Attention! School Garden Grant Funds Available

The Coos County Master Gardener Association is offering grants for schools to start or enhance school gardens. The association has set aside $3000 in funds to support up to six schools.

The Master Gardener’s mission is to educate the public about gardening. But school gardens don’t only teach about gardening. School gardens can be integrated into the curriculum to teach children other subjects as well. Gardens can teach children about history, economics, art, and math.

What if you do not have a good school yard for a garden? A garden program does not necessarily have to start out using outdoor land. Garden programs can be started right in the classroom on a windowsill, cabinet, or table near a window or artificial light source.

Please read page 2 to find out more about this great opportunity.

Classroom Activities Inside

4-H’s model for education is experiential learning, so here at Coos Co. Extension, we focus on finding hands-on learning experiences for your classrooms.

Inside you will find opportunities and guides to help you bring new life into your classroom, sometimes, literally.

On each activity guide, you will see the LEARN symbol on the top left corner.

Have fun!

Look to OSU Extension to enhance your student’s learning experience.

If you are new to Coos County or have not yet heard of the great 4-H programs and resources that Oregon State University provides to local schools and educators, this is your opportunity to check us out.

All resources and presentations are offered free of charge to Coos County teachers, including home school educators.

Feel free to call or e-mail the OSU Extension Office and discover what we can do for you!

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Educators, welcome back! It is always amazing how fast those summer months fly by. Hopefully you are back in the classroom and revved up to take on the challenges of a new school year.

For us at OSU Extension and 4-H, summer is one of our busiest times. We are highly involved with summer camps, day camps and of course the Coos County Fair. Yes, summer flies by for me as well but now I am jazzed up to get the opportunity once again to enter your classrooms and provide fun, hands-on learning experiences for your students.

We are a FREE SERVICE for any school in Coos County to utilize. The educational opportunities are endless; I look forward to working with you again this year.

Tracy Martz
4-H School Enrichment Educator
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OSU HANDS-ON
Agent Sightings

Money Available for School Gardens

2009 COOS COUNTY SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT

The Coos County Master Gardener Association (CCMGA) is proud to present the School Garden Grant Program.

Who should apply: All schools throughout Coos County are eligible, including private, charter, middle and high schools. Applicants must plan to garden in 2009. Teachers that would like to start a garden or have an existing garden are encouraged to apply.

Amount available: $3,000 in grant funds are available and will be distributed amongst up to six (6) applicants with a maximum of $750.

What the grant includes:

- A check in the amount requested to be administered by school fiscal officer.
- Age appropriate gardening curriculum produced through 4-H, Master Gardener and University Extension

Grant preparation: Applicants should demonstrate a child-centered plan that emphasizes children/youth learning and working in a garden.

Submission process:

Applications must be postmarked and mailed no later than November 30, 2008.

Award: CCMGA will mail notification letters regarding grant status by December 19, 2008.

Contact Tracy at 572-5263 x 294 or tracy.martz@oregonstate.edu for a grant application.

OSU HANDS-ON
Garden Enhanced Nutrition Education in YOUR School
Oregon State University Extension Service teams with the US Dept. of Agriculture to bring nutrition education to Oregonians. This next school year I will be working with nutrition education, 4-H and the OSU Master Gardeners to bring nutrition education to the classroom by enhancing education through hands-on learning in the garden.

This program is exciting to me in so many ways. Children will learn to grow their own plants that will produce healthy food for them and their family. In the process they will learn science, nutrition and many other life long skills. Additionally, information and activity sheets are sent home with youth participants to engage parents/guardians in the nutrition education effort.

My goal is to meet with classrooms five or six times throughout the school year to do a variety of activities and lessons with them. Supplemental lessons and activities will be provided for teachers to continue their involvement with the program. All of this is provided at no cost to the schools involved.

Contact me today if you want your classroom involved in this exciting program.

OSU Hands-on Teacher’s Catalogs Newly Updated
Available Now!! The OSU Hands-on Teacher’s Catalog will be delivered to your school. In it you will find an assortment of curriculum, videos, and borrow boxes available from us. If the term Borrow Box is new to you, they are packaged activities that we offer for checkout. We have materials that cover a wide variety of topics.

They include:

- Health and Nutrition
- Leadership
- Entomology
- Marine Science
- Forestry
- Astronomy
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources
- Arts
- Science

Get Oregonized – Revised Edition Available
This new edition features revised text, new sections on berries, hazelnuts and forestry, updated graphics as well as a full color cover and scenic photos. 5,000 copies of Get Oregonized were printed and are available now along with a new Get Oregonized Teacher’s Guide. One Teacher’s Guide is free with the purchase of a classroom set of student books. Visit the AITC website for more information.

http://AITC.oregonstate.edu

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Calendar Contest
Enter your student's artwork now! Students in grades K-6 are eligible to enter original artwork about Oregon Agriculture for our calendar contest. The theme of the calendar is Oregon Agriculture and it will highlight the tremendous diversity of agriculture throughout Oregon. We encourage students to use a lot of creativity and color in their original artwork. Artwork must be submitted by May 15, 2009. Judging will be completed over the summer and the calendar will be printed in the fall of 2009. Each month will feature one student’s artwork and will have daily agricultural facts. Every student who submits artwork will receive a personalized certificate. Thirteen Students will receive a $50 savings bond and their artwork will be in the 2009-2010 calendar. Honorable mention artwork will also be selected. For more information, call (541) 737-8629 or visit http://AITC.oregonstate.edu.
Opportunities for Educators

Project Learning Tree/Project WILD Workshop:
Get Wet-n-WILD in the Forest
October 23, 2008 from 8:30am-5pm

K-8 Teachers: Discover the wonderful world of Project Learning Tree and Project WILD Aquatic curriculums in a day long workshop at the New River Learning Center, south of Bandon. Explore hands-on activities and teacher resources for engaging your students in quality experiences in the wide-ranging natural resource areas of the South Coast. Gain a better understanding of the New River Learning Center.

Workshop Objectives: Participants will be able to:
- Describe the complex and diverse nature of forests.
- Identify the varied uses of forests.
- Describe the impact of people on forest.
- Expand their understanding of the interdependence of coastal habitats from forest to stream, wetland to estuary and ocean.
- Increase their awareness of the affect of human impact on the landscapes and wildlife around them.

No Cost: Teachers will receive the PLT and WILD Aquatic guides and many other free resources.

Substitute teacher reimbursement is available to attend this workshop.

Professional Development: Teachers attending this workshop will receive 8 PDUs.

Oregon Content Standards: PLT is correlated to Oregon standards and benchmarks in science, math, language arts, and the arts. This professional training opportunity will assist teachers using PLT to better integrate science and reading as well as meet grade level benchmarks.

Support/Resources: Teachers will learn about the numerous resources available to help teachers take their students into the field, including $$ for bus support for field trips.

To Register: Visit Oregon Natural Resource Education Program website:
http://www.cof.orst.edu/ofep/

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