



# The Round Up

Roots & Shoots

Four Corners Seasonal eNewsletter

Summer  
2009

## Greetings!

*I would like to extend a hearty and enthusiastic invitation to join Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Program in the Four Corners States Region.*

*Roots & Shoots is about empowering young people to become leaders in their schools and communities and to have fun doing it!*

*As Dr. Jane Goodall says, "There is a need for information that will encourage young people to understand the natural world and their relationships to it. A new need to teach children in school about the way their societies treat animals. And a new need to provide our youth with opportunities that foster respect for all life and empathy with the animal beings with which we human beings share the planet. This is why I developed the Roots & Shoots program, which enables young people to choose and participate in projects that benefit the environment, animals, and the human community. This program carries two major messages: that every individual matters and can make a difference, every day; and only when we understand can we care. Only when we care shall we help. Only if we help will all be saved. We must encourage our young people and empower them to help us save the world that will soon be theirs."*



## Dr. Jane Goodall Comes to Denver!

**I**n March Dr. Jane was invited to speak at the University of Denver for an event sponsored by Global Explorers and Natural Habitat Adventures. Over 1000 people gathered to hear Dr. Jane's inspiring words as cameras were rolling for an upcoming documentary about her life. During the event she was recognized for her extraordinary life's work and was presented with the Global Explorers Citizens of the World Award. Five lucky Roots & Shoots members of Evergreen Roots & Shoots Group also had the honor of sharing the stage with Dr. Jane and flew their Giant Peace Dove for the crowd. "Jane is the reason I am who I am today," stated one great admirer waiting in line to have her book signed after the lecture. Trying to hold back her tears, she recalled the inspiration Dr. Jane has given her as a woman and a scholar.



Also during Dr. Jane's visit to Denver, Roots & Shoots groups and other service learning organizations showcased their good work in a service learning fair hosted by the Colorado Academy. Groups proudly presented their most successful projects to Dr. Jane and each group had the pleasure of speaking with her about their accomplishments.

*If you would like additional information about joining and supporting the important work of Roots & Shoots, please contact our office at (505)-988-1670 or by sending us an e-mail to [fcrootsshoots@janegoodall.org](mailto:fcrootsshoots@janegoodall.org).*

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**MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE  
HAPPEN!**

# National Youth Leadership Retreat

Every year Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership Councils come together for the National Youth Leadership Retreat. Over 40 members from six councils met in Washington D.C. this year for four days of invigorating and thought provoking workshops and discussions. Among them was our very own youth leader Hallie T.W. from the Four Corners Youth Leadership Council. She participated in conversations about her experiences in Roots & Shoots and exercised her skills in giving presentations, project management and media interviews. During the event the group was joined by the Pearson Foundation, a foundation committed to making a difference by sponsoring innovative educational programs



- Photographs by David Chase

and extending its educational expertise to help in classrooms and local communities. The Pearson Foundation did an amazing job interviewing the youth leaders and creating Superheroes, a short public service announcement. For more information about this project and to view this video please visit [www.superheroes.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.superheroes.rootsandshoots.org). The retreat also marked the momentous occasion of Dr. Jane's 75th birthday. The group had the pleasure of spending time with her and celebrated with a wonderful 75th birthday dinner. She received gifts and kind words, Hallie touched everyone with her beautiful poem she wrote and read aloud for Jane (see below).

The wind is blowing now  
 Outside my window  
 The sun is shining  
 Too  
 And flowers are blooming  
 on all the fruit trees  
 Gentle honey bees drift from blossom  
 To blossom  
 And the Kingbird tries to eat a worm  
 The ground is dry, from rain  
 Or lack thereof  
 And only small plants grow here  
 Low to the ground, except for the cholla,  
 With painful needles, and colorful flowers  
 And the Meadowlarks  
 That sit on the cholla, or Junipers  
 And sing  
 No Chimpanzees here  
 Or monkeys at all  
 But there is magic that only the desert holds  
 Magic of watching a moon blossom open  
 Magic of hearing the voices of life  
 Magic of feeling a warm,  
 breathing earth under you,  
 And an open, strong sky above you  
 Magic of knowing  
 Magic itself  
 Stronger than anything  
 And the bird cries not disturbing  
 but adding  
 to the stillness  
 Here  
 In my home  
 My beautiful  
 New Mexico



- By Hallie T. W., Roots & Shoots Four Corners Council Member

# Salt Lake City Environmental Fair

Roots & Shoots and Westminster College held its third annual Youth Environmental Fair. With over 100 people and 50 students in attendance, the event was a great success. Youth from all over the Salt Lake Valley, Utah brought their science fair projects to display and celebrate environmental research awareness. Roots & Shoots Soldier Hollow Charter School group participated as well as Morningside Elementary Roots & Shoots group who presented their anti-idling campaign. Their amazing campaign has been focusing on reducing our pollution in the Salt Lake Valley by asking cars to turn off their motors instead of idling. With numerous recognition awards given, students not only had an opportunity to celebrate their research and connect with peers doing similar work, but they also recognized how important it is that these works continue.



- By Monica Ferreira, Roots & Shoots Four Corners Westminster College Coordinator

# Educational Prairie Dog Baskets

**R**oots & Shoots Four Corners teamed up with the Prairie Dog Coalition for a second year to offer their educational prairie dog baskets to Roots & Shoots groups. Roots & Shoots group leaders used these fun and informative baskets for their members and communities. Commonly misconceived as pests, people sometimes think nothing about destroying prairie dogs' homes trying to rid an area of them. In fact, prairie dogs are a very important part of the short-grass prairie ecosystem. They contribute to the well-being of other animal species by providing them with food and a habitat. The prairie dog baskets played a significant role in teaching groups about how important prairie dogs are to the world. The baskets provided hands on teaching tools including books, bones and a plush black-footed prairie dog. One of the groups that received a basket was Resources for Health Roots & Shoots. Their group held a presentation at the Phoenix Mountain Preserve and



compared prairie dogs to their native gophers and burrowing owls, studying the burrows that the gophers and owls made in the garden. Another group that received a basket was North Central Roots & Shoots and decided to integrate the basket into their school gardening sessions. The Prairie Dog Baskets accommodated a wide age range with its multi-media components like prairie dog videos and recorded prairie dog calls. Thanks to the Prairie Dog Coalition, many different communities were able to learn a lot about prairie dogs and the importance of prairie dogs to the ecosystem and how important sustaining the species is.

- By Johanna Silver, Roots & Shoots Four Corners Office Intern



## Planting for Peace

**A** neighborhood in phoenix got a whole lot greener in April thanks to Homegrown Solutions and the "Planting for Peace" project. An event led by local youth and Arizona's Roots & Shoots Phoenix Coordinator, Megyn Scott, brought locals in the community to join them on April 25 to plant 100 trees in the Barrios Unidos area. Homegrown Solutions is an organization that brings together people of all ages and backgrounds to plant community gar-

dens and trees, install rain-water harvesting systems and engage in dialogue about health promotion.

The Barrios Unidos, despite being an historical area of Phoenix, has been plagued with pollution as well as noise from a nearby airport. While the trees may not solve all of the problems in the area, they help make a more beautiful and green setting for those who live there. "[The trees] are a



wonderful symbol of hope and promote sustainability creating a foundation for a better future" said Roots & Shoots Coordinator Megyn Scott. The project was also developed to commemorate Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Global Youth Service Day. The Whitfill Nursery and Baker Nursery kindly donated 100 native trees for the project and volunteers come together to plant them. Over 115 dedicated members of the community volunteered to plant, cover and water the trees in the neighborhood. Megyn says that the event ran very smoothly thanks to all of the people that came to support the project. "The event would not have been the same if so many hard working individuals wouldn't have come out and done such a great job planting. Volun-

teers, young and old all worked together to have fun making a difference in the area." Job well done to Megyn Scott, Homegrown Solutions and the kind volunteers that made the project happen.



## Pioneer Elementary Receives Grant

**D**ebbie Daehnick, Pioneer Elementary Roots & Shoots group leader received a \$1,000 UnitedHealth HEROES service learning grant from Youth Service America (YSA) and UnitedHealth group. HEROES grants support youth led projects that combat childhood obesity and encourage healthy lifestyles. The Pioneer Elementary Roots & Shoots HEROES project will be lots of healthy fun for all. The Roots & Shoots group will teach other kids in their school and community about healthy eating habits through an interactive exhibit that will include healthy recipes, taste testing and lots of hands-on games to make it fun to learn about healthy eating choices and habits. They are also putting together a cookbook full of healthy, creative recipes that both children and parents can prepare. The cookbook will include recipes in both English and Spanish.

# Regional Youth Leadership Retreat

For the second year Roots & Shoots Four Corners partnered with Wind River Ranch to host the 2009 Youth Leadership Retreat. Roots & Shoots welcomed youth from across the Four Corners region to join them for a weekend of workshops, hikes and teambuilding activities. The purpose of the retreat was to inform participants about the Four Corners Youth Leadership Council and to share their personal experiences with Roots & Shoots. Members of the Four Corners Youth Leadership Council wanted to create an environment where young people could connect with their peers who share a similar passion for helping people, animals and the environment.

Wind River Ranch, located in Northern New Mexico, provides research and educational facilities on 5,000 acres of historical and ecologically rich land. The participants got to experience many exciting parts of the ranch including hikes to a ghost town on the property, sleeping in teepees at night and aiding in the ranch's conservation objective by building one-rock dams on damaged areas along bison grazing paths. This project was led by Hallie T.W., a past youth leadership retreat participant and now member of the Four Corners Youth Leadership council. The participants were also treated to workshops given by council members. Some of these lectures included "How to start a Roots & Shoots Group" and "How to Plan an Event". (One participant even came all the way from California from another council to present and participate.)

The Youth Leadership Council not only conducted most of the presentations at the retreat but they also played a big part in planning the retreat itself. "My favorite part of the retreat was the lectures put on by the kids" said Dana, who was inspired by the workshops and wants to try to start a group of her own in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Along with the wonder of the ranch and the influence of the lectures, the connection and the bonding between the participants was apparent throughout the retreat. From the very beginning, everyone had fun talking, laughing and connecting through their experiences with Roots & Shoots and found a mutual love of capture the flag. One participant, Kai said that he "loved meeting and connecting with people at the retreat." He says it's nice to know that even though he may not live in the same state as some of the participants, he feels connected through their involvement in Roots & Shoots. Hallie also appreciated the company of her youth leader companions saying she "loved how close everyone

became with one another, it made the whole experience better." On the final day a presentation was made about the youth leadership council and a photo slideshow made by the participants to review the exciting weekend they shared. The youth leaders left the retreat, tired from the sleepless nights laughing inside the teepees and smelling of smoke from the campfire the night before. But they also left ambitious with new plans inspired by the retreat. A first time participant from Las Vegas, New Mexico, Ashley plans to start her own Roots & Shoots group in her town. Another newcomer, Chelsi plans to apply for the leadership council and to integrate Roots & Shoots into her own non-profit "Chelsi's Choice" an organization she started a few years prior to aid children in other countries. Overall everyone took away something from the retreat whether it was a project idea or a cool experience at the ranch to boast to friends.

The Four Corner Office was delighted by the success of the event and predicts amazing things to come from the talented and dedicated young leaders that they had the pleasure of meeting at the retreat.



- By Johanna Silver, Roots & Shoots Four Corners Office Intern

## Save the Date!

### September 20th is Roots & Shoots Day of Peace!

*Roots & Shoots Four Corners is partnering with Peace Pal and the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice to celebrate "Peace is a Verb" at the Harwood Art Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. All are invited to join us in a Peace Day parade, live music, storytelling and much more!*

*The event will be from 2:00-5:00pm. For more information please contact Emily Dietrich Millstein at [eDietrichMillstein@janegoodall.org](mailto:eDietrichMillstein@janegoodall.org).*

*Also please visit the events calendar at [www.rootsandshoots.org/regional\\_offices/four\\_corners](http://www.rootsandshoots.org/regional_offices/four_corners) to learn more about events in your area and other ways you can celebrate the 2009 Roots & Shoots Day of Peace.*

# Four Corners Partners with Imus Ranch

This summer Roots & Shoots Four Corners is partnering with the Imus Ranch. The Ranch, located in Ribera, New Mexico, was founded about 10 years ago by Don and Deirdre Imus as a charitable organization that seeks to ensure the continuity of the lives of children who are afflicted with cancer or serious blood diseases. The children get to spend seven days on the ranch for free. On the ranch they care for their own horse and plant vegetables in the ranch's greenhouse. The youth also learn about "greening" their lives and introducing organic and sustainable materials to improve their lifestyles. With the help of Deirdre Imus, participants learn how the vegetables they are caring for in the greenhouse can improve their diet and well being. The ranch has 10 sessions that hosts 10 kids each session. Each of the 1000 kids that



come to the Imus Ranch will automatically become a member of the ranch's Roots & Shoots group.

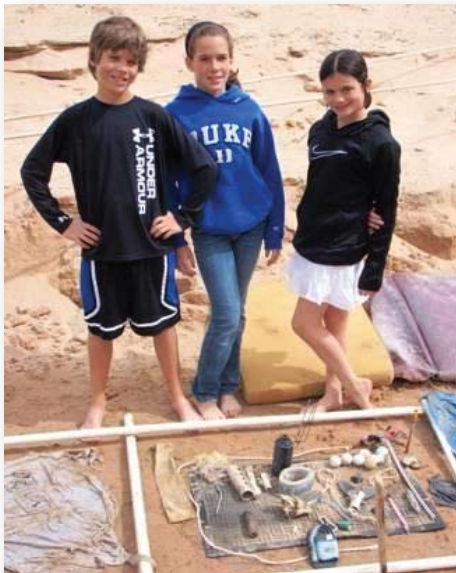
The Four Corners Office recently traveled to the ranch to give the first of many presentations introducing Roots & Shoots to the young people. When we arrived at the ranch they were busy with gardening and becoming familiar with the horses that they would be taking care of during their stay. At lunch, we gave them a short history about Dr. Jane and how she started Roots & Shoots. The kids were very excited to hear about other people their age making a difference. They were also pleased to learn about some sample projects similar to the greening methods that they were learning at the ranch. After the youth leave the ranch

we hope to have given them the tools to begin a Roots & Shoots group, and to take what they learned at the ranch back to their own communities.

- By Johanna Silver, Roots & Shoots Four Corners Office Intern

## Grand Circle Field School

Recently Roots & Shoots has joined with the Grand Circle Field School (GCFS) to help educate students about the importance of environmental conservation and ways they can make a difference through service projects. GCFS is a nonprofit organization formed by educators, scholars and outdoor enthusiasts eager to share their knowledge and passion for the spectacular wild lands of the Colorado Plateau. GCFS instructors tailor multi day experiential education adventures that offer the perfect classroom setting to teach the natural history of the land through geology, archeology, botany and biology and cultural history.



To learn about Grand Circle Field School and upcoming trips, visit their website at [www.grandcirclefieldschool.org](http://www.grandcirclefieldschool.org) or if you are interested in a free DVD narrated slide-show presentation describing GCFS, the areas they serve and some of the class possibilities available please contact Judy Durzo at [grandcirclefield@aol.com](mailto:grandcirclefield@aol.com).

Roots & Shoots group leader Ellen Parish joined a class from Scottsdale, Arizona to lead service projects and teach people how they can make a difference through Roots & Shoots. The group traveled by house boat along Lake Powell and stopped along the way for a trash pick-up contest. Afterwards the group sorted the trash into groups of most toxic, most reusable and most unique objects to demonstrate the effects of littering and poor waste disposal. Then the group discussed how they might do service projects once they return home that could be personal to their lives and how they would use those experiences to grow as a person and a community.

# Meet New Staff!



## Lynda Rigoletti

This transplanted New Yorker took root in Tucson, Arizona 18 years ago and does not miss the ice and snow that she left behind. During her “working life” she was employed by Administrative Office of the Courts as a Municipal Court Administrator then became involved in Managed Care,

training both Claims Adjusters and Customer Service Representatives. Now happily retired, Lynda divides her time between two of her passions. The first being Roots & Shoots where she is one of the Four Corners Arizona coordinators working with her sister, Renee as the Tucson Dynamic Duo. Her other most favorite pastime is educating kids and adults in her role as a Docent for the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum.

Today she volunteers her time to introduce and assist various Tucson Schools with Roots & Shoots. Lynda is photographed (above, left) with Jim Dawson from the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum.



## Monique Schoustra

Monique Schoustra has been sharing her love of the outdoors with dogs, children, friends and clients for many years. She and her husband operate a cultural and natural history sightseeing tour

company in Santa Fe, New Mexico and she has guided hiking trips in Utah, California, New Mexico and Colorado. Her volunteer efforts include rescuing dogs in need, helping them to find good homes and working with Caldera Action; a citizen's action group working to shape the future of the publicly owned Valles Caldera National Preserve in the Jemez mountains of New Mexico. She lives with her husband, two rescued dogs and two rescued cats in a log cabin she and her husband built together in the Ponderosa Pine forest above Santa Fe. She spends as much time as possible out hiking in the Four Corners and in the redwood forests of northern California.



## Renée Gunther

Renée began teaching in The Bronx, New York in 1969. She primarily taught math and science to low socio-economic students who functioned below grade level. As part of her curriculum she emphasized respect for the environment and all living things. This was exceptionally challenging since her students were surrounded by concrete, tall brick buildings and violence. Generally, their neighborhood's wild life consisted of various birds, squirrels and rodents. She interlaced lessons with field trips to parks, zoos, botanical gardens and camping experiences in the natural world. She began introducing her students to Roots & Shoots in 1998. She states that it was the most dynamic teaching strategy she ever used consistently having a profound positive impact on even her most difficult students. Renée's career consisted of being a Middle School Teacher, Teacher Trainer, Science Coordinator, and Director of Middle School Initiatives supervising 23 academies in New York City. Today she volunteers her time to introduce and assist various Tucson Schools with Roots & Shoots.

## Four Corners Staff

**Ray Powell** - Regional Director  
**Emily Dietrich Millstein** - Regional Program Manager  
**Teresa Gray** - Wind River Ranch Coordinator  
**Renée Gunther** - Tucson Coordinator  
**Monica Ferreira** - Westminster College Coordinator  
**Melania Pumphrey** - Northern New Mexico Coordinator  
**Lynda Rigoletti** - Tucson Coordinator  
**Monique Schoustra** - Santa Fe Coordinator  
**Megyn Scott** - Phoenix Coordinator  
**Julie Velazquez** - Albuquerque Youth Leadership Coordinator

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