

Connecting
People, Place
and Community

Palouse - Clearwater Environmental Institute

Fly Away With Us!

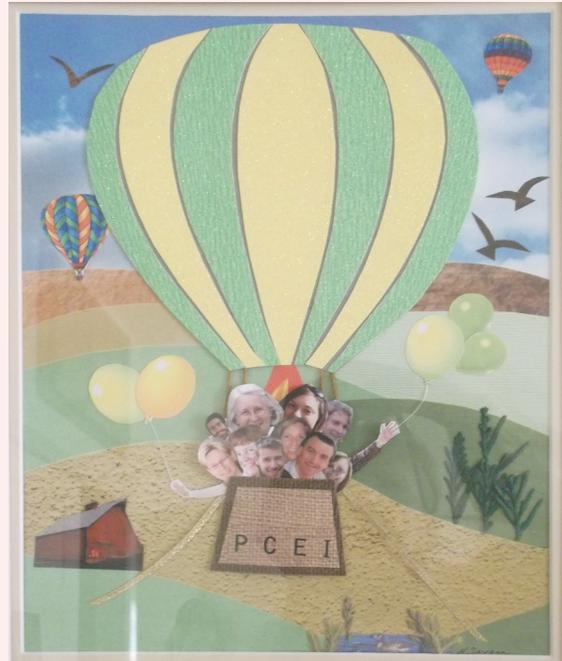
By Paige Buehler, *Former PCEI Board Treasurer*

A **balloon payment** is a final oversized payment due at the end of some mortgages which helps keep monthly payments low. The PCEI Board of Directors in 2007 decided to refinance the \$265,000 purchase of the original 7.6 acres on Rodeo Drive using a 7 year mortgage with a balloon payment to maximize our resources. Since then, the PCEI Nature Center has matured from a rough homestead into a community destination that balances the need of the institute as a work site with the location's natural attributes to serve as a place for reflection and recreation.

Having lived in Albuquerque and enjoyed multiple International Balloon Fiestas, I found the connection between a balloon payment and hot air ballooning to be automatic. I suggested this theme to Executive Director Tom Lamar as a fun way to focus the final fundraising needed to pay the balloon payment in November 2014. Never one to shy away from "lofty" ideas, Tom took to it immediately with a vision of **recognizing the top donors with a hot air balloon ride**. The idea grew when artist Will Simpson donated hand-crafted wooden bottle corks in the shape of balloons that all donors contributing to the Balloon Payment payoff would receive as thank-you gifts.

The PCEI Nature Center has matured physically with improvements to its existing buildings - the Gertrude Danielson Perrine House, the Waxwing, and the two sheds included in the original purchase - to expand its utility from simply a workplace for the PCEI staff and volunteers to a community destination. The Artist Studio at the top of the hill is used regularly by artists and writers, music and short classes are held in the Nancy Taylor Welcome Pavilion, and the Jim LaFortune Memorial Restroom facility increases our capacity to comfortably host visitors. These are connected with universally-accessible pathways plus nature trails for maximum enjoyment by children and adults alike.

I hope you'll swing by the Nature Center for a walk on a crisp fall day and **consider making a Balloon Payment contribution** - you might just **find yourself looking down at the beautiful Palouse Hills from 2,000 feet up in the sky!** The deadline is November 7th, but if you miss it, there are plenty of other projects to **support at YOUR local Nature Center**.



This summer, artist Nancy Savage provided us with an adorable mixed-media representation of PCEI's balloon payment, titled "BALLOONFEST".

Join PCEI for our 7th Annual Animals of the Night

Educational Fundraiser!



Come join the fun and treat your family to a night of autumnal discovery.



5pm-8pm
Friday, October 24, 2014
1040 Rodeo Drive, Moscow



See Page 2 for more information!

Canines, Raptors, and Bats, Oh My!

Animals of the Night is Back for 2014

By Hayat Norimine, *PCEI Journalism Intern*

Ever wonder how owls manage to turn their heads 270 degrees, how cats see so well in the dark, or how bats use sound to "see" where they're flying? Find out while you and your family get into your nocturnal groove at PCEI's 7th Annual Animals of the Night Education Fundraiser!

On October 24, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., children of all ages — preferably in costumes — are invited to explore PCEI's Nature Center, learning about nocturnal animals from local experts.

All kinds of live animals are featured, from reptiles to raptors, and children and adults alike are invited to participate in a number of interactive presentations and games that make their discovery fun. Families can enjoy live music, drumming provided by Roger Vielle and the UI drumming team, as well as participate in arts, crafts, storytelling, and more during the course of the event.



A curious duo reach out towards one of the many raptor visitors at 2013's Animals of the Night.



The Nancy Taylor Welcome Pavilion made an excellent ticket booth during 2013's Animals of the Night event.

Last year more than 530 people attended, making Animals of the Night PCEI's most popular event of the year! With help from 22 organizations and 44 donors, PCEI was able to raise over \$3,700, all of which benefit our many educational programs (see page 3) and the local children they serve.

PCEI is grateful to all of the generous volunteers, supporters and the following organizations and businesses for their generous support of Animals of the Night: **Hit Radio 104.3/KQQQ NewsTalk 1150, The Latah Eagle, Landeck and Forseth, Attorneys at Law, Julie and Martin Trail, Jeff's Electric, Gritman Medical Center, First Wind, Financial Advisor (Northwestern Mutual Financial Network), Pickard Orthodontics, and Allegra Print & Imaging, Latah Recycling, and Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse.**

PCEI is also excited to announce that many of its new additions to the Nature Center (including an expansion of the Nancy Taylor Welcome Pavilion and a brand new greenhouse) will be usable by the time of the event! Though this will allow more protection from the elements, we still recommend that you bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. Even better if "dressing for the weather" means dressing in a warm, fuzzy animal costume!

Ticket prices: \$3/child, \$4/adult for PCEI members, \$4/child, \$6/adult for non-members (additional donations are welcome).

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for the event, please visit pcei.org/aotn, contact Heather Huston, PCEI's Education Manager at erving@pcei.org, or just call 208.882.1444.

About this Issue

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Template Design:
Teva Hopper

Editor:
Amy Wright

Writers:
Hayat Norimine, Stacey Wilder, Paige Buehler

Graphics:
Alysha Woody, Jen Hiebert, Kristen Morrow

Copy-Editors:
Tom Lamar, Jen Hiebert, Judy Brown,
Heather Huston, Randy Stevens

Education Evolving

PCEI Education Programs Revamped

By Hayat Norimine, *PCEI Journalism Intern*

PCEI offers an **array of education programs**: classroom lessons, learning camps, field trips, the Watershed Festivals, Summer Storytime Series, and Animals of the Night. This year — with more classroom lessons and new faces on staff — there will be **more opportunities than ever**; Education programs are expanding from about 120 classroom lessons to 150 this year, giving kids living in Moscow and the greater Palouse area more opportunities to get involved with their local environment.

PCEI is also proud to offer **free lessons** that follow both Idaho State Standards, NCSS, and common core standards for K-12 learning. While those lessons have a **focus on ecology and restoration**, there are also **guest experts from the local community** who lead lectures on astronomy, forestry, and botany.

Heather Huston, Education Manager, said it's important to give kids opportunities to engage with the natural world around us. "We try to cater to all learning styles - visual, kinesthetic, and auditory learners - while engaging in the classroom and in the field" she said. "We support lifelong learning."

The education staff is additionally restructuring as it welcomes two **new staff** members, **Cait McHugh** and **Daniel Sidder** (who did two years with AmeriCorps in the Education Program. "I thoroughly enjoyed working with our team in the education program last year," Huston said. "Each brought a **valuable perspective**."

This fall the PCEI education program will benefit from additional construction on the Nancy Taylor Welcome Pavilion and a new greenhouse, which will provide for **more learning space**. "In the trajectory," Huston said, is an **aquaponics system in the greenhouse**, where kids can learn to raise aquatic animals and water plants in a symbiotic environment. Huston said PCEI wants to provide opportunities to "get connected, stay connected, be involved with present and future opportunities that arise, and really create a context where folks with ideas, excitement, interest, and experience can get together to make a difference."



A Natural Partnership

PCEI teams up with BookPeople for education opportunities

By Hayat Norimine, *PCEI Journalism Intern*

Since March BookPeople of Moscow, an independently owned bookstore in downtown Moscow, has been supporting local organizations through a program that gives part of its earnings to small local businesses and non-profits, including the likes of Backyard Harvest Inc., Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre, and PCEI!

Organizations can choose either a 3% cut in gift cards or a 2% cut in cash for their supporting customers, and if a business hosts an event at BookPeople, 20% of in-store purchases made by attendees go toward the organization.

Carol Spurling, bookworm as well as BookPeople co-owner and manager, says "all of the organizations that are taking part have some kind of education involved and I think that makes it a natural partnership for the bookstore. The potential is really big." The PCEI fund will help to support educational programs such as its Summer Storytime Series at the Nature Center.

To find out more about PCEI's partnership with BookPeople or how you can receive discounts on great children's books at BookPeople of Moscow, visit pcei.org/learning.



PCEI Volunteers M

Community Support

Volunteers in Action Serving Success Stories

PCEI volunteers have been keeping busy this year, and they're not slowing down anytime soon! Here are some **volunteer highlights from 2014.**

Serve Your New Community (SYNC)

On August 23, 80 University of Idaho students came out to the PCEI Nature Center for a morning of weeding, planting, watering, and Nature Center beautifying!

On-Site Restoration Work

Between PCEI's Rose Creek Nature Preserve, its South Fork Clearwater Riparian site by Grangeville, and the Source Water Protection Project site by Elk River, PCEI has had over 100 volunteers braving the elements and getting their hands dirty for the sake of conservation restoration, and wildlife rehabilitation.

Stream Clean-Ups

A whopping 400 volunteers from Moscow, Pullman, and the greater Palouse showed up to remove trash and recyclables from Paradise Creek and the South Fork of the Palouse this April. At least 18 cubic yards of trash and 200 pounds of recyclables were collected, hopefully keeping these streams healthy until 2015's clean-ups!

Nature Center Work Days

Between PCEI's Volunteer Tuesdays, Nature Center work days and other events, PCEI's had the pleasure of having well over 500 volunteers help out at PCEI's main campus on Rodeo Drive.

Get Involved! How to Volunteer with PCEI

PCEI offers a range of serving opportunities to fit your interests and lifestyle. You can volunteer:

- Regularly at the Nature Center • As a Group
- Once for an Event • As a Docent • As an Intern
- On Volunteer Tuesdays

Whether you like to stay warm and work on office duties or get your hands dirty with one of our outdoor projects, there is a serving opportunity for you!

Visit pcei.org/serving or email serving@pcei.org to get the latest in PCEI volunteer news!

Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday, Drop-In Volunteer Day, 10am-4pm, PCEI Nature Center. We are in constant need of volunteers to help maintain and improve out 12.3 acre Nature Center! Check our online calendar at pcei.org/events for details, or just drop in!

Saturday, October 18th, Rose Creek Work Day, 10am-1pm, Rose Creek Nature Preserve. Help us maintain the last remaining Palouse meadow steppe ecosystem! Every Saturday of each month, volunteers gather at the Rose Creek Nature Preserve to mitigate invasive weed species, maintain trails, and create habitat for native fauna. For more information email restoring@pcei.org.

Friday, October 24th, Animals of the Night, 5pm-8pm, PCEI Nature Center. Explore the trails of the PCEI Nature Center as you learn about nocturnal animals such as bats, wolves, and raccoons from local experts. Ticket prices: \$3/child and \$4/adult for PCEI members: \$4/child and \$6/adult for non members. Children under three get in free! All proceeds support PCEI's educational nature programs. Visit pcei.org/aotn for more information.

Saturday, October 25th, Make a Difference Day, 10am-12pm, PCEI Nature Center. Join us for the nation's biggest day of community service! Visit pcei.org/event/make-a-difference-day for more information.

Tuesday December 2nd, PCEI Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Party, 5:30pm-8:30 pm, 1912 Center, Moscow. Vote for your Board of Directors, renew your membership, get updates on PCEI programs, and enjoy great company. If you would like to become a board member or nominate someone for PCEI's Board of Directors, please fill out an online form today! Visit pcei.org/board-nomination for details.

Every Penny Counts!

Just like there are a million ways to serve at PCEI, there are also a million ways to give. General donations can benefit any one of our programs, but if you're feeling specific, particular program areas and projects also depend on your support to thrive. For more information on how to give to PCEI visit pcei.org/donatejoin, where donating is just a click away!

Become a Member!

Want **discounts** on PCEI events, workshops, and nursery plants, the perks of attending member-only events, and the ease of receiving regular, **special updates** from PCEI ?

Become a member!

Memberships start at \$40 and are good for a whole 12 months after the date of your gift.

Making A Difference

Helps PCEI Flourish!

Integral Interns and Valuable Volunteers Thank you so much for your indispensable extended service!

PCEI is grateful for the interns and regular volunteers whose consistent service has been so essential to our organization's work.

Many thanks go out to...

Kyle Cooper, *Education Intern*

Kyle was a key member of the education team this spring, providing indispensable help in the classroom.

Benjames Derrick, *Nature Center and Watersheds Volunteer*

Always keeping busy and active, Benjames focuses on the manual labor of executing Watersheds Restoration outdoors.

Gail DeSantis, *Data Entry and Office Assistance Volunteer*

When Gail's not busy being the President of PCEI's Board of Directors, she's applying her meticulousness to PCEI data entry.

Elyse DeShaw, *Public Relations Intern*

Elyse took more event photos and edited more albums this spring and summer than you could shake a stick at.

Olivia Loveless, *Nature Center and Watersheds Intern*

Olivia braved all kinds of weather to keep our Nature Center and watersheds cared for throughout the year.

Gloria Mayorga, *Summer Storytime Intern*

Not only did Gloria coordinate our Summer Storytime Program, but she was also very helpful during May's Idaho Gives event.

Judy Meuth, *Volunteer Extraordinaire*

Judy's attention to detail as well as her quickness to learn make her one of the most versatile volunteers PCEI's ever had.

Hayat Norimine, *Journalism Intern*

A grad student at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, Hayat applied her experience to writing much of this newsletter!

Rachit Singh, *Webmaster Intern*

Now a freshman at Harvard, Rachit has been an instrumental figure in keeping our website functional and updated.

Jasper Stemple, *Finance Intern*

Jasper has an interest in accounting and provides service extraordinaire in the business office.

Megan Tribely, *Web and Photography Intern*

In addition to photographing events, Megan took on the gruelling task of creating and formatting pages of our website.

Stacey Wilder, *Writing Intern*

Stacey's well-researched and graceful writing style continues to be a fantastic addition to PCEI's website and printed materials.

Alysha Woody, *Public Relations Intern*

If you're a member, chances are you've seen one of the beautiful flyers, postcards or thank you notes that Alysha created.

Christopher Wright, *Garden Care Volunteer*

One of our most consistent volunteers, Chris shreds sensitive documents, waters plants, and sorts recycling on a weekly basis!



HOIST Interns: PCEI also received priceless volunteer help from these participants of the HOIST program.



Kyle Cooper



Benjames Derrick



Gail DeSantis



Elyse DeShaw



Olivia Loveless



Gloria Mayorga



Judy Meuth



Hayat Norimine



Rachit Singh



Stacey Wilder



Alysha Woody



Christopher Wright

Restoration Revisited Watersheds and Restoration News

By Stacey Wilder, *PCEI Writing Intern*

Keeping the Clearwater Clear...

A full four years after originally receiving funding from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, PCEI's "**South Fork Clearwater Riparian Cooperative**," is now rapidly coming to a close.

Upon completion, the project, which aims to decrease nonpoint source pollution loads in the South Fork of the Clearwater river, **12,000 feet of stream bank will be restored**, creating wildlife habitat as well as helping to reduce water temperatures, benefitting salmon and steelhead populations.

So far, PCEI's defense against "nonpoint source pollution" (aka pollution coming from a diffused source, like urban or agricultural runoff) has been to create and enhance riparian buffers. This includes excavating and recontouring the existing, eroded stream banks, planting native riparian vegetation such as grasses, shrubs and trees to stabilize stream banks, and constructing wetlands to increase filtration potential and flood-water holding capacity. This project has planted nearly **7,500 trees across seven acres of buffer**.

The 5 project sites involved with the cooperative are slated for completion in December of this year.

...And Elk Creek Imbibable

In a continuation of past projects, the Source Water Protection Project strives to keep the town of **Elk River's drinking water clean**.

Elk River's town drinking water, which is sourced from Elk Creek, is in danger of being contaminated by sediment clogs in its filtration system, a result of heavy sediment loads being deposited into the creek from adjacent wet meadows upstream along Partridge Creek.

In order to restore the integrity of the wet meadow and to keep the well filtration system clean, PCEI staff and volunteers installed a fence around the meadow to limit access to motorized vehicles. Along with the fence, PCEI staff and local students are **enhancing the riparian buffer** along Partridge Creek and **repairing vehicle damage** in adjacent meadows.

Funding for the project was supplied through the **Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Source Water Program**.



The town of Elk River sources its drinking water from Elk Creek.



Learning and Restoring: Local kids helping restore Elk Creek by planting native trees and shrubs.



One volunteer peers through a famous PCEI "blue tube" on the banks of the Clearwater.

WHO'S WHO AT PCEI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gail DeSantis *President*
Janet Morris *Vice President*
Josh Boyce *Secretary*
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Pam Brunsfeld *Director*
John Larkin *Director*
Jerry Long *Director*
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Wendy Wegner *Office Manager*
Amy Wright *Communications Assistant*
Jen Hiebert *IT Coordinator*
Heather Huston *Education Manager*
Cait McHugh *Education Coordinator*
Daniel Sidder *Outreach Coordinator*
Randy Stevens *Implementation Coordinator*
David Arnold *Lead Restoration Technician*
Cedar Hincke
Danielle Berardi
Brendan Jackson
Kevin Coates
Restoration Technicians

New Faces at PCEI

We were sad to say goodbye to our 2013-2014 AmeriCorps members (who had completed their contracts), Katie Petersen (PCEI Lead-Educator, who is now completing a graduate program at the University of Idaho), Wendy Lawrence (Contract and Grant Coordinator), and Carolea Webb (Office Manager). But, as we close some doors, we open new ones. **Meet our new staff members!**

**In order of hire date.*



Cedar Hincke, *Seasonal Restoration Technician*

Hailing from the mountains of Northeastern Washington and with degrees in Wildlife and Forestry, Cedar is no stranger to conservation and restoration in the inland Northwest. He is currently completing his B.S. in Natural Resource Conservation at the University of Idaho, while enjoying the Palouse and all the outdoor activities it has to offer.

Danielle Berardi, *Seasonal Restoration Technician*

Danielle, originally from Oregon, has spent the last two summers monitoring restoration treatments in western Montana. She attained a B.S. in Ecological Restoration from the University of Montana, and her dream is to work for the restoration and conservation of the environment. She enjoys hiking and backpacking and is excited to gain more hands-on restoration experience at PCEI.



Cait McHugh, *Education Coordinator*

Cait, a Tennessee native, earned her M. Ed from Western Washington University and is now in the field of environmental education. In her spare time she enjoys backpacking, hiking, birding and Bananagrams. She loves sunshine, wildflowers, and the wonderful people of the Palouse, and is looking forward to making Moscow her new home.

Wendy Wegner, *Office Manager*

Wendy, of Minnesota, raised two kids and enjoys camping, hiking, visiting nature centers, as well as state and regional parks. She has an A.A.S. in Wilderness Management and recently completed her B.G.S. at the University of Idaho on Sustainability and Conservation Social Science. Wendy, her husband, and their four dogs have been enjoying and exploring the Palouse and she is honored to be part of PCEI.



Kevin Coates, *Seasonal Restoration Technician*

A native of southwest Washington, Kevin enjoys fishing, hunting, camping, biking, canoeing, foraging, and exploring, which led him to pursue a outdoorsy career. He has a B.S. in Resource Recreation and Tourism from the University of Idaho and has worked a wide variety of forestry and wildlife jobs. He is eager to further develop his skills in ecological restoration at PCEI.

Brendan Jackson, *Seasonal Restoration Technician*

If this face looks familiar, it's because Brendan served as an AmeriCorps member with PCEI's Education Program earlier this year! Another native of Minnesota, Brendan graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.S. in Economics. He has worked a number of wilderness-oriented jobs including trail guiding and mushing sled dogs in the BWCA. Brendan is eager to begin work as a Seasonal Restoration Technician!



A Fond Farewell: Thank you so much...

Katie Petersen



Carolea Webb



2013-2014 AmeriCorps Members



Wendy Lawrence



You will be missed!

Sprouting Spaces

The PCEI Nature Center Expanded

By Hayat Norimine, *PCEI Journalism Intern*

Come October, PCEI has the goal of completing two additions to the Nature Center: expanding the Nancy Taylor Pavilion and building a greenhouse.

Construction on the Nancy Taylor Welcome Pavilion began in 2012, with the foundation walls and center stage. New construction includes an expansion and a roof, providing a sheltered space for the coming winter months. The construction is projected to be complete by October 24, in time for PCEI's annual Animals of the Night event (see page 2).

The Learning Greenhouse will add 3,200 square feet for PCEI's educational programming, nursery, and sustainable living projects. The potential start of aquaponics at PCEI could allow for raising fish and water plants. Materials being used for the greenhouse will be lightweight but durable (in addition to being eco-friendly), in efforts to maximize its use of solar energy and to keep it well-insulated for warmth.

Tom Lamar, Executive Director of PCEI, says the renovations will be an important expansion for PCEI's programming, allowing PCEI to provide more educational programs in the winter and keep local families active despite the weather.

Total cost for the two construction projects this year will be approximately \$70,000, or \$40,000 for the greenhouse and \$30,000 for the Welcome Pavilion's expansion. All of the steel for the greenhouse is reclaimed and donated by Clearwater Paper Corporation in Lewiston.

The pavilion is a tribute to Nancy Taylor, avid supporter and former program director of PCEI for over 20 years before she passed away in 2012. Donations to the Nancy Taylor Memorial Fund, which help build the pavilion, are being accepted online (pcei.org/donatejoin), by mail, or over the phone.



The Nancy Taylor Memorial Pavilion is pictured here in October during the expansion process. All pillars are repurposed wood donated by Larry Duff.

Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute

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