



Nebraska Project WILD

Year-End Report
January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

In all a total of 16,514 students, teachers, and general public were reached in person through the Project WILD staff in 2010.

WORKSHOPS

A total of 48 educator workshops were conducted in 2010 reaching a total of 967 educators.

Project WILD and Aquatic WILD Workshops

A total of 20 Project WILD and Aquatic WILD workshops were done reaching a total of 395 educators. Most (16) of the workshops were lead for college or university pre-service teaching students.

All Project WILD workshops provide participants not only with training on the curriculum guide, but also with general biology, wildlife management, and ecology lessons. Each workshop is adapted to the particular needs of the workshop participants (elementary vs. secondary educators, formal vs. non-formal educators) to ensure the greatest use of the materials following the training workshop.

Growing Up WILD

Growing Up WILD is a new program in the Project WILD series and focuses on early childhood education and engaging young children in nature and the environment. **A total of 16 workshops were held across the state reaching 250 educators.** This new guide is extremely timely as early childhood educators have embraced outdoor and nature education. It is anticipated that Growing Up WILD workshops will increase dramatically in demand.

Flying WILD

Flying WILD is a curriculum and activity guide that focuses on birds, bird conservation, and bird watching. **Six Flying WILD workshops were conducted in 2010 reaching 99 educators.**

CLASSROOM & PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

The three Project WILD offices (Norfolk, Scottsbluff, and Lincoln) often get requests to come to classrooms, after-school programs, daycare facilities, and summer programs. The topic of these programs varies greatly but could include: birds and birding, population dynamics, Nebraska mammals, tracks and scat, owl pellets, and habitats just to name a few.

In total, 5,964 students and 327 adults were reached in 2010 through these presentations.



Educators at a Growing Up WILD Workshop participate in an activity from the curriculum guide.



Naomi Alhadeff teaches a group of students about owls before helping them dissect owl pellets.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Nebraska Project WILD staff organized or presented at 28 festivals, events, or camps reaching a total of 7,302 people (6,535 children, 767 adults).

Festivals, events, and camps included (but are not limited to):

- Rivers and Wildlife Celebration Wild Experience Room
- Wayne Green Expo
- UNW-NRD Conservation Festival
- Dad's Night Out
- Gifford Farm Family Day
- Boy Scout Jamboree
- Water Works
- Chadron Birding Day
- Fishing For All
- Wildcat Hills Wildlands Event
- WaterFest
- Outdoor Skills Camp
- Carp-O-Rama
- Chadron State Park Anniversary Celebration
- Outdoor Skills Camp
- Water Quality Open
- CSP Bird Banding Station
- WCH Bird Banding Station
- Panhandle Eco Extravaganza about Prairies (PEEP)
- SCBL Christmas on the Prairie



Jamie Bachmann shows a visually impaired students a coyote pelt as part of the Sensory Safari.



Students make a "Picket Sign" for Mountain Plovers as part of the Panhandle Eco Extravaganza about Prairies (PEEP) Program facilitated by Amanda Filipi.

NEBRASKA'S OUTDOOR EXPOS

Project WILD staff participated in all 4 NGPC EXPO's – Scottsbluff, Platte River, Kearney, and Ponca. **A total of 1,684 students and approximately 320 adults were reached through the school days.**

A total of 9 stations were conducted throughout the school days at all four EXPOs. Stations included Habitacks (tracking animal's habitat components using hand-held GPS units), Fill the Bill, and Wildlife CSI (determining what happened at a "wildlife crime scene" using tracks, scat, and clues).

Additionally, at the Kearney EXPO Public Day, the Project WILD staff organized a Discovery Zone area for younger children. These activities included a "fossil" dig with real fossils, a seed planting station, Fill the Bill, dip netting for macroinvertebrates, and nature journals.

Through the public days at the EXPOS (Kearney and Ponca) an estimated 22,200* people were reached (200 at Kearney Kids Discovery Zone and 22,000 at Ponca).

*The 22,000 attendees at the Ponca EXPO public day are not included in the Project WILD total for 2010.



Students use handheld GPS units to play a geocaching game looking for animal habitat components hidden in nature at the Kearney EXPO.

OUTDOOR FAMILY EVENTS TRAILERS (RDR Initiative #7)

Throughout 2010, a total of 3 OFET were developed. Many of the 18 activities contained in the initial trailer were changed to be more festival oriented.

Each activity now has a direction sheet detailing how to set-up, run, and take-down the activity. A participant evaluation form has been created to ensure the trailers are easy to use and meet the needs of the groups or organizations using the trailers.

Activities included in each trailer are:

- Air Rifles
- Bean Bag Toss
- Bee-free BBQ
- Binoculars & Bird Watching
- Camouflage Basics
- Casting
- Critter Scene Investigations
- GPS & Geocaching
- Mudball Planting
- Nebraska Wildlife Jeopardy
- Recycled Bird Feeder
- Scavenger Hunt
- Tracks, & Teeth, & Skulls, Oh My!
- Turkey Calls
- Un-Natural Hike
- What is Wild
- Fish Printing
- Track Stamps



The Outdoor Families Event Trailer.

Additionally, each trailer contains 20 6' folding tables, 20 folding chairs, station signs, first aid kit, Kevlar shooting range, and 8 pop-up tents. All trailer materials and equipment are contained in a 12' trailer with custom shelving and a custom wrap.

In early 2011 two presentations were given promoting the new OFET – one at Pheasant Fest and one at the Parks Division annual meeting. Through these two presentations, 8 reservations for the trailers have been made to date for 2011.

BIRD BANDING STATIONS

There were two Bird Banding Stations in 2010 – one at Wildcat Hills Nature Center in Scottsbluff and one at Chadron State Parks in Chadron. Participants were taught the importance of birds in the ecosystem, how banding birds helps scientists understand birds and their migration, and how to actually band birds. A total of 801 students and teachers were reached through these bird banding stations.



A child experience a bird up close as part of the Banding Station at Chadron State Park.

TRAIL TALES

A total of 31,000 Trail Tales were sent to all Nebraska 4th grade classrooms. Topics covered by the 2010-2011 issues include: carp and carp fishing, canoeing, photography (hunting with a camera), macroinvertebrates, morel mushrooms and other edibles, bats of the Pine Ridge, camouflage (dressing for hunting), poisonous plants the end of a trees life, building a tackle box, geology, and a kids perspective of a hunting trip.

Work on the 2011-2012 issues of Trail Tales began in late 2010. All articles are planned and in the writing stage. One of the issues (Winter 2011) will be a special issue focusing on invasive species. A partnership with the Nebraska Invasive Species Project has been established. And, each Invasive Species Special Issue will also include an invasive species poster detailing some of the worst invasive species in Nebraska and how students can help battle them.

PROJECT BEAK AND THE NEBRASKA BIRD LIBRARY

The Nebraska Bird Diversity Grant was completed as of June 2010. During the first half of 2010, much was accomplished for this project.

Project BEAK Educator workshops

Four educator workshops were held to help educators incorporate the Project BEAK website, birds, and birding into their curriculum. **These workshops reached a total of 57 educators.** Workshops were held in Gering (Wildcat Hills Nature Center), Gibbon (Rowe Sanctuary), Omaha (Fontenelle Forest Nature Center), and Lincoln (Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center). At the workshops, educators were taught about Nebraska diverse bird populations, how to go birding and how to teach their students how to go birding, and how to utilize the Project BEAK website and educator activities to meet state educational standards. The evaluations from these workshops were extremely positive and requests for additional workshops have been made by many educators.



A session was presented at the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science annual conference in September 2010 to help further spread the word about Project BEAK, the Nebraska bird Library, and incorporating Nebraska wildlife and bird into classroom curriculums.



An Educator creates a nesting material "feeder" - one of the Project BEAK activities - at the Scottsbluff Project BEAK Educator Workshop.

Nebraska Bird Library

The Nebraska Bird Library officially went "live" as of September 1, 2010. All site contains species accounts, bird images, range maps, and fun facts for over 430 birds found in Nebraska. The website is searchable by common and scientific name as well as bird characteristics (size, color, habitat).

An ad was in the October 2010 NEBRASKAland Magazine promoting the Nebraska Bird Library (see image to the right).

A letter with a flyer promoting both Project BEAK and the Nebraska Bird Library was sent to over 1,900 5-8 grade educators across the state promoting both Project BEAK and the Nebraska Bird Library.

Nebraska Bird Library
www.nebraskabirdlibrary.org

The Nebraska Bird Library is an interactive website dedicated to helping Nebraskans identify and learn about Nebraska's birds.

Searchable by color, size, region, habitat, or by common or scientific name, the Nebraska Bird Library is filled with high quality images, bird descriptions, songs, habitats, and Nebraska-specific bird locations.

Beginner or expert, the Nebraska Bird Library is ready to help you get out and go birding!

Logos for NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS, Project BEAK, and other organizations are displayed at the bottom.

Nebraska Bird Library ad to be in the October 2010 NEBRASKAland Magazine.