



The Nature of Learning

February 2006

Ongoing Grants

NEWS FROM THE DC OFFICE

All of the grant awardees have received their letters or phone calls of notification.

Congratulations to you!!

Most of the grantees have either executed their agreements or are in the process of reviewing their contracts. Many groups have already received their money. The St. Francis Wildlife Association is in its second year of the "Birding at St. Marks Wildlife Refuge" project, and the Prairie Ecology Bus Center in Minnesota has begun the Education program "Prairies of Southwest Minnesota".

Additionally, the Region 3 Friends Conference was held the weekend of January 20-22 where the dates of the TNOL program were announced.

For additional information, contact:

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2006 Grant Program

The National Wildlife Refuge System, in partnership with the National Conservation Training Center, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the National Wildlife Refuge Association and The Keystone Center, announce this year's *Nature of Learning* grant program.

Grants are available for environmental education partnerships between a local community and their national wildlife refuge. *Nature of Learning* grants are available up to \$5,000 for a first year grant, and up to \$3,000 for a second and third year grant.

This announcement closes April 17, 2006.

Interested parties should apply at <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/> by clicking on Announcement Details and Application. Contact Kim Chumney with any additional questions. Don't forget that you are encouraged to apply up to three years for a grant.

Welcome!

The Nature of Learning has a new project manager. Please welcome Kim Chumney who came on board in January 2006. She will be working as a liaison for grantees and will focus on the creation of a new website. Kim is an experienced teacher with a background in teacher training, curriculum and assessment writing and networking. Her goals for both the new website and newsletter are to help build partnerships between all entities involved within TNOL program. Plans for a new training session are underway and applications and information will be sent out soon!



Former Classroom teacher Kim Chumney at a professional development institute, 2005.

Open Forum

Beginning in March we would like to begin an open forum column. Please send any announcements, questions or tips that you would like to contribute. This will be a fun and interesting way for us all to network and share information. Send all your fun news to Kim Chumney at kmchumney@keystone.org