Flathead C.O.R.E

May 18, 2016

Grete Gansauer (MT Wilderness Assoc. and Foys to Blacktail) Bergen Tjossem (Glacier Institute) Tom Bansk (Flathead Biological Station) Teresa Wenum (Flathead NF) Laura Law (GNP) Mary Jo Gardner (retired teacher) Kathy Martin (Hockaday Museum of Art) Denny Olson (Flathead Audubon)

Wrap Up of recent events:

1. Earth Day Event in Whitefish was well attended. C.O.R.E. was represented by GNP, Flathead NF, MT Wilderness Assoc., and Glacier Institute (?)
2. F.V.C.C. Bio- Blitz Audubon and FNS participated
3. Family Forestry Expo was well attended with over 600 people on Sat.
4. Public Lands Travel Grants gave out 41 grants@$500 and had 80 applicants.
5. Arbor Day Event in Lawrence Park was well attended by Kalispell 3rd graders.
6. The 2 presentations of The Deep Aquifer and Subsurface Geology of Flathead Valley generated a lot of interest and the scientists were quite happy Tom reported. The Teacher Workshop on Sustainability application deadline has passed and several applications were received.
7. **Congratulations** to Laura for earning the *Sense of Wonder award* at the Montana Environmental Educators Association conference in March.
8. Laura will check the website regarding posting programs and events. We will need to have a website meeting.
9. Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Educator’s Guide: the second workshop was held May 14th at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. A roll out schedule is being developed for later this year but hope it will include Dissemination at NW MT Educ. Co-op mid Aug. and MEA-MFT Conf. Oct. 20 and 21. The C.O.R.E. Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Educators’ Guide Steering Committee will announce its next meeting shortly. Contact Lori Curtis at the Whitefish Lake Institute or Valerie Kurth at the
10. Flathead Conservation District. Tom shared some history and background of this project. Impressively, it will be used for a model in other areas.
11. The Trunk Workshop will be Oct. 20 at the Gateway West Community Center.
12. Denny spoke of FAS’s activities and plans. Raptor Day is Sept. 10, watershed activities and education at Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, Hawk Watch in conjunction with Flathead NF, and blue bird houses project with Conservation Roundtable partners.
13. Kathy shared Hockaday’s Art Matters quarterly update of news and events. There’s a new Education Program Packet for schools: Women Artists of GNP-A Timeless Legacy. A workshop is May 24th at the NW MT Educ. Co-op.
14. Teresa announced that the Capitol Christmas tree will be coming from the Kootenai National Forest. Plans are underway. FNF is hiring 8 students this summer for the Youth Conservation Corps. Flathead Area FireSafe Council Open House May 24 from 3-7PM at Flathead NF. Find out how you can help Flathead communities prepare for wildfire.
15. Laura spoke of a pilot program with Glacier Park Boat Co. for 4th graders. Their park passes are valid through Aug. Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative program through the Mansfield Center at U. of M. was conducted in GNP. GNP Teacher Cultural Resource Guides are available.
16. Bergen shared Glacier Institute Programs that are happening-Big Creek is very busy.
17. Tom announced that Flathead Lake Biological Station has a new director-Jim Elser. There will be more emphasis on education. His wife, Monica, is the education liaison. Coming up is the Lakers Watershed Citizen program for 3rd-5th graders from Bigfork to Ronan. June 13th starts the Mon. morning seminars. Research Cruise is July 12th. Open House is Aug. 3rd. Science on Tap has been well attended. July and Aug. will have a site change to Finley Point Grill.
18. Grete reported that Foys to Blacktail is working on Birch Creek Meadow. National Trails Day is June 4th at various sites with a lunch at Lone Pine State Park. MT Wilderness Assoc. will have Summer Wilderness Walks Series.

**Next meeting Sept. 21st at the Hockaday Museum of Art 4:00**