PCEI and Yoga: A Natural Connection
By Jim Ekins, Vice President, PCEI Board of Directors

“Connecting people, place and community” is at the heart of what we do at PCEI. We try to demonstrate how each of us is part of much larger social-ecological systems that sustain us. Experienced yogis will recognize common themes with the idea behind yoga and those behind PCEI: connectedness, creativity, balance, flexibility, and strength.

In recognizing that all things are connected, a concept I see as being directly related to my own yoga practice, PCEI brings synergistic thinking into every project. An example of tying many synergistic factors together is the ongoing construction of the Jim LaFortune Memorial “Groover” Restroom Facility. The existing septic system was inadequate for handling the 3,000 or so visitors per year to the PCEI Nature Center, hence the construction of a composting toilet facility to serve the needs of all who work, play, and visit our Nature Center. It is sustainably built from Rastra blocks and reclaimed lumber, with rainwater collection and universal accessibility to round out this project. Besides making connections between our own individual actions and the global water crisis, we are creating a healthy, useful space that incorporates EcoArt, solar panels and native plant landscaping.

Embedded within PCEI’s mission is our role as an incubator of good ideas. We support efforts to bring community together, to solve environmental problems, and to restore balance among living beings and inanimate things (especially the built environment). Just as yoga helps us to connect the inner self with things, people, and places beyond us, PCEI helps us to connect our outer selves and our interactions within and among the community.

Non-Profit Friday for PCEI!
Friday, November 30th
5:30pm-6:45pm
at Nourish, 206 S. Main, Moscow

All Levels Yoga
By donation (50% to benefit PCEI, 50% to Nourish’s scholarship fund)

While the Groover is technically functional at this point, we still need $22,000 to complete the final touches, including a universally accessible pathway. The Groover is a two-story structure built into the side of a hill with two restrooms on the upper level and the “digestor” on the lower level—hence the need for a universally accessible pathway to reach the upper story. The pathway will also connect the restroom to our outdoor classroom, playscape and other paths. When fully completed, the Groover will feature solar-powered lights, landscaping with native plants, rainwater collection, EcoArt, and a veranda that will function as an outdoor classroom.

Your Donations at Work at the PCEI Nature Center!
By Jen Hiebert, Development Coordinator and Waylan Kelly, PR Intern

When you gotta go, you gotta go. But since 2004, where to go has been a bit of a problem for thousands of visitors to the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) Nature Center. We’ve been making do with portable toilets, an indoor restroom with limited availability and accessibility, and a tiny septic system.

Which is why we are constructing the Jim LaFortune Memorial “Groover” Restroom Facility. The “Groover” is a sustainably built composting toilet facility that will boost PCEI’s capacity to host over 3,000 visitors annually. It is named in memory of Jim LaFortune, a local teacher and outdoor enthusiast who passed away in November 2010. (To find out why it is called the “Groover”, visit pcei.org/lafortune_groover.htm).

Another project awaiting your help for completion is the Nancy Taylor Welcome Pavilion. Nancy Taylor, who passed away in January 2012, was a dedicated PCEI volunteer and supporter for over 20 years. She was PCEI’s Sustainable Agriculture Program Director from 1989 to 1997. Nancy also started our education program and developed PCEI’s concept of “EcoArt”.

Complimentary Copy-Join PCEI Today!
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We’ll put your membership gift to work immediately to promote environmental education, sustainable living, community service and watershed restoration.

Every gift makes a difference!

The mission of PCEI is to increase citizen involvement in decisions that affect our environment. Our goal is to encourage sustainable living, provide experiential learning, and offer opportunities for serving in our community, while actively protecting and restoring our natural resources. PCEI is a non-profit organization (EIN 94-308198). Donations are tax deductible.

Welcome Randy, Heather, Joan and Colleen!

Randy Stevens
Implementation Coordinator
Randy spent his formative years growing up in Spokane, WA. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture and a Master’s degree in Weed Science and Ecology from WSU. In 2004 and 2005, he served as an AmeriCorps member with PCEI. Randy has also worked as the Natural Resource Coordinator for the Palouse Conservation District. He likes to spend his free time sailing, hiking or skiing, or chilling at home reading, sculpture, or cooking for friends.

Joan Alexander
AmeriCorps Placement Coordinator
Joan moved to Idaho in 1995 from the Bay Area to find new adventures. Her background is in elementary education. She is a singer/songwriter, the mother of 3 children and owner of WildArt, a paint-your-own-pottery and mixed media art center. She loves to rock climb, swim, spend time with friends and her children, and enjoy the sunshine whenever she can. Joan is dedicated to creating space and opportunity for young people to do good things for themselves, their community and the world around them.

We are extremely fortunate at PCEI to have so many talented, creative and dedicated individuals on our staff, which makes it so much harder when life takes some of them in new directions.

Tracy Brown
PCEI’s Watersheds Program Director from 2004 to 2012. She is now working as the Northeastern Restoration Coordinator for Trout Unlimited in Massachusetts.

Jennifer Wood-Beauchamp (now McEvoy) was PCEI’s Education Program Manager from 2007 to 2012. She has turned one of her passions into a business in Vermont called Fancy Pants Cakes.

Since 2003 Aly Lamar has served PCEI as an AmeriCorps member in environmental education, as our first Volunteer Coordinator and as our first Membership Coordinator. Aly is currently doing contract work for the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

We’d like to wish Tracy, Jenica, and Aly all the best in their new adventures!
Fostering the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards
By Judy Brown, PCEI Business Manager and AmeriCorps Program Director

We are also fostering environmental stewardship as the fiscal sponsor for the Confluence Environmental Center in Portland, Oregon. What makes the Confluence Environmental Center unique is its emphasis on providing critical environmental services to low-income communities. With funding from CNCS and Oregon Volunteers!, Confluence places 20 AmeriCorps members in the Portland area who work on projects such as urban gardening, composting and recycling.

This is PCEI’s second year as the Confluence Environmental Center’s fiscal agent. Find out more about the Center at confluencecenter.org.

FALL 2012

Your Donations (continued from p.1)

Thanks to the support of Nancy’s family, the foundation has been poured, a gravel surface laid, flower gardens made and planted, and a deck constructed. However, we still need to raise $20,000 to complete the actual Pavilion. When finished, it will provide much-needed shelter for children on educational field trips to the Nature Center and feature recycled materials, EcoArt and colorful flowerbeds to remind us of Nancy’s warm and creative personality.

Ultimately the purpose of these projects is not only to serve as demonstrations of sustainable design, but to facilitate our goal of getting kids outdoors—to learn, to play, to explore. Which is why we urge you to support “Break for the Outdoors”—a constellation of programs to connect children with the discovery and wonder of nature. Your support of Break for the Outdoors will help keep our programs affordable for all, programs like PCEI’s Summer Storytime Series, educational programs in local schools and at the Nature Center, Animals of the Night and more. Every gift nurtures the next generation of environmental stewards—an opportunity we can’t afford to miss.

$57,000 Needed to "Connect People, Place, and Community" Can You Help?

Spare a Square $22,000
A Roof of Their Own $20,000
Break for the Outdoors $15,000

Donate $250 or more to the construction of the LaFortune Groover universally accessible pathway and we’ll inscribe your name (or dedication) on a square section of the pathway. You can even add artwork and mementos to your square when the concrete is poured!

Donate $250 or more to the construction of the Nancy Taylor Welcome Pavilion and we’ll send you a deluxe Sheaffer pen (donated by the family of Nancy Taylor). Donate $100 or more and we’ll send you a set of beautiful note cards designed by local artist, Molly Klingler.

Donate $250 or more to support our Environmental Education programming and we’ll send you a set of Nature Circles Cards to spark your child’s imagination. Donate $100 or more and we’ll send you a set of beautiful note cards designed by local artist, Molly Klingler.

For best results, please make your gift by November 15, 2012!

PCEI Welcomes Our New AmeriCorps Members

Katie Peterson, Environmental Educator
Katie graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN and received her graduate degree from the University of Idaho. She was an AmeriCorps member at the McCall Outdoor Science School and likes reading, cooking, and exploring the Palouse.

Daniel Siddre, Environmental Educator
Daniel is a Colorado native and a graduate of Colorado State University. His background is in community sustainability, natural resources management, and environmental education. He enjoys mountain biking, soccer, and reading.

Nick Yuill, Environmental Educator
Nick graduated from Northern Michigan University in Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management. He has been an educator, facilitator, and guide. Nick enjoys cooking Indian and Pakistani food, hiking, climbing, and raising his Siberian husky, Basmati.

Amelia Hettinger, Nature Center and Watersheds Steward
Amelia has always had a passion for the outdoors. She received her degree from Hocking College in Wildlife Management and worked several natural resources jobs in Ohio. She looks forward to gaining more field experience and doing restoration projects.

Bob Grandchamp, Nature Center and Watersheds Steward
Bob has a passion for community service and restoring our earth. He graduated from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin with a degree in Geography and Earth Sciences. He enjoys hiking, skiing, reading, and walking his dogs.

AmeriCorps member Bob Grandchamp helps stucco the walls of the composting toilet facility at the PCEI Nature Center. Bob is serving at one of PCEI’s Nature Center and Watersheds Stewards. Photo: PCEI.
2012 Summer Storytime Series a Success!

By Waylan Kelly, PCEI PR Intern

This year’s PCEI Summer Storytime Series was our best one ever with record-breaking attendance (one day saw 36 participants)! Our goal was to enhance the Storytime sessions by not only having several books read but also having a fun activity for the kids to enjoy. Scavenger hunts, parachutes, team building exercises, making musical instruments and even having musical guests come play for the kids are just a handful of examples of the activities that were featured at the readings.

What made these events so special this year was the wonderful volunteers that came and read to the children. Having such energetic readers really kept this program alive so we would like to personally thank everyone that attended and volunteered for the event and we hope to see you all for our 2013 Summer Storytime Series!

The PCEI Summer Storytime Series was made possible with the support of Inland Northwest Community Foundation, Latah County Community Foundation and the Idaho Community Foundation. PCEI would also like to thank BookPeople of Moscow for promoting the series and offering a 20% discount on each featured book of the week. And finally, many thanks to Ashley Marine, PCEI Storytime Intern, and Anna Waterous, PCEI volunteer, for doing a stellar job of organizing the series.

Bikes for Tykes

Young visitors can now explore PCEI’s universally-accessible pathway by bike thanks to “Bike for Tykes” – a fleet of child-sized bikes at the Nature Center. The Bikes were donated by Village Bicycle Project and repaired by volunteers and mechanics from Follett’s Mountain Sports and B&L Bicycles. AmeriCorps member Gary Whitebird organized the repair work-shop and Moscow Food Co-op fed the volunteers.

Moose on the Loose at PCEI

Two young moose were spotted at the PCEI Nature Center around 9:00am on Friday, October 5th. They were observed just east of the TerraGraphics Wetlands. After grazing on some willows, they ambled onto a neighbors lawn and disappeared into a clump of trees. This unique urban sight was even more special as it was the first time Bob Grandchamp, one of PCEI’s new AmeriCorps members, had ever seen a moose.

Animals of the Night is October 26th!

By Heather Hutson, PCEI Education Outreach Coordinator

Treat your family to a night of autumn fun and discovery! Join us for PCEI’s 5th Annual Animals of the Night family event on Friday, October 26th. Explore the trails of the PCEI Nature Center as you learn about nocturnal animals, such as bats, owls and raccoons, from local experts. The event also features live animals (including owls from the WSU Raptor Club), free snacks and beverages, games, crafts and storytelling.

Animals of the Night takes place Friday, October 26th from 5:00pm-8:00pm (tickets available until 7:30pm) at the PCEI Nature Center, 1040 Rodeo Drive in Moscow. Ticket prices: $3/child and $4/adult for PCEI members; $4/child and $6/adult for non-members. Children under 3 get in free! All proceeds support PCEI’s education programs. Please bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. Costumes are encouraged!

Interested in volunteering for the event? Contact Heather at 208-882-1444 or heather@pcei.org.

PCEI Holiday Party & Annual Membership Meeting

Tuesday, December 4th
6:30pm-9:00pm, 1912 Center
Board elections, PCEI updates, desserts and no-host bar. RSVP by November 30th: rsvp@pcei.org

PCEI Holiday Party 
Saturday, December 8th
10:00am-2:00pm, 1912 Center
Support PCEI when you buy gift cards at our booth!

Alternative Giving Helps PCEI, Community

By Mary Silvernale Shook, PCEI Member and Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse Volunteer

PCEI is one of over 25 local nonprofits that benefits from this fun holiday event promoting sustainable giving. Enjoy holiday shopping by honoring family and friends by giving them meaningful gift cards from local nonprofits. Choose from a wide range of gift denominations, starting at $5. “These small gifts can go a long way in touching someone’s heart and embodying the true spirit of the holidays,” says Market co-founder, Dianne Daley Laursen.

Online giving is available at agmpalouse.org. For more information visit agmpalouse.org. Find the Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse on Facebook, email agmpalouse@gmail.com, or call Dianne Daley Laursen at (208) 310-1231.
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PCEI @ the Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse

Wednesday, December 5th
4:00pm-8:00pm, Pritchard Gallery
Purchase green gift cards in support of PCEI online at agmpalouse.org November 23-December 18.

PCEI @ the Winter Market

Saturday, December 8th
10:00am-2:00pm, 1912 Center
Support PCEI when you buy green gifts at our booth!

Alternative Giving Helps PCEI, Community

By Mary Silvernale Shook, PCEI Member and Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse Volunteer

Shop Local, Buy Local, Give Local! Come support PCEI at the 4th Annual Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse, Wednesday, December 5, 4:00pm-8:00pm at the Pritchard Art Gallery, 414 S. Main Street in Moscow, in conjunction with the Light Up the Night Holiday Parade.

PCEI is one of over 25 local nonprofits that benefits from this fun holiday event promoting sustainable giving. Enjoy holiday shopping by honoring family and friends by giving them meaningful gift cards from local nonprofits. Choose from a wide range of gift denominations, starting at $5. “These small gifts can go a long way in touching someone’s heart and embodying the true spirit of the holidays,” says Market co-founder, Dianne Daulsen.

Online giving is available at agmpalouse.org from November 23-December 18. For more information visit agmpalouse.org, find the Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse on Facebook, email agmpalouse@gmail.com, or call Dianne Daulsen at (208) 310-1231.
**Fostering the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards**

*By Judy Brown, PCEI Business Manager and AmeriCorps Program Director*

Thanks to funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), Serve Idaho, and sponsor fees, PCEI continues to foster the next generation of environmental stewards and engaged citizens.

PCEI’s AmeriCorps Placement Program is built around sustainable community development. This fall PCEI has 10 AmeriCorps positions in Idaho—2 at PCEI, 6 at the University of Idaho, and 2 in southern Idaho. Our AmeriCorps members are involved in sustainable planning and development through volunteer recruitment, civic engagement, and service learning opportunities.

We are also fostering environmental stewardship as the fiscal sponsor for the Confluence Environmental Center in Portland, Oregon. What makes the Confluence Environmental Center unique is its emphasis on providing critical environmental services to low-income communities. With funding from CNCS and Oregon Volunteers!, Confluence places 20 AmeriCorps members in the Portland area who work on projects such as urban gardening, composting and recycling.

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*Environmental Educator*  
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*Environmental Educator*  
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Nick graduated from Northern Michigan University in Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management. He has been an educator, facilitator, and guide. Nick enjoys cooking Indian and Pakistani food, hiking, climbing, and raising his Siberian husky, Basmati.

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Amelia has always had a passion for the outdoors. She received her degree from Hocking College in Wildlife Management and worked several natural resources jobs in Ohio. She looks forward to gaining more field experience and doing restoration projects.

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WHO’S WHO AT PCEI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Carole Wells - President
Jim Ekins - Vice President
Josh Boyce - Secretary
Alexa Makhan - Treasurer
Gail Dichitte - Director
Jerry Lang - Director
Jack Sullivan - Director
Jennifer Wilk - Director

STAFF MEMBERS
Thomas Lamar - Executive Director
Judith Brown - Business Manager
Jean Alexander - AmeriCorps Placement Coordinator
Jim Hudson - Development Coordinator
Heather Hunter - Education Outreach Coordinator
Randy Stevens - Implementation Coordinator
Colleen McCallagh - Administrative Assistant
Lara Jones - Conference Program Director
Sherrie Jackson - Conference Program Support Coordinator
Bob Loukho - Conference Communication Specialist

AMERICORPS MEMBERS
Katie Peterson - Environmental Educator
Daniel Schild - Environmental Educator
Nick Yuill - Environmental Educator
Amelia Herting - Nature Center and Watershed Steward
Bob Grandchamp - Nature Center and Watershed Steward

INTERNS
Waylan Kelly - Public Relations

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS
Sue Allard - Office Assistant
Gail Dichitte - Office Assistant
Karen Lawrence - Nature Center Assistant
Carolea Webb - Office Assistant
Christopher Wright - Garden Care
Clintan Ushoff - House Plant Maintenance

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Welcome Randy, Heather, Joan and Colleen!

Randy Stevens
Implementation Coordinator
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Joan Alexander
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Colleen McCullagh
Administrative Assistant
Born and raised in New York City, Colleen grew up with a fondness for buildings and graduated in Architectural Studies from Binghamton University. She developed a late but great fondness for the outdoors while working in Alaska and in 2010 she hiked the Appalachian Trail. Colleen then earned a graduate degree in Natural Resource Management. Colleen started at PCEI this summer as a community engagement intern. She is happy to continue her involvement as PCEI’s administrative assistant.

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Donations are tax deductible.

Welcome Randy, Heather, Joan and Colleen!

Randy Stevens
Implementation Coordinator
Randy spent his formative years growing up in Spokane, WA. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture and a Master’s degree in Weed Science and Ecology from WSU. In 2004 and 2005, he served as an AmeriCorps member with PCEI. Randy has also worked as the Natural Resource Coordinator for the Palouse Conservation District. He likes to spend his free time sailing, hiking or skiing, or chilling at home reading, sculpting, or cooking for friends.

Joan Alexander
AmeriCorps Placement Coordinator
Joan moved to Idaho in 1995 from the Bay Area to find new adventures. Her background is in elementary education. She is a singer/songwriter, the mother of 3 children and owner of WildArt, a paint-your-own-pottery and mixed media art center. She loves to rock climb, swim, spend time with friends and her children, and enjoy the sunshine whenever she can. Joan is dedicated to creating space and opportunity for young people to do good things for themselves, their community and the world around them.

Colleen McCullagh
Administrative Assistant
Born and raised in New York City, Colleen grew up with a fondness for buildings and graduated in Architectural Studies from Binghamton University. She developed a late but great fondness for the outdoors while working in Alaska and in 2010 she hiked the Appalachian Trail. Colleen then earned a graduate degree in Natural Resource Management. Colleen started at PCEI this summer as a community engagement intern. She is happy to continue her involvement as PCEI’s administrative assistant.

Join PCEI Today!

We’ll put your membership gift to work immediately to promote environmental education, sustainable living, community service and watershed restoration.

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PCEI and Yoga: A Natural Connection
By Jim Ekins, Vice President, PCEI Board of Directors

“Connecting people, place and community” is at the heart of what we do at PCEI. We try to demonstrate how each of us is part of much larger social-ecological systems that sustain us. Experienced yogis will recognize common themes with the idea behind yoga and those behind PCEI: connectedness, creativity, balance, flexibility, and strength.

In recognizing that all things are connected, a concept I see as being directly related to my own yoga practice, PCEI brings synergistic thinking into every project. An exciting example of tying many synergistic factors together is the ongoing construction of the Jim LaFortune Memorial “Groover” Restroom Facility. The existing septic system was inadequate for handling the 3,000 or so visitors per year to the PCEI Nature Center, hence the construction of a composting toilet facility to serve the needs of all who work, play, and visit our Nature Center. It is sustainably built from Rastra blocks and reclaimed lumber, with rainwater collection and universal accessibility to round out this project. Besides making connections between our own individual actions and the global water crisis, we are creating a healthy, useful space that incorporates EcoArt, solar panels and native plant landscaping.

Embedded within PCEI’s mission is our role as an incubator of good ideas. We support efforts to bring community together, to solve environmental problems, and to restore balance among living beings and inanimate things (especially the built environment). Just as yoga helps us to connect the inner self with things, people, and places beyond us, PCEI helps us to connect our outer selves and our interactions within and among the community.

Your Donations at Work at the PCEI Nature Center!
By Jen Hiebert, Development Coordinator and Waylan Kelly, PR Intern

When you gotta go, you gotta go. But since 2004, where to go has been a bit of a problem for thousands of visitors to the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) Nature Center. We’ve been making do with portable toilets, an indoor restroom with limited availability and accessibility, and a tiny septic system.

Which is why we are constructing the Jim LaFortune Memorial “Groover” Restroom Facility. The “Groover” is a sustainably built composting toilet facility that will boost PCEI’s capacity to host over 3,000 visitors annually. It is named in memory of Jim LaFortune, a local teacher and outdoor enthusiast who passed away in November 2010. (To find out why it is called the “Groover”, visit pcei.org/lafortune_groover.html).

While the Groover is technically functional at this point, we still need $22,000 to complete the final touches, including a universally accessible pathway. The Groover is a two-story structure built into the side of a hill with two restrooms on the upper level and the “digestor” on the lower level—hence the need for a universally accessible pathway to reach the upper story. The pathway will also connect the restroom to our outdoor classroom, playscape and other paths. When fully completed, the Groover will feature solar-powered lights, landscaping with native plants, rainwater collection, EcoArt, and a veranda that will function as an outdoor classroom.

Another project awaiting your help for completion is the Nancy Taylor Welcome Pavilion. Nancy Taylor, who passed away in January 2012, was a dedicated PCEI volunteer and supporter for over 20 years. She was PCEI’s Sustainable Agriculture Program Director from 1989 to 1997. Nancy also started our education program and developed PCEI’s concept of “EcoArt”.

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