

May/June, 2005

What's Inside:

- Chewelah Peak
- A New Mammal at OLC
- Earth Day
- WVHS @ OLC

Have you been wondering how to get your class involved at the OLC? Look for our program flyer coming out soon!

Contact Jami or Brook 340-1028



Don't worry you didn't miss the March/April newsletter. We apologize for not producing a newsletter, but Brook was on maternity leave taking care of her new arrival!



Visit Our Website

www.wvolc.org



Outdoor Learning Center

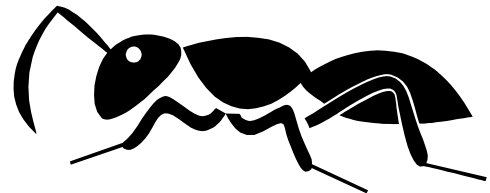
Warryn Hanson's Ness 2nd Graders Study Insects :

Use the OLC and Facilitate Your Own Activities

It was a bright and sunny day when Warryn Hanson and his second grade class wandered over to the OLC to study the life cycle of insects. Students searched high and low for insects inhabiting our grounds. Insects were discovered in a variety of habitats including: the compost pile, under rocks and logs, and even in the grass. Students then took the bugs back to class to take a closer look at their life cycles.

If you would like to use the OLC to facilitate your own activities please contact Jami to check the schedule. The bus trip is free for West Valley Schools if it is scheduled during regular route times to the OLC.

Pictured Above: Iolana Logsdon and Austin Hehr from the Poison Dart Frog group inspect their bug habitat before returning to school to further research the insects they found.



Picture of the Month: Focus on Flowers



West Valley Co-op and Cheney Pre-schools came to the OLC to study flowers, insects, and meet our raptors. Albert also read an interactive story "Albert and Ted" about two nocturnal critters, a great horned owl and a bat becoming friends.



Earth Day Celebrations - April 2005

AmeriCorps Volunteer Tom Brattebo teaches Freeman Jr. High students about groundwater and the importance of the aquifer to the Spokane Community



The month of April was a busy one for the OLC staff as we celebrated the fantastic planet we live on. All month students visited the center for our annual Earth Day Celebration. Students made recycled art, learned about the aquifer, and played a game about how energy flows through an ecosystem. In addition to students from West Valley the OLC had special guests from another district. Freeman Jr. High students from Mindy Poindexter's Life Science class joined in the Earth day festivities.

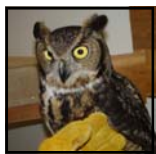
The OLC also participated in Spokane's Celebration in River Front Park on April 23. Visitors to the OLC booth could hear The Lorax, meet Squeakers the saw whet owl, learn about the aquifer, and color animal tracks.

To top it all off OLC staff and Pasadena Park Elementary students led by Matthew Phillipy participated on the Procession of the Species through the park. It was a wonderfully busy month and we all enjoyed sharing our passion for the Earth with the community.



Our favorite piece of recycled art, an owl perched in a tree, was created by a group of seventh graders from Freeman Jr. High. Other art created included robots, rockets, and a Spokane cityscape.

Albert's Pellet Coughing it up Monthly



Well happy spring to all of you-hoo. All of us education birds have been enjoying our summer like weather. Jami and Brook have been nice enough to perch a few of us out on the grounds to catch some rays.

Any-hooo the Sanctuary has been fairly quiet. The immature bald eagle has been really enjoying his swimming pool. I hear him next door splishing and splashing and ruffling his feathers once he gets out. Every once in awhile Jami makes him "fish" for his food and tosses a trout into the pool. Boy he sure loves that.

Willie and Brook participated in the District Block Party at the high school on June 2nd. They visited with students and their families and shared information about the other birds that live with us in the sanctuary.

Well I hope you all have a fantastic summer I will hoot at you all next school year!

West Valley High School Biology Spends a Day at the OLC



WVHS students Chelsea Bowman (left) and Lindsey Shepard search for macroinvertebrates in the pond



How is the water quality at the OLC you ask? WVHS students investigated that very question during the first week of June. Using a combination of water quality test kits and macroinvertebrate bioassessment students sampled both the upper and lower ponds at the OLC. Tests indicated that the OLC's manmade environments have good water quality. After assessing out aquatic environments students practiced using field guides for both plants and birds. AmeriCorps Member, Rob Swearingen took students on a plant ID tour of the OLC and students identified 10 native plants. Jami Ostby Marsh and Brook Beeler assisted students with sketching and identifying both live raptors and bird mounts using field marks, body shape, habitat, calls, behavior, and size. Overall, students had a fun, hands on science experience.

(Pictured from left to right) Katie Miller, Allie Isaac, Brook Beeler, and Emily Powell WVHS students and Environmental Educator, Brook Beeler investigate caddisfly larvae found in the OLC streams.



Chewelah Peak Experience

Between May 16th and May 25th, about 250 West Valley fifth graders roamed the wilderness surrounding the Chewelah Peak Learning Center. Guided by the OLC staff and helpers students shot arrows in the direction of an occasional moose, gorged on smores by the campfire, created crafts, cleared their own tables in the dining hall, and slept soundly (???) through the nights.

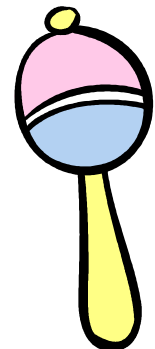
Each student spent two nights and part of three days at Chewelah Peak. Serious focus was on what makes a forest a forest, from the quality of water in the stream, what plants and animals live where, and how the forest recycles itself. Many macroinvertebrates were roused from their hiding places in the stream, rotting logs were dissected, and trees were identified, measured, aged, and counted. Predators and prey crept stealthily through the woods, while the nature scavenger hunt kept everyone searching. Daytime hikes took us deep into the forest- and back, al-



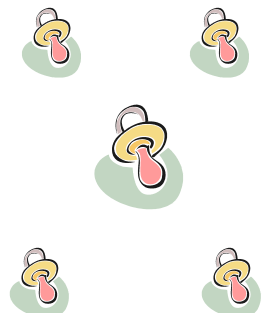
Pictures clockwise from the left: Sandra Murray and Mary Sementi lend a hand in the kitchen. Kathleen investigates the decomposition of a rotting log. Hunter records data in his journal. The Douglas Fir group poses for a picture just before investigating the water quality of the stream.



New Addition to the OLC Family



Meet Emma Lynn Beeler born to Brook and Ken on March 10. Our newest little mammal weighed in at 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Before too long she and Jasper will be running around the center learning everything there is to know about plants, animals, and our environment., becoming mini naturalists. Welcome Emma we are so glad to you are here.



OLC Wish List

Thanks to our project sponsor, The Big Horn Foundation all donations are tax deductible. The Bighorn Foundation is a nonprofit 501c(3) Corporation, "Educating Today's Youth for the Wildlife Resources Of Tomorrow"

- Nature related story books
- Rain Ponchos
- Reams of Recycled Paper
- Native Animal Puppets
- Garden Tools
- Fish Mounts



www.bighornfoundation.org

Calendars - May/June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursdays	Friday
		1 WVHS	2 WVHS	3
6 Kindy Life Cycles PP	7 Seth	8 Ness	9 OC	10 PP
13	14	15	16	17 Last Day of School
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29



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