

# Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

## Educational Programs 2000 - 2011

### School Field Trips

- ✦ School classes coming to S & B for a field trip
- ✦ Students, teachers, and parent helpers
- ✦ Sept, Oct, April, May, June.
- ✦ Charge of \$2 per student
- ✦ Staffed by James and volunteer naturalists
- ✦ About 30 programs per school year
- ✦ Topics are wildlife watching and tracking and wetland ecology

### Youth Group Field Trips

- ✦ Scouts, campfire, day care, day camp, etc.
- ✦ Kids and their parent leader(s)
- ✦ Fall, spring, summer
- ✦ Staffed by James with occasional help from volunteer naturalists

### Other Group Field Trips

- Ⓣ Wide range of groups - Audubon day camps, church group, treatment programs, college classes, The Nature Conservancy, etc.
- Ⓣ Mainly adults and older teens with leaders and/or staff
- Ⓣ Available year-round; requests are pretty random
- Ⓣ Charge of \$2 per person
- Ⓣ Staffed by James with occasional help from volunteer naturalists

### Bird Watching Walks

- ✦ Weekends; 2.5-hour-long bird watching walks for the general public
- ✦ Adults and a few older kids
- ✦ Free
- ✦ Staffed by James

### Turtle Walks

- ✦ Weekends; 1.5 hour walks for the general public focused on the western painted turtle
- ✦ Families, lots of kids 4 to 10 years old
- ✦ April through July
- ✦ Staffed by James
- ✦ Free
- ✦ About twice a month during turtle season

### Twilight Tuesdays

- ⊕ Wednesday nights -- ha, ha, just checking to see if you're awake!
- ⊕ Tuesday evenings starting about two hours before sunset; very quiet walks for the general public
- ⊕ Adults and families
- ⊕ Summer
- ⊕ Staffed by James
- ⊕ \$10
- ⊕ Six a summer

### Beginning Mushroom Walk and Class

- Saturdays in October
- \$10

### Canoe & Kayak Paddle Trips

Brand new, for people who do not have access to a boat.

Educational Program Attendance at  
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area  
By calendar years, 2002 to 2011

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2011
# of School Field	24	33	23	25	31	33	22		
# of Public Programs	32	29	25	26	30	33	27		
# of Group Programs	14	10	18	17	21	11	13		
Total	70	72	66	68	82	77	62	54	53

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2011
Attend at School Field Trips	932	1236	890	979	975	1122	837		
Attend at Public Programs	380	391	348	429	589	396	379		
Attend at Group Programs	188	212	425	248	344	195	261		
Total	1554	1839	1663	1656	1908	1713	1477	1260	1601

## Interpretive Themes for Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area

Some of the main themes, concepts, or ideas that, in varying degrees, are woven throughout the education programs at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. We are still trying to incorporate these into one or two sentences that state the "grand theme."

☉ *Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area is one of the few remnants left of the many wetlands that used to line the Willamette and Columbia Rivers in the Portland area.*

☉ *Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area is unique in being one of the largest freshwater wetlands within a city in North America.*

☉ *Even though it is surrounded by the city, many plants and animals have adapted and still live in Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area, demonstrating the resiliency of life.*

☉ *Wetlands are constantly changing environments. As the amount of water in SBLWA changes dramatically during the year, the different habitats change seasonally.*

☉ *The seasonal changes at the wildlife area create a diversity of habitats that supports many different kinds of wildlife.*

☉ *Most people are surprised by the diversity of wild animals living in SBLWA because animals are hard to observe and most people do not know the basic skills needed to see wildlife.*

☉ *SBLWA is part of the greater Willamette and Columbia rivers ecosystem and is even globally important as a wintering ground and stopover point for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl.*

☉ *SBLWA has been greatly affected by human activities and Metro is working hard to restore the wetlands to a healthy, natural system.*