



## **We are Amy and Tom Lockwood.**

We'd like to thank you for the amazing opportunity to attend AWLS this summer and for your generosity and financial support. It was an inspiring and informative week that we hope to carry into our classrooms. We'd like to share a few impressions that we had of the school.

Tom: Having taught almost 30 years, many of the ideas and much of the information presented were not completely new to me. However, the staff at AWLS, each of them, seemed to incorporate a love of outdoors, conservation, and education in a way that is unique. I really enjoyed sitting in an outdoor classroom and listening to differing perspectives of conservation of the environment in a presentation given by a park ranger and a BLM representative about fracking. We were sitting in an incredibly beautiful area of high desert amidst oil company installations. They presented data from differing viewpoints and answered questions and allowed us to form our own opinions.

Amy: I gained a new perspective on conservation while at AWLS and the role hunting plays in that. Even though my father was a bird hunter when I was young, I never thought about how the balance of wildlife and the support for our national parks was supported through hunting. I really enjoyed the discussions we had during our classes about this role. We were a mix of hunters and non-hunters, probably 50/50.

Tom: One of the neatest things at AWLS is the interaction with other teachers. There were 26 of us and we represented more than 10 states and a wide variety of teaching experiences. As one of the oldest in the group, I fed off of the excitement of the younger teachers. The staff provided us with a wide variety of hands on,

collaborative, and engaging activities. We learned to tie flies and connected that to seasonal hatching of bate. We got certified to teach archery in the schools (NASP) and talked about bow season and how hunting related to wildlife populations.

Amy: As the week went on I started thinking of ways I could use the information in my 4th grade. Survival stories such as “Hatchet” came to mind. After experiencing some educational games such as “How Many Bears Can Live in this Forest?”, “Hooks and Ladders” (how salmon move in streams), “Oh Deer”, and a creative writing puppet show about wildlife, I have some ideas!

Tom: I am excited to tell friends and coworkers about this opportunity. As a teacher in a private school, it is sometimes difficult to accrue the credit for recertification and this was by far the most enjoyable experience that I have had in this ongoing process. I have already spoken with my director about ways to bring NASP into our school, and have talked with several teachers who would like to attend AWLS, now.

Amy: Our instructors were great! As a non-hunter, I was amazed at how fun target shooting was, especially archery. I am now a certified NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) instructor! I’ve already talked to a mom at my school about working with the Girl Scouts. I am SO grateful for the opportunity Safari Club of Greater Atlanta gave me!

We are both so grateful to SCI and your chapter for helping us with this experience!

Tom and Amy Lockwood