



**Contact:**  
Nora Simmons  
Communications Director  
Nora.Simmons@Wisconsin.gov  
(608) 266-3138

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin awards the 2018 C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund to 30 organizations across Wisconsin

Nearly a third of the grants will support grassroots conservation and education projects that will benefit northern Wisconsin.

[Madison, Wisconsin — October 25, 2018] —

30 organizations across the state have been selected as recipients of the 2018 C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund, a fund managed by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin to support grassroots conservation and education projects which benefit Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wildlife, and which connect people to Wisconsin's natural resources. C.D. Besadny grants range from \$500 to \$1000 each; the total amount awarded to this year's recipients equaled \$28,043.

Nearly a third of those grant recipients hail from northern Wisconsin. A list of these organizations and a summary of their project is below.

- **Bayfield High School:** Building an Anishinaabe Sugarbush Longhouse (Bayfield County). Each year, Bayfield High School alternative education students operate a sugarbush project during which they tap maple trees, collect sap, and boil the sap into syrup. To protect the sap-boiling evaporator, students – approximately 75 percent Anishinaabe – will consult with tribal elders to construct a traditional longhouse.
- **City of New Richmond:** Willow River Water Trail (St. Croix County). This project will provide an opportunity for high school students to clean up debris along the Willow River, remove invasive species, and install educational and wayfinding signage for kayakers/canoists. Students will also develop a short marketing video to highlight outdoor recreation on the Willow River that will be made available online for the public to view.
- **Friends of The Bird Sanctuary:** "You Are Here," An Invitation to Explore the Barrens of the Douglas County State Wildlife Area (Douglas County). This project hopes to increase awareness of the natural history of the Bird Sanctuary, use of its trails, and participation in the activities and learning experiences available. To do this, they will design interpretive signage to be installed throughout the property.
- **Friends of the North Pikes Creek Wetlands:** Entrance Sign for Beaver Hollow Education Area (Bayfield County). This project allots funds to purchase materials for an attractive sign that will identify the location and entrance to the new Beaver Hollow Education Area. Beaver Hollow is a light imprint, outdoor education area that will serve the outdoor educational needs of the community, and specifically, the local K-12 schools.
- **Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited:** Trout in the Classroom at Hammond Elementary School (St. Croix County). Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a nationwide initiative carried out by local Trout Unlimited chapters in local schools, with an objective to provide environmental science learning to the students, and develop in the students an appreciation for water resources, foster a conservation ethic, and grow an understanding of ecosystems. Funds will be used to purchase equipment necessary to participate in the TIC program.
- **North Lakeland Discovery Center:** Nature Playscape Pollinator Garden (Vilas County). This project aims to create a demonstration pollinator garden space adjacent to a new nature playscape area on campus, by planting native plants, installing plant ID tags and creating an interpretive sign on the importance of pollinator gardens.
- **St. Croix River Association:** Terrestrial Invasive Species Curriculum and Education (Barron, Burnett, Polk, St. Croix, Washburn Counties). Through the development and delivery of forest invader curriculum, project partners will train and educate multiple generations about terrestrial invasive species, from K-12 students to woodland owners to volunteers.
- **Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation:** Touchscreen Computer Exhibit for Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Gallery (Marathon County). These funds will be used to purchase a touchscreen computer to



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provide an interactive experience for gallery visitors to learn about inductees to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

The C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund aims to connect people to Wisconsin's natural resources and this year's projects will help to further this mission. Rick Erickson, teacher at the School District of Bayfield and leader of the Sugarbush Longhouse project says the grant will fund efforts that are "definitely in line with those goals. The sugarbush project connects our students with their immediate natural surroundings and demonstrates how our natural resources can be used in a productive and sustainable manner." Further, 75 percent of the students in Bayfield are Anishinaabe, while nearly 65 percent qualify for free/reduced lunch, so this project "also addresses the grant program's priority to engage and impact underserved communities in Wisconsin."

#### **About the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin**

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is a nonprofit organization that connects generations to the wonders of Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wildlife through conservation, education, engagement, and giving. Since 1986, the Foundation has contributed nearly \$7 million to public and private conservation efforts to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife of Wisconsin.

The Foundation currently holds more than 90 endowment funds with more than \$7 million in assets dedicated to conserving lands, protecting wildlife, and promoting conservation in Wisconsin in perpetuity. The Foundation coordinates programs designed to connect people to the land by exploring significant sites and getting expert-led tours of some of our state's most important conservation projects. The Foundation is proud to partner with more than 500 conservation partners throughout Wisconsin county. Learn more at [www.WisConservation.org](http://www.WisConservation.org).

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