

## Flathead CORE, September 12, 2013

Sheena Pate (on the phone); Mary Jo Gardner (Retired Fair-Mont- Egan), Patti Mason (Flathead Conservation District), Laura Law(Glacier NP), Errin Koehler (Americorps at Lone Pine), Diann Ericson and Jill Jolly (Swan Ecosystem Center), Susan James (Libby Dam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

1. Raptor Day was September 7, 2013 at Lone Pine State Park. A record 265 people were there! They had a bird Olympics that was attended by many people and probably 50 attended the family program. Flathead NF was there, Audubon, and the Raptor View Research Institute.
2. Wilderness Investigations Workshop has one opening left for full for Sept. 14-15, 2013 at Glacier Institute Field Camp in Glacier National Park. More workshops are scheduled for the year and the dates can be found on [the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center website](#).
3. The Flathead CORE trunk workshop is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2013. It's 6 OPI credits and is 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Information is now on the flatheadcore website and on PIRnet to find out what trunks will be shown and the agenda for the day. Educators can sign up for it on the CORE website or on PIRnet. (There are 4 teachers signed up all ready.) It is worth 6 OPI Renewal Units. Sheena Pate is coordinating it and is looking for more ways to get the information out to teachers. Sheena will work with Errin to see about what FW&Parks trunks might be good to share. Sheena and Teresa will update the trunk list to reflect if there are any charges for using the trunks. (The Swan Ecosystem Center will get the Stewardship Trunk to the workshop.)
4. Jane Kapler Smith is conducting a 1-day teacher workshop, Friday, October 18, 2013. There are 10 people signed up right now. They are also taking reservations for the "Fire Speaks the Land Dance" performance on March 26 & March 27, 2014. They are scheduling for 3 performances, 1 of these is paid for already, and will most likely be filled by the Whitefish Schools. We are looking for funding for the other 2 performances and Flathead NF is taking reservations for those.
5. October 5, 2013 – Oral history workshop at Lone Pine State Park sponsored by [Montana DNRC](#) and [MT Women in Agriculture](#). This is part of a statewide project. Patti will send the information out to us.
6. GO (Get Outside) Passport – Sheena has not been able to get a hold of Tim Sievers (BBBS) so not much has moved forward on this. We can see if there is more interest in working on it at our next meeting and perhaps form a subcommittee to work on it. Laurie LaPan said she is willing to work on it but she is not working at the Hungry Horse Dam anymore and wasn't able to make the meeting today. Maybe it could be tied in the with Get Outside event at Lone Pine each year?
7. Project Learning Tree –The Foys to Blacktail Project project brought up the point that we don't know if teachers are using outdoor sites with their students. Teresa did not have another update on where it's at but the last update was that she is still working on doing a follow-up survey for PLT with our workshop teachers. The goal is to see how they are using materials from the PLT workshops and also if they are using the outdoor sites that are on the lists we gave them.
8. The Watershed Sourcebook project to develop middle school curriculum materials to complement the Sourcebook is still on-going. Michael Brody, from MSU Education Department

is willing to work with Flathead CORE on this. The Sustainability Fund and the Flathead Conservation District have put in some seed money to get the project going. The committee is working with Michael on doing a Delphi Survey to find out what are the key issues we really want to teach (Phase 1). Then phase 2 will be developing those materials. Phase 3 is piloting the materials with workshops. Phase 4 is to produce the final product.

9. Flathead CORE website hosting fee will be due in March 2014. It is \$71.88 and due March 18, 2014. Is anyone else able to help cover it?
10. Round Robin:
  - a. [Whitefish Lake Institute](#) will host the [COCEEC](#) meeting on October 1, 2013 at the Whitefish Lake Lodge.
  - b. Native plant garden at Helena Flats, Somers, W. Valley and Glacier High School are doing well. West Valley is expanding into 'phase 2' expanding their garden and adding shrubs this fall.
  - c. Can CORE start to use Google docs more to work and share documents? For things like the trunk workshop, it would be helpful.
  - d. [Winter Trails Day](#) is Jan. 11, 2014 this year.
  - e. "Forest Inspirations" art exhibit for the Artist-Wilderness-Connection program offered by the Flathead National Forest, Hockaday Museum of Art, Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, and the Swan Ecosystem Center. The Exhibit starts Sept. 25 and runs through October 23, 2013 at the FVCC Arts and Technology Building.
  - f. [Creston Fish Hatchery](#) – has a climate change talk in Kalispell tonight, "Climate Change, Making Sense of Global Warming."
  - g. Evie Bradley will be moving to the Bitterroot next spring and will leaving the Fish Hatchery.
  - h. [Glacier NP](#) – taking reservations for field trips for the school year. There are also travel grants available for the trips.
  - i. Diann presented information for Mary Beth Chappelow who is the Region 1 representative for [MT Environmental Education Association \(MEEA\)](#). Diann is the MEEA at large representative.
  - j. MEEA is in Butte next year 2014. The volunteer Executive Director is trying to keep the website updated but it is a bit behind. Mary Beth is doing the BugNet updates.
  - k. There are mini-grants available from MEEA and we got hard copies. The website has a [link for the mini-grants](#) and even though it has last year's dates on it, teachers can use those forms.
  - l. Can we help MEEA to find a few teachers who would be interested in participating in MEEA? Mary Jo recommended Diann contact [the NW MT Educational Cooperative](#) Director, Eliza Sorte to help find teachers for this. OPI has established a study group that incorporates FW& Parks, MEEA, and 4H to help create outdoor education standards.
  - m. Information about a STEM workshop at the Museum of the Rockies, October 16, 2013, 5-9 p.m. was passed out.
  - n. Montana Informal Science – Is a new group that is starting to come together.

- o. Hello to Jill Jolley the new [Swan Ecosystem Center](#) Education Coordinator. She is a MAJOR trunk user and has lots of experience with outdoor education. She taught in the Bitterroot and was the Education Coordinator at a private refuge in the Bitterroot and has worked with [Ravenwood](#).
- p. Hello and welcome to Susan James from [Libby Dam](#). She has been a high school education teacher and done a lot of Project WILD. She wants to add more environmental science to what is going on at the dam. She had a birds of prey event with 500 people last year. They are looking for connections and inspiration.
- q. Columbia River Treaty Exhibit is in the Libby VC and the treaty is up for review. A handout was distributed.
- r. [Lone Pine](#) is having its Friend's Fest on 9/18/13 from 5:30-8. Refreshments will be provided.
- s. The Clark Fork Watershed Education Program ([CFWEP.org](#)) is hosting MEEA 2014 conference. The Clark Fork Watershed Education Program (CFWEP) fosters environmental stewardship and scientific decision making through place-based learning.

Next meeting date set for Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the [Flathead Conservation District Office](#).