

Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute announces a new home after 18 years of service

The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) has initiated the purchase of its new home to accommodate this growing community-based organization. PCEI, dedicated to environmental stewardship and community involvement, grew from one employee in 1986 to six full-time and five part-time employees, and hundreds of community volunteers today. PCEI has outgrown the 1,100-square foot office space on Friendship Square.

To fit the needs of the organization's membership and dynamic program areas, the PCEI board decided to pursue the purchase of a farmhouse at 1040 Rodeo Drive, on the north side of Moscow. The house with several outbuildings is situated on 7.6 acres of open space, and will provide great opportunities for PCEI and for the community. The property will provide PCEI with much needed office space, and area to enhance its program work.

PCEI is also excited to have recently received several gifts from individual donors totaling more than \$61,000. The gifts will be used toward the property purchase, and to launch a capital gift campaign aimed at raising the funds for the purchase and necessary improvements. Renovations will develop indoor office spaces and add wheelchair access. A conditional use permit (CUP) was approved by the City of Moscow, Board of Adjustment on Tuesday, September 21. PCEI expects to occupy the new office space by the end of this year.

We have lots of ideas for demonstrating environmentally-friendly choices. Our goals for this beautiful site include open space preservation, rainwater collection, composting toilets, examples for "green" building practices, and alternative energy systems. We expect to continue our role as an environmental resource for the community by offering public demonstrations of these practical and sustainable choices.

PCEI has greatly enjoyed its downtown Moscow location and is grateful to the Bode family and the Moscow Hotel management, who has rented to PCEI for many years. It is hard to leave the comfort of our downtown home, but the time is right, and the new location is ideal for PCEI to address some

of the community's needs. This new location will give us the room we need to create excellent examples of our work.

We owe our ability to take this bold step to you, our members and supporters. Over the coming months and years we hope to come back to you and others

in our community to ask for money and volunteer support needed to make this new PCEI home possible. Thank you for being part of PCEI!



View of PCEI's new backyard, complete with pond and grass. Photo: PCEI



Above: The future home for PCEI at 1040 Rodeo Drive, on the north side of Moscow. Just a 7 minute bike ride from downtown Moscow. Photo: PCEI.

Home Sweet PCEI

We need your help in making this home real for PCEI! To make a gift toward our capital campaign, or volunteer with one of our many work parties, please contact us at 882-1444 or <info@pcei.org>. Check our web calendar for fall work days <www.pcei.org/calendar.htm>. To see more photos and progress of recent developments visit our website, <www.pcei.org>.

PCEI hosts new program

By Michelle Hazen

Early this summer, PCEI was approached by the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA) of Vancouver, WA to begin a new partnership. NWSA is an AmeriCorps program that connects with schools, community-based organizations and government agencies to address significant environmental and educational needs in the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Their goal is to form a corps of informed, active adults trained and committed to addressing environmental, educational, community concerns, and to do this effectively on public lands and waters, in schools and communities. So what did NWSA want from us? To become the next "center", where the organizing of such a program could occur in Idaho. And with NWSA's goals so close to ours at PCEI, we can see how such a partnership could work.

After much deliberation, an intensive two day training and finding the right people to staff these new positions, PCEI started implementing the program. What would this program provide? We are seeking to place 46 members (24 full-time, 22 part-time) with non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies across Idaho and eastern Washington. These members will provide either 1700, or 900 hours of service to their agency within 11 months. These projects will be consistent with many of the projects PCEI has been doing for more than 18 years. Watershed restoration, environmental education, resource conservation, and volunteer, community involvement are among the service opportunities these members will provide. In return the AmeriCorps members receive a small living stipend, and an education award at the end of their service. Plus the experience and opportunity to develop conservation efforts all over the region.

The program is moving forward quickly. We've already reached a number of potential sponsors and begun to learn about conservation efforts happening all over Idaho. We hope to place our first members in October of this year. If you are interested in learning more about our new AmeriCorps program, you can visit our website, <www.pcei.org/pcc>.

Thank you AmeriCorps *NCCC

By Kelly Riley

On the 17th of May an AmeriCorps*NCCC team, Green 5, arrived with the spring rains. Like the rain, the Green 5 crew was much needed and welcomed. This was the sixth summer that PCEI has sponsored an AmeriCorp*NCCC group. The diverse team of ten restored and maintained streams with PCEI's Watershed program, planted and weeded at the Moscow Community Garden and assisted with Environmental Education's Adventure Program.

In addition to work with PCEI, corps members volunteered Independent Service Project hours with other organizations in Moscow. AmeriCorps*NCCC celebrated it's tenth year on June 5th. Green 5 participated with an appearance at the Moscow Farmer's Market with the PCEI puppets and an information table.

The enthusiastic group hailed from the Western Region Campus in Sacramento, California. The team, led by Ruth Person, had been together since October. Other projects included maintenance and salvage at a YWCA camp in Lincoln City, OR, tutoring at a K-8 school in Rio Linde, CA and helping low income families build housing in Mecca, CA.



*AmeriCorps*NCCC volunteers working hard this summer. Photo: PCEI*



*AmeriCorps*NCCC member helps local 6th graders plant trees in a Moscow park. Photo: PCEI*

Like the rest of Green 5, Corps member Brian Roberts was ready to work with PCEI. "I'm excited for the opportunity to learn more about environmental concepts like water quality and bank maintenance in such a unique and hands-on manner." Erin Blobaum, another team member, placed special significance on the project, it being the last in their term of service. "I think we're all anxious to come into Moscow and make the project as successful as it could be."

The team lived in a rented house in a Moscow neighborhood, within walking distance to downtown. The group enjoyed being part of Moscow, in fact, they nicknamed it, "Pleasantville", because everyone was so hospitable. This is not only a reflection on our community but also on this ambitious, giving and dedicated group. We thank them for their commitment to PCEI projects, the community of Moscow and their willingness to work hard during their ten months of AmeriCorps*NCCC service.

PCEI holds first women's mountain bike clinic

By Aly Bean

Our first bike clinic was a huge success! Held on June 13th, 16 fearless women met at Rosauers to carpool to Moscow mountain for a day of fun and adventure. It is true that we got hailed on, but after a short spurt, the sun began to pound on our backs as we headed uphill towards "North Contour" trail and the "Tusks" at Four Corners riding area on Moscow Mountain. A group of inexperienced riders showed great improvement as they practiced climbing techniques on Moscow Mountain Road grade and strutted their superb downhill stuff on "Up and Over."

Rider Tammy Kidd said the clinic was most helpful in assisting her with her downhill riding. "[I liked] Aly's encouragement to push myself." And push, the riders did! Women were riding over obstacles multiple times to try and succeed, they forged large mud puddles and balanced bikes through tight switchbacks, determined to ride quicker, become stronger and conquer their fears. The culmination of the clinic was a fantastic and fun group ride down "Cabin Trail" where prizes were given.

All of this was made possible by the volunteer hours of cycling enthusiasts of the Palouse. The total volunteer hours donated to the creation of PCEI's first bike clinic was over 80! We would like to extend a special thanks to the "Bike Brothers," Isaak and Emmett Strout, Northwest Mountain Sports' Bruce Hoff, MAMBA affiliates Dan Cordon and Jonathan Lomber, graduate student and avid mountain biker, Sean Prentiss, local farmers' market artist and co-op baker, Aven Krempel, our own Community Garden coordinator Kelly Riley and her daughter, who grew up in a bike shop, Amber Riley. Because of their efforts we were able to raise \$150 for the Environmental Education Program. The money will go towards the purchase of an "Xtracycle," a large, versatile trailer to tote gear on a bike instead of driving to schools for education programs.

If you missed out on this great opportunity to ride, stay tuned for another clinic this fall, or join us on Tuesdays for an all women's mountain bike ride on Moscow Mountain. Meet at Rosauers parking lot in Moscow at 5:15 p.m. to carpool. For more information call Aly Bean at 882-1444. Happy Trails!



Back row (left to right): Maureen Laffin, Aly Bean, Jennifer Farley, Amber Riley, Lauren Bissey and Michelle Kayne. Front row: Lynda Cochran, Angela Bunce, Tammy Kidd, Aven Krempel, Jenine Cordon, Melissa Rockwood and Gina Baldwin. Not pictured: Kelly Riley (who took the photo).

Hooray for brown grass

*I think that I have never seen
Grass so lovely as when not green.
No water wasted on shortsighted pursuit
Of neighborhood contests that are truly moot.
No nightly waterings e'en after dark
When city sprinklers may water the park.
The extra mile and care we take now
Will limited resources for the future allow
So cheers to you all who might green prefer
But will summer's green lawn to our children defer
Sleep well in these hot summer nights we endure
Knowing a healthy water supply for all you ensure.*

-By Laurie Gardes

This newsletter (ISSN# 1087-9374) is published quarterly by the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI). 3rd Class postage paid in Moscow, ID. The Mission of PCEI is to increase citizen involvement in decisions that affect our regional environment. Through community organizing and education, we strive to enable members of our community to find effective and sustainable solutions to local and regional environmental problems. PCEI is a non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible. Articles for publication and letters to the editor are welcome and must include the name and address of the author. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of PCEI.

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People interested in being on our mailing list should join PCEI (see page 7).

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Watersheds program had a busy summer

By Kajsa Stromberg

The PCEI Watersheds crew has been busy! Our summer staff of four, was joined by an AmeriCorps*NCCC team of ten amazing people, creating one fantastic team of restoration superheroes. Together with project sponsors like the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), the National Tree Trust (NTT), the City of Moscow and community supporters, we've accomplished a lot! We continue to work on Paradise Creek restoration and are collaborating with the North Latah County Highway District to reduce roadside erosion. Riparian restoration began on Tammany Creek near Lewiston this spring and we'll continue working there this fall. We've also been involved in numerous planting projects at sites around town with a grant for Community Forestry from the National Tree Trust. New projects are in the plans for the South Fork Palouse River this fall and we continue to work on the site off Palouse River Drive near the UI Arboretum.



Ken Hobson giving a tree planting demonstration to a group of volunteers. Photo: PCEI

This restoration project will eventually serve many beneficial purposes. Improvements in water quality are a top priority. Riparian vegetation serves an important role in protecting water quality by reducing in-stream erosion and by filtering runoff from upland areas. Riparian and wetland areas will also provide important habitat for fish and wildlife. Our restoration efforts strive to provide high quality habitats for species like the long-toed salamander and great blue heron. Bird houses, bat boxes and habitat structures built by volunteers will be installed on the site. Thank you WSU students in Human Dimensions 205!



Some young volunteers dig a hole for their tree. Photo: PCEI

The riparian restoration project on the South Fork Palouse River has progressed nicely. In 2003, excavators resloped the streambanks and removed a large berm that restricted the stream. This was followed by treatments with erosion control fabric and plantings. A series of wetlands was constructed. This spring, we planted the site with a suite of native grasses, trees, and wildflowers. Thousands of rushes and sedges were planted along the stream. Willows and red-osier dogwoods line the banks. Aspen and ponderosa pine will eventually shade the area, complemented by cow parsnip and wild roses in the understory. Many thanks to Associated Students of the University of Idaho (ASUI), to local Girl Scouts, Moscow School District students, Tao Beta Pi Engineering Honors Society, Theta Chi and Farmhouse UI fraternities, WSU Community Service Learning Center, Paradise Creek Alternative School, and many other volunteers!



Young volunteers busy perfecting their tree planting skills. Photo: PCEI

Thanks to all of our sponsors, supporters and volunteers! Please come visit the site and watch as the riparian area develops. The City of Moscow plans to develop a City Park here, complete with multiple ball fields and many recreational opportunities. The riparian buffer will be an attractive and educational aspect of this streamside park, a great place to bring your family or to hold an outdoor classroom lesson. We always welcome volunteers of any age or skill level, so come on out and help establish this great community resource. Visit our website for more information! <www.pcei.org>

**NATIONAL
TREE TRUST** 

Palouse pumpkin patch

By Aly Bean

Our Environmental Education program has a strong commitment to “connecting people place and community”. That is why at the end of the 2004 school year, we were very excited about our Kinder Program finale, the planting of the pumpkin patch! Each year, Kelly Riley, our Community Garden Coordinator, saves a plot near the south end of the garden just for our involved 5 and 6 year olds. The Kinder program at PCEI integrates literature, science and art into lessons on bats, owls, recycling, habitats, plants, pond studies, and water. The culmination of this 8-month program is a day at Phillip’s Farm and a day at the garden where the kindergarteners get to plant and water a pumpkin plant. Over the summer, we welcome them and their family members to take care of the garden by watering and pulling weeds throughout the summer. If you have not seen our plot at the garden yet, you will be pleased to see a lone sunflower towering over more than 20 pumpkins, and if you are lucky you will see the humming bird that enjoys the nectar of the bright yellow pumpkin flowers. For more information ask for Aly Bean at PCEI.



Above: *The Pumpkin Patch at the Moscow Community Garden. Photo: PCEI*

Meet our new office manager

Cece grew up traveling the world with her parents and six siblings. She has fond memories of building forts in the trees behind their house in Florida and playing around the rice fields of Taiwan.

After graduating from Arizona State University with a bachelor degree in Social Work, she married her husband of 20 years, Pat Vaughan. She continued traveling, mostly in Europe, with Pat and their children, Katie (16) and Henry (8), while Pat was in the Army.

They were living in the Seattle area when Pat retired from the military. He soon longed to return to his home state, Idaho. Moscow was their first choice and they fell in love with the casual town and the friendly people. They own a small organic farm on nearby Moscow Mountain.

Cece has a passion for antiques, architecture, flea markets and estate sales. She enjoys creating her own artwork in which she incorporates her pressed plant collection. Most of her specimens are gathered from the mountain around their farm. You can reach her at <cece@pcei.org>.



Cece hard at work. Photo: PCEI

Harvest EcoCuisine

By Kelly Riley

Celebrate the bountiful fall harvest season by joining us for a community EcoCuisine dinner. “The goal of EcoCuisine is to promote local growers and provide nutritional, sustainable food in a community setting. By creating a connection between growers, processors, chefs and consumers, the food system becomes localized and personalized.

This fall’s EcoCuisine dinner will be a community potluck emphasizing foods that are available locally and seasonally. A plethora of fall food includes winter squashes, apples, peppers, potatoes, greens, garlic, and tomatoes to name a few. Use your favorite recipe or try a new one! Find local produce at the Moscow Farmer’s Market, Grower’s Market, your own garden, Moscow Food Co-op and other produce locations in the community.

The evening event will take place Wednesday, October 13th, at the 1912 Center, 206 E. Third Street in Moscow. Doors will open at 6:00pm. Please bring a food item to share with serving utensil. Since we’re trying to promote local, seasonal food it would be appreciated if you would include a copy of your recipe with your dish. If you are a local grower or chef you are welcome to provide information about your farm or restaurant. Apple cider, water, coffee or tea will be provided, as will plates, napkins and utensils.

For more information please contact Kelly Riley at PCEI 882-1444 or <makeitgrow@pcei.org>.

Thanks to all of the members who donated art supplies to the education program this April. We had fun making recycled dolls with the Kindergarteners at Lena Whitmore on Art Day 2004!

Education Program Sets New Record

By Greg Fizzell

PCEI's Education Program taught 138 programs to 1,868 K-University students with over 550 hours of instructional time in the 2003-2004 school year, setting an all-time record for number of students served in a single school year. This is the equivalent of over 12 three-credit college courses! Much of the credit for this admirable effort goes to three AmeriCorps members serving at PCEI since the fall of 2003: Tiffany Cooper, Aly Bean, and Jake Smulkowski.

Here is a small snapshot of some of the programs provided this year to local schools free of charge:

Nikki Gertonson's 36 kindergarten students from McDonald Elementary and 18 Renaissance Charter School students participated in the PCEI Complete Kinder Series. The focus of this interactive program is to integrate literature, art, science, and service. Programs ranged from wildlife habitat studies to culminating activities at Phillips Farm and the Moscow Community Garden.

Pumpkins planted at the community garden will be harvested by students in the fall and donated to the Moscow Food Bank. Renaissance students participated in a trash clean-up at the Carol Ryrie Brink Nature Park. (See page 5)

Twenty-one second grade students from Lena Whitmore Elementary spent the school year learning about four different types of regional ecosystems; forest, prairie, pond, and river's edge. Students are asked to choose which ecosystem they would like to study most and are assigned to either their first or second choice. PCEI staff visits this classroom once a month at first, then biweekly for an hour to help students create a scientific poster related to their ecosystem. The "learning" phase of the program concluded with an all-day field trip that visited each ecosystem type around the region.

The second phase of this project, the service phase, occurred in May and June 2004. Students created a life-size mural of their chosen ecosystem with head-sized cutouts. They hosted a "Canoe Through Habitats" tour at the annual Moscow Renaissance Fair where visitors were pulled in a real canoe "through" each habitat mural. The canoe stops at each mural to hear an interpretive "play" that informs them about the plants, wildlife, and physical features of each ecosystem. Finally, students chose to complete a tree planting at a local restoration site to help improve a local ecosystem.

About 52 sixth grade students from Lena Whitmore Elementary spent a week at the McCall Outdoor Science School last fall learning about



Students participate in a team building activity with the PCEI Education Program. Photo: PCEI



Lena Whitmore Teacher: Rene McNally, studies macroinvertebrates. Photo: PCEI

Earth Systems Science. A spring GIS Workshop followed the intensive, residential experience and helped students compare and contrast environmental conditions in McCall to those in the Palouse Region. The GIS system is a new, high-tech, interactive tool PCEI is using to teach about watershed science. It has proven to be an excellent way to present various community issues and needs to students. The U.S. EPA Region 10 Environmental Education Grant Program funded the development of this system. Finally, students participated in what has become an annual native planting where 300 native plants were used to restore a local riparian area along Paradise Creek.

Support for PCEI's Environmental Education and Service Learning programs comes from Learn and Serve Idaho, the U.S. EPA, the National Science Foundation, the National Tree Trust, the University of Idaho, Idaho Project WET, Moscow Mardi Gras Committee, local businesses, private donors, and the PCEI membership. To learn more about PCEI Education, contact Greg Fizzell at <fizzell@pcei.org>.

Pengilly's Hutton scholarship experience

By Marie Pengilly

I first heard about the Hutton Scholarship Program through the environmental club at my high school. Sponsored by the American Fisheries Society (AFS), students work for eight weeks with a mentor in a fisheries field. By the time I decided to apply, it was almost too late and for a few crazy days I ran around trying to get recommendation letters and a transcript. I sent the application in and didn't really think about it until I got a letter months later saying I had been rejected. Disappointed, I started considering other summer jobs. Fast food places are always hiring, but other than that, there weren't many options. A few weeks later, however, a call came saying if I was still interested, there was a position for me.

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) set me up to work four full-time weeks with Kent Werlin from the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries-Watershed Division in Lapwai and four more weeks with Kajsa Stromberg from PCEI Watersheds Program. I worked with Kent first, riding the VanPool to and from Lapwai every day to observe his work. There, I helped with stream assessment programs, invasive plant control, and proposal writing to restore local streams. I especially enjoyed learning the scientific and common plant names. One day I spent 14 hours electro-fishing with a crew from the Nez Perce Tribe.

The next four weeks worked at PCEI. My tasks there included planting and watering trees at restoration sites along Paradise Creek and the South Fork Palouse River. Kajsa encouraged me to write a report about a topic of my choosing. I chose to research Marine Protected Areas so many of my afternoons were spent at the U of I Library. Kajsa and I toured the U of I Aquaculture Research Institute, the Nez Perce Fish Hatchery, and the Dworshak National Fish Hatchery. We visited Dworshak in the middle of their Chinook spawning season and they were more than happy to let us jump in and help. We extracted eggs from the females and mixed in the milt to fertilize them.

Even though I am about to begin my senior year at Moscow High School, I haven't decided yet "what I want to be when I grow up," but the Hutton Program has helped me focus and gave me the opportunity to observe different fields of work in conservation and restoration. One of the most interesting comparisons between my two mentors was the difference between a government and a nonprofit organization.

This experience has been educational and fun. I had the opportunity to meet wonderful people who are enthusiastic about what they do. I am grateful to my mentors and the people I was lucky enough to work with. I also thank my family and friends for supporting me through this challenging, fantastic summer.

Right: Marie Pengilly, Hutton Scholar and Kent Werlin from the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries-Watershed Division in Lapwai pose for a picture this summer. Photo: PCEI



Become a Member of PCEI!

Yes I want to support the

**Palouse-Clearwater
Environmental Institute**

Yes I want to renew my membership

Name _____

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Please contact me about volunteering

Please keep my membership anonymous

\$35 Basic Membership

\$75 Palouse Protector

\$150 Friends of the Palouse-Clearwater

\$15 Limited income/Student

Additional gift of \$ _____

Please direct my gift to the following program:

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please use it for _____

Mail to: PCEI POBox 8596 Moscow, ID 83843

Members wanted to serve on Watersheds program committee

If you want to get more involved in PCEI and have an interest in PCEI's Watersheds work than please consider serving on the Watersheds Program Committee. This group of staff, board members, and PCEI members will support the work of the Watersheds Program. Tasks include providing feedback to staff on policy decisions, volunteering at Watersheds Events, fundraising and much more. If you are interested, please contact board members Mary Silvernale Shook, at 882-1957 or <silvernale@moscow.com> or Shelly Gilmore at <sgilmore@turbonet.com>.

Calendar of Events (for updates, visit www.pcei.org/calendar.htm)

October 2, Saturday - Women's Wellness Forum 8am-2pm at Hamilton Indoor Rec. Center. Workshops, 10am Fun/Run, sport fashion show, healthy food samples, more. Info & registration at www.palouseroadrunners.org.

October 5, Tuesday - International Walk to School Day.

October 6-9, 13 & 14 - Sirius Idaho Theatre presents Pyretown, a new play by John Belluso at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. Tickets: \$15; \$10, seniors/students. www.ticketwest.com (800-325-SEAT)

October 9, Saturday - Friends of the Clearwater present the Wilderness Celebration to honor the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Music, guest speakers, children's activities, food vendors, and lots of fun. East City Park - Noon to sundown.

October 13, Wednesday, 6-8pm - PCEI's EcoCuisine Dinner. Join us 1912 Center to celebrate the harvest with a potluck dish made from your homegrown food, or someone else's! Call PCEI to let us know you plan to be there, 882-1444.

October 15-18 - PCEI Women's Backpacking Trip - Join the female staff members for a backpacking trip to Stanley Hot Springs. Call Aly for information, 882-1444.

November 5, Friday, 7pm - "Libby, Montana" is the next PCEI movie fundraiser at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. Join us for this stunning documentary. A true story that unfolds like a Hollywood thriller, "Libby, Montana" chronicles what the EPA calls the worst case of community-wide exposure to a toxic substance in U.S. history. Tickets are \$8 in advance (at BookPeople of Moscow) and \$10 at the door.

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Tuesdays - PCEI is the lucky recipient of the Moscow Food Co-op's 2% Tuesdays in November. Shop at the Co-op on Tuesdays in November and PCEI will receive 2% of the profits for that day. Remember to shop at the Co-op on a Tuesday to buy your Thanksgiving turkey!

**Palouse-Clearwater
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- Choices in Community Giving
- Washington Environmental Council
- United Vision for Idaho
- Western Sustainable Agriculture Working

Summer/Fall 2004!