

Straub Quarterly

Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center

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

Need a tax deduction before the end of the year? FSEL is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and any amount is appreciated!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

On National Make a Difference Day the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center (FSEL) hosted a volunteer work event to continue the restoration of the area around the Center. This involved removing invasive plant species, replacing them with new native plants, and installing frames for interpretive signs.

The restoration project has been an ongoing effort over the past several years with funding from an OWEB grant and support from Marion Soil and Water Conservation District and many volunteer hours removing invasive plants like English Ivy and replacing them with native plants found in a historic oak savannah and a riparian zone

along Mill Creek.

In this year's event the Salem Academy 5th grade class, Salem Rotary Club and the FSEL joined in effort to plant over 1,000 native plant species. Board member Jon Yoder remarked "without all this help and support from the community this could never have been completed."

In efforts to educate the public about the restored native environment, seven interpretive signs will be placed along the newly landscaped areas. Marion SWCD, a watershed grant from the City of Salem, and a donation by the Salem Rotary have helped funded this part of the project. The design and artwork will be completed by Education Committee Members



Volunteers hard at work weeding and planting on Make a Difference Day.

Ron Crouse and Aislinn Adams. Project completion is expected in February of 2008.

A special thanks to Salem Rotary Club for donating lunch and to all of our terrific volunteers!

If you would like to volunteer as an individual or a group to help maintain our natural and scenic restoration site, please contact Cassandra at cassandra@fselc.org or by calling the FSEL at (503) 391-4145.

OUR WORK:

- Environmental Lecture Series
- Amateur Naturalist Series
- Household Ecology Workshops
- Family Science Night
- Environmental Summer Camp
- Site for community meetings and dialogue on environmental and sustainability issues
- Native Plan Landscape Restoration Site
- Annual Spring Youth Summit

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2007-2008 ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES: JANUARY 2008

The fourth annual Environmental Lecture Series got off to a great start with Dr. Dawn Wright presenting new information on mapping the ocean floor in October and author William Sullivan's *Listening for Coyote* lecture in November.

The third lecture will be on **Thursday January 31, 2008 at 7pm at the Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library**. Dr. Scott Burns, a professor of Geology at Portland State University will be presenting "The Missoula Floods". More than 90 floods from the ancient Lake Mis-

soula dramatically shaped the Oregon and Washington landscape. Dr. Burns will talk about the Ice Age floods and the story behind their discovery. Dr. Scott Burns has received many awards for outstanding teaching and has authored more than 90 publications.

LED LIGHTS MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY GREENER



Twinkling lights on trees and houses are an icon of the holiday season, but their energy consumption might put a damper on your

celebratory mood: this year's holiday lights could generate as much global warming pollution as about 250,000 cars, according to UCS research. Most of this electricity is needlessly wasted, because the mini and C-7 incandescent lights used by most homeowners are only about 10

percent efficient.

There are a variety of ways to decorate the home without using electricity, but families who enjoy the look or tradition of holiday lights can save money and help protect the environment by switching to LED (light-emitting diode) holiday lights. LEDs employ semiconductor technology to convert electricity into light directly, resulting in significant energy savings. An LED uses approximately 0.04 watt of electricity, compared with 0.45 watt for a mini incandescent light bulb and 7 watts for a C-7 incandescent bulb.

LEDs provide several other benefits as well:

Safety—LEDs stay cool to the touch, posing less of a fire hazard compared with incandescent lights. In addition, their low energy consumption allows you to connect up to 25 strands of lights end to end without overloading a circuit.

Durability—The small size and solid construction of LED bulbs make them less likely to break.

Long Life—LED bulbs can last up to 100,000 hours or more, which is equivalent to more than 10 years of *continuous* indoor use. If a single bulb in an LED strand does happen to fail, the remaining bulbs will continue to work.

“This year’s holiday lights could generate as much global warming pollution as about 250,000 cars...”

While they have a higher purchase price (they cost about two to three times more than incandescent lights), LED holiday lights quickly pay for themselves through energy savings. Using the national average residential rate of 11.06 cents per kilowatt-hour, it costs only 32 cents to use 300 LED lights for five hours per day for 45 days. In comparison, using incandescent mini lights or C-7 lights for the same amount of time would cost \$3.36 and \$52.25, respectively. This does not in-

clude replacement costs for incandescent light strands, which do not last as long as LED strands. You can reduce your energy costs even further by using solar-powered LED lights, which can be used indoors or out.

Regardless of which bulbs you use to light up your holiday, you can maximize their efficiency by plugging them into an automatic timer and using mirrors and tinsel around indoor lights to increase the lighting effects.

Article and picture provided by :
 Union of Concerned Scientists
 Citizens and Scientists for Environmental Solutions
www.uscusa.org
 (510) 843-1872

Find this article online:
<http://www.uscusa.org/publications/greentips/led-lights-make-your-holiday.html>

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

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

Below is a list of desired skills and/or tasks that would

benefit the FSEL greatly:

- Maintenance of restoration site (i.e.) weeding, raking
- Grant writing
- Fundraising
- Newsletter articles
- Thank you letters
- Legal advice
- Publicize/ promote programs

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Liaison to other community non-profits- partnerships
- **Website design!!**

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

To volunteer, please contact Cassandra Cooper at cassandra@fselc.org or call the FSEL at (503) 391-4145.



THANK YOU!!!

GREEN YOUR HOLIDAY

BY TRISTAN COOPER



When it comes to Christmas, Channukah or Boxing Day, no one likes the guy who gets a present but doesn't give one back. Yet that's what millions of people do every year when they make waste without considering the environment. Don't sweat it, though -- making your holiday green instead of that weird brownish-yellow color is easier than you might think.

Old Seinfeld reruns may tell you differently, but it's actually a good idea

to re-gift a product you don't need anymore. This will save you from having to consume any more resources in an already-stressed ecosystem. And you won't even have to worry about the age-old question, "How much should I spend?". Another alternative would be to find a used gift, or give something that isn't a physical object, I know my mom is fond of those 'Free Yardwork From Your Son' coupons. Or how about some of those new-fangled carbon credits?

When it comes to wrapping your

gift, don't go the old-fashioned route of wasteful, one-use, store-bought paper. There are a lot of neat, original ideas for packaging that often look better than conventional wrapping paper. Newspapers have long been used to wrap gifts, but you can still have fun with it. Try finding a really old newspaper, or perhaps one in a different language. If you're feeling guilty about all those tabloids you have around the house, try finding the most amusing or stories to use. Heck, if all else fails, the fun-



“And you won't even have to worry about the age old question, “How much should I spend?”.

nies are always a solid option. Of course, if you do all your news-reading online, you might consider concealing a gift in a reuseable bag (maybe even used!), inside of another gift (like fresh cookies in a cookie jar), or something reusable like a scarf or handkerchief. You might even get away with jumping out from the shadows yelling “Surprise!” with gift in hand.

Now that we've gotten gifts out of the way, we should think about how you're decorating. Those old Christmas lights may have their charm, but they

also use an incredible amount of energy. It's high time to trade up to LED Christmas lights. Please refer to the article in this newsletter on page 2 for more information. Oh, and don't forget to flick the lights off before bedtime!

Don't hit the hay too early, though. I forget whether it's still hip to be a square, but it's definitely cool to keep the world in mind while throwing your Christmas parties. Though it's easy to use those red plastic cups to distribute holiday cheer (read: spiked punch), it's so environmentally deleterious that

even your backspace key would be ashamed. There are plenty of cheap alternatives for cups, like The Dollar Store, or better yet, Goodwill. And if it's a nice enough occasion, why not pull out that fine china from off the shelf? Believe it or not, you can actually eat off of it! You might want to rinse off the dust first, though.

As for the cleanup, holiday cards and wrapping paper free of foil can be recycled! Remember to compost your food scraps— they're not good for the animals.

(<http://www.thegreenguide.com/>) and Yahoo! (<http://green.yahoo.com/>) show that green is catching on, but we can't stop now – soon it will be a new year.



And don't be shy about bragging to your guests about your thoughtfully green planning, either – it's actually the best way to spread the word! Soon enough we might be seeing enough green parties to make Ralph Nader proud.

For more green holiday ideas, check out reduce.org's thorough guide (<http://www.reduce.org/holiday>) or Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's long list of tips (<http://proteus.pca.state.mn.us/oea/reduce/nowaste.cfm>).

For recycling and compost information:

Marion County:

<http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/ES> or call (503) 588-5169.

Polk County: call Allied Waste (503) 623- 2552.

For all other areas go to <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/resources.htm>.

Going green doesn't stop with the holidays, though. There are a ton of ways to get involved, even in the routine parts of daily life. Big names like National Geographic

For a monthly email of events please send an email to fselc@fselc.org with "Monthly Reminder" in the subject heading.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2007

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
						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					

January 2008

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2008

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
					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	

Tuesday, December 11, 2007
"World of Otters"

Presented by Dr. Nicole Duplaix, Professor of Oregon State University
 7pm-8:30pm at the Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library.

Dr. Nicole Duplaix will present a slide show Otters of the World and the World of Otters. Dr. Duplaix has studied otters worldwide for three decades and her research has been featured in National Geographic. She is the founder of the World Conservation Union's Otter Specialist Group and co-founder of TRAFFIC, which monitors and documents the international trade in endangered and protected species. FREE.

Amateur Naturalist Class

January 29th & February 2nd, 2008

"Backyard Birds"

Dr. David Craig, Assoc. Professor of Biology, Willamette University
 7pm-8:30 pm at the Straub Environmental Learning Center

This class provides a basic introduction to the kinds of birds we might find in our yards. It will include identification by sight and sound, as well as tips on how to attract birds to your yard. A lecture will be given on January 29th from 7-8:30 pm at the Straub Environmental Learning Center. On Saturday, Feb 2, meet at 9am at the Olin Science Center at Willamette University for a bird walk. The class cost is \$5 and registration is required, fselc@fselc.org or 503.391.4145.

Environmental Lecture

Series—

Free & open to the public

Thursday, January 31, 2008

"The Missoula Floods"

Presented by Dr. Scott Burns
 7pm-8:30 pm at the Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library

More than 90 floods from the ancient Lake Missoula dramatically shaped the Oregon and Washington landscape. Dr. Scott Burns will talk about the Ice Age floods and the story behind their discovery. Dr. Burns is Professor of Geology at Portland State University. Dr. Burns has received many awards for outstanding teaching and has authored more than 90 publications.

Thursday February 28, 2008
"Evolution: The Last 3000 Million Years"

Presented by Dr. Lynn Margulis
 7pm-8:30 pm at the Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library

"Independence of any individual from the rest of the biosphere is equivalent to its death." Renowned biologist Lynn Margulis will talk about how life evolved and its implications for the future of life. Dr. Margulis is Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts. She was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1983 and received the Presidential Medal of Science in 1999.

NEW ADDITION TO THE FSELC



Hi there! My name is Cassandra Cooper and I am the new coordinator for the FSELC! I have been hired through AmeriCorps- Northwest Service Academy- a

federal volunteer program (www.americorps.gov). My term of service is eleven months and exactly 1,724 hours! If you ever have questions about the FSELC,

would like to make a donation, register for classes, and, well pretty much anything else (including this newsletter), I'm your gal! I am a full-time volunteer, helping coordinate almost all of our programs and events. The FSELC is a great non-profit organization focused on environmental education and I hope that I will continue to help the Center through my position here.

I am a 2006 graduate of Ore-

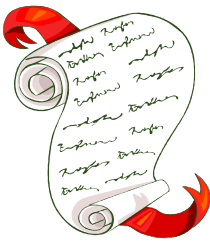
gon State University with a B.S. in Environmental Science and two minors: Natural Resource Environmental Law and Policy, and Spanish. During my four years in college I played club rugby, studied abroad in Spain, and I LOVE to travel. I would like to someday continue my lifetime of service by joining the Peace Corps. My career aspirations have not quite been determined, but I hope through this

position at the FSELC I will become one step closer to knowing what I want to be "when I grow up".

~Cassandra
cassandra@fselc.org

Please email me cassandra@fselc.org, or call me 503.391.4145 anytime if you have ANYTHING you would like to suggest to make the FSELC an even better environmental organization.

STRAUB CENTER HOLIDAY WISHLIST



Being a non-profit organization is a challenge in itself. Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center is entirely volunteer-based, relying solely

on funding from grants, sponsorships and individual donors. Remember that all donations are **TAX deductible!**

Please consider donating an item from our holiday wishlist (can be given at any time of the year!):

- Office furniture
- Office supplies
- Digital Camera
- Digital video camera
- Large monitor
- Lap top
- PC Projector and remote
- All-in-one printer (print/scan/fax)
- Program materials— microscopes, nature guides, outdoor gear, collecting devices, telescope
- Brochure/literature display rack
- Cordless phone

If you do not see anything listed here that you have or would like to contribute, the list continues! Monetary donations are *always* gladly accepted, as well!

Please contact Cassandra Cooper, cassandra@fselc.org or (503) 391-4145 for donation inquiries. THANK YOU!!!!

OUR FABULOUS DONORS!

Please take a moment to read through these fabulous donors who have recently so 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
 George & Frankie Bell
 Joe & Edith Benninghoff
 Robert Bergstrom
 Maureen Bouchard
 Dr. Ray & Dori Brodersen
 Russ Elliott
 Max & Patty Garrett
 Philip H. Carver & Marie Gravelle
 Barbara Hanneman
 Vern and Jan Hiebert

THANK YOU!

John & Jana Hofer
 Ray & Sally Hollemon
 Tom Hornig
 Mary Kamppi
 Lance & Emily Loberg
 James & Jane Mehlschau
 Jerry & Patty Murray
 Jonathan Pope
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 Lowell Spring

Marie Stephens
 Loraine Stuart
 Paul Suter
 Pamela Triplett
 Alma Wells

If you would like to donate funds to the FSELC please contact Cassandra Cooper, cassandra@fselc.org or call 503.391.4145.



A special Thank You to our Sponsors for the 2007-2008 Environmental Lecture Series



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Salem Audubon Society





Friends of Straub
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In 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 or (503)391-4145. Thank you for caring about our environment.

VISIT US ON THE
WEB
WWW.FSEL.C.ORG

RECYCLE THOSE TREES!

Alright, it's December 26, and you really don't want to bother taking down that festive tree you worked so hard on to bring 'comfort and joy' to your home.

But you know that day will soon come that your tree should face its destiny to be... well... not crunched into the garbage bin, not burned to a crisp, no, not thrown in the creek (I've seen it!), either...but RECYCLED! YES! What a miraculous idea! How ingenious! How fantastic!

What would we do without those Cub Scouts?! Yes it's that time again and the Cub Scouts will be raising money to do your dirty work.

Bring your trees to the Office Depot on Commercial Street SE 9am- 5pm on the following dates:

**December 29 &30
January 5 &6**

OR they will pick up in the South Salem area by calling (503) 990-2644 or email treepickup@salempack31.org .

If you are unable to make these dates, please consider some other earth-friendly options.

Other Options

- Chop up your tree and place it in your yard debris cart for no cost.

- Set out at the curb for your garbage hauler (\$5-10)
- U-haul to the Salem-Keizer Transfer station for a \$5 fee.

Important: Never burn your trees in a woodstove or fireplace. Burning of pines, furs, and other evergreens may contribute to creosote build-up.

