

## Bike Pavilion Project

by Kelly Riley

With a whirlwind of activity and over 800 hours of volunteer help the new bicycle parking pavilion went from concept to reality. The project started as an independent study course for two University of Idaho Environmental Science students, Maia Hawkes and Amber Rand. They approached PCEI about an alternative building project. Kurt Rathmann and his Senior Architecture Design students jumped on board and the idea began to fly. PCEI staff and the students collaborated on the design choice. Every student played a role in both the design and construction process.

The straw bale structure with a green, living roof incorporates PCEI's goals by encouraging eco-friendly transportation and serving as an environmental education tool for the local community. The structure will be available as a long-term demonstration to inspire alternative and sustainable building practices.



*Volunteers and PCEI staff work with Kurt Rathmann on the first coat of stucco. Photo: Sara Lynd*



*Many hands make light work of all that concrete. Photo: Kelly Riley*

Materials were ordered and site excavation was underway on April 11th with volunteer Steve Streets and his tractor. Concrete was poured, framing constructed, bales hauled and stacked, bales strengthened with wire and metal lath and the first coat of stucco was applied on May 13. Stuccoing was completed by the end of May and bicycle racks will soon be installed. The green roof will be planted in conjunction with a workshop this fall.

An amazing amount of work was done in a very short time. A tremendous thank you to Kurt and all the students, community volunteers and PCEI staff that helped out in a tight spot on the stuccoing.

This exciting project is all about connecting people, place and community. So bike on out to PCEI at 1040 Rodeo Drive and check out the new Bike Pavilion - you'll have the best parking place in town!

## The Magpie Forest is Rescued!

In a recent press release, Washington State University announced that it is purchasing the Magpie Forest for conservation and research purposes. All of us at PCEI can feel proud for helping to bring this issue to the forefront of attention on the Palouse, and for aiding in the protection of a parcel of remaining native Palouse habitat.

To read more about the Magpie Forest and see the press release go to: <http://www.pcei.org/magpie.htm>.

## Educational Opportunities from PCEI are the Lifeblood of Spring Science Activities

by Renee McNally - 2nd Grade Teacher, Lena Whitmore Elementary

Educational opportunities from PCEI are the lifeblood of my spring science activities. My second graders at Lena Whitmore Elementary School engage in far more extensive research, community service projects and field trips with the assistance of the very experienced staff at PCEI than I would solely be able to offer. The Education staff at PCEI are exceptionally trained and experienced in working with teachers and children. Their programs are aligned with state standards and flexible to meet the individual needs and interests of teachers. Most of their staff members have Master's degrees and extraordinary skills in working with a wide range of children.

Here are a few examples of their assistance. They have lead field trips to a wide variety of local habitats where they taught the children how to take soil samples with a specialized auger, water quality testing, plot surveys for prairies, forests, and wetlands, observation skills using both text and diagrams, scavenger hunts for all components of a habitat, appropriate methods of reforestation, and art projects that link the aesthetic value of nature to the science necessary to understand it.

They completely understand the foundational components of research for children at all grade levels and lead learning activities that culminate in the production of research posters, reports and journals that the children are always proud of sharing with their families.

PCEI's Education Program staff lead hands on activities and experiments in the school classroom such as the dissection of owl pellets, exploration of seeds, respiration of plants, the water cycle, building of bird and bat houses, use of weather stations and cloud charts, and so much more.

They develop art, writing and math projects that integrate the science curriculum such as large painted wall murals, animal masks, plays, poems, graphs, and internet research.

I know what I appreciate just as much as all the many things I mentioned above is their presence in the classroom with the children. They are wonderful role models for our children. They always arrive prepared, conduct themselves in a professional manner and offer an enthusiasm that empowers the kids.

*Sara Lynd helps young students create beaver masks and other environmental artwork at the Moscow Renaissance Fair. Photo: PCEI.*



*With the help of our education staff, second grade students study science outdoors with their teacher Renee McNally. Photo: PCEI.*

## Environmental Educators Were Busy Bodies This Spring

by Heather Crawford Carlson

From studying the intricate adaptations of beavers, to performing an environmental service project, the youth of the Palouse have been busy with PCEI's Environmental Education (EE) Program. The EE team of Aly Bean, Jake Smulkowski, Sara Lynd and Heather Crawford Carlson has been enthusiastically organizing learning opportunities for area youth.

Jake has been teaching "Science and Service" to Mrs. Pannkuk's sixth grade at Lena Whitmore. The students focus on learning about a variety of scientists and participate in a service project incorporating natural science. As Earth Day approached, one group of sixth graders chose to build bird and bat boxes as a fundraiser, while another group worked with PCEI on a stream restoration project.

PBS's "Project Zoom" even came out to film the event!

EE staff also taught environmental art for Lena Whitmore's Art Day. We showed students how to make art from natural and recycled materials as well as the art of making recycled paper.

Out of the classroom, Sara worked with the Latah County Soil and Conservation District during Spring Valley Conservation Awareness Days. PCEI's EE group taught 6th graders of the Palouse about macro invertebrates through a hands-on study.

The EE team has also collaborated with teachers from Orofino and Lewiston to serve their Environmental Education needs.

We are looking forward to summer programs with Adventure Club and Upward Bound. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact Aly Bean at <bean@pcei.org>, or call us at 882-1444.

## Lewiston Students Explore Watersheds

by Carrie Caselton- Biology Teacher Lewiston High School

To culminate a month long study of water, the Lewiston High School Environmental Science class spent a day at a PCEI restoration site along the South Fork of the Palouse River. Other participating organizations were the Nez Perce Fisheries Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and University of Idaho Rangeland Department. Amidst the wind and cold temperatures, the students tested water chemistry, surveyed macroinvertebrate diversity, evaluated the affects of land use on watersheds, appraised how water is utilized in our society, and planted 100 trees! The PCEI Environmental Education and Watershed Programs, as well as all the participating organizations, deserve a huge "Thank You" for all of the time and energy they spent in helping the LHS teachers plan for the trip.



*Lewiston High School students observe as Ken Hobson explains the importance of watersheds and the tree planting process. Photo: PCEI*



*Volunteers work hard to rescue our native camas on a beautiful afternoon. Photo: PCEI*

## Camas Saved from Destruction!

by Ken Hobson

Thanks to the help and support of over 100 volunteers, approximately 25,000 camas plants were saved from eminent destruction this spring. The Idaho Transportation Department's Highway 95 expansion project threatened one of the few remaining large camas populations near Genesee, Idaho. Local volunteers and community organizations rallied to help PCEI salvage this beautiful, culturally important, and special native Palouse plant species.

Salvaged camas are being nurtured at the PCEI Native Flora Nursery until their new homes are ready for them this fall. The camas bulbs will be reestablished at many different restoration projects across the Palouse, including projects of PCEI, the Nez Perce and Couer d'Alene tribes, Palouse Prairie Foundation, and those of several local community members. Some of the camas has even been included in the National Germplasm System to save this genetic resource indefinitely.

There is a lot of work yet to be done before the camas are safe and secure in their new homes, so please get involved if you would like to help. Come out this summer and help water, dig and separate bulbs, and then again in the fall we could use your help getting the camas bulbs planted at their new homes. To find out more about the Save the camas Project, visit [www.pcei.org/water/camas](http://www.pcei.org/water/camas).

Thanks again to everyone who helped and continue to work with us in this exciting effort to protect and save the camas!



*Transplanted camas blooms decorate the PCEI property. Photo: PCEI*

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).

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper with 30% post-consumer content.

## PCEI Photo Album



*Dave Peckham collects & fixes bikes for the Village Bicycle Project at Ren Fair. Photo: PCEI*



*Eric Carpenter of the McCall Outdoor Science School helps a child maneuver the ropes course at the Ren Fair. Photo: PCEI*



*PCEI staff Randy & Ciara serve up a "berry blast" at the Ren Fair booth! Photo: PCEI*



*A hiker cruises under a magpie nest in the Magpie Forest in Pullman. Photo: PCEI*



*Local girls scouts plant seeds for the watershed nursery. Photo: PCEI.*



*PCEI member Bob Thyberg, of Moscow, walked from his home at the Clark House to pay his annual membership dues.. He completed the walk in 50 minutes. Bob worked up to the trip with shorter walks in the neighborhood. Photo: Tom Lamar*

## Volunteer of the Season

by Ciara Cusak

Jessica Tubbs is originally from Malad, Idaho, which is a small town in the very southeastern corner of the state. She attended Utah State University in Logan, Utah and graduated in December 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Apparel and Textiles with a Marketing minor. Jessica then continued on for a Master's degree in Human Resource Management/Social Sciences. She finished her Master's in May 2004.

Jessica has been living in Moscow since August 2004 when she moved here so her husband, Kyle, could start his first year of medical school at the University of Washington through the WWAMI program. She is currently working as a legal secretary for John Norton as well as being a dedicated PCEI volunteer.

Jessica decided to volunteer at PCEI because she was new to Moscow and was looking for opportunities to meet people and to get involved in the community. She came across PCEI's website and was really excited about all the volunteer opportunities available. She then emailed PCEI and since January has been helping out in the Watersheds Program.

Sadly, Jessica will be leaving us at the end of June, when she and her husband will be packing up their cozy, little apartment and moving to Seattle so her husband can continue his schooling. We will miss Jessica's enthusiasm and hard work at PCEI and wish her and her husband all the best with their move. Thanks Jessica!!!

## PCEI's Wish List

- Measuring cups/spoons
- Kitchen knife sharper
- Small tractor with implements
- Large dry erase board
- Working lawnmowers
- GPS Unit
- Used bricks
- 5 plastic office floor mats
- Laptop computer (MAC)
- 8 x 11 laminator sheets



*"I have had a lot of fun volunteering at PCEI. Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming. Volunteering here has really opened up a whole new world to me I had never even heard of a watershed before January! You guys do a lot great work and are a real asset to the community," says Jessica Tubbs. Photo: Tracy Brown*

## Stream Cleanups, April 2005



*Bret Hart hands out trash bags as volunteers prepare to clean-up our streams. Photo: PCEI*



*Volunteers collected 1,140 pounds of refuse from local water sources. What a successful event! Photo: Tom Lamar*



*Helpers load up trucks of garbage collected from Missouri Flat Creek at the clean-up in Pullman. Photo: PCEI*

## Annual Stream Cleanup Rallies Community

by Angie Kenney, Volunteer from Pullman, Washington

I originally signed up for the Pullman Creek Clean Up to help the environment. What I got was something more. I signed up by myself, and arrived not knowing a single person. It took a while to find the actual "starting place" for the clean up, but when I did I was greeted by smiles. Although these smiles came with arms extending gloves and garbage bags my direction, they were genuine and sincere. It was a momentous event to rally the locals in the name of the environment at such a large scale, and we all sensed it.

I noticed groups of children, a cub-scout troop, teenagers, college students, adults of all ages and city employees. We all worked together to pull out what seemed like an endless supply of plastic bags, fast-food cups, old tires, aluminum cans and lumber. We climbed through dense brush, waded through the creek and lurked around railroad structures scrounging for every last bit of garbage. After five hours of dirty work, there was a sorting party complete with pizza and beverages.

The collected trash was sorted into categories so that it could then be recycled. I was amazed to see how much garbage had accumulated in a creek that I see every day. Every single piece of garbage collected was something that was just carelessly tossed aside for someone else to pick up, only it took a long time for that someone to come along. People don't seem to realize that those little things add up in a big way, and over time can cause serious detriments to those who depend on the health of the river.

Overall, the cleanup event was a huge success and I had a great time. You could tell by the giant piles of garbage scattered along the trail that we had all worked hard. I was delighted to see so many members of the community pitching in to help the environment. It is not often that you see people enjoying themselves while volunteering their Saturday afternoon to pick up other people's garbage. Although I arrived alone, I left with a notion that I had gained new friends and that I'm not the only who cares about that little river that we all take for granted every day.



*Randy Stevens, AmeriCorps member, displays the 2005 Pullman Mayor's Award, which PCEI received because of Randy's efforts in organizing the 1st Annual Pullman Stream Cleanup. Photo: Cece Connors*

## Earth Day 2005



*University of Idaho students train to teach Moscow children watershed restoration & tree planting for Earth Day. Photo: Tom Lamar*



*Russell Elementary students planted nearly 600 trees on Earth Day! Photo: PCEI*



*Jake Smulkowski demonstrates how a bat box functions. To celebrate Earth Day, Moscow students helped make the boxes. Photo: PCEI*



*PCEI staff and board plant Douglas-fir trees after affirming our vision and commitment for open space protection.  
Photo: PCEI*

## What's Going on at the Rodeo Property?

by Tom Lamar

There are many exciting projects happening here at our new home this summer and into the autumn. We have just completed our bike parking facility, so now it's on to accommodating car parking, building wheelchair access, and constructing additional restroom facilities among other important projects. You can see progress of our exciting projects by visiting our website at <[www.pcei.org/rodeo.htm](http://www.pcei.org/rodeo.htm)>. Of course, we need your help to make many of these projects happen. We will be continuing our capital campaign throughout this year to raise the necessary funds to meet our goals. So far, more than \$218,000 has been raised in cash and in-kind support toward the \$500,000 goal. These are some of our planned projects you can help us accomplish:

- Permeable pavement parking area
- Composting restroom facility
- Accessible ramps and walkways
- Reception pavilion
- Completion of office space in Waxwing building
- Wood garage recycling
- Wetland cells and swales
- Pond enhancement
- Access drive to nursery and storage sheds
- Nursery development & greenhouse
- Rainwater catchment system for buildings
- Greywater system
- Landscape for buildings and parking area
- Ropes course
- Improvements to Perrine House
- Covered walk around Waxwing building
- Replace electrical line with underground line

For more information on contributing to the campaign contact Tom Lamar at <[lamar@pcei.org](mailto:lamar@pcei.org)>, or call him at 882-1444

## Volunteer Opportunities at PCEI:

- Vehicle maintenance
- Yard maintenance: mowing
- Recycling steward
- Fence building
- Reinforcing outbuildings/outbuilding construction (doors, framing, etc.)
- Electric wiring in outbuildings
- Basement organizing
- Watershed restoration site steward
- Restoration site monitoring
- Watersheds program planning committee
- Amphibian surveying and trapping
- Gardening
- Compost specialist
- Office phones and reception

To help, e-mail our new Volunteer Coordinator, Aly Bean at <[bean@pcei.org](mailto:bean@pcei.org)> or call her at 882-1444

## Weeds and Needs

Weeds are flourishing this spring at the Moscow Community Garden and at PCEI's new Pantry Garden. We're looking for a few volunteers that can help out in the community areas of the garden. Tasks include weeding, watering, weeding, planting, weeding, turning compost, weeding, - you get the idea. Some gardening experience is helpful but enthusiasm is most appreciated. We're also in need of a mechanical type person who can keep our lawnmower and rototillers running and repair wheelbarrows and tools.

If you are able to lend a hand at any of these tasks please contact Kelly Riley at PCEI 882-1444 or e-mail her at <[makeitgrow@pcei.org](mailto:makeitgrow@pcei.org)>.

The Moscow Community Garden is located at 1023 West C Street, across the street from the Emmanuel Lutheran Church that generously allows us the use of the land. The Pantry Garden is located on the grounds of PCEI's new home at 1040 Rodeo Drive.



*AmeriCorps Volunteers help out at the Community Garden last year. Come out and join us!  
Photo: Kelly Riley*

## From the Board of Directors:

by Pat Vaughan

Hi, I'm your current President on our volunteer Board of Directors for PCEI. Spring has sprung on the Palouse! And with the new green growth and colorful blooms has come a busy season of activity for PCEI: Earth Day, Renaissance Fair, Open House and a myriad of education and habitat improvement tasks.

Are you an area college student interested in a resume-enhancing experience with the best environmental education and advocacy nonprofit in the region? Ask Tom Lamar, me, or any director or staff member about volunteering on the board for a year. We want to continue the tradition of having a student trustee position on our board. Erin Manderville, our departing University of Idaho student and PCEI board member, is headed to the West Coast; many thanks to Erin for her service and friendship.

Please mark down September 1st on your calendars for the PCEI Annual Membership Celebration. We will have a social event on our new campus, install new directors on the board, and report to the membership on our annual goals. Most of all, we will have A LOT of FUN and GREAT FOOD on a beautiful late-summer evening.

## Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

by Lauren Giebler, NWSA-PCC AmeriCorps Member



*Lauren Giebler is an AmeriCorps member placed by PCEI and serving with the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge as an Environmental Educator. She just completed her Community Action Project in Nampa and is looking forward to serving a 2nd term with the refuge in 2005-06. Pictured here with team members Jeremy McMullin and Troy Bingham. Photo: DFNWR*

After almost 4 months of hard labor, creative financial planning, and a constantly evolving design, my Community Action Project is finally finished. The 10' x 12' observation platform stands 4 feet off of the ground, is accessible by a 50 foot ramp and without question provides the best view of Lake Lowell and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge in Nampa, Idaho.

When I originally decided to take on the project in early December 2004 I only had 3 things going for me: 1. I had never built anything in my life (does 7th grade shop class even count?) 2. I had no idea how to develop a blue print of what I wanted and 3. I had no funding. Deer Flat NWR solved the funding problem with a generous donation and also recommended I ask the Southwest Idaho Birder's Association for support. My blue print (and volunteer labor) problems were solved when I partnered with students from the Boise State University Construction Management Program. The students became the "project managers" and were in charge of design, material lists, finding volunteers and the actual construction. I became the "project owner" and was in charge of financing, buying, organizing, and public relations. As for my complete lack of skill with anything even related to construction, all I can say is 1. Always go for the 18-volt cordless drill, 2. If you don't know, ASK, and 3. Someone telling you they are "pretty sure" they know what they are doing is completely different from them actually knowing.

All in all I think the entire project was a great success and a true testament to the potential of ideas. I really didn't know what I was getting into in the beginning, but by building partnerships, asking a lot of questions, and maintaining a flexible, positive attitude this project proved to be one of the most rewarding tasks I have ever undertaken.

## Become a Member of PCEI!

Yes I want to support the

**Palouse-Clearwater  
Environmental Institute**

Yes I want to renew my membership

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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:

Environmental Education

Community Garden

Watersheds

VanPool/Transportation

Endowment gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Capital campaign gift for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

please use it for \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: PCEI P.O. Box 8596 Moscow, ID 83843

## Thank You from PCEI

Get out your magnifying glass... we have a lot of people to thank for all of the help we have received in the past few month. Thanks to:

Frank Albrecht, Plate Project donors, PCEI Board Members, Brenda Von Wandruszka, Cheri Elms of ITD Boise, Moscow Food Co-op, Vicki Reich, Columbia Paint, Cutting Edge Signs, Connie Driver, Jeff Blatt, Sandy Klingler, Kurt Rathmann & his UI students, Lizette Fife, Patty's Kitchen, Domino's Pizza, Papa John's Pizza, Branegan's Pizza, Pizza Perfection, Steve Streets, Mike Forbes, Gritman Hospital, John's Alley, Heidi Hefferman, Matt Kitterman, Katie Gilbert, Latah Health Services, MaryJanesFarm, Doug McFall, Mikey's Gyros, Moscow School District, Chris Sokol, Walter Steed, Sharon Plemmons & Moscow Staples, Nell Tobias, Wine Company of Moscow, Liz Sullivan, Dodi Dozier, Mary Voxman, Kenton Bird, Roger Hayes, BJ Swanson, The Evergreen Foundation, Cindi Jette, WINCO, Casa Lopez, Ren Fair volunteers, Lewis Clark Service Corps, JJ Building Supply, Moscow Building Supply, Learn and Serve Idaho, National Tree Trust, Latah County Commissioners, Moscow Parks & Rec, City of Moscow, Latah Sanitation, Moscow Recycling, Moscow Safeway, Employees of Pullman Starbucks, Latah Youth Services, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Pizza Pipeline, Burger King, Pullman Parks & Rec, Poe Asphalt, YCC International, WSU students, WSU CSLC, UI Civic Education Project, and Tamara Bean.

## Calendar of Events (updates/info at <[www.pcei.org/calendar.htm](http://www.pcei.org/calendar.htm)>)

June 2,9,16,23,30- MAMBA/PCEI women's mountain bike ride (every Thursday- meet at Rosauer's in Moscow at 6pm to carpool) For more information email <[bean@pcei.org](mailto:bean@pcei.org)>.

June 11, Saturday- Skyline Drive and McCrosky State Park field trip through various forest ecosystems- will view many species of wildflowers. Meet at Rosauer's at 9am to carpool. For more information see our website or contact Fred Johnson at 882-2036 or <[fjohnson@uidaho.edu](mailto:fjohnson@uidaho.edu)>.

June 15, Wednesday- PCEI board meeting- 1040 Rodeo Dr.

June 20, Monday-- PCEI programming with Moscow School District Adventure Club begins

June 23-25- Environmental Education Association of Washington (EEAW) Conference- Vancouver, WA

June 25, Saturday- PCEI Nursery workday; potting seedlings

July 2-3, Saturday, Sunday- MaryJanesFarm Days

July 9, Saturday- PCEI Nursery workday- digging camas bulbs

July 20, Wednesday- PCEI board meeting- 1040 Rodeo Dr.

July 30, Saturday- Paradise Creek workday - maintenance & watering

July 7,14,21,28- MAMBA/PCEI women's mountain bike ride (every Thursday- meet at Rosauer's in Moscow at 6pm to carpool) For more information email <[bean@pcei.org](mailto:bean@pcei.org)>.

July 21-22, Thurs./Fri.- Rendezvous for Kids at East City Park

August 4,11,18,25- MAMBA/PCEI women's mountain bike ride (every Thursday- meet at Rosauer's in Moscow at 6pm to carpool) For more information email <[bean@pcei.org](mailto:bean@pcei.org)>.

August 7, Sunday- PCEI Second Annual women's mountain bike clinic I/II

August 17, Wednesday- PCEI board meeting- 1040 Rodeo Dr.

August 27, Saturday- PCEI Second Annual mountain bike clinic II/II

September 1, Thursday- PCEI Annual Membership Celebration

September 21, Wednesday-PCEI board meeting-1040 Rodeo Dr.

October 4, Tuesday- 5th Annual Watershed Festival

**Palouse-Clearwater  
Environmental Institute**  
PO Box 8596 Moscow, ID 83843

**Return Service Requested**

*PCEI is a member organization of:*

- *Washington State Combined Fund Drive*
- *Choices in Community Giving*
- *Washington Environmental Council*
- *United Vision for Idaho*
- *Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group*
- *River Network*
- *Moscow Chamber of Commerce*
- *Pullman Chamber of Commerce*

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