

Connecting
People, Place
and Community

Spring 2006
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ENVIRONMENTAL

news

Palouse - Clearwater Environmental Institute



PCEI celebrates
20 years 1986-2006
of connecting
People, place
and community



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MOSS Hits the Road – Outreach Program to Travel Across Idaho

By Greg Fizzell



MOSS students learn about watersheds high above Payette Lake, McCall, ID. Photo: PCEI

The McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS) is offering a new service to elementary and middle schools across the State of Idaho this spring – it's called MOSS Outreach. MOSS is hitting the road after five years of successful residential programming at the University of Idaho McCall Field Campus. This moves the program one step closer to achieving one of its strategic goals of operating year round.

The Outreach Program, with funding from a Serve Idaho AmeriCorps grant, will have teams of three to five experienced field instructors stationed in Boise and Moscow to facilitate mobile outreach programs in your area. The primary goal of the program is to provide high quality, inquiry-based experiential education programs throughout Idaho that focus on community building, problem solving, hands-on learning and science. The program is also offering professional development and in-service credit to participating teachers and school districts.

MOSS Modules These modules are designed to bring K-8 experiential learning and MOSS program staff to classrooms and natural areas. Curriculum content is derived directly from state standards and programs can be customized to fit a school's curriculum, classroom goals and students' needs. The sessions are designed to build on each

other. For the past five years students from across Idaho have come to the University of Idaho Field Campus in McCall for an exciting week of hands on experience, exploration and teambuilding. We are now able to bring all the fun and learning of a McCall field week to a school or local natural area near you!

During a typical week, a team of five MOSS instructors will travel to your area. Depending on the number of days selected from the list below, students will spend up to four days with our instructors learning science concepts, developing their inquiry and science process skills, having fun and building a stronger classroom community. **Day 1:** Inquiry and Earth Systems Science **Day 2:** Hydrology Investigations in your Place **Day 3:** Terrestrial Ecology and Explorations. **Day 4:** Research and Problem Solving Logistics and Details. •Programs take place at your school and/or local natural area. •Programming days are Tuesdays through Fridays. •Fees are \$100 per day which includes: a three to five instructor team (divided into one or many classrooms/working groups), curriculum development, as well as program materials. •We prefer that schools/districts schedule a minimum of two days of programming in order to ensure adequate use of travel and setup time. Other arrangements can be made by request. Custom-designed programs: MOSS Outreach will also offer custom programs developed to meet teacher specifications For more information concerning the MOSS Outreach Program, please visit <<http://www.pcei.org/moss/mossoutreach.htm>> or contact Greg Fizzell at <fizzell@pcei.org>.

A Day at Rodeo

By Denim Jochimsen

In the words of Dante Alighieri, "A great flame follows a little spark," and so has been the thought process concerning the development of an urban nature center on our Rodeo Drive campus. We deem it very important to involve community members throughout the planning phase of the center. I have kept busy interviewing elementary teachers, local professionals, and university educators to gain insight into what they envision. I walk away from each meeting enthusiastic, filled with new ideas, goals, and engaging activities. I have generated a list of potential exhibits and concepts to explore during a visit to our nature center.

We have been working with University of Idaho's Dr. Toru Otawa, professor of Landscape Architecture and his sophomore-level studio class who presented their final project proposals, which were very impressive and innovative, to several AmeriCorps members and staff from PCEI. In addition, students enrolled in the Occupying Ecology course taught by Jolie Kaytes, assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Washington State University, produced master plans for our site.

Both groups of students have impressed me with their creativity, focus, and interest in our organization's goals. If anyone has interest in viewing these wonderful final products, I have them readily available in the Environmental Education office at PCEI.



Final project plans designed by students in Dr. Toru Otawa's Landscape Architect course at the University of Idaho, and the Occupying Ecologies course taught by Jolie Kaytes at Washington State University. Photo: PCEI

PCEI Interests Nearly 30 WSU Students For Volunteer Work

By Stephan Pontius, WSU student

Washington State University offers human development classes, which give students the opportunity to explore means of communication, diversity of personality types and self identification. This spring the Human Development 205 class is being taught by Dr. Kim Kidwell. Part of the course curriculum is to have the students plan and execute their own community service project.

A group of nearly 30 students was elected to work with PCEI over the course of this spring semester for their project. Aly Bean, the organization's volunteer coordinator, has given the WSU students the freedom to choose how they want to help PCEI over the next few months. Some of the students will be working in the following areas: Moscow Community Garden, PCEI's parking lot (alternative space designation), the website and newsletter, the demolition of an old shed at PCEI and creating a great banner for their 20th birthday celebration. They are very eager to help PCEI and appreciate the opportunity to do so.

The Dryer in the Sky

By Joan Klingler



An old fashion clothesline. Photo: Joan Klingler

Ah, the clothes dryer. The machine that beeps incessantly when the cycle is over, enslaving us to its demand that we remove clothing or risk wrinkles. It's beast that uses 5-6 percent of a family's annual electric budget for the motor and heating coils inside (Sierra Club). For a family doing five loads a week, it uses 720 kWh of energy/year (Avista Utilities).

For the uninformed, a clothesline is a wonderful contraption that stands in your yard and dries your clothes. It's as simple as that, and has no motors, no gears, no chemicals, no contamination—and no beeps. It's just something that puts the smell of the rain, trees, wind and sunshine on clothing. Weeks after taking sheets off the line I can put them on my bed, lie down on those sheets, and still enjoy the fresh air smell, which is even better if they were outside during a brief rain.

Recently, my clothesline bit the dust and I had to find a new one. I finally had to order it at a local hardware store (the young man behind the counter asked, "What's a clothesline?"). Sadly, fewer people use them, and some have even told me they would but don't want to "ruin the view."

My new washer and dryer are energy efficient. But I gazed out my window when we had an unseasonably warm day and realized that I could start putting washes on the line again (my mother would have scoffed at this statement; she didn't own a dryer—clothes went on the line year 'round in New England). Others utilize a drying rack inside for those harsh winter months.

My clothesline is pictured, but there are many types. If you're ambitious, detailed instructions for making your own can be found at http://www.ehow.com/how_3874_install-clothesline.html. Those metal contraptions hanging on my line? They're pant stretchers, which crease pants better than the dryer. Some catalogs stock them. The Vermont Country Store carries sturdy ones at <http://www.vermontcountrystore.com>. Order your clothesline at hardware stores, purchase one at Tri-State, or from an environmental catalog such as <http://breezecatcher.com>.

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.

PCEI, PO Box 8596 Moscow, Idaho 83843

208-882-1444 fax:208-882-8029 email: info@pcei.org <http://www.pcei.org>

Editors: Tom Lamar, Aly Bean and Tessa Sheehan. Template Design: Beth Case. Contributors: Denim Jochimsen, Greg Fizzell, Stephan Pontius, Joan Klingler, Denim Jochimsen, Kirsten Hawley, Tracy Brown, Teva Lamar Palmer and The Nature Conservancy.

People interested in being on our mailing list should join PCEI.

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*Greg Fizzell,
Education Director*

Favorite band: Lyle Lovett and his Large Band
Recreational activity: river rafting
Hobby: trap and skeet shooting
Pizza topping: pepperoni
Place of birth: Saratoga Springs, NY



*Kirsten Hawley,
AmeriCorps Member*

Favorite band: Jack Johnson but it's hard to pick just one
Recreational activity: camping/backpacking
Hobby: Yoga
Pizza topping: green peppers, mushrooms
Place of birth: Marquette, MI



*Jake Smulkowski,
Education Assistant*

Favorite band: Three Billy Goat
Recreational activity: backpacking and flyfishing
Hobby: homebrewing
Pizza topping: smoked salmon
Place of birth: Olympia, WA

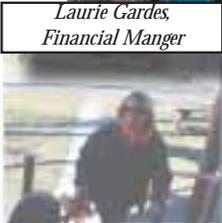


*Denim Jochimson,
AmeriCorps Member*

Favorite band: The Cure, Taj Mahal
Recreational activity: herping (hiking in search of reptiles and amphibians)
Hobby: playing dance revolution
Pizza topping: portbella mushrooms
Place of birth: Milwaukee, WI



MEET THE



*Laurie Gardes,
Financial Manger*



*Colleen McCall,
AmeriCorps Member*

Favorite band: Culture Club
Recreational activity: swimming
Hobby: knitting
Pizza topping: basil, olives, feta, tomatoes
Place of birth: Northridge, CA

Favorite band: Hot Flashes
Recreational activity: running, biking, traveling
Hobby: gardening, reading
Pizza topping: pineapple, green peppers
Place of birth: San Diego, CA

STAFF



*David Vollmer,
Computer guy*

Favorite band: The Who
Recreational activity: triathlons
Hobby: gardening
Pizza topping: pesto
Place of birth: Wilmington, DE

Favorite band: Sandalbar
Recreational activity: hiking
Hobby: music, building things
Pizza topping: black olives
Place of birth: Chicago, IL



*Aly Bean,
Volunteer Coordinator*



*Tom Lamar,
Executive Director*

Favorite band: Dave Matthews
Recreational activity: triathloning
Hobby: mountain biking
Pizza topping: basil
Place of birth: Denver, CO



*Cece Connors,
Office Manager*

Favorite band: Springsteen (as in Bruce)
Recreational activity: napping
Hobby: fixing things
Pizza topping: mushrooms
Place of birth: South Carolina



*Charles Dickey,
AmeriCorps Member*

Favorite band: Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers (currently)
Recreational activity: walking in the woods
Hobby: Painting
Pizza topping: pesto
Place of birth: Columbus, OH



*Courtney Rush,
AmeriCorps Member*

Favorite band: Shane & Shane, Sean McDonald, David Crowder Band
Recreational activity: rafting, hiking, soccer
Hobby: cooking, snowshoeing
Pizza topping: veggies
Place of birth: Pho-town (Phoenix, AZ)



*Emily Wolf,
AmeriCorps Member*

Favorite band: Counting Crows
Recreational activity: running
Hobby: cooking
Pizza topping: pepperoni and mushroom
Place of birth: Dodgeville, WI



*Randy Stevens,
AmeriCorps Member*

Favorite band: Portishead
Recreational activity: sailing
Hobby: sculpting
Pizza topping: goat cheese
Place of birth: Pullman, WA



*Tracy Brown,
Watershed Director*



*Ken Hobson,
Watershed Manager*

Favorite band: The Grateful Dead
Recreational activity: outdoor exploration
Hobby: Building Faith (a bus being converted to a home)
Pizza topping: artichoke hearts
Place of birth: Santa Barbara, CA

Favorite band: Pink Floyd
Recreational activity: hiking, skiing, boating
Hobby: walking, traveling
Pizza topping: artichokes and garlic
Place of birth: Jacksonville, FL



*Tiffany Cooper,
Outreach Director*

Favorite band: Donna the Buffalo
Recreational activity: cooking with friends, being outside
Hobby: trying to knit
Pizza topping: pineapple
Place of birth: Ft. Bragg, NC



*Erin Rishling,
Outreach Assistant*

Favorite band: Beck
Recreational activity: sledding and rafting
Hobby: reading
Pizza topping: pineapples and jalapenos
Place of birth: New Bern, NC



*Eric Carpenter,
Member Support*

Favorite band: Donna the Buffalo
Recreational activity: non consumptive outdoor activities
Hobby: nature study
Pizza topping: more cheese
Place of birth: Glen's Falls, NY



*Karla Bradley,
Member Support*

Favorite band: U2
Recreational activity: mountain biking and tele skiing
Hobby: dissertation writing
Pizza topping: the Mediterranean at Crusty's in McCall
Place of birth: Baltimore, MD



*Michelle Hazen,
Outreach Assistant*

Favorite band: Oracle Shack
Recreational activity: mountain biking
Hobby: weaving, baking, reading
Pizza topping: spinach
Place of birth: Livingston, NJ

March of the Breeders

By Denim Jochimsen

My favorite time of year is quickly approaching. Rainy days accompanied by warmer temperatures make my heart beat faster. Amphibians leave their deep burrows and embark on a long journey to wetlands in search of love, or at least a mate. Many of these individuals return to their natal ponds, a fact that I still find utterly fascinating. Back home in Wisconsin, spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) and wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) herald the onset of breeding season. The high-pitched jingle of bells and duck-sounding quacks act as serenades. I have been enthralled with the calls of frogs since I was young and take pride in knowing the majority of calls from any species native to the U.S.-an odd talent I am willing to admit.

Last year, when I first visited Pullman in March, I headed out to Phillips Farm to check out the site during peak breeding time. I heard in the distance, the Pacific tree frogs' (*Hyla regilla*) call made famous in Hollywood films. A smile spread across my face as I eagerly headed towards their location. Upon reaching the pond...utter silence. I began to carefully lift downed wood, and spotted six adult long-toed salamanders (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*). I crouched near the edge of the wetland, scanning the water's surface and waiting for the males to announce their presence. As the chorus began its crescendo, I quietly crept along the edge of the wetland. The number of tree frogs emerging from the tall grasses was astounding. I also spied two pairs of Columbia spotted frogs (*Rana luteiventris*) in amplexus-in the clasp of "love." Breeding season marks the on-set of migration for these species.

My interest in the breeding march has grown into concern. Our landscape shrinks under development and the expansion of roads. So travel cautiously this spring, and take time to marvel at the march of the breeding amphibians.

Last year, PCEI recognized the importance of monitoring amphibian populations on the Palouse, and initiated sampling efforts. Staff and AmeriCorps members conduct visual and trapping surveys for these amazing critters from mid March through August. Last year they collected data at 12 sites and a total of 22 wetlands. Lee Anne Eareckson, a motivated teacher at Moscow High School, has involved students from the Environmental Club and her Biology courses in monitoring efforts for at least a decade. We are now working together as a task force to track amphibians. If you are interested in joining us we could use your help.



A mating pair of pacific treefrogs (Hyla regilla) in amplexus with the male clasped on top of the female. Photo: Denim Jochimsen

PCEI and the Nature Conservancy Team up

By Tracy Brown and the Nature Conservancy <www.nature.org>

PCEI has been working with the Nature Conservancy to take the lead role in the management of the Rose Creek Preserve. The Preserve has one of the best examples of the black hawthorne (*Crataegus douglasii*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and cow parsnip (*Heraclium lanatum*) community type remaining on the Palouse. The black hawthorn grows to 15 feet or more, while the under story of cow parsnip reaches six feet, creating a cool sanctuary for wildlife during hot summer months.

At Rose Creek and a few other sites, the relationship between the black hawthorn and quaking aspen is particularly complex. As the aspen grows, it shades out the hawthorn, which dies back to root-stocks, only to re-emerge when the short-lived aspen falls victim to heart rot. Following a dormant period, the aspen sprouts again and the cycle repeats. The Preserve is also home to more than 250 species of vascular plants.

In the spring, the wooded portion of the Preserve is covered with Fendlers waterleaf while the grassy slope of the Preserve contains

many of the eastern Washington wildflowers such as buttercup, yellow fell, arrowleaf balsamroot, wild iris, and wild geranium. The slope also contains a well-preserved remnant of native Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass.

Rose Creek bisects the Preserve. A perennial stream that flows into the South Fork Palouse River, Rose Creek provides habitat to over 100 species of birds. To view a list of birds documented at the Preserve by the Palouse Audubon visit our website. In winter, long-eared owls roost in the dense hawthorn thickets as red-tailed hawks hunt the adjoining hills. Some of the less common eastern Washington birds, such



Rose Creek Preserve. Photo: PCEI

(Nature Conservancy Cont. from pg 6)

as catbirds and black-chinned hummingbirds, are also attracted to Rose Creek. The Preserve also provides food and habitat to mammals ranging in size from shrews and voles to porcupine, coyote and white-tailed deer. Rose Creek is a refuge for these animals due to habitat loss and degradation in the Palouse.

PCEI's role as stewards of the Preserve will entail non-native weed control focused on Canada thistle and teasel. An on-going restoration project of a native aspen forest is underway and will require monitoring and tree caging to reduce browse impacts to the aspen saplings. Light trail work will also be required. Many community groups and individuals have been engaging students in on-the-ground research and restoration work at the Preserve. Visit our website for more information of past and current activities underway and a map to the site.

The Preserve is open year round. Access is limited to a small trail that winds through the riparian and upland areas of the Preserve. Please stay on the marked trail and tread lightly while visiting this precious resource. Financial and volunteer participation by the local community is necessary if we are going to be successful stewards of this community resource. PCEI is working with the Nature Conservancy and local organizations to expand the benefits of the Preserve to adjacent properties. To contribute to the Rose Creek Preserve Fund please contact Tracy at 882-1444.

All on Board! Environmental Education Welcomes a New AmeriCorps Member

By Kirsten Hawley



"Somehow this image of freshly washed volunteer gloves drying in the sun seems like a perfect portait of PCEI." Photo and caption: John Larkin, PCEI board member

PCEI's Environmental Education staff is happy to welcome new AmeriCorps member Colleen McColl to their ranks! Most recently Colleen hails from the sunny state of Arizona where she completed her masters of science degree in soil, water, and environmental sciences. She also holds a bachelor of science degree from Ball State University in Indiana, in natural resources and environmental management.

During her time at Arizona State she had the opportunity to work as a teaching assistant where she realized she would like to further her experiences working in the field of Environmental Education. With the arrival of Colleen, the Environmental Education department is once again fully staffed! With a complete team we are excited to continue to offer our high quality Environmental Education programs, create new opportunities for local youth and adults, and carry out the initial planning for our new urban nature center.

Stop by to get to know Colleen along with the rest of PCEI's AmeriCorps members!

Support the Learning Nursery at PCEI

- Spring Plant Sale May 13th 9am-3pm at PCEI
- many species of native trees and shrubs available
- 10% discount for PCEI members
- profit will help expand educational opportunities

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
- \$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 _____

Mail to: PCEI POBox 8596 Moscow, ID 83843

Calendar of Events

(For updates, visit <www.pcei.org/calendar.htm> and for directions <www.pcei.org/sites.htm>)

April

16-22: National Environmental Education Week
 22: Earth Day-16th Annual Paradise Creek Clean-Up
 23: PCEI 20th Birthday Party-Patty's Kitchen
 28: Arbor Day planting event-Robinson Park.
 <www.arborday.org>



May

1: Early application deadline for Americorps @ MOSS
 <www.pcei.org/moss/moss_amicorps.htm>
 2: PCEI workday-nursery
 3-4: Idaho Env. Education Assoc. Conference @ BSU, Boise
 <www.idahoee.org>
 6-7: Moscow Renaissance Fair-visit and volunteer at the PCEI food booth
 9: PCEI workday-Rodeo projects
 13: PCEI workday-Tammany Creek, Lewiston
 15-16: First ever MOSS programs in the spring
 <www.pcei.org/moss.htm>
 16: PCEI workday-nursery
 23: PCEI workday-nursery
 27: PCEI workday-Mill Road, Moscow

Mark Your Calendars Early

Women's 3rd Annual mtn. bike clinics
 Sunday July 9th @ 9 a.m. @ PCEI-Part I maintenance
 Saturday August 19th @ PCEI-Ride on Moscow Mountain
 Saturday events: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. meet @ PCEI
 Tuesday events: 3-7 p.m. meet and work @ PCEI

Rose Creek Workdays

(Carpool leaves @ 9 a.m. from PCEI
 arriving at Rose Creek @ 9:30 a.m.)

April 29th
 May 20th
 June 17th
 July 15th
 August 26th

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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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Spring 2006!!