



Happy New Year 2021 and Winter Term Greetings!

It is an understatement that 2020 was a challenging year on so many fronts, with Covid-19 and its associated lifestyle changes, economic hardships, widening inequality, devastating wildfires, intensifying political division and the worsening climate crisis. During this time of hardship, many students, staff, and faculty are finding solace in nature and in outdoor spaces. Sustainability

efforts at COCC are saving the college valuable resources at a time when budgets are tighter than normal. With this in mind, this issue is highlighting landscaping efforts, including native plant restoration projects, as well as Grounds and Maintenance Crew efficiency accomplishments and renovations. We are also happy to bring you news from local organizations. Have a safe and healthy 2021!

–COCC Sustainability Committee



Deschutes Land Trust Donates Pollinator Plants to COCC

In the past two years, Deschutes Land Trust has donated over 300 native plants to campus! COCC Grounds Crew identified an ideal spot for these donated plants—an untended strip of land along College Way in front the of the COCC Bend campus bookstore. The selected site was chosen for its great sun exposure, high visibility to the public, readily available irrigation, and that it was already in need of a landscape upgrade.

Many of the new plants are Milkweed to support the imperiled Western Monarch butterfly. Milkweed is the only plant on which this iconic species can lay eggs and raise caterpillars. The flowers also provide pollen and nectar for a myriad of other pollinators.

Volunteers from the Deschutes Land Trust did the first planting in 2019. COCC Grounds staff followed with an additional planting in 2020. We extend our thanks to the Deschutes Land Trust, Derwyn Hanney, Moises Viramontes, Will Campbell, Darrin Reynolds, Joe Pressler, Kayla Pierce, and Sarah Fuller.



Photo by Deschutes Land Trust

Deschutes Land Trust volunteers planting at COCC along College Way.

New Sustainability Course Designations!

In order to increase the profile of sustainability education at COCC and make life easier for interested students, two new course designations have been established. The first is an "SUS" prefix for courses with a specific and central focus on sustainability. The second is a Sustainability Designated (SD) Course List that highlights existing courses with a moderate-to-strong emphasis on sustainability content. SD courses may originate from any department and utilize any prefix.

Term	Campus
Winter 2021	All Campuses/Methods
Subjects	Optional: Number
Sustainability (SUS)	e.g. 101

Search

For more information, visit the Sustainability Committee website where you will find the SD Course List, faculty FAQs and the SD course application. If you have any questions, please contact Owen Murphy (omurphy@cocc.edu) or Hal Wershow (hwershow@cocc.edu).

Grounds Crew Project Saves Water and Money

New irrigation renovation yields impressive results on COCC athletic field

Following an irrigation audit with the City of Bend, the COCC Bend campus athletic field was found to have poor water distribution uniformity, which according to Campus Services Operations Supervisor Mike Beaulieu, “tells you how good your head-to-head coverage is and points out shortcomings in the existing layout, sprinkler type or nozzle type.”

Grounds crew member Will Campbell headed up an irrigation renovation on the track field. The renovation was a great success, with a return audit showing an annual water savings of 476,639 gallons. This equates to a yearly savings of \$1,248 for the College. The entire Grounds Crew participated in the project while still maintaining their regular maintenance duties. Thanks to their efforts, we now have better turf while using less water.



“We are constantly making irrigation modifications on all campuses which are designed to increase water use efficiency by improving DU (distribution uniformity).”

- Mike Beaulieu

March Landscape Webinar Series

Sponsored by the City of Bend

Looking for inspiration for your outdoor space? This series of [webinars](#) sponsored by the City of Bend can help you design, install, and manage your landscape using the Watershed Approach. Free, registration required.

Watershed Wise Landscaping

March 4, 7 pm–8 pm

Compost: Building the Soil Sponge

March 11, 7 pm–8 pm

Irrigation & Water Use Efficiency

March 18, 7 pm–8 pm

Garden Design Workshop

March 20, 11 AM– 12:30 PM

Rainwater Capture Workshop

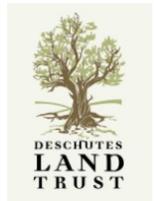
March 25, 7 pm–8 pm

The City of Bend also offers a [printed guide](#) to Waterwise Landscaping for Central Oregon. The [Oregon Watershed Approach to Landscape Design](#) is another great resource.

Don't have a lot of space? [Small patios and balconies](#) can also become an awesome container garden getaway and pollinator habitat.

Deschutes Land Trust 2021 Nature Nights Series

- [Nature Nights](#) are monthly presentations on a nature-related topic held from January through March. All Nature Nights are free and will be hosted virtually this year.
- Topics vary by experts in their field.
- Registration opens soon for Jan. 27, Feb. 17, and March 17 events.



The Environmental Center News



- **Community Waste Reduction Grants available** Get your idea off the ground with a \$500-\$2000 [grant](#) award to businesses, organizations, or individuals. Grant proposal deadlines are due Jan. 20.
- **Staff Available for Class Presentations** The Environmental Center staff are happy to speak to classes, clubs, K-12 schools, and more! Topics include waste reduction, composting, recycling, food waste, or the electrification of transportation (electric cars, buses bicycles). Email ani@envriocenter.org & neil@envriocenter.org.
- **Mountainfilm on Tour** This 18th annual event, hosted by the Environmental Center, will be a new virtual experience featuring two weekends of [spectacular films](#). Feb. 26 – March 1, 2021, March 5 – March 8, 2021.

Extensive LED Project Saves COCC \$44,405/year

The Campus Services Building maintenance team led by Kathyne Myers, Building Maintenance Coordinator, took on a massive lighting retrofit project this year. Over the past eight months, the COCC Maintenance crew installed 6,630 LED interior lights on the Bend and Redmond campuses. Additionally, 217 LED parking/walkway lights were installed on the Bend and Prineville campuses.

This reduces the energy usage by 50%, as the new LED lights use only 17 watts where as the old fluorescent lights used 32 watts. The total energy savings a year is approximately 484,115 kwh which is approximately \$44,405 a year.

This project was prompted in large part by large lighting rebates/incentives from the Energy Trust of Oregon that ended in December 2020.



Bend Pollinator Pathway Launches

Volunteer-organized effort plans to grow to include all communities throughout Central Oregon

When wildflowers begin to bloom this spring, a new project will be taking root in Central Oregon: The Bend Pollinator Pathway. This endeavor will establish multiple native plant gardens throughout the city in a widespread effort to promote and protect our native pollinators and connect their habitat.

While many people are familiar with the plight of the honeybee – itself a European species – it is less well known that Oregon has an estimated 500 species of native bees and that population is declining sharply as well. Loss of habitat, inappropriate pesticide use, climate change and disease are negatively impacting all species of bees.

The primary driver of pollinator decline is habitat loss. Extensive development means less suitable habitat and longer distances between available habitat. It's no longer possible to maintain sustainable populations of these animals in our isolated parks and preserves alone - we must reconnect these patchwork gardens.

The Bend Pollinator Pathway is the first such project in our region to work towards a continuous corridor of habitat. Based on a successful program in the Northeastern United States, this volunteer-organized effort plans to grow to include all communities throughout Central Oregon.

Want to “Bee” part of the Bend Pollinator Pathway? Here are the five steps to building habitat:

1. [Plant Native Plants](#)
2. Go Pesticide-Free
3. Provide Water
4. [Create Nesting Habitat](#)
5. Rethink Your Lawn

More details and resources online, including where to get native plants: on Facebook [@bendpollinatorpathway](#)



Photo by Basey Klopp

“The alarming decrease in pollinator populations has a profound effect on more than just the insects - 90% of our plants and trees depend on the service of our pollinators for survival and 1 in 3 bites of our food are the result of their actions. Bees do a large part of pollinating but butterflies, moths and hummingbirds pollinate our plants as well and they are also in jeopardy.”

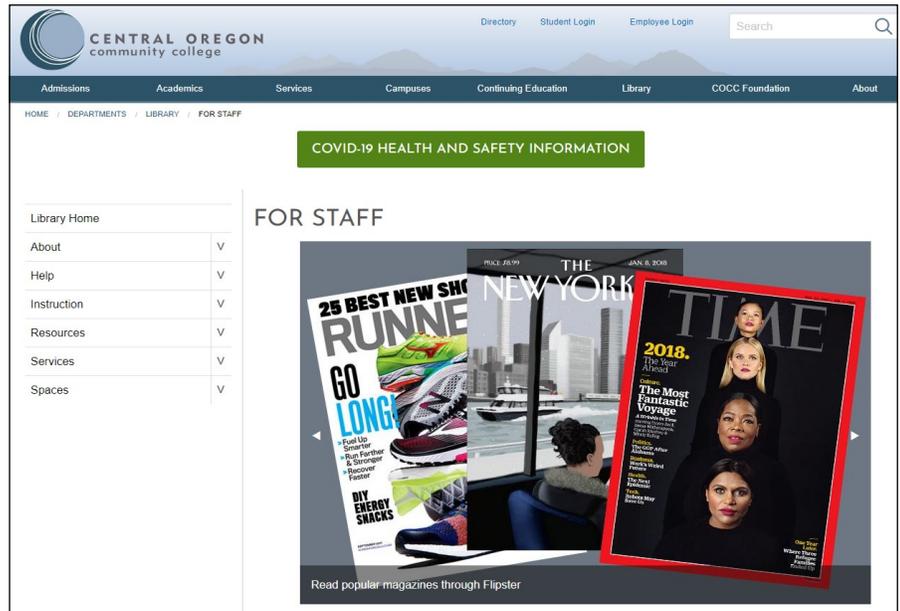
–Basey Klopp, Bend Pollinator Pathway

Free Magazines!

What's more sustainable than free electronic magazines? COCC [students](#), [faculty and staff](#) can visit the COCC Barber Library's website to learn more about downloading the Flipster magazine app and the NYT app to have these great resources at your fingertips. Here is a **sample** of titles:

- New York Times
- Nature
- Science
- American Scientist
- National Wildlife
- The Atlantic
- Discover
- Science News
- Wildlife Monographs
- Forbes
- Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning
- Health
- Money
- The New Yorker
- Poets & Writers
- Popular Science
- Journal of Geography
- Runner's World
- Time
- Wired
- PC World

“We actually saved money overall with these print to online conversions.”
–Cat Finney, Associate Librarian



Knapweed Test-Plots

COCC is in the early stages of a native plant restoration program which will have heavy focus on the Redmond campus. As a part of this effort, one challenge is removing spotted knapweed, an invasive species that quickly spreads and replaces our native Central Oregon plants. You might see fenced-off areas on campus such as the one pictured to the left near the Jungers Culinary Building. Grounds Crew established these test plots this past summer as a root weevil biocontrol measure. There are several test plots on the Bend campus, several in Redmond, and one in Madras.



COCC Sustainability Committee 2020-21

Justin Borowsky
Faculty Forum

Laura Pitz
Classified Association

Kevin Grove
Faculty Forum

Austin Rieger
Classified Association

Hilary McDonald
Classified Association

Kara Rutherford
Presidential Appointment

Owen Murphy
Faculty Forum

Joe Viola
Director, Campus Services

Frank Payne
Faculty Forum

Hal Wershow
Faculty Forum

2 student representative positions are open

Our special thanks to Mike Beaulieu, Owen Murphy, Frank Payne, Hal Wershow, Catt Finney, Basesy Klopp, Kathryn Myers, Joe Viola, Ani Kasch at The Environmental Center, The Deschutes Land Trust and the City of Bend who provided significant content contributions to this newsletter. Do you have campus or community news appropriate for our next newsletter? Email Hilary McDonald at hmcDonald@cocc.edu.

