

## **“DING” DARLING WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2019 TEACHER GRANT AWARDS**

1. Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida, Jan Sommer & Chantel Rhodes, Grades K-12, *Quality Conservation Project*. This project will teach students (ages 5 through 18) while attending after school and summer programs where they are served 1 – 2 meals, about the environmental and financial implication of disposable vs. reusable dishware. They will also start a recycling program. At the end of the program on Earth Day they will gather data and announce the impact.
2. Edison Park Creative & Expressive Art School, Robyn Peer & Kim Clements, Grades K – 5, *Grow Up for Environmental Stewardship!*, Students will create and maintain a hydroponic garden teaching science, environmental conservation & stewardship. They will learn to how to grow healthy food without needing chemicals/pesticides.
3. Lee County Schools, Susie Hassett, Grades 4, 7 & 9-12 district wide, *Project Wonder of Water*, Students in grades 4, 7 and 9-12 will visit local bodies of water, including a school retention pond, freshwater slough, and an estuary to compare the ecosystems found there. They will survey the plants and animals living there and test the water to find out what differences are unseen but present. Their results will be compiled in a shared data base and they will create educational presentations to promote water conservation as well as habitat restoration.
4. Peace River Elementary School, Allyn Shelatz, Special Education Grades 3 – 5, *Hydroponics*, Students will learn through hydroponic gardening the importance of water conservation and gardening techniques on water quality.
5. Orange River Elementary School, Linda Grant, Grade 3, *Let’s Get Wet.*, This experiment will teach the scientific method while the students learn about water quality and what plants need for healthy growth. Each group of students will grow green beans from seed, apply various liquids, make regular observations about growth and report their findings.
6. Immokalee Middle School, Alyssa Serena, Grades 6 – 8, *Water Is a Valuable Resource!*, Through research, visiting DDNWR & a local lake to take water specimens for analysis they will learn about these ecosystems as well as understanding the importance of water quality.
7. Villas Elementary School, Deanne Mason, Grade 5, *Microscopes to Inspire & Enhance Scientific Inquiry*, The acquisition of 5-8 microscopes and prepared slide kits for our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade classrooms to promote and inspire science inquiry-based learning through hands-on, real world experiences in the classroom. Providing opportunities for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to experience the world around them up close.

8. Lehigh Senior High School, Julie Ross, Grade 9, *Retention Pond Study*, Students will gain a real-world perspective of how water systems are connected as well as gain experience using equipment that scientists are currently using in the field to better understand our water quality issues and concerns. The measurable goals of this project will be for students to be researching what drains into their retention pond, sources of flow into the pond, the possible ecological consequences of man-made hazards flowing into the pond, analyzing the data collected to determine the water quality in the pond and then proposing possible remedies to better the water quality of our pond.
  
9. East Lee County High School, Joshua Evans, *Growing Our Future*, Students will create, nurture & maintain an outdoor garden to support agricultural education and food scarcity in the community. In the process, they will learn about agricultural techniques, basic budgeting and architectural skills.
  
10. James Stephens International Academy, Colleen Taylor, Gifted Grades K – 5, *Escape Drill and Practice*, Escape rooms are problem-based, collaborative, and require interaction with physical aspects of the game. Instead of escaping the room, students work together to complete tasks to get deeper into the escape box. Using escape boxes is a natural progression to further problem and team-based learning in any curriculum. They will use specific escape room kits that focus on wildlife & water conservation as part of their environmental education.
  
11. East Lee County High School, Michelle Start, Grade 11, *Bringing Thoreau & Emerson to Life*, This is truly a STEAM project to connect low performing students with literature and nature. They will read Emerson & Thoreau and then take field trips to Koreshan State Park and Six Mile Cypress Slough to make the connections between what they have read and what they experience while outdoors in Nature. Instilling a love of nature will make them better conservation stewards.
  
12. Lee Adolescent Mother's Program, Karen Moore, Grades 6 – 12, *Green Space – A Garden for Us All*, Students are creating a green space on campus. Their culinary and home economics classes are creating butterfly/wildflower gardens, vegetable and herb gardens and an area of edible plants. Observing, creating, and enjoying the harvests of native plants and produce from this growing area will instill a sense of environmental success and teach life skills for a healthy and economical future for the students.