



# 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](mailto:leeann.mikkelson@oregonstate.edu)

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Oregon Project Learning Tree (PLT)  
Oregon Project WILD

"I found myself learning more about the carbon cycle and making connections that I hadn't made before."

Teacher as Researcher  
2009

## FACILITATOR HIGHLIGHT- PAM WILSON



*Pam was one of the 2008 Mary Rellergert Forestry Education Award recipients and one of the 2009 National Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educator Honorees.*

*Do you have a nomination suggestion?*

Pam's commitment to helping people understand the natural environment has followed her from her early days as an interpreter with the United States Forest Service, to her work as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teacher, and into retirement as pre-service faculty instructor and ONREP facilitator. Throughout her lifetime she has contributed her time, expertise, and passion for the out of doors by volunteering. For over 40 years she has devoted her life to natural resources education.

As an ONREP facilitator she has mentored many facilitators and considers sharing with other educators an honor. She views learning as a mutual journey and reflects that view in the way she shares the process of setting up and facilitating a solid workshop. She takes time to plan with them, listen to them, and ask them questions. Experienced ONREP facilitators also consult with her on a regular basis. At the *Fall 2008 Facilitator Summit* Pam was asked to share her professional story where she told us the journey of how her passion of writing and forests came together. Teaching how to think instead of what to think comes through in her facilitation, mentoring, conversations and sharing.

Compilation: Cindy Hall-Bogart, Susan Sahnaw & LeeAnn Mikkelson

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP AS SERVICE LEARNING



This past spring the Camp Fire USA Mt. Hood Council, applied for a Greenworks! Grant through National Project Learning Tree and received funding for: [Camp Onahlee's Future Forest](#).

Camp Onahlee has used this grant opportunity to share with the campers and greater public the benefits of timber harvest, monitoring, restoration and service learning.

The project is empowering youth, adults and local organizations to get involved in five key aspects:

1. Development of educational materials and kiosks that trace the reforestation process
2. Maintenance of previously planted fir seedlings
3. Planting and maintenance of additional diverse tree species.
4. Monitoring of key components such as water distribution and precipitation, temperature, soil conditions, etc. over time.
5. Identification and removal of invasive species with potential to effect new growth

Summary from: [Camp Onahlee's Future Forest](#)  
GreenWorks! Grant

ONREP works closely with Greenworks! Grant awardees by providing consultation, training, and support. To learn more about the GreenWorks! Grant: [http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21\\_22\\_21.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_21.html). The next round of grant proposals is due in April 2010.

To learn how ONREP Facilitators can get involved with Camp Onahlee's project please see attached flyer or visit: <http://www.campfireusamthood.org>

## Advisory Board

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NAAEE- National Project for Excellence in EE

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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

### December/January ONREP Workshops:

- Alien Invasion: Plants on the Move! How do invasive plants impact Oregon forests? December 5<sup>th</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade focus, Corvallis. Facilitator: Jody Einerson with partners OSU Extension Wildlife Stewards and Benton Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Story and Stroll: The Forest as seen by the Early Learner January 13<sup>th</sup>. Pre-K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade focus, Portland. Facilitators: Christal Florin and Linda Koser.



### Tips and Tools:

Things to keep in mind when creating a workshop agenda:

- Include content information on local natural resources and issues
- Grade level focus
- Activities that support your content focus and are grade level appropriate
- Time for educators to collaborate, reflect and synthesize materials and generate ideas

*Facilitator Tip from LeeAnn Mikkelsen*

## Did You Know?

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization that was chartered in 1981 with the purpose of encouraging the long-term sustainability of America's forests. It is recognized for its commitment to sustainable forestry, quality environmental education, and wildlife habitat and watershed protection. Many quality programs are implemented through its Centers: the [Center for Conservation Solutions](#), the [Center for Environmental Learning](#) and the [Center for Family Forests](#).

The AFF is committed to creating a future where North American forests are sustained by a public which understands and values the social, economic, and environmental benefits they provide to our communities, our nation, and the world.

Retrieved 11/09 from: [www.forestfoundation.org](http://www.forestfoundation.org) and [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)

*Check out their website for information on America's Forests:*

<http://www.forestfoundation.org>

### December's 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?

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

**Answer to last month's (Volume 1, Issue 2) challenge question:** Which subheading under [Facts & Resources](#) on the OFRI site will bring you to the interactive map that helps answer: "What 'Forest' in Oregon?"

ForestLearn

[http://www.oregonforests.org/assets/flow/watershed/forest\\_types/index.htm](http://www.oregonforests.org/assets/flow/watershed/forest_types/index.htm)

## MISC.

Recently ONREP held a workshop in Sunriver with Sunriver Nature Center and Observatory called Wild in the Forest. Facilitators were Julie Russell and Gwen LaFond.

They suggest these strategies:

- Carefully choose a relevant theme and grade level focus.
- Personally invite the grade level teachers through multiple avenues.

This personal invitation set the tone for a very successful workshop that filled up quickly. Thank you Julie for following through with your idea and sharing it with us!

