

ENVIRONMENTAL news

Palouse - Clearwater Environmental Institute

Save the Magpie Forest!

By Renee Breedlove and Nathan Queener

Imagine yourself transported back in time, hundreds of years. Your time machine lands in the middle of a Palouse micro-forest. Amidst the waving bunchgrass and wildflowers there are shrubby thickets of douglas hawthorn in the wet draws, streamsides, and north-facing hilltops. The multitude of birds, small scurrying mammals, and diverse array of vegetation would likely amaze you.

For better or worse in 2003, the bunchgrass and hawthorn thickets have given way to our houses, farms, yards and roads. Less than one percent of the native habitat in the Palouse region remains intact. One of the largest pieces of remnant Palouse vegetation is the Magpie Forest; 14 acres of mostly hawthorn on a hilltop, a stone's throw away from Pullman, Washington. Douglas hawthorn is one of the most valuable native species on the Palouse. Birds nest in its branches and eat the plump purple berries, furry creatures find shelter in its thickets, and the strong roots hold the soil securely in place.

For years, the Magpie Forest has sheltered birds such as mountain quail, morning doves, and great horned owls. Two extremely rare Palouse wildflowers, the ladyslipper orchid, and the Palouse milk-vetch live in the forest understory. Kids, adults, and deer flock to the Magpie Forest for recreation and relaxation.

However, the Magpie Forest could soon look like any other hilltop in the Pullman area. The land is privately owned, and the developer has begun to section and sell lots for houses adjacent to the forest, but has agreed to sell the forest to PCEI if the money can be raised to buy it. Prime real estate like this does not come cheap! A minimum of \$100,000 is needed to cover the initial purchase price, maintenance, insurance, and taxes. If the purchase price were raised, the forest would be placed under a conservation easement and managed as a natural area for wildlife and education.

The Magpie Forest is one of a kind. There is no other natural area on the Palouse so close to a major town. Its proximity makes it doubly valuable to Pullman residents who use it for activities such as bird watching, hiking and picnicking. Will this amazing piece of living Palouse natural history turn into Kentucky Bluegrass, asphalt, and three-car garages, or will it remain a magical bit of wildness in our backyard?

About 1/5 of the money needed to purchase the Forest has already been raised. PCEI is actively working with the Pullman Civic Trust, the Palouse Land Trust, the Palouse Prairie Foundation and private donors to raise the remaining funds. You too could help to preserve the Magpie Forest. If you would like to donate either your time or a gift, please contact Tom Lamar at 208-882-1444 or lamar@pcei.org. You can view pictures, read more about the forest, or download a pledge form from our website, www.pcei.org. For more information or a field trip, contact Renee Breedlove at 208-882-6442 or renewsu@hotmail.com.



The rare Cypripedium montanum (ladyslipper orchid) as seen at the Magpie Forest north of Pullman, Washington. You can help protect this treasure and other plants and animals with a pledge to help purchase the Forest. Photo: Richard Old.

West Nile Virus and Wetlands

By Nathan Queener

Originally from Africa, West Nile Virus (WNV) was first detected in the U.S. in New York City in 1999. The virus is carried by birds and spread by mosquitoes, and is remarkable among mosquito-borne diseases for its ability to survive in cool, temperate climates. Cases of West Nile have now been documented in 45 states. Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii have no documented cases of the virus.

WNV does pose a human health risk. Most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not become ill, although some may experience a mild fever, headaches and body aches. Less than one percent of those people infected with WNV will suffer serious complications such as inflammation of the brain or paralysis. In severe cases, WNV infection can even lead to death, so avoiding mosquito bites is recommended.

One approach to reducing the risk from WNV has been to reduce available mosquito habitat. Everyone knows that mosquitoes breed in standing, stagnant water. But does all standing, stagnant water breed prodigious quantities of mosquitoes?

As part of our Paradise Creek restoration efforts, PCEI has constructed a number of shallow water (<3 ft. deep) wetlands in and around Moscow. While wetlands were once common in the draws and meadows of the Palouse, urban and agricultural development have made natural wetlands rare. Besides providing habitat for numerous animal species, wetlands improve water quality by filtering out sediment and nutrients, and act as water storage in spring, reducing flooding. A question commonly asked of the PCEI watershed staff this year has been "aren't you just creating mosquito habitat with those wetlands?"

Mosquitoes do live in wetlands. However, they are much more common in other standing water, such as old tires, drainage ditches, and clogged gutters. These stagnant waters promote mosquito reproduction by not hosting mosquito predators. Unlike insects with longer life cycles, mosquito larvae can grow and develop in very low quality. Healthy wetlands, with a diversity of plant species, host substantial populations of backswimmers, dragonflies and damselflies, amphibians, birds, and bats, all of which eat substantial quantities of mosquitoes. According to the *Idaho Fish and Game Department*, one bat can eat over a thousand mosquito-sized insects in an hour. In a study conducted by the *US Fish and Wildlife Service*, mosquito populations dropped by 90% following the restoration of a 1,500 acre wetland which had previously been ditched and drained.

Of course, wetlands will always still host some mosquitoes, but they are extremely unlikely to be WNV-carrying mosquitoes. Although there are hundreds of species of mosquitoes worldwide, only a few, of the genus *Culex*, are the primary carriers of West Nile Virus. *Culex spp.*, known as 'container', 'house', or 'filth' mosquitoes thrive in stagnant, organically rich water that accumulates in old tires, bird-baths, and other inadvertent mosquito habitat around the home. Most wetlands are too wet, have higher quality water, and are subject to too great a fluctuation in water level to suit these mosquito species.

We've gone batty!

Want to attract some of those insect-eating bats to your property? Join the PCEI Watersheds staff for a bat box-building workshop on November 8th, from 10am-1pm. All materials and tools provided. Location to be announced. Cost: \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members, materials included for one bat box for each participant. Visit our website <www.pcei.org> or call 208-882-1444 for more information or to register.



Youth participants in the summer adventure club program at Phillips Farm build and paint bat boxes with AmeriCorps member, Ian MacLead. Photo: PCEI.

West Nile Virus has not yet found its way to Idaho. When, or if it does, it is important to remember that the risk from the disease remains very small and very few mosquitoes (less than 1%) are infected with WNV. The best defense against WNV is eliminating stagnant water around the home and wearing long sleeves and mosquito repellent when in areas with high mosquito populations. On the Palouse, maintaining and restoring water quality, and healthy wetlands, will actually help reduce the threat of West Nile Virus.

For more information on West Nile Virus, wetlands, and practical ways to reduce the threat of exposure to the virus, see the following websites: the *Centers for Disease Control* <www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>, *Montana Department of Health and Human Services* "West Nile Virus: wetlands and Waterways" <www.dphhs.state.mt.us/news/west_nile_virus/wnv_wetlands_final.htm>.

What's going on? Excavators in the creek?

By Amanda Cronin

What is PCEI doing with big excavators in Paradise Creek? Good question. During the summer when the creek is reduced to a trickle and rain is a long way off, we get to work restoring stream channels, banks, and wetlands. Earthmoving is the first step with most of our restoration projects. Typical characteristics of degraded streams in our area include steep eroding streambanks, wide flat channels, straightened reaches, lack of streamside vegetation and little or no functional floodplain. Using local contractors, we stabilize streambanks by decreasing the slope, creating narrow low flow channels and enhancing functional floodplain. We also excavate to restore historic wetland areas within the creek's floodplain and in association with tributaries to the creek. Seven projects are planned for construction this summer season.

As of mid August 2003, we have completed four of these projects. Within the City of Moscow, three wetlands were created in connection with a Paradise Creek tributary that flows through Jeanne Leffingwell and James Reid's backyard. These three wetlands are designed to filter stormwater runoff from the surrounding urban area, provide habitat for wildlife and improve water quality of the tributary, especially with regard to nonpoint source pollutants: temperature, sediment, nutrients and bacteria. Out of town, three



A new channel and wetlands are created in this tributary of Paradise Creek to improve habitat and water quality. Photo: PCEI.

larger wetland benches were constructed on property owned by Lahde and Mike Forbes. These wetland areas will trap sediment from surrounding agricultural fields, provide wildlife habitat and filter

animal waste runoff from a neighboring property. Eventually, the restored wetlands will have a positive effect on the water quality of the mainstem of Paradise Creek as well. In addition to these two projects, PCEI helped construct a hardened rock crossing for horses on Oz and Virginia Garton's property north of Moscow, and excavated a 1,300 foot section of previously cultivated stream channel. Also planned for construction this summer season is a 2,800 foot section of the South Fork of the Palouse River, stabilizing a 100 foot section of streambank within the City of Moscow and restoring floodplain and stream channel on an additional 700 feet of creek channel north of Moscow.

Construction is only the first step in restoration. Fall means the beginning of planting season and we are gearing up to plant more plants than ever before! We primarily rely on volunteers for the planting of 1000's of native trees and shrubs. We can use the help of individual volunteers or groups almost any day of the week, and we are currently recruiting for two big community planting days. Mark your calendars for September 27th and October 11th. If you would like to schedule an additional planting day for your club or organization, let us know! Contact Amanda, Watershed Program Coordinator to volunteer this fall: (208) 882-1444. See you on the creek!



An excavator creates a rock horse crossing for horses north of Moscow, helping to stabilize the streambank and prevent erosion. 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).

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Elvis Says, "Join the PCEI VanPool, Thank You Very Much"

by Polly Fulford

Are you commuting back and forth to work? Are you tired of people riding your tail, having to get gas, changing your oil, or paying high parking rates? Are you just weary from the long commute, twice a day, five days a week, 52 weeks a year? Join the riders of the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) VanPool and have all of your problems solved! Just think of all of the things you can do while being driven to work...daydream, plan your day, read, nap, make new friends, or just relax!

The VanPool provides environmental benefits as well as personal advantages. In one year, the PCEI vans saved 4,000 gallons of fuel by reducing vehicle miles traveled from just 12 regular commuters. The vans help reduce air pollution while promoting sustainable transportation opportunities. You can take advantage of pre-tax rideshare money available through the federal government for participating in a rideshare program to commute to work.

Current VanPool routes include Moscow to Lewiston and Lewiston to Moscow with a stop in Genesee and Moscow to Lapwai via Troy. All routes are currently running but need more riders. The Moscow to Lewiston route is in need of a driver and two back up drivers. Drivers of vans with 8 or more passengers ride for free!

Watch for Elvis and the Hot Flashes in the VanPool commercials on KLEW TV! Even The King has been sighted riding the VanPool! Please contact Polly Fulford at polly@pcei.org or 882-1444 for more information. We look forward to you riding with us!



The fabulous Hot Flashes show off one of the PCEI Vans. Photo: Elvis.

Autumn Planting Awareness

By Sara Robson

Autumn may not be the first season that comes to mind when considering a native planting scheme. However, fall planting and seeding can be prosperous! Most plants native to the Palouse go dormant in the winter, but their roots continue to grow. The autumn climate allows plants to mature without the strain of summer heat and severe water stress. Planting in this season allows native vegetation to slowly adjust to the winter weather, which ultimately yields hardy, Palouse adapted plants. Fall planting may also serve as a natural deterrent to springtime weed invasion through competition for nutrients and water and space.

Palouse native plant resources

Wildlife Habitat Institute
Princeton, Idaho
208-875-2500
wild@potlatch.com

Plants of the Wild
Tekoa, Washington
509-284-2848
<www.plantsofthewild.com>

Prairie Bloom Nursery
Pullman, Washington
509-332-4425

UI Forest Research Nursery
Moscow, Idaho
208-885-3888
<seedlings.uidaho.com>

Trees, shrubs, perennial forbs and grasses can be planted from the middle of August to early November. A general rule of thumb is: if the ground isn't frozen, plants can handle it. Grasses are a little trickier than woody plants and should be seeded onto bare, weed free ground. The seed can be mixed with a cover crop such as wheat or rye, and should be raked into the soil for better germination.

For optimal germination and root development, keep in mind that fall plantings require irrigation. It is true the air and soil temperatures are mild compared to summertime, but without water the plants will struggle (particularly in drought years).

Native Palouse species that thrive when planted in the fall include quaking aspen, douglas hawthorne, common snowberry, nootka rose and camas. Native grasses that do especially well when seeded in the fall are tufted hairgrass, Idaho fescue, and junegrass.

Information regarding specific plants, is available at the National Plants Database on line at <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Palouse Prairie Foundation found at <www.palouseprairie.org/plants>, and soon this database will be linked on our website <www.pcei.org>. For specific planting guidelines check out the local chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society at <www.idahonativeplants.org>, or give us a call at 882-1444. Happy Native planting!



Camas blooming this summer after being planted by Moscow and Lapwai school children last fall. Photo: PCEI.

Wa-ter•shed n. A land area from which water drains.

Wa-ter•shed fes•ti•val n. A fun, hands-on learning event for 4th graders.

by Tiffany Cooper

Roughly 200 4th graders will join PCEI on September 30, 2003 to learn about the Paradise Creek Watershed at the 3rd Annual Paradise Creek Watershed Festival. The festival is sponsored by *Idaho Project WET* and coordinated by PCEI's education program. This year's festival will take place at PCEI's new restoration site along the South Fork of the Palouse River.

Students from local elementary schools will spend either their morning or afternoon rotating through five 30-minute stations at the festival. Stations are facilitated by local professionals and represent many aspects of our local watershed.

In the Macroinvertebrate Monitoring station students learn about bioassessment by using macroinvertebrates as an indicator of water quality. The session, led by John Pfeifer,

from *EcoAnalysts, Inc.*, will actively

engage the students by having them identify insects from the creek using field guides and microscopes.

Groundwater and the water cycle is the focus for the station facilitated by Lisa Stratford. Here, students learn about the origin and destination of Moscow's water and how to conserve it.

Riparian Wildlife, by *Idaho Fish and Game*, is the 3rd station where students look at animal pelts and bones while learning about the animals that depend on Paradise Creek for survival.

At the festival, students will also be able to exercise their creative side while they work on murals about the water cycle. Finally to round out their experience, students will get a little dirty, use shovels to dig holes and plant native trees and shrubs. They will also learn about reasons to restore Paradise Creek and the importance of planting native plants in the riparian area. Amanda Cronin, Sara Robson and Ken Hobson, from PCEI watershed program, will lead the group planting.

We are excited about this year's festival and would like to give thanks in advance to students for helping to plant native trees and shrubs in the Palouse. Additionally, we would like to thank all the people who have promised their time, energy and/or equipment to help to make the Third Annual Water Festival a success again this year.



Many of these plants were planted in the 2002 Watershed festival. Photo:PCEI.



Fourth grade girls look at stream insects during the 2002 watershed Festival. Photo: PCEI.

Paradise Creek Restoration Projects Tour and Hot Chocolate Social!

Join PCEI watersheds program staff for a tour of some of our 38 Paradise Creek restoration sites. View new wildlife habitat, wetlands and flourishing riparian areas along the creek that you never knew existed. Meet at the east end of the Latah County Fairgrounds at 1pm on October 17th. Afterwards, at 3pm celebrate the completion of our new restoration site across from the fairgrounds (near the intersection of White Ave and Mountain View Road) with some scrumptious hot chocolate! Both the tour and the social are free and open to the public. For more information contact: Amanda Cronin (208) 882-1444 or <cronin@pcei.org>.

It pays to work with PCEI

Former PCEI High School Intern, Erin Manderville, is continuing her love for the environment with the Associated Students of the University of Idaho as Director of Environmental Responsibility. This new ASUI position enables Erin to work with UI facilities and the community to make the UI as environmentally sound as possible. If you have concerns or ideas for Erin to work on at the UI, please e-mail her at erinm@sub.uidaho.edu.

Winged Migration on the Palouse

By Theo Mbabaliye

Friday, September 26, 2003 at the Kenworthy (The award-winning movie by Jacques Perrin).



Every spring and fall, birds wing across the skies, seas, and earth migrating to places around the world. For four years, more than 450 people, including 17 pilots and 14 cinematographers followed migrating birds to forty countries covering the seven continents. The result of the amazing photography and the birds themselves is a must see award-winning movie: *Winged Migration*.



The film covers landscapes that range from the Eiffel Tower and Monument Valley to the remote reaches of the Arctic and the Amazon. With the sponsorship of the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute and the Palouse Audubon Society, this breathtaking movie will be at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre in downtown Moscow on September 26, 2003. A no-host bar will be set up by *The Alehouse* (*Coeur d'Alene Brewing Co.*) starting at 7pm, with the movie getting underway at 8pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door or \$8 in advance. Advance tickets will be available at PCEI, *Book People of Moscow*, *Brused Books* in Pullman, and from PCEI and Palouse Audubon Society board members. Thank you to our movie sponsors: *The Alehouse/Coeur d'Alene Brewing Company*, *Insty-Prints*, *Machine Language*, *RDesign*, *Palouse Travel*, *Cutting Edge*, *D8*, *Potting Shed Creations*, and the *Idaho Department of Fish and Game non-game program*. Visit our events calendar at <www.pcei.org> for a link to a movie review, and then come enjoy an evening of wild adventure.

"I found myself blown away! One of the most amazing films I've seen."

-Marshall Fine, *Gannett Newspapers*

"One of the most beautiful films to come out this year! Audiences are left with awe!"

-Claudia Purg, *USA Today*

"Breathtaking! 'Winged Migration' transports you to an exalted realm!"

-Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*

"A movie miracle! It soars!"

-Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

UI and WSU Employees: Workplace Giving Season Is Here

By Mary Silvernale Shook

Fall is a time that most companies and government agencies run a workplace giving campaign and this is your chance to help the environment.

What are the advantages of giving through payroll deduction?

- Convenience: You can accomplish all your charitable giving for the year in one fast, convenient session.
- More Money! By spreading out your gift over the year, you tend to give more than if you gave a one-time gift.
- Low-cost, efficient fundraising: Workplace giving campaigns have some of the lowest costs associated with raising funds.
- Your dollar goes farther: designating your gift to PCEI means that we also receive a larger share of the undesignated funds as well.

How Can You Give?

- If you work for Washington State University or other agencies in Washington State Government, you can give to PCEI through the Combined Fund Drive. Our code number is 704 000.
- If you work for University of Idaho, you can give to PCEI through Choices in Community Giving.
- If you work for a company with a United Way campaign, look for the donor designation or choice section. Fill in PCEI and our address.

How Can You Help?

- Make a pledge through your workplace giving campaign and talk with other co-workers about why you support PCEI.
- Check the box on the pledge form requesting an acknowledgement so we know who you are and can thank you. Otherwise, we will most likely not see your name.
- Hand out PCEI literature to interested co-workers.
- Request a PCEI speaker for your charity kickoff, rally or staff meeting.
- Call the office for more ideas.

Thank you to the many past donors who have supported the environment through workplace giving! Your donation makes a difference!

Garden Gatherings

By Kelly Riley

The Moscow Community Garden is approaching the harvest moon of its fourth season. Productive and rewarding for some, challenging and enlightening for others, the season was a success in the continuing cultivation and improvement of the garden.



On a Saturday in April, 57 UI students, Girls Scouts, and others converged on the garden in a frenzy of activity for "Green It and Clean It Day". Photo: Kelly Riley.

The spring started with many returning and new gardeners attending orientations and leasing their plots. There were a few changes in the garden plans resulting in thirty-seven spaces for individual gardens. All the available plots were leased this season and there were a few late requests for plots resulting in a waiting list for next season.

Volunteer participation began in March with a crew of Whitman College Students on their spring break. They made a big dent in cleaning up some old lumber piles and mulching trees. On a Saturday in April, 57 UI students, Girls Scouts, and PCEI staff and friends converged on the garden in a frenzy of activity for "Green It and Clean It Day". Andriy Polovskyy, a PCEI intern, worked diligently this summer on a variety of garden projects. Early June an AmeriCorps team of twelve arrived and devoted 4 hours a week to weeding, watering, planting, building and hauling. Other individual volunteers and many of the gardeners have generously given their time to the garden. The result of over 500 hours of labor can be seen in new compost bins, weed bins, a lean-to, and colorful flowerbeds. The reduction in weeds and debris piles is improving the garden aesthetically and functionally. Many people experienced the sense of community that develops when working cohesively on a large project. Their contribution of time and labor added significantly to the success of the garden, and volunteers deserve a special thank you!

The garden would not be possible without volunteers but it also relies on donations. This spring the garden received a cash donation from the Moscow Garden Club for some new tools, a rototiller in excellent condition, seeds, manure, bark and plants from many community members. Their generosity is extremely important to the garden and greatly appreciated.

As the days become shorter and the nights cooler, the garden grows toward the final harvest. Reflection on this season creates anticipation towards the next. Development and expansion of the garden will continue with plans for demonstration areas, sustainable growing education workshops, and increased involvement from local groups. The garden will be renewed by the process of working on the land to improve and enhance the life of individuals and the community.

Be a part of the 2004 Community Garden

* Lease a plot - Information will be available in late February from PCEI. If you are a new gardener contact the Garden Coordinator to get your name on the mailing list.

* Volunteer - There are many ongoing tasks at the garden, individually and as a participant on a scheduled workday.

* Make a donation - tools in good condition, wheelbarrows, clean compost, leaves, perennial plants, annual plants, usable seed, and cash are always accepted.

* Join the Garden Advisory Committee - Help plan the future of the garden! For further information please contact Kelly Riley, Community Garden Coordinator at PCEI 208-882-1444 or makeitgrow@pcei.org

Become a Member of PCEI!

- Yes I want to support the
Palouse-Clearwater
Environmental Institute
- Yes I want to renew my membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Please contact me about volunteering
- Please keep my membership anonymous
- \$25 Basic Membership
- \$60 Palouse Protector
- \$120 Friends of the Palouse-Clearwater
- \$12 Limited income/Student
- Additional gift of \$ _____

Please direct my gift to the following program:

- Environmental Education
- Community Garden
- Watersheds
- VanPool/Transportation
- Endowment gift of \$ _____

Mail to: PCEI POBox 8596 Moscow, ID 83843

Help PCEI find a new home

The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute is currently in the dreaming and searching phase of finding a new home. Currently we are in a wonderful (but small) office in the west wing of the Moscow Hotel. For the past 17 years we have been paying rent, and we are now interested in finding a place that we can call our own. We have created quite a wish list for the ideal place. If you think you might know of just the place, or if you have something you would like to donate to this effort, or if you just like to help us search. Please give us a call at 882-1444. Thanks!

Calendar of Events (updates: www.pcei.org):

September and October, Saturdays, 8am-12noon. PCEI booth at the Moscow Farmers' Market.

September 11, Thursday: Community Garden Committee Meeting, 7:30pm at the PCEI office (112 West Fourth St., Moscow). Anyone interested in the future of the garden and community food systems is welcome to attend. For information contact Kelly Riley at <makeitgrow@pcei.org>.

September 26, Friday: *Winged Migration* movie fundraiser. 7:00pm no-host social, movie starts: 8:00pm. Presented jointly by PCEI and the Palouse Audubon Society. See page 6 for details or visit our web calendar for a link to movie reviews.

September 27, Saturday. Community Planting Day, 9am. To sign up contact Amanda Cronin at <cronin@pcei.org> or 882-1444.

September 30, Tuesday: Third Annual Watershed Festival for area classroom children. Contact: <kidsplanttrees@pcei.org>.

October 11, Saturday. Community Planting Day, 9am. To sign up contact Amanda Cronin at <cronin@pcei.org> or 882-1444.

October 17, Friday. Paradise Creek Restoration Projects Tour (1pm, meet at Latah County Fairgrounds), and Hot Chocolate Social (3pm at the restoration project across from the fire station on Mountain View Road) Moscow. More information on our website <www.pcei.org>.

November 8, Saturday. Bat Box building Day, 10am-1pm, \$5 for PCEI members, \$10 non-members. Location TBA. For more information call PCEI at 882-1444 or visit our website <www.pcei.org>.

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

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PLEASE JOIN PCEI TODAY!

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

McCall Outdoor Science School Launches Third Year

By Greg Fizzell

More than 400 Idaho 5th and 6th grade students will attend a total of nine weeks of residential environmental education programming during the McCall Outdoor Science School's (MOSS) 2003 fall program. This year represents the biggest turnout yet for the program, and expectations are high that it will continue to grow. Hope turned into reality recently when MOSS was selected as a finalist in the EPA's National Environmental Education Grant program. In addition, eight university students from around the country will spend twelve weeks working as field instructors for the program as MOSS launches its first graduate teaching residency. Despite tripling the amount of program time offered to Idaho schools this year, there are more schools wanting to attend than the current program is able to serve. This is a positive sign that demand for such a program in Idaho is high and will continue to expand as more people learn about MOSS and the benefits of experiential education. For more information visit: <www.pcei.org/education/moss/>

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Fall 2003!