



# Next Gen

Dunn Environmental Education Steering Committee (DEESC)

Welcome to our fifth edition of the DEESC newsletter. It has been four years since the inception of the committee that set out to make a difference in the education of the youth of Dunn County. Thank you to all that have supported us so we can change lives.

## DEESC Members:

- Christopher Gaetzke - LWCD**  
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## Dunn County Youth Excel at Speaking Contests

Dunn County youth tackled topics ranging from air and water quality to food safety, crop rotations and wildlife on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Dunn County Conservation & Environmental Awareness Speaking Contest. The contest, sponsored by the Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division of the Environmental Services Department, gives students a chance to improve their public speaking skills while learning about the importance of conservation of our natural resources and the protection and enhancement of environmental quality.

AUGUST, 2018

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of the DEESC is to develop awareness in students that will inspire to create a sustainable interaction with the environment and its natural resources



First place honors in the Elementary Division went to Madison Kwak, daughter of Tom & Tricia Kwak, with her speech entitled, "Is Your Air Healthy?". Dawson Klefstad, son of Michelle & Bruce Klefstad, placed second with his speech, "The Canada Lynx". "Crop Rotation" was the topic of the speech given by Molly Fettig, the third place winner. Alyson Comstock and Jazmin Sprague participated in the contest with their speeches about air and water quality.

NACD  
 2018  
 Theme



Dunn County  
 Land and Water  
 Conservation  
 Division (LWCD)

Dunn County Solid  
 Waste & Recycling  
 Division (SWR)

USDA-Natural  
 Resources  
 Conservation  
 Service (NRCS)



Benjamin Styer took first place honors in the Senior Division with his speech entitled, "America Relax, Your Food is That Safe." Benjamin, the son of David and Karen Styer, represented Menomonie High School.

Madison and Benjamin advanced to the West Central Area Speaking Contest which took place on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> in Eau Claire where students from seven counties participated. Both Madison and Benjamin placed first in their divisions and advanced to the State Speaking Contest that was held on March 14<sup>th</sup> in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. This is the second year that Benjamin participated in the State Speaking Contest.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars



**Chippewa Valley Farm-City Days**  
September 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
(Near Bloomer, WI)

**Tri-County Land Judging Contest**  
(Hosted by Dunn County)  
Tuesday, October 10, 2018

**Dunn County Conservation Poster Contest**  
December 17, 2018 (Deadline)

**Dunn County Conservation & Environmental Awareness Speaking Contest,**  
January, 2018 (TBD)



### The Dunn County Fair

This year's Dunn County Fair was a blast! Once again, Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling was happy to provide event recycling bins for all recyclables during the week.

Fairgoers spun a big wheel and answered a variety of questions to win great prizes. Questions such as, "What does an aluminum can get recycled into?" (new aluminum cans, building materials, bikes, baseball bats, etc.) and "Do butterflies taste with their tongues or feet?" (feet) were a hit! Above is a photo of all of the recycling collected at the Dunn County Fair!



### Fourth Annual Environmental Field Day

In May, the DEESC hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Field Day event for 188 Boyceville, Colfax and Elk Mound 5<sup>th</sup> graders at two locations. Stations this year were 20 minutes each including topics of forest & wildlife ecology, invasive & native plants, recycling, water quality & stream ecology, and soil science/soil health. These short, engaging stations gave the students a broader perspective of environmental education that they can't get inside a classroom. All stations were taught by either a citizen organization leader or governmental agency staff that each have specific knowledge on their topic that is now passed on to the next generation. Due to the positive feedback from the students, chaperones, and teachers that come and learn from us, we plan to continue holding it.

### Menomonie High School Senior Internship Program

The 2017-2018 intern, Jarin Boettcher, finished his internship strong before graduating in May. He worked with most local, state and federal agencies along with several citizen based non-profit organizations. He gained knowledge that led him to UW-Stevens Point this fall with intentions of being a governmental employee for a conservation-minded agency.

His knowledge and appreciation grew throughout his 8-month experience and he spoke with some upcoming motivated students to encourage them to work with Dunn County LWCD and others this coming fall. Jarin was also involved with Menomonie FFA where he used his knowledge from the internship to place high in a variety of competitions he competed in.

### Earth Day

Gaylord Nelson, Wisconsin Senator, kick started the green movement back in 1970 when he created Earth Day. Earth Day has been widely celebrated on April 22 ever since. The Menomonie Middle School students help local businesses, non-profits, and civic groups with "green" projects each year.

Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling has been a proud supporter and recipient of this initiative for many years. This year's helpers were a group of 6<sup>th</sup> graders who cleaned up litter around the Dunn County Transfer Station & Recycling Center off Hwy 29. Before picking up trash and recycling that had blown around from our daily operations or off incoming vehicles, the students toured the facility. They were astonished at the amount of trash sent to the landfill each day (5 semi-trucks on average) and what recyclables get turned into. One of their favorite things was seeing the large bales of material ready for shipment and trying to guess how heavy they were.



**"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**