I remember seeing tough looking, mouthy boys from the poorest parts of town get off the bus, and when they returned to the bus at weeks’ end, they were changed. The toughest ones cried the hardest at the last campfire, not wanting to leave.”

~ Former nurse at Camp Arrah Wanna

Meet the Coalition’s new statewide coordinator:

CAROLINE FITCHETT

Caroline’s career is empowering citizens to stand up and change their communities by using the political process. Professionally she has worked throughout the west in the environmental, education, civil rights and health care sectors.

Caroline’s work helped to establish nutrition standards in Oregon’s public schools; to secure healthcare for all children in Oregon (2009 Healthy Kids Law); the Workplace Violence Prevention Law for Healthcare Workers; supported the passage of Metro’s 1995 and 2006 natural areas bond measures to acquire natural lands, restore local parks and protect water quality across the region; and managed the first Parks and Salmon Measure directing lottery funds to Oregon State Parks and Oregon’s watershed programs.

Most recently, Caroline spent time living and researching the life of Tap Tapley, an early founder of the National Outdoor Leadership School and Outward Bound, and working on cattle ranches in New Mexico.
2015 Oregon Environmental Education Conference

In March, Friends of Outdoor School organized the bi-annual Oregon Environmental Education Conference, hosted by the Environmental Education Association of Oregon (EEAO) and presented by the Gray Family Foundation. About 135 educators from throughout the state met at beautiful YMCA Camp Collins in Oxbow Regional Park. We engaged a variety of regional outdoor education programs to provide an authentic “ODS” flavor. Many told us of their excitement about the success of this rejuvenated conference and its importance in building and strengthening their professional networks. Just as importantly, the energy and ideas kindled around conference tables and campfire are sure to ripple out to benefit countless other educators and students across the state.

With the help of Gray Family Foundation Executive Director Nancy Bales and OOECC Statewide Coordinator Caroline Fitchett, we shared information about the Coalition and the progress of the “Outdoor School for All” statewide funding effort. Planning the conference gave us an excellent opportunity to establish and strengthen our relationships and build goodwill for the Coalition. Caroline is already reaping the benefits: supporters throughout the state volunteered to help build the movement outside the Metro region (see Page 1).

Event Calendar

Leach Botanical Garden’s Children’s Nature Fair
May 16
10am-2pm
Free! (donations appreciated)
leachgarden.org/event/nature-fair-2015
This year’s theme “Amazing Nature” will include games, interactive booths, arts/crafts, paper making, nature walks, a baby goat, music and 25 cent ice cream. Look for the Adventure WILD booth!

Adventure WILD! Summer Camp
June 29-Aug. 7
Ages 4-8
adventurewild.org
Six weeks of fun and outdoor learning at two east side locations: Mazamas Mountaineering Center & Leach Botanical Garden. Use your Chinook Book coupon for $50 off 1 week of camp!

Raise $$ for Outdoor School and help the environment too!

We’re excited to announce our partnership with Sustain:Green MasterCard®. This new environmentally responsible credit card is biodegradable and offsets carbon with every purchase!

With your first purchase, Sustain:Green donates $5 to Friends of ODS and helps us reduce our world’s carbon footprint!

Learn more and apply: SustainGreen.com/FriendsofODS

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Oregon Trail Overnight
We’re super excited to be running fourth grade Oregon Trail Overnight at a new location: Camp Kuratli at Trestle Glen! Oldtimers will remember back in the ’80s when we held ODS there. It’s a beautiful facility on Deep Creek, a tributary of the Clackamas. The Salvation Army is the camp owner, and their folks have been wonderful to work with as we learn the ins and outs of operating at a new site.

Research & NGSS alignment
The ODS program leaders are beginning to map how ODS supports student growth in the key competencies of social-emotional learning such as self-management, relationship skills and responsible decision-making. Interested folks can learn more at www.casel.org.

We’re also working with PPS curriculum leaders and others to support districts as they align to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and support college and career readiness.

In partnership with the Portland Metro STEM Partnership and Portland State University, we’ve revised our assessment tools to measure how well students apply science conceptual knowledge learned at ODS in creative contexts. It’s part of our ongoing work to understand the learning impact of ODS and how we can continually improve.

Dan “Teal” Prince
MESD ODS Director

Thank you!
This year, Outdoor Project stepped forward to become POTY’s organizing sponsor. They infused the event with fresh ideas, new supporters and countless hours to continue the tradition – and they’re already hatching even better plans for next year! (Planning your next outdoor adventure? Do it at OutdoorProject.com)

Thank you to our devoted volunteers and our other generous sponsors for making our 13th annual contest & awards gala a success!
Use your Chinook Book print or mobile coupon for $50 off one week of camp!

Adventure WILD
Summer Day Camp
a benefit for Outdoor School

Go WILD for nature this summer!

Ages 4-8 years

AdventureWILD.org
503-257-1621

For more information, contact Kim Silva at Kim@FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org or 503-257-1774.
www.FriendsOfOutdoorSchool.org