

# 2006 WREN ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



WREN reached more than **4,000** students and community members through field trips, classroom outreach programs, community events, and booths at local festivals in 2006: **95** school groups visited the wetlands and/or received classroom presentations. The total number of contacts included **2,751** students and teachers/chaperones. **1,334** people attended **48** community education programs about wetland wildlife and habitat. on weekends and weekday nights. WREN participated in the EWEB Earth Day Celebration, Eugene Celebration, the Wings and Wine Festival and the Wildflower and Mushroom Festivals at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum with a booth.

The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation (CCUIF) awarded WREN with a **\$10,350** grant to support the education program in 2007. WREN will develop two completely new outreach programs for elementary and middle school students.

WREN welcomed Mike Shippey to the board in June. Mike is a Landscape Ecologist and owner of Coyote Creek Environmental Services, Inc. in Eugene. He is a member of the IGA Committee and served on the education center architect selection committee.

WREN hired Windy Hovey as a part time Administrative Assistant in September, bringing the total number of WREN staff members to four.

WREN coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management, Eugene Stream Team, Sierra Club Many Rivers Group, and the Rachel Carson Natural Resource Program for another successful Public Lands Day Volunteer Clean-up in September. More than **50** community members participated in removing noxious weeds and clean up along Amazon Creek and the Tsanchiifin Trail.

WREN coordinated with the Environmental Leadership Program through the University of Oregon Environmental Studies department. Beginning in spring 2007, five UO students will be helping with WREN's education program as a part of their coursework.

Work continued at the University of Oregon's Center for Advanced Technology and Education program to refine and submit grant proposals, as well as evaluate current education programs.

WREN partnered with the Eugene Stream Team to adopt the section of Amazon Creek between Beltline and Danebo.



WREN sold more than **700** copies of "Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley, Oregon: A Beginner's Guide". All proceeds support the WREN education program.

WREN Board and volunteers dedicated more than **2500** hours in 2006 to further the education program!

WREN Environmental Education Coordinator Holly McRae and Environmental Education Specialist Liz Myers were once again nominated by the Bureau of Land Management for National Take Pride in America Awards. (See photo, left) Eugene BLM District Manager Virginia Grilley presented Holly and Liz with nomination awards at the Wetland Project Office

# WEST EUGENE WETLANDS EDUCATION CENTER



There was much progress made toward building the center in 2006!

In November, city residents voted yes to Eugene Parks and Open Space Bond Measure 20-110. This provides \$1.75 million for site development and building the education center.

Representatives from the City of Eugene, WREN and School District 4J selected Rowell Brokaw Architects as the project architect team.

WREN received its first corporate donation toward building a field science education center in the West Eugene Wetlands. Invitrogen Corporation, a \$1.2 billion biotechnology company, pledged a total of \$150,000, securing the first naming opportunity in the complex: the Invitrogen Field Science Laboratory Room within the Field Science Laboratory Building.

Thanks to the support of the Oregon Congressional Delegation, the Eugene Land Conveyance Act was passed, transferring the 12 acre proposed site for the education center from BLM to the City of Eugene.

## 2006 Education Center Supporters

## 2006 Education Program Supporters

### Businesses

Invitrogen Corporation  
Coyote Creek Environmental Services, Inc. (Eugene)  
Cameron McCarthy Gilbert & Scheibe Landscape Architects, LLP (Eugene)

### Individuals

Bill & Teresa Mason  
Layne Mason  
Josephine & Peter Von Hippel  
Judy & David Berg  
Sheldon Mittleman & Rita Childers-Mittleman  
Charles Quinn & Dana Abel  
Denise Fearn  
Denise H. Gudger  
Gigi & Steve Gremmel  
Steve Calish  
Al & Trudy Hughes  
Susanne Twight-Alexander  
Jim & Pat Anderson  
Patricia K. Johnston  
Chip Mason  
Herb Wisner  
Tom & Victoria Schneider  
Dulcy Lee through The Rockwood Trust  
Alan Zelenka  
Mike Shippey

### Businesses, Agencies and Organizations

Collins Foundation (grant) \$10,000  
Nearby Nature  
Jaeger Real Estate (Eugene)  
Coyote Creek Environmental Services, Inc. (Eugene)  
Bureau of Land Management  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
Eugene REI  
Elmira Automotive (Eugene)  
QSL Print Communications (Eugene)  
Raven FrameWorks (Eugene)

### Individuals

Susanne Twight-Alexander  
Steve Calish  
Bill Mason  
Herb Wisner  
Judy & David Berg  
Christina Muniz  
Nathaline Frener  
Skeeter Duke  
Diane Rivo  
Mike Shippey  
Amy Gremmel  
Gigi & Steve Gremmel  
Dean & Maxine Myers  
Tim Whitley  
Tom & Victoria Schneider  
Dulcy Lee through the Rockwood Trust



## AMERICAN WETLANDS MONTH 2006

More than 400 people attended wetlands month events or dropped by the WREN booth at local festivals throughout May. WREN celebrated with a variety of events including butterfly, wildflower and general nature walks in the wetlands, presentations on river otters and dragonflies, and a photo exhibit and reception in the downtown library.

This year's sponsors were Eugene REI, Raven Frame Works of Eugene, BLM and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.