

# Woods Writings



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## Upham Woods Contest Winners

Congratulations to the 3 winners of our “What Upham means to you” contest. Sammy from Lafayette County talked about how his anticipation grew over the years watching his brother, sister and mother go away during the summer. Once he was able to go, he knew it was going to be his “happy place”. Elizabeth from Columbia County spoke about food, friends, adventures, and fun in an awesome video, needless to say, she loves camp! The final winner, Leah from Dane county talked about how camp allows her to come out of her shell in a way she wouldn’t be able to at school. We are amazed to see what Upham means to everyone who comes here. A special thanks to all entries obtained during our counselor training weekend. Stay tuned in for another contest coming in May.



## Research Naturalist section

On Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, several Upham Woods staff members, in collaboration with Mary Roberts, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher from Rusch Elementary School, and Sarah Oszuscik, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from La Escuela Fratney, presented at the 2016 Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers (WSST) annual conference in La Crosse, WI. Together, the team presented on three technology programs that Upham offers, including the Digital Observation Technology Skills (DOTS) program, the Digging Deeper with Data (DDD) project, and a 2015 Wisconsin Environmental Education Board funded grant entitled, Project EARPOD: Engaging At-Risk Populations Outdoors, Digitally.

Less than two years old, Upham’s technology programming has reached over 3,000 youth and educators globally in the promotion of making detailed observations and scientific story-telling through technology-integrated environmental education lessons. In delivering programming, it is the hope of Upham staff to produce promising results that will contribute to the growing literature of best practices in the use of digital technologies in environmental education. To learn more about the DOTS program, and how you can incorporate technology into your own environmental programming through DOTS kit lending, please visit our website: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/environmentaleducation/programs/technology-programs/dots/>



## Return of the Canoe



Nothing quite says spring like the return of our 35-ft Voyageur canoe. Upham Woods staff plus some amazing volunteers paddled hard and sang their way back up the river in true Voyageurs style.

## Earth Day with Foremost Farms

Thanks to all who participate in our Earth Day Clean up April 23rd, 2016. A special thanks goes out to Foremost Farms, who donated and helped plant some native bushes at Upham Woods. The entire group got to enjoy Blackhawk Island on this beautiful day.



## Mayor Recognizes AmeriCorps VISTA Mike Raymonds



Wisconsin Dells Mayor, Brian Landers honored AmeriCorps VISTA member Mike Raymonds along with 3 AmeriCorps members from Easter Seals on March 28th at a city council meeting. The mayor signed a proclamation for National Service Day on April 5th and recognized April 10th-16th as National Volunteer week. Mike gave a brief overview of his work in the community, including work with Families In Transition Support Network, Wisconsin Dells School District, Assist Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Dells Parks and Recreation. The mayor thanked all four AmeriCorps members for their hard work in the community. Pictured is Mayor Landers signing the proclamation with Upham Woods and Easter Seals members behind.

## Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center

### Mission Statement

Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center provides educational opportunities to youth, youth leaders, and adults through programs focused on environmental and leadership education.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin—Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program.

## Thanks to Waushara County 4-H

Waushara County 4-H made a donation of new sports equipment and some awesome 4-H Duluth bags to Upham Woods. The sports equipment was quickly put to use, as Sennett Middle School enjoyed their free time playing basketball, volleyball and soccer. The Duluth bags have a history of being used for outpost trips, and will continue at Upham Woods.

