

Title of Session: Science Resources K-20 - Great Backyard Bird Count

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

Guest Speaker: Sheryl McCoy

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Room: Science Resources K-20 Group

SherylM: As teachers, we are constantly under pressure to teach in ways that relate to the real world. The project I am about to show you will help make that job simpler. Two keystones of the scientific method are at the heart of this project, Observation and Data collection (with population sampling)

SherylM: Maureen how old are the students you work with?

MaureenB: 4th grade

SherylM: Great, this will be a perfect project.

FredK: I work with adults and other students who want help

SherylM: Yes, this will work with older people too.

FredK: good

SherylM: I would like to explain the Great Backyard Bird Count through a series of links. Please go to the links under February Projects, after you detach the dialogue box.

MaureenB: ready

SherylM: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>

DavidWe smiles

SherylM: This is the last link in the folder. Please go there.

FredK: All about birds

SherylM: These ornithologists really mean it when they talk about Citizen Science. They have many projects that are used for their research.

SherylM: This is the core website for you as the teacher or leader.

SherylM: The next website is a joint effort of the Audubon Society and Cornell Ornithology lab. <http://www.birdsource.org/>

SherylM: This is another resource.

SherylM: How is everyone doing?

BJB2: good, thanks

FredK: fine

SherylM: If you want to have this hotlist, I have uploaded it into the Sci Resources files

SherylM: Next, go to the project website. <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

SherylM: Hi Rechell

MaureenB: what a great way for the kids to do some field work and data collection

SherylM: Yes, it is wonderful.

RechellGst13: hello I am new to this tapped

SherylM: Do you teach or are you a student, or?

FredK: looks like fun in our rural setting

DavidWe: Welcome to Tapped In, Rechelle

RechellGst13: thanks I am working on a master's and will be finish in two weeks

SherylM: Fred, you live in a great place for this

MaureenB: my students are on vacation that week so it could be a great fun activity

SherylM: Rechell, Congrats

RechellGst13: what suggestions do you have to redefine my role beyond the classroom

SherylM: Participate in community connections to your teaching

SherylM: Maureen, did you see the link to the poster and brochure?

MaureenB: not yet but getting there

MaureenB: I will be working with 2 classes tomorrow so we can televise our science fair on our cable station

SherylM: Fred, et al you can print this poster and put it in your main office or the library or the post office. People do not have to be students to participate.

FredK: The library is a great place for projects too

MaureenB: I will not be emcee

MaureenB: so this will be great to introduce to the 2 classes

MaureenB: I will be covering for the other teacher

SherylM: Yes, there is a form that you can get that lists just the birds in your area.

PriscilaT joined the room.

SherylM: It eliminates all the birds you won't see in your area.

SherylM: Hi Priscila

PriscilaT: Hello

BJB2: here for the science discussion, Priscilla?

SherylM: We are discussing the Great Backyard Bird Count, are you a teacher or a student, or ?

PriscilaT: yes I am a new member and I barely got the hand of it

BJB2: we're looking at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> Priscilla

SherylM: Join the club, we have all been there. Hang with us.

AnnaKe joined the room.

MaureenB: where is the poster?

DavidWe waves to Anna

PriscilaT: I am a student

DavidWe: Hi, Anna. Welcome

BJB2: Hi, Anna. We're looking at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

DavidWe: Welcome to the Tapped In community, Priscila

AnnaKe: Hi all first time in tapped in.

BJB2: . o O (hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on the url)

SherylM: it is in the middle of the GBBC page

PriscilaT: Thank you

SherylM: Maureen, there is an underlined title in the middle of the page that says Free poster/brochure, do you see it?

SherylM: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/press/news-stories/free-poster-brochure>

SherylM: Try this

MaureenB: thank you

AnnaKe: Are you guys linking to the exact spot on the website from the link on the tapped in screen or are you typing it in?

BJB2: when you click on the url a new webpage should open for you, Anna

SherylM: This webpage tells you how you participate.
<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/howto.html>

AnnaKe: Does anyone use this site with the students? I am in the library at my school but focus on technology. I am here to gather science ideas

SherylM: <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/checklist> This is the website where you can put your zip code or town name and get a special list just for you.

MaureenB: Sheryl this is so great I have the list and the powerpoint and will show it to the class tomorrow

SherylM: Maureen, since you want to intro this tomorrow, use this webpage, copy it for everyone

PriscilaT: I think it will be fun for your class.

SherylM: This is a great project, there are activities for young children, middle schoolers, and highschool and adults.

FredK: I think I will mention it to some homeschoolers too

SherylM: some high school classes go to a nature preserve and do their count there.

SherylM: This also helps the wildlife personnel keep track of migrations and stay at home birds

SherylM: this was very helpful to scientists during the outbreak of the Nile Virus

MaureenB: we have a local Audubon that we already visited this year. This will be a great follow up

SherylM: Yes, it would.

AnnaKe: I just found the kids section. It seems to have some good areas. It could be a nice addition in the computer lab for classrooms working on bird units.

SherylM: You can bring in math too. Sampling is a very important part of this project. The scientist explain sampling.

AnnaKe: Is anyone participating in the bird count on the 16th?

SherylM: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/press/news-stories/the-great-backyard-bird-count-is-for-kids>

PriscilaT: No I am not but it seems like a very fun project

SherylM: Yes, I do and so do several other teachers in our area.

FredK: We shall see

SherylM: The first year, I just watched outside my window at home on the main day.

SherylM: That would be Feb 16, 2007

SherylM: Then I later had my high school students do this count.

AnnaKe: Good idea to start at home and then move it into the classroom. It is bitter cold here too so the sightings will be slim.

SherylM: The high school students had to find the township and range, etc. That was a connection with Social Studies

PriscilaT: Did they like it?

DavidWe has another back yard science project to share

SherylM: Yes, they love it.

SherylM: Super David!

DavidWe: Has anyone heard of the Noon Day project?

FredK: ??

DavidWe: <http://www.k12science.org/noonday/index.html>

SherylM: Yes, that is another great project. Do you have the web address?

PriscilaT: No, what is it about?

SherylM: super

DavidWe: It's the world-wide collaborative project to estimate the circumference of the Earth

PriscilaT: That sounds really interesting

SherylM: Replication of historical science experiments is very important.

DavidWe: Carl Sagan highlighted this 2500 year old science experiment during the "Cosmos" series on PBS

SherylM: This could be meshed with the birds to determine a hypothesis.

DavidWe smiles

AnnaKe: <http://www.k12science.org/noonday/teacherguide.html>. A great connection for librarians. This project is a great tie in with math and geography.

DavidWe: My friend, Ihor Charischak, has coordinated the project for a number of years

DavidWe: Very simple to do, but the important thing is people do it in different parts of the world

DavidWe hopes it might be useful to some folks here

SherylM: Yes, that is great. Projects are great because they usually do relate to the real world.

PriscilaT: Yes, I think this encourages other people to do it too.

AnnaKe: David, what ages is this targeted for. I would say junior high and up?/

DavidWe: collaboration in science (and other areas of education) is often very important

DavidWe: I think there have been elementary students doing the project, but yes, you are probably right

SherylM: Friends, parents, senior citizens and volunteers can be drawn into your community project

DavidWe: There is a little bit of trigonometry involved

SherylM: There are trig charts like they use for the heigh o meters

PriscilaT: We can even form a sort of a club or special group so students can get involved.

FredK: Useful tools

SherylM: We used them with elem students when we launched water rockets.

SherylM: The heigh-o-meter is really cool.

SherylM: When does this data need to be collected, David?

DavidWe: end of this month, I believe, is the sign-up

DavidWe: People aim to do it during the Equinox

DavidWe: It's done twice a year

DavidWe: THis page has the instructions for last Fall's project:

DavidWe: <http://www.k12science.org/noonday/projectinstructions.html>

PriscilaT: Thanks David I like it....

SherylM: Yes, I just went there. I will look it over

DavidWe: You're welcome, Priscila

SherylM: Speaking of Projects, does anyone participate in Journey North?

FredK: All sorts of good projects this evening

AnnaKe: check out the link for other projects. There are some great ideas.

AnnaKe: what is journey north?

SherylM: <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/> This is another phenomenal project that can keep you busy with math, science and social studies all year

SherylM: I first learned about the Monarch Watch, and one of the other scientists that worked with the KU guys started Journey North and it grew and grew and grew

AnnaKe: Sheryl have you taken the PD for journey north?

SherylM: There are super math problems about how fast the Monarchs fly, etc. I thought it would be another project to share.

SherylM: Yes, early on when it was new.

SherylM: I have used it for many years

SherylM: Anna, how about you?

BJB2: Sheryl, our time is almost up. Thanks so much for being a guest speaker for the Science discussion. Great job!

AnnaKe: It looks like the pd in on video. How is it?

BJB2: the next Science Resources discussion will be on March 6

MaureenB: thanks Sheryl

SherylM: Thanks everyone

AnnaKe: Thanks I enjoyed my first time on tapped in and got some great ideas.

SherylM: I hope you will try this out. It is teacher tested and student approved

FredK: We have lots to do as being here tonight

BJB2: any last comments or questions?

PriscilaT: Ok!! Hope to see you all then..

FredK: Most useful

SherylM: Anna I have many other links in my office and so does everyone else be sure and go there

FredK: Thanks Sheryl

SherylM: and Priscila and everyone else

AnnaKe: Great as technology teacher they will come in handy.

PriscilaT: you are welcome

JeffC: Before things wrap up here... I would like to thank everyone for coming, and recommend you join Science Resources if you haven't already done so.

JeffC: To do that... get back to the Welcome screen and scroll it down a bit till you see a little "i" in a green circle next to the link for the group... click that... then click the link to join this group.

JeffC: I'd like to thank Sheryl for being the guest speaker today!

BJB2 waves goodnight

DavidWe: Thanks, Sheryl

AnnaKe: how do I get notification of upcoming science resource chats?

DavidWe: Check the Tapped In calendar, Anna

SherylM: Join the Sci Resources group

DavidWe: We have a monthly calendar that lists all the public discussions

SherylM: you will automatically get emails

BJB2 . o O (if Jeff remembers to post them)

AnnaKe: Sounds good. Hope to take part again soon.