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Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund
Small Project Final Report FY2005
Grant #: 05-023W

Project Title: Non-game Wildlife Education Project
Grantee Name: Sugar Grove Foundation

Introduction

Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funks Grove Illinois opened in October 2004. The development of the Nature Center was made possible by the establishment of Sugar Grove Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The acquisition of environmental education resources is essential to the development of a quality environmental education program and facility. The Nature Center is located in Funks Grove. This high-quality natural area contains 5 dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves and has been designated as a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Due to the amazing diversity of plants and animals, including several threatened and endangered species, the desire to develop a non-game wildlife education component is at the top of the list in our EE strategic plan.

Materials & Methods

A variety of resources have been acquired in order to develop several components that will enable education for preschool, elementary, middle and high school students as well as scouts and youth groups, and adult, family, and senior audiences in on and off-site presentations throughout the year. Items include preserved specimens, study skins, skulls, pelts, and other natural history items, replicas, species specific study materials, videos, DVDs, CD-Roms, books, field guides, puppets, and posters. All items were obtained legally from reputably nature/science retailers and from IDNR field biologists.

After acquiring materials, we began the development of education programs, a rotational visitor center display, and a brochure on the non-game fauna of Funks Grove. SGNC hosted a teacher in-service for the entire staff of Heyworth Grade School, to promote the education services available from the Center, including a variety of non-game topics.

Nature Center Director, Angela Smith, conducted a program on the "Owls of Illinois' on January 10, 2005 (public attendance 55). Joe Kath, IDNR Endangered Species Program Manager conducted a 'Bats of Illinois" program on June 7, 2005 (public attendance 47). Materials acquired through the Wildlife Preservation Fund grant were used in both presentations and the WPF was recognized at both programs for its support. In addition, the Sugar Grove Nature Center will be offering a Winter Wilderness Camp on December 29 & 30, that will include education on winter survival of non-game wildlife. (announcement attached)

Summary

Funding from the Wildlife Preservation Fund has enable the Sugar Grove Nature Center to develop high-quality environmental education programs and products. A complete herp survey will be completed by Illinois State University, a bat survey will be completed by Joe Kath (IDNR), and a bird survey will be conducted by the local Audubon club which will then be used to complete the informational brochure and display. In the meantime, the education resources have enabled us to reach hundreds of individuals regarding the diversity of Illinois non-game wildlife, the threats that they face, and what can be done to protect them.

Expenses

All Sugar Grove Nature Center staff time was contributed as an in-kind expense to the grant to allow the maximum benefit of the grant to be realized. $1,000 from the IWPF along with funds in excess of $1,000 from Sugar Grove Nature Center enabled the purchase of materials and resources that will be used for years to come to educate about Illinois' Non-Game Wildlife.

Total Resource Acquisition Purchase=	$2,219.64
Less Nature Center Contribution	$1,219.64
Wildlife Preservation Fund Contribution	$1,000.00

Winter Wilderness Camp

December 29th & 30th

Learn to identify tracks and scat and solve a wildlife mystery!
Hit the trails to investigate nature in winter.
And, gather around a roaring campfire to warm up, cook lunch and snack on s'mores.

Who can attend?

- Students in 5th and 6th grade can attend the Thursday, December 29th session.
- Students in 7th and 8th grade can attend the Friday, December 30th session.

What time?

- Each session runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Lunch and snacks provided.

Where?

- At Sugar Grove Nature Center, just south of Bloomington-Normal and only a short drive from Lincoln, located off of I-55 in Funks Grove.

Registration deadline: Friday, December 2nd, 2005.
Fee: $10 per participant, payable with form below.
Space is limited to 25 participants each day, so register early.
For more information contact the Sugar Grove Nature Center at 309.874.2174.

Winter Wilderness Camp is made possible by support from the following organizations:

- Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District
- McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund
- Sugar Grove Nature Center
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Winter Wilderness Camp - Registration Form

Participants Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

I live in (circle one): Logan County or McLean County

Check one of the following:

_____ I am in 5th or 6th grade and would like to attend December 29th

_____ I am in 7th or 8th grade and would like to attend December 30th

Return this registration form along with $10 (make check payable to Sugar Grove Nature Center) to:

Press Release

Contact:
Angela Smith, Director
309.874.2174
sugargrovenc@earthlink.net

For Immediate Release

6/15/05

Sugar Grove Nature Center Announces

Batty About Bats!: Mist-Netting Program
Friday, July 8th, 7:00 p.m.
Joe Kath, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Endangered Species Project Manager, will give a brief talk about bats living in Illinois, and descriptions of bats that may be caught during the program. He'll also provide a demonstration of equipment used to study bats in the field. Attendees will have an opportunity to assist with mist-net monitoring and see live bats up-close! Nature Center Director, Angela Smith, will explore a variety of resources, books, and natural history items relating to bats. Purchase of these materials, including a bat detector, was made possible by a grant from the Wildlife Preservation Fund.

Fee: $5/adult, $2/child.
Please wear long pants.

Registration required. Call 309.874.2174 to register.

Press Release

For Immediate Release

1/10/05

The Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funks Grove is pleased to announce the following program scheduled for this Saturday, January 15.

One Hoot of a Program!
Saturday, January 15th at 1:00 p.m.
Did you know that owls can detect a mouse under two feet of snow? That the flight of even the largest owls is virtually silent? This *family* program will introduce participants to the owls that call Illinois home. Learn about their special adaptations and amazing eating habits. Participants will dissect an owl pellet to find out what was for dinner! Registration is required. Fee: $2/person.

This program is made possible by funding from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund.

Registration is REQUIRED for all of our programs.
You may register by calling 309.874.2174.

The Sugar Grove Nature Center is only minutes away from Bloomington-Normal!

Take I-55 south to the Shirley exit (#154); turn right at the top of the off-ramp; turn left at the T-intersection onto Old Route 66; proceed approximately 4.5 miles to Funks Grove Road and turn right; proceed over railroad tracks, and take the first left; follow this road, being careful of the two dangerous curves; at the Dead End sign continue straight. The road will open up to prairie and you will see the nature center buildings on your right. Turn right at the gravel lane and proceed to the parking lot.

John Nunn
Angela M. Smith
Date: 1/10/2005 10:41:19 AM
Subject: BAT CONSERVATION INTL Customer Receipt/Purchase Confirmation

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Merchant : BAT CONSERVATION INTL
Date/Time : 10-Jan-2005 10:41:18 AM

ORDER INFORMATION

Invoice : BCI-634
Description : Batcatalog.com BCI-634
Amount : 330.86 (USD)
Payment Method : Visa

BILLING INFORMATION

Customer ID : 149
First Name : Angela M.
Last Name : Smith
Company : Sugar Grove Nature Center
Address : 801 Jodi Ave.
City : LeRoy
State/Province : Illinois
Zip/Postal Code : 61752
Country : United States
Phone : 309 874 2174
Fax :
E-Mail : sugargrovenc@earthlink.net

SHIPPING INFORMATION

First Name :
Last Name :
Company :
Address :
City :
State/Province :
Zip/Postal Code :
Country :