

fall/winter
2007
issue no. 29



roots&shoots

**"The frog does not drink up
the pond in which he lives."**

— Native American proverb

get wet

Dive into Water issues

**Careers in
Climate Change**

**Rescuing
Reptilian Street
Performers**

**A Million Trees
in Mongolia**

**Journal Notes
on page 3**



WHAT'S NEW AT ROOTS & SHOOTS

Roots & Shoots Vice President Takes New Direction

After more than eight years with Roots & Shoots, Vice President Jeanne McCarty decided to leave the Jane Goodall Institute in October 2007 to follow a new path. She has taken a position as Executive Director of REAL School Gardens, a grassroots elementary school gardening program. Jeanne has many fond memories of her years working with Dr. Jane and R&S, and she promises to stay active in the Roots & Shoots network.

"ReBirth the Earth" Youth Campaign Gains Momentum

Roots & Shoots Youth Leaders told people to *Panda Miti* (plant trees), and people listened! With support from Animal Planet's R.O.A.R. and the National Arbor Day Foundation, participants in this youth-led campaign are planting trees and seeking sponsorships for every tree they plant. The money they raise will help build five new Roots & Shoots tree nurseries in Tanzania. We're almost half-way to our goal, with 1,407 trees planted and \$4,628 (USD) raised! Find out how you can *Panda Miti* to help us reach our goal at www.rootsandshoots.org/campaigns/trees.

Roots & Shoots Partners with BeadforLife

Roots & Shoots is partnering with BeadforLife, a community development project through which impoverished Ugandan women earn a living by making jewelry out of recycled paper. Now, Roots & Shoots members in the United States can buy BeadforLife/Roots & Shoots handmade jewelry—as single items or in bulk to use in fundraising—from the Roots & Shoots web store at www.rootsandshoots.org/store.

Tchimpounga Youth Campaign Finishes Strong

Thanks to the Tchimpounga Youth Campaign, orphaned chimps at the Jane Goodall Institute's Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Sanctuary in the Republic of Congo will have a new state-of-the-art dormitory. Plans are underway to break ground on the new facility in early January 2008. Thank you and congratulations to all participants!

mark your calendars!

January 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
March 22	World Water Day
April 22	Earth Day
April 25	Arbor Day
May 27	Rachel Carson Day
June 5	World Environment Day

For more days to celebrate, visit the R&S calendar at www.rootsandshoots.org/newsevents/eventcalendar.

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Journal notes from Dr. Jane

Water is a powerful and beautiful element. Lake Tanganyika—located on the border of Tanzania’s Gombe National Park—is 300 miles long and is the second deepest lake in the world. Sometimes the water is lashed by the wind into huge 30-foot waves that crash onto the shores of the lake. Sometimes there are tempestuous thunder storms when lightning sizzles down through the water. Sometimes there are great water spouts spiraling upward, obeying unseen laws of physics as they travel across the surface of the lake.

When I arrived at the lake in 1960, the water was crystal clear in the dry season, and the forest stretched for miles along the shore and, in most places, far inland too. But gradually, more and more trees were cut down by the growing number of people living in the many small villages. With no spreading branches to provide shade and retain moisture, the soil became infertile. To combat the effects of infertile soil, people tried different methods of farming that, unfortunately, led to soil erosion.

The stream-bottoms became silted with soil and, lacking a protective tree cover, lost water through evaporation. Once sparkling and pure, the diminished streams became gradually more polluted. When heavy rain fell, no longer absorbed by the forest, it swelled the streams, sometimes destroying houses and even killing people. After a storm the soil appeared as a red stain a mile or more out into the lake. Gradually the lake bottom was covered with layer after layer of earth from the mountain slopes and this affected the breeding grounds of some fish. Europeans tried to help by introducing advanced fishing methods but this led to over fishing, which also damaged the lake.

Before my very eyes the landscape of a whole region changed—and this is but one example of the recent destruction humans have inflicted millions of times in millions of places all around the world. As human populations have continued to swell, the need for water for irrigation, industry and domestic use has increased dramatically. The present heavy use of water for raising livestock—and for growing corn and soybeans to feed them—is unsustainable in the long run.

At the same time, more and more pollutants from industry, small businesses, agriculture, household waste, golf courses and so on are washed into our precious life-supporting bodies of water. More polluted water means less safe drinking water. Right now it is estimated that around 1.2 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water. Millions of them cannot get sufficient wood to fuel fires to boil and purify contaminated water—no wonder their babies get sick.

But when I return to Gombe my hope is rekindled. Deep in the heart of the forest, there is a wonderful waterfall. It drops some 80 feet down from a rocky ledge, and over eons it has worn a cleft into the hard rock so that the falling water displaces the air and there is always a cool breeze. For me it is the most spiritual place in Gombe. Sometimes when the



Photo by Nora Gardelmann

chimpanzees approach this place and hear the thunder of the water pounding on the rocky stream bed, their hair stands on end with excitement. And as they get close, they start a magnificent “waterfall dance,” moving rhythmically from foot to foot. Sometimes they climb the vines and hang down beside the waterfall, swinging out time and again, into the glorious spray.

It is imperative that we learn to respect this most crucial element so that we may use it wisely and conserve it with thought for those who will follow us. I know that Roots & Shoots members are learning the value of water and taking action to protect it, and this gives me hope.

Read more about Roots & Shoots action for water issues on pages 8-9.

Jane Goodall

BULLETIN BOARD

Welcome to the **BULLETIN BOARD** —a place to find new project ideas and connect with other groups around the world. Want to see your group's project featured here? Submit project reports to your national office to be considered for inclusion.

In honor of these mysterious creatures of the night, members of Flagstaff R&S attended a bat presentation put on by the Arizona Game & Fish Department. Members learned about the important roles bats play in our ecosystem and enjoyed making bat roosting boxes.

Flagstaff R&S
c/o Regina Wolff
truffles_dog@yahoo.com
Flagstaff, AZ, USA

Johann Sells of Alaska Roots & Shoots traveled to the Moose Research Center, home to 28 wild moose. With Boy Scout Troops #26 and #209, he repaired a broken fence and cut down young aspen for the moose

to munch on. Being up close to the moose and scratching them behind their ears was the highlight of the day!

Alaska Roots & Shoots
c/o Kimberly Isada
kiisada@pobox.alaska.net
Anchorage, AK, USA

In honor of Dr. Jane's visit to Singapore, R&S members created the "Singapore Wildlife Stampede." More than 700 participants dressed up as endangered plants and animals and paraded at the Singapore Botanic Gardens to raise awareness of endangered plants and animals in their country.

Jane Goodall Institute Singapore
c/o Richard Hartung
hartung@starhub.net.sg
Singapore, Singapore

Since September 2006, members of All Things Connected Roots & Shoots group have devoted one day a month to volunteering at Tara Rescue Farm animal sanctuary in Coventry, Connecticut. Group members always look forward to their visits with the animals and have learned valuable lessons about team work, responsibility and compassion for animals.

All Things Connected
c/o Michele Hettinger
toadkiller3@yahoo.com
Mansfield Center, CT, USA

The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico Roots & Shoots group has designed a community service project

for eighth-graders. Project participants will read *The Adventures of Snooter* by Vanessa C. Bryce to promote spaying and neutering, proper pet care and community involvement.

Humane Society of Southern New Mexico
c/o Frankie Bryce
fwbryce@hotmail.com
Las Cruces, NM, USA

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After a day-long excursion to a local farm, members of Global Ecology Studies Program Poolesville HS Roots & Shoots group from Poolesville, Maryland are ready to head back home!



During a trip to the Denver Butterfly Pavilion in Colorado, one lucky member of Johnstown Roots & Shoots makes friends with a tarantula!



Left top: Live from the beaches of India comes Chennai R&S group, celebrating peace with doves and signs in hand.



Left Bottom: Members of Bourgade Catholic School in Phoenix, Arizona work hard to take care of their adopted mile of Carefree Highway in Phoenix.



Below: Roots & Shoots members in Salzburg, Austria have fun visiting with Dr. Jane and Mr. H.

COMMUNITY HUMAN

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Okapi7 Roots & Shoots group makes a yearly donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities and also delivers "Build-a-Bears" and baked goods to the Ronald McDonald Family Room. To boost their funds for this project, group members organized a car wash and raised \$400 (USD)—even though it was a rainy day!

Okapi7
c/o Cynthia Morrison
VRootsShoots@aol.com
Voorhesville, NY, USA

As part of an ongoing project, the Zumers Root & Shoots group organized a donations drive to collect baby, school and household

supplies, which they transported to an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. During their visit to Tijuana, members toured the orphanage and spent time with the kids.

The Zumers
c/o Gloria Van Santen
quarklie@aol.com
Malibu, CA, USA

Members of UCOM Roots & Shoots lent a helping hand to a local family that was building an eco-friendly home. Members learned the basics about home building and then got to work putting cob—a sustainable, adobe-like material—up on the inside walls. Working together, they were able to cob a whole wall!

UCOM Roots & Shoots
c/o Laura Padberg
laura.padberg@gmail.com
Oklahoma City, OK, USA

Inspired by the Roots & Shoots Reusable Bag Campaign, kids at the Jizo Peace Center collected donated reusable bags, decorated them and sold them at area festivals. At the festivals, they also raffled off three bags filled with donated goodies. Their hard work paid off as they raised \$231 (USD).

Jizo Peace Center
c/o Ruth Ratna Handy
jizopeacecenter@yahoo.com
Pine Mountain, CA, USA

Taking advantage of the sunny weather, Kids Express Learning Center put on their very own Summer Olympics athletics event. Group members filled small swimming pools with water to create "wishing wells" for people to make donations to the Special Olympics of Wisconsin. At the end of the event, donations totaled \$280.75 (USD).

Kids Express Learning Center
c/o Melissa DeShong
melissabrunner@charter.net
Madison, WI, USA



environment

Two budding green thumbs of Roots & Shoots Poblenu in Barcelona, Spain enjoy the sunshine and fresh air at Serralada Litoral Park.



A member of South of the James Homeschoolers in Richmond, Virginia shows off his handmade Earth Day poster.



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The Badger High School Environmental Class is taking a nature preserve under its wing. Group members are educating fellow students on prairie plant identification and planting procedures in order to collect and germinate 15 different seed species. So far, they have germinated and planted 148 new prairie plants in tilled areas at the nature preserve.

Badger High School
Environmental Class
c/o Bruce Peacock
sbbpeacock@sbcglobal.net
St. Francis, WI, USA

Christ Renewing Hope
Mission Roots & Shoots
group spent a couple of
weeks helping to clean a
stretch of Goderich shore,

which is a popular tourist
area near their community.
Group members gathered
garbage that had washed up
from the sea onto the beach.

Christ Renewing Hope Mission
c/o Reinhold Pious Fatoma
crhmsierraleone@yahoo.com
Freetown, Sierra Leone

In 2006, members of Pioneer
Elementary Roots & Shoots
group established a fruit
orchard in their school court-
yard. The orchard is now in
full swing, and students and
staff are encouraged to use it
as an outdoor classroom and
to snack on its tasty offerings!

Pioneer Elementary
Roots & Shoots
c/o Debbie Daehnick
ddaehnick@yahoo.com
Erie, CO, USA

BR Nature Roots & Shoots
group took a trip to Portugal
to explore the mountains
of Olivera de Azemeis. While
hiking up the peak, they
learned about plants and
animals native to the region.
Surrounded by pine
and eucalyptus trees and
a plethora of wildflowers,
members spotted snakes,
lizards, frogs and insects.
After about three hours,
they reached the peak!

BR Nature Roots & Shoots
c/o David Couto
driberocouto@hotmail.com
Newark, NJ, USA

After learning about worms
and composting, members of
Wichita Homeschool Roots &
Shoots built their own worm
composting bins. They drilled
holes in the bottoms of
storage containers and filled
them with shredded newspa-
per, dirt and food scraps.
Then, they added the worms,
crafted bin covers out of
construction paper to prevent
any worm escapes and
took their bins home to
observe worm composting
live in action.

Wichita Homeschool
Roots & Shoots
c/o Nathifa Love
umm_aminah@msn.com
Wichita, KS, USA



Photo by Jeffrey Peel

Matt Stern is the Mid-Atlantic Campus Campaign Organizer for the grassroots Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN). In collaboration with the Campus Climate Challenge initiative, he educates and inspires young people in Washington, D.C. and Maryland to take action in the fight against global warming. To learn more about CCAN, visit www.chesapeakeclimate.org. To learn more about Campus Climate Challenge, visit www.climatechallenge.org.

R&S: What is your educational and/or professional background?

MS: I earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry, with a focus in biology, from the University of Pittsburgh. I studied ecology and paleoclimatology (i.e. climate change), through which I came to recognize the unpleasant reality of global warming. After college, I worked in a couple labs but soon moved on to organizing and supporting young people. Before coming to CCAN, I worked with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Institute for Sustainable Development and also with SustainUS, a nonprofit youth organization, through which I helped launch a Youth Council on Sustainable Science and Technology.

R&S: Tell us about your work responsibilities and daily routine.

MS: In my role with CCAN, I support youth and students who are taking action on global warming through the Campus Climate Challenge. My goal is to get as many people as possible educated about and involved in the issue of climate change. I help young people figure out what climate change victories they want to achieve and then mentor them as they take action to achieve those victories. They're leading their schools and communities in amazing actions, such as purchasing energy from

clean and renewable sources, instituting large-scale energy efficiency projects and constructing green buildings.

R&S: What is your favorite part of your job? Your least favorite?

MS: Every day I am inspired by the passion and energy of youth. With focus, determination and vision, young people can accomplish amazing things. I've seen young people convince their schools to go climate-neutral (i.e. produce no global warming pollution) in just a couple of months. I see them on television and on the front pages of newspapers.

My least favorite part of my job is that, sometimes, it seems people ignore the facts and try to tell young people that what they're doing isn't valid. I understand that people are often skeptical or resistant to change but the time to act is now. Global warming represents one of the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced, and we have everything we need to stop it—except a lot of time.

R&S: What advice would you give to young people who want to pursue a career in climate activism?

MS: Thanks to the Campus Climate Challenge, more and more young people are getting the opportunity to pursue careers in climate activism.

The best way to get qualified for the job is to run a campaign to stop global warming at your school or in your community. Taking academic courses in science and sociology will also help you be a better climate organizer. The two best classes young people can take are environmental science classes that focus on climate change and history or sociology classes that focus on the "history of change," covering topics like the civil rights and anti-apartheid movements.

R&S: In your opinion, what is the best action that young people today can take to make a difference?

MS: Take the lead in the fight against global warming. Historically, young people—like you—have been the leaders of big and significant changes. Unfortunately, young people aren't always told this fact or given the support they need to effect positive change. Saving the world is about people taking action, and we can't do it without the biggest, most diverse group—young people.

Try this: Close your eyes. Envision the future that you want to see, a future that is just and sustainable, with a stable climate. Focus on the first thing in that future that you want to make a reality and hold onto that thing. Hold it in your heart and mind. Now, take that vision and reach out to as many people as you can find.

getting

Tens of thousands of Roots & Shoots members around the world are working together to study, conserve, protect and celebrate the world's water!

STUDY IT

Share the World R&S in Tucson, Arizona received a visit from a representative of their local water company. They used educational kits, provided by their visitor, to complete "Home Water Saving Makeover" worksheets. They measured the water usage of the average household in their community and explored ideas for saving water—such as running full dishwasher loads.

At Anshun Elementary School in Tainan City, Taiwan, **Green Seeds Roots & Shoots** joined other local groups to form a river protection team. They monitored the river near their school to assess its level of pollution. Then, they reported their findings to the local authorities.

Members of **Columbia R&S** in Columbia, Maryland learned that rainwater run-off causes chemicals to be washed into the Chesapeake Bay. To help prevent this from happening, they planted a rain garden at the bottom of a downspout at their school. The soil and plants in their rain garden will help the water sift down into the soil rather than run off and end up in the bay.

Lower **Alloways Creek R&S** in Salem, New Jersey studied macroinvertebrates

and watersheds and collected water samples from a nearby pond. The group sent the samples to the Department of Environmental Protection to help them assess the region's water quality.

2 million tons of waste are dumped into our rivers, lakes and streams every day*

CONSERVE IT

In their community, there is a shortage of safe drinking water, so **La Graine de Bonheur (Seed of Happiness) Roots & Shoots** in Conakry, Guinea decided to help build two pools in which water can be collected and purified. They will work with other community members to turn tons of cement, sand, granite and tile into a mini reservoir, providing potable water for more than 3,000 people.

In the midst of a severe drought in South Dakota, three Roots & Shoots groups on the Pine Ridge tribal lands—**Can Wigmunke R&S**, **Can Wigmunke R&S Outdoor Classroom** and **Wawokia (Helpers)**—have integrated water conservation into their gardening methods. They planted corn, beans and squash in the traditional Mandan/Hidatsa "Three Sisters" method, which allows all three species to survive without additional watering.

To help preserve the Rio Grande River ecosystems, Roots & Shoots members at **Holy Ghost Catholic School** in Albuquerque, New Mexico planted 250 trees in the forest along the water source. To conserve water, they selected native species, like cottonwoods and willows, which need very little water to survive in the arid region.

Beginning four years ago, the **Dewey Peaceweavers R&S** group in Evanston, Illinois have made water issues a central focus for their group. They surveyed the water usage of their families, school and community and shared their findings in a column in their local newspaper. They also adopted a nearby beach and wrote letters to residents in the area to encourage them to take a stand for water.

PROTECT IT

In Kindia, Guinea, **Roots & Shoots AJAF** helped develop and protect the Kountia spring in their community. To protect the spring, group members planted trees around it and educated local

WGS

roots & shoots members dive into water issues



farmers about how to use its resources in a non-destructive way.

Seventh-grade Roots & Shoots members at **Wayland Middle School** in Wayland, Massachusetts built boardwalks over trails to preserve area wetlands. They assembled the boardwalks at the school and carried them to the conservation sites.

To help prevent the spread of disease, Roots & Shoots members in Entebbe, Uganda worked with **JGI-Uganda** to build Tip Taps—simple water taps, which use a foot pedal to pump the water so users don't have to touch the faucet's dirty surfaces. The group trained other Roots & Shoots members to build Tip Taps in their communities.

As participants in the 22nd Annual Coastal Cleanup Day, members of **Berkeley Roots & Shoots** in California helped collect 11,950 pounds of trash. Their effort was part of a 57-country project, which included thousands of volunteers worldwide.

CELEBRATE IT

Through **Roots & Shoots-Beijing's** "Eco-Action" project, Roots & Shoots members at Beijing City International School in China identified ways to conserve water in their arid community. They launched a program called "Saving Our Water," in which they perform

educational skits and celebrate the importance of water.

NYCHEA Roots & Shoots in New York, New York went sailing on the Hudson River aboard the sloop Clearwater. During their sailing trip, they learned about the river's ecosystems, and they plan to host a class to share what they learned with other homeschoolers.

1.1 billion people lack access to clean water**

For four years, **Murrindindi Roots & Shoots** in Alexandra, Victoria, Australia have been rehabilitating Ultima Thule Creek, which runs through their community. They host events at the creek, such as guided "Walk & Talk" tours and "leaf boat" races, and each year on Roots & Shoots Day of Peace, they fly their Giant Peace Dove puppets along the creek!

Members of **The Bellwether School R&S** in Williston, Vermont restored a small forested wetland adjacent to their schoolyard and now lead students on observation walks through the area. Their actions help spread awareness about the importance of the wetland as habitat for animals.



* Figure according to UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)

** Figure according to the World Health Organization

From Shanghai to New York City to Dar es Salaam, Giant Peace Dove puppets flew all over the world on September 23 to celebrate the 2007 Roots & Shoots Day of Peace. One even flew from the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania!

And the Doves Flew **ROOTS & SHOOTS Day of peace**

Every year in late September, Roots & Shoots community members fly Giant Peace Dove puppets to promote peace for people, animals and the environment. Dr. Jane, a United Nations Messenger of Peace since 2002, established the annual celebration in support of the U.N. International Day of Peace.

This year, R&S members participated in peace-related projects, such as lighting lamps symbolically, making kolams (floor paintings) and performing peace prayers. One group held a teamwork contest to practice working together in harmony.

At Griffith Park in Los Angeles,

California, Dr. Jane joined more than 25 R&S groups to spread the message of hope and peace for people, animals and the environment. Dozens of Giant Peace Doves filled the sky. Animal rescue groups, hula dancers, Native American chants, delicious food and inspiring speeches made for a fun-filled day.

Did you celebrate ROOTS & SHOOTS Day of peace? TELL US ABOUT IT! Submit a Project Report to the online Project Database, and you could be in the R&S newsletter, eNewsletter, online photo gallery or Dr. Jane's personal Peace Dove book.

Do you have great Day of peace PHOTOS? Email them to peacedoves@janegoodall.org. Be sure to complete and submit Media Release and Model Release forms, available at www.rootsandshoots.org/campaigns/dove.

See more 2007 Day of peace PHOTOS in the Roots & Shoots online photo gallery at www.rootsandshoots.org/resources/photogallery.

David Chase
Youth Leadership Fellow



After graduating from Sturgis Charter Public School in Cape Cod, Massachusetts in June 2007, David

Chase moved down to the Washington, D.C. area to serve as the 2007-2008 R&S Youth Leadership Fellow. David has been a Roots & Shoots member since sixth grade, leading projects at his middle school, starting a group at his high school and serving as a member of the New England Youth Leadership Council. In his new position, he supports Youth Leaders, represents R&S around the country and helps organize national and global events. David plans to study political science at St. Mary's College in Maryland next year.

Kellan Hays
New England Program Assistant



A former Roots & Shoots New England intern, Kellan Hays is back with Roots & Shoots as the New

England Program Assistant. Having worked with the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG) and MoveOn PAC (Political Action Committee), she brings valuable experience in event organizing, membership building and fundraising. Kellan earned a bachelor's degree from Tulane University, majoring in sociology and communications.

Jessica Morgan
Four Corners Program Assistant



A former Roots & Shoots National Office intern, Jessica Morgan is working with the team in the Four Corners

Office before she heads off to law school next year. Jessica earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and worked for the New South Wales Parliament in Sydney during her semester abroad in Australia. An equestrian enthusiast, she loves spending time with her horse, Panda (short for "Pandemonium").

Megan Nangle
California Program Assistant



Megan Nangle has a strong background in volunteer recruitment, youth leadership and event planning in

the non-profit sector. She has worked with Planned Parenthood, UCLA Health System-Venice Family Clinic and Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY). She graduated from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, where she studied psychology, anthropology and political science. A recently returned Peace Corps-El Salvador Volunteer, Megan is fluent in Spanish, a skill that will serve the California Regional Office well in Los Angeles.



Karen Oxrider
California Regional Director



Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Karen spent 15 years as a leader in the insurance industry before entering the non-profit world. She served on the senior leadership team for Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) for 10 years, providing youth leadership training to more than 4,000 volunteers throughout the United States and Canada. Karen loves sunshine, adventure and young people, which makes the Roots & Shoots California Regional Office the perfect place for her.

Shawn Sweeney
Graduate Fellow



A member of the Roots & Shoots College Leadership Council (CLC), Shawn Sweeney has joined the College and Youth Leadership Initiatives Office as the first-ever Roots & Shoots Graduate Fellow. Shawn started a Roots & Shoots group at his school, the College of Wooster in Ohio, after Dr. Jane visited there in 2005. He graduated in 2006 with a degree in psychology and went on to work in conservation psychology at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. As Graduate Fellow, Shawn supports Roots & Shoots Youth and College Leaders in the United States and serves as a liaison between them and the Roots & Shoots staff.

Credell Walls
Illinois State Coordinator



Credell Walls (also known as "Cre") has joined Regional Director Garth Katner in the Roots & Shoots Great Lakes Regional Office in Chicago to help expand Roots & Shoots in the state of Illinois. Cre spent eight years at the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, doing everything from leading tours to planning special events to managing youth programs. A Chicago native, Cre has extensive knowledge of the city and its people. He works with the sketch comedy group he co-founded called Soul Foods.

new faces at ROOT & SHOOTS USA

ROOTS & SHOOTS around THE WORLD



New Groups Take Root in South Africa

Seventeen kilometers southwest of the South African capital of Johannesburg, Kliptown was once the site of the adoption of the Freedom Charter, a historic document in South Africa's anti-apartheid movement. This "squatter" community is now home to a new R&S group.

Roots & Shoots-South Africa and KDR Sports and Adventure Travel Pty Ltd have partnered to establish two new Roots & Shoots groups—one in Kliptown and one in Lehae, another community of informal settlements in the Soweto area.

During the apartheid era, black people were not allowed to reside in Johannesburg, and many of them were

forcibly resettled in Soweto—short for "South Western Townships." Although apartheid is no longer the law in South Africa, communities in Soweto still face many challenges. Many young people there have dropped out of school and do not have jobs or access to higher education. Many of them are frustrated, but now they have Roots & Shoots as an outlet for their energy.

This year, R&S members participated in a seed-planting workshop, through which they learned about organic gardening, seed propagation, seedling care and composting. Despite it being one of the coldest days of the year, turnout at the workshop was excellent.

In the past, residents of Kliptown have set fire to old car tires during violent protests to draw attention to their grievances. Now, Roots & Shoots members are using tires as planters for food gardens, turning the old symbolism of the tire into a new representation of positive youth action.

Future Roots & Shoots projects in Kliptown and Lehae include traveling to Suikerbosrand game reserve, caring for domestic animals and reaching out to community members with disabilities.

Roots & Shoots members in Kliptown and Lehae, South Africa reuse old car tires as garden planters.

Chinese Project Aims to Plant One Million Trees

According to a recent report from the Chinese government, the People's Republic of China ranks 100 out of 118 countries in terms of its environmental pollution and degradation. Undaunted by these gloomy statistics, Roots & Shoots-Shanghai launched the Carbon Footprint Tree Planting project in early 2007. Their goal: to plant 1 million trees in Inner Mongolia.

Members are planting the trees in the Tongliao area of Inner Mongolia, which suffers from desertification. Desertification occurs when an arid land area is so damaged that it becomes a desert. Desertification disrupts natural ecosystems, contributing to soil erosion, decreasing biodiversity and causing severe sand storms.

Knowing that local buy-in is key to long-term success, R&S-Shanghai is working with the Tongliao Forestry Bureau to get land-use approvals. They've also engaged the KunLunQi Youth League and the Inner Mongolia Youth Foundation in planting trees and monitoring tree growth. Such a large-scale environmental project can be very complex, so members are



working closely with forestry experts from Oregon State University.

Since April 2007, Roots & Shoots-Shanghai members have made 2 trips to Mongolia and planted 6,000 trees!

Through the Carbon Footprint Tree Planting project, R&S-Shanghai also hopes to educate people about how to reduce pollution, conserve resources and be more eco-friendly in everyday life. Visitors to the JGI-Shanghai website (www.jgi-shanghai.org) can

calculate their carbon footprint and find out how many trees to plant to offset their footprint.

Would you like to plant trees in the United States? Learn more about the "ReBirth the Earth: Trees for Tomorrow" youth campaign on the back cover.

Roots & Shoots-Shanghai digs in to plant a million trees.

Nepalese Students Rescue Reptilian Street Performers



On the bustling streets of Kathmandu, Nepal, snakes are a common sight. Snake charmers and street magicians use the reptiles to entertain passing pedestrians. They play flutes to "hypnotize" the snakes or handle deadly, poisonous cobras to amaze the assembled crowd. Concerned about the welfare of the reptilian performers,

members of R&S-Nepal in Kathmandu decided to take action. They obtained permission from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) to confiscate snakes from street performers and release the animals back into the wild. This agreement marked the first time that the DNPWC had allowed a

non-governmental group to operate raids and release animals.

So far, R&S-Nepal has collected eight snakes, including cobras, pythons and rat snakes. The snakes are temporarily housed in a vivarium, which was donated by a local college. Group members rehabilitate the snakes and administer any needed medical treatment before releasing them into the forest to live as wild creatures again.

Members of R&S-Nepal have used the confiscated snakes in educational programs for schoolchildren, teaching the students facts about snakes and correcting common misconceptions. In the future, they hope to build a permanent snake rehabilitation center and help snake charmers and street magicians pursue alternative professions.

Members of R&S-Nepal prepare to release a snake into the wild.

creative corner



Rangoli for Peace
Members of Coimbatore Roots & Shoots-ARYA group at Amrita University in Coimbatore, India made a rangoli floor painting, using rice flour and natural colors to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace.

Animal Creations



Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy Roots & Shoots members in Alexandria, Virginia created unique animal creatures.

Tips for Tiny Tots



Medford Roots & Shoots in Medford, Massachusetts designed a book filled with tips for kids to help protect people, animals and the environment.

international news Briefs

Canada

This year, JGI-Canada bid farewell to Roots & Shoots National Coordinator Monica Guzkowska who moved to Hong Kong. In honor of Dr. Jane's visit, R&S-Canada hosted more than 300 youth and community experts at the University of Saskatchewan for a R&S event. The day of exploring topics—such as factory farming, conflict resolution and sustainable travel—left youth feeling empowered and ready to take action.

Hong Kong

Roots & Shoots-Hong Kong held its first Environmental Leadership Program at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden. At the one-day event, 28 passionate youth gathered to learn about local issues, such as air pollution and the plight of the Chinese white dolphin. Funded by the Environmental Protection Department, the event was the first in a two-part program, the second leg of which will empower students to lead Roots & Shoots groups within their schools. Currently, Hong Kong has 12 active groups and is growing!

Italy

Roots & Shoots-Italy partnered with the Municipality of Rome, the Civic Museum of Zoology and the International Ambrit School to launch an environmental education project called "Tree after Tree: The Soul of Villa Borghese's Park." The project will encourage elementary and secondary school students in Rome to design interactive trail signs to help park visitors understand and appreciate their natural resources.

Puerto Rico

R&S-Puerto Rico is helping R&S to grow throughout the Caribbean region. Teaming up with the University of Puerto Rico, Western Connecticut State University and local schools in Puerto Rico, they are working to implement an organic farm in Maunabo. If you would like to become a R&S member in Puerto Rico, please email the Caribbean Regional Coordinators, Rick and Nelly Asselta, at rasselta@janegoodall.org.

Singapore

R&S is growing by leaps and bounds in Singapore! From only two groups at the beginning of the year, R&S has expanded to 11 groups. R&S members received a visit from Dr. Jane in October 2007 and hosted an event at the Botanic Gardens to promote conservation in November 2007.

Spain

R&S-Spain is launching a new online, interactive, educational program called *BioDiverCiudad* (BioFunCity). Its aim is to promote knowledge and compassion for the flora and fauna that share urban habitats with people. The program includes an activity design contest, which is open through May 2008. The first-place award—to be presented by Dr. Jane herself—is a trip to Gombe Stream Research Centre in Tanzania. Learn more about the program at www.biodiverciudad.org.

Tanzania

Roots & Shoots-Tanzania reached the summit! In celebration of the 2007 Roots & Shoots Day of Peace, Roots & Shoots members as well as volunteers from Tanzania, Europe and Australia hiked to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro where they flew their Giant Peace Dove Puppet. Hikers solicited pledges for their trip in order to raise funds for Roots & Shoots groups at Lugufu Refugee Camp in Tanzania.

Uganda

Roots & Shoots-Uganda now boasts 68 groups! To celebrate R&S-Uganda's one-year anniversary in May, group leaders attended a three-day workshop, at which they shared experiences and learned skills in recycling, gardening and sanitation.

United Kingdom

In July 2007, Roots & Shoots-United Kingdom participated in the 21st International World Scout Jamboree in Hylands Park, Chelmsford. The team delivered educational workshops in the central "Global Development Village" area of the event. Dr. Jane attended the event as a guest of honor, speaking to more than 2,000 young scouts from around the world about the opportunities they have to make a difference in the world.

United States

Roots & Shoots-USA is teaming up with Kenmore® Brand to help young people make the world a better place, starting right in their own homes. As part of this unique alliance, R&S has created a special online program called "10 Simple Actions," through which kids can help conserve water and energy at home. Check it out at www.rootsandshoots.org/10simpleactions.

Roots & Shoots members and volunteers in Tanzania fly a Giant Peace Dove at the summit of Mount Killimanjaro.





Don't Hang up your SHOVEL JUST YET

The youth-led
ReBirth the Earth:
Trees for Tomorrow
campaign aims to raise \$10,000 (USD) to
build five Roots & Shoots tree nurseries in
Tanzania while planting 3,000 trees in the
United States. We're half-way to our goal,
and we need you to *Panda Miti* (plant trees)
with us!

More info at
www.rootsandshoots.org/campaigns/trees

Roots & Shoots Global Offices Please contact these offices for more information on country-specific R&S programs. To find out more about R&S activities in a country not listed here, please contact the R&S-USA National Office or look for groups in specific countries by using our online Find a Group feature at www.rootsandshoots.org.

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