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We're on the Web!
www.bentonswcd.org

BOOK NOOK



Curriculum Guides:

- Rethinking Recycling- An Oregon Waste Reduction Curriculum (grades K-5) by Oregon DEQ <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/education/curriculum.htm>
- Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring: A Manual of Field & Lab Procedures (grades 9-12) by SWRP www.swrp.org/
- 1000 Drops (grades 4-6) by Healthy Waters Institute of Oregon Trout; contact kim@ortrout.org
- Water on the Web (high school & college) by WOW <http://waterontheweb.org/>

Items to Purchase:

- Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv
- STUFF: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things by John Ryan
- Geography of Childhood by Gary Paul Nabhan
- Greening School Grounds by Tim Grant
- Ecological Literacy: Educating Our Children for a Sustainable World by Michael Stone
- Into the Field: A Guide to Locally Focused Teaching by Leslie Clare Walker
- Bottle Biology Explore the world using recyclable materials (by University of Wisconsin-Madison)

...more in the next issue!

Upcoming Events in Benton County



Event	Date/ Time/ Location	Fee	Who to Contact
Soil Science for Teachers Learn how to make soil science part of your curriculum	August 20-22 OSU campus Corvallis	Sit in or pay class fee	James Cassidy 541-737-6810 James.Cassidy@oregonstate.edu
Compost Basics and Pile Building	August 28 6-8 pm Avery Park Compost Demo Site, Corvallis	\$15	Jen Floro, Benton SWCD jfloro@bentonswcd.org 541-753-7208
4-H Wildlife Stewards/ Project WILD Training	August 29 8:30-3:30 Bezell Memorial Forest Kings Valley, OR	\$20 (\$115 value)	Maggie Livesay, OSU Extension Maggie.Livesay@oregonstate.edu
Science, Music and Marshmallows Natural Resources Campfire Programs	Every Wed in August 7-9:30 pm Newton Creek Wetlands behind red caboose in Philomath	free	Karen Fleck-Harding outreach@mrwc.net
BSWCD booth at Saturday Farmers' Market	Saturday, Sept. 1 9 am-1 pm Corvallis Riverfront	free	tmatteson@bentonswcd.org
Water, Water Everywhere Meeting to determine interest in developing water policy and plan Keynote: Dr. Michael Campana	Thursday Sept 13 3:30-5:30 pm Corvallis-Benton County Library	free	Lisa Grisham Benton County Board of Commissioners 541-766-6852
Naturescaping Your Land 6 wk course for homeowners with large city lots or rural property	Tuesday, September 18 7-9 pm Fire Station #5 Fair Oaks Dr off Walnut	\$49	Corvallis Environmental Center 541-753-9211
On-line Wildlife Stewards Training begins	Monday, Sept 24 On your computer Must be completed in 12 weeks	\$115 ***	Register on-line www.wildlifestewards.4h.oregonstate.edu ***scholarships available to Benton County residents
3-Day Wildlife Stewards Training for teachers and volunteers	Oct 12-14 4-H Education and Conference Center Salem	\$115 ***	Register on-line (see above) or call 766-6750 ***scholarships available to Benton County residents
5th Annual Kids Day for Conservation Build a bug, create a birdhouse, plus much more. 2007 theme: What's in Your Watershed?	Saturday Oct 20 10 am- 4 pm Benton Co. Fairgrounds Arena Building	free	http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/ye/kidsday.htm Volunteers needed! Call 766-6750



This issue of the Making Ripples Newsletter is dedicated to Elizabeth Sulzman, 1966-2007. Among many other achievements, Elizabeth was an Associate Professor of Soil Science at OSU. Now her students are her living soil legacy. It's our challenge to carry her passion forward, to continue her efforts to explore and share with others the beauty and mystery of this fragile earth.



Benton Soil and Water Conservation District

MAKING RIPPLES NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR WATER QUALITY
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 8, 2007



Da Vinci Days visitors of all ages let their creative juices flow at the BSWCD Soil Painting Booth. Soil paints are a great way to introduce the concept of soil diversity. For information on making soil paints, visit: http://soils.usda.gov/education/resources/k_12/lessons/painting/



Important Notes

- ◆ Have YOU received a grant from us? If not, apply NOW! We still have almost \$12,000 that MUST be used before December 31st!!
- ◆ Not sure how to spend your grants? Read how other teachers have used theirs. (see p. 3)



Take Advantage of Our Educator Assistance

- FREE Laminated Watershed Maps for each school
 - Grants for curriculum materials
 - Grants for project support- buses, substitute reimbursements, restoration equipment, research tools, etc...
 - Conservation Education Grants...for your big dreams!
1. Mini-Grants of \$250/year ('06-'07 and '07-'08) to support activities that enrich watershed knowledge.
 2. BSWCD Conservation Education Grants for funding major efforts in natural resources education. These grants are available for projects that are long-term, and/or collaborative. We want to help you fulfill your dreams!

Benton SWCD is offering grants for natural resources education. The grants are AVAILABLE to EVERY SCHOOL in BENTON COUNTY! All you need to do is apply!!

Maps, curricula and mini-grants are sponsored by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). You must access the funds by December 31, 2007 or the money will leave our community forever! See our website for a list of suggested materials and application forms: <http://www.bentonswcd.org/teachers/>



Oregon Trout Offers Student Scholarships



The Healthy Waters Institute, an education program of Oregon Trout, will be awarding four \$1,500.00 scholarships to junior and senior high school students in spring 2008. Scholarships will be presented to students actively committed to watershed stewardship as demonstrated through participation in independent projects. Eligible projects must occur within the state of Oregon and address local issues related to watershed health, but affiliation with Oregon Trout or the Healthy Waters Institute is not required. More information about scholarships will be available at www.healthywatersinstitute.org.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
has generously funded four issues of the Making Ripples Newsletter.



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New Places for Nature-Based Field Trips



Bezell Forest Education Center, located in the historic Plunkett family barn at Bezell Memorial Forest in Kings Valley, has been renovated to include a large room for lectures and projects, and a smaller laboratory/classroom. With easy access to meadows, oak woodlands, Plunkett Creek and Doug fir forest, Bezell is a prime site for ecological field trips. Watershed Explorers, the first of a series of curriculum kits designed for use at Bezell, is now available. Visit http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/forest_ed.php.

Hesthavn, donated to the Audubon Society of Corvallis in 1993, occupies 5.75 acres near Oak Creek in Corvallis. Similar to Bezell, Hesthavn is renovating its barn for use as an education center and for storage and meetings. Audubon hopes that Hesthavn will be an education center where local school groups can explore various wildlife communities. To achieve this goal, Audubon is restoring native species of the western foothills and Willamette Valley. Audubon offers a variety of education programs. Contact Elise Elliott-Smith (eelliottsmith@yahoo.com).

Marys Peak Natural Resources Interpretive Center is situated behind the red caboose at Newton Creek Wetlands in Philomath. At present, this is the site of science and math teacher trainings, Philomath School District's Spring Field Day, and Science, Music and Marshmallows. Plans are underway to purchase 90 wetland and 30 industrial acres adjacent to the site, and to build an education center and business campus focused on natural resources management. Keep updated on the progress of the Interpretive Center: agrube@mpnric.org; (541) 929-8248.



The fifth annual Kids Day for Conservation will be held Saturday, October 20th from 10 am until 4 pm at the Benton County Fairgrounds in Corvallis. The theme this year is "What's in your Watershed?" There will be plenty of exciting discoveries for kids of all ages at this free, indoor, family event. Learn about wildfire. Look for snakes, insects, fish and other critters. Build a birdhouse to take home, or climb a rock wall. Learn about crops and products that come from your watershed's farms and forests. Participate in the Great Western Oregon Forest Scavenger Hunt! Over 30 natural resource organizations and businesses will sponsor a wide variety of hands-on, conservation-related activities at Kids Day. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. For more information, call 541-929-2477.



RARE Partnership Links Science and Place-Based Education

Benton and Polk County students are getting their hands dirty for a good cause. Students are working with the Institute for Applied Ecology to raise and transplant rare and endangered plants. Kincaid's lupine, Nelson's checkermallow and Bradshaw's lomatium are three of the species of concern that students study, grow in greenhouses, and reintroduce. The RARE (Restoration and Reintroduction Education) program gives students a hands-on, place based approach to learning science, and helps them develop a vested interest in the plights of some of these species that need our assistance.

Jen Cramer, who spearheads the RARE program, loves working with students and plants. As a restoration biologist, she develops ecological lessons to accompany the restoration process. In the spring of 2007, the RARE program was active at Lincoln K-8, Philomath HS, Crescent Valley HS, Kings Valley Charter School, Cheldelin Middle School, and Luckiamute Valley Charter School. Reintroductions have occurred at Bald Hill, Jackson-Frazier Wetlands, and Bezell Memorial Forest—just to a name a few.

Here are some highlights from an interview with Jen [JC].

[JC]: Kincaid's lupine and Nelson's checkermallow are disappearing because their prairie habitat has nearly disappeared due to agricultural and residential development.

[HK]: Would you say their habitat is also disappearing because of forest encroachment?

[JC]: Yes, reduction in the quantity of prairie habitat has been caused by agricultural, residential, and industrial development (such as the West Eugene Wetlands). However, the quality of the remaining fragments is constantly under attack due to invasive species as well as forest encroachment and invasion by woody species due to the lack of fire.

[HK]: What do you love about your job?

[JC]: I love that no two days at work are the same. [On any given day I might be]...in the classroom teaching about Willamette Valley Ecology and endangered species;...in the greenhouse tending plants;...in the field collecting seeds and monitoring the health of rare plant populations;...engaged in collaboration with other scientists or educators;...[or] glued to my computer, analyzing data or writing grants. Every day I know that my work is appreciated and in the long run, I will always know that I was a part of the solution. I love my job!

[HK]: Do you have any especially poignant stories about working with students and the RARE program?

[JC]: I remember one particular girl from [Crescent Valley High

Making Ripples Grantee Projects



Peruse the following grant summaries for ideas on how you can spend the grant money available for your school. The straightforward grant applications are available on our website

(www.bentonswcd.org/teachers/) or contact Heath (hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org; 541-753-7208). Act soon! The Making Ripples Grants must be spent by December, 2007!

Type of Grant	Project	What was funded
Making Ripples Curriculum	High School Soil Science	(18) Judging Oregon Soils Manuals from OSU Extension
	Habitat Education	Ecology Field Cards from OSU Extension
	Newton Creek Wetlands Studies	(20) Mammal Field Guides from Grassroots Bookstore
	Watershed Ecology Studies	(12) topo maps of Monroe area, (2) Oregon raised relief maps
Making Ripples Mini-Grant	Aquatic Ecology Unit	Aquatic D-nets, vertebrate nets, invertebrate nets, and kick net
	Local Wildlife studies	Visit from Chintimini Wildlife Rehab Center's Education Birds
	Dixon Creek field trips	2 days of substitutes so teachers could lead restoration field trips
	Butterfly Garden	Wildflower seeds, signage, tools, fencing, 4 inch and 1 gallon plants
BSWCD Conservation Education Grant	Compost project	Material to improve compost bins and eliminate standing water
	Nature Trail Construction	Weed barrier fabric, bilingual signs, native plants, trail mulch, etc.
	Greenhouse for rare plants	Lumber, thermometers, heating mats, exhaust fan, electrical work, etc.
	Newton Creek Wetlands Wildlife Blind	Materials to construct blind & footbridge, tools, traps, and funding for project coordinator

RARE Partnership (continued)

School] last year. When we got off the bus for the first field trip to Chip Ross, she exclaimed, "Nature smells bad." As we walked up the hill, she whined about how hot it was outside. This was in October. But by April, after growing Kincaid's lupine all year and planting them out twice, when we went to monitor our seedlings at Bald Hill, she was crawling on her hands and knees in the prairie looking for seedlings. When she found her first one, she screamed and called me over, "Look Jen, our babies, they're alive---we did it!"

[HK]: Can schools set up RARE clubs? Is there a preferred age range for RARE participation?

[JC]: YES--The ideal group size to work with is under 20. For many schools with huge classroom sizes and tight schedules, forming a club may be the way to go. This is how it is done at Cheldelin although we take the entire 6th grade out for the out-planting. So far, RARE has worked with 6-12 grade. We are working on smaller projects for earlier grades, such as starting a native prairie garden on school grounds. This may be appropriate for

grades 2-5 although we have not done this yet.

[HK]: If teachers who read this article are interested in a partnership with you, do you have room for more school groups?

[JC]: Currently, we do not have enough funding for 2007-2008. However, teachers are often able to get a grant that we may not be eligible for. If teachers-whose schools have greenhouses-are interested in finding out how to do that, they can contact me.

[HK]: Do you have opportunities for older youth/college students?

[JC]: YES--Currently, we have a Citizen Science Coordinator position through AmeriCorps. In addition, we LOVE volunteers from all ages and walks of life.

For more information about the Institute of Applied Ecology and its RARE program, visit <http://www.appliedeco.org/index.html> or contact Jen Cramer (jcramer@peak.org) or 541-753-3099.



Web Corner

- The Field Museum Underground Adventure http://www.fieldmuseum.org/undergroundadventure/kidzone/soil_biodiversity.shtml
- Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
- Aquatic Invertebrates <http://chamisa.freeshell.org/inverts.htm>
- Bottle Biology <http://www.bottlebiology.org/intro/index.html>
- Wetlands Web Links <http://www.fws.gov/nwi/educator.htm>
- Water Science for Schools <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/>

...stay tuned for more!