Making Ripples Newsletter

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District

January 3, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

Local Artist Encourages Volunteerism

What is the best way to entice volunteers into your classroom? Tempt them with the promise of art, of course! Right here in Western Oregon we are fortunate to have an amazing artist who supports civic and natural resources volunteers by “paying them” with her prints and note cards.

Over the years, Denise W. Ross has developed a black and white photography style that she follows up with hand-coloring; rendering prints that are as vivid as the memory of old growth forests in your mind. Her style is unique, her art is warm and inviting, her offer will help you find the volunteers you need to undertake the projects of your dreams.

Denise will exchange a full size print of the month, or a box of six greeting cards, for 10 hours of service to a civic or environmental cause. A volunteer who gives 15 or more hours in a month can mix or match 6 cards from the full range of prints viewable on her website.

Another way Denise supports conservation is by offering several fundraising collections to benefit Benton County Historical Society and The Wetlands Conservancy, among other organizations. Visit Denise's gallery on-line and indulge your eyes in her beautiful portrayals of the Pacific Northwest (www.dwrphotos.com/).

Grants—YOU Should Apply!

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!!

1. One-time curriculum grants of $200 to provide materials, such as books, field guides, and curriculum sets, for improving understanding of watershed processes.
2. Mini Grants of $250/year to support activities that enrich watershed knowledge.

These grants are sponsored by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). See our website for a list of suggested materials and application forms: http://www.bentonswcd.org/teachers/

Special Notes

♦ This issue’s theme is: Networking—focus on community partnerships for natural resources education
♦ We have grants for natural resources education! Contact Benton SWCD for details and applications.

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Parents, grandparents, neighbors, teachers and college students. What do all these people have in common? They can all be 4-H Wildlife Stewards! 4-H Wildlife Stewards are trained volunteers who work in partnership with public and private organizations to assist students and teachers as they create, use and sustain wildlife habitats on school grounds. A habitat site is an area near the school that invites wildlife and provides hands-on learning opportunities for students and teachers.

Wildlife habitat projects let students learn through an interdisciplinary approach. As students conduct site inventories, they meet common curriculum goals such as “describing a habitat and the organisms that live there” (grade 3) or “describing the relationship between characteristics of specific habitats and the organisms that live there” (grade 5). At 4-H Wildlife Stewards Member Schools, students develop their appreciation of nature and their knowledge about ecological principles.

4-H Wildlife Steward volunteers receive 25-30 hours of interactive training that covers native plant selection, habitat design, science teaching skills, educational resources and more. Once placed in a school, 4-H Wildlife Stewards receive continuing support through the 4-H Wildlife Stewards Newsletter, periodic training opportunities, and access to education kits and curriculum. Benton SWCD is offering scholarship assistance for Benton County volunteers to attend training.

4-H Wildlife Stewards team up with 4-H Member Schools, teachers, students, neighbors and local professionals to plan, develop, and maintain wildlife habitat sites on school grounds that enhance educational opportunities for students and save a place for wildlife in our neighborhoods.

For more information about this program or scholarship help contact: Maggie Livesay, 766-6750 or email Maggie.livesay@oregonstate.edu. Visit the website at: http://wildlifestewards.4h.oregonstate.edu/

Chintimini Wildlife Center—A Community Resource

Since 1989, the Chintimini Wildlife Center has provided care for Oregon\’s injured and orphaned wildlife, and has educated the public about the value of wildlife. Their outreach programs, many of which include live, non-releasable birds of prey, have reached thousands of people. Recently Chintimini added 4.5 acres of riparian and wetland habitat to its facility, allowing for a greater variety of educational activities. Plans include something for everyone, from youth programs when school is out to teacher training workshops. The added acreage will allow more educators to use the site—perhaps you will be one!

Jeff Picton’s skill at networking is one reason for Chintimini’s success. Jeff is Chintimini’s founding father and a master of collaboration. He connects with butterfly experts from OSU and local native plant specialists for advice on designing the education center’s outdoor classroom. For many years he has welcomed Eagle Scouts to do their projects on his facility. Jeff partners with various local schools, and soon students will begin working on a wetland restoration project within the ash swale, funded in part by a grant from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Peg Cornell, AP Biology teacher at Crescent Valley High, brings her class to Chintimini for a long term blackberry density survey. From grantors to volunteers, Jeff works with community partners to develop and support his vision for Chintimini.

Chintimini is growing as a community resource. One of Chintimini’s unique advantages is the chance it gives students to come face to face with animals ordinarily glimpsed only on the road side or soaring high above. A “non-releasable wildlife” viewing area will allow the public to see some of these magnificent beings up close, and potentially catch the spark of interest that holds sway over Jeff Picton and his volunteers. Contact Jeff if you are interested in being a part of the Chintimini network! (By e-mail: cwrc@peak.org or on the web: http://www.chintiminiwildlife.org/)

This Western Pond Turtle’s cracked shell has been bolted and is healing!
The Benton County Youth Forestry Education Council is a dedicated group of educators whose goals are to engage Benton County youth in learning about their local forests and their many values, uses and contributions to our lives. In order to best accomplish this goal local forestry educators, agencies and businesses meet quarterly to examine the breadth of offerings, potential overlap, possible collaborations and new ventures that could be offered to youth in Benton county.

The first goal of the council was to draw together existing forestry events and combine them in a single calendar. This calendar is available on-line [www.oregonstate.extension.edu/benton/foryfe.htm](http://www.oregonstate.extension.edu/benton/foryfe.htm).

An additional project was the enhancement, updating and reprinting of the Benton County Natural Resource Education Guide. This guide (pictured at right) was created to provide educators and teachers in the county a one-stop-shopping guide to agencies and organizations that offered free or low cost natural resource education programs, tours, workshops, curriculum, resources and kits. To receive a hard copy of the guide stop by the Benton County OSU Extension office at 1849 NW 9th Street or you can download the guide by visiting the website listed above.

The council works together to support existing learning opportunities and also create more comprehensive natural resource learning experiences for youth. One example of such an event is Kids Day for Conservation, a one day, hands-on, Natural Resource education extravaganza held each September at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Over 2000 youth and their families attended in 2006.

Do you have any questions or suggestions for this creative, enthusiastic education team? If so, contact Maggie Livesay, Benton County OSU Extension Service 4-H, 766-6750.

Avery House Nature Center—Makes Learning Fun!

Avery House Nature Center. You've probably seen it as you slow for the speed bumps along Avery Park, but have you ever stopped to check it out? Avery House (AHNC) has ecological activities to offer every elementary student, and they make the learning fun and dynamic!

AHNC’s programs allow students to explore our local ecosystems. What’s more, their programs are developed to meet education Standards and Benchmarks as well as link with Foss Science Kits. For example, the K-2nd grade classroom program News and Friends pairs with Animals 2x2: Observing an Aquarium. News and Friends includes investigation of live reptiles and amphibians and activities such as Baby Sea Turtle Game and Metamorphosis Fun Bullfrog Game. Programs for older students relate to the Foss Kits Structure of Life, Food Chains and Webs, and Fungi and Molds.

The wonderful thing about Avery House is that they will come to your class (with one hour programs), or your class can go to the programs (for two-hour field trips). Field trips are offered for students from Kindergarten to fifth grade, and are accompanied by pre- and post-trip class visits. Avery Park, Peavy Arboretum and Beazell Memorial Forest are some of the field trip destinations. Use a Making Ripples Mini-grant (see Grants, p.1) to pay for a substitute and bus so your students can learn from AHNC’s experienced educators. To request a brochure or schedule a program, contact Avery House by phone: 541-753-9211; by e-mail: ahnc@peak.org; or visit their website: [http://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org](http://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org).

**BRING A TEAM TO OREGON ENVIROTHON!**

**Who:** Teams of 5 high school students come from around the state to compete

**What:** Topics include soils, aquatics, wildlife, forestry and an environmental issue

**Where:** The Oregon Garden

**When:** May 11, 2007

**How:** [http://marionswcd.net/envirothon.html](http://marionswcd.net/envirothon.html)

Students enjoying stream exploration on one of Avery House Nature Center's field trips.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/ Time/ Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Who to Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher In-Service for Envirothon</td>
<td>1/10/07 9 am – 4 pm Oregon Garden</td>
<td></td>
<td>Julie Woodward <a href="mailto:woodward@ofri.com">woodward@ofri.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Wildlife Stewards Trainings for teachers and</td>
<td>1/25-27/07 YMCA Camp Collins Portland</td>
<td>sign up</td>
<td>Maggie Livesay 766-6750 <a href="mailto:maggie.livesay@oregonstate.edu">maggie.livesay@oregonstate.edu</a> $82.50 scholarships for Benton County residents!</td>
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<tr>
<td>volunteers</td>
<td>-or- On-line 1/25-3/28</td>
<td>by 1/18:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benton SWCD Native Tree &amp; Shrub Sale</td>
<td>Order by: 1/6/07 Plant pick-up: 02/03/07</td>
<td>Pay per</td>
<td>Alice Fairfield 766-8083 Order form:http:// <a href="http://www.bentonswcd.org/projects/">www.bentonswcd.org/projects/</a> treesale/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eichler Hay Company E of Hwy 20, N of Circle Blvd</td>
<td>One Day Only!</td>
<td>plant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project WILD Aquatic Training for educators</td>
<td>2/23/07 All day Beazell Memorial Forest Education Center</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>To register: <a href="http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/">http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/</a> extended/ofep/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project WILD Aquatic Training for educators</td>
<td>3/10/07 All day Hoover Elementary School</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>To register: <a href="http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/">http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/</a> extended/ofep/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Poster Contest</td>
<td>Submit by April 12, 2007</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>Teresa Matteson 753-7208 <a href="mailto:tmatteson@bentonswcd.org">tmatteson@bentonswcd.org</a></td>
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<td>Theme: Conservation’s Power</td>
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<td>4-H Wildlife Stewards Summit</td>
<td>4/26/07 Hoover Elementary</td>
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<td>Maggie Livesay 766-6750 <a href="mailto:maggie.livesay@oregonstate.edu">maggie.livesay@oregonstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envirothon</td>
<td>5/11/07 All day The Oregon Garden</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Julie Woodward <a href="mailto:woodward@ofri.com">woodward@ofri.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturescaping Course (8 weeks)</td>
<td>May 2007 Dates &amp; Location TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Teresa Matteson <a href="mailto:tmatteson@bentonswcd.org">tmatteson@bentonswcd.org</a></td>
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How Networking Accomplishes More

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the circled letters & rearrange them for the final message.

REYVA SUCHE
VUEROGETL
HINIMTION
NEOOTHRON
INTNOORAEINS
DWTESARS
POTHASYRPH

“By”

A Great Teacher Tool—Created using Puzzlemaker at DiscoverySchool.com

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has generously funded four issues of the Making Ripples Newsletter. The third issue will be available Spring 2007. Theme: Planning for the 2007-2008 school year.