



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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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
- Bureau of Land Management

FACILITATOR HIGHLIGHT- JILL SEMSLICK



Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education merit Award Winner

After participating in the ONREP "Teacher as Researcher" (TasR) project, Jill stayed actively involved by becoming a facilitator. This project focuses on connecting teachers with research as a pathway to authentic field-based science-inquiry projects. A veteran high school teacher with 24 years experience, Jill, a biology, ecology and chemistry teacher at Pauling Academy of Integrated Sciences in Portland, OR,

integrated the concepts of Expeditionary Learning – comprising standards-based learning adventures and community-service activities – with her own teaching methods. Her projects have included the "Northern Flying Squirrel" project, in which students gain hands-on experience in fieldwork and natural resource management while providing valuable data to the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Jill has been a participant and continues as a facilitator. Jill Semlick received a Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education merit Award for her outstanding contributions to environmental education. The Bartlett Environmental Education Awards are given annually by the National Environmental Education Foundation to recognize teachers who inspire their students and their peers.

Program Highlight: Oregon Conservation Strategies

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has created a pro-active, ecoregional approach to help maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations. To find out more about the Oregon Conservation Strategy go to: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/> where you will find many resources and tools that help supplement and enrich activities in Project Learning Tree and Project WILD. This resource helps make our facilitation relevant to our Oregon audience- imagine altering Bottleneck Genes to an identified priority species that is in the region that you are facilitating.



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Oregon Project Learning Tree (PLT)

Oregon Project WILD

Upcoming Opportunities

December 4th: Douglas-fir Forest-Focus on Forest Ecology and Soils - Corvallis

In addition to ONREP Workshops we wanted you to know about this Inquiry-based Science Competition for students.

The Young Naturalist Awards from the American Museum of Natural History is an inquiry-based science competition for students in grades 7-12 to promote participation and communication in science. The theme of the Young Naturalist Awards is the same each year: "Scientific Discovery Begins with Curiosity!" Students choose a topic in biology, ecology, Earth science, or astronomy and go to an area where they can explore their topic. More information can be found:

<http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/index.html>.

The deadline for 2011 research essays is March 1, 2011.

Lost and Looking For:

While you are rummaging through your stuff this Fall please keep your eyes open for ONREP's missing items:

- Tree Cookie Kit- in a labeled box
- Every Tree For Itself Kit – in a labeled box
- Our Tri-Fold Display – in a large black bag with a nice handle and strap.

Give us a quick call or email if you have located any of them so we can arrange for pick-up.



The October's Challenge Question:

According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategies, how many ecoregions does Oregon have? Get a free poster if you email me the names of all eight: leeann.mikkelson@oregonstate.edu (Find the answer in the next **Connecting~**)

Answer to last month's (Volume 1, Issue 7) challenge question: In 2007 the average pay in the paper wholesaler sector was \$62,902.

MORE BRIGHT SPOTS



Kari and Annie O'Connell



Julie's twins: Mira and Nora Woodward