**Upcoming Events in Benton County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time/Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Who to Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educator Workshop: Douglas- fir Forest: Focus on Forest Ecology and Soils</td>
<td>December 4, 2010 10 am–3:30 pm (8 am for new Wildlife Stewards) at Beazell Forest</td>
<td><strong>FREE!</strong></td>
<td>To register, go to the workshop calendar on the ONREP website: <a href="http://www.cof.orst.edu/onrep">http://www.cof.orst.edu/onrep</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educator Workshop: Wetland and Wet Prairie: Focus on Microscopic Wildlife</td>
<td>March 12, 2011 10 am–3:30 pm (8 am for new Wildlife Stewards) Location TBD</td>
<td><strong>FREE!</strong></td>
<td>Cal 4-H Wildlife Stewards OSU Extension Service to register 541-766-4760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FISH TRAPPING:**
This Kings Valley Charter School Project brought together some of our great community partners including Kim Carson from The Freshwater Trust (at left), Karen Hans of ODWF (at right), and The Institute for Applied Ecology.

**Web Corner**

**National Service Learning Partnership**
[www.service-learningpartnership.org](http://www.service-learningpartnership.org)

**Learn & Serve America’s National Service Learning Clearinghouse**
[www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org)

**SOLV Resources for service learning in Oregon**
[www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org)

**Learning in Need: The Power of Service Learning for American Schools.**

**SLICE (Service Learning Ideas & Curricular Examples)**
[http://www.servicelearning.org/slice](http://www.servicelearning.org/slice)

**Grants to Support Service Learning**

**Captain Planet Foundation** (Deadlines: March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31) funds hands-on environmental projects to encourage youth to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their communities. Maximum Award: $2500. [www.captainplanetfoundation.org](http://www.captainplanetfoundation.org)

**Student Achievement Grants (Deadline: June 1)** Awards to improve the academic achievement of students by engaging in critical thinking and problem solving. Maximum Award: $5,000. [www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/grant-application/student-achievement-grants/](http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/grant-application/student-achievement-grants/)

**Learning & Leadership Grants (Deadline: June 1)** funds professional development for educators. Maximum Award: $2,000 (individuals) and $5,000 (groups.) [www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/grant-application/learning-and-leadership/](http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/grant-application/learning-and-leadership/)

**Green America Awards (Deadline: April 1)** will be presented to groups and organizations that are making a difference in their communities. Maximum Award: $2500 in plant materials. [www.naturehills.com/green_america_awards.aspx](http://www.naturehills.com/green_america_awards.aspx)

**Youth Service America Grants Webpage** Check this webpage for a comprehensive listing of grant programs related to service learning. [www.ysa.org/grants](http://www.ysa.org/grants)

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**Inside This Issue:**

- **Key Elements of Service Learning**
- **Restoration by Students**
- **SOLV**
- **Book Nook**

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**What Service Learning Is**

What do you think Service Learning is? Is it a day of caroling for the elderly? Is it an afternoon of weed pulling? On their own, or even with any of these activities, meets the criteria for service learning. According to the Corvallis School District, “Service-Learning is a Method:

- that enables students to learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet actual community needs;
- that is integrated into the students’ academic curriculum and provides structured time for a student to think, talk, or write about what the student did and saw during the actual service activity;
- that provides students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real life situations in their communities;
- that enhances what is taught in school by extending student learning beyond the classroom and into the community and helps to foster a sense of caring for others.”

Service learning can take several forms. **Direct Service** directly affects and involves the recipients (e.g., tutoring, animal care). **Indirect Service** benefits the community as a whole (e.g., restoring wetlands, stocking food pantries). **Advocacy** creates awareness of or promotes action on an issue of public interest (e.g., writing to government leaders, holding a town meeting). **Research** engages students in finding, gathering and reporting information in the public interest (e.g., conducting formal studies, experiments or interviews). Most school districts in Benton County encourage or require service learning. This newsletter explores the concept of service learning and showcases some inspiring local examples. (This information and more can be found on the Corvallis School District website. [www.csd509j.net/district_information/departments_and_services/service_learning/method.html](http://www.csd509j.net/district_information/departments_and_services/service_learning/method.html))

**Local Students in Action:**

**Construction of a Wildlife Study Blind**

Newtown Creek Wetlands is used by Philomath High School as an outdoor classroom, where students study and restore wildlife habitat. In 2006-07, PHS senior Kenny Becker undertook the building of a Wildlife Study Blind (see photo above) as part of his senior service learning project. From setting the posts to cutting binocular peek-holes, Kenny contributed over 100 hours and received mentoring from 4 community members. Kenny gained valuable research, construction and carpentry skills through this project. He also gained muscle mass: each post was set in three or four 60-lb bags of concrete that had to be carried up from about 50 meters away!

More than 50 students and 30 adult community members volunteered over 500 hours on this project that brought the community together in support of kids and conservation. The animal that triggered the project is the elusive Western Pond Turtle (WPT), an Oregon’s Sensitive Species. One of two native turtle species in Oregon, the WPT is threatened by invasive bull frogs and habitat fragmentation. Newtown Creek Wetlands is an ideal site for WPT because it has slowly moving water, aquatic plant beds and sandy facing upland slopes for nests. The wildlife study blind will allow Philomath High School students to understand the biology of the WPT and other “ shy” wildlife species for years to come.

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**Making Ripples Newsletter**

**Community Building for Water Quality**

**NOVEMBER, 2010**

**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2**

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**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2**
Ten Key Elements of Quality Service Learning

High quality service learning (SL) projects should incorporate these ten elements:

1. Integrated learning. SL projects reinforce the academic curriculum.
2. Preparation. Students are well prepared for all aspects of their work.
3. Service to the community. SL projects meet real community needs.
4. Collaboration. SL projects involve and benefit many partners, including students, parents, community-based organizations, teachers, school administrators and service recipients.
5. Student voice. Students should participate actively in every step of the project. Students should help to identify community needs, plan and implement the project, reflect on and evaluate it along the way, and celebrate its completion.
6. Civic responsibility. Students learn that they can have an effect on their community and that their voice counts.
7. Reflection. Service learning incorporates important reflection time before, during and after the project to draw links between the social and personal aspects of the project and the academic curriculum.
8. Evaluation. Students, teachers and community partners measure progress towards the learning and service goals of the project.
9. Celebration. The value of students' efforts is reinforced by formally celebrating their achievements.
10. Diversity. It is valued and taken into consideration in all phases of the project.

This article is based on information that can be found at www.treepeople.org/environmental-service-learning and: National Service-Learning Cooperative (April 1999). Essential Elements of Service-Learning. National Youth Leadership Council, St. Paul, MN.

Students of all ages can participate in and benefit from service learning.

By Quintin Bauer

SOLV Supports Service Learning in Oregon

SOLV’s education programs encourage civic engagement through service-learning - a teaching and learning strategy that gives students a “real-world” context for their education, linking meaningful environmental service to the community with school-based academic goals. Through SOLV's K-16 education programs, Oregon students are challenged to join in SOLV’s mission of bringing Oregonians together to improve the environment and build a legacy of stewardship. SOLV supports projects that include litter cleanup, planting of native trees and shrubs, removal of non-native invasive plants, and monitoring and maintenance of restoration sites.

SOLV provides lesson plans, project planning advice and support, free cleanup supplies, and $100 reimbursable small grants to pay for other project supplies.

Recently the Monument Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD) organized a successful service learning project that brought together Monument students and local volunteers to learn about native plants while restoring a natural area in their community. OSU Extension agents taught students the importance of native grasses, trees, and shrubs, and healthy riparian areas. The Oregon Department of Forestry taught students how to identify and plant native trees and shrubs, and then the students planted over 200 trees and shrubs. Everyone involved is hoping to make it an annual event. This project demonstrates how SOLV can help connect students and teachers with community resources to achieve successful service learning projects. Visit our website to learn how SOLV can help you bring service learning to your students. www.solv.org/programs/k16_education.asp

Special thanks to Jody Einerson, Patti Hall and Dan Bregar for help with this article.