

Nutrition Education volunteers sought

Concerned about the food and shopping choices people are making that affect their health? If you would enjoy sharing research-based information about healthy eating on a budget then you might enjoy becoming an Oregon State University nutrition education volunteer. Volunteers demonstrate cooking healthy recipes at local food pantries or lead small groups with fun, interactive nutrition activities.

To become a volunteer, applicants take a five-hour class on Wednesday, December 7, 9 a.m. at the OSU/Deschutes County Extension office in Redmond. Once trained and certified, volunteers commit to demonstrating healthy recipes six times over six months.

See the nutrition education volunteer application link at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/nutrition-education> to read more about the program. To apply, send your application to Katie Ahern, family & community health instructor, by December 5 to katherine.ahern@oregonstate.edu or OSU Extension, 1900 N.E. Division St., Suite 107, Bend, OR 97701. For more information call 541-306-6067.

Animal adventures in Sisters

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Last month marked the first monthly cooperative program offered by the High Desert Museum (HDM) and Deschutes Public Library System.

The presentation was on nocturnal animals, focusing on bats and owls. To begin the program, Alysa Wolf, assistant curator of wildlife for HDM, removed a lively adult barred owl from its carrying case and gave each of the children and parents in attendance a close-up look at this controversial nocturnal owl.

The barred owl is an alien species that is creating great concern within the circle of scientists working with our indigenous northern spotted owl.

The now-infamous barred owl's presence in the Northwest is causing serious biological and genetic problems for native northern spotted owls throughout their home range. Barred owls have traveled from eastern North America to western North America via thousands of Canadian and U.S. logging clearcuts, feeding on the abundant terrestrial rodents populating the unnatural habitat.

Unlike the northern spotted owls that are specialists, utilizing arboreal voles for food, barred owls are generalists and can get by on just



PHOTO BY JIM ANDERSON

Brooke Frutos with daughter Henley, and Leah Stoudt with her grandpa, Pop Kemle, took part in Sisters Library's Animal Adventure program, watching Alysa Wolf of the High Desert Museum show off a barred owl.

about any rodent they catch and consume.

Further, barred owls are genetically so close to spotted owls they can interbreed, giving rise to "spurred owls," which threaten the gene pool of northern spotted owls.

To remove this threat, U.S. Fish and Wildlife has been using what they term "lethal removal" of the alien barred

owls. However, they've decided to live-capture the owls and offer them to zoos and museums as "educational birds," which have been put to work in libraries, museums and school educational programs.

The program smoothly shifted from owls (as Wolf carefully and quietly placed the barred owl back in its

carrying case) to bats, as Glynis Bawden presented the children with construction materials to make their own paper-and-bead bats. At that time, the lesson opened the door to bats in general, what they are, what they do — and how. After the talks each child went home with a model bat to share with parents, siblings, and friends.

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