



The Spring Creek Project

for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word

ANNUAL REPORT

2007-2008

THE SPRING CREEK PROJECT
for Ideas, Nature & the Written Word

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Introduction

Just as the planted trees on the Shotpouch land are beginning to mature into a forest, the Spring Creek Project has arrived at a new level of maturity and success this year. With an unprecedented number of remarkable events, deepening interest from the OSU and Corvallis communities, and growing recognition from writers, thinkers and environmental change organizations across the country, Spring Creek is widely regarded as a model for creative, interdisciplinary thinking.

With this foundation, the Spring Creek Project's focus is now on the future. Climate change, species loss, and other grave environmental issues send a strong signal that we have come to the time of the great turning; our urgent challenge is to imagine new answers to the central questions of human existence. What is the place of humans in the world? What are our obligations to the future? Can we envision ways in which humans can live on earth responsibly, joyously, justly and for all time? How can we preserve for the future a world as rich in possibility as the world that was left to us? These are some of the questions Spring Creek engaged this year -- in public lectures, classes, symposia; in lecture halls, ancient forests, stream-bank beds of foxglove in bloom; in the areas of agriculture, religion, science fiction; drawing on the great commons of wisdom in environmental science, philosophy, and the literary arts.

What follows is a summary of Spring Creek Project activities for 2007-2008, and a look forward to next year's plans.

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THE CABIN AT SHOTPOUCH CREEK

Thanks to the vision of the Founders and the continuing support of the board of directors of the Shotpouch Foundation, Cabin at Shotpouch Creek has been the welcome venue for greater numbers of writers residencies and gatherings of writers, artists, philosophers, ecologists, and naturalists—inspired thinkers, activists, and culture-makers.

CONVERSATIONS AT SHOTPOUCH CREEK

Held at the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek, these conversations invite people from diverse intellectual and experiential backgrounds, from campus and the wider community, to share a meal, a walk in the woods, and an evening of far-ranging conversation related to Spring Creek's central mission: imagining new ways to understand the relation of humans to the rest of the world.

Fall 2007 "The Land Ethic and Local Agriculture"

In November, the fall Conversation at Shotpouch Creek featured Minnesota writer Gary Holthaus, author of *From the Farm to the Table: What All People Need to Know about Agriculture in America*. This rousing conversation included several headstrong young organic farmers, a representative of the USDA, a scholar on agricultural ethics, an expert on hunger, two soil scientists, horticulture students, and a couple of poets and philosophers. The discussion was marvelously challenging, and led to a resolve among the group to help make OSU a leader in sustainable agriculture.

THE CABIN AT SHOTPOUCH CREEK / 3

Spring 2008 “Reading the Land”

In May, we gathered another diverse group of scholars, activists and students for a walk along Shotpouch Creek Road and a conversation about how we are shaped by our places, even as we shape them. How do we learn to comprehend the stories of our place--the rivers, forests, valleys and urban spaces of western Oregon? Our special guest, author and educator John Elder, was fresh from a week’s residency at the Andrews Forest. He and his family have a sugaring operation in Vermont, and John began our conversation by sharing his grief at the prospect of global climate change spelling the demise of sugaring in New England. Other participants weighed in with their “readings” of how changes in climate will usher in changes to the landscapes they treasure.



THE TRILLIUM PROJECT

Trilliums, wild strawberries and native larkspur were in bloom for the second annual Trillium Project. This month-long residency project offers a chance for a wide range of people—writers, botanists, artists, biologists, photographer, musicians, philosophers, land managers—to spend part of a day or several days and nights experiencing the Shotpouch land.



Each adds to our ongoing, cumulative multi-faceted portrait of this much-beloved place. During May, 2007, thirty people from an array of backgrounds explored the creek and meadows, hiked the upland forest trails, and shared their perspectives and expertise. A small group of graduate students camped and wrote in the meadow. A talented naturalist composed a video of plants and birds he encountered during his stay. A botanist wrote a fascinating essay about the yew trees planted on the land. A local musician composed a fiddle tune.

A local musician composed a fiddle tune.

The trove of writings, photographs, assemblages of found objects, music, and scientific observations becomes richer each year, providing a growing record of creative, informed responses to the land. These offerings, arrayed on the round table in the Cabin living room, are a testimony to the participants' spirit of adventure, attentiveness to place, and appreciation for the gift of the Shotpouch land.

WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE

The Collaborative Retreat

The Cabin at Shotpouch Creek offers a two-week-long residency for two participants who wish to pursue a collaborative project, or who anticipate a synergistic benefit from each other's presence. Two pairs of creative writers spent productive fortnights at the Cabin in the Spring: poet Beth Russell and graphic artist Katie Orendorff, and creative non-fiction writers Ellen Orleans (Beverly, MA) and Dawn Paul (Boulder, CO). Orendorff's "Mandala" graces Spring Creek's website and new stationary.

In late summer, fiction writers Laura Gibson (Longview, WA) and Heather Goodman (Edina, MN) composed marvelous short stories during their retreat; while writers Carol Bosworth and Be Herrera (Corvallis, OR) worked on creative non-fiction and poetry. At the conclusion of each retreat, a group of local writers joined the residents at the Cabin for a reading and dessert, a ceremonial wrap-up that all the writers found nourishing.

Individual and Group Retreats

Throughout the year, other writers found quiet and inspiration in long or short sojourns in the Cabin: Ellen Waterston, a poet from Bend. Jesse Ford, a Corvallis poet. The members of Franz' writing group, now reconstructed with new essayists. And in October, Kathleen Moore spent a weekend at the Cabin with MaryEvelyn Tucker, a Yale theologian and cosmologist. MaryEvelyn wrote about sacrifice, which means 'to make sacred,' and Kathleen wrote about possums in the plum tree--concluding that maybe they were writing about the same thing.

An inspiring group of OSU graduate students formed GECO, Global Environmental Change Organization, recently held a weekend retreat at the Cabin in early spring. With mentoring from the Spring Creek Project, GECO has begun hosting a writing critique and support group.

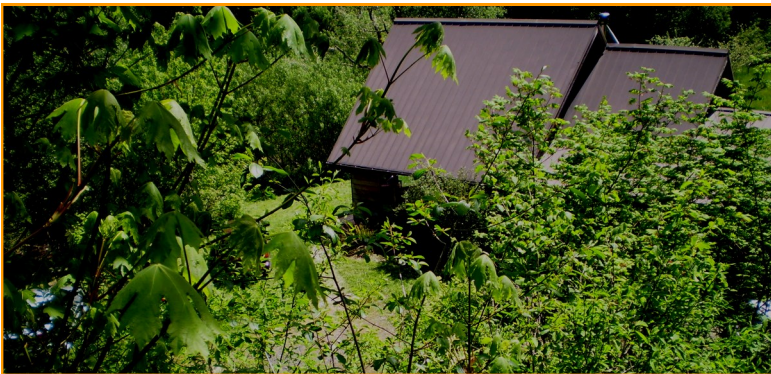
SPECIAL EVENTS

4th Annual Shotpouch Writers Gathering

In July, Spring Creek hosted our Fourth Annual Shotpouch Writers Gathering at the Cabin. These gatherings draw more environmental writers and poets every year to share and celebrate the processes and products, the challenges and profound satisfactions of writing at the interface of nature and culture. Our special guest Kim Stafford regaled the group with his original folk songs and his wise poems. Other writers read brief pieces. On a glorious summer evening, many came early to walk the trails.

Workshop: Nature and Ritual at Summer Solstice

Ritual is a tool that humans across time and cultures have used to connect to forces larger than themselves and to develop a relationship with nature's cycles. Writer, editor and ceremonialist, Lorraine Anderson, led this workshop at the Shotpouch Cabin on a summer



day just past solstice. Through writing and walking, in solitary and shared experiences, participants considered the nature of ritual, and created rituals to celebrate the beauty of the natural world and weave strong connections to the earth.

Working and Writing the Woods, with Ann Staley

With fair weather intervening in an otherwise wet and chilly spring, two dozen friends of Shotpouch gathered on a Saturday in late May to clip weeds, pull blackberries, and re-grade the forest trails. In the afternoon, writer and teacher Ann Staley lead a writing workshop, exploring a variety of writing approaches to natural objects the participants selected from the morning's labor. The combination of manual labor in a glorious setting and directed writing exercises in the beautiful cabin inspired fresh ways to see and write the land.



CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE IDEAS MATTER LECTURE SERIES

Public Lectures: Who Owns the Sky? The Tragedy or Triumph of the Commons

The idea of the “commons” has gained power in legal, environmental, and philosophical discourse as a way to understand a society’s collective stewardship for the gifts of nature. The Winter term series, “Who Owns the Sky? The Tragedy or Triumph of the Commons,” sponsored by the Spring Creek Project and the Department of Philosophy brought together a remarkable diversity of views to explore the idea of the “commons.” With Garrett Hardin’s provocative essay, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” as background, the series examined the moral foundations of the commons and critically considered alternatives to privatization.

The speakers, including philosophers, environmental historians, novelists, ethno-ecologists, marine biologists and others, were asked to consider new ways to think about the common weal and explore how people might come to accept both the gifts and the responsibility of the Commons. If thriving forests, rich soil, clean air, fresh water, bountiful oceans are our common heritage, can the idea of the commons help preserve that heritage in a thoroughly commodified and increasingly privatized world? If we can re-imagine the commons, might our society be inspired to share both the gifts of the commons and the responsibility for their long-term well-being?

While all the speakers made reference to the growing threats to the health of natural systems from global climate destabilization and other pressures, each speaker also offered hopeful examples of innovative ideas and efforts that arise from the idea of a reinvigorated sense of the Commons, to foster endeavors that promote environmental health, justice, and sustainability. Among the many provocative insights and ideas offered were the following:

- Legal scholar Mary Woods’ talk about her work to assert the legal principle of “Nature’s Trust,” whereby governments are required to perform as trustees of the natural resources essential to human survival.

Who Owns the Sky?

The Tragedy or Triumph of the Commons

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT

WINTER TERM: JANUARY 10-MARCH 13

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thriving forests, rich soil, clean air, fresh water, bountiful oceans — these are our common heritage. But in a world where these natural resources are seen only as commodities to be bought and sold, the commons is diminished. Our challenge is to re-imagine the commons. How might our society be inspired to share both the gifts of the commons and the responsibility for their long-term well-being?

SCHEDULE

Jan. 10

The Commons: Issues and Quandaries
Kathleen Dean Moore
Environmental ethics and philosophy,
Oregon State University
Cassandra Robertson, voice and guitar
Rob Birdwell, trumpet
Charles Goodrich, poetry

Jan. 17

Devon Peña
Environmental anthropology, University of
Washington
Author, "Mexican Americans and the
Environment: Tierra y Vida"

Jan. 24

Eric Freyfogle
Environmental law, University of Illinois
Author, "The Land We Share: Private
Property and the Common Good"

Jan. 31

Charles Wilkinson
Environmental history, University of
Colorado
Author, "Blood Struggle: The Rise of
Modern Indian Nations"

Feb. 7

Ted Jojola (Pueblo)
Community and regional planning,
University of New Mexico

Feb. 14

Mark Hixon
Marine biology, Oregon State University
Chair, marine protected areas federal
advisory committee

Feb. 21

Kim Stanley Robinson
Author, the "Mars" trilogy, "Forty Signs
of Rain," "Fifty Degrees Below Zero" and
"Sixty Days and Counting"

Feb. 28

Mary Wood
Environmental law, University of Oregon
Author, "Nature's Trust: A Legal Paradigm
for Protecting Land and Natural
Resources for Future Generations"

March 6

Local commons' advocates

March 13

David Korten
Co-founder, Positive Futures Network
Author, "The Great Turning: From Earth
Empire to Earth Community"

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Feb. 5*

Gary Braasch
Environmental photographer
Author, "Earth Under Fire"

Feb. 15**

Ann Pancake
Author, "Strange As This Weather Has
Been"

7 p.m.

Gilfillan Auditorium

*Gary Braasch in 109 Withycombe Hall
**Ann Pancake in Valley Library Rotunda

MORE INFORMATION:
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Sponsored by Spring Creek Project for Ideas,
Nature and the Written Word and the OSU
Department of Philosophy

OSU
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UNIVERSITY

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- Environmental historian Charles Wilkinson’s account of the creation and subsequent dismantling of the Siletz Coast Reservation, one of the largest of all Indian reserves, which is still managed in part as a Commons.
- Marine biologist Mark Hixon’s passionate indictment of bottom trawler fishing, and a call for the creation of “marine reserves” to preserve the ocean commons.
- Novelist Kim Stanley Robinson’s analysis of “The Future as a Commons,” including some of the ways--acquisition of debt, treaties, restrictive laws--in which the future can be “enclosed.”
- Author and futurist David Korten’s brilliant analysis of our destructive global corporate economy, and its antidote, “Earth Community.”

Total attendance for the series topped one thousand, with audience members drawn equally from OSU and the wider community. All the sessions were videotaped, and access to streaming video of the talks, along with the complete series schedule, can be found on the Spring Creek website.

Reading: Ann Pancake, Mountaintop Mining

This special literary event featured novelist Ann Pancake, author of *Strange as This Weather Has Been*, which details the natural and cultural consequences of mountaintop removal mining. Pancake grew up in Appalachia, and her work evokes the disfigurement of the landscape, as well as the humanity of local families struggling to hold on to their sense of place. Spring Creek co-sponsored this event with the Department of English, and the OSU Center for the Humanities.

A Concert for the Commons: Libby Roderick

Internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter, poet, activist, teacher and lifelong Alaskan, Libby Roderick returned to Corvallis in April to share her music, humor and spontaneity on behalf of the "Commons." For this rousing finale to the series "Who Owns the Sky? The Tragedy or Triumph of the Commons," Libby was joined by Corvallis's own talented folk musician, Cassandra Robertson.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY COURSE

Environmental Restoration and Restorative Justice

The Ideas Matter lectures were part of a course for University student taught by Kathleen Dean Moore. Students had the opportunity to discuss background readings and then to engage the speakers in small-group discussions and at dinner. Each student did a special service-related project on the 'commons'; one lead a series of after-lecture discussions with interested townspeople; another submitted for publication an interview with Ann Pancake; another wrote a land-management plan proposing how a piece of riparian woodland might be returned to the commons.



OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS

Public Lecture: “The Alliance of Religion and Ecology”

MaryEvelyn Tucker is Director of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University where she has appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies as well as the Divinity School. She is the author of *Worldly Wonder: Religions Enter Their Ecological Phase* among many other books. Tucker’s wide-ranging lecture, tracing the recent upsurge of synergy between the moral forces of organized religions and the wisdom of secular ecology, drew a large, enthusiastic crowd to the OSU Library Rotunda. A video of her lecture can be viewed from the Spring Creek website.

Reading and Celebration: Leaves on the River

Spring Creek helped celebrate the publication of *Leaves on the River* by Spring Creek co-founder Franz Dolp (SpiritRiver Press) in late May at the Corvallis Arts Center. The evening, which featured a reading of the poems, an invitational art show, music and masked performers, drew an appreciative, full-house audience.

AWARD CEREMONY

The Mason Prize for Integrity and Moral Courage

The Spring Creek Project was chosen to administer the Mason Prize for Integrity and Moral Courage, a new award to recognize and honor exceptional intellectual citizenship. The recipients for the first annual award, Cristina Eisenberg and Daniel Donato, both graduate students in the OSU College of Forestry, were honored in a ceremony on June 5. The prize, which includes an honorarium of \$1,000 to each recipient, is designed to “honor, encourage, and empower people at Oregon State University whose work demonstrates academic virtues.”

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Environmental Humanities Initiative

The Environmental Humanities Initiative proposes to launch a new educational, research/scholarship, and outreach program at Oregon State University that allies the humanities and sciences, in order to prepare leaders and educators who can help humankind make the difficult turn toward a more sustainable life on Earth. This proposal is the first step in what Spring Creek hopes will be a strong university response to the current global challenge.

The next decade will present challenges that are unprecedented in their danger and scale. At the same time, it will present correspondingly important opportunities. Meeting these challenges and opportunities will require new leaders and new forms of local and global leadership based on a scientific understanding of Earth's environmental and ecological systems, and grounded in a deep understanding of the sources of human wisdom and values. Neither the sciences nor the humanities can meet the challenges alone. Together, they have a chance. OSU has internationally respected programs in the sciences and natural resource fields. It has growing strengths in the humanities (including, but not limited to ethics, philosophy, religious studies, history, and literature). If adopted and enacted by the University, this initiative will link these strengths in a deliberate, practical way, in order to enlist the full power of the human imagination to address the coming global environmental and social crises.



ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHERS GATHERING

In the fall environmental philosophers from across the country met with ecologists in the ancient forest of the central Cascade Mountains for the first biennial Blue River Environmental Philosophers'



Gathering. Their purpose was to address two important questions: In a degraded and dangerous world, what is our work? How can we get it done? The conversation was wide-ranging, creative, constructive, collegial, and spirited. The energy and good will of the participants and the power of the discussions made it a constructive and important meeting.

Plans were made to further professional collaborations, to encourage pluralism in mentoring and curricula for graduate students, and to explore strategies to maximize the creative and constructive use of NSF funds for environmental philosophy and collaborative work between ecologists and philosophers. The next Blue River Environmental Philosophers' Gathering will convene in September 2009.

LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

ANDREWS FOREST WRITERS RESIDENCIES

Now in its fifth year of an envisioned two-hundred year life-span, the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program continues to attract keen interest from writers, ecologists, land managers, and policy makers around the country. Seventeen writers have now participated in the program, and their works posted in the *The Forest Log*, (<http://www.fsl.orst.edu/lter/research/related/writers/template.cfm?next=wir&topnav=169>) comprise a unique window into the changing forest.

THE WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE

Fall 2007: Mary Evelyn Tucker

As our Fall 2007 Andrews Forest Writer in Residence, Tucker spent a week in the forest, writing, exploring, and thinking about the connections between ecology, nature, and spirit. At the conclusion of her residency she came to OSU to deliver a remarkable public lecture. Tucker is a member of the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and served as a member of the International Earth Charter Drafting Committee from 1997-2000. She is a member of the newly appointed Earth Charter International Council.



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Spring 2008: Freeman House

Author and watershed restoration, Freeman House co-founded the Mattole Watershed Salmon Support Group and the Mattole Restoration Council. His ground-breaking book, *Totem Salmon*, tells the story of a determined band of locals who work for decades to save one of the last purely native "races" of salmon in California. Freeman came to Corvallis at the conclusion of his residency to speak to students in an OSU Fish and Wildlife advanced class on watershed restoration.

Spring 2008: John Elder

John Elder is a scholar of American nature writing, and the author of *Reading the Mountains of Home*, and *Pilgrimage to Vallombrosa*, on the 19-century environmental writer George Perkins Marsh. He teaches at Middlebury College, and serves on the boards of the Vermont Land Trust and Vermont Family Forests. His essay from the residency, "Purity and Change: Reflections on an Old-Growth Forest," can be found on *The Forest Log*.

Fall 2007: Jane Coffey

Free-lance writer and photographer Jane Coffey came from her home in Brooklyn, New York for Andrews residency. Her essays and articles have appeared in *Orion*, *Earthwatch* and other publications. Her volunteer activities have includes watershed monitoring and census studies for endangered species. She works as office manager for the International Studio & Curatorial Program in New York City.

Fall 2007: Joan Maloof

Joan Maloof teaches biology and environmental studies at Salisbury University in Maryland. She has an active interest in botany, especially native plant identification. She is studying plant-animal interactions with an emphasis on the role of bumblebee nectar robbers. She is the author of *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest*.

Spring 2008: Laird Christensen

Born and raised in western Oregon, Laird Christensen teaches writing and environmental literature at Green Mountain College in Vermont. He has worked as an activist for the League of Conservation Voters and helped organize the Monadnock. His poems and essays have appeared in books and journals, including *Northwest Review*, *Wild Earth*, and *Studies in American Indian Literature*.

Spring 2008: Elizabeth Bernays

Dr. Elizabeth Bernays is a biologist turned writer. After growing up in Australia, she received her Ph.D. at the University of London, England, and had a career as an academic entomologist before obtaining an MFA at the University of Arizona where she is currently a Regents' Professor Emerita. Bernays has published many scientific papers and books and several popular biology articles, as well as poems and essays in a variety of literary journals.



REFLECTIONS PROGRAM OUTREACH

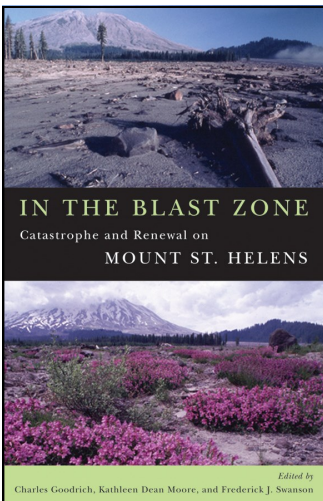
In September, Kathleen Dean Moore and Fred Swanson met with writers, artists, scientists and activists in Fairbanks, Alaska, to help that group start a Reflections program linked with the Bonanza Creek Long-Term Ecological Research station.

Charles Goodrich, Spring Creek's Program Director, traveled to Reno, Nevada, in October to meet with writers and scientists eager to start a Long-Term Ecological Reflections program at the Sagehen Research Station in the Sierra foothills.

BOOK PUBLICATION: *IN THE BLAST ZONE*

In May, Oregon State University Press published *In the Blast Zone: Catastrophe and Renewal on Mount St. Helens*, edited by Spring Creek's Charles Goodrich and Kathleen Dean Moore, along with US Forest Service colleague Fred Swanson. The original essays and poetry

were composed in response to a four day LTEReflections field symposium on Mount St. Helens in the summer of 2005. A unique interweaving of the perspectives of ecologists, philosophers and creative writers, *In the Blast Zone* is the most ambitious and significant outcome of a Spring Creek sponsored field symposium.



Most popular accounts of the momentous eruption have focused on the devastation it caused. More recent scientific work on Mount St. Helens tells a story of unexpectedly rapid and varied ecological and geological change. Contributors include Gary Braasch, John Calderazzo, Christine Colasurdo, Charlie Crisafulli, John Daniel, Jerry Franklin, Charles Goodrich, Robin Kimmerer, Ursula K. LeGuin, Tim McNulty, Kathleen Dean Moore, Nalini Nadkarni, Robert Michael Pyle, Scott Russell Sanders, James Sedell, Gary Snyder, Kim Stafford, Frederick J. Swanson, Tony Vogt, Ann Zwinger, and Susan Zwinger

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"One comes away from reading this book with a powerfully transformed view of Mount St. Helens and volcanoes in general, carrying in one's imagination ideas of green moss and blue butterflies, birdsong and wind, ideas that have now begun to complicate the image of St. Helens as a stark post-eruption moonscape. . . . This is an extremely hopeful work, one that suggests the fundamental durability of nature." --Scott Slovic (from the Foreword)

PEOPLE

Spring Creek Director, Kathleen Dean Moore

Kathleen's 2007-08 books are *How It Is: The Native American Philosophy of V. F. Cordova*, the edited papers of the late Viola Cordova, an Apache philosopher and a friend, co-edited with Native American colleagues at OSU and the University of New Mexico; and *Rachel Carson: Legacy and Challenge*, a collection of essays on Carson as a writer, scientist, and activist, co-edited with Lisa Sideris, in the religious studies department of Indiana University. She has begun a new book, *For All Time*, which will collect essays from moral leaders around the world, to establish a global moral consensus that we have an obligation to leave a future as rich in possibility as the world left to us. Kathleen serves on the Board of Directors of the Orion Society in Great Barrington, Vermont, and the Island Institute in Sitka, Alaska.

Spring Creek Program Director, Charles Goodrich

In the past year Charles served as lead editor on the collection, *In the Blast Zone: Catastrophe and Renewal on Mount St. Helens*. He has just completed a manuscript of short prose "dispatches," *Going to Seed: A Handbook for Gardeners*. Charles has given readings and talks for the Columbia Land Trust, the Clackamas Community College Sustainability Project, and the Mount St. Helens Institute among others. He has also been involved this year with the city-sponsored Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. This fall he will be team-teaching a course on writing and forest ecology through the Sitka Center on the Oregon coast.

Spring Creek Fellows

With a \$5000 grant funded by the Provost's office, the Spring Creek Project sponsors an annual Spring Creek Fellow to enable a member of the Philosophy Department to undertake a research project or teach a special course each academic year. The 2007-08 fellowship was awarded to Flo Leibowitz to research aesthetic issues arising from the Hubble Space Telescope photographs. The 2008-09 fellowship was just been awarded to Tony Vogt, who will undertake a research and writing project focused on his concept of the "ethics of solidarity."

Spring Creek Intern

Spring Creek was fortunate this year to have the help of a wonderful intern, Vanessa Brown, undergraduate student in Philosophy and Sociology. Vanessa coordinated this year's Trillium Project, helped update the Spring Creek website, and assisted with the Ideas Matter lecture series, among many other tasks.

Shotpouch Caretaker

David Lettero continues to serve as inspired and diligent caretaker for the Shotpouch Cabin and property. When he is not working on the land, Dave travels the region as the Solar Energy Education Director for the Bonneville Energy Trust.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2008-2009

Fifth Annual Shotpouch Writers Gathering

These annual gatherings of local environmental writers have become an important catalyst for community, inspiration, and heightened awareness of our region's natural and cultural riches. Writers from the greater Mary's River watershed and beyond whose work is dedicated to finding new ways to understand and re-imagine our relationship to the natural world will gather at the Shotpouch Cabin July 12. Our special guest this year will be poet, teacher, and editor John Witte.

Working and Writing at Shotpouch

Also in the summer, we plan to host another daylong workshop: Working the Words, Writing about Work, where friends of Spring Creek can do volunteer labor on the land and participate in a free writing workshop at the Cabin. (August, 2008).



Blue River Writes Gathering

The second biennial Blue River Writers Gathering will be held September 24-26 at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest. The Gathering is an inspiring and restorative weekend for our region's 'nature' writers, a chance to meet one another and find solace and insight in the deep streams and ancient forests of the Blue River watershed in Oregon. Our purpose is to take counsel from each other and from the forest, to deepen our sense of community with other writers and with the natural world, to walk, to talk, to read aloud, to inhabit that seam between the world's deepest need and our own sources of gladness, and find ways to sow with our works effective seeds of hope.

The invited writers all have two things in common—geography and grounding. All come from the Great Northwest, from wherever the salmon swim, from the Yukon to the Sacramento and deep into the interior, right to the edge of the Great Basin. And all ground their work in deep attention to the land. Our special guest discussion-leader this year will be one of Oregon's most respected and beloved writers, Ursula K. LeGuin.

Public Readings: *The Sea, The Forests, The Night Sky*

During Fall term, in honor of Charles Darwin's 200th birthday, Spring Creek will host a reading series "The Sea, The Forests, The Night Sky," featuring three remarkable nature writers. Julia Whitty's recent book, *The Fragile Edge*, won the John Burroughs Medal and the Kiriyaama Prize. Paul Bogard's anthology *Let There Be Night: Testimony on Behalf of the Dark* is forthcoming from University of Nevada Press. Tim Palmer is the author of many fine books of natural history, including his newly released, *Trees and Forests of America*. Julia Whitty will also teach a writing workshop, "Writing Science; Scientists as Writers."

FIELD SYMPOSIUM

Bringing the Climate Home: Creating Synergies to Hasten America's Response to Climate Change

In March, 2009, Spring Creek will gather a carefully chosen group of 20 especially creative thinkers in environmental science, moral philosophy, communication psychology and education, and environmental fiction and nonfiction to imagine synergistic ways of transforming worldviews to stimulate decisive action in response to climate destabilization and other major environmental threats. How can we change not only minds, but hearts?

The rate of effective societal response to climate change and other major environmental threats must increase to head off potential tipping points. But science cannot achieve this alone; nor can any other discipline or practice acting in isolation. Required are truly new approaches that go beyond discipline-based actions, creating new collaborations and novel synergies that will stimulate rapid change in our society's collective worldview.



GRATITUDE

Deep thanks to our donors, whose gifts of financial and moral support help sustain the work of the Spring Creek Project.

The Mason family
Carol Bosworth
Charlie and Marie Tomlinson

Shotpouch Foundation Board: Jonathan Dolp, Laura Dolp, Jeff Hale

Special Thanks: Courtney Campbell, Jonathan Kaplan, Dawn Jones

Collaborative Partners

Andrews Forest Long-Term Ecological Research Program
Hunderer Endowment for Religion and Culture
Native American Collaborative Institute
Corvallis Sustainability Coalition
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
OSU Valley Library
College of Forestry
College of Liberal Arts
Department of English
Department of Ethnic Studies
Department of Philosophy
Department of Sociology
Pacific Northwest Research Station
USDA Forest Service



Plants and animals of Shotpouch Creek

“Mandala,” by Katie Orendorff, drawn at Shotpouch Cabin

during the spring 2007 Collaborative Retreat

The Spring Creek Project

for Ideas, Nature & the Written Word

