

COARC Offers Many Activities for the Community

Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center not only conducts research for farmers and the agricultural industry, they also provide community learning events that are often free of charge, or low cost to the community.

Recently COARC hosted a free Pruning Workshop for the central Oregon community that had over 40 participants. The class was led by COARC employee and Central Oregon Master Gardener, Linda Samsel, who presented a one hour classroom presentation, followed by ninety minutes of hands on training in the Community Learning Garden. Participants were able to try their newly acquired skills on trees and shrubs and be able to ask questions about specific situations.

COARC has also recently partnered with the Kids Club in offering a Gardening and Agricultural Club to its members. COARC employees go to the Kids Club every other week and do a hands on activity with the kids that involves some aspect of agriculture or gardening. Recently the members learned about worms and composting and made their miniature worm composting bins from recycled bottles and also learned about tree and then made their own homemade paper. Future activities include going on field trips to local farms, planting a garden in the Community Learning Garden at COARC and also helping with the community garden behind the Kids Club.

In addition to working with the Kids Club, COARC also teamed up with elementary school teachers from Madras, Metolius and Culver to participate in the Oregon Ag in the Classroom Annual Literacy Project. Each year, OAITC, selects a book that involves agriculture and then designs an activity to go with it. Volunteers from around the state go to classrooms who wish to participate and after the presentation the classroom gets to keep the book free of charge. This year's book was called, "The Tree Farmer," which told a story about a young boy and his father who was a tree farmer. Students learned why it is important to care for the forests and the products that the forest provides. Ten classrooms participated this year and over 300 students were reached.

COARC is also excited to be partnering with the Jefferson County Extension Service to offer a day full of fun and learning. Saturday, May 10th, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Jefferson County Extension Service will be hosting OSU Day at the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center. All events are FREE for the day and include: gardening workshops, self-sustainability/homesteading classes, kids' activities, crafts and much more! More information and registration options will be available soon.