



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY  
COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH  
800 ALGOMA BLVD., OSHKOSH, WI 54901-8640

Donna VanBuecken  
Wild Ones Natural Landscapers  
P. O. Box 1274  
Appleton, WI 54912-1274

April 13, 2006

Dear Donna,

I wish to offer my support for the creation of the West Shore Preserves Environmental Center by Wild Ones Natural Landscapers upon acquisition of the property at 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road in the Town of Menasha.

The West Shore Preserve is of great interest for educational purposes. For example, UW Oshkosh takes 420 students per year (mostly future teachers) on marsh field trips as part of an environmental science course. UW Oshkosh also has a rapidly growing Environmental Studies program. This center, with Wild Ones restoration projects, remnant marshes, dense urban developments, and the largest environmental cleanup project in the nation, would be an attractive site for demonstrating complex issues involved in restoration, preservation, and sustainability.

The UW Oshkosh Aquatic Research Laboratory (ARL) has an active and growing program in citizen-based monitoring of the Winnebago Pool Lakes and feeder streams. Circling this huge ecosystem is a 180 mile trip, thus we cannot expect volunteers to always come to Oshkosh. The West Shore Preserves Environmental Center would make an excellent site for training volunteers and providing resources (e.g. to check out equipment that we supply and maintain). We have volunteers at the north end of Lake Winnebago, and have had inquiries from Little Lake Butte des Morts residents about joining the network we support with Winnebago Lakes Council.

ARL also supports teacher professional development. Starting this year, we will offer summer institutes to increase teacher use of local environmental issues, and local outdoor resources such as the West Shore Preserves, in their science curriculum. We will focus on grades 5-8, and have teams of teachers signed up from Neenah, Oshkosh, and other nearby districts.

I wish to be an active partner in the Environmental Center. I must point out that this does not constitute an offer of University resources. However, I am certain that we will be able to partner on external grant proposals covering our mutual interests in research, education, and outreach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael P. Lizotte".

Michael P. Lizotte, Ph.D.  
Director, Aquatic Research Laboratory  
Tel. 920-424-0848  
Email: lizotte@uwosh.edu