



The Round Up

Roots & Shoots

Four Corners Seasonal eNewsletter

Fall
2008

Regional Youth Leadership Retreat

Four Corners first regional youth leadership retreat was attended by 11 participants on July 11-13 at the beautiful Wind River Ranch in northern New Mexico.

From around the Four Corners region, youth applied for the chance to attend a three-day Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership Retreat designed to enhance their leadership skills and to learn more about the Roots & Shoots program. Eleven participants were invited to Wind River Ranch for a weekend of workshops, guest speakers, good food and beautiful scenery.

Upon arrival Friday afternoon, retreat attendees were greeted at the gate by some of the 65 resident buffalo and were awestruck by the beauty of the ranch. Participants began to explore the area while threatening thunder clouds prompted hasty construction of the two 18-foot teepees that would be their accommodations for the next two nights. Although strangers at first,



everyone worked together to build their teepees, assisted by two members of the Jicarilla Apache tribe. The group soon got to know each other over enchiladas, met the Roots & Shoots and Wind River Ranch staff and enjoyed a late-night walk to an abandoned ghost town.

The next morning began a day full of activities starting with the inspiring words of Roots & Shoots Four

Corners Regional Director Ray Powell. Workshops included a discussion of Ken Beller and Heather Chase's book *Great Peacemakers*, led by Julie Velazquez, Four Corners Albuquerque Coordinator. The workshop

archeological site to share his insight of the land and culture. Teresa Gray, Wind River Ranch's Roots & Shoots Coordinator guided everyone in a service project to build small rock dams to slow water erosion. Later that evening Cody Stotts, a Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership Volunteer, shared valuable brainstorming tools and offered a different approach to communication.

As the retreat came to a close, guest speaker Judyth Hill gave a fireside poetry workshop, encouraging the group to push aside their fears and share poems (pg. 5-6) inspired by their experiences at Wind River Ranch. Readings were followed by s'mores and a second night of sleeping in teepees.

The next morning was full of goodbyes. Sad to leave behind new friends, attendees parted with messages of good will and the kind words of their peers. Together the group shared their joys and their grievances stating "we only wish it was longer ..."

elicited careful consideration of conflict resolution and issues relevant worldwide and in our own communities. Participants discovered their personal leadership style in the "Leadership Compass" activity conducted by Roots & Shoots Four Corners Regional Program Managers Jessica Morgan and Emily Dietrich Millstein. After lunch Jeff Vigil, a member of the Jicarilla Apache tribe, led young people on a walk through an ancient

Meet the New Four Corners Youth Leadership Council!

The members of the Four Corners Youth Leadership Council (FCYLC) are exceptional leaders in their community. Each member contributes in the Four Corners region by managing a local group, helping to plan regional events, participating in outreach and attending leadership training while exploring their individual interests in the environment, animals and their community. Although small, the group's aspirations are big!



Katie

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Katie's interest in wildlife and environmental conservation was piqued during her three years in the Junior Ranger program in northern California where she enjoyed backpacking and observing wildlife such as bats and burrowing owls. She spent weekends waist-deep in tide pools and kayaking with sea otters. After moving to Albuquerque three years ago, she became fascinated with the animals and birds of the high desert. As an active

member of her school's environmental club, she learned about Roots & Shoots and attended the 2008 Four Corners Youth Leadership Retreat. Katie is excited to join the Roots & Shoots Four Corners Youth Leadership Council. She loves science and nature and competes with her school's Science Olympiad team, she also enjoys vodcast club, underwater adventure club, poetry and sculpture.



Hallie

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Since the day she could walk, she could run. She would run barefoot, and often naked, alone or with a friend. She grew up with sunlight on her face, wind in her hair, all trees to climb and the laughing of the

stream over rocks or moonbeams caressing her face and stars reflecting in her eyes. Sometimes solitary but never alone, she wandered her home, the whole world. One year of learning, one of friendship, one of writing, one of realization and one of horrible truth came to pass. And then one of hope. Of nature, and happiness, and eagerness, and wonder. She has seen the damage of hatred, experienced the ignorance as seeds of anger. She knows the beauty a mind and face can hold, when others only look upon the crippled body. She knows how peace and love can spread, and she wants to help.

Hallie lives in Sandia Park, the East Mountains of Albuquerque, New Mexico, with two adopted siblings and two mothers. She enjoys reading, writing, camping, traveling, learning about the environment, its people and animals, playing imaginary games, volunteering for wonderful causes, learning from nature and losing herself, pretending that she is one with her surroundings.



Akilah

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Akilah, although new to Roots & Shoots, has led environmental projects for more than six years, organizing trash cleanups, making posters, working a lemonade/cookie stand to raise funds for an animal shelter and attending numerous conferences and water festivals citywide. One of her major accomplish-

ments was designing and making a recycled book bag for herself and, with a friend, raffling off four of the bags to raise funds for orangutans. She also enjoys digital art, photography, harp, guitar, Celtic Band, theatre crew (Thespian) and karate (black belt). Possible career paths for Akilah include photography or communications for an environmental organization, although her dream job is studying African elephants in Tanzania.

Are You a Leader?

We are always looking for energetic, talented individuals to join the Four Corners Youth Leadership Council. Do you have the time and commitment to work toward a better future for the environment, animals and the community? If so you would make an excellent addition to the Council. The group is looking forward to seeing new faces! To learn more about the Youth Leadership Council or to apply, please contact Emily at eDietrichMillstein@janegoodall.org.

Four Corners Celebrates a Fabulous Roots & Shoots Day of Peace!

Around the region groups celebrated Peace Day by flying Giant Peace Dove Puppets made from recycled materials and sharing messages of peace.



Santa Fe, New Mexico

Santa Fe groups met at the Randall Davie Audubon Society to climb trees, fold paper cranes and fly their Giant Peace Dove Puppet, made by the creative hands of City Different Roots & Shoots group.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Groups in Albuquerque, New Mexico, met on Saturday, September 20 for a wonderful Peace Day picnic. Groups gathered to share art and poetry and high school students from the Bosque School gave a presentation on river otters. Rio Grande Roots & Shoots flew their Giant Peace Dove Puppet and were presented with the wonderful surprise of a personal greeting from Dr. Jane, presented in a paper dove. This message inspired the group and made for very special Peace Day.



Albuquerque Academy

The Albuquerque Academy Roots & Shoots environmental club spread messages of peace by folding paper cranes and hanging them in a tree that had been planted by the environmental club.

Salt Lake City, Utah

In Salt Lake City Roots & Shoots Day of Peace was combined with the Imagine Peace Fest at the downtown Salt Lake City Public Library. After an opening by the Imagine Peace Fest Council and a reading of the City of Logan's Peace Day Proclamation, Roots & Shoots let their Peace Doves fly! They also celebrated by hosting a book reading, organizing a youth art show and brightly painting many smiling faces.

Scottsdale, Arizona

More than 60 people met at Cactus Park in Scottsdale to fly five Giant Peace Dove Puppets for a Roots & Shoots Day of Peace Parade. Groups also made small Peace Doves and peace pinwheels for "Whirled Peace."



Project Spotlight

Outstanding Projects from Around the Region

Toys for Disabled Kids in Hanoi, Vietnam

- by Beth Osnes, Member, Melisande's Roots & Shoots Group, Boulder, Colorado

We collected toys for the Thanh Xuan Peace Village, a home for children impacted by Agent Orange in Hanoi, Vietnam. Our family traveled there for a month so I, Beth, Melisande's mother, could do some workshops for Mothers Acting Up (empowering mother voices to advocate for the world's children). Melisande and I thought it would be cool to do a Roots & Shoots project on the trip too. We contacted the Peace Village via the Internet and asked what they most needed, and they said toys. So we filled two suitcases full of toys—stomp rockets, balls, jump ropes, puppets (handmade by Melisande to act out a story book) and tons of donated hacky sacks—and hand-delivered the toys on July 1. We met with the organization's director, Nguyen Thi Thang Phuong and his assistant for tea and then they gave us a tour of the facility so we could meet some of the children. We went

from one classroom to another. It looked like a very nice place as far as the people went—a bit institutional and bleak by U.S. standards maybe. The kids seemed to be engaged in activities. When we went to leave, the director's assistant was overcome and hugged both Melisande and me and cried saying how wonderful it was that we came and brought all the toys. We felt like Santa Claus! It was a great experience for our whole family, because these kids are not really seen on the streets but are all kept away in special homes. The kids in the home were very excited to meet kids from the United States. It was a great day.



Thanh Xuan Peace Village, a home for children affected by Agent Orange in Hanoi, Vietnam. Photo by Melisande O., 13 years old.

Adventures of a Summer Intern



My name is Johanna I'm a junior at Santa Fe High School, and this summer I was an intern at the Roots & Shoots Four Corners Office. I had been aware of the Jane Goodall Institute but first heard of Roots & Shoots at my high school. I was struggling to find a summer job when the

opportunity of a Roots & Shoots Four Corners internship presented itself. This is when I met regional staff members Jessica Morgan, Emily Dietrich Millstein and Ray Powell. I decided to take the job based on how nice they were. I came in right in the midst of preparation for the Regional Youth Leadership Retreat at Wind River Ranch, not really knowing what I was getting myself into. I was quickly introduced to the concept of emailing people even though they were sitting right next to me and the art of binder-making, which requires much tedious photocopying, tab-making and the surprise chance of making more binders right away.

Although the hectic retreat prep involved more stress than I'd bargained for, in the last days of preparation I was astounded and comforted by how free of stress Emily and Jessica were. The preparation for the retreat was finally complete, and the moment before the last bit of paperwork was accounted for, it was off to Wind River Ranch. I myself didn't travel to Wind River Ranch the first day but came up the day after to see how it was going. I arrived, eager to meet the people I had read about in the application forms. The retreat seemed to me a major success and so much fun! So much so that I wanted to stay longer than the few hours I'd planned. I ended up staying the night to see

more. Dilemma ensued for I had not brought necessary clothing or other supplies for a night's stay, but upon staying longer and with a helpful pair of shoes from Emily, the clothing situation was a more than worthwhile sacrifice for staying at the retreat. I got to meet the other coordinators, Julie Velazquez from Albuquerque and Teresa Gray from Wind River Ranch. I also got to meet some really amazing retreat participants. These kids were really open and expressive about their views and were really aware of the world around them. They were true leaders. I was happy to be around such people and was overjoyed whenever they would *Cont. on next pg.*

refer to their binders for anything! We took a hike across the land and at night we wrote fireside poetry. I couldn't have been happier about how everything turned out. Jessica and Emily seemed to manage everything so easily! Mostly I was excited to meet such interesting and caring people at this retreat and pleased that I had had a small part in making this whole thing

happen. I finished out my summer internship, and Emily showed me new aspects of Roots & Shoots every day like the Regional Youth Leadership Council and the Roots & Shoots eNewsletter. Although my summer here has ended I hope to stay connected with Roots & Shoots and continue to try to make a difference. Who knew I could learn so much

in this intern position? My experience went beyond learning how to send multiple email attachments and dabbling with phone skills. The Four Corners Office gave me so much opportunity by giving me responsibility I'd never had before. Much in the way Roots & Shoots empowers young people, I was empowered to make the tiniest bit of difference in the Four Corners Region.

I'm returning to high school with goals of surviving the year and starting a Roots & Shoots group during the school year. Eventually I would love to return to the Four Corners Office and continue to make a difference here.

-Johanna S., 16, Roots & Shoots Four Corners Intern

Read Inspiring Poems Written by Youth Leadership Retreat Participants

At the first-ever Roots & Shoots Four Corners Youth Leadership Retreat, hosted by Wind River Ranch, Poet Judyth Hill led the group in an inspiring fireside poetry workshop. The following are poems written by participants.



I am the watcher
I am the watcher of the wind
I am the listener
I am the listener of the colors
I am the breath of the dusk
I am the running feet of a child
I am the wind that dances through the grasses
I am the nameless butterfly that alights on your hand
I am the blood of a burning sun sliding over the mesa
I am the cloud that blankets the sky
I am a leaf, drifting down
I am the marriage of soil and roots
I am the water, spinning through the peaceful stones
I am the question
I am the answer
I am the unknown, and undiscovered
I am familiar and friendly
I am whatever you make of me
Whatever you see me as
Through filtered eyes
But if you gaze upon me, with open eyes
I am wonder

-Hallie W., 14 years old, FCYLC, Albuquerque, New Mexico

I am the crow in the purple morning
I am the blind tree that is friends with the rock
I am the silent smoke that the rain collects

-Retreat Attendee

I am

I am whispering shadows
I am the summer triangle Cygnus Aquila
and Lyra
Singing a song in the stars
I am redwing blackbirds
Flying wing to wing with ravens
Black as night
I am wandering willow wisps
Watching silent slivers slipping
Crumbling
Sliding
Cracking
Howling
Creaking
I am a lonely house abandoned to time
Sitting apart from the cottonwoods
Oaks
Piñons
I am the smell of a horse
Dusty and curious
Awakening senses
I am thunderstorms threatening
Smoky tendrils grasping
I am a waxing moon silently staring
down on the earth
I am a lone garnet standing in a field of
bright peridots sparkling
I am the song of harps
The stamp of a tango
Under a blue summer sky
I am mouse ears
Swaying to the whisper of the wind
Patching the quilted ground
In a vibrant shade of emerald
I am thistles
Adding color
Bright fireworks in the mossy night
I am cumulus sheep grazing on a
vibrant grassy field
I am the heart
An island in infinity
I am a grasshopper
Eating sugar
I am footsteps in the sand
Will I be washed away?
Or will I be imprinted in eternity?
I am stormy fields
Against the oncoming Storm

Clashing with thunder while soft spring breezes blow
Against the oncoming Storm
I am hopelessly lost
As I wish for wings to carry me away
And I think I might make it
I am
Me

-Katie H., 14 years old, FCYLC, Albuquerque, New Mexico



Roots & Shoots Animal Youth Boards

Across New Mexico animal welfare facilities have been starting their own Roots & Shoots Animal Youth Boards. Youth Board members are motivated young people who have a love of animals and who wish to develop their leadership skills. Members help create public awareness, learn firsthand about the animal welfare facility and lead projects to benefit animals. Groups meet monthly to discuss relevant issues and to plan projects. Roots & Shoots Animal Youth Boards have already participated in some very exciting projects, such as radio interviews, adopt-a-thons, making enrichment toys for shelter animals, fundraising projects, writing and designing ad campaigns and much more. Three Youth Boards have been established and are now looking for new members!

If you are interested in being a part of any of the following Animal Youth Boards, please contact:

PAWS Pecos Animal Welfare Society
Emily Dietrich Millstein, at eDietrichMillstein@janegoodall.org

Santa Fe Animal Shelter
Emily Dietrich Millstein, at eDietrichMillstein@janegoodall.org

Albuquerque Animal Shelter
Debbie Benton, at dbenton@manzanodayschool.org

If your animal welfare facility is interested in hosting an Animal Youth Board, please contact Emily at eDietrichMillstein@janegoodall.org.

Meet New Staff



Melania Pumphrey

Melania Pumphrey, originally from New Mexico, has had a wonderfully colorful career as a dancer. Melania lives in Velarde, New Mexico, and teaches Folklorico Dancing at Northern New Mexico College, bringing

art and dance into her community. Now Melania continues to enrich the lives of youth around her by working as the Roots & Shoots Northern New Mexico Coordinator.

Monica Ferreira

Monica Ferreira is the Environmental Outreach Coordinator of Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah, and has already dedicated much time and good will to the Roots & Shoots groups of Utah. She has now taken the position of the Roots & Shoots Westminster College Coordinator.

Welcome New Groups!

Gaia's Guardians - Monument, Colorado

Desert Rangers Roots & Shoots - Wittmann Arizona

Indian Oasis Baboquivari Elementary Schools - Tucson, Arizona

St. Michael's School Roots & Shoots- Tucson, Arizona

Douglass Dolphins - Boulder, Colorado

Skyline Roots & Shoots - Salt Lake City, Utah

EJM 6th Grade Team - Santa Fe, New Mexico

SFHS Roots & Shoots - Santa Fe, New Mexico

Paradise Valley Earth Scouts - Paradise Valley, Arizona

From Family to Family - Boulder, Colorado



Stacy Blaylock

Stacy Blaylock, originally from Colorado, is currently attending Westminster College perusing a bachelor's degree in English through the honors

program, she has recently become the Westminster College Roots & Shoots Ambassador Intern. Stacy has been a member of Roots & Shoots since she was nine years old! Stacy is a wonderful addition to the Four Corners team.

Four Corners Staff:

Ray Powell - Regional Director

Emily Dietrich Millstein - Program Manager

Stacy Blaylock - Westminster College Ambassador Intern

Monica Ferreira - Westminster College Coordinator

Suzanne Garcia Pino - Santa Fe Coordinator

Teresa Gray - Wind River Ranch Coordinator

Melania Pumphrey - Northern New Mexico Coordinator

Julie Velazquez - Albuquerque Youth Leadership Coordinator

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