



Association of Natural Resources  
Extension Professionals

# Natural Resources Extension Programs and Impacts

## *Natural Resources Education*

**Virginia Master Naturalists Make Valuable Contributions** – Virginia Cooperative Extension’s Master Naturalist program trains volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service to improve management of natural resources. More than 1,200 active volunteers completed more than 154,000 hours of service between 2006 and 2010, valued at more than \$3.2 million. They also educated 137,000 youth and adults, and their stewardship projects positively impacted more than 6,300 acres of land and 700 miles of trails and shorelines. They have helped restore oyster populations in the Chesapeake Bay, care for American chestnut breeding orchards, remove invasive species, monitor wildlife populations, and more. **Contact:** Michelle D. Prysby, Virginia Master Naturalist Program Coordinator, Virginia Tech; phone: 434-872-4580; email: mprysby@vt.edu.



**Oregon Program Educates Teachers and Youth** – In 2010 Oregon State University’s Oregon Natural Resources Education Program delivered 47 educational workshops to 1,158 teachers and informal educators who reach nearly 46,500 school children a year. These workshops build educators’ understand-

ing and knowledge about the diversity and complexity of ecosystems so they can prepare children to make informed decisions, exhibit responsible behavior, and take constructive action concerning the future of Oregon’s natural resources. **Contact:** Dr. James E. Johnson, Associate Dean and Program Leader, College of Forestry, Oregon State University; phone: 541-737-8954; email: jim.johnson@oregon-state.edu.



**Utah Students Study Stream Side Science** – Utah State University Extension wanted to create a water-based curriculum for schools, but recognized that there were barriers to adoption of such curricula. Teacher focus groups identified barriers like the need to align lessons with core standards, the need for flexibility and easy access to inexpensive materials, and the need for additional teacher training in water science and management. USU created Stream Side Science (SSS) to overcome those barriers. SSS uses hands-on stream monitoring to teach middle and high school students about water pollution and watershed function. SSS covers science, management and policy aspects of water science and water quality and promotes stewardship in local watersheds through service and community out-



reach. An emphasis on data collection and interpretation, critical thinking, and connections to real-world situations improves learning. A study of almost 1,000 students using SSS lesson plans found significant

resource management and how important these resources are. **Contact:** Mark Platten, Colorado State University Extension; phone: 719-686-7961; email: mark.platten@colostate.edu.



increases in student knowledge of water science. Since 2004 over 1,300 educators have been trained in SSS and an estimated 80,000 students have participated. **Contact:** Nancy Mesner, Water Quality Specialist, Utah State University Extension; phone: 435-797-7541; email: nancy.mesner@usu.edu.

**Youth Learn to Care for Nature in Ohio** – Young people need increased environmental awareness and a connection with nature and the outdoors. This can best happen if classroom teachers and outdoor educators have innovative ways to engage children outside of the classroom. Ohio State University Extension professionals and others provide youth with programs that foster understanding, analysis, and interest in natural environments. This program also provides an opportunity to train teachers and outdoor educators how to use the environment as a classroom extension. They conducted 42 programs last year for 1,674 youth. A statewide conference trained 96 teachers and environmental educators in wildlife, forestry, watersheds, geology, nature interpretation, and tools to engage children in learning experiences outdoors. Their “Why Trees Matter” program taught 450 elementary students and 50 teachers and volunteers the importance of trees. **Contact:** Marne A. Titchenell, Wildlife Program Specialist, Ohio State University Extension; phone: 614-292-0402; email: titchenell.4@osu.edu.

**Camp Connects Kids With Nature in Colorado** – Modern youth show a disconnect from nature and natural resources, and few young people pursue natural resource careers. Several natural resources agencies including Colorado State University Extension and the Colorado State Forest Service created a week-long resident camp to expose youth to natural resource management by connecting them with professionals in the major disciplines and having them do hands-on management work. Many youth return for several summers, completing different subject tracks, and many of those go on to college to earn a natural resource, agriculture, or related degree. For those who don't get a degree, most leave camp with a better understanding of the complexity of natural



**ANREP – Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals**  
National Office: ANREP, 4-402 Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources  
University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2152  
President (2011): Dr. Mike Kuhns, Utah State University  
Phone: 435-797-4056; Email: mike.kuhns@usu.edu  
Website: www.anrep.org. Produced August 2011.