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COMMUNITY IMPACTS OF WILDFIRE: MORE THAN THE HILLS ARE SMOKING

Steven E. Daniels*, Mathew S. Carroll and Jim Burchfield

ABSTRACT:

The presenters have conducted a series of research projects involving semi-structured interviews and quantitative questionnaires administered to the residents of communities that have recently experienced wildfires. In one case, researchers were in the communities less than 60 hours after the fires began. Some of these fires include the largest and most well-publicized fires in the West, including 2002 fires in Arizona and Colorado. This session will present preliminary observations from this research, with a particular focus on the constructive roles that extension professionals can play in these events. The focus of the presentation is on communication, whether or not these fires create "teachable moments", and the often strained relationships between local institutions and federal firefighting organizations.

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LINKING NON-TRADITIONAL CAMPUS PARTNERS AND STUDENTS TO ASSIST WITH WATERSHED PLANNING & RESTORATION IN THE APPALACHIAN OHIO REGION

Jerry Iles*

ABSTRACT:

Community-based watershed groups located in rural areas in southern Ohio often lack engineering and technological resources needed for effective watershed planning and restoration activities. In many cases these services are not available through local government or are cost prohibitive for local watershed groups to contract. Ohio State University Extension has provided a link to the state's land grant university to provide these needed services for local watershed efforts. Given the complex nature of watershed planning OSU Extension is working with non - traditional campus partners such as the Department of Geography to construct a GIS database of water quality information for the White Oak Creek watershed. This original water quality data was collected by a variety of sources including: local high school science classes, watershed group members, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Transportation and others. The information the large-scale maps convey at public forums is important to help community members prioritize and set goals for the watershed. The second case study involves a southeastern Ohio watershed damaged by resource extraction of clay and coal. The site was identified as contributing to sediment loading in Raccoon Creek by the local watershed project. Zaleski State Forest purchased the land and has planted trees to help slow the runoff and sedimentation. Over 10,000 hikers visit this area annually making it a perfect site for Extension and education activities. OSU Extension has linked our Agricultural Engineering department students studying stream and river restoration to address the problem. Students were challenged to provide conceptual plans to restore the channel using natural stream design concepts. Several state and federal agencies are collaborating on this project and \$76,000 has been awarded to OSU Extension by the Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining for restoration engineering and construction.

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USING ELECTROFISHING TO INCREASE WATER-QUALITY AWARENESS

Jerry Iles* and J.P. Lieser

ABSTRACT:

The Ohio State University Extension, Community-Based Watershed Management Team has reached a large, new audience through an innovative program that utilizes electrofishing demonstrations to increase water-quality awareness. Program participants have shown great interest in learning about aquatic wildlife, stream habitat, and water quality. Since fish are excellent indicators of stream health landowners can gain insight as to how their land-use practices affect water quality by viewing the fish and other aquatic creatures that inhabit their local streams. Program Audience: Watershed Groups; Landowners; Extension Professionals; 4-H Groups; Public Officials; Sportsmen's Organizations. Program Objectives: (1) Participants learn that fish are good water-quality indicators; (2) Participants gain an understanding of basic electrofishing techniques; (3) Participants gain insight into how land-use practices affect water quality; (4) Participants learn what they can do to improve water quality. Electrofishing is a technique that involves generating either a DC or an AC electric current (either with a gasoline-powered generator or a battery) through electrodes into the water to create an electric field. Fish that pass through the field are temporarily stunned, then collected by dipnet and identified. Certain species of fish are sensitive to pollution and therefore require excellent water quality, while others are pollution tolerant. Thus, fish can serve as indicators of overall stream health. Electrofishing is a fun and exciting way to teach people fish identification, water-quality indicators, and how their actions contribute positively or negatively to water quality. In our demonstrations, we also provide the landowner with an opportunity to talk to participants about the land-use practices he or she follows to maintain water quality.

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SENSE OF PLACE--VALUING THE CULTURE, HISTORY, AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF YOUR COUNTY

Carol Mack* and Janet Kiser Lambarth

ABSTRACT:

Since 1997, the Extension staff in Pend Oreille county, Washington, has offered a unique series of highly successful classes and workshops to acquaint new landowners with Pend Oreille county geology, cultures, natural environment, and land management issues. County population has grown 31% since 1990. People move to Pend Oreille for the life style. Sense of Place satisfies people's need to know about their world and also to protect and knowledgeable enhance the environment they value. Sense of Place is adaptable to any county experiencing rapid growth, concern for "a sense of community", decreased farming opportunities, new non-farm clientele, and growth of subdivisions associated with the new "knowledge economy." Stronger civic involvement, greater land stewardship, ecosystem integrity, and ecological balance are ultimate goals. Fifty classes have been held. A significant outcome is partnering with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians whose class attendance has been high. The "Diggings" newsletter has doubled in distribution. The Tribe now contracts for \$25,000 worth of services from Extension. Attendance is 25 to 100 people per class. Up to 50% are new to Extension programs. Ninety-eight per cent of class members indicate high satisfaction with classes. Class evaluations indicate that Sense of Place programs do build knowledge and change attitudes. They also create a dependable group of well-educated, resourceful Extension advocates. A long-term evaluation is being conducted. Our display features photos and quotes.

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WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION: CHALLENGES TO STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Dana Oleskiewicz* and Joe Bonnell

ABSTRACT:

Water is a threatened natural resource. The human use of land is intense, which has a negative impact on the water that we need. Protecting water resources requires a change in land use activities, which often requires a change in how management decisions are made and also who is involved in that decision making. Many communities are seeking to increase their capacity to effectively use stakeholder participation in resource management decisions. The Community-Based Watershed Management Program at Ohio State University (OSU) Extension has been very successful at linking people with the knowledge, skills, and materials they need to manage the water in their community. Our program is based on the assumption that every community has the capacity to address even complex water management issues. Rather than focusing on what is missing, our educational programs seek to discover what is working and identify how Ohio State University can be used to enhance and expand planning efforts. Local stakeholders are viewed as critical for achieving environmental goals. This presentation will focus on the aspects of community capacity building and will outline how the program is structured for watershed management planning that utilizes collaborative decision making and a high level of stakeholder participation. The presentation will also address the implications of viewing natural resource management issues as social issues and not merely as technical problems to be fixed by convincing landowners to adopt certain best management practices. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss the benefits and challenges of taking a social change approach to watershed management.

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UNIVERSAL DESIGN: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE EASE OF LIVING

Christine Price Ph.D.*, Susan Zavotka, Ph.D., Meg Teaford, Ph.D. and Patricia Holmes

ABSTRACT:

OSU Extension, in partnership with the Departments of Consumer and Textile Sciences, Human Development and Family Science, Allied Medical Professions, the Ohio Department of Aging and Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse developed a community education program on Universal Design and home modification. Universal Design refers to the design of products and spaces for use by all ages and abilities. By incorporating the Universal Design philosophy, all home environments can become beautiful, functional and safe for use across the life span. The program was piloted on 202 participants from Central Ohio before expanding its use statewide. A train-the-trainer model was used to distribute the program to FCS Extension agents across Ohio. Community partnerships are established on the local level in order to provide educational workshops on Universal Design. The program is appropriate for all types of audiences, including new home buyers, seniors, adult children of aging parents, builders, contractors, architects, and social service professionals. A Service Learning course, "Universal Design: Teaching the Benefits," enables student involvement. Occupational therapy, physical therapy and interior design students teach educational workshops with Extension agents and conduct in-home assessments. It is the combination of community workshops, collaborative partnerships, a service learning course and home assessments with Ohio citizens that has proved how a strong interdisciplinary platform can result in effective community outreach.

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SUSTAINING COMMUNITY CHANGE: STOCKING YOUR TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING

Melanie Thompson* and Youth trainer from one of our partner community-based organizations (TBD)

ABSTRACT:

Sustainable change and institutionalization of best practices require skilled people who can effectively mobilize their community by utilizing the existing assets and resources of the community and of its members. Addressing this issue, the Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development created the Building Community Toolkit (BCT), a compilation of activities and resources that have been developed and tested through work in a diversity of communities. The BCT training takes participants through a process of community building, from learning the history of a community and mapping its assets and resources, to creating and implementing a community vision. So far, it has been used by Extension agents and their communities in nine states for community mobilization, and it was recently accepted into the National 4-H Curriculum Collection. Participant feedback at past trainings has resulted in training content that has been tested and modified to allow for better flexibility and adaptability with diverse audiences. This interactive seminar will provide an overview of the BCT, and combines community case studies, group discussion, and hands-on activities. It will be facilitated by an Innovation Center staff member and a community youth partner. Participants will (1) learn about tools and resources that have been successfully tested and used by Extension Agents and communities to create change; (2) have the opportunity to lead and participate in activities from the BCT and give feedback; (3) have an increased understanding of the key phases of a community development effort; (4) identify adaptations and application of activities to their own communities.

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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE WITH 4-H SUSTAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Scott Williams* and Cheryl Empey

ABSTRACT:

Key youth serving community partners in Logan, Utah have teamed to form a powerful "Alliance for Youth." Cache County 4-H has joined with the Boys & Girls Club, Logan Park & Recreation, and Logan School District to foster sustainable youth programming that originated from the 21st Century Community Learning Center. Each partner acts as a unique resource for a collaborative approach to providing Positive Youth Development. Together they demonstrate the "We" attitude verses the "us" and "them", nurturing a greater sense of community. This alliance can serve as a model for others attempting to meet youth development expectations in their own communities.

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