



Invasive Plant Paper – Put Those Noxious Weeds to Work

You can make decorative paper out of English ivy, Scotch broom and orange hawkweed? Sure! About 60, first-fifth grade students at Naas Elementary in Boring, Oregon learned how to do just that during a school art day, May 9, 2003. Connie Athman invited Julie Johnson to show the students how to make paper, so Julie, with lots of help from Fay Shon, Sundi Sigrist and Ben Smith, brought prepared, noxious weed plant pulps to help educate the children about both paper-making and invasive plants in a hands-on experience. Each child (some with more assistance than others!) made a piece of paper out of one of the three pulps. They each: ‘charged the vat’ (dispersed a glob of gooey, beaten plant fiber pulp into a vat of water); ‘pulled’ their piece of paper with a mould and deckle (dipped the pulp out of the charged vat with two wooden frames – one frame has a screen on it that serves as the paper-forming surface); ‘couched’ the wet paper (slipped it off the mould onto a piece of felt), and then ‘pressed’ the water out of it (in this case, they stomped on it between two boards). Their paper was then ironed dry and used as the cover for a small book with blank pages that they took home with them. The last page of the book was printed with information about the noxious weed used to make the paper for the cover of the book and also listed the Forest Service invasive plants EIS web site (www.fs.fed.us/r6/invasiveplant-eis/).

Connie Athman is the hydrologist on the Mt. Hood NF; Fay Shon works in Resource Planning and Monitoring in the R6-RO; Sundi Sigrist, Ben Smith and Julie Johnson all work for Forest Health Protection, Region 6.

For more information about paper-making with invasives, contact Julie Johnson (jljohnson02@fs.fed.us). She’s always looking for more noxious weeds to experiment with, so if you end up with a couple of spare garbage bags full of one species, please send them to her at the Regional Office in Portland!



English Ivy: The parts used to make paper were the stems, leaf stems, and portions of the woody stems.









Nana Visitor



my I.S.V. PAPER BOOK

