Member: Paige Buehler
Paige joined PCEI in 2007. She has since joined the PCEI Board of Directors and moved into the role of treasurer. Paige is also on the PCEI Nature Center Committee to help plan fun family events. Paige and her family can be found participating in volunteer events from the Plate Project to our 18th Annual Paradis Creek Clean-Up. Her main environmental interests lie in recycling and transportation issues. Thank you Paige for your time and amazing energy!

Volunteer: Mandie Schoenberg
Mandie thanks Mandie for her generous contributions over the past year! Mandie has been an AmeriCorps Education Award member and has improved PCEI’s public relations and 2008 Newsletters. Mandie also spent the past year working for the UI JAMM office and UI Video Network Support Services. She was President of the UI Public Relations club, and is a board member of the Humane Society of the Palouse. She graduated on May 10th with two degrees-English and Public Relations. After a fun vacation in Hawaii, Mandie will be returning to Moscow to look for full-time work.

Conservationist: John Cardwell
John has worked for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for over twelve years. As the regional water quality manager, John works closely with a diversity of community stakeholders developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for Idaho’s polluted waterways. These water quality “action plans” guide the implementation of restoration & conservation practices helping to improve natural resource management throughout our region. Thanks John for ALL you do for our community!

In 2007 PCEI engaged 1,132 Volunteers for a total of 22,224 volunteer hours which is valued by the federal government as $433,590.24 ... and yet we still need you! Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Courtney Rush (see pg 2) to learn about volunteer opportunities.
Summer 2008 Events Calendar

For more information about PCEI events, please visit our calendar of events at <www.pcei.org/calendar.htm>. All events are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted, regardless of weather. For directions and additional information please visit our website at <www.pcei.org/calendar.htm>. Carpooling options are available and encouraged.

If you are interested in attending one of these events, please contact PCEI Volunteer Coordinator, Courtney Rush (<courtney@pcei.org>) or (208) 882-1444.

May 25, Friday: PCEI Annual Membership Celebration Day Party 5:30-8:30 p.m. Celebrating 22 years of Service! Party’s Mexican Kitchen 450 W 6th St., Moscow, ID. Cost is $12 for the public and $10 for PCEI members for a meal/veggie plate, salad, rice and beans, a pint of Mirror Pond Summer Ale or soda. Not currently a PCEI member? Join at the event or visit <http://www.pcei.org/support.html> to join today!

May 24, Saturday: Rose Creek Volunteer Event Rose Creek Nature Preserve, near Albion, WA

May 31, Saturday: PCEI Native Learning Nursery Spring Plant Sale

May 31, Saturday: Getting’ Buggy! Explore the World of the Bug. All ages welcome. Cost is $12 per family for non-members and $8 per family for members. Please RSVP to Courtney Rush (<courtney@pcei.org>) as space is limited. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. PCEI Rodeos Campus

June 7, Saturday: Rose Creek Volunteer Event Rose Creek Nature Preserve, near Albion, WA

June 8, Saturday: PCEI Native Learning Nursery Plant Sale

June 14, Saturday: PCEI Native Learning Nursery Plant Sale

July 12, Saturday: Rose Creek Volunteer Event Rose Creek Nature Preserve, near Albion, WA

July 23, Wednesday: Midsummer Night’s Dream dinner, by invitation only

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 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 $__________

Please contact me about volunteering
- I want to be contacted by mail

Email ____________________________ Phone ____________________________ Address __________________________

Name(s) __________________________ Signature __________________________

For more information on how you can become a PCEI Intern, contact Courtney Rush or visit <www.pcei.org/internships>.

No-Idle Zone: It all adds up to cleaner air

Tom Brattebo, AmeriCorps Member No-Idle Zone Coordinator

Do you know that according to the Washington State Department of Ecology and the American Lung Association, at least 10% of the children in Washington (it’s similar in Idaho) suffer from asthma; and that asthma causes more school absences than any other reason? When we idle our cars in drive-thru lanes, school drop-off/pick-up zones, waiting in parking lots, and for that “quick run in” we are making sufferers from asthma (our kids) suffer more! Vehicle exhaust from unnecessary idling also exacerbates cancer, diabetes, heart disease and other respiratory illnesses.

I learned those things as an AmeriCorps Member working at West Valley School District’s Outdoor Learning Center in Spokane in 2006. I helped implement a program called “No-Idle Zone” at a couple of West Valley schools, courtesy of the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency. I am pleased to be back in 2008 working toward the same goal of reducing vehicle exhaust. “No-Idle Zone” simply asks us to stop idling our cars for more than thirty seconds (Not while in traffic!) Modern cars do not need a “warm up time,” nor are they damaged by this off-on pattern.

I have monitored unnecessary idling and have talked to many people about the health impacts; the response invariably being, “Oh, I didn’t know that,” and they turn the car off. It just makes sense. Please help your community become a healthy “No-Idle Zone.” If you would like to make sure your child’s school, your business or even your city is a little healthier, encourage the leaders to contact me, Tom Brattebo, AmeriCorps Member at brattebo@spokeancleanair.org or at Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (509) 477-4727, ext. #126. Idaho’s similar program is called “Clean Air Zone” and is available through the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Contact Amy Luft at <amy.luft@deq.idaho.gov>.

PCEI Internships Available in 2008!

PCEI has several internship opportunities. New faces at PCEI’s Rodeo Nature Center are always welcome and appreciated!

You could work at:
- Learning Nursery
- Community Garden
- Restoration
- Environmental Education
- Pantry Garden

or in these fields:
- Administration
- Database Work
- Graphic Design
- Public Relations
- Website Design

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WSU Offers First Online Certificate in Organic Agriculture in the United States

Washington State University, the first institution in the country to offer an academic major in organic agriculture, is now offering the nation’s first online certificate in organic agriculture. The program’s first core course, Soils 101, Organic Gardening and Farming, will be available during the summer 2008 semester. Admission to WSU is required to enroll in courses and to earn the certificate, and participants may apply as non-degree seeking students. More information is available at WSU’s Center for Distance and Professional Education Web site <http://online.wsu.edu> or by calling (800) 222-4978.
The new Eaton Season Guest Ranch cabin. Photo: Nikki Eaton

Local Spotlight: Eaton Farms
Nikki Eaton, Owner <www.eatonbeef.com>

As 8th generation Eatons on this ranch, we provide local grass-fed beef to the Palouse region, selling cuts in the Moscow Food Co-op and providing bulk orders from the farm. Last year we integrated beef jerky and this year our new product will be summer sausage. We host annual farm tours to encourage the public to see where our local beef is raised and how our farm functions daily. In addition to the farm, we have the Eaton Season Guest Ranch where guests enjoy hiking, canoeing, fishing in addition to our seasonal ranch activities. We provide local seasonal food for our guests and the cabins sites are situated in a grove of trees along a creek.

Our mission is to connect with people by sharing our passion and love of the land, to educate people about local organic/natural food, and to share with them our way of life. Our ranch is located 15 miles southeast of Pullman, WA on 3,000 acres in the Wawawai Canyon, adjacent to the Snake River.

PCEI Programs Reach Far and Wide in 2007-08 School Year
Jenica Wood-Beauchamp, Education Specialist

For more information <http://www.eatonseasonranch.com/>

Sensible Spring Summary
Earth Month at PCEI is our most exciting month! We kicked off April with a Pullman Streams Clean-Up with the help of over 75 volunteers, collecting six 50-gallon drums of recyclables! We also introduced our first “Family Days” at our Nature Center on Rodeo Drive and our Community Garden on A Street. These events brought out over fifteen families with children from 6 months to 12 years of age.

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Look 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 Rodeo Campus. For more info, visit our website, <www.pcei.org>.
PCEI Hires Grants Coordinator

Sandi Billings has been a non-profit fund developer and manager for more than 14 years. Other than that, she’s never concentrated on one area for too long—there’s too much more to do. She’s part space cadet, with a masters’ degree in planetary science and undergraduate in space science; part river rat, having worked as a guide on the Salmon River; and part earth mother, with a love for animals, seasons, and places with few humans per acre. From KRFP Moscow, Sandi produces and hosts Yin Radio, a syndicated community talk show featuring women’s voices, stories, and concerns. She lives in Moscow with her partner of 14 years—Albert the dawg—in a household of three women, four cats, and three dogs. Welcome Sandi!!

What is Wisescape? The City of Moscow established Wisescape concepts in 2008 to promote water-efficient landscaping on the Palouse in the areas: landscape design, reduction of resource use, soil enhancements, and plant selection. The City has a Wisescape Award opportunity for Moscow residents who have set examples for aesthetic and resource conservation. Nominations due by September 15th, 2008. Visit <www.moscow.id.us> for more information.

PCEI Gets Audited...For Energy Use!

Sara Robson Cuckey, Watersheds Program Manager

One of the great things about working for PCEI is that we are given opportunities to support our community—which often reciprocated ten-fold. Recently I volunteered for the Northwest Public Radio Pledge Drive where I sat next to Mike Carlton. In between the myriad of phone calls we answered we realized that we had an environmental connection. Carlton owns Palouse Synergy Systems, a business that aims to help citizens, companies, and organizations integrate sustainable energy solutions into current businesses and homes. What linked us is the fact that Tom Lamar, PCEI’s Executive Director has wanted this service performed since PCEI moved to 1040 Rodeo Drive.

Mike Carlton came out the following week to conduct an energy efficiency audit on the Gertrude Danielson Perrine House. Using specialized equipment, the house was pressurized to assess where air leaks occur. An infrared camera was also used to detect air leak severity around the more discrete leaks like those around outlets, built-in cabinets, and poorly caulked windows. The audit concluded that the Gertrude Danielson Perrine House is old and leaky, but there are a few quick and inexpensive fixes that we can do to directly bring our energy costs down, and some more long-term solutions that we can work towards.

Simple solutions for your home may be:

- Seal doors and vents on outside walls.
- Caulk roof and window seams.
- Seal electrical outlets with foam.
- Adjust door latches for a tight seal.
- Install a fiberglass blanket around water heaters.
- Insulate all exposed pipes with foam and tape all joints.
- Check with utility companies about energy saving incentives.
- Heat rooms separately if possible (baseboard heat with separate thermostats).
- Use power strips to turn off equipment when not in use.

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