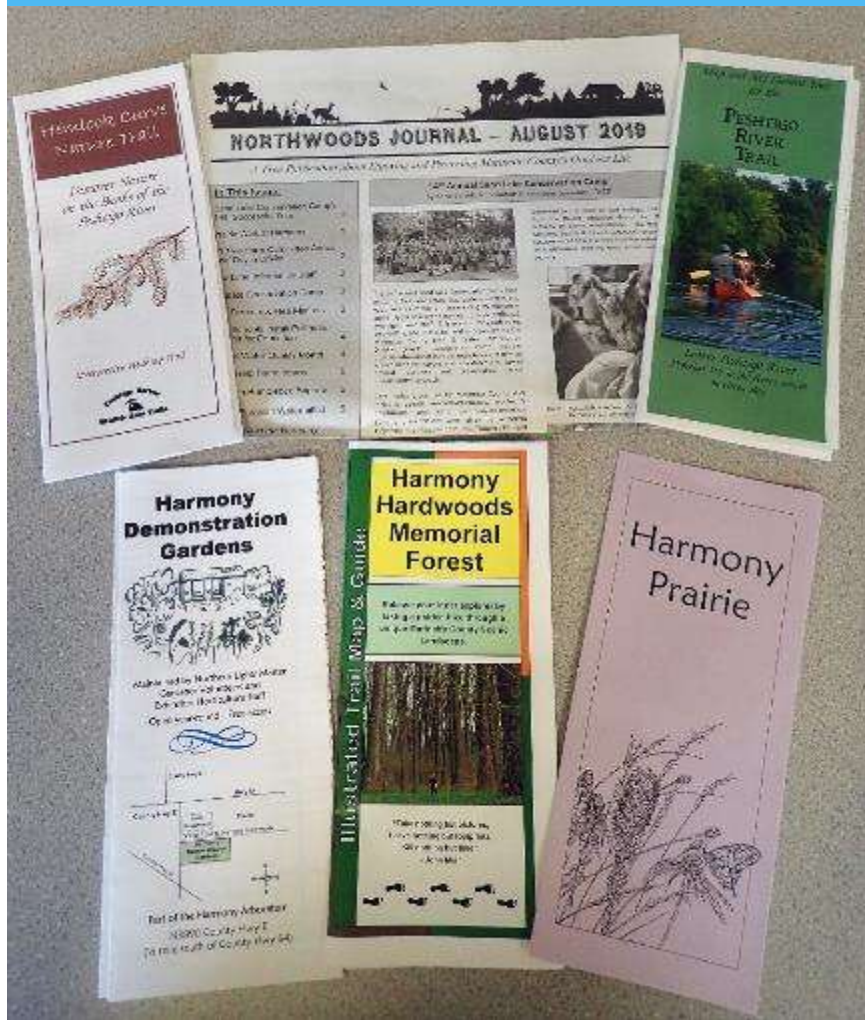
Environmental Field Days

- Held in late September/early October at four Marinette County locations for the county's 4th graders
- Involves cooperation with Extension, DNR, Lumberjack RCD FLOW-AIS, Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC), and local volunteers
- Topics include water quality, wildlife, invasive species, composting, forestry, wildfire control, insects, etc.
- Gives students a fun, interactive & educational experience
- Usually 400-500 students attend each year

Wildfire Control, Composting, Water Quality, & Herptiles



TOAD publications, media & displays



facebook



Protect
Wildlife
Habitat

Pollinator
Habitat

Wildlife
Habitat

Adopt a Spot
The property and public
lands of Northern Lights
NORTHERN
LIGHTS



Public Nature Programs – birding hike, wildflower walk, prairie hike



The Chipmunk's tunnel" mural with over 50 native species shown



Oversized displays in the tunnel educate visitors about life underground



EE Resources & Organizations

For lesson plans & activities, grants information, trainings & workshops, educational & media materials, networking & job opportunities:

- EEK! Environmental Education for Kids - www.eekwi.org
- Field EdVentures (part of EEK!) - www.fieldedventures.org
- Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education - <https://waee.org/>
 - Wisconsin Nature Centers Collaborative
- WI Center for Environmental Education - <https://www.uwsp.edu/wcee/wcee/>
- Natural Resources Foundation of WI - www.wisconservation.org
- North American Association for Environmental Education - <https://naaee.org/>



Marinette County
Land & Water Conservation

*“In the end we will conserve only what
we love. We will love only what we
understand. We will understand
only what we are taught.”*

- Baba Dioum, Senegalese ecologist



Any Questions?

Contact Information

Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist
Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division

Land Information Department

715-732-7784

anne.bartels@marinettecountywi.gov

