



Connecting~

Educators with Oregon's Forests, Wildlife, Water, and Land

Welcome to "Connecting~" A newsletter for facilitators of the Oregon Natural Resources Education Program (ONREP). This monthly newsletter focuses on information, opportunities, and ideas that will help you stay connected. Each issue will highlight a program facilitator, a recent ONREP project or workshop, resources, tips and tools, and upcoming workshop information. We hope you find ideas you can use in workshops or to further your professional development as well as a tool for staying connected. Please submit newsletter ideas to: leeann.mikkelson@oregonstate.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome	1
Highlights	1
Upcoming Opportunities	2
Did You Know	2
Miscellaneous	2
Board Members	2

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Oregon Project Learning Tree (PLT)
Oregon Project WILD

FACILITATOR HIGHLIGHT- DONNA RAINBOTH



Donna Rainboth is dedicated to promoting educators understanding of inquiry and the power of experiential learning. As an ONREP Facilitator she has shared Project Learning Tree and Project WILD with her pre-service students, K-12 classroom teachers, and university colleagues since 1998. Donna brings her experience as a public school educator and a natural resource professional to her trainings with enthusiasm, creativity, and gusto! She has been successful in obtaining grants that engage teachers in environmental education and is recognized for her expertise. Check out her website on Science Empowerment. In addition to information about the program it has great resources and tools for field

investigations. <http://www.lagrande.k12.or.us/scipow/>
In 1993 she received Oregon certification in integrated science and biology and in 2003 The Duane Marshall Special Service to Science Education Award by Oregon Science Teachers Association (OSTA.) This award is intended to honor those individuals whom have made significant contributions to science teaching. In her spare time Donna travels the world, manages an organic cherry orchard and plays in a Marimba band. (Check out Donna's blog on the above website to see her playing!)

Submitted by Susan and LeeAnn



Pre-Service: Equipping our Future Educators

Almost 300 future teachers are learning about PLT and PWILD in their college courses each year. Fifteen faculty members, from universities throughout Oregon, have committed to incorporate the curriculum into education courses. Many of them are integrating the curriculum throughout the term to examine best educational practices and strategies. Students often use the curriculum to create their work samples and in their student teaching. The faculty meet as a "community of practice" to share their strategies, successes and challenges and in 2009 gathered with Washington faculty who are also engaged in environmental education practices. In May of this year the faculty will have an opportunity to meet with Richard Louve to discuss the role of teachers in connecting children to nature.



Submitted by Susan Sahnaw

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The Oregon Natural Resources Education Program gratefully acknowledges its main funders:

- Oregon Forest Resources Institute
- College of Forestry, Oregon State University

And it's main partners:

- Project Learning Tree
- Project WILD
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest

Upcoming Opportunities

Upcoming ONREP Workshops:

- Inquiring Minds Want to Know. 4/13/10. High school focus, Sherwood. Facilitators: Susan Sahnaw and Norie Dimeo-Ediger.
- Focus on Fire and Forest Ecology. 4/15/10. Klamath Falls, Facilitators: Susan Honea and Anne Maloney
- A Watershed Approach to Forests & Technology. 6/14/10. 4-8 focus, Canyonville. Facilitators: To be Determined.



Tips and Tools:

A Closer Look at PLT from a Different Angle:

I have been having my students read an article about Vocabulary Strategies. I came up with an assignment that asked them to read the article, then to relate it to a lesson in their PLT book. They had to discuss the teaching strategies and explain how they would use the strategy to teach the vocabulary for the lesson. It has turned out to be a really good assignment for several reasons. One of my objectives was to get the teachers to carefully examine their book and look at different lessons.

It worked! They chose all kinds of different lessons to show how they could incorporate the teaching strategies.

Donna Rainboth

Did You Know?

Did you know that Oregon Natural Resources Education Program sets their workshop calendar in May for the upcoming year? Educators have requested that we post the upcoming year's workshop calendar to plan ahead for their professional development. We will start planning next year's workshops for July 1st, 2010-June 30th, 2011 in May 2010 and get the basic information posted by June 15th.

This year all proposals for workshops offered between July 1st, 2010-June 30, 2011 are due no later than **April 15th, 2010**. This information will help us ensure a schedule of workshops that are located strategically around the state and offer a variety of grade level specific topics.

You will find the proposal Request form in the Facilitator Corner of the ONREP website. If you do not submit a proposal we cannot consider your idea for inclusion on the master schedule. Please fill out the proposals as completely as possible and feel free to call LeeAnn (541-737-9121) if you would like to talk about your ideas.

The April Challenge Question:

What changes were made to the ONREP Advisory Board? (Find the answer in May's *Connecting*~)

Answer to last month's (Volume 1, Issue 6) challenge question:

Name PLT's 5 major themes in the PreK-8 Activity Guide: Diversity, Interrelationship, Systems, Structure and Scale and Patterns of Change. Did you remember them all?

BRIGHT SPOTS IN MISC.

Congratulations to Eva Bailey, Christal Florin and Elissa Wells! They all welcomed new additions to their families. Eva had a little boy, Jack, on December 10th, 2009. Christal had a little girl, Trinity, on February 11, 2010 and Elissa had her boy Joseph, on March 20th. All are happy and healthy and we can't wait to meet them!

We also want to wish Kari O'Connell and Julie Woodward great health during these upcoming months as we look forward to more little ones!



Eva with Jack!