



## THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

# Wetland Word Newsletter

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### New Faces at WREN



This fall, Carrie Karl is assisting with school field trips and classroom outreach. Carrie joins us from Flagstaff, Arizona, where she worked for the Museum of Northern Arizona. Her prior experience also includes interpretation for several national parks.



Adam DeHeer is the Ethnobotany Project Activities Coordinator (an initiative between WREN and the Institute for Culture and Ecology). Adam graduated from UO in summer 2008 with a B.A. in philosophy. He wrote his honors thesis on the topic of environmental restoration theory.

### December basket weaving classes

December 13 and 14 Nan MacDonald, a Metis /First Nation Algonquin Native Basket Weaver, will lead classes in basketry at the West Eugene Wetlands yurt. Nan learned to weave baskets in the traditional way with wood splints from the Ash tree from Abenaki master weavers, and she has been weaving this style of basket for eight years. Since moving to Oregon, Nan has also learned to weave and teach basketry skills in the traditional style of several West Coast Indigenous Tribes.

The first class, on Dec. 13, is a family program open to all. Drop in anytime between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The class will create traditional style baskets made of tule and cattails. Participants should plan on staying for at least 1 1/2 hours to complete their basket. Suggested donation for this class is \$2 (WREN member) and \$4 (non-member).

The second class, on Dec. 14, will be an advanced workshop from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Participants will weave a Northwest Coast, Soft Twined Sweet Sedge Grass Basket and fill them with the sacred elements of Sage, Cedar, Stones or Wild Herb. Baskets are completed by a leather thong with glass beads. All materials will be provided. Children 10 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. The cost of this class is \$45 per person, and there is a 12 person limit so **call immediately** if you would like to attend this one. This class has only been publicized through the WREN mail and email lists.

Registration is required for both classes - call 683-6494. Bring a sack lunch if you would like to picnic together on site. Dress in warm layers, the classes may spend some time outside regardless of weather.

### The science behind our fall colors

by Carrie Karl, WREN Environmental Education Assistant

The change of seasons is well upon us! This year, fall gave us a myriad of colors. Our palette of vibrant summer greens gave way to brilliant oranges, yellows and reds. The three pigments that are the main characters in our fall play are chlorophyll (the greens) carotenoids (the yellows) and oranges and anthocyanins (the reds and purples).

Chlorophyll and carotenoids are always present in the leaf of the tree, while anthocyanins are produced during the fall. As autumn begins in the West Eugene Wetlands, temperatures decrease and nights grow longer, signaling to plants the approach of winter. Plants reflect this change in season by beginning to seal off their leaves via swelling of a special layer of cells at the base of the leaf called the abscission layer. As this layer swells, chlorophyll and carotenoids are trapped. The ensnared chlorophyll continues the process of photosynthesis, producing a build up of sugar in the leaf. Sugars combined with bright light produce the anthocyanins. As the chlorophyll is exhausted, the carotenoids and anthocyanins are exposed, painting the landscape with bold strokes of color.

Many factors influence the brilliance of fall color. However, the best color occurs after a period of dry, warm sunny days with cool crisp nights. The nights must remain above freezing to allow for a slow swelling of the abscission layer which prevents the sugars from moving out of the leaf. The more sugar in the leaf, the more brilliant the anthocyanins. Carotenoids, however, are always present in the leaf and as a result are usually the same from year to year. -Read the full article (labeled "Autumn") at [wenwild.blogspot.com](http://wenwild.blogspot.com).



Photo above and in banner: Carrie Karl

## Education Center Updates: CUP Process

The Education Center project team has been working on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) over the last several months with the City of Eugene Planning Department to address land use issues. The final CUP package will be submitted at the end of November for final review and approval. The decision on the CUP is expected at the end of January, and the team expects that the plan will be approved.

The project site is located in the Natural Resource Zone, which requires the facility to obtain CUP approval before building permits for the site and buildings can be obtained. During the CUP process, the site plan is reviewed to ensure that factors such as type of use, building size, traffic, parking, landscape, and protection of natural features are compatible with the zoning requirements. *-Update contributed by Mark Young, Rowell Brokaw Architects.*

For full updates on the capital campaign, including the Phase 1 budget and recognition of all donors to the education center, visit [www.wetlands.org/ed\\_center.asp](http://www.wetlands.org/ed_center.asp).

### Recent new and renewing WREN members and supporters

Andy Gilmore, Charlie Quinn & Dana Abel, Christine Miles, Dorothy Gilmore, Emily Belot, Erika Mattson, Janet Naylor, Larry McQueen & Elga Brown, Lori Humphreys, Mary Minniti & Mike Shippey, Michael & Rebecca Scarola, Pamela Griffin & Jim Poverman, Rob Neyer, Scott Carpenter

### Recent support for the Education Program provided by:

Emge & Whyte, The Green Store, John Jarvie  
Mike Shippey & Mary Minniti, WineStyles



### The Fall 2008 *Wetland Word* Newsletter

This is the 2nd condensed printed issue of the *Wetland Word*. WREN has condensed our mailed newsletter in order to conserve resources consumed and expended in publishing the *Wetland Word* each quarter. Full and additional articles will now be available online at [www.wetlands.org/newsletters.asp](http://www.wetlands.org/newsletters.asp). If you prefer to receive a full printed copy, please contact WREN with your request. WREN would greatly appreciate your feedback! Please send questions and comments to Windy Hovey, editor, at [info@wetlands.org](mailto:info@wetlands.org).

**This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper!**

**Fall 2008 News:** Education Center updates; colors of fall; basket weaving workshops in December; WEW fall ecological burning summary; new WREN staff

### Upcoming Events

**12/5,6,7** Three-day workshop for basic wilderness survival skills with Trackers Northwest at the yurt. Call 503-453-3038.

**12/9, 9-10 a.m.** Wetland Wander along the Tsanchiifin Trail. WREN will provide binoculars.

**12/13, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** Basketry for Families. Meet at the yurt, 751 S. Danebo Ave. Suggested donation: \$2/WREN members, \$4/non-members. Registration required.

**12/14, 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.** Basket weaving class. Cost \$45, limit 12. Registration required.

**12/18, 7-8 p.m.** The Story Behind Our Seasons & Celebrations with Rick Ahrens in the yurt. Suggested donation: \$2/WREN members, \$4/non-members.

**1/13, 9-10 a.m.** Wetland Wander at Meadowlark Prairie. Dress warmly.

For more information, call 683-6494 or visit [www.wetlands.org/events.asp](http://www.wetlands.org/events.asp)



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