

Geneva Lake Conservancy

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE →

Contact: Katie Sullivan
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Geneva Lake Conservancy introduces Groundwater Models to area schools

Fontana, WI – March 6, 2009 – The Geneva Lake Conservancy is bringing its Watershed Education Program to local schools. In addition to sample curricula, the Conservancy's school education program features groundwater flow models purchased with a grant from the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, and generous donations from local residents and Conservancy supporters at the Conservancy's 2008 summer party, the Mai Tai No Tai.

The groundwater models are an interactive classroom tool designed to show the flow of water and toxins through differing gradients, aquifers and for the Conservancy's purposes, watersheds. Additionally, the models can help students visualize what happens when too much water is drawn from the surface and ground watersheds, and what affect it has on local bodies of water, such as Geneva Lake. The models also highlight the effects of contamination of the groundwater supply.

For the Conservancy, and its campaign to bring watershed awareness to Geneva Lake's communities, the models clearly show that anything that happens within the Geneva Lake surface and ground watersheds not only affect drinking water derived from wells, but it can also affect the water quality of the lake.

"Common contaminants such as road salt, fertilizers and pesticides, oil and other pollutants washed away from impervious surfaces (streets and parking lots), leaky septic tanks, and animal wastes can and do have an immediate effect on the watershed," said Katie Sullivan, the Conservancy's Administrator and Membership/Outreach Coordinator.

Sullivan and Conservancy Board member Sharon O'Brien recently brought the models to the Brookwood and Fontana middle and elementary schools. Brookwood will be using them in their science classrooms, while Fontana intends to use the models during their outdoor education program in late April. Other schools that have expressed interest in the groundwater models for the classroom are Reek Elementary, Badger High School.

If you are an area teacher or local organization and you would like to borrow one of the Conservancy's four available models, please call Katie Sullivan at 262-275-5700 or email katie@genevalakeconservancy.org.

The Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization supported by contributions and community volunteers.

(Pictured: from right: Fontana Science teacher, Noreen Lamsam, GLC staffer, Katie Sullivan; center: groundwater flow model)