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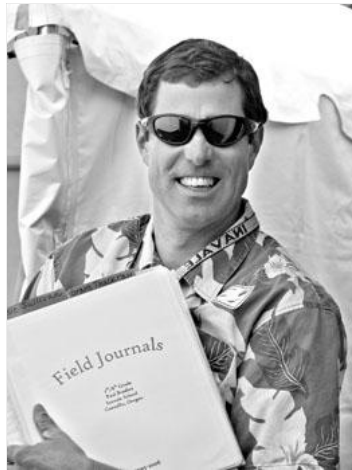
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Contributed photo  
Paul Bradley won the Conservation Teacher of the Year award.

## Lincoln teacher gets science award

By Jennifer Nitson  
Gazette-Times reporter

Lincoln School teacher Paul Bradley was honored with the Conservation Teacher of the Year award at the annual meeting of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District on Tuesday night.

Shrouded in secrecy, the award was a surprise to Bradley, who teaches in Lincoln's environmental stewards middle school program.

His wife, Elise Bradley, convinced him to come to the meeting, pointing out how much the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District has helped him with his educational programs for middle schoolers.

"I had a feeling once people started standing up," he said. "Elise is usually not very bossy."

Bradley was instrumental in establishing a middle school program at Inavale School and, after Inavale's closure in 2006, at Lincoln School. The distinguishing feature of these programs was a focus on a variety of conservation topics — including endangered species conservation, native plant propagation, riparian and wetland restoration, watershed science and field journaling.

"This middle school idea is original, making us an attractive program for students that might not fit or want to choose the regular middle school," said Lincoln Principal Oscar Moreno-Gilson, quoted in Bradley's award nomination. "He has put in extra hours to make this happen by creating relationships with community members and landowners, and writing grants to be able to maintain our program."

Also quoted in the nomination was Corin Richards, a former Inavale teacher who worked with Bradley with seven years.

"I could write a book on how great Paul is," Richards said. "How much he cares for kids, how he loves the environment, what a great teacher he is. ... I've seen Paul do amazing things with kids. He literally shoots from the hip, especially while teaching math and science. If there's a group that just isn't getting the concept, he'll get everyone else going on some practice and then think of different applications for the concept until the rest get it."

After receiving the award, Bradley pointed out the time, money, materials and learning opportunities the Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District has provided for his students.

"It's really nice," he said. "I should be thanking them. ... I always hate moments like this. I'm not much of a gold-star person. I always try to teach the kids that the best payment is a job well done."

**at a glance**

Name: Paul Bradley  
Job: Teacher, Lincoln School in Corvallis  
First career: Civil engineering, four years  
Teaching career: 16 years  
Education: Oregon State University for engineering degree; Western Oregon University for teaching  
Frequent attire: Hawaiian shirts, flipflops

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