

LIVING THE GREEN



SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

OPENING LETTER FROM TEC'S QUEERS

REFLECTING ON PRIDE MONTH

June is Pride Month. It's a time to celebrate and honor the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirit (or LGTBQ2S+) members of our community. It's also a time to stand together and call for recognition and equal rights in all aspects of life. To that end, we've turned this space over to two queer members of our staff to share their perspectives on their work in the sustainability movement, not just in the month of June but every day. Enjoy and have a great summer!

Mike Riley
Executive Director

Dear Readers,

Training educators, learning together - by Al Kolenda (she/her), Development Manager

To live out our commitment to diversity here at the Environmental Center and in honor of Pride Month, The Environmental Center, Camp Tamarack and The Children's Forest hosted a workshop called, "Supporting Gender Expansive and Transgender Youth." The training was directed at outdoor educators in our area and was specif

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OPENING LETTER, CONT'D

ically curated to help educators provide safe spaces for youth in outdoor activities and camps here in Central Oregon. Jenn Bruleton, the director of Trans-Active Gender Project, based in Portland, and Jamie Bowman, a local LGBTQIA+ advocate and co-founder of the Central Oregon Transgender Health Coalition, hosted the training and shared their countless years of knowledge and experience with us.



In total, we reached over 80 educators, representing over 20 different organizations in our area! Participants included Bend Parks and Rec, Vámanos Outside, Redmond

School District, Sunriver Nature Center, and more. Workshop participants gained a better understanding of gender identity development as well as cultural gender myths and stereotypes and their impact on gender diverse and transgender children. The workshop also focused on demonstrating inclusive language, how to address bullying, and ways to analyze curriculum and programs.

As an organization that prides itself on providing education to adults, youth, and businesses in our area about sustainable practices, it is important that we take the time to learn how to do that in an inclusive manner. Both Camp Tamarack and The Children's Forest agree: we do not have enough training opportunities centered around 2SLGBTQ+ inclusivity in education and we always have more to learn!

Outdoor camps and activities should be a space where children feel free to be themselves, explore, and adventure with friends! It is our job to cultivate an environment where they feel safe, supported, and heard.

Queer representation matters - by Janet Llerandi Gonzalez (they/them), Business and Facility Manager

Diversity and inclusion are not just boxes to check for hiring committees. Recently, the Environmental

Center's commitment to both principles was put in practice when hiring staff who openly and proudly represent the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

For years, environmental organizations and groups have operated from a mainstream perspective that has often excluded communities most impacted by climate change and environmental degradation, including the 2SLGBTQ+ population. By centering the voices, experiences, and advocacy of these individuals, the broader community can visibly see the effects of diversifying leadership in nonprofit organizations and within its staff.

Seeing ourselves represented in the places we work, learn, and live is one way we can see a viable future for us as people who have been severely underrepresented in the environmental sector.

As an Indigenous Two-Spirit living in Central Oregon, it's a delicate balance between wanting to remain visible for greater representation and living cautiously out of fear based on a history of violence and oppression towards people like me. When the identities of 2SLGBTQ+ people intersect with identities of race, QTBIPOC (Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)'s voice is instrumental in leading systems change that can better serve and advocate for the overall health and well-being of folks who have been left out of the planning and visioning of our future on this earth.

To state commitments on the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion is one thing, to live them is another. TEC proudly supports and uplifts the 2SLGBTQ+ community for Pride Month and every month of the year! You are welcome here.

Signed,
TEC Queers



Al Kolenda (left) and Janet Llerandi Gonzalez (right).

WE'LL MISS YOU, ADRIENNE!



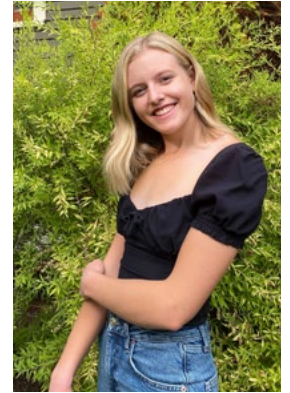
Our FoodCorps Service Member Adrienne Atkins (pictured left) has been serving Lynch Elementary School in Redmond for two years now. She leaves them in good hands, having revitalized the school garden and school garden committee, worked with the PTO for their inaugural Spring Fling Garden family event, and after having served 80 tastings through her Snacky Wacky Wednesdays. She did a phenomenal job and we're so lucky to have had her service!

While we're sad to see Adrienne finish out her two years of service, we are excited to welcome two new service members to Central Oregon in August. Stay tuned for future blogs introducing our new Food Education Service Member who will continue Adrienne's work, with the goal of creating supports for sustainability beyond FoodCorps. Additionally, we will be collaborating with the Redmond School District as they will be hosting a School Nutrition Service Member, and are excited about the projects this person will carry out benefiting the whole school district.

MEET LINDSAY AND LITSI, OUR ALL-STAR INTERNS

Project Zero Intern Lindsay Knight started her 6-month internship in early June. This is our third year hosting an intern through Project Zero, a program through Portland's PG&E that connects young job seekers with environmental nonprofits. At The Environmental Center, Lindsay will support the Youth Education team by assisting in summer camps, garden programs, preparing for the school year, and EarthSmart presentations until November.

Lindsay (pictured right) was born and raised in Bend, and is excited to return for this opportunity after spending her college years at the University of Washington in Seattle where she earned a degree in Geography with a minor in Environmental Studies. An outdoor enthusiast, Lindsay grew up riding horses (and was captain of her English equestrian team in college), and currently loves kiteboarding and hiking as well. Lindsay has already enjoyed her time with students during our spring Outdoor Days field trips at Smith Rock and is looking forward to exploring around Bend and in the forest with campers this summer. Says Lindsay, "growing up here, I used to spend a lot of my time in nature and it was a formative experience as a child, so I'm excited to see students have the same experience in the outdoors."



In a newly formed collaboration with Children's Forest of Central Oregon, Litsi Gonzalez will be our High School Green Workforce intern over the summer. This internship was developed specifically for BILAPOC students to gain skills in the environmental sector. Litsi comes to us after interning with Vámanos Outside, where they developed skills in storytelling and communications through social media. We're thrilled to continue to work with Litsi on their interests based in nonprofit outreach, communications, and design!

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JULY GREEN DRINKS HIGHLIGHTS QUEER RESILIENCE

When: Thursday, July 13th

Where: The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Ave in Bend



Spanish/English Captions: 4-6pm • CC (English): 7-9pm

Join us for Green Drinks on Thursday, July 13th for a sneak peek showing of *Fire & Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change*. We're thrilled to showcase this film in partnership with Queer Ecojustice Project and their fiscal host Out For Sustainability, who are working to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ vulnerability to climate change, encourage conversations on resilience preparedness, and to fundraise for the completion of the project. This film tells the story of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the fires in Santa Rosa, California, two near simultaneous climate-related disasters in the fall of 2017, through the voices of LGBTQ+ people who lived through them and were part of the community response.

Events & Outreach Manager, Priscilla Calleros selected this film screening for July's event when board member Nicole Potter mentioned it to her. Priscilla explained, "[We] wanted to do something to celebrate Pride Month, and since Green Drinks is every other month, we decided to host a screening for July. Nicole arranged for us to meet with the filmmakers, we shared our vision for this event, and they gave us their blessing."

"As an organization that claims to embed sustainability in the lives of its community members, we need to remember that it is not just cis, white, heterosexual people we are serving. We are serving our entire community, including our 2SLGBTQ+, houseless, BIPOC, and people with disabilities communities," adds Al Kolenda, Development Manager. "This film is simply one of the ways we can show up and learn about the ways the people in these communities have been harmed by the climate crisis. It is just a start to our learning, but it is all a part of the process."

The film will be shown at The Environmental Center and will have two screening options. The first showing will take place from 4-6pm with Spanish-English subtitles for bilingual moviegoers. The second showing will take place from 7-9pm and will have English only captions for hearing impaired audiences.

 **green drinks**
an environmental center event 



Sustainability Award winners receive a beautifully customized, upcycled award.

SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS RETURN THIS NOVEMBER

We're excited to once again host the Sustainability Awards: a celebration of sustainability in practice! We recognize local leaders — individuals, businesses, organizations and government agencies — who are advancing a healthy environment, a prosperous economy, and social equity.

SAVE THE DATE: The Sustainability Awards will take place on the evening of Thursday, November 2nd. We hope to see you there!

Are you or someone you know working towards a sustainable future in your personal or professional life? We would like to recognize you (or someone you nominate) for being dedicated to a healthier planet and community!

We are now accepting applications and nominations for the 2023 Sustainability Awards. Visit envirocenter.org/sustainabilityawards to find links to application and nomination forms, learn about past winners, and stay up to date on event details as they are released!

YOUTH ED IN JEFFERSON COUNTY



**YOU'RE INVITED:
JOIN US FOR LUNCH IN
THE PARK!**

When: Friday, August 4th

11:30am-1:00pm

Where: Juniper Park

800 NE 6th St. in Bend

Supporters like you make The Environmental Center's work happen, each and every day. Whether you support us through financial contributions, volunteer time, in-kind donations, or sponsorship, we'd like to say THANK YOU! You're invited to join us at Juniper Park on August 4th for a celebration of your commitment to our mission and community.

Lunch, beverages, and activities will be provided!

Please RSVP at:

envirocenter.org/rsvp2023
(scan QR code below) so we can plan on food and beverage accordingly.



In our previous issue, we announced that our work has been expanding throughout the Central Oregon region, namely through our Garden and Youth Education programs. This school year, Wesley and Becky have been enthusiastically bringing classroom lessons and field trips to Jefferson County students! Spring of 2023 included EarthSmart programming for the Metolius Elementary 4th grade students, Buff Elementary 4th grade students, and Madras Elementary 5th Grade students. In addition, we delivered an after school program to Warm Springs K8 Academy middle schoolers for the first time.

EarthSmart is the primary educational program that our Youth Ed team runs in Central Oregon. With the end goal of teaching students about living more sustainable lives, EarthSmart covers natural resource use, climate and the carbon cycle, waste systems, composting, global vs. local food systems, and water conservation. Students play games and do in-class activities that help them conceptualize these concepts. In Deschutes County, students end EarthSmart with a trip to Knott Landfill, while Jefferson County students visit the Madras transfer station. In keeping with place-based principles, it is important that students visit the main facility that their communities directly interact with.



These field trips help students realize that when they throw something "away", (for example, a piece of paper), putting it in the bin is only one step in a long journey that piece of paper takes after being used. When Students from Madras, Metolius, and Buff elementary schools visited the transfer station, several guest speakers came to teach them about the steps that go into handling waste. Speakers included an ecologist in charge of monitoring the old landfill to ensure it doesn't pollute nearby waterways, and a broker responsible for buying and selling recycled materials. Students were able to learn more in depth the processes that go into handling, containing, and recycling waste.

Teaming up with the Warm Springs K8 Academy was a new program for us, as educators ran a six week after-school program for middle school students. Programming was developed following students' interests, and included activities from nature journaling to studying shark ecology, to catching macroinvertebrates in local waterways. In the coming years, TEC plans on continuing to build relationships and deliver programming in Jefferson County, Warm Springs, and Crook County.

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EVENTS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

Month of July

Plastic Free July

Say no to single-use plastics! Use this month of awareness to reduce your impact on a daily basis.

July 19

Repair Café: Redmond

It's our ten year anniversary of hosting Repair Café! Join us to get your broken items fixed, featuring a guest appearance from Kyle Weins, co-founder and CEO of iFixit and a leader in the Right to Repair movement. From 5:30-7:30pm at the High Desert Music Hall in Redmond.

July 29

27th Annual Deschutes River Cleanup

The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council is hosting the Deschutes River Cleanup! Volunteers of all ages are invited to pull invasive weeds, remove litter from the stream banks, and support scuba divers who will be instream to pull debris out of the river itself.

Sites include: La Pine State Park, Farewell Bend Park, Riverbend Park, First Street Trail, and Tumalo State Park.

August 8

Community Innovation Fund Info Session

Do you have an idea for reducing waste? Apply for the Rethink Waste Community Innovation Fund! Attend an info session in-person at The Environmental Center or Virtually from 1-2pm to learn more.

August 19

Community Birdwatching Trip @ Hatfield Ponds

Join Think Wild staff for a free, family-friendly bird identification walk at Hatfield Ponds near Bend on Saturday, August 19th at 9AM. Learn to identify native Central Oregon birds by sight and by sound. Binoculars and field guides are provided.

October 11

Repair Café: Sisters

This Repair Café will take place at the Sisters Firehouse Community Hall from 5:30-7:30pm.

VIEW MORE EVENTS AT [ENVIROCENTER.ORG](http://envirocenter.org).



September 8th-17th Welcoming Week

As a Welcoming City, Bend joins other communities around the country for celebrations the week of September 8th-17th.

Wednesday, September 13th: Art Walk in the Garden at The Environmental Center

We're excited to host our annual Art Walk in the Garden featuring Black, Indigenous, Latin@, Asian, and People of Color (BILAPOC) and 2SLGBTQ+ artists from our community!

More details to follow.