

**Flathead Community of Resource Educators
March 15, 2018 Meeting – Kalispell Forest Service Office**

In attendance: *Holly Church* (Flathead Lake Biological Station);
Kathy Martin (Hockaday Museum of Art);
Diann Ericson (retired teacher, Education Coordinator Swan Ecosystem Ctr.);
Laura Law (Glacier Natl. Park);
Cheyenne Owens (Creston Natl. Fish Hatchery);

Derrick Rathe (Lone Pine State Park);
Tom Keras (Lone Pine State Park);
Brenna Rodriguez (Lone Pine State Park);
Zosia Glass (MT Conservation Corps);
Ryder Delaloye (Whitefish School District/Center for Sustainability);
Teresa Wenum (Flathead Natl. Forest)

Follow up on Winter Trails Day Events – January 20

Thank you Flathead Audubon, Glacier Natl. Park, Lone Pine State Park, Flathead National Forest and Foy's to Blacktail Trails for hosting a community Winter Trails event!

With the federal government shut-down, GNP was unable to host their two scheduled snowshoe walks.

Thank you Dick and Karen Lauer, volunteers with the Foy's to Blacktail Trails group for taking the lead to host the Blacktail snowshoe walk! Two couples joined Karen and Dick on a two mile walk. Two individuals were new to snowshoeing and borrowed shoes.

Ten folks joined Denny for a Flathead Audubon lead snowshoe along the river bottom at Owen Sowerwine Natural Area – treated to views of a Pileated, Red-tailed Hawk and bald eagle fly overs!

Lone Pine State Park hosted 51 people! Derrick felt about 10 people showed up due to other venue(s) being cancelled. There were families from Cut Bank that drove over and folks that lived just a mile away, was their first time to the park. About 25 people were new to snowshoeing.

Updates on Spring Events

[Flathead Valley Earth Day](#), April 21, 11am to 3pm, Whitefish High School

Booths with hands-on activities, classroom workshops and community discussions, GRAND OPENING! Tour the new Center for Sustainability & Entrepreneurship (student lead tours), community presentation of the final City of Whitefish Climate Action Plan

*Ryder asked if interested CORE members would be willing to share information on the April 21 event as appropriate through social media, websites and post hard-copy flyers/posters.

The 29th Annual [Family Forestry Expo](#), May 7-12, Trumbull Creek Educational Forest

May 7-11 for 5th graders, over 1200 students scheduled; Saturday, May 12 family event, 9am to 3pm

If interested in leading a 5th grade class to their different stations, contact Teresa, 758-5218, twenum@fs.fed.us

Kalispell Arbor Day Event, April 27, Woodland Park; hosted by Kalispell City Parks and Recreation and Kalispell Street Tree Commission, “Trees in our City: Tree-mendous”; Kalispell third graders participate in learning stations, tree planting and special Arbor Day presentation.

Columbia Falls Arbor Day Event, May 4, Horine Park; Ruder Elementary 5th graders participate in tree planting, activity stations and special presentation.

[Flathead Lake Community Mussel Walk](#) -- April 14, 2:00 pm, Bigfork Flathead Lake State Park: *Wayfarers*. Learn how to identify mussels; clean, drain, and dry your boats; and report something suspicious. Then, join us for a shoreline mussel walk or go to your favorite Flathead Lake spot to look for mussels. *Sixth through 8th graders with the Boys and Girls Club will participate in activity stations and do a mussel walk at an April 12 event at the Flathead Lake Biological Station hosted by CSKT and the bio station.

[Science Tap, April 3, 6:00pm, Flathead Lake Brewing Company](#) -- Dr. Shawn Devlin, co-host of Science on Tap, will introduce us to the vibrant benthic oasis of freshwater lakes in the world's coldest desert, McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica.

Friends of Lone Pine Open House, March 23, Lone Pine State Park – event to share with the community the programs and resources offered by the park including those supported by park partners.

Pick up Your Park, April 21, 10am to Noon, in Kalispell at Woodland OR Lawrence Parks – litter pick up with pizza served afterwards.

Pruning Workshop, May 5 at the Kalispell, Kidsports facility, upper parking lot hosted by the Kalispell City Arborist.

Upcoming Sustainability Conferences

[Green Schools Conference & Expo](#) May 3-4, Denver;

[National Sustainability Teachers' Academy](#), June 18-22 at the University of Montana, Missoula

Ryder Delaloye shared a brief update on two upcoming sustainability conferences for educators; Ryder is presenting at the Green Schools Conference: [Creating Student Climate Advocates: It all Starts with Benchmarking!](#) The Teachers' Academy is part of Arizona State University's [Global Sustainability -- Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives](#). ***Whitefish School District through the Center for Sustainability has funds for five educators to participate in the June academy – contact Ryder if interested.

[Montana Environmental Education Association Annual Conference](#)

March 22-24, Great Falls – Steve Running keynote speaker.

Small, yet powerful couple of days in Great Falls with great, diverse sessions. It was announced at the meetings that all the Every Kid in a Park 2018 transportation grant funding had been distributed! Thank you Glacier! Melissa Sladek and Sarah Lent presented a session at the conference sharing a teaching unit from the park's Work House: A Glacier National Park Science Education Program.

Met and invited Luke Stappler, Environmental Education Specialist with Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp on Flathead Lake, to join our CORE group. The camp is finishing up their first year of on-site environmental education programming for area schools.

Annual Educational Trunk Workshop – with the October state MEA/MFT conference in Billings, it was recommended to keep the workshop in October. We could schedule for Thursday, October 18. Any interested in helping to coordinate workshop?

Update on Forest for Every Classroom (FFEC) – Without secure funding to implement a full-three program, it was decided to create and host a unique Flathead Watershed professional development training using elements of the FFEC. A small group met on March 19 to draft training vision, goals and outline of a year-long program. Group working on the program admin and logistic piece, exploring a couple options to use program planning funds secured by Laura through the Glacier Natl. Park Conservancy.

Round Robin

[Glacier NP](#) and [Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center \(CCLC\)](#)--To celebrate birds, their importance to the ecosystem, and the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act CCLC is hosting a brown bag luncheon presentation with Lisa Bate, Glacier National Park wildlife biologist, and [Montana Wild Wings Recovery](#), a wildlife rehabilitation organization in Northwest Montana. The presentation will be held on Thursday, April 12 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the park's Community Building in West Glacier. It is free and open to the public. Bird surveys and Wild Wings presentation in the morning with high school and middle school students.

Applications being accepted for the June 'Discover Glacier through Science and Culture' teacher workshop. <http://www.glacierinstitute.org/>

[Hockaday Museum of Art](#)—Check out all the spring programming and exhibits including *Resilience: An Exhibition of Strength and Reverence, presented by the Creative Indigenous Collective and Botanical Watercolor Painting*. Summer art classes for kids are scheduled and done in collaboration with Kalispell Parks and Recreation. New this year, working with the Glacier Natl. Park Conservancy, artists can join instructors for Plein Air Painting workshops in Glacier.

[Montana Conservation Corps](#)- recruiting for summer middle and high school programs, contacting area teachers to get the word out – contact Carolan (406.755.3619) if you have teacher contacts to share; crew leaders available for two-hour volunteer opportunities, part of their member requirement. Contact Carolan if you have a short-term volunteer need.

[Flathead Lake Biological Station](#)-Station hosting the National Geographic Geo-Inquiry Summer Institute, June 20-22, targeted to middle school teachers; working on AIS trunk curriculum targeted to middle school students; working with the Lakers to plan for May 3-5 grade field trips to station; Holly doing various classroom visits and hosting classes at station, tailor to teacher needs.

[Flathead National Forest](#)-Winter Discovery field trips for grades K-8 through the Forest Service Summit Nature Center, partnership project with Whitefish Mtn. Resort, finished up March 9, with over 500 students participating; as of April 3, three paid Youth Conservation Corps positions still open for the summer season, June 11 through August 3, contact Jenny Cloutier, 758-5254. Annual FireWorks Master Class June 13-14, free, Fire Sciences Lab in Msla. Contact Eva emasin@fs.fed.us

[Lone Pine State Park](#)-Welcome Brenna and Tom,AmeriCorps members working at Lone Pine January through November, education specialist and evening program/special events coordinator; developing an astronomy program, new telescope just arrived! Will host backpacking and orienteering workshops this year; Derrick coordinating the Forestry Expo wildlife station; scheduling spring school field trips; working to get interpretive programming to all Flathead Lake parks; launching a Trails Stewardship Program, similar to an adopt-a-trail program; working to do all on-line registration for park events.

[Creston National Fish Hatchery](#)- still planning to bring back the “Fun Fish Day” event for area 3rd graders, may take place in Sept; hosting a booth at the Earth Day event. Scheduling field trips for the outdoor classroom.

**There was suggestion that CORE could look at mentoring students on potential science fair projects, to work on through the summer – open door to projects that would need more field trip, or field time outdoors that can’t be done during the winter months.

**47th Annual Conference, North American Association for Environmental Education, Oct. 9-13, Spokane <https://naaee.org/>