

Winter Issue
2008

KEEN INSIDER

Newsletter for the Kittitas Environmental Education Network

Green Read Book Club

By Diedra Petrina

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We want to hear from
you!

KEEN

421 N. Pearl Ste. 216

Ellensburg, WA 98926

Email: keen@kittitasee.net

Are you interested in learning about a wide variety of environmental issues? Get involved with the Green Read Book Club, a great new activity KEEN is hosting to expand your mind. We will be reading a new book every few months; discussing a portion of the book the First Tuesday of every month from 5:30pm to 6:30ish at the Cascade Land Conservancy office at 409 North Pine Street. We read about a wide variety of environmental topics: sustainability, organic gardening, renewable energy, lifeplace, and so much more.

Go to KEEN's website
for the monthly reading
questions:

[www.kittitasee.net/
greenreadbookclub.html](http://www.kittitasee.net/greenreadbookclub.html)

Check out some of the
new features on the
KEEN website: [KEEN
gear](#) (PayPal options),
[KEENetwork](#), and
[events](#).

Look online for this
months book

Dakota
A Spiritual Geography
by Kathleen Norris

A Note from the Chair

Thanks to all of you who care about the environment and Kittitas County – it has been a great year for the **Kittitas Environmental Education Network**.

This past year, KEEN re-organized, re-visioned and brought new energy into the board. We had an incredible turnout for Get Intimate with the Shrub-Steppe in the spring and transitioned management of the Bubble Planetarium to the Center for Excellence in Science and Math Education and Central.

We know that our programs are working and that we are succeeding at our new initiative: **Connecting Community to Nature**.

More people in Kittitas County know about where we live and how we live here. More people are connecting with the outdoors and gaining a sense of place.

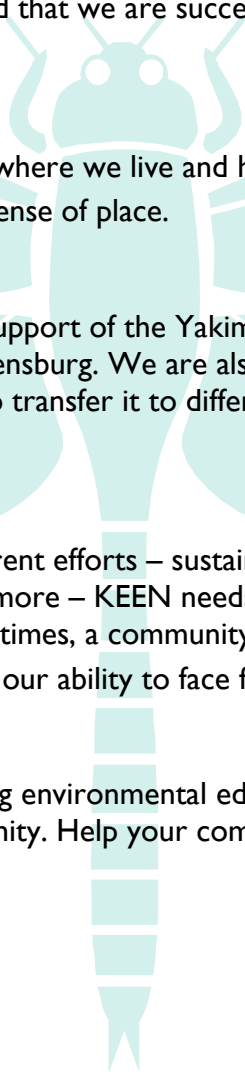
KEEN was successful in receiving a grant in support of the Yakima Canyon Scenic Byway Interpretive Center we are planning for the park just south of Ellensburg. We are also exploring the opportunity of owning the park property or working with State Parks to transfer it to different ownership. There are a lot of exciting possibilities.

I'd like to invite you to join KEEN in our current efforts – sustainable agriculture, nature education, outdoor learning events, the interpretive center, and more – KEEN needs your help and support. Now more than ever, in these uncertain and tough economic times, a community engaged with its “place” with citizens caring for and about their surroundings, will ensure our ability to face future challenges.

Please consider a donation today – supporting environmental education is the best investment you can make in the future of our children and our community. Help your community connect with nature – and thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Jill Arango



Saturday

January 10

10 am to 2 pm

HAL HOLMES CENTER

The e3 Winter Fair will showcase local organizations, companies, agencies and individuals resources and services that support and enhance our community's economic, environmental and educational sustainability.

e3

Winter Fair

Greening in the New Year

environment

education

economy



Education • Environment • Economy



~ a community event ~

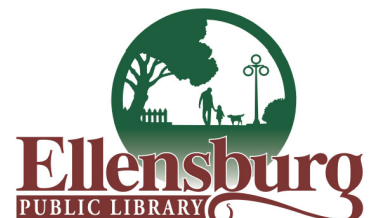
~ showcasing resources ~

~ exploring our future ~

www.kittitasee.net



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Green Tips



There are fun and simply ways to lighten your footsteps on the earth.

Check the KEEN insider every quarter for more great tips.

Heating. Try to keep your office at a constant temperature, between sixty-nine and seventy-three degrees Fahrenheit. About half of all the energy used in commercial buildings is for space heating and cooling. Businesses can cut their usage costs by one-third just by being more energy efficient and can reduce air pollution equivalent to the exhaust from forty million cars because of all the carbon emissions saved from using less energy.

Lights. Use timers on your lights instead of leaving on the porch light. The average household spends about

\$13 per year per hundred-watt bulb on electricity. If every home in America used a timer for twelve hours a day instead of letting their lights burn 24/7 while on vacation, we could save \$187 million in energy costs!

Thermostat. When you're away, adjust your thermostat to fifty degrees during cold months and to eighty-five degrees in hot months. Depending upon how long you're gone, you could save up to \$100 per year in energy costs related to heating and cooling your home when you aren't there. The United States uses \$1 million worth of energy every minute. You can help lower that by turning the dial.

Transportation. Share rides to the airport and split your fare with a fellow passenger. You'll also help reduce pollution and traffic congestion. Airlines carry about 750 million passengers per year in the United States, which means that 750 million people need to be transported to the airport on each end of their trip. If just an additional 10 percent of travelers could share a \$30 ride with one other person, the total annual savings would top \$1 billion

Draft Steelhead Recovery Plan Available for Review

NOAA Fisheries has released the **Middle Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan**, which is a draft **Endangered Species Act**-mandated recovery plan for steelhead in southern **Washington** and north central **Oregon**. This non-regulatory plan sets objective goals for steelhead populations and outlines the actions that will need to be taken to achieve those goals. The **NOAA** plan incorporates the **Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board's** locally-drafted **Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan** as the guide for recovery actions in the **Yakima Basin**. It also includes a locally-developed recovery plan for the **Walla Walla** and **Touchet Rivers** drafted by the **SNAKE RIVER SALMON RECOVERY BOARD**, a plan drafted by the **State of Oregon** for the **Umatilla, John Day, Deschutes and Hood River Basins**, and plans drafted by **NOAA Fisheries** for the **White Salmon, Klickitat and Rock Creek Basins**. This is the first time that **NOAA** has built an **ESA** recovery plan by combining multiple locally-generated recovery plans, and we are proud to be a part of this ground-breaking collaborative effort. The **NOAA Plan** is available for review at:

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/Recovery-Domains/Interior-Columbia/Mid-Columbia/Mid-Col-Plans.cfm>

The Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan is available here:

<http://www.ybfwrb.org/RecoveryPlan/>

The combined plans are open for public comment for **90 days** (through **Dec 23rd**); comments can be submitted directly to **NOAA**; comments on the **Yakima** portion of the plan can also be submitted directly to the **Board** by mail or email (**PO Box 2662, Yakima, WA 98907** or aconley@ybfwrb.org). During the **Comment** period, the **Board** will conduct a range of outreach events to solicit comment on both the **Yakima** and **Middle Columbia Plans**. Questions and feedback on the plan should be directed to **Alex Conley** (aconley@ybfwrb.org or **509 453-4104**).



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Kids Corner

Snow Art

Materials Needed: spray bottles filled with colored water; snow

Preparation: Gather several spray bottles. Fill each with water, and add food coloring to tint it.

Time: 5 or more minutes

Directions: Use colored water to paint pictures in the snow.

Send your pictures in of your creation and please include your name and age

Check the next newsletter to see the fun creations your friends made.

Snow Dough

Materials Needed: flour, salt, white powdered tempera paint, silver glitter, water, oil, cream of tarter

Preparation: Mix dough in advance, or plan to make with students

Time: 5 minutes or more

Directions: Mix together the following ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1/3 cup white powdered tempera paint
- 1/3 cup silver glitter
- 1 cup hot water
- 2 Tbsp. oil
- 1 Tbsp. cream of tartar

Use as you would use play-dough--**Make your favorite holiday shape or character**

Good Luck and have fun!

BECOME A MEMBER

Thank you Members for your continual support. Membership fees make it possible for KEEN to host events that are free, fun, and educational for the whole community. Please continue to support KEEN; on **page 7** there is a membership renewal/sign up form for you to fill out and mail in or you can go to the [website](#), there is now a PayPal option. **THANK YOU!!**

Help Us Grow

This year KEEN's new board is working hard to: build a strong education network, develop a sense of place, engage in low impact sustainable living, increase public awareness of environmental issues, provide fun learning opportunities for the community, and to reach out to others.

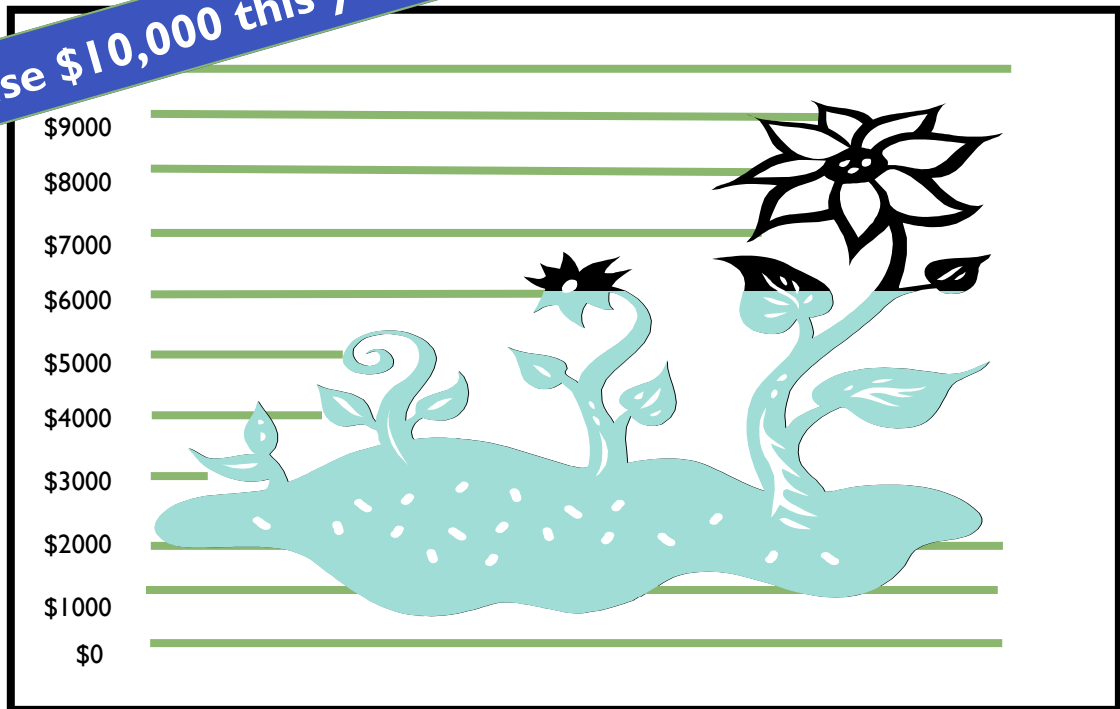
For the past nine years KEEN annually hosts two wonderful events (Get Intimate with the Shrub-Steppe and Nature of Night) that engages minds, develops a sense of place, and reaches out to the community.

KEEN's 2008 goal to raise \$10,000 dollars to keep these events going . You can help us reach our goal by becoming a member, donating, purchasing KEEN Gear, or attending fundraising events. Your generosity can make it all happen.

What membership dues and donations fund:

- Get Intimate with the Shrub-Steppe
- Nature of Night
- Helen McCabe Restoration
- Building a Natural History Center

Help us raise \$10,000 this year



KEEN Membership/Contact Information Form

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

Annual Membership Choices

Today's Date: _____

New Member

Renewing

Go to the [KEEN website](#) to use PayPal

___ Student \$15

___ Group \$100

___ Individual \$35

___ Supporting \$250+

___ Family \$50

Natural History Center (suggested donation \$250)

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!!!