



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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Oregon Project Learning Tree (PLT)
Oregon Project WILD

FACILITATOR HIGHLIGHT- KRIS BABBS



Kris Babbs was awarded the *Mary Rellergert Forestry Education (MRFE) Award for the Non-formal educator category in 2008.*

Who will you nominate for 2010?

Kristin Babbs serves as the Education Program Coordinator at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Tillamook Forest Center and has been an Oregon Natural Resources Education Program Facilitator for many years. She came to the Department of Forestry in the winter of 1998. During the early years, Kris conducted hundreds of forest education programs in the Tillamook. Later, Kristin helped develop, refine and now manage the menu of forest education offerings at the Tillamook Forest Center.

Throughout her career, Kristin has been devoted to connecting students and teachers with forest ecosystems. Her knowledge of the natural world, her understanding of teaching and learning styles, her dedication to children, and her own passion for forests have made her an incredible educator and an asset to ONREP.

Compilation: MRFE application, Susan Sahnaw & LeeAnn Mikkelson

WILD IN THE FOREST: WHY TARGET 4TH & 5TH GRADE?

Oregon has many unique and varied geographic regions. Considering that teachers want to connect learning with Oregon State Standards in a meaningful manner, what better way than to use local surroundings: place-based education strategies and the project curricula were used to build relevant and meaningful learning.

A Central Oregon teacher workshop focused on fourth and fifth grade did just that. As a result, fourth grade students are continue to build their understanding of the natural world through the observation and classification of living and non-living things and fifth grade is developing an understanding of the systems of living and non-living things, and how they interact and adapt with specific functions through their local environment. In addition to addressing these science standards students are beginning to carry over information and skills from one subject to another.



The WILD in the Forest workshop modeled some important strategies for successful teacher professional development. It integrated PLT and WILD through several subject areas for each activity cluster. Integration of subjects and skills is an excellent strategy when designing a cohesive workshop. Targeting just two grade levels allowed for more focused and in-depth work related to their needs. Most importantly it allowed teachers to communicate with their fellow teachers on implementation into their teaching plan. All things to consider as you plan your next workshop!

LeeAnn and Susan

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- 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

December/January ONREP Workshops:

- Story and Stroll: The Forest as seen by the Early Learner January 13th. Pre-K-2nd grade focus, Portland. Facilitators: Christal Florin and Linda Koser.
- Flying WILD: Birds, Habitats and Seasons February 10th. 4th-8th grade focus, Sherwood. Facilitators: LeeAnn Mikkelsen and company.
- Global Connections: Forests of the World February 17th. 8th-12th grade focus, Portland. Facilitators: Rick Zenn and Susan Sahnaw.



Tips and Tools:

“Share the Load!”

Bring in the experts- you do not have to do it all or know it all. There are many experts in the community that are able to help educate teachers on what is happening with natural resources. Some great places to look are your local Oregon State University Extension Office, Oregon Forest Resources Institute's speakers Bureau, Oregon's Small Woodlands Association, Department of Forestry and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Call us for more ideas!

Facilitator Tip brought to you by Amanda Sater



Did You Know?

Oregon Department of Education has a comprehensive website with many tools to help educators and facilitators.

The REAL site within Standards under the sub-topic Teaching and Learning provides links to many resources including:

- Standards by Design
- Searchable Standards
- Teaching and Learning Resources
- Online Oregon Standards Newspaper
- Strategies for Student Success
- Oregon Diploma Toolkits
- Oregon Skill Sets

This site is extremely helpful when planning a grade focused workshop. Here is the website for the Resources for Educational Achievement and Leadership site:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/real/>

January's Challenge Question:

Who does Jo Pierce think about when managing his land? Listen to Earth & Sky <http://www.earthsky.org/interviewpost/agriculture/private-forests-mean-income-much-more>

(Find the answer in February's *Connecting*~)

Answer to last month's (Volume 1, Issue 3) challenge question:

What percent of America's 751 million acres of forestland is owned by families and individuals according to the United States Department of Agriculture?

Answer: 62 percent of this forestland is owned by families and individuals - family forests - according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

<http://www.affoundation.org/facts.html>

MISC.

The Correlations for WILD, Aquatic WILD and Project Learning Tree to the new Oregon Department of Education Science Standards are available through our website. Please check them out and be sure to reference the website and this resource to all the educators you interact with:

<http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/extended/onrep/teacherscorner.shtml>

A huge thank you goes out to all who helped with this project. ONREP is thankful to have such a dedicate set of partners, educators and staff to make this resource available to Oregon educators throughout the state. If you have any questions, concerns or corrections please submit them to LeeAnn.

