

# 2012 Conservation Educator of the Year

---

Laura Schetter is a third grade teacher at Wildwood Environmental Academy. In her classroom, young learners explore their world through project and inquiry-based approaches. By planning and implementing programs that reveal conservation messages, she is a leader and cheerleader of the school's environmental education mission.



Some accomplishments have included establishing the following: composting and recycling procedures, a rain garden & rain barrel, a native plant garden, an environmental kids' club, environmental education classes in the school's greenhouse, an annual vegetable plant sale, and a PTO "green team."

Laura earned a Master's in the Art of Teaching in Biological Sciences from Miami University's Global Field Program. This course of study took her on Earth Expeditions classes to study conservation sciences in Belize, Namibia, and Costa Rica. Ms. Schetter is now an instructor for Miami University's Earth Expeditions, as well as online courses in conservation sciences.

Her childhood memories are filled with vacations of outdoor adventures with her family, which fostered a curiosity for the natural world. All of these travel experiences piqued her interest in leadership of conservation efforts. Laura strives to use her life experiences to motivate others to care for and to connect with nature.

Laura's enthusiasm and appreciation for the environment is contagious to everyone around her, and partnering with her on education programs is a joy. She goes over and above to provide the best experience possible for her students - a truly caring teacher.

*~ Congratulations on a job well done! ~*