

Oregon Natural Resources Education Program

March 2012 Updates and Action Items

Best Practices in Professional Development~

Susan Sahnou

- Those of you who attended the Fall 2011 facilitator summit at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center may remember the awesome keynote speaker Dr. Julie Kalnin, University of Portland, who helped us think about how to bring best practices into our one and two day workshop model. In February, the Oregon Community Foundation hosted a *Colloquium for Professional Development Providers* on best practices for teacher professional development, specifically in regards to environmental education. The sessions and activities presented here by Dr. Kalnin, Traci Price of the Oregon Environmental Taskforce, and others provided renewed energy and enthusiasm for looking at how we incorporate this into our work and the work of our facilitators.
- Heard of CCSS's? Common Core State Standards. Through some training and work by LeeAnn we are finding these have strong implications for our professional development workshops and institutes. We want to share all this exciting work with you, so . . .

ONREP Facilitator Training~

Susan Sahnou and LeeAnn Mikkelson

- **HOLD THESE DATES.** September 13 and 14th. One day will focus just on our ONREP Facilitators. The other day will be a training open to all those who provide K-12 teacher professional development in Oregon. This second day will focus on incorporating best practices as you develop your workshop or institute and, on how to facilitate in a way that models best practices and promotes higher order thinking skills.

Teachers as Researchers~

Kari O'Connell

- Hummingbird Research- Kari will be leading a workshop on April 9 for Corvallis area 4th and 5th grade teachers to get their students and families involved in Dr. Matt Betts' hummingbird research.
- Phenology Inquiry Project- Kari has been working with a HS teacher in Sherwood to help her set up a phenology inquiry project.

Invasives Education~

Kate Ferschweiler

- Invasive Weeds Program: We have set the dates for this summer's Plants on the Move Institutes; Eastside July 30th-Aug 3rd, at the Malheur Field Station. Westside Aug. 6th-10th, at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center, Alsea. See our web site for full details. These workshops are unique in modeling and engaging participants in a service learning approach to teaching and learning
- We have a few spaces available for facilitators to attend the Plants on the Move Institutes. If you think you're weedy enough, give Kate call 541-737-2128 or send an email: kate.ferschweiler@oregonstate.edu.

ONREP Workshops~

LeeAnn Mikkelson

- Many new and innovative workshops have been developed this year and been filled to capacity with very few workshops cancelling. Thank you for all the creativity and teamwork to those who have worked on workshops this year.
- **Action Item:** ALL workshop proposals for this coming year, July 1st, 2012-June 30th 2013, **are due by April 27, 2012.** Susan and LeeAnn will consider all submitted proposals when scheduling the ONREP Workshop Calendar. Location, focus, and curriculum are strongly considered while creating the ONREP Workshop Calendar. We will be supporting one early learner (PK-1) each quarter. Please call LeeAnn if you have any questions. 541-737-9121

Stewardship Schools Program~

LeeAnn Mikkelson and Susan Sahnaw

- The first School-to-School Stewardship Schools Program Summit is in its planning stages. This Summit will be an opportunity for the current SSP schools to gain skills and share information with one another as well as encourage new schools that are starting the program.
- The Stewardship Schools Program is bringing on some new schools this coming year from all around Oregon. We are welcoming M.I.T.C.H. Charter School and the Tillamook School District to the program and expect a couple more soon.
- We are excited about a new opportunity to bring our Stewardship Schools Program into Urban Schools. Over the next few months ONREP will lead a working group in determining how best to structure this program for schools with the unique opportunities and challenges that a city environment holds.