The Spring Creek Project
for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word

ANNUAL REPORT
2009-2010
The Spring Creek Project
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Cover Artwork:
“The Spiral Project” by Christopher Arigo
The Spring Creek Project
for Ideas, Nature & the Written Word
Elm seeds are blowing like spring rain from the trees towering over the Spring Creek office, and flocks of evening grosbeaks chatter through, swirling in to feed on the kernels. We feel the same energy inside the Spring Creek office, where it seems that our programs are bearing abundant fruit – winged seeds that fly in exciting and sometimes unpredictable directions. We have reached a place of exponential effect, where the work of Spring Creek nourishes the work of others, with beautiful and sometimes unexpected results.

Consider the creative work of the artists and photographers who come to the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek for the Trillium Project and leave astonishing art and science. Consider the growing impact of the writers who have come to the Andrews Forest, publishing work in award-winning national media. Consider the students in Spring Creek field courses, who are forming their own writing groups and publishing their work. Consider the Environmental Humanities Initiative at Oregon State, an academic offshoot of the goals of the Spring Creek Project. Consider the crowd of people, standing room only, who came to understand their obligations to the future.

We honor our elders, Franz Dolp and Dawn Jones. We extend deep gratitude to those who build the foundation stones of our work, the directors of the Shotpouch Foundation—Jonathan Dolp, Jeff Hale, and Laura Dolp. We celebrate the commitment of all those who come to Spring Creek Project events and find the inspiration of shared joy, the strength of joined hands, and the courage of new ideas. And we bless the energy we find in the young people who work with us, their hope and their determination to live in ways worthy of the world.

Here are the stories of these blowing seeds.

Warm regards,
Kathleen Dean Moore and Charles Goodrich
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“Earth Democracy” with Vandana Shiva

Our fall symposium brought together the wisdom of elder generations and the spark and urgency of the youngest generations to help weave a fabric of ingenuity, cooperation, and reciprocity to embrace the future.  
  Full details p. 12

Spring Creek Café: “Do we have obligations to future generations?”

Michael Nelson, Brian Doyle, Libby Roderick and Kathleen Dean Moore drew a standing room only crowd to the Corvallis Public Library.  
  Read more, p. 14
New paths toward Environmental Leadership

What if the Spring Creek purpose – to bring together science, humanities, and the arts to nourish new ways of thinking about how to live justly and sustainably on earth – were the purpose of academic programs as well? This is the question being answered by OSU’s new Environmental Humanities Initiative—details p. 16

Jane Hirshfield and the poetry of openings

After a two week writing residency at the Andrews Forest, Jane Hirshfield gave a magnetic reading to a packed-house audience at the Valley Library.
Read more, p. 21

Dragonfly Eyes:
Multiple Ways of Envisioning the Future

With funding from the National Science Foundation, this two day field symposium at the Andrews Forest explored how to bring a wide array of professional perspectives into a common focus on the future of landscape changes.
Full details, p. 18
THE CABIN AT SHOTPOUCH CREEK

Whether for deep solitude or hearty conviviality, the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek is a profoundly welcoming site for writing residencies, topical conversations, and gatherings of writers, artists, philosophers, ecologists, and naturalists. The Shotpouch land and Cabin remind all who come here of the importance of place in the life of the mind, the formation of values, and the making of a sane and foresightful culture.

WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMS

The Collaborative Retreat

The Fall 2009 residency brought writer / photographer team Joan and Rick Maloof to work on a book on Old Growth forests. Following the retreat, Joan wrote: “A big, warm ‘thank you’ to all the people who work so hard to keep the Spring Creek Project vitally alive. Our goal was to complete a mock-up of a book for use as a proposal to present to publishers. We were able to do this – hooray! I look forward to the day when the finished book is on the shelf in the cabin. It is the sort of book that Franz Dolp would have loved.”

Writers Jeni Rinner and Jeremy Gates did the second Fall Collaborative Retreat

“Tell It Slant,” a play written by Joan McMillen and Sharmon Hilfinger during their collaborative retreat at the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek, played to sell-out crowds at the Fort Mason Center, Southside Theater in San Francisco.
Canadian poet Maleea Acker brought an ambitious backlog of reading to work through while composing her own poems at the Cabin. She worked in collaboration with writer and radio producer Jonathan Brown to compose poetry and radio scripts.

Christopher Arigo and Karen Olson spent a lot of time walking the trails and nearby roads. Olson wrote, designed, and assembled a booklet of her walking observations, and Arigo made sculptural assemblages of moss, lichens, stones and other found objects he titled “The Spiral Project.” Both residents donated their finished work to the Cabin.
THE TRILLIUM PROJECT

In late spring, between trillium budding and larkspurs’ full florescence, the Shotpouch land is a verdant refuge. Writers, artists, photographers, musicians, scientists—people come from all over Western Oregon to spend a few days basking in its quiet and green solace. They contribute to a growing body of work that is making Shotpouch a richly storied place.

This year more than two dozen people from an array of backgrounds explored the creek and meadows, hiked the upland forest trails, and shared their perspectives and expertise. The treasury of poems, essays, photographs, collages, found objects, music, and scientific observations becomes richer each year, providing a growing record of creative, informed responses to the land.
Fiddler Shari Ame participated in her third Trillium Project. Her collection of original fiddle tunes composed at Shotpouch Creek is on CD at the Cabin.
CONVERSATIONS AT SHOTPOUCH CREEK

Spring Creek invites 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 conversation. Our topics explore the Spring Creek mission, “reimagining our relationship to nature,” and our guests are inspired and energized by the far-ranging conversations.

Fall 2009, “Conservation 2.0: Reconnecting People and Land”

What does it mean when the world's largest biodiversity conservation organization - The Nature Conservancy - talks about its role in alleviating human poverty? Is this a moral, strategic, or marketing dialogue, or all three? It’s evidence of what Peter Forbes calls Conservation 2.0—conserving land with a new set of tools on a much larger scale; it is about restoring our cultural and social landscape, through reconnecting people and the land. Peter is a writer, photographer, farmer and conservationist, and the co-founder and director of the Center for Whole Communities.

Spring 2010, “The Paradox of Discovery”

In May, author Jack Nisbet came to OSU to read from his new book *The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest*, visit with a botany class, and join us for a Conversation at the Cabin. We enjoyed a lively discussion, asking: What is the nature of ‘discovery”? What is the meaning and legacy of Douglas’ early plant explorations? What are some of the results for the native peoples and for all of us today? How does this story echo or repeat in our time, in other endeavors and disciplines?
SPECIAL EVENTS

Working and Writing the Woods

More than one hundred people have volunteered hundreds of hours of labor to help maintain the Shotpouch trails and forest. One of the ways we thank them is by hosting free writing workshops with talented regional writers. Poet and educator Ingrid Wendt came to the Cabin in September 2009 to lead our autumn Work-and-Write. Novelist John Larison lead our Spring session.

6th Annual Shotpouch Writers Gathering

In mid-July, Spring Creek hosted our Six Annual Shotpouch Writers Gathering at the Cabin. On this glorious summer evening, special guest Brian Doyle, writer and long-time editor of the Portland Magazine, delighted us with his vivid poems, and many of the writers shared brief pieces of their own work. Our special guest for the summer 2010 Gathering will be Robin Cody.
CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Symposium with Vandana Shiva:
“Earth Democracy: Women, Justice, and Ecology”

In the fall, Spring Creek organized a major symposium, "Earth Democracy: Women, Justice, and Ecology" highlighted by a stirring keynote by Vandana Shiva. Shiva called for "an alternative worldview in which humans are embedded in the Earth Family, in that people are connected to each other through love and compassion, not hatred and violence, and ecological responsibility and economic justice replaces greed, consumerism and competition as objectives of human life."

Earth Democracy, according to Shiva, comes from a very ancient category in Indian thought. “In India we talk about ‘vasudhaiva kutumbkam,’ which means the earth family,” she said. “Indian cosmology has never separated the human from the non-human — we are a continuum.”

Vandana Shiva is a physicist, feminist, science philosopher, writer and science policy advocate, and the director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy. She was the recipient of the 1993 Right Livelihood Award, commonly known as the “Alternative Nobel Prize.” She has authored many books, including “The Violence of the Green Revolution,” “Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge,” and “Soil Not Oil: Environmental Justice in Age of Climate Crisis.”

Rachel Brinker, a women studies major and Spring Creek intern, played a major role in organizing the conference. Video recordings of Shiva’s talk may be accessed on the Spring Creek website.
Earth Democracy: Women, Justice and Ecology

Symposium on Environmental Justice

Featuring an Evening with Dr. Vandana Shiva
LaSells Stewart Center, 7 p.m.
Free and open to the public

Schedule of events:
- 9:30–10 a.m. — Free Café Femenino Coffee Social, MU 211
- 10–11 a.m. — Women and Fair Trade, MU 211
- 11 a.m.–1 p.m. — Free Lunch, Work Party and Conversation on Agriculture and Living Democracy, Student Sustainability Center (15th and Western)
- 1–2 p.m. — Knee Deep in the Waste stream, MU 211
- 2–3 p.m. — Bodies of Earth: Toxins in our Tissues, MU 213
- 3–4 p.m. — Circumventing Corporate Monocultures of the Mind, MU 211, Featuring Agnes Baker Pilgrim - Takelma Elder and member of the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers
- 4:15–5:30 p.m. — Open Space Meeting: Moving Into Action, location TBA
- 5:30–7:00 p.m. — Abundant Solutions Community Fair, LaSells Stewart Center

FRIDAY
OCT. 23
9:30 A.M.–9 P.M.

For more information
541-737-6198

Sponsored by the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature and the Written Word; the Hundere Endowment for Religion and Culture; the Honoring Endowment in the Humanities; the Student Sustainability Initiative; the OSU Women Studies Department; and the OSU Department of Philosophy

Space is limited for morning and afternoon sessions. Pre-register at: womenjusticeecology.wordpress.com

Find us on Facebook: “Earth Democracy: Women, Justice and Ecology”

Accommodations for disabilities may be made by calling 541-737-4098
OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS

The Spring Creek Café:
“Do We Have an Obligation to Future Generations?”

Why should we sacrifice now to help people who don’t even exist yet? What’s wrong with taking what we need from the Earth, even if we leave a diminished world behind? Philosophers Michael Nelson and Kathleen Dean Moore were joined by writer Brian Doyle and singer/songwriter Libby Roderick for this community conversation. The standing-room-only audience at the Corvallis Benton County Public Library dove into the issue with courage, humor, and insight. The program, first in a new series of Spring Creek Cafés, is modeled on the popular Socrates Cafés, wherein people to come together in an informal setting to participate in thoughtful, guided discussion on topics of deep human importance.

Philip H. Roberts

Philosophy Talk Radio

In October, Spring Creek’s director, Kathleen Dean Moore, was a featured guest on NPR’s radio show, Philosophy Talk. Along with hosts Ken Taylor and John Perry, Moore discussed “Why It’s Wrong to Wreck the World,” a discussion inspired by her new book, Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril.

Communicating about Environmental Problems

In March, Willis Jenkins, social ethicist from Yale Divinity School, spoke on "Environmental Problems, Cultural Change, and Religious Communities.” Jenkins argued that to engage other communities in dialogue about environmental problems, we must try to understand the issues from their point of view.
In May, Spring Creek’s Research Associate, Miriah Russo (grad student in Environmental Science/Communications) lead a seminar on “Communicating More Effectively about Climate Change.” How can we frame and craft arguments that actually reach people and move them to action? Russo led a discussion of successful strategies.

The Magic Barrel Spring Creek joined with other community organizations to sponsor “The Magic Barrel: A Reading to Fight Hunger,” which raised more than $2,000 for Linn-Benton Food Share for hunger relief.

Organic Growers Club Earth Day Hoo Haa Spring Creek organized the poetry and music events for the stage entertainment for the OSU Organic Growers Club Hoo Haa on Earth Day.

Writing Nature guest editorship Spring Creek staff served as guest editors for Writing Nature, an on-line literary journal that links writers’ communities from New England to the Pacific Northwest. Writing Nature gives voice to insightful and lyrical nature writing, art, and news of interest to the nature writing community.

Work-and-Write volunteer Tom Titus carries a stone up the Shotpouch trail to repair an eroding switchback.
Environmental Humanities Initiative

What if the Spring Creek purpose – to bring together science, humanities, and the arts to nourish new ways of thinking about how to live justly and sustainably on earth – were the purpose of academic programs as well? This is the question being answered by OSU’s new Environmental Humanities Initiative, which has as its goal to bring scientists and humanities scholars into close collaboration to address critical environmental issues, and to educate new leaders whose scientific understanding is grounded in a deep understanding of the sources of human wisdom and values. With guidance from Spring Creek, new Environmental Humanities projects and programs are taking shape.

In the fall we organized a “summit meeting” at the Andrews Forest, gathering creative science and humanities people from campus and the community, including Deans representing the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Forestry, Science, and the Honors College. The task was to imagine the Environmental Humanities Initiatives into existence. With guidance from CLA alum/corporate consultant Jim Wiggett and ideas from a diverse and interested group of faculty, the gathering mapped out goals and time-lines for research, education, and outreach projects. We launched the initiatives at an all-campus reception. With opening remarks from Provost
Randhawa and Deans Larry Rodgers and Hal Salwasser, we announced the appointment of a program manager, Gregg Kleiner; met in informal large and small groups to focus goals; signed up for advisory groups; and enjoyed wine and conversation with about 150 participants.

Now, we are poised to announce the formation of a new environmental humanities institute in the Division of Arts and Sciences: The Three Rivers Institute for Human Values, Science, and Environmental Leadership, and to submit requests for new faculty hires.

**CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY FIELD COURSE**

**PHL 411/511--Great Environmental Thinkers**

During the winter term, the Spring Creek Project co-sponsored a field course on Great American Environmental Thinkers. For the first ten weeks, students read the essential environmental books they had always meant to read: Thoreau, Leopold, Carson, Muir, Momaday, hooks, Abbey, Williams, Nash, Dillard. Then all the students went to the Andrews Forest with instructor Kathleen Dean Moore, where they spent a week living among five-hundred-year old cedars and Douglas-firs -- discussing, thinking, and writing about the four fundamental questions addressed by the great thinkers: What is the world? What is wildness? What is the place of humans in the world? How, then, shall we live? At a public gathering back in town, the students read the essays they had written in the forest.
LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

FIELD SYMPOSIUM

Dragonfly Eyes: Multiple Ways of Envisioning the Future of Landscape Changes

The dragonfly has a compound eye, each with its own lens and point of view. The multiple signals come together to create a vision that is particularly acute. What if we were able to bring together multiple ways of envisioning the future? While scientists and land managers in the Pacific Northwest have produced a body of strong and useful work on future scenarios of landscape change, the Dragonfly Eyes symposium explored what might happen if people with expertise in other ways of seeing and communicating—poets, novelists, visual artists, philosophers, architects, teachers, and environmental historians—joined with scientists and land managers to begin composing a multi-faceted view of future landscape changes. With funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Spring Creek invited twenty participants to gather at Andrews Experimental Forest in late April to brainstorm and practice ways of bringing together perspectives from the sciences and the
arts in consideration of future scenarios of land change. The various disciplines brought very different approaches and skill sets to the gathering.

Through workshops, imaginative exercises and extensive discussions, we shared insights into how each discipline does its work and communicates impressions and findings. The symposium confirmed that there is great potential in gathering such diverse groups for launching new projects as well as in carrying outcomes to broader audiences.

NSF funded the symposium through the Andrews Forest Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) program as part of a four-site exploration of similar interdisciplinary projects. The other sites are Bonanza Creek LTER (AK), North Temperate Lakes (WI), and Harvard Forest (MA). Representatives of the four sites will meet in the fall 2010 to identify common and region-specific themes. A report to the National Science Foundation and articles about our process for submission to national journals are in progress.
ANDREWS FOREST WRITERS RESIDENCIES

Now in its seventh year of an envisioned two-hundred year life-span, the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program has garnered increasing exposure around the country. Twenty three writers have now participated in the program, and their works, posted in The Forest Log, comprise a unique window into the changing forest.

THE WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE—FALL 2009

Gary Paul Nabhan, wide-ranging author, ethnobotanist, and pioneering local foods activist, was our fall writer-in-residence. He also came to Corvallis to speak on “Where Does Our Food Come From?” with local seedsman Frank Morton at the Mary’s River Grange. Nabhan and Morton talked about what our food production and supply systems reveal about our relationship to the land and to our food. The huge crowd was charmed and engaged. The presentation was a benefit for Ten Rivers Food Web.

Other fall writers-in-residence were Gail Wells and Tim Fox. Their fascinating contributions to the Forest Log can be found on the Andrews website. http://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/research/related/writers/template.cfm?next=wir&topnav=169
THE WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE—SPRING 2010

Much-beloved poet and essayist, Jane Hirshfield, spent two weeks at the Andrews working on a long poetry-and-prose narrative about the forest. Her reading, co-sponsored by the Department of English Visiting Writer Series and the Valley Library, mesmerized the overflow audience at the Valley Library. A selection from Jane’s writing at the Andrews is forthcoming in the prestigious national journal, Orion.

Other spring writers-in-residence were John R. Campbell and Kathleen Heideman. Their contributions to the Forest Log can be found on the Andrews website.

OTHER LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS EVENTS

The Power of Mount St. Helens On May 8th, 2010, the 30th Anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helens, Spring Creek helped host a reading and conversation in Portland with three Northwest legends—Gary Snyder, Ursula LeGuin, and Jerry Franklin. The program, co-sponsored with Illahee, was a riveting testament to the power of landscape to shape cultural visions.

Regional Leadership In early June, Fred Swanson and Charles Goodrich spoke to the Regional Leadership Team of the US Forest Service about the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program.
UPCOMING EVENTS 2010-2011

Spring Creek Cafes. Following last year’s hugely successful piloting of Spring Creek Cafes, we will extend the program to new topics. Held at the Corvallis Public Library, the cafes are gatherings where people participate in thoughtful, guided discussion on topics of deep human importance.

Symposium: “Oceans: A Broken-hearted Hallelujah”
Spring Creek will host a two-day symposium in collaboration with other campus and community organizations, to celebrate oceans and acknowledge devastating losses to what writer Julia Whitty calls our ‘deep blue home.’ Proposed speakers include climate scientist Richard Somerville, writers Carl Safina and Julia Whitty, NOAA director Jane Lubchenco, and others. The event will also feature music, interactive workshops, and a community fair for organizations committed to action on behalf of oceans and the environment.

Readings, Seminars, and Lectures. Several public lectures are already scheduled for 2010-2011; more are planned. Spring Creek will bring scholar and cultural critic John Felstiner to campus in the fall for a presentation based on his provocative book, “Can Poetry Save the Earth?” In the spring, we’ll host translator and writer Bill Porter for a reading, slide show, and discussion on “Chinese Philosophy and Poetry and their Influence on American Environmental Thinking.” Spring Creek will also host readings on campus by two nationally renowned writers as the concluding event to their Blue River Writers Residencies at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest. The fall resident will be poet and novelist Linda Hogan. Spring Creek is uniquely positioned to sponsor lectures, seminars or symposia that respond to opportunities and issues that emerge during the course of the year. In addition to events already scheduled for next year, we expect to include others as opportunities arise.
**Shotpouch Events**  Robin Cody will be our special guest for the Sixth Annual Shotpouch Writers Gathering in early August 2010. We’ll also host volunteer work parties at Shotpouch and free writing in both fall and spring, and increase the number and variety of Writers Residencies at the Cabin.

**Community Events.** Spring Creek is an active, often leading, partner in community events that share our mission. Among our many community outreach activities, Spring Creek co-sponsors the “Magic Barrel: A Reading to Fight Hunger,” and hosts the entertainment stage for the OSU Organic Growers Club’s annual Earth Day Celebration. Spring Creek is also an active member of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.
SPRING CREEK PEOPLE

Spring Creek Director, Kathleen Dean Moore

Kathleen’s book project, Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril—essays by world moral leaders arguing that we have an obligation to leave a future as rich in possibility as the world left to us—will be published this fall by Trinity University Press. Her new collection of her own essays, Wild Comfort, came out this spring from Shambhala Editions. 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

Charles will teach a nature writing workshop for Fishtrap in Wallowa County this summer, before he heads to Mount St. Helens to serve as organizer for the Mount St. Helens Field Residencies. Garrison Keillor has read two pieces from Charles’ new book, Going to Seed: Dispatches from the Garden, on the Writers’ Almanac.

Spring Creek Intern

Rachel Brinker was Spring Creek’s intern during fall and winter terms. While still an undergraduate, she organized much of the Earth Democracy conference. She is now a graduate student at OSU in Women Studies.

Spring Creek Research Associate

Miriah Russo, graduate student in Communications, is doing research for Spring Creek this summer, researching ways to help scientists and others communicate about environmental problems.
GRATITUDE

The Spring Creek Project is a creation of many nimble minds, generous hands, and willing hearts. Our deepest thanks to the many supporters whose gifts of energy, wisdom, moral, and financial support help sustain our work.

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

Special Thanks: John Laurence, Donald Hartline, Jonathan Kaplan, Courtney Campbell, Charlie and Marie Tomlinson, The Mason family, Dawn Jones

Spring Creek Pals: Frederick J. Swanson, Mark Hixon, Michael Nelson, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Carly Lettero, Dave Lettero

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Tile mosaic created by participants at Dragonfly Eyes symposium with guidance from (and thanks to) Lin McJunkin

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Oregon State University