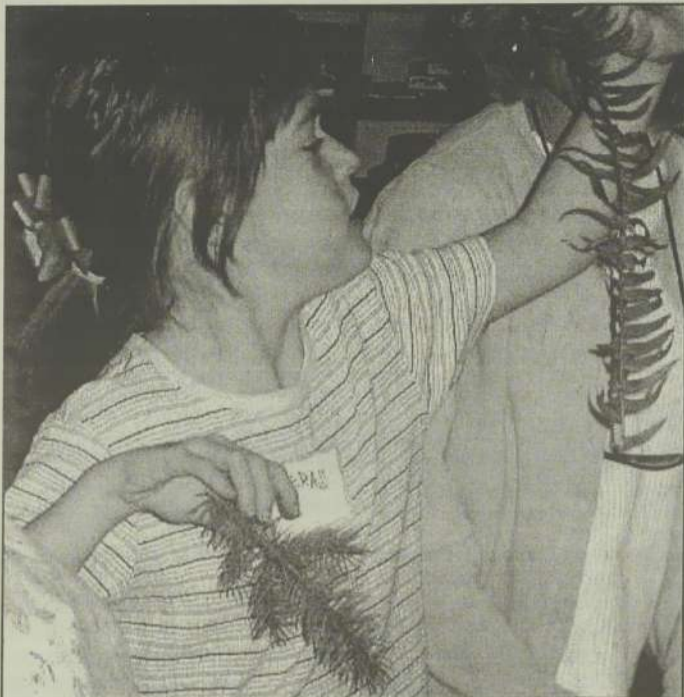


Field biology training well in hand

ELC hosts course in botany for both kids and their parents



SUSAN ABE / Clackamas Print

SUSAN ABE
Staff Writer

"A fuzzy stick!" Joshua Koch made the discovery at the ELC's *A Leaf in the Hand* workshop. "See—at the bottom it's regular, but at the top it's fuzzy."

Joshua and eight other children, aged 6-10, brought their parents to learn about plants on April 14. They examined plants in the field and under microscopes, made art with plants and talked about how plants affect their lives.

Finally, they lined up to pot the ferns and geraniums they were taking home to watch over this summer. They carefully packed soil around each

young plant's roots and scabbled through the remaining dirt for worms to add to the pots.

ELC staffer Christine Finlayson and Americorps volunteer Derek Clark led the briskly-paced workshop with flair. They kept the children focused and under control, without imposing any feeling of restriction. They adapted curriculum on the fly to fit each child's level.

The "In the Hand" program began as a class project with *A Bug in the Hand* last spring, Finlayson said. "The students thought we were learning to teach kids, but our instructor thought we were going to teach grown-ups. So

we did both."

Attendance at the 90-minute workshops has been as high as 25 children. The next workshop, on May 12, is expected to raise great interest—it's going to be *A Slug in the Hand*.

The cost is \$5 per child. Two or more children may come with

one adult, but no child may come alone. To register, call the ELC at 657-6958, ext. 2351.

Clark captured the essence of the event when a child showed him an assortment of leaves and asked if they would work for an art project. "I think anything's possible," he said.



SUSAN ABE / Clackamas Print

Budding Botanist: Justin Koch examines flower pollen under a microscope and describes it to ELC staffer Sharryce Richards. "A fuzzy stick! See - at the bottom its regular, but at the top its fuzzy."

Tera Hopkins uses almost all her senses - sight, sound, smell and touch - to investigate two kinds of plants. Children were focused and enthusiastic about the plants. The "In the Hand" series involves teaching both adults and children.

Choir sings at Salem collegiate festival



JOEL P. SHEMPERT / Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Chamber Singers headed to Salem on Friday, April 16, to sing in the American Choral Directors' Association [ACDA] Oregon Collegiate Choral Festival. 11 college choirs sang in the event, which is not so much a competition as an exchange of beauty and excellence between artists. The Willamette University Chamber Choir [above] sang the folksong "Cindy" with choreography and a backing violinist and bassist. Clackamas' Mac McFall, Brian Stone and Mike Nelson [right] each had solo lines on the Negro Spiritual "Ain' Got Time To Die."



OSTIN DRAIS / Contributing photographer

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