

MV News Press Release

From: Methow Conservancy

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On the last of the August 100+ degree days, a group of twelve aspiring artists dove into the turquoise swimming hole at Early Winters campground in Mazama. Among them was Methow Valley Elementary school teacher, Cathy Oliver, who was a participant in a three-day colored pencil drawing course put on by North Cascades Institute. "It was such an inspiring experience for me to renew skills I have not used since college. The other participants were wonderful and I can't wait to apply what I learned with my kids in the classroom".

Thanks to the Methow Conservancy scholarship program, five teachers from Liberty Bell High School, the Elementary School and Little Star Montessori were able to attend place-based professional development programs this summer. The scholarship recipients, Eric Bard, Karen Fisher, Adam Kaufman, Cathy Oliver and Monica Pettelle, took courses in the arts, poetry, astronomy, entomology and geology. After his poetry course, Liberty Bell English teacher, Adam Kaufman, concluded that "every family needs a poet to weave their stories and memories together". Mr. Kaufman plans to take his realization back to his 9th grade English class this fall.

A local student, Corina Jones, was also awarded a scholarship to attend a North Cascades Institute student course intended to foster leadership skills in developing a positive future through stewardship and the arts.

The Methow Conservancy scholarship program is made possible through donations from Winthrop Mountain Sports, local resident, David Bonn, and memorial donations made in honor of Susie Stephens. To learn more about the program or other efforts of the Methow Conservancy, visit their Winthrop office (996-2870) or website, www.methowconservancy.org.