

Wildlife Habitat Certification

Kait Teachout kicked off our Sunday school eco-program by constructing a study guide for the Sunday School teachers to use as a reference. In their effort to provide the essential elements for a healthy wildlife habitat, Lori Hudson and her first and second-graders, and Kristen Berendsen and her third and fourth graders created beautiful handmade bird feeders, which they filled with birdseed and strung from the trees. Elizabeth Woolf's fifth and sixth graders, assisted by Rena Connell, hung a mason bee house and a suet feeder. They also fixed a bat house to the light pole for the native bats of our area, the little brown bat and the big brown bat. Natasha and Steven Carlson and their Sunday school classes hung another suet feeder for the woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches, and a squirrel feeder for the indigenous Douglas squirrels. While these feeders are a great supplement to the natural foods that wildlife finds, native plants provide the best food source, offering seeds, berries, nectar, pollen, and insects. With this in mind, the Sunday school kids planted deer ferns, evergreen huckleberries, knick-a-knick, salal, red flowering current, red twigged dogwood, snowberry, a Cascara tree, a Bitter Cherry tree, a Beaked Hazelnut tree, and an Indian Plum.

These combined efforts have brought us to our certification goal. With disappearing habitat, and wildlife struggling to survive, we can all be proud of our students helping God's creatures to thrive.