

April 2008

Spring Issue

KEEN INSIDER

Newsletter of the Kittitas Environmental Education Network



Earth Day and Get Intimate with the Shrub-steppe are here

By Diedra Petrina

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Earth Day– This is the first year that KEEN and Cascade Land Conservancy are hosting an Earth Day event. Helen McCabe State Park has been the inspiration for this event. As many of you know KEEN has a 30 year lease on this park with the intentions of developing an interpretive center. If you have actually visited this park you have most likely noticed that the park needs a lot of TLC. Our goal for this years Earth Day is to bring some beauty back to the Park and make it a more enjoyable place to visit. We will do this by planting some Ponderosa Pine trees, generously donated by North Yakima Conservation District, and by cleaning up the interpretive trail around the pond. While you are helping plant some trees and tidying up the trails take a break and stop by the exhibitor booths or go on a bird watching tour with Kittitas Audubon Society.

<u>Event Details</u>	
Date:	Sunday, April 20th
Time:	10AM—2PM
Location:	Helen McCabe State Park

Get Intimate with the Shrub-steppe– well it is that time of year again for the 9th, YES the 9th annual GISS event. Kittitas Environmental Education Network invites you and the whole family out for a day in the shrub-steppe. There are many fun intriguing activities for all.

<u>Event Details</u>	
Date:	Saturday, May 10th
Time:	7:30AM—2PM
Location:	Umtanum Creek Area

KEEN Board of Directors

Jill Arango
Chair

Kim Frier
Vice Chair

Stefanie Wickstrom
Secretary

Angie Begosh
Treasurer

Shawn Corrigan

Bill Wood

Robert Ota

Craig Johnson

We want to hear from you!

KEEN

**421 N. Pearl Ste. 216
Ellensburg, WA 98926**

Email: keen@kittitasee.net

Phone: (509) 962-1654

Time	Field Trip	Leader
7:30 am	Birdwatching	Deb Essman &
9:00 am	River Bugs and Fish	Paul James
10:00 am	Beaver Tales	Lixing Sun
10:30 am	Geology of the Yakima River	Nick Zentner
11:00 am	Native Plants	Tom Cottrell
11:30 am	Snake Sneaking	Dan Beck
12 pm	Geology of the Yakima River	Nick Zentner
1:00 pm	Cultural Landscapes	Barb Bicchieri
1:30 pm	Snake Sneaking	CWU biology students
2:00 pm	Native Plants	Tom Cottrell

A Quick Note from the New Chair

Dear KEEN Supporters,

It is with great happiness that I return to active participation with KEEN. I am joined in this venture with my KEEN co-founder Kim Freier and several new board members who are energized and creative.

In January, upon learning that many of the previous KEEN board members were moving on to new places and new jobs, several of us gathered together to voice our hopes that KEEN would continue with renewed vigor. The unanimous answer was yes, and so, a group of us gathered to discuss the “how”.

The primary focus of the “how” meeting was deciding how to best move forward with board membership in this unique situation of having no current BOD officers or provisions in the current Bylaws that give directives for such “special” situations. We therefore agreed on certain provisional measures.

We agreed that the four current standing board members (Shawn Corrigan, Bill Woods, Kim Freier, and Jill Arango) form an “Interim Board of Directors” with a Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The standing board members then agreed to appoint all others who indicated an interest in joining the KEEN BOD to this Interim BOD. The Interim Board will remain in existence until the end of calendar year 2008.

During the time prior to that we will work to make appropriate revisions to our current documents (Bylaws, Vision, Mission Statement, Goals, etc.), identify our ideal “board member composition” and recruit toward that ideal and support on-going KEEN activities with the involvement of the KEEN membership.

A member meeting will take place before the end of the year (sometime in December, most likely) and “permanent” BOD members will be voted in then, thus transitioning out of the interim status. All those on the Interim BOD who wish to at that time, will apply for positions on the “permanent” board and be voted on along with any others who apply.

KEEN Interim BOD meetings will take place on the 3rd Wednesdays of every month at 7:30 pm in the Cascade Land Conservancy offices. The next meeting of KEEN’s Interim BOD will be held on Wednesday, April 16th at 7:30 pm and all members are welcome to attend.

Jill Arango

The Yakima River in 2008 – What’s Happening?

By: Angie Begosh

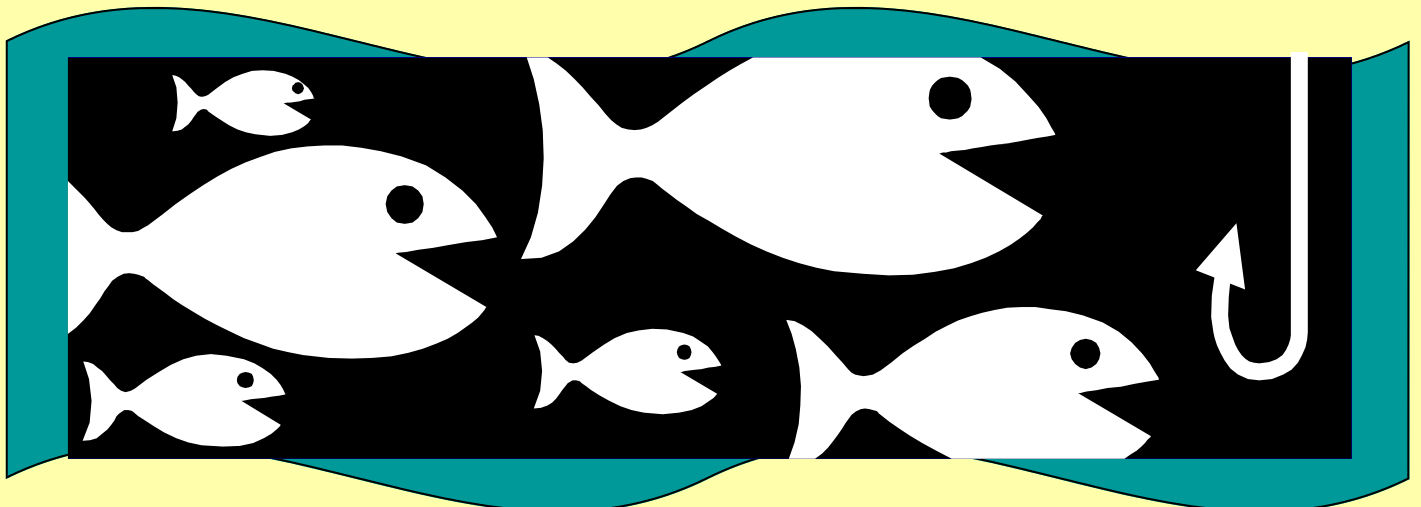
The weather was less than desirable on Friday evening, March 28, 2008, but over 80 individuals, including fly fishing guides and anglers, turned out at the Kittitas Valley Event Center to hear presentations and view posters & displays concerning the health of the Yakima River. For the first hour of the program, participants viewed posters & displays presented by 20 agencies and organizations involved with natural resource management in the Yakima Basin. It was also an opportunity to network, ask questions of staff and/or volunteers staffing the booths, and socialize.

The presentations started with Dr. Morris Uebelacker, professor with CWU Department of Geography. He delivered an engaging and frank discussion on “The History and Condition of the Yakima River.” This presentation laid the groundwork for how we all need to work together to restore this river that is so important to us as a community. Scott Nicolai, Habitat Biologist with the Yakama Nation, and Richard Visser, Watershed Steward with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife followed with an overview of habitat restoration efforts titled “Habitat Restoration – A Legacy for the Future.” Gabriel Temple, Fisheries Biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Todd Pearsons, Fisheries Scientist, also with the WDFW, concluded the evening with a topic of high importance to guides and anglers, “Trout in the Upper Yakima River: What We Have and What We Could Have.” All of the speakers were available to answer questions at the end of the program.

The Kittitas Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board co-hosted this event. Food for the event was provided by the Mid Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Cascade Land Conservancy, and the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board.

If you are interested in participating in habitat restoration efforts on the Yakima River or any of its tributaries, contact Angie Begosh with Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board at:

509-453-4104 or abegosh@ybfwrb.org.



E3: Education, Environment, Economy Summit

By : Kim Freier

What would a sustainable Kittitas County in the year 2025 look like and be like? What attributes would a citizen need to live there successfully and well? How can we navigate toward that vision and what steps can we begin to take through educational efforts to make such dreams come true?

On March 7, 2008 over 90 community members representing diverse constituencies and walks of life came together at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds to explore and discuss these questions. Their efforts were part of a statewide process known as E3 Washington – a strategy to educate decision makers of the future – and Kittitas County was one of 18 regions that have held or will hold an E3 Summit to gather local ideas and input regarding connections among the three “Es” of education, economics and environment.

The day began with a blessing by Rex Buck, Jr., spiritual leader of the Wanapum Band of Indians and key note addresses by Virginia Beavert, Yakama Nation Elder and Dr. Steven Verhey, President of Cascadia Carbon Institute. With hearts and minds primed by the speakers, the Kittitas County E3 Summit participants set forth to chart the direction that residents of Kittitas County could take toward developing and incorporating sustainable natural and social systems and practices for all who live, work and play in our region. Working together within the context of their sector-affiliated groups – representing preK- 12 and teacher education, business and outreach, media and communications, higher education and community education – attendees grappled with identifying current challenges and opportunities for environmental education and then agreeing on goals and strategies through which environmental education can lead our region and state toward a healthy, inclusive and sustainable tomorrow.

The input gathered at the Summit will now be used for two purposes: (1) informing a statewide plan that will, under the leadership of the Environmental Education Association of Washington, leverage existing environmental educational opportunities across the state and create a network for coordination and delivery of those resources and (2) forming the basis for localized strategies to guide and implement environmental education efforts for Kittitas County. Coordinated by KEEN, a Kittitas County E3 Implementation Committee comprised of interested community members will now work to further develop and complete our own local E3 plan. If you are interested knowing more about E3 or in joining the Implementation Committee, please contact Kim Freier at kfreier@wsu.edu or Becca Wassell at rdgwassell@yahoo.com. Look for the E3 logo on local posters, fliers, pamphlets and more that indicates a unified, collaborative effort to meet the educational, environmental and economic needs of Kittitas County and our state!

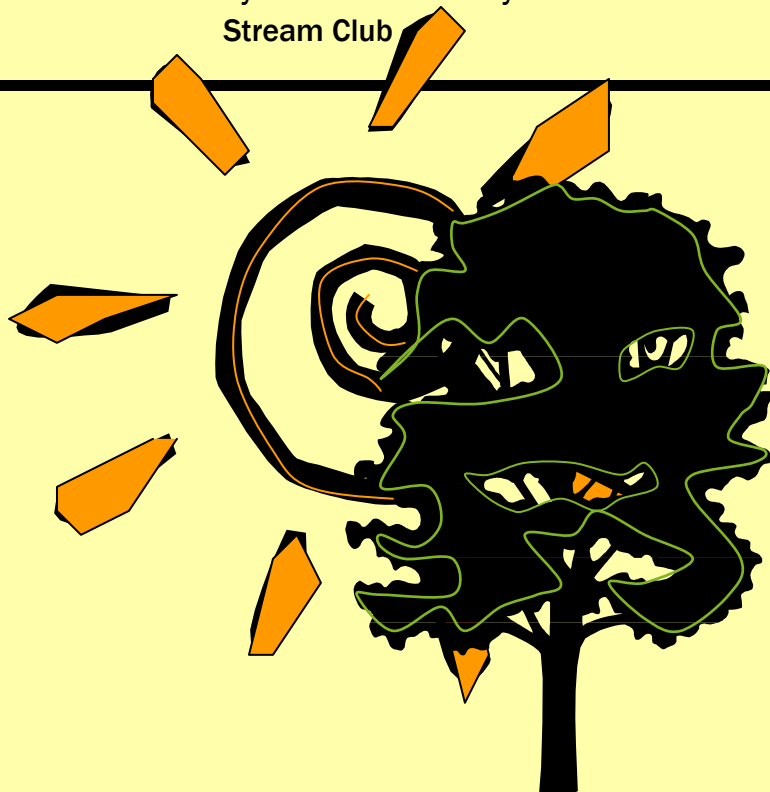


Outdoor Events in Kittitas County

Date/Time	Event	Other information
1st Saturday of every month 8AM–10AM	1st Saturday Bird Walk at Irene Rinehart Park hosted by the Audubon Society	Join Kittitas Audubon for a relaxing walk through the park, bring binoculars and sturdy shoes.
April 19, 2008 9AM—cleaned up	Earth Day— Durr Road and L.T. Murray Wildlife Area clean up hosted by the Kittitas County	Help clean up Durr Road with the Kittitas County Field and Stream Club.
April 20, 2008 10AM–2PM	Earth Day— Plant a Tree hosted by the Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) and the Kittitas Environmental Educational Network (KEEN)	Help us restore beauty to Helen McCabe State Park by planting a tree and cleaning up the interpretive trail. Also enjoy a bird tour with the Kittitas Audubon and visit the nature exhibits put on by the CWU Biology Club, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish & Wildlife, and more.
May 3, 2008 9:30AM–3:00PM	A Day of Exploring Natural & Cultural Heritage at the Dalles Mountain Ranch hosted by Columbia Hills Partners, Washington State Parks & Recreation, and Washington Department of natural Resources	Enjoy field trips and presentation, including: spring wildflowers at Columbia Hills natural Area Preserve, History of the Dalles Mtn. Ranch, Lewis & Clark Living History, Native Cultural History, Wildlife Exploration, Ice Age Floods ...and more!
Contact: Washington Department of Natural Resources @ 509.925.0940		
May 10, 2008 8:30AM–2PM	Get Intimate with the Shrub-steppe hosted by the Kittitas Environmental Educational Network (KEEN)	Learn about the shrub-steppe from local specialists at Umtanum Park. Kids can enjoy craft making while learning about the shrub-steppe.
May 16, 2008 6:30AM-8:30AM	Bike-to-Work Day Breakfast hosted by the Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC), Shape up Kittitas County, and the Kiwanis Club	Breakfast will be served at the Rotary Pavilion in downtown Ellensburg. There will be prizes and a raffle drawing.
Bring the whole family for a delicious breakfast before work and school.		

Outdoor Events in Kittitas County continued from page 5...

Date/Time	Event	Other information
May 18, 2008 9AM–3PM	Your Canyon for a Day Bike Tour! hosted by Yakima Crime Stoppers	\$25/person (includes 1 t-shirt if pre-registered by May 5, 2008 pre-register with Yakima Crime Stoppers) Starts at Roza recreation site mile post
Month of May	Bike to Work Month hosted by Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC)	Save money, get fit, and compete with other businesses. Ride your bike to work during the month of May. Details coming soon.
June 7 & 8, 2008 8AM–3PM	Free Fishing clinic at Fio Rito Lakes hosted by the Kittitas County Field & Stream Club, Kiwanis Club, and the Kittitas Valley Chapter of Trout Unlim-	Never fished? Learn how to from experts around Kittitas county. If you don't have equipment, don't worry, they have it all.
August 9, 2008 4PM–?	Chukar Run Banquet hosted by the Kittitas County Field & Stream Club	Dinner with Silent & Live Auction at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds



KEEN Membership/Contact Information Form

KEEN's events & programs are free of charge & supported by membership fees and donations.
KEEN is a 501c(3) non-profit organization; donations are tax deductible

Annual Membership Choices (Membership is from May-May)

Today's Date: _____

___ Student \$10-20 ___ Group \$100+

___ Individual \$15-25 ___ Supporting \$200+

___ Family \$20-50 ___ Other _____

Total Contribution \$ _____

Circle One: Cash Check (# _____)

I would be happy to volunteer in the following ways:

___ Board Member

___ Educational Events

___ Office Help

___ Other (grants, newsletter, etc.) _____

Please Note

Please use this form to become a member of KEEN and/or update your contact information so that we can keep you updated about our upcoming events.

Please Update My Contact Information:

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

You can contact KEEN at:

Email: keen@kittitasee.net

Phone: 509-962-1654

Send To

KEEN

421 N. Pearl Street Suite 216
Ellensburg, WA 98926



Thank you for Supporting KEEN!!!

Earth Day

In the Burg

Annual Durr Road Cleanup!

Saturday, April 19th

9AM—?

Plant a tree at Helen McCabe
State Park!

Sunday, April 20th

10AM—2PM

Ninth Annual

Get Intimate with the Shrub-Steppe



Saturday, May 10

9:00AM—3:00PM

Umtanum Creek Recreation Area

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your membership is very important to the survival KEEN. Without your membership fees our events that people love to attend would not be possible. So please, if your membership needs to be renewed renew it; on **page 7** there is a membership renewal form for you to fill out. We have been very grateful to have you as a member in the past and would love to have you as a member in the present.