

Flathead CORE

May 13, 2015

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1. Earth Day – 2015 is the “[international year of the soil](#)”. The Soil Science Society of America had NSTA travel grants, new lesson plans and much more. There is a new movie “Symphony of the Soil” that was streaming for free but now needs to be purchased (\$300 to show for public). Kari and Melissa worked together to put this on at FVCC for for Earth Day. The researcher who worked on the soil research at Glacier NP also did a short presentation. The soils theme could certainly lend itself to a new “[Featured Article](#)” for [Flathead CORE website](#).
2. [Citizens for a Better Flathead](#) hosted the Earth Day Event at Whitefish. Along with this, Sheena is part of an informal group called “Seasons of Change “– they are looking to do 4 programs starting Feb. 2015 around Earth Day themes and will be part of this event. They also plan to do something with NPS Centennial for 2016.
3. Kalispell Parks & Rec also did an Arbor Day Event (Friday after Earth Day) and had 300 third graders there. This was also a well-attended, great event.
4. May 1, Arbor Day in Columbia Falls, with USFS and DNRC and City of CFalls also went well.
5. Forestry Expo had a lot of people on Saturday (800+). The 26th year!
6. Audubon’s Beauty of Birds class was well attended and had lots of young adult participants.
7. Science Fair – the one at the Fairgrounds for the county is still working through some kinks. Activities were spaced well. Would CORE want to play a bigger role in helping to organize and coordinate how the projects are arranged and judged? West Valley did its own fair it seemed to have a good start.
8. Website Committee – the Local Providers table is complete and we’re waiting to hear from a few more providers about their updates. The mailing list is updated. We’re working on adding pictures and calendar events.
9. [MEEA](#) was a great event. They still struggle to have more teachers attend. We still owe Heidi Sedivy big thank you for putting that on!
10. Watershed Sourcebook Curriculum – no new updates at this time.
11. Trunk Workshop –October 15, 2015 on the PIR day. Check out the [updated trunk list on the CORE website](#). We are looking for someone to help to organize this and a location. Laura will let Eliza know about the date so it can be put on the website. Glacier has a new repeat photography trunk.
12. [Winter Trails Day](#), January 9, 2016–Let’s discuss this next fall when planning for 2016.
13. [Project Learning Tree](#) – Kari and Holly would like to try to advertise in fall 2015 for spring 2016 to get more people. This is a joint project done by the [Flathead Conservation District](#) with [Women and Timber](#) and [PLT](#).
14. Flathead Audubon will be presenting a teacher workshop on August 21 as part of the [NW MT Educational Cooperative’s](#) Summit week. It is on PIRnet and is called “Birds in the Elementary Classroom” –WAT (Writing, Art, Technology, Inquiry in Science) in the nest using webcams in the classroom, Friday, August 21, 2015 .

Round Robin

- North Valley Headstart – Lucy would like to get the teachers to want to teach about the farm, the ranch, and the outdoors. Perhaps we can think about partnering for the upcoming trunk workshop? Lucy would be interested in having anyone come to help her staff know how to use the trunks.
- Lucy is also interested in having a nature center in town where students/families could learn about place-based education – what berries can be eaten different times of year, etc...
- Glacier Institute - Teen Symposium in June 21st-26th and there are still openings. Sign up on www.glacierinstitute.org GI is Working with Glacier National Park on an agreement to have education courses at the Burton K. Wheeler property in Glacier NP.
- [Whitefish Trail](#) Learning Pavilion is constructed –half mile in from Lion Mtn. Trailhead.
 - Grand opening planned for late May
 - Gearing up for busy year and increasing educ. outreach
 - Planning guided hikes this summer and mini-camp at end of summer. They will partner with Whitefish parks to bring summer camp students out. They will be using a lot of trunks!
 - Also have plans to do a speaker series and Health & Fitness sessions.
- Flathead National Forest - June 20th the Summit Nature Center will open. See the Flathead NF website for hike schedule. Still working on filling MCC crews this summer.
- [Flathead Audubon](#) – Raptor Day is scheduled for Sept. 12, 2015. There are some other school groups doing programs with Patti before the school year ends. Workshop on August 21st through PIRnet (see earlier).
- Glacier National Park – Citizen Science Loon Days going on; Also MCC is recruiting for crews for this summer's youth corps; Apgar VC opening 7 days per week; getting ready for full summer interpretive programming.

Next Meeting at same location (650 Wolfpack Way):
Sept. 16, 2015