PCEI Membership Celebration a Success: Thanks to Patty's Mexican Kitchen

September 3, 2008 Annual Membership Celebration at Patty's Mexican Kitchen & Catering. Behind the food service line from left to right: PCEI Watersheds Program Director, Tracy Brown, PCEI Board Members, Renee McNally and John Lawrence, and restaurant co-owner, Gerardo Alvarez. Over 150 guests enjoyed the great BBQ to support PCEI’s efforts, raising nearly $2,000. Photo: Aly Lamar

Thank You Patty’s and PCEI Membership!

By Aly Lamar, Membership Coordinator

We are honored to have had the pleasure of hosting our 2nd Annual PCEI Membership Celebration at Patty’s Mexican Kitchen & Catering in Moscow on September 3, 2008. We are very appreciative of all of you who came out to support our meaningful work while enjoying great food and company. Thank you to those of you who renewed your membership at the event, and a big thank you to those of you who used this as an opportunity to join PCEI for the first time. Because of Gerardo and Patty Alvarez’ generosity (they donated a portion of the cost of the food and drink costs and all of the staff time preparing and serving the food and drinks), we were able to generate nearly $2,000! Please be sure to stop by Patty’s Mexican Kitchen and let them know how much you appreciate their support of PCEI. As with all PCEI events, we strived to have zero waste. Food scraps were composted, plates, silverware and napkins were borrowed from the PCEI Plate Project to supplement the restaurant’s supplies and all glass bottles were recycled. Thank you for spending your Wednesday evening with us. PCEI is fortunate to have such enthusiastic, generous and community-oriented members. (see page 3 for more photos)
WHO'S WHO AT PCEI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Thielbahr President
Renee McNally Vice President
Paige Buchler Treasurer
Tenley Burke Secretary
Andrew Ackerman Director
Emmi Blades Director
Cindi Jette Director
Mary Jo Knowles Director
John Lawrence Director

STAFF MEMBERS

Thomas C. Lamar Executive Director
Greg Fizzell Education Program Director
Tracy Brown Watersheds Program Director
Erin Rishling AmeriCorps Placement Director
Karla Bradley MOSS Director of Education, McCall
Laurie Gardes Financial Manager
Jen Hiebert Office Manager
Sara Robson Cucksey Watersheds Project Manager
Junica Wood-Beaucharm Education Program Manager
Courtney Rush Volunteer Coordinator
Alycia Lamar Membership Coordinator
Rachael Goettelman AmeriCorps Placement Coordinator
Colleen McColl AmeriCorps Placement Coordinator
Adrienne Boland MOSS Program Coordinator

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Education Program
Caroline Pechuzal and Jacob Dolence
Watershed Program
Jenny Hall, Matt Racette, Chris Bare and Ali Jo Hart

MOBILE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CORPS, McCall Outdoor Science School

Ben Blonder, Patrick Corbett, Genevieve Gerke, Lin Gray, Melissa Hamilton, Mike Kruse, Hillary Loomis, Julie McWhorret, Jennie Newman, Brett Nobile, Laura Sass, Alix Schweitzer, Jennifer Smola, Elizabeth Starkowski and Piper Worthington

PCEI, PO Box 8596 Moscow, Idaho 83843
phone: 208-882-1444 fax: 208-882-8029
email: <info@pcei.org> visit: <www.pcei.org>

Fall 2008 Events Calendar

All events are scheduled to begin at the site at 10:00am and will last until 2:00pm unless otherwise noted, regardless of weather. Carpooling options are available. Please remember to wear work clothes and sturdy shoes. Be prepared for both sun and cold weather. Remember sun-block, hat, snacks, water bottle, etc. Find directions at: <www.pcei.org>

For more information contact Courtney Rush, Volunteer Coordinator <crush@pcei.org>

Tuesday, September 24: Pumpkin Patch Event, 3:00pm-5:00pm, PCEI

Thursday, September 25: Squash Cook-Off, 5:00pm-8:00pm. Join community members at the PCEI Nature Center to celebrate fall. Potluck dinner with juried taste contests. Bring your most creative squash dish. PCEI Greenhouse

Saturday, September 27: Deep Creek-Adler Event, Potlatch, ID

Saturday, October 4: Lindsay Creek Restoration Event, Lewiston, ID

Saturday, October 4: Family Day, The Great Pumpkin Harvest, PCEI

Saturday, October 11: Lindsay Creek Restoration Event, Lewiston, ID

Saturday, October 11: National Solar Tour, 9:00am-4:00pm, $5 for PCEI members and $10 for the public. Moscow, ID

Wednesday, October 15: PCEI Board of Directors meeting, PCEI

Saturday, October 18: Family Day, The Great Pumpkin Harvest, PCEI

Saturday, October 18: Rose Creek Volunteer Event, Albion, WA

Thursday, October 30: Family Day, Creatures of the Night. Bring your family to the haunted PCEI Nature Center for a night of shivers and shadows! Discover the world that perks up when the sun begins to set, $8 for PCEI members and $12 for the public. PCEI

November 18 & 19: Idaho Environmental Summit. The Idaho Environmental Summit seeks to foster a collaborative atmosphere to learn and share information about topics of interest to Idahoans. For sponsorship and more information: <www.idahosummit.org>, DoubleTree Riverside, Boise, ID

Join PCEI Today!

☐ Friends of the Palouse-Clearwater $150
☐ Palouse Protector/Family $75
☐ Basic Membership $35
☐ Limited income/Student $15
☐ Please keep my membership anonymous
☐ Please renew my membership
☐ Additional Gift of $ __________
Please direct my gift to the following:
☐ Environmental Education
☐ Watershed Restoration
☐ PCEI’s Nature Center
☐ Other_____________
☐ Endowment Gift of $ __________
☐ Capital Campaign Gift of $ ________

☐ Please contact me about volunteering
☐ I have enclosed a check for $__________
☐ I want to use my credit card:
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express
Card # __________________________
Exp. Date ______ Amount $ ________
Signature ________________________
Name(s) _________________________
Address _________________________
City ______ State ___ Zip ________
Phone _________________________
Email _________________________

Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute
PO Box 8596 • Moscow ID 83843
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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

A Statewide Effort to Improve Habitat
By Randy Poole

As an AmeriCorps member through the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, Randy Poole is currently serving as Volunteer Coordinator for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The volunteer program for the Idaho Fish and Game had a very busy spring. One hundred and fifty-five volunteers from the Southeast Idaho Region helped plant 40,000 bitterbrush, 9,000 mahogany, and 4,000 sagebrush! Dedicated volunteers committed a total of 840 hours to planting. The planting project is a part of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Mule Deer Initiative, a statewide effort to improve habitat and mule deer populations. Volunteers who were involved in the project loved getting out in the outdoors and doing something that improves Idaho’s wildlife. Without the many dedicated volunteers and hours they put in, this important project could not have been possible.

Annual Membership Meeting 2008

Mark your calendars! PCEI’s annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Celebration will be held at the 1912 Center in Moscow on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, 6:00-9:00pm. As a PCEI Member you have the right to vote for the members of our Board of Directors at our Annual Meeting. For more information on membership benefits and events please contact our Membership Coordinator, Aly Lamar at 208-882-1444 or <aly@pcei.org>.
Rodeo Drive Capital Campaign: A Time for Change
By Sandi Billings, Grants Coordinator

The Rodeo Drive Capital Campaign was created to see PCEI through the changes in organization and site development that came with moving to our new location. Donors and volunteers came out with gusto to establish PCEI in our new home. We’ve raised nearly $450,000 toward our goal of $500,000. What we’ve been able to do with that money is amazing.

Donors and volunteers built the bicycle pavilion, repaired the Danielson-Perrine House, transformed the Waxwing Building from a shed into an office building, completed necessary electrical work, and helped us raise funding for a staff member to help us raise more funds for the future. We’ve upgraded computers, installed networking, built a permeable parking lot and added some signage. We built the greenhouse, created the TerraGraphics Wetlands, planted trees, started the Learning Nursery, Pantry Garden, and composting area. With so much accomplished, we will be closing the campaign in 2008. But not before everyone has had a chance to participate in the last challenge: match the $40,000 funding for the last construction project of the Rodeo Drive Capital Campaign.

We’re holding half the funds needed to construct new composting toilets. That’s $40,000 available to match members’ and friends’ gifts, dollar-for-dollar, providing PCEI with $80,000 to finish up the campaign, exceed the $500,000 goal, and build environmentally friendly facilities. Our toilets will be the talk of the town! Everyone who contributes $500 or more (total to the campaign) will have their name on a walkway brick or, at $1,000, on a donor plaque. Every gift brings us closer to the finish. Look for an invitation to join in this last push of the capital campaign, and please help PCEI meet the $40,000 challenge. Together, we can make it happen.

“Everyone who contributes $500 or more will have their name on a walkway brick or at $1,000, on a donor plaque. Every gift brings us closer to the finish.”
-Sandi Billings, Grants Coordinator

ENVIRONMENTAL news

Local

Pullman, WA residents are signing a petition requesting that the city require a $0.20 charge on plastic bags dispensed in retail stores effective January 1, 2009. According to the petition website www.elizabethsiler.googlepages.com, “between 500 billion and 1 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year...these bags are made from petroleum resources...do not biodegrade...and often end up killing wildlife. It is time for Pullman to join the move toward eliminating plastic bags from our environment”. For more information and to sign the petition visit: <www.elizabethsiler.googlepages.com>. A similar idea is being put to the test in Moscow, thanks to the City’s Health and Environment Commission!

Regional

While gas prices are rising and many airlines are raising ticket prices and cancelling flights, a new Portland based business commuter carrier has opened in June of 2008 in the Pacific Northwest. A month after opening flights from Portland, OR to Seattle, WA, SeaPort Airlines announced it would donate funds to offset 100% of its carbon emissions! This effort is in partnership with the Columbia Land Trust. Learn more at <seaportair.com/press>

National

Democratic House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, feeling the pressure of rising gas prices and the public pressure for off-shore drilling has proposed a bill in Congress that will re-open the discussion of off-shore drilling. For three decades a federal moratorium has been placed on off-shore drilling, keeping the costs free of new oil and gas developments. The bill would allow states to make decisions on drilling 50 miles off shore and for the federal government to make decisions on drilling 100 miles off shore. The bill will be voted on Tuesday, September 16th.
PCEI AmeriCorps Member Shares Extraordinary Experience

By Michelle Pivec

Hello, I am the education intern at The Peregrine Fund in Boise. I grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, and attended the University of Minnesota, Duluth, where I studied biology, and gained an appreciation for the outdoors. After graduation, I had no idea what I was going to do with myself. Family members told me about the McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS). Upon researching the position, I learned I would also need to become an AmeriCorps member. I didn’t know much about AmeriCorps at the time, but I figured a monthly living stipend, bringing kids into the outdoors to teach them science and an education award at the end of my term of service…what could be better than that?

AmeriCorps began in 1994 to provide Americans with an opportunity to make a serious commitment to service. More than 70,000 Americans take on a term of service annually working at nonprofits, public agencies, and community organizations to meet critical needs in health, public safety, homeland security, education, and the environment. As part of the Idaho Environmental Education Corps, funded by a grant from Serve Idaho and a partnership between the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute and the University of Idaho, I have spent 9 months developing my skills as an environmental educator at MOSS and 3 months at The Peregrine Fund, implementing educational and interpretive activities. I have helped develop and facilitate activities for The Peregrine Fund’s summer day camp, given guided tours to school groups and will train the staff and volunteers how to facilitate my newly developed programs. This has been the best year-long experience my young life has ever lived. Not much can get better than this!

...a monthly living stipend, bringing kids into the outdoors to teach them science and an education award…what could be better than that?

-Michelle Pivec, AmeriCorps Member

PCEI Family Days are a Wonderful Addition to our Annual Events at the PCEI Nature Center

By Aly Lamar, Membership Coordinator

As members of PCEI, you have the right to vote for your board of directors, to receive perks from PCEI, like supporter stickers, email updates, and discounts to special events as well as discounts on purchases in our Learning Nursery. This year we have added an additional benefit for membership: Family Day events such as Gettin’ Buggy!, EcoArt, Stars and Planets, and as pictured on right, Mommy-Daughter EcoMakeover. All events are $12 for the public and $8 for PCEI Members. This year we have added our Creatures of the Night event that will take place the night before Halloween, Thursday, October 30th.

To participate in our Family Day events, please visit our events calendar at <www.pcei.org/calendar>. If you have ideas for our future family days or are interested in volunteering, please contact me at 208-882-1444 or <aly@pcei.org>.

This quote is on display at the Bird Museum in Sagle, ID. It has served as an inspiration for some special PCEI supporters. Photo: Bruce McGlenn

PCEI Member Wendy Lawrence shows off her edible chocolate mask while daughter Karen takes a taste during PCEI’s first EcoMakeover Family Day event. 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.

Template Design: Beth Case. Editors and Contributors: Teva Hopper, Aly Lamar, Jen Hiebert, Erin Rishling, Greg Fizzell, Michelle Pivec, Randy Poole, Sandi Billings, Caroline Pechuzal, Courtney Rush, Tracy Brown, Tom Lamar. To receive our newsletter, join PCEI (see pg 2). This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper with 30% post-consumer content.
Less Junk in the Trunk: Program Bolsters Idaho Youth Health and Fitness

By Greg Fizzell, PCEI Education Program Director

Idaho tweens and teens who love junk food will learn to have a healthier lifestyle when they attend the McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS). MOSS is a partnership between the University of Idaho, the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, and Ponderosa State Park. MOSS recently received a $10,000 grant from General Mills to develop a “Live Well Idaho: Encouraging Healthy and Active Lifestyles” curriculum. The curriculum will be implemented in the school’s five-day residential programs, which serve more than 600 Idaho 5th thru 7th grade students each year. Approximately 100 teachers and parents also will participate in healthy and active lifestyle components alongside students and act as role models for the young learners. During a week at MOSS, participants will begin each day with a discussion of good nutrition and breakfast choices that include fruit, proteins and cereals. Throughout the day, students will be given healthy snacks and non-sugared drinks. Participants will learn the metabolic importance of drinking water, compile and weigh excess food and discuss portion control. Fruits and vegetables will be included in lessons and discussions and at each meal.

“Healthy behaviors are not isolated choices, but exist in the context of the rest of a child’s life and home environment...”
-Steve Hollenhorst, MOSS Director

MOSS offers reduced tuition for students enrolled in the free and reduced-price lunch programs. Its program highlights the fitness tools widely available to Idaho’s rural and low-income populations, specifically, outdoor activities and walking. Learn more at <www.mossidaho.org>.

Enjoying the sunset on Payette Lake at the McCall Outdoor Science School field campus

Women-Specific Activities at PCEI

There is something for every woman at PCEI and we are excited to get your feedback on ways we can continue to incorporate women-specific events at PCEI. If you are interested in participating in or leading women-specific events, please contact Aly Lamar at 208-882-1444 or <aly@pcei.org>.

Biker Babes Learn the Basics

By Courtney Rush, Volunteer Coordinator

PCEI’s Village Bicycle Project has been teaming up with the International Friendship Association and the UI Women’s Center to host beginner bicycle clinics “geared” towards an all-female audience. I had the privilege of attending a clinic taught by Liz Bageant, an experienced bike mechanic, and had a lovely evening. All ten of us women got dirty, used our muscles, and learned something new. Learning how to locate a puncture in a flat tire and patch it was something I should have done years ago. The instruction from Liz was easy to follow, as nine women from different backgrounds and ethnicities each pried a tire from the wheel of their bike and learned where each ball bearing was located. What’s a ball bearing, you ask? Well, consider participating in the next clinic <www.pcei.org/vbp>.

Women Writers in the Backcountry

By Caroline Pechuzal, AmeriCorps Member

AmeriCorps member Caroline Pechuzal sought to create a meaningful wilderness experience for women that would inspire them to explore their personal connection to nature and empower them to create more in the future. Over the Labor Day weekend, Caroline made that a reality by leading a group of 10 women on a five day writing and backpacking expedition in the Eagle Cap Wilderness of northeastern Oregon. The writing instructors for the trip were Debbie Lee and Andrea Clark Mason of Washington State University, who gave the participants daily writing prompts addressing different themes that they would share with the group; meanwhile they hiked a total of 20 miles! Highlights from the trip: their beautiful alpine meadow campground at 7,000 feet, the expansive view of the Wallowas and the Blue mountains from their 8,600 foot summit, swimming and playing in the turquoise waters of Swamp Lake, sharing stories, and making new friends. Maybe we can gather next year in PCEI’s Artists’ Studio! For more information on this trip, contact Caroline Pechuzal at 208-882-1444 or <pechuzal@pcei.org>. 
Seasons of Growth at the McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS)

By Greg Fizzell, PCEI Education Program Director

As we near the end of the 2007-08 program year at the McCall Outdoor Science School, we’ve been reflecting on a year filled with growth, learning and an excitement that continues to build. During this program year we served more than 800 students and hosted more than 150 parents and teachers in our residential program. Through our outreach program, we served more than 2,400 students and their teachers; more than 3,300 people experienced MOSS programs this year! It’s amazing to think that the program started just seven years ago with 78 students.

Since the inception of the program we have been measuring success through a survey students take before the program and immediately after its completion. Students have consistently shown that they learn through our program. This year was no different, with students showing a mean increase of 3 points on an 18-point scale. This increase has been shown to be significantly different from increases made in a control group that does participate in MOSS. Students have expressed to their instructors that they “used to hate science” but after their MOSS experiences they feel confident about their abilities. In a note to MOSS, one student said “I love it here!

Students have also shared that the social aspect of the program is equally important. This idea was expressed by a student who shared “My favorite part was hydrology day because we got to do some water testing and I spent the whole day with my Grandpa who I sometimes don’t see. This year we will begin summer programs with the addition of a weekend-long retreat for teachers and a 10-day course for high school students enrolled in the UI Upward Bound Math Science program. For more information: <www.pcei.org/moss>

Plate Project Needs Your Donations
The Plate Project is in need of many more wine glasses. We have enough plates to service an event for 300, but only about 100 wine glasses. Please donate any that are collecting dust on your shelf, or pick some up at a thrift store the next time you see some. The community and PCEI thank you!

Used Ink Cartridges = Supplies for PCEI
Do you have any HP, Lexmark or Dell ink cartridges for recycling? PCEI would love to have them! For every HP, Lexmark or Dell ink cartridge that we recycle at Staples, we will receive a $3 credit to use for office supplies.

Support PCEI When You Shop Online
It’s so easy! Just visit GoodShop at <www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx>, choose your cause (PCEI, of course!) and then select your online store. A percentage of your purchase will then be donated to PCEI.

PCEI Wish List We are still in need of the following items. If you are able to contribute any of these items you can be sure they will be put to use right away: Apple laptops, LCD monitors, inkJet Printer, digital camera, locking filing cabinet, tractor with loader, diesel pick-up truck, Prius, outdoor storage shed, first aid kits, adjustable wrench set.

To see our full Wish List please visit <www.pcei.org/wishlist>. To donate items please contact PCEI Office Manager, Jen Hiebert at 208-882-1444 or <jhiebert@pcei.org>

PCEI Executive Director, Tom Lamar has been instrumental in getting this year’s Idaho Environmental Summit (IES) underway. As a member of the steering committee for the IES, Tom has helped bring incredible conservation leaders to the previous events like Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-deficit Disorder, and Eban Goodstein, professor of Economics at Lewis and Clark College and Executive Director of Greenhouse Network. The 2008 Idaho Environmental Summit will take place in Boise, ID at the DoubleTree Riverside November 18th and 19th. IES seeks to foster a collaborative atmosphere to learn and share information about environmental topics of interest to Idahoans. Session at the Idaho Environmental Summit will include air quality, land use, fire, energy, water resources, recreation, environmental grants, Tribal perspectives, climate change and biodiversity.

For sponsorship and more information: <www.idahosummit.org>.

Looking for just the right gift? Consider the unique gift of a tree! PCEI’s gift-a tree program sends a beautiful card to your recipient acknowledging your gift. The tree will be planted at PCEI’s Nature Center. For more info visit <www.pcei.org>.
PCEI People to Brag About

Members: The Sheneman Family

Jenny, Luke, Annie and Linnea are four of PCEI’s most active supporters. Jenny, Director of Heart of the Arts Inc., helps coordinate the PCEI Plate Project housed at the 1912 Center. Luke, as our IT specialist, has also shared his passion of designing and building as seen through the development of our timber frame Artists Studio. Annie has contributed beautiful volunteer artwork and Linnea is one of our most precious supporters, bringing a smile into every room she enters.

Volunteer: Emmi Blades

You’ve heard of Super Woman, well Emmi is even better! With a degree in Environmental Science, a great husband, two dogs, and a club soccer coaching position, Emmi still manages to dedicate 20 hours per week to the PCEI Watersheds crew as an AmeriCorps member this past year. She has learned much about stream restoration and has become a member and board member of PCEI. This fall Emmi is pursuing a degree in law from the UI. Thanks for all you do, Emmi!

Conservationists: Gail and Mark DeSantis

We are so lucky to have PCEI neighbors like the DeSantis’. Long-time members of PCEI, Gail and Mark have made the commitment to conserve their land by putting a conservation easement on almost 9 acres near PCEI. Gail has donated a priceless gift to PCEI in the form of a detailed history of the property that has now become our 7.6 acre Nature Center.

Luke Sheneman holds daughter Linnea during PCEI Membership Event. Photo: Aly Lamar

Emmi volunteers with our amphibian monitoring project with a big smile, as always. Photo: PCEI

Gail and Mark DeSantis enjoy a walking tour at PCEI during our donor appreciation event, Midsummer Night’s Dream. Photo: Aly Lamar

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

Complimentary Copy
Please Join PCEI Today!

Fall 2008