

MAKING RIPPLES NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 23, 2006



For several years students and parents from Linus Pauling Middle School have joined teacher Coulter Rose and ODOT employee Gene Walton in restoring Dun-awi Creek's ash swale. Activities range from noxious weed removal to planting native species. The Making Ripples Program supports initiatives that connect diverse community partners.

"Community Building for Water Quality"

What is the Making Ripples Program?

by Heath Keirstead

The Making Ripples Program (MRP) was created in 1999 as the education program of Benton SWCD. The program originally focused on stream restoration efforts at schools in Benton County. One of the first projects was the creation of the book, "How to Adopt a Stream in Benton County." Another important effort was the restoration of Dixon Creek in partnership with 4-H Wildlife Stewards and Jefferson Elementary. This successful joint venture now serves as a model for present and future community restoration activities, and a "Keepers of the Creek" Guidebook is being written by Patti Warner, a parent volunteer involved in the project.

The MRP vision has expanded since its inception. Now, our goal is "to unite and support the separate efforts of local agencies, groups, educators and volunteers and to support collaborative efforts of watershed education partners to improve K-12 and adult citizen watershed knowledge." (Teresa Matteson, Benton SWCD Education & Outreach Coordinator)

Here is a sampling of the ways in which we plan to support and enhance natural resources education around Benton County:

- Offering mini-grants & informing educators of other funding sources (*see p. 2 mini-grant article*)
- Serving as a clearinghouse for natural resources activities and opportunities in the county
- Creating & distributing a semi-annual conservation education newsletter (*This is our first issue!*)
- Coordinating public speaking opportunities for students
- Producing laminated maps of Benton County watersheds for schools
- Supporting the creation of the "Keepers of the Creek" Guidebook
- Partnering with OSU Extension to bring you 4-H Wildlife Stewards and Project WILD Aquatic trainings
- Co-sponsoring "Naturescaping Your Yard" courses with Beth Young and the Corvallis Environmental Center
- Teaching natural resources conservation principles/soil and water basics
- Mobilizing volunteers

Let us know what we can do to help you enhance or restore the watersheds and streams of Benton County! Contact Heath Keirstead (heath.keirstead@oacd.org) or Teresa Matteson (teresa.matteson@oacd.org) or call us at 541-753-7208.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ **Welcome** to the first issue of the Making Ripples Newsletter for educators!
- ◆ This newsletter and many of the Making Ripples offerings are funded by a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.
- ◆ We have grants for natural resources educators! Contact us for details and applications.



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TESTING WELL WATER FOR NITRATE

"NITRATE TEST KITS AND SAND-FILLED GROUNDWATER MODELS CAN BE USED IN ACTIVITIES ADDRESSING A VARIETY OF SCIENCE BENCHMARKS."

Web Corner

For supplies:

- Acorn Naturalists www.acornnaturalists.com/store/
- Carolina Biological Supply Company www2.carolina.com

For lessons:

- Northwest Center for Sustainable Resources www.ncsr.org
- Know Your Watershed www.ctic.purdue.edu/KYW
- The Jason Project: Hands-on, Inquiry-based Learning www.jasonproject.org/
- The GLOBE Program (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) www.globe.gov
- The Water Sourcebooks www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/wsb/

...stay tuned for more!

Well Water in the Classroom

by Gail Glick Andrews

The water underground—too often out-of-sight and out-of-mind and commonly omitted from watershed education. Groundwater provides cool water to streams in summer, drinking water for virtually all rural residents in Benton County, and irrigation that allows our bounty from the land.

The OSU Extension Well Water Program helps Oregonians better understand drinking water and groundwater. A special effort is being made to educate people living and working in the Willamette River corridor because that groundwater is vulnerable to contamination. One goal of the program

is to inform these residents that their well water may be high in nitrate, and possibly other contaminants. Another goal is to share information about ways to protect the groundwater resource.

The Well Water Program is offering its services to classroom teachers who would like to incorporate groundwater in their watershed education curriculum. Well Water staff are available to help you develop your ideas and for classroom assistance. For example, nitrate test kits and sand-filled groundwater models can be used in activities addressing a variety of science bench-

marks. Issues related to groundwater management provide lessons in a broad range of social sciences. Opportunities for service learning and school-wide projects abound! Consider offering well water testing for the community or developing a groundwater protection demonstration site with recommended landscaping and run-off management practices. Some funding is available for special projects.

For more information contact Gail Andrews at 737-6294, gail.glick.andrews@oregonstate.edu, or see groundwater.orst.edu/willamette.

What Could YOU Do With a Mini-grant?

by Teresa Matteson

Benton SWCD is offering three grants for natural resources education:

Thanks to a generous education grant from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, our Making Ripples Program is offering two grants to support watershed education in every Benton County school.

We are offering one-time curriculum grants of \$200. These funds will provide materials, such as books, field guides, and curriculum sets, for improving teacher understanding of watershed processes. Also, materials used for teaching K-12 students about the many elements of watershed science can be

purchased with these funds. See the Web Corner on page 2 and the Book Nook on page 4 for Curriculum Grant ideas.

Each Benton County School is eligible for Making Ripples Mini Grants of \$250/year. These funds are available to support activities that improve watershed knowledge while building community pride and cohesion. Use your imagination when applying for this support. If nothing comes to mind right away, we have some ideas!

- Buy supplies for a school greenhouse or garden project where students learn about reducing chemical and water use.
- Buy supplies to make bat boxes or quail nesting sites for habitat improvement



PAUL TOUPS (MONROE GRADE SCHOOL) USED A MINI-GRANT TO PLANT THIS GARDEN WITH HIS 1ST AND 2ND GRADERS .



GLORIA SCHOENHOLTZ (CVHS) USED HER MINI-GRANT TO TAKE STUDENTS ON A TOUR OF THE CORVALLIS WASTEWATER RECLAMATION PLANT.

...Do With a Mini-grant?

(continued from p.2)

- Get a substitute and bus so you can take a field trip to the fish hatchery or waste water treatment plant
- Purchase scientific equipment to help students appreciate water and it's importance in our world, like a microscope, thermometers, water quality test kits, stopwatches, or bug boxes (<http://www.acornnaturalists.com/store/>)
- Start a composting project
- Send teachers or volunteers to training programs like 4-H Wildlife or Watershed Stewards
- Hire a guest scientist to come to your class

⌘ Not satisfied with \$250?? Benton SWCD is also interested in funding larger, collaborative efforts of natural resources educators. If you have a dream to work with other teachers at your school or from other schools on a large scale project, let us hear your ideas! We are waiting to fund one (or many) such projects.

To request an application for these funding opportunities, call Heath at 541-753-7208 or e-mail heath.keirstead@oacd.org.

An Integrated Curriculum Approach

By Pam Wilson & Heath Keirstead

Here's a great way to reinforce your science lessons with language arts!

After studying an ecological topic like the water cycle, introduce your students to some examples of poetic forms. Haiku, windspark, or diamante poems are several options. Check <http://www.catskillcenter.org/programs/edu/csp/H20/Lesson1/poetry2.htm> for descriptions.

Once you've familiarized your students with the forms, take them outside. Have them describe what they hear, feel, smell, and see, and embellish with adjectives. Ask, "What are you reminded of sitting out here?" Then have students write poems (using a poetic form) that incorporate the relevant science concepts.

This fun lesson is based on Project Learning Tree's Ac-

tivity 5: Poet-Tree, and was shared by Pam Wilson at the PLT workshop held this summer in Corvallis.

Contact Oregon Forestry Education Program for more information: <http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/extended/ofep/>.

Stream Cycle

Where did you come from,
noisy burbling stream?

High in the mountain
Where snows fall white
and silent

Then seep slowly into
the soil

Drawn down through
days and decades

Of rock and sediment
To spill out in a sylvan
spring and

Fall again with splash
and spray.

Where are you going, clear
sparkling satisfying
stream?

Down, always down
Over boulder and
branch

Past fern, alder, spruce,
and pine

Past sumac, salmonberry,
cedar, and fir

To field, grasslands,
marsh, and estuary

Home. And then to
return.

Written by
Jacqueline Farah, a
Neskowin Valley School
teacher, during a Project
Learning Tree Workshop

Soda Creek Falls Photo by
Denise W. Ross
www.dwrphotos.com

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We're on the Web!
www.benton-swcd.org

Book Nook

Journals:

- Green Teacher Magazine
www.greenteacher.com
- The Oregon Science Teacher (TOST) Journal
www.oregonscience.org
- healthy waters Journal
healthywatersinstitute.org
- Journal of Environmental Education
www.heldref.org/jenv.php

Free Guides:

- How to Adopt a Stream in Benton County call Benton SWCD: 541-753-7208
- Natural Resource Education Guide for Benton County call OSU Extension: 541-766-6750

Curriculum, Guides & Books:
 (1st three available at:
www.acornnaturalists.com)

- Rivers Project Curriculum Guides for Math, Language Arts, Chemistry & Geology
- Last Child in the Woods, Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv
- Sourcebook for Watershed Education by the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network
- Ecology Field Cards from Youth Forestry Education
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/ecoCards/yfe_ecocards.htm

...more in the next issue!

Upcoming Events in Benton County

Event	Date/ Time/ Location	Fee	Who to Contact
Global Climate Change Workshops for upper middle and high school teachers	9/23-24/06 at OSU	\$75 stipend	Vicki Osis vjosis@peak.org
Compost Workshop A master gardener will provide information on composting at home	Friday 9/1/06 1-4 pm Benton County Fairgrounds South Lawn	Sponsored by Allied Waste	Corvallis Disposal 754-0444
Naturescaping in the City 8 sessions by garden designer Beth Young	9/12/06-10/31/06 7-9pm Firehouse #5	\$49	Beth Young: 738-2971 To register: 753-9211 www.bygardendesign.com/
Kids Day for Conservation FREE, hands-on, natural resources activities	9/16, 10am-4pm at Benton County Fairgrounds	free	Dick Powell 541-929-2477 dick@starkerforests.com
4-H Wildlife Stewards Trainings for teachers and volunteers	4-H Youth Conference & Education Center 5390 4-H Youth Road NW in Salem	free	Maggie Livesay maggie.livesay@oregonstate.edu 766-6750
Oregon Trout's Salmon Watch field trips to see spawning salmon	September & November	Substitute & bus reimbursements	Kelly Hatteberg 753-4280
Research Advances in Fisheries, Wildlife and Ecology Symposium (RAFWE) student involvement opportunity!	11/9/06 LaSells Stewart Center, OSU	free	Judith Jobse jobsej@onid.orst.edu
Naturescaping Your Rural Property 8 sessions by garden designer Beth Young	01/03/07-02/21/07 7-9 pm Firehouse #5	\$49	Beth Young: 738-2971 To register: 753-9211 www.bygardendesign.com/
Project WILD Aquatic Workshop for educators teaching about aquatic wildlife and ecosystems	February 2007 date, time and location TBA	free	Jody Einerson valleyheartco@comcast.net
Benton SWCD Native Tree and Shrub Sale	Order forms available mid-September; Plant pick-up Sat 02/03/07 one day only! Eichler Hay Company E of Hwy 20, N of Circle Blvd	See price list on order form	Alice Fairfield 766-8083

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

has generously funded four issues of the Making Ripples Newsletter. The second issue, available January 2007, will focus on growing community partnerships for watershed education. Connect with natural resource education partners in Benton County, learn ways of harvesting volunteer energy, and explore existing conservation networks.

