



Hands on the Land

A National Network of Field Classrooms Linking Students, Teachers, and Parents to their Public Lands and Waterways

Featured Site

Tongass National Forest

The Tongass National Forest is not only the largest National Forest within the National Forest System including almost 17 million acres, but it is also an excellent example of contiguous, temperate coastal rainforest ecosystems existing on public lands. Located in the southeastern most region of Alaska, the Tongass National Forest is situated on over 2000 islands and rugged coastline intersected by large river, glaciers, and deep fiords.

Natural resource conservation education services play an important role in achieving a vision of "a future where the Tongass National Forest is nationally recognized for presenting effective education services that meet the needs and expectations of our public and further our land stewardship mission." The Tongass National Forest has a multitude of resources for the approximately 3037 students of all ages and 500 teachers that visit annually. Students also have access to resources on the Tongass National Forest website such as links to the Migration Science and Mystery and the Alaska Fossil Database.



A student assists KK Prussian, a Forest Service hydrologist, by demonstrating movement of water through a watershed at Tongass National Forest.



Jim Beard, fisheries biologist from Thorne Bay Ranger District, and educators Melissa Cook and Liz Mosenthin, coordinator of the EcoVan on Prince of Wales Island, show off all the new EcoVan Equipment purchased with the Forest's 2006 grant to launch their HOL site.

In June 2006, Tongass National Forest received grant money not only to fund launching their HOL site but also to outfit their EcoVan. The EcoVan is the brightly painted, eye-catching science equivalent of a book-mobile bringing scientific sampling gear and a watershed health curriculum to the eight schools of the Southeast Island School District.

The Forest Service worked with the School District Administration and interested teachers to build the watershed based curriculum for the EcoVan. The van rotates through each community on a monthly basis. Forest Service biologists, hydrologists, foresters and geologists support the curriculum throughout the school year with field trips into local watersheds and visits to the classroom. The goal of the EcoVan and watershed health focus is to create awareness, build knowledge, and develop the values and skills necessary for students to make informed decisions and take effective action on environmental issues.



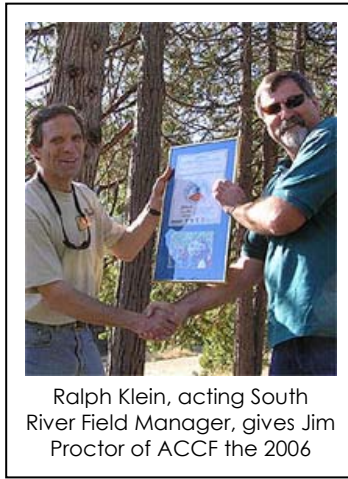
To learn more, contact Faith Duncan at fduncan@fs.fed.us or visit the site profile on the HOL website, http://www.handsontheland.org/profiles/profile_details.cfm?sitecode=tong

Upcoming Events

Nominate Your HOL Site Today!

Each year, Hands on the Land recognizes excellence in education, collaboration, networking and web resources through its Awards Program. Winners are acknowledged on the HOL website and newsletter and receive an official HOL Awards plaque and letter of recognition. Previous award winners have utilized the opportunity to send out press releases to their communities to showcase the great work their site is doing in partnership with HOL. 2007 Awards will go to sites that excel in the Community Collaboration, Web Resources or Network Collaboration and Mentoring. Please consider these as you nominate a site. To submit your nomination, just fill out the Nomination Form no later than **July 31, 2007**.

The form is located on the HOL website at <http://www.handsontheland.org/manage/nomination.cfm>.



Ralph Klein, acting South River Field Manager, gives Jim Proctor of ACCF the 2006

2007 Award Categories:

- **Community Collaboration:** How has your site worked with others to meet HOL goals of connecting students, parents and teachers to their public lands and waterways? Collaboration could be within the community or with other HOL sites. Please be specific in describing collaborative endeavors.
- **Web Resources:** How does your site promote its work on the web? Please identify specific postings, including teacher resources, student work, curriculum development—those web resources that are unique to your site.
- **Network Collaboration and Mentoring:** How has your HOL site helped expand the program through recruiting and/or mentoring a new site? Based on your experience, what advice can you offer other sites interested in joining the network?

National Bike-to-Work Week - May 14-18, 2007

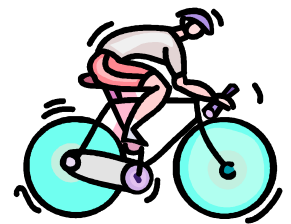
The League of American Bicyclists is promoting Bike-to-Work Week from May 14-18, 2007 and Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 18, 2007. Check the website for events in your local area.

For more information visit <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth/index.php>.

2007 National Scenic Byways Conference - May 20-23, 2007 Baltimore, Maryland

Explore the latest strategies and best practices in fundraising, organizational development, corridor management, visitor experience, and marketing.

For more information visit <http://www.bywaysonline.org/center/events/conferences/2007/>.



National Trails Day - June 2, 2007

Sponsored by the American Hiking Society, National Trails Day is America's largest celebration of trails and the outdoors. With more than 1000 events hosted by trail and community groups, public agencies, and businesses from coast to coast, there is something for everyone!

For more information visit <http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/index.html>.

Association of Nature Center Administrators Summit XIII - August 22 - 25, 2007

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee, WI

Whether you come from a center with many staff members or just one, a large or modest budget, lots of acreage or a single building, there is no substitute for the inspiration you can get from or give to folks who face the same triumphs and challenges that you do. The ANCA Summit can change your perspective and help bring a "can-do" attitude to managing your organization.

For more information visit <http://www.natctr.org/summit.html>.