



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

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"I learned so much about nature and feel way more comfortable." –

~Sherwood Educator

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Oregon Project Learning Tree (PLT)
Oregon Project WILD

FACILITATOR HIGHLIGHT– GLENN AHRENS



Glenn Ahrens is the Forestry and Natural Resources Extension agent for Clatsop and Tillamook Counties on the north coast of Oregon. As an Extension forester he works to improve Oregonians' knowledge of forest resources. Glenn's work includes watershed extension with a focus on riparian ecology and management. He is known for his expertise on Red Alder. His professional and personal interests include engaging teachers and

students in learning about Oregon's natural resources. His work with communities, schools and teachers, as well as his ability to work collaboratively with other organizations, has gained recognition. He was nominated for the 2009 Oregon Environmental Education Association's Outstanding Environmental Educator Award for his outstanding dedication and work. Glenn has been an ONREP Facilitator since 2003, bringing Project Learning Tree and Project WILD to area teachers and partnering with sites such as Gnat Creek Hatchery and Fort Clatsop National Park. If you want information on creating collaborative workshop with partners in your area, you might want to talk with Glenn.

Susan and LeeAnn

WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTERS

ONREP has a long history in providing professional development for educators that uses the local environment combined with relevant topics and best educational practices. Local community centers like museums, interpretive centers, refuges, and tree farms provide a regional site for hands-on learning about our local natural resources, a sense of connections, and a place to return to with friends and family. The impact can be lasting and significant. Working with these sites establishes a sense of place centered on the workshop theme and allows positive exposure for the organization that is hosting. In many communities these organizations are happy to partner with ONREP.



Sarah Dunham at TRNWR

Some things to keep in mind:

- Consider how their mission, ONREP's mission and the workshop purpose can work together to give the educators a meaningful and relevant workshop
- Research their facilities for adequate space, accessibility for classroom and outdoor activity.
- Invite them to participate in, or present some aspect of the workshop
- Allow them time to share their resources with the educators

LeeAnn and Susan

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World Forestry Center

*Chair

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

February March ONREP Workshops and Events:

- Flying WILD: Birds, Habitats and Seasons 2/10/10. 4th-8th grade focus, Sherwood Facilitators: LeeAnn Mikkelson, Sarah Dunham, Jenna Mendenhall.
- Global Connections: Forests of the World 2/17/10. 8th-12th grade focus, Portland. Facilitators: Rick Zenn and Susan Sahnou.
- Camp Onahlee Re-Forest Planting Fest (Call LeeAnn for details!)
- Exploring Patterns of Change 3/5/10. Selma, Facilitator: Linda Hillgoss and company
- Learn About the Locals 3/6/10. 3rd-8th grade focus, Corvallis, Facilitator: Jody Einerson and company



Tips and Tools:

I take notes on a note card after leading each activity about what worked well, what could have made things go smoother, interesting suggestions and comments from teachers. I pull those note cards out of my files before building that activity into the agenda again and find ways to make the activity work better for the group.

Submitted by Christal Florin
Tryon Creek State Natural Area

Did You Know?

Did you know that ONREP is part of the Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program at Oregon State University?! Extension Agents and Specialists located at the university and at offices throughout Oregon work with individuals and communities to provide educational and research resources through a wide range of programs, projects, tools, and resources. In addition to programs such as Master Woodland Manager, Ties to the Land, Women Owning Woodlands and Tree School many extension agents and staff are involved in youth and teacher education, and several are PLT and WILD facilitators. Have you visited the county Extension office in your county? While there are not Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Agents in every county, there is probably an agent interested in what you are doing with teachers in your county! You could also check out their calendar of upcoming events, over 100 publications and other educational materials on the following website.

<http://extensionweb.forestry.oregonstate.edu/>

February's Challenge Question:

On the Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program website how many links are provided for Teachers & Learners? (Find the answer in the March **Connecting~**)

Answer to last month's (Volume 1, Issue 4) challenge question:

Who does Jo Pierce think about when managing his land? His Grandchildren!

<http://www.earthsky.org/interviewpost/agriculture/private-forests-mean-income-much-more>

MISC.

Have you been talking with educators in your area? Do you have a great idea for a workshop that would help educators bring place based, outdoor learning and natural resources education into their classroom?

We are scheduling the Educator Workshop Calendar for the upcoming year (July 1st, 2010 through June 30th, 2011) in May 2010.

Please submit all workshop proposals for the coming year for possible workshops by April 30th, 2010. We will consider all proposals- fill them out as completely as you can.

Thank you all for your help with scheduling.

