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SUMMER CONFERENCE;

Good For Your Program, Good For You



The 2008 Ag Teacher Summer Conference is shaping up to be a very worthwhile investment for your program, as well as, an investment in your well being. As the year comes to an end and we are all feeling a tad worn down, summer conference is the perfect venue for recharging.

This years' conference will focus on two broad areas. Tuesday we will focus on ways to improve our programs with sessions on incorporating Science Inquiry, Credit by Proficiency, Perkins IV, and then we will spit up for the afternoon sessions for on location workshops

in Nursery/Landscape or Math in Ag Ed through Ag Mechanics. Wednesday's focus will revolve around helping us as teachers cope with the stress and demands of running a program. We will enjoy a keynote speaker, and participate in workshops including Time Management, Communities of Practice, Geocaching, as well as, outdoor workshops specializing in various management practices.

As usual, I am sure the food will be plentiful and delicious. One of the highlights of summer conference, for me, is the networking and sharing

of ideas with others in the profession. Please encourage teachers in your district to bring submissions for Ideas Unlimited, Teacher of the Year, Young Member, Program of the Year, Mentor, and Lifetime Achievement.

I look forward to seeing each of you in June, and remember to stop and enjoy the little thing each day that make our chosen profession so special.

Respectfully,
Don Schmidt,
OVATA President



Summer Conference Lodging Information

If you plans include the 2008 Summer OVATA Ag Teacher's Conference, don't wait to get your hotel rooms booked. The conference officers and hosts have coordinated a group rate when booking at Best Western Sunnyside Inn. Contact the hotel with the information below and don't forget to tell them you are with the Ag Teacher's Conference. Please make reservations by May 16th and the rate is \$66.00/night plus tax and the hotel amenities include breakfast and wireless internet. Fro more information on hotel facilities go the internet link listed below.

Best Western Sunnyside Inn
(503) 652-1500
12855 SE 97th Avenue
Clackamas, OR 97015

<http://www.bestwesternoregon.com/hotels/best-western-sunnyside-inn/>



“Controlling the Fever”

Article submitted by Dr. Greg Thompson, OSU

Is spring fever real or is it an “old teachers’ tale?” According to research, spring fever is a real phenomenon that happens to all people when the sunshine and warm temperatures of spring arrives. Spring fever not only impacts our students, but it also affects faculty, staff, and even the lunch ladies. Science has shown that transformation in weather influences the biological, physical and psychological changes occurring in the body.

I always thought spring fever was an excuse for students to be lazy, restless, and just looking for a way to get out of working! Spring fever is real and we need to prepare differently to control the fever.

- Model the behavior and attitudes we want our students to exhibit in the classrooms. This can be very difficult because spring fever can hit us too. Nevertheless, this isn’t the time for students to see us lose our zip or lower our standards.
- Stay focused and don’t throw your high standards out the window. Now is the time we have to work harder to keep our students focused and on track. As they become more restless, we must be well organized and help our students do the same.
- Take advantage of the outdoors, land lab, greenhouse and the agricultural mechanics laboratory. As agriculture teachers, we have a unique opportunity to make our lessons come to life through the many venues that agriculture has to offer. Extend learning beyond the classroom walls, but we must also teach rigorous, relevant lessons. The change of environment can do wonders to ward off the fever.
- Pick up the pace. Now is the time to implement crisp, sharp transitions in our lessons. Keep students actively engaged in lessons and don’t give them the opportunity to slow down or become too laid-back and incoherent.

Now is a good time to make changes. Spring is a good time to look at where we are and then where we want to be. Change is a good thing. It helps to re-focus our students and keep them on their toes.

Spring fever is a real occurrence that is both chemical and emotional, and can make a big impact on learning as well as our relationships with students. It is easy to become frustrated with students during the fever. We must remember that the fever will break, but relationships with students can be harmed or destroyed due to our aggravation with their symptoms. Positive feedback can help reduce the spring fever distractions that students face. The last few weeks of school should be ones of high productivity and high satisfaction for students as well as teachers. Best wishes as you complete your school year and that you end on the highest note.

OSU Oregon State University



Open Agriculture Science Teacher Positions in Oregon

- Umatilla
- Long Creek
- Monroe
- Grant Union
- Henley
- North Powder
- Glide
- McKay
- Gervais
- La Grande
- Central Linn
- Nyssa
- Crater

Editor's Note: This was a listing sent out by Oregon FFA in April, on Ed Zapp there were only five positions open as of May 11, 2008. This may or may not be a complete listing of current openings in Oregon. Just remember that to grow our profession we need to retain as many teachers as possible in our programs and to build community amongst all our professionals. In this time when many consider moving to new programs or leaving the profession, reach out to the neighboring programs and continue to build upon the relationships that our fine profession instills and the OVATA membership fosters.

The Agricultural Education Mission:

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems.

PHOTO CAPTION CONTEST WINNER!!!!

1st - "When your reins fail, there is always the tail." submitted by Bill Umbarger, Pendleton HS

2nd - "Yank"ee Doodle." Katie Barry, Imbler 4th Grade.





Summer Conference

Draft (Tentative) Summer Conference Agenda

June 16-19, 2008 - North Clackamas

Monday

4:00 PM Registration
East vs. West Softball Tourney
BBQ

6:00 PM

Tuesday

7:30 AM Registration
8:00 AM Call to Order
Welcome
Opening Comments
8:30 AM Business Session
Open Nominations
ODE, OSU

9:15 AM

9:30 AM

11:00 AM

12:00 PM

1:00 PM

2:00- 5:00 PM

Break
Science Inquiry
Breakout Groups
Lunch
Workshop Session
Tours
Nursery/Landscape
Math in Metals

6:00 PM

8:00 PM

Wednesday

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

9:30 AM

9:45 AM

10:45 AM

12:00 PM

1:00 PM

2:00 PM

3:00 PM

6:30 PM

Thursday

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

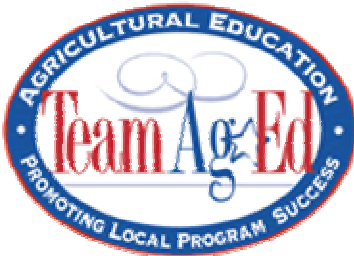
Dinner
Yellow Dogs
Call to Order
Business Session
Keynote Speaker
Break
Workshop Session
Workshop Session
Lunch at Landlab
Geocaching to Landlab
Tour of Landlab
Workshop Session
Viticulture, Turfgrass Management, Wildlife
Management
Dinner

Breakfast
Awards Presentation
Adjourn



2008 OVATA Summer Conference Tentative Workshops

The **OVATA** officers and Conference hosts are currently in the process of finalizing the 2008 Summer workshops. Below is a listing of what is tentatively on tap for your professional development. If you have any ideas please feel free to contact President Don Schmidt, or Secretary/Treasurer Marlene Mensch for ideas to make your experience at **OVATA Summer Conference** meaningful.



- Communities of Practice
- Perkins IV
- Science Inquiry
- Nursery/Landscape
- Priorities – Time Management
- Assessment
- Math in Ag Ed – Shop Measurements
- Geocaching

OSU Oregon State University

Summer Professional Development Opportunities Through OSU

AED 518 (2 credits) – Summer Conference – June 16-19, North Clackamas

AG 525 – (3 credits) – AgriScience Skill – July 7-11, OSU

AG 518 – (3 credits) – Floral Design – July 14 18, TBA

AG 541 – (3 credits) – Community Programs in Ag. - July 7-11, OSU

AED 518 – (3 credits) – Curriculum Project – TBA

Detailed information will be sent in early June.



Photo Caption Contest

Create a original caption for this picture. The winner will be chosen and revealed in the next Old Yeller Newsletter. Email your caption to J.D. Cant at jdcant@imbler.k12.or.us.



2007-08 OVATA Officers

President—Don Schmidt, Hood River HS

President Elect—Tom Hall, Bonanza HS

Secretary/Treasurer—Marlene Mensch, Dallas HS

Newsletter Editor—J.D. Cant, Imbler HS

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Oregon Vocational
Agriculture Teachers

Association

Summer Conference

Clackamas, Oregon

@ N. Clackamas

June 16-19, 2008

2008 OVATA Awards - Applications due at Summer Conference

Last year there were only two areas with applicants who had applied for NAAE Award Recognition in our state. We (OVATA) realize that by nature many agriculture instructors don't seek out recognition for the hard work that is performed day in and day out. However, if we don't begin to raise up or best for display, then our own humbleness may be our downfall. So during this busy time of finishing up school, banquets, state CDEs, livestock shows and fairs, project visits, plant sales, and shop inventory, take a bit of time and put down on paper why you are great at what you do! You impact student lives positively, and for that we thank you. For a complete listing of award areas go to:

<http://www.naae.org/awards/applications/index.html>.

Don't forget if you are chosen as Region I winner in Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Education Program of the year, you will receive a two year lease on a Toyota Tundra truck.