

Title of Session: BirdSleuth Share-a-Thon
Moderator: Jennifer Fee
Title of File: 20090518birdsleuthshareathon
Date: May 18, 2009

Room: BirdSleuth Group

PhilK joined the room.

CjasonGst2 joined the room.

BJB2: Hi, Phil! I looked at your ID page today and went to the links...fabulous!

JenniferMF: Hi Phil=)

BJB2 waves hi to Jason. Welcome back

SusanR joined the room.

CjasonGst2: Hi!

BJB2: hi, Sue.

PhilK: Hi Everyone!

JenniferMF: We have a group-- hooray!

JenniferMF: CJason, is "Jason" the name you go by?

SusanR: Hi Bj and company

CjasonGst2: That is my last name. First name Candy.

BJB2: whoops...sorry, Candy!

CjasonGst2: No problem.

JenniferMF: Oh, thanks Candy... I thought you were a male => Oops!

BJB2: Welcome to today's BirdSleuth Share-a-Thon.

BJB2: We usually start with introductions....

BJB2: everyone please tell Jen where you are located and what you teach...and if you are a BirdSleuther

JenniferMF: I'm Jen, the project leader for BirdSleuth. I work at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca NY =>

JenniferMF: Thanks everyone for stopping in... do you mind to introduce yourselves?

PhilK: I'm Phil. I am teaching in Hillsboro, Oregon. I use BirdSleuth with my 7 - 10 grade students.

CjasonGst2: I work for a company that supports the Cornell BirdSleuth - Waterford Press. We are always interested in environmental education and specie identification. The philosophy is once kids know the name of a species they become more concerned for the habitat and welfare of the species.

NancyTr joined the room.

JenniferMF: Hi Nancy! We are just doing introductions.

JenniferMF: Candy, thanks so much for stopping in! Waterford Press has been wonderful to BirdSleuth. Thank you!

SusanR: I'm Sue. I teach on an occasional basis in Ontario, Canada. I just received the wonderful kit and poster from Cornell Labs

JenniferMF: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/modules/most-wanted-birds-1/pocket-naturalist/pocket-naturalist-guides>

PhilK: Saturday I spent most of the afternoon up in a tree with my son watching a family of Robins. Got a cool photo that you can see in my office.

JenniferMF: Susan, did you get a BirdSleuth kit or a Celebrate Urban Birds kit?

SusanR: sorry a "Celebrate Kit"

PhilK: Did Waterford Press publish some of the BirdSleuth materials?

JeffC joined the room.

JenniferMF: We just found out we have a crow nest in our yard. The Crow Expert at the Lab is going to try to tag them and study them => <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/>

JenniferMF: Hopefully we get some baby crows!

PhilK: Crows are cool!

JeffC . o O (cool!)

JenniferMF: Waterford and BirdSleuth created a partnership; they have generously donated Pocket Naturalist Guides to us for use in our kits and a major donation of Costa Rica guides for a new BirdSleuth field test effort we have with Costa Rica.

JenniferMF: the Costa Rican kids loved their guides!

CjasonGst2: That is good news!

PhilK: Great! I don't think I've seen the guides. Guess I'm using an older kit?

JenniferMF: I did not have a formal plan for tonight... I just hoped that we'd get a number of people to visit and share their experience with BirdSleuth... I'm happy to take questions, too.

JenniferMF: Phil, they are in the kit; but later since your involvement

JenniferMF: (Phil is one of the original field test teachers!!)

SusanR: one year we had a nest of baby birds on our outdoor light fixture .. what a learning experience ..

SusanR: robins I believe

SusanR listens

PhilK: Is the guide something I need?

JenniferMF: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Robin/id check out the redesigned All About Birds pages-- there's the Robin one!

CjasonGst2: Phil. we have bird guides to each of the states, some cities and international destinations. Also a newly launched web site www.waterfordpress.com if you want to check it out some time. There are games and activities teachers can download as well.

JenniferMF: Phil, you do not need the guide to be successful with the curriculum... but some teachers prefer the Pocket Guide over field guides in the field. The link again... <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/modules/most-wanted-birds-1/pocket-naturalist/pocket-naturalist-guides>

JenniferMF: Oops, that's just our page... anyway, the guides are easy to take out, so they do make a nice addition! We are selling discounted sets of 10 for teachers so each child/pair can have one.

PhilK: Oh, I see...this is a bird identification field guide for the students

JenniferMF: yes, but it's a fold-out, so easy to use since it is small.

PhilK: I've been using the Golden Guide with my students for years now. Several of my students bring their own National Geographic guide to class.

JenniferMF: I had hoped we'd have a few more teachers tonight; I really sent out the reminders => busy time of year, I guess!

BJB2 agrees

PhilK: When I introduce bird identification to my 7th graders I use some laminated charts I got years ago from the Lab of Ornithology.

CjasonGst2: We are open to suggestions if you think students would learn better by changing something.

JenniferMF: For those of you who are classroom teachers (current or former)... we are planning a 5-week summer online course and trying to figure out the dates. Could use some advice... Do you think teachers would prefer the class to be in mid-June to mid/end July OR a mid-July start, ending middle/end August?

BJB2: Phil gives great input...I liked your comments on the graphing tutorial, Phil.

JenniferMF: or something else...

PhilK: Candy, I haven't seen or used your guides...so I don't really have any feedback.

JenniferMF: YES! Thanks for the comments on the tutorial! We already made some changes, especially slowing it down.

PhilK: Yes. I think the graphing tutorial is pretty exciting. Can't wait to see the final.

JenniferMF: Phil, I will mail you one tomorrow.

PhilK: Sounds good.

SusanR: July/Aug for the online course

JeffC suggests if the people are available to do two courses... maybe even have some teachers who participate in the June/July session help out with the July/August one.

JenniferMF: Good idea Jeff... but this is sponsored by NSF and we only have funding/time for one probably this year... we have so much evaluating to do for each one. But when we have a "good" (tested/aproved) course, we are definitely looking to expand to more than 1/year if the interest is there!

JenniferMF: Any other "votes" for date?

PhilK: Some of the things I really enjoyed about the online course last summer was the chance to work on my own research project while collaborating with other teachers. The shared feedback was really good.

JenniferMF: Phil was in last year's course... and he's helping co-instruct this one (version 2.0)

JenniferMF: Candy, what role do you play at Waterford? Just curious =)

PhilK: I'm open for anytime this summer. However I will be away from the computer for a few days in mid July while I'm backpacking with my son.

JenniferMF: The online course will be for 7th-8th grade science teachers. Would love to try to recruit some teachers from TI... BJ, Jeff, Susan-- any recommendations of where to post/share outside the BIRD group?

JeffC: yes... several

BJB2: I can put something in the June newsletter if you get me the info

JenniferMF: Yes, Phil, I do have your backpack dates... trying to get it to be either before or after that =)

JeffC: Science Resources K-20, Tapis, Middle School Science, Middle School Portal for starters.

JenniferMF: When does the June letter go out?

BJB2: usually the middle of the month. So get me the info by June 10 for inclusion

JenniferMF: Cool. Thanks Jeff. Best to just write it in a discussion board in those rooms?

JeffC: sounds like a plan. I'll handle Science Resources if you want... I can just copy/paste what you do here, etc.

CjasonGst2: We are a very small team. I do many jobs under the "as needed" role. I do some data management, marketing, editorial, sales....When I was back East I worked in publishing as a children's bibliographer.

JenniferMF: OK... might be a little late, I think the deadline for applying will be mid-June. Nothing like settling the details "just in time"... the course is in good shape, but it's those "little things" like the date that are up in the air =(

JeffC: that sounds great Candy! you really should get a membership here (it's free) and join this (and a few other) groups.

JenniferMF: Cool! Thanks Jeff...

JeffC: BJB could still post to Tapis which means that it would go out to all Tapped In members... and several listservs (WWWEDU for starters).

BJB2 thinks that if Candy got a free TI membership the name thing would no longer be a problem ;-)

JenniferMF: OK BJ. Gees, I might recruit "too many"

JeffC will brb... taking son to baseball practice.

JenniferMF: BJ, talk about marketing!! Wow ;)

BJB2: well, the calendar gets mailed to all TI members too, and look at the results :-(

JenniferMF: We can only accept about 25-30 teachers.

BJB2: then that should go in the article

JenniferMF: Last year we got about that many applicants without much marketing at all.

JenniferMF: point well taken about results, BJ ;-(

BJB2: say you'll only accept the first 25 applicants

PhilK: Jennifer, how many teachers did we have in the class last summer?

JenniferMF: We accepted 22, about 18 "showed up" at the beginning... but only 13 finished.

JenniferMF: It was 7 weeks long last year. We are streamlining to make it 5 weeks long, hoping to have more teachers complete.

JenniferMF: Tapped In is actually my effort to work with teachers online in the school year as a result of that summer course (which, as you can imagine, was pretty intensive)

PhilK: Sure has been hard to keep the communication going with the teachers after last summer. Would have loved to have continued the dialogue we started last summer.

PhilK: Guess once the school year starts it's pretty hard for teachers to find the time.

BJB2: make sure that the teachers in this summer's course include an orientation to

Tapped In

JenniferMF: Me too. I'm hopeful that, since we'll be going into it with that hope, I will be able to do a better job of capitalizing on the great group dynamic and keep communication going. I'm confident that having you as a co-instructor will help!!

BJB2 . o O (Jeff and I can do that for you)

JenniferMF: We talked about even doing an online chat in Tapped In during the summer... but the course construct we are using has their own chat feature... so we think it would make it easier to stay in the familiar territory and then introduce TI at the end as the way to stay in touch. Any feedback on that, Phil or anyone?

PhilK: I'm wondering if part of the problem, at least with our Tapped-in sessions has been the East Coast / West Coast time difference. It has not always worked so well for me to meet here because of the time difference. How many participants do we have in different time zones?

JenniferMF: Not sure until we get the applicants. Are any times "most popular" for holding TI sessions, BJ?

BJB2: during the summer it's not that critical

PhilK: Yes, I think we should end the course by orienting participants with Tapped-In, the Google Group, and/or the Facebook Group. That is a lot to keep track of...so we may want to think about the most useful method of staying in touch.

BJB2: you don't have to wait till school is out

JenniferMF: true... but what about keeping the lines open during the school year? 7pm EST?

BJB2: yes, 7 or 8 EST is better to meet needs of west coast

JenniferMF: Phil, you are exactly right! We have a lot of ways of "keeping in touch" now. We want to choose something that is useful and easy for the greatest number. I simply like the synchronous chat here so much... and TI also allows posting/discussion boards. All the features we might want probably.

PhilK: I agree.

NancyTr: plus TI has private chat through which BJ can send jokes off the record!

BJB2 winks at Nancy...so much for privacy!

CjasonGst2: I am at work now. Just stopped in to say "hi". Have a good evening

everyone!

BJB2: Thanks, Candy

PhilK: Nice to meet you Candy.

CjasonGst2 left the room (signed off).

JenniferMF: I wonder if our Facebook page will become a "catch all" I mean, some of my non-teacher friends became BirdSleuth fans; I wonder if few actual BirdSleuth teachers are actually going to FaceBook? Remains to be seen.

JenniferMF . o O (There's Nancy, a woman of few words in Tapped In, but are they ever zingers!)

JenniferMF: Well, our hour is nearly up.... and I have yet to grab dinner... but I am sure I will see you all here again soon. I have scheduled a session on Wednesday at 5pm EST

PhilK: I've only been using Facebook for about a month now. It is really hard to keep any kind of focus with such an open ended format where anyone and everyone can post and join for any reason. I personally liked the Google Group.

JenniferMF: Otherwise, I have not scheduled any June sessions. Is summer less busy in TI?

PhilK: The Google Group didn't have this chat feature though. I just like the visual graphical control.

JenniferMF: Phil, we should talk more about costs/benefits of GG vs. TI

PhilK: Yes.

JenniferMF: I agree with what you said, so sometime during the summer course (when we know who are participants are) we might want to steer that group towards one or the other (maybe?)

PhilK: Sounds good.

JenniferMF: OK, thank you everyone for coming =)

JenniferMF: Have a good week!!

JenniferMF: Monday is OVER!

JenniferMF: (almost)

PhilK: Good night.

JenniferMF: good night all.

SusanR: Thanks

JenniferMF: see you tomorrow Nancy =)

BJB2 waves goodnight. Thanks, everyone.

NancyTr: Bye Jen. It's been fun lurking ton