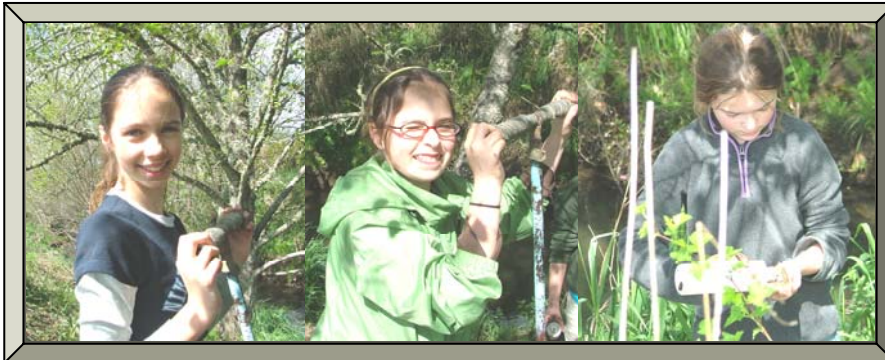


JANUARY 10, 2008



Claire Rodman, Tessa Jelten & Calli Layton, 4-H Wildlife Stewards from Mrs. Erickson's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, shown here collecting data for their soil science project along Dixon Creek.

## Jefferson Students: State Champions

In the spring of 2007, three 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Jefferson Elementary donned their raingear, grabbed a bucket auger, and headed out to collect soil samples. They chose three locations along Dixon Creek, one right on the water's edge, one half way up the bank, and another at the top of the bank. They augered down as far as they could go, which varied depending on how close they were to the water's edge. The rain poured down but the students were undaunted. It was a cold and muddy process, but spirits were high and the atmosphere verged on festive.

Calli Layton, Tessa Jelten and Claire Rodman were Wildlife Stewards from Mrs. Erickson's class. They had been involved with Wildlife Stewards for a combined total of 12 years. After learning about worm bins and seeing other Wildlife Stewards posters, they wanted to study the soil near Dixon Creek for their 5<sup>th</sup> grade Wildlife Stewards project. The girls decided to investigate the health of the soil near Dixon Creek (behind Jefferson). After getting advice from a soil scientist on what measurements to take, they chose to compare the color, texture and depth to the water table in three landscape positions. They used a Munsell Color System to name the colors, and performed the Feel Method to determine

soil texture. They laid out the soil profiles, determined the horizon breaks and collected sub-samples from each horizon.

All of this data was compiled into a poster, which contained pictures, facts, maps and data. It was first displayed at the Wildlife Stewards Summit held at Lincoln K-8 in April 2007. At the summit, the project was judged for creativity, neatness, appropriateness of information provided, and how well it told a story.

Tessa, Calli and Claire received Blue + at the Summit, the highest mark possible, allowing the poster to continue to the Benton County Fair. At the County Fair, their poster won Reserve Champion, and was sent along to the State Fair. These young soil scientists from Jefferson Elementary won the Champion Ribbon for the Junior Division Club Display in Natural Resources at the Oregon State Fair!

When asked what their plans for the future are, the girls say they hope to share their soils knowledge with younger students. And their favorite part of the whole adventure? Why, "getting down and dirty", of course!

Contact OSU Extension's 4-H program to give your students experiences like this! MaggieLivesay@oregonstate.edu

## Important Notes

- ◆ The recycling system is changing! See p. 4 for a list of approved items for commingled recycling.
- ◆ Our curriculum and mini-grants are gone, but grants for educators still abound! Check out your options on p.2.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Sustainability Pathfinders at Corvallis-Benton Co Library</i>	2
<i>Grants &amp; Scholarships for teachers &amp; students</i>	2
<i>Restoration Intern at BSWCD</i>	2
<i>Oregon Green Schools: A resource conservation program</i>	3
<i>Oregon Envirothon</i>	3
<i>Teacher of the Year &amp; Poster Contest Winner</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events in Benton County</i>	4
<i>Recycling Alert!</i>	4

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



## Sustainability Pathfinders at Corvallis-Benton Co Library



Pathfinders are not just mid-sized SUVs! They are also, and more importantly, a list of media resources on a particular topic, all of which may be found at the library. This year, library staff developed pathfinders on these 5 sustainability topics: renewable energy, green building, waste reduction and recycling, water conservation, and local foods.

Pathfinders were created as another way for library patrons to find information on topics which may be in a number of locations and formats in the library or that may not be easily found by looking in the library catalog. To make the pathfinders, the librarians find everything available on a subject and then narrow the list down to the more current titles, those that cover the subject well, and those that give different viewpoints or segments of the subject.

The librarians try to create pathfinders on subjects that are of current interest. Over the last few years, they have done pathfinders on local history, model railroads, Pulitzer prize winners, religion, cookbooks and Oregon book award winners. Pathfinders are found on the second floor in a brochure holder at the top of the stairs. Among other uses, they are a handy starting place for student research assignments.

For more information about Pathfinders, contact Mary Finnegan at the library (541-766-6993). ☘

## BSWCD Welcomes LINKS Intern Taylor Bortz



Hi, I'm Taylor, the new Urban Creek Collaborative Restoration Coordinator at BSWCD. I'm very excited to join the fabulous team at BSWCD and am currently planning several projects. One project is the creation of a native plant demonstration garden in a Corvallis park; homeowners and the general public will be able to visit the garden and learn how naturescaping both beautifies their streamside properties and promotes healthy ecological functioning of area creeks.

I also hope to initiate a walking/bike tour of urban creek restoration sites in conjunction with the schools and community groups engaged in these projects. If you know of a restoration project that should be showcased, please contact me. If you have ideas for future creek restoration sites, would like to collaborate, or have advice you'd like to share on conducting successful projects, e-mail me at [tbortz@bentonswcd.org](mailto:tbortz@bentonswcd.org). I hope to work with you in 2008! ☘



**TAYLOR BORTZ**  
LINKS AMERICORPS INTERN  
FOCUSING ON CREEK RESTORA-

## Scholarships and Grants for Students and Teachers



**Toyota TAPESTRY Grants** ~ Deadline: January 28, 2008 The TAPESTRY program awards fifty \$10,000 grants and at least 20 mini-grants of \$2,500 to K-12 educators of environmental science, physical science, and science and literacy programs. For more information, <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/>.

**Mantis Awards** ~ Deadline: March 1, 2008 Apply today to win one of 25 Mantis tiller/cultivators ) for your garden program! <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis-criteria.asp>

**Shade Structure Grant Program** ~ Deadline: March 5, 2008 To assist organizations in creating sun-safe outdoor areas, any U.S. nonprofit or educational institution may apply for permanent shade structures for outdoor areas not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools, and eating areas. <http://www.aad.org/public/sun/grants.html>

**U.S. Potato Board School Wellness Grants** ~ Deadline: April 15, 2008 Ten grants of \$2,500 to public elementary schools for equipment and/or educational programs that will help move children toward healthier diets and improve their overall wellness. [www.healthypotato.com](http://www.healthypotato.com).

**Outdoor Classroom Grant Program** ~ Rolling Deadline: This outdoor classroom grant helps schools improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. <http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowe/outdoor/index.html>

**Apprentice Ecologist Initiative™** ~ Undertake an environmental stewardship project, document it and write an essay. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to the author of the top Apprentice Ecologist essay. [http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer\\_apprentice\\_ecologist.php](http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer_apprentice_ecologist.php)

**Grant Wrangler Funding Directory** ~ a free grants listing service that makes it easy for teachers to find funding. To see the full list of funding opportunities, and to subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter, visit <http://www.grantwrangler.com/index.html>

**KidsGardening** ~ links to grants and curriculum ideas. Sign up for their free e-newsletter to receive information about upcoming grant opportunities and to learn what other teachers are doing.

**Youth Service America** ~ another great resource for educational grants, especially targeted at youth-led endeavors. <http://ysa.org/> ☘

## Oregon Green Schools: A Resource Conservation Program

By Jan Odell



Oregon Green Schools – 200 schools strong and growing – helps Oregon's kids move beyond the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle basics. The organization has added information about energy and water conservation and sustainable practices to its resources. It also wants to help make schools healthier learning environments for kids.

Formed in 1997, Oregon Green Schools is a non-profit organization with 25 regional coordinators throughout the state. The coordinators help schools conduct waste audits, provide guidance and training for new programs, and recommend curriculum resources and grant opportunities. An annual summit provides hands-on learning for teachers and students, and a chance for everyone to share

resources and ideas.

Oregon Green Schools' approach to working with schools is like teaching the ABCs: first, schools learn the recycling and waste prevention basics, organize a Green Team and conduct a waste audit. They also write a plan with specific goals and actions. This qualifies them at the basic level, "Green." To advance to the next tiers – Merit and Premier – schools build on what they've learned and achieved. They must add new programs, help another school become an Oregon Green School and conduct a community outreach project. Just 16 schools have earned Premier status, but others are well on their way.

To go "Green," e-mail [Julie.Jackson@awin.com](mailto:Julie.Jackson@awin.com) or call 754-0444. ☞

## Oregon Envirothon: A Natural Resources Competition



Whether in rain or sunshine, The Oregon Garden is a lush and beautiful place to visit. For the past 10 years, Oregon Garden has housed the Oregon Envirothon competition, an environmental education contest for high school students. Teams of 3 to 5 students from across the state are tested in the fields of aquatic ecology, forestry, soil science, wildlife and a current issues topic that may address anything from renewable energy to the impacts of dispersed camp sites.

After lunch, presentations on the current issues topic are given by the 3 top scoring teams while the other teams participate in a geocaching activity. The first place team represents Oregon at the North American Canon Envirothon, which is held every summer at different locations across the continent. To get your students involved, visit: <http://marionswcd.net/envirothon.html>



OREGON  
ENVIROTHON  
2 0 0 8



## OACD Teacher of the Year & Poster Contest Winner



The 2007 National Association of Conservation District's poster contest theme was "Conservation's Power," and focused on renewable energy resources. Three Benton County classes participated in the contest, and the Benton County winner was Lila Kaye, from Ashbrook Independent School. Her poster then won first place in her age bracket at the Oregon Assn of Conservation District's (OACD) poster contest. Lila received a \$50 savings bond, and her poster was sent to the National competition. Congratulations, Lila!

Another great outcome of the OACD conference was the announcement of Paul Bradley, from Lincoln K-8 and previously of Inavale School, as the OACD Teacher of the Year for 2007. Paul's efforts at getting students outside—where they learn by doing—are well-deserving of this award, which includes a plaque and a check for \$300. BSWCD and all your students thank you, Mr. Bradley! ☞

## Why is Outdoor Education Important?



"Recent studies show that nature can be powerful therapy for depression, obesity and attention deficit disorder. Experience in nature can increase the ability to concentrate... And studies...strongly suggest that childhood experiences with nature increase creativity." -Richard Louv

"[Our] kids, who spend so much time in front of the TV and computer screen, are missing out on many chances to feel a sense of wonder." -Richard Louv

For a **free copy** of the fall issue of Land & People Magazine, where these quotes are found, visit the TPL website: <http://www.tpl.org/childrennature/>.

Richard Louv quotes taken from Land & People Magazine, Vol. 19, #2, Fall 2007 ☞

## Help Us Find Our 2008 Conservation Teacher of the Year!



The nominated full-time, classroom teacher must be responsible for developing a conservation education program. To nominate someone, write a brief narrative about the nominee. Describe the teacher's program, areas of study covered, and how the program extends beyond the classroom. Explain how students have applied their knowledge more broadly, and any special activities the program entails, such as field trips, monitoring, or other program highlights. Be sure to include information about the teacher's special awards & training, length of teaching career, and other ways the teacher has been involved in natural resources education. Supporting materials (letters, news clippings, photographs, etc) may be attached. Contact BSWCD if you're interested. (753-7208, [tmatteson@bentonswcd.org](mailto:tmatteson@bentonswcd.org)) ☞

Benton SWCD  
 305 SW C Ave., Suite 1  
 Corvallis, OR 97333  
 Phone: 541-753-7208  
 Fax: 541-753-1871  
 E-mail: [hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org](mailto:hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org)

We're on the Web!  
[www.bentonswcd.org](http://www.bentonswcd.org)

RECYCLING ALERT



Research shows that the larger the container, the more people will recycle. To increase recycling rates in our area, Allied Waste Services is switching to 65 gallon rolling carts. You can combine all your recyclable materials, except for glass & motor oil, in one convenient cart!

**In the Carts:**

Mixed paper (including junk mail, magazines and phone books), newspapers, flattened cardboard, paper bags, paper egg cartons, milk cartons, aseptic containers, clean metal cans & lids, aluminum pie plates, trays and foil, empty aerosol cans, pots and pans, clean plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, buckets and nursery pots larger than 4" can all go in the new carts.

**Glass:**

Place rinsed unbroken glass in a separate bin for pick up on your service day during the first full week of the month.

**Motor Oil:**

Place motor oil in a marked, unbreakable, leak proof container no larger than 2 gallons next to your cart on recycling days.

Visit [www.corvallis.disposal.com](http://www.corvallis.disposal.com) for more details. If you have other questions, call Allied Waste at 754-0444.

*Upcoming Events in Benton County*



Event	Date/ Time/ Location	Fee	Who to Contact
<b>Who Owns the Sky? The Tragedy or Triumph of the Commons Lecture Series</b>	Thursdays at 7 pm Jan 10-March 13 OSU Gilfillan Auditorium	free	The Spring Creek Project 737-6198 <a href="mailto:Spring.Creek@oregonstate.edu">Spring.Creek@oregonstate.edu</a>
<b>OSU Non-profit Career Expo</b>	January 24 2-5 pm OSU MU Ballroom	free	Adry Clark 541-737-0519 <a href="mailto:adry.clark@oregonstate.edu">adry.clark@oregonstate.edu</a>
<b>Riverweb</b> A film by Eugene filmmaker Jeremy Monroe	January 25 7:30 pm La Sells Stewart Center	free	Kim Carson 541-753-4280 <a href="mailto:kim@ortrout.org">kim@ortrout.org</a>
<b>Benton SWCD Native Plant Sale</b> Plant Pick Up Date Great volunteer opportunity!	Saturday, February 2 Must order by Jan 11	—	To volunteer, contact Teresa Matteson 753-7208 <a href="mailto:tmatteson@bentonswcd.org">tmatteson@bentonswcd.org</a>
<b>Small Farms Direct Marketing Conference</b>	Saturday, February 16 9:00 am –5:00 pm La Sells Stewart Center	See web site	<a href="http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/events">http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/events</a>
<b>Oregon Green Schools Summit</b> OGS are invited to attend this fun & educational event	March 13 Oregon State Fairgrounds Salem	NA	FMI or to volunteer, contact Heath Keirstead 753-7208 <a href="mailto:hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org">hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org</a>
<b>Better Living Show</b> The Pacific Northwest's :Largest Sustainable Lifestyle Show	March 28-30 Portland Expo Center	TBA	<a href="http://www.betterlivingshow.org">www.betterlivingshow.org</a>
<b>4-H Wildlife Stewards Summit</b> For participating WS schools and students	Thursday, April 24 Benton Co Fairgrounds	NA	Maggie Livesay 766-6750 <a href="mailto:maggie.livesay@oregonstate.edu">maggie.livesay@oregonstate.edu</a>
<b>National Pollinator Week</b>	June 22-28	NA	<a href="http://www.xerces.org">www.xerces.org</a>
<b>Da Vinci Days</b> Soil Tunnel Exploration	July 18-20 OSU Lower Campus	varies	To volunteer, contact Heath Keirstead 753-7208 <a href="mailto:hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org">hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org</a>
<b>BSWCD booth at Saturday Artisans' Market</b> Soil painting activity	Saturday, August 9 First and Monroe in Corvallis	free	For More Info or to Volunteer: Heath Keirstead 753-7208 <a href="mailto:hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org">hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org</a>



*This newsletter is brought to you by Benton SWCD's Making Ripples Program, winner of OACD's 2007 Outstanding District Education Program  
 Making Ripples ~ Community Building for Water Quality*