

Outdoor School Benefits from Tribal Donations

At this year's Outdoor School in October, a group of Lincoln County students, parents, and teachers experienced the natural environment of Drift Creek Camp, east of Siletz Bay.

The group was accompanied by high school counselors, as well as a Lakota Sioux man named Red Hawk and his wife, Mountain Woman (Pat Davenport), who taught traditional Native crafts and culture.

With a Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund donation of \$1,700 awarded in May 2006, the council was able to purchase camp materials and offer scholarships for low-income youth in Lincoln County to attend Outdoor School.

Virginia Tardaewether, educator for Mid-Coast Watersheds Council of Lincoln County, added that with the Siletz Tribal contribution and other funding, an amazing week was created for 130 students, 15 cabin cadets, 10 parents, and eight teachers.

Tardaewether said Outdoor School was "more than the science of orienteering, the culture of Native people, the biology of salmon, the ecology of Drift Creek, the understanding of how trees grow, and why our coastal forest looks like this ... (it) was spending a week at Drift Creek Camp ... living, laughing, singing, playing, and in general, creating memories that will last a lifetime."

Detailing the school's schedule for the week, she added that, "On Monday, we all worked together and enhanced our communication and cooperation skills through initiatives such as the 'human knot,' 'partner stand-up,' the 'coil,' and the 'trolleys.' We learned camp songs that have left many of us humming, '... and the cat came back the very next day.' Also, we were involved with a scavenger hunt to get to know the area."

On Tuesday, students learned how to shoot an arrow with a bow, about animal skins and fire, the parts of a tree as they cut "wood cookies," and how to tell the age of a fish. They made their own medicine poles and wrapped feathers with Red Hawk, identified and talked of the uses of plants, and how to read a map and compass.

"(On) Wednesday," Tardaewether said, "we hiked the creek, learning all about the riparian environment. This was a compliment to the Bureau of Land Management teachers who taught us about aquatic ecology through fun activities. Who would have thought learning about the salmon habitat would be so fun? Then, with a Frisbee, we talked of the how and why of migration and were led on a hike across a bridge and through a beautiful old-growth forest with Garry Corkum, an employee of Newport Parks and Recreation."

On Thursday students learned the importance of "dirt" and the layers of

soil that organisms call home. James Ray from England and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife STEP coordinator taught them about salmon as they watched a real salmon dissection.

Parker Ogburn, Siletz Council Extension coordinator and Outdoor School's OSU 4H Extension instructor, helped students learn how to kayak and only **one** kayak flipped as they all learned just how cold the water in Drift Creek really is.

All week, Tardaewether said, the group "had delicious meals prepared by the Angel Job Corps girls and several diligent parents."

Also on Thursday, "Everyone at the campfire program sang all of the songs and each cabin performed a skit - even the Angel girls performed a 'memorable' skit! Whew! What a week we all had!"

Throughout Outdoor School, many of the Waldport Middle School students got to know their teachers and cabin leaders really well. Cabin leaders learned what it's like to have a group of students to teach, help, talk to, and supervise.

Many of the cabin leaders worked with the MidCoast Watersheds Council, 4-H Extension, and Community Services Consortium this last summer.

"I think we all learned a bit more about ourselves. Some of these memories will be with us our entire lives," Tardaewether said. "Perhaps, some of (our) students will one day be cadets, (our) cabin cadets may one day be parents and perhaps (their) children or grandchildren will be able to spend a magical week in a beautiful place, learning, growing, cementing friendships, and creating memories that will undoubtedly leave an enduring legacy in (their lives)."



Red Hawk and his wife, Mountain Woman (Pat Davenport, far right), lead the Outdoor School's feather wrapping lesson.

SILETZ PUBLIC LIBRARY

A member of the Lincoln County Library District

"Dedicated to all citizens of the Siletz Valley today and for generations to come."

Built through a cooperative agreement between the Siletz Valley Friends of the Library (SVFOL) and the City of Siletz. Funds raised by SVFOL through the generosity of individuals, businesses, foundations, government agencies, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

ARCHITECT
Richard P. Turi

CONTRACTOR
Ron Anderson Custom Homes, Inc.

SUPERINTENDENT
Larry Franck

PROJECT COMPLETED IN 2006



Join Siletz Valley Friends of the Library for the grand opening of the Siletz Public Library

Jan. 6

2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Funding Needed to Landscape Library Grounds

It's time to landscape the areas around our new library. We have a plan for landscaping that will be attractive year round, water efficient, and educational.

We will create a garden guide brochure with plot maps, plant identification, and donor recognition. The guide will be available at our new library, set to open Jan. 6, 2007.

You can make a donation for a particular plant or a general landscaping donation. Your donation is tax-deductible and your name will appear in the garden guide.

Please apply my donation of \$ ___ to:

___ a general landscaping donation

___ a particular plant or type of plant

(A list of plants and approximate costs is available at the library, or call Sally Jennings at 541-444-2687.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make your check or money order payable to:

Siletz Valley Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 130
Siletz, OR 97380

Please indicate "Landscape Donation" on your check or money order.
Thank you!