

# Straub Quarterly

*Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center*

*"In partnership with the community, we create awareness and understanding of our relationship to the environment."*

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

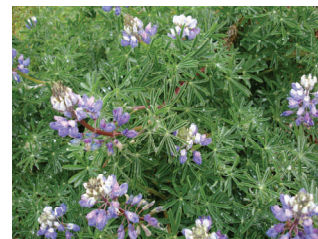
SPRING 2008

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## *Our Work:*

Environmental Lecture Series
Amateur Naturalist Series
Sustainability Workshops
Family Science Night
Environmental Summer Camp
Site for community meetings on environmental and sustainability issues
Native Plant Restoration Site
Household Ecology Workshops



## APRIL BRINGS 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

BY AISLINN ADAMS

This spring the Friends of the Straub Environmental Learning Center (FSEL) will collaborate again with the Willamette Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) to host the second Salem Native Plant Garden Tour on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. The tour is **FREE**, and it will start at the Straub Environmental Learning Center (SEL) where tour participants will receive information folders containing the gardens' histories, plant lists, and driving directions. No pre-registration is necessary. Volunteer guides will answer questions and help people identify plants at each site.

Enjoy seeing the different ways Salem residents use native plants to enrich the urban environment and enhance their gardening experience. Visitors returning to the tour will recognize several of the gardens, including the Oak Savannah and Riparian Restoration site adjacent to the Straub Center. Come see all the changes, from new plantings to new attractive protective fencing. While there, do not miss the new interpretive panels that provide information on subjects including the native plants, riparian zones, and the salmon life cycle.

New tour sites include Forest Ridge Elementary School in Keizer and the Salmon Run building on Pringle Creek. Forest Ridge's naturesscaped garden acts as a wildlife habitat, outdoor classroom, and beautiful lunchtime spot for the students and staff to enjoy. Students will be on site to show visitors around and share their enthusiasm for native plants. Salmon Run demonstrates the use of native riparian plants, and docents will be on site to answer visitors' questions and offer suggestions for enhancing yards in ways that help protect the area's watersheds.

*For further information please contact Aislinn Adams [Aislinnadams@comcast.net](mailto:Aislinnadams@comcast.net), or call the FSEL (503) 391-4145.*

## MARION COUNTY EXPANDS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM

Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services has expanded its electronics recycling program to include televisions, microwaves, and photocopier machines. Recently the County partnered with Garten Services Inc., a local non-profit organization that employs people with disabilities, allowing the County to expand the program to include the cumbersome electronic items. Garten Services will process the electronics at their facility in northeast Salem from the two pick-up sites.

On February 17, 2009 the federal government will begin requiring large television broadcasters to send their signals in high definition. Owners of televisions not connected to cable, a satellite service or a conversion box will no longer be able to view television through their analog sets. "We are always trying to stay one step ahead of the changing waste stream. We anticipate a lot of televisions being discarded with the upcoming switch to high definition televisions," said Bailey Payne, Marion County's Recycling Coordinator.

Payne noted that it will not be necessary to purchase a new television, but that some residents will need to buy a converter box. Information on the upcoming digital television transition can be found at [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).



“...We anticipate a lot of televisions being discarded with the upcoming switch to high definition televisions.”

Marion County was recently recognized as Oregon's top recycler by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. In 2006, 57.5% of waste generated by businesses and individuals was recycled or composted. Earlier this year Marion County was recognized nation-wide by the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation for their household battery recycling program.

The County has also added an additional drop-off location for electronics recycling just north of

Woodburn. People may now drop off their electronics recycling at the Salem-Keizer Recycling and Transfer Station and the North Marion Recycling and Transfer Station.

Residents may also bring their electronics directly to Garten Services during business hours. The program will remain free; however, businesses with large quantities should call ahead to make arrangements.

### Drop-off locations:

#### **Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station**

3250 Deer Park Dr. SE, Salem  
Open 7 days/week  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### **North Marion Recycling & Transfer Station**

17827 Whitney Lane NE, Woodburn  
Open Monday -Saturday,  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### Electronics Accepted for Recycling:

Televisions, photocopier machines, microwaves, computers, peripherals, stereos, VCR/DVD players, portable music devices, cameras, video cameras, printers, laptops, projectors, telephones, cell phones, printer cartridges PDA's and GPS units.

## 2007-2008 ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES

BY BECKI WALKER

Dr. Scott Burns' most recent speech in the Straub Environmental Lecture Series, "The Missoula Floods," focused on how floods shaped the geography of our bioregion. On **March 20<sup>th</sup>** at **7 pm** in **Salem Public Library's Louck's Auditorium**, the series will take to the water with activist educator Christopher Swain.

In 2003, Swain became the first person to swim the entire 1,243 mile reach of the Columbia River. His program, open to the public and free of charge, will feature not only reflections on his aquatic journey, but also his thoughts on how river ecosystems have become disrupted. Swain, a renowned public speaker, has garnered an International Earth Day Award as well as an Achievement award from National Public Radio.



Photo courtesy of Carrie Bronovan

## PLANT A TREE. REMEMBER YOUR ROOTS. AN EARTH DAY RETROSPECTIVE

BY TRISTAN COOPER



Everything started somewhere. That coffee you're drinking might have come from beans a half a world away. Those underpants you have on traveled miles to guard your unmentionables against their denim foes. Even those eyes you're reading this with were ultimately the creation of your mom and dad, as much as your inner teenager hates to admit it. It's important to keep in mind where we came from in order to remember just where the heck we were going to begin with. As we approach our 40th Earth Day, it is more vital than ever to retain the dedication and enthusiasm that the founders used to bring a nation together.

In 1969, man had just landed on the moon, but many forward-thinkers were thinking back towards their own planet. Just a few months after Neil Armstrong beat Buzz Aldrin in a coin toss for the first moonstep, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson announced the very first Earth Day. April 22, 1970 was the set date, which also happened to be Vladimir Lenin's 100th birthday. Some questioned whether this was really a coincidence, but they only needed to be reminded that Lenin was more of a communist than a hippie. Contrary to popular belief at the time, they did not turn out to be the same thing.

That day, an amazing twenty million people across the country rallied for the health of their environment, including our own former Governor Bob Straub. Earth Day was universally supported by people from all walks of life. It was this success that prompted the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, along with the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts. Nixon even bestowed Senator Nelson with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a very shiny object that most likely does not have chocolate at its center. Thanks to Mr. Nelson and many, many like him, over half a billion people in dozens of countries around the world take part in Earth Day.

We celebrate Earth Day every year, but some are much too young to have experienced its origin. It's these children that Earth Day's creators had in mind. Now it's their world, your world to pass on to the next generation. We have to make sure to teach these new kids the ropes so that they'll be up to snuff when it comes time to pass the torch once more. As long as we keep hindsight in view, Earth Day will continue to grow stronger with every passing year it adds into its history.

### 2008 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMER CAMP

The annual Youth Environmental Summer Camp will be offered again this year at a new location: the Santiam State Forest: transportation from the SELC included. We are very excited to be partnered with the Oregon Department of Forestry!

School-aged children grades 4-8 will learn about environmental issues while integrating outdoor activities and lots of

**FUN!**

#### **Activities Include:**

Hiking, animal identification, Leave No Trace concept, stream study, service learning project, fish hatchery visit, and much more!

#### **Dates:**

July 21-25 Grades 4&5  
August 4-8 Grades 6, 7, &8  
Time: 7:30am- 4pm

Transportation from SELC included.

*For application information, contact: Cassandra Cooper, [cassandra@fselc.org](mailto:cassandra@fselc.org), (503) 391- 4145*

**Application Deadline: May 1**



For a monthly email of events please send an email to [fselc@fselc.org](mailto:fselc@fselc.org) with "Monthly Reminder" in the subject heading.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

#### Environmental Lecture Series

**\*\*\*March 20 @7pm\*\*\***

Louck's Auditorium,  
Salem Public Library  
**Christopher Swain**

"Challenges and Costs on the Columbia River: Reflections on a 1,243-Mile Swim"  
See pg. 2 for details.

**\*\*\*April 24 @7pm\*\*\***

Hudson Hall,  
Willamette University  
**Ralph Cavanagh**

"Integrating Energy and Climate Policy: From Oregon to Washington, D.C."

**\*\*\*May 29 @7pm\*\*\***

Louck's Auditorium,  
Salem Public Library  
**William Dietrich**

"Seeing the Forest from the Trees: The Northwest in the 21st Century"

#### Amateur Naturalist Classes

All Naturalist Classes are located at the FSEL, cost \$5, and require registration. Contact us, [fselc@fselc.org](mailto:fselc@fselc.org) or (503)391-4145.

**\*\*\*March 6 @7pm\*\*\***

**Dr. Andrew Moldenke, Professor Emeritus, OSU Ext.**  
"Insects"  
Fieldtrip Date TBA

**\*\*\*March 27 @7pm\*\*\***

**John Mayer & Josh Travers, Oregon Department of Forestry**  
"Mushroom Identification"

Note: Fieldtrip on March 29 @ 9am at the Santiam State Forest.

**\*\*\*April 9 & 10 @7pm\*\*\***

**Morris Johnson, Professor Emeritus, OSU Ext.**  
"Wildflower Identification"  
Note: Fieldtrip on April 12, Details TBA

**\*\*\*May 20 & 21\*\*\***

**Joel Zak, Professional Photographer**  
"Nature Photography"  
Note: Fieldtrip on May 24 Details TBA

#### Sustainability Workshops

**\*\*Each Tuesday in April\*\***  
FSEL has partnered with **Dr. Karen Arabas** and students of **Willamette University** to put on a Sustainability Workshop series for the month of April to celebrate Earth Day.

#### Topics include:

- Biodiesel
- Household Conservation
- Social Sustainability
- Earth Friendly Food
- Affordable Green Building
- Sustainable Business Practices

The above topics' order, time, and location is TBA so check back on our website [www.fselc.org](http://www.fselc.org), email us [fselc@fselc.org](mailto:fselc@fselc.org) or call (503) 391-4145 for updates.

#### Other Events

FREE & located at the FSEL unless otherwise noted

**\*\*\*March 13 @6:30pm\*\*\***

**Nathan Good**  
"Green Roofs"

**\*\*\*April 19 @ 9am\*\*\***

**Aislinn Adams**  
"Native Plant Garden Tour"  
See front page for details.

**\*\*\*April 30 @7pm\*\*\***

**Energy Trust of Oregon**  
"Residential Wind Power" Seminar

**\*\*\*May 1 @7pm\*\*\***

Loucks' Auditorium,  
Salem Public Library  
**Panel Discussion**  
**Issues Forum**  
"GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms"

**\*\*\*May 14 @7pm\*\*\***

**City of Salem**  
"Irrigation Workshop"

**\*\*\*May 17 Time TBA\*\*\***

**Partnered with SOLV:**  
"Down by the Riverside— Restoration Event"  
Help volunteer!  
[Contact Us!](#)

The FSEL is located at **1320 A St. NE, Salem 97301**, next to Olinger Pool, near North Salem High.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

The Friends of the Straub Environmental Learning Center (FSELc) would not be who we are today without the help of volunteers. The FSELc is an entirely volunteer-based non-profit organization that needs your help!

If you would like to volunteer, but do not see anything listed that interests you, never fear! The list is endless!

*Below is a list of desired skills and/or tasks that will benefit us greatly:*

- Newsletter coordination
- Website design
- Restoration
- Office assistance
- Thank you letters
- Publicize & promote programs
- Grant writing
- Create community partnerships



To volunteer, please contact us at [fselc@fselc.org](mailto:fselc@fselc.org), or call the Straub Center at (503) 391- 4145.  
**THANK YOU!!!**

## 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 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. An annual

summit provides hands-on learning for teachers and students, and a chance for everyone to share resources and ideas. This year’s summit will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in



Salem. There is no charge for students to attend. Travel and teacher substitute costs are covered by their garbage haulers. Summit costs are underwritten by grants and donations. This year’s theme is “I’ve Got the Power!”

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. Each school is assigned a tier for every year. Just 16 schools have earned Premier status, but others are well on their way.

### GREEN YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Are you tired of the influx of paper barraging your mailbox?! Tire no more! If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, congratulations! You have greened your FSELc newsletter.

If you are receiving this publication on paper, may we suggest making the switch to an electronic copy?

If you experienced difficulty opening the attachment for the first newsletter we sent via email, we found a way around this! *The newsletter will no longer be attached in an email*, but simply a text-only notification email and a link to our website: [www.fselc.org](http://www.fselc.org) where the newsletter will be posted. Viola!

Send your email address to: [fselc@fselc.org](mailto:fselc@fselc.org) or call (503)391-4145 to request an electronic copy.

***Thank you for caring about our environment.***



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In an effort promote sustainability of our natural resources, please request to be on our electronic version mailing list if you are receiving this publication on paper. Send your email address to: [fselc@fselc.org](mailto:fselc@fselc.org) or call (503)391-4145. Thank you for caring about our environment.

VISIT US ON THE WEB  
[WWW.FSELC.ORG](http://WWW.FSELC.ORG)

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FABULOUS DONORS!

Please take a moment to read through these fabulous donors who have recently and graciously donated funds to the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center. These funds will help provide the continuation and growth of our programs and activities such as the Environmental Lecture Series, the Amateur Naturalist Series, and Family Science Night.

Richard & Kath Abel  
Laurie Aguirre  
Marvin Baker  
Michael K. Becker  
George & Frankie Bell  
Joe & Edith Benninghoff  
Robert Bergstrom  
Ken & Linda Bierly  
Maureen Bouchard  
Dr. and Mrs. Jay Don Bray  
Dr. Ray & Dori Brodersen  
Jennifer Butler  
Dorothy M. Brown- Kwaiser  
Carel Dewinkel  
Victor Dodier  
Russ Elliott  
Max & Patty Garrett  
Philip H. Carver  
Marie Gravelle  
Larry & Sharon Gray  
Gail Gredler

Barbara Hanneman  
Vern & Jan Hiebert  
John & Jana Hofer  
Geoffrey & Jennifer Holland  
Ray & Sally Hollemon  
Tom Hornig  
Mary Kamppi  
Evan & Joan Lloyd  
Lance & Emily Loberg  
Trudy Margules  
Mo Meaut  
James & Jane Mehlschau  
Sharon Miller  
Jerry & Patty Murray  
Mary Narey  
Oregon Cherry Growers  
Genevieve Orr  
Alice Phalan  
Jonathan Pope  
Wes & Joyce Preis  
Don & Ruth Roberts

John Savage  
Carol Simila  
Rebecca Smith  
Lowell Spring  
Marie Stephens  
Mary Stillings  
Loraine Stuart  
Paul Suter  
Pat Tilley  
Pamela Triplett  
Alma Wells  
Karla Wenzel  
Sharon Wright

If you would like to donate funds to the FSELc please contact Cassandra Cooper, [cassandra@fselc.org](mailto:cassandra@fselc.org) or call (503) 391- 4145.

**THANK YOU!!!**

