The Spring Creek Project
101 Hovland Hall
School of History, Philosophy, and Religion
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

e-mail: spring.creek@oregonstate.edu
web: springcreek.oregonstate.edu
Phone: 541-737-6198

Staff
Charles Goodrich, Director
Carly Lettero, Program Director
Nathaniel Brodie, Research Associate
Maya Polan, Student Intern

Senior Fellows
Alison Hawthorne Deming
Kathleen Dean Moore
Michael Nelson
Fred Swanson

Front and back cover photos by Laura Young, “Keep your nose to the grindstone,” and “No Loitering”
The Spring Creek Project
for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word
The Spring Creek Project has enjoyed an eventful and productive year. In the fall, we drew one of our largest crowds ever to the historic Whiteside Theater for a reading by renowned Northwest poet Gary Snyder. With a significant grant from the Joint Fire Sciences Program, we hosted an ambitious symposium, "Words on Fire," that brought the insights of writers, artists, philosophers and social scientists together with fire scientists and managers. We deepened our commitment to presenting Native American perspectives with a series of speakers that culminated in our co-sponsorship of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge conference. And we initiated the Campus Creature Census to engage the community in paying greater attention to our fellow inhabitants of the OSU campus.

In all our programs and events, we encourage diverse voices and perspectives, creating extraordinary conversations in order to probe the edges of knowledge.

The strategic weaving of perspectives—factual, normative, imaginative—has proven to be an unfailing guide to our efforts as we work to bring the environmental sciences, philosophy, and creative writing and the arts together “to find new ways to understand and re-imagine our relation to the natural world.” That phrase "our relationship to the natural world" suggests that our larger mission is to embody an ethic of care for all beings. Call it what you will—the creative force, original mystery, biophilia, capital 'N' Nature, love—our work always fares better and reaches farther and generates greater insights and more good will when we recall our gratitude to the air, the water, the soil, and all the creatures with whom we share this beautiful and irreplaceable Earth.

With abundant thanks,

Charles Goodrich, Director
CONTENTS

Introduction

2012-13 Highlights / 4

The Cabin at Shotpouch Creek / 6
Writers-in-residence / witness, reflect, celebrate
The Trillium Project / inspiration of place

Campus and community events / 9
Gary Snyder / insights from the wild
Blue River Writers Gathering / the future of nature writing
Words on Fire / the language of wildland fire
Animal Wise / news of our fellow inhabitants
Thinking about Animals Thinking / if they think, what then?
Traditional Ecological Knowledge / resilience and renewal

Long-Term Ecological Reflections / 16
Writers-in-residence / Joe Bruchac
Ecological Reflections Network / sharing collaborative creativity

Upcoming Events / 18

Spring Creek People / 19

Gratitude / 21
Collaborative Retreats, Graduate Student Residencies, the Trillium Project, and other events brought writers, scientists, artists, and philosophers and others to the Shotpouch Cabin. Details on pages 6-8.

The symposium, Words on Fire, brought fire scientists and managers together with writers and environmental philosophers to explore the language of wildland fire. Details on page 10.
The Campus Creature Census drew students, faculty, and townspeople together to create an intimate inventory of all the plants and animals with whom we share the OSU campus. Details on page 12.

This year’s Traditional Ecological Knowledge Conference brought Native American speakers from near and far. Details on page 14.
Collaborative Retreats at the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek

The residencies at the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek honor the fact that writers are part of a dynamic system with authors, readers, and wider communities. When people from different backgrounds work collaboratively in a place of natural quiet and beauty, surprising energies may emerge. This two-week retreat is for two participants who wish to pursue a collaborative project, or two participants who each have individual projects and who anticipate a synergistic benefit from each other's presence. The retreats culminate in a reading and discussion at the Cabin.

Fall 2012
- Christy George, writer, and James O’Neill, photographer
- Mathew Dickerson and David O’Hara, writers.

Spring 2013
- Michael G Smith, writer, and Laura Young, visual artist and photographer.
- Erin Rhodes and Beth Gilstrap, writers.
Graduate Student Writing Residency

Each year, OSU faculty members are invited to nominate graduate students in the humanities or environmental sciences for a one-week writing retreat at the Shotpouch Cabin. This residency provides a quiet, inspirational place to work on a place-based writing and/or research project in the humanities or environmental sciences.


Spring 2013: **Jesse Donaldson**, MFA student in Creative Writing. Nominated by Elena Passarello.

Writing and Working the Woods

Our work parties and free writing workshops at Shotpouch Cabin are among our most popular events. Participants work together on habitat restoration, trail, or cabin maintenance in the morning. Then in the afternoon they gather inside for a free writing workshop hosted by a special guest. This spring we partnered with Marys River Watershed Council to cage dozens of cedars to protect them from beavers and planted hundreds of cedar seedlings along the creek and in the woods.

Guest Instructors

Fall 2012: **Peter Sears** is the author of three poetry collections and is a gifted and widely-experienced teacher. For his many services to Oregon’s literary community, Peter has received the Stewart H. Holbrook Award from Literary Arts, Inc.

Spring 2013: **Jennifer Boyden** is author of *The Mouths of Grazing Things* and *The Declarable Future*, winner of the 2013 Four Lakes Poetry Prize. Her work has been recognized with a PEN Northwest Wilderness Writing Residency.
THE TRILLIUM PROJECT

The Trillium Project invites proposals from campus and community members—artists, writers, philosophers, scientists, composers, etc.—to visit the Cabin for a day or a few nights and engage thoughtfully with the land by writing, studying, listening, and creating. Taking place during the spring wildflower season and focusing on the Cabin and the Shotpouch land, this year’s Trillium Project brought over two dozen people to the Cabin to make poems, stories, photos, writing, and visual art.

OTHER SHOPTOUCH EVENTS

Shotpouch Writers Gathering

The Shotpouch land and the Cabin are the setting for our summer gathering of nature writers who live in the Marys River watershed. More than twenty writers gathered in July to enjoy a potluck meal and share poems and prose around the campfire.
CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fall 2012

Reading: Gary Snyder

Gary Snyder, the Pulitzer prize-winning poet and essayist whose work is deeply-rooted in the landscapes of the Pacific Northwest, read to a full house at the historic Whiteside Theatre. Mr. Snyder’s work has influenced many of the most dramatic literary and cultural movements of the past fifty years. A long-time Buddhist practitioner, avid outdoorsman, and environmental thinker, Snyder has worked to articulate the relationship of humans to the whole of nature.

Mr. Snyder’s visit was part of the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program, co-sponsored by Spring Creek, the U.S. Forest Service, and the OSU Visiting Writers series. A video of his reading is posted on the Spring Creek website.

Blue River Writers Gathering

The Blue River Writers Gathering for Northwest nature/environmental writers is an opportunity for support, inspiration and renewal for writers from Arcata to Anchorage and Bellingham to Boise who are engaged in this loving but sometimes lonesome occupation. In September, Jennifer Sahn, editor of Orion magazine, was our special guest for an inquiry into the ‘future of nature writing.’ Jennifer shared insights that grow from her work as one the most forceful and visionary editors in the field. The thirty participant writers gathered at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest to enjoy bonfires, owl calling, informal conversations over spectacular local food, hikes to the creeks, readings, and the abiding presence of the old growth forest.
Symposium: “Words on Fire: Toward a New Language of Wildland Fire”

“Words on Fire” brought together a unique group of writers, philosophers, and fire ecologists and managers to explore insights from the humanities toward the ways we think about and act in relation to wildland fire. Stephen J. Pyne, environmental historian renowned for his works on wildland fire, delivered the keynote address (text available on the Spring Creek website).

The words we use to describe our terms of engagement with fire shape the stories we tell about it. And the stories we tell shape the way we act. As the future for many places promises to be hotter, drier, and more fire-prone, the symposium considered the range of language we currently use to grapple with wildland fire and looked toward new metaphors and revitalized language that might help us forge ever more thoughtful, realistic, flexible, and creative relationships with wildland fire.

“Words on Fire” was sponsored by the Spring Creek Project, Joint Fire Sciences Program, and the Northwest Fire Science Consortium, with assistance from the School of History, Philosophy, and Religion and the College of Forestry.

See the Spring Creek website for video recordings of all the proceedings: http://springcreek.oregonstate.edu/
Winter 2013

Seminar: “The rise and fall of philosophy in ecology: Why and how to put the Ph back in your PhD” with Dr. Chelse M. Prather, University of Houston.
Why have the number of papers containing the words philosophy and ecology risen and declined sharply over the past decades? Prather discussed why and how to put philosophy back into the ecology PhD. Co-sponsored with the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society.


Reading and slide show: Virginia Morell, *Animal Wise: The Thoughts and Emotions of Our Fellow Creatures*
Morell presented excerpts and images from her book on the inner world of animals, from ants to elephants to wolves, and from sharp-shooting archerfish to pods of dolphins that rumble like rival street gangs. Morell’s work probes the moral and ethical dilemmas in recognizing that even “lesser animals” have cognitive abilities such as memory, feelings, personality, and self-awareness.

Symposium: “Thinking About Animals Thinking”
What are the implications or consequences of the analogues between animal and human behaviors? What can we infer about animal thoughts and feelings from animal behaviors? This symposium focused new research that may suggest different ways of relating with other creatures, and nature in general.

Panelists:
- Virginia Morell: “Exploring Animal Minds: What We Know Now”
- David Mellinger: “Whale Songs, Whale Minds”
- Kathleen Dean Moore: “The Solace of Snakes”
- Bill Ripple: “Predators, Prey, and the Ecology of Fear”
- Michael Nelson, moderator

Videos of “Thinking About Animals Thinking” are on the Spring Creek website: http://springcreek.oregonstate.edu/
Spring 2013

Campus Creature Census

For the first annual Campus Creature Census, Spring Creek invited students, faculty, staff, and community members to explore the Oregon State University campus as a natural environment where sequoias and gray squirrels, rhododendrons and chickadees, lichens, spiders, garter snakes, and moss co-create the OSU ecosystem. Participants were invited to submit an entry in one of five categories: prose, field guide, poetry, visual art, and photography. Student prizes were awarded in each category.

In its inaugural year the Campus Create Census received nearly one hundred entries. In May, Spring Creek hosted a celebration and invited the finalists and winners to read their pieces and discuss their visual entries. The closing celebration also featured special guest Robert Michael Pyle, one of the Pacific Northwest’s premier lepidopterists and the author of award-winning books informed by his intimate engagement with nature. Spring Creek plans to do the Census every year.

Robert Michael Pyle reading at the Campus Creature Census celebration event.
Rough-Skinned Newt, *Taricha granulosa*
Lindsey Thurman, student photography category

Earwig, *Forfuculia auriculairia*
Ammon Cheney, student art category
Conference: Traditional Ecological Knowledge, "Resilient Relationships across Cultural and Ecological Landscapes"

Spring Creek joined with the American Indian Initiative; Native American Longhouse; Student Association for Fire Ecology to sponsor this important conference. With keynote addresses by Robin Kimmerer and Greg Cajete and two days of fascinating presentations and discussions, the conference coincided with the opening and dedication of OSU’s beautiful new Native American Longhouse building.

Seminar: Dr. John A. Vucetich, “The Wolves and Moose of Isle Royale: lessons from 50 years of predation research”

The wolves and moose of Isle Royale are the subject the world’s longest-running study of any predator-prey system. In addition to ecological insights, the wolf-moose study has also contributed important insights on a variety of topics in environmental philosophy, helping us to better understand the most basic aspects of our relationship with nature. Vucetich is Associate Professor of animal ecology at Michigan Technological University, and co-director of the Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Project. Co-sponsored with The H. J. Andrews Long-Term Ecological Research Program, and the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society.

Lecture: Dr. Kyle Powys-Whyte, “Justice Forward: Tribes, Climate Adaptation and Responsibility”

In his lecture Powys-Whyte identified a system of responsibilities, ranging from webs of inter-species relationships to government-to-government partnerships, to encourage a shift to a forward-looking framework for supporting the continued flourishing of tribal communities. Kyle Powys-Whyte is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Michigan State University and an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee, Oklahoma.
TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE

RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS CULTURAL & ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES

THURSDAY, MAY 16TH

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
NATIVE AMERICAN LONGHOUSE,
(EENA HAWS)

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
DR. DELPHINE JACKSON
DR. THOMAS MANESS
GAIL WOODSIDE
DR. RON TROSNER
ELDER LINA MARKSHTUM
ELDER DEANA DIZELLE GRAY
ELDER ESTHER STUTZMANN
DR. STUART HARRIS
DR. SAMANTHA CHESLODM HATFIELD
ELDER THERESA PARKER
DR. TONY VOGT

7:30 PM
LINUS PAULING SCIENCE CENTER
ROOM 125

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
DR. ROBIN KIMMERRER &
DR. GREG CAJETE

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
NATIVE AMERICAN LONGHOUSE,
(EENA HAWS)

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
DR. DELPHINE JACKSON
DR. DONALD GRINDE
GABE SHEEHAN & FRESHWATER ILLUSTRATED
ELDER ELAINE GRINNELL
MARY JONES
LINDA LONE HEIGHT

3:00 PM
FORMAL DEDICATION
OF EENA HAWS

VISIT HTTP://SPRINGCREEK.OREGONSTATE.EDU FOR A DETAILED SCHEDULE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION!

Sponsored by: American Indian Initiative; Native American Longhouse; Student Association for Fire Ecology; School of History, Religion, and Philosophy; Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word; Intercultural Student Services, College of Forestry; Office of Student Affairs; and the TEK Initiative.
LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

ANDREWS FOREST WRITERS RESIDENCIES

Since its inception ten years ago, more than forty writers have participated in the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program. As we enter the second decade of an envisioned 200-year inquiry, Reflections has become a model for analogous programs around the country. The work of the Andrews residents, posted in The Forest Log, comprise a unique window into the changing forest. Writers come from across the country to spend a week or more as residents at the Andrews Forest.

Blue River Writer-in-Residence: Joseph Bruchac


Joseph Bruchac is the author of more than 120 books for adults and children. As a professional teller of the traditional tales of the Adirondacks and the Native peoples of the Northeastern Woodlands, Bruchac has performed widely in Europe and throughout the United States and has been featured at such events as the British Storytelling Festival and the National Storytelling Festival.

In advance of his Corvallis visit, Bruchac was writer-in-residence for the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, which is co-sponsored by the Spring Creek Project and the U.S. Forest Service. His storytelling performance was co-sponsored with the Friends of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

Andrews Forest Writers-in-Residence

Fall 2012: Kristin Berger and James Bertolino
Spring 2013: Jeff Fearnside and Michael Smith
OTHER REFLECTIONS EVENTS

Ecological Society of America

In August, Fred Swanson, Nathaniel Brodie, and Charles Goodrich presented talks on the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program at the annual conference of the Ecological Society of America. Spring Creek has been a leader in promoting the fruitful and natural collaboration of arts and humanities with environmental research, education, and outreach programs at sites with a long-term commitment to learning about the natural world and our place in it. This interdisciplinary work has expanded scientists’ views of the significance of their own work and enhanced the scope and depth of public outreach. Collaborations among arts, humanities, and environmental sciences are developing within the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER), the US Forest Service’s system of Experimental Forests and Ranges, the Organization of Biological Field Stations, and other sites that are dominantly arts/humanities based. Rich bodies of work in creative writing, visual arts, and performance are emerging from these programs, while networking and synthesis activities are rapidly expanding.

Ecological Reflections Network

Spring Creek manages the website for the Ecological Reflections Network to foster communication and information for our emerging projects. The Ecological Reflections website lists site profiles, how-to information, featured art, and other useful documents. www.ecologicalreflections.com/

Photo: James O’Neill, ’Shotpouch Creek’
UPCOMING EVENTS 2013-14

Fall 2013

Wednesday, October 9, 7 pm
Location TBD
Reading and Conversation: Paul Bogard, *The End of Night*

October 17-19, H.J. Andrews Forest
Workshop: Long-Term Ecological Reflections, Visioning the Next Ten Years

Saturday, October 19, 7 pm
LaSells Stewart Center, C & E Auditorium, OSU
Braiding Science and Creative Writing, a reading with Alison Hawthorne Deming and Robin Kimmerer

Winter 2014

Saturday, February 15, 9 am—9 pm LaSells Stewart Center, OSU
Symposium: Transformation without Apocalypse: How to Live Well on an Altered Planet, featuring Ursula K. LeGuin, Kim Stanley Robinson, Tim DeChristopher and other speakers.

Humans will be living differently in the very near future, perhaps occasioned by catastrophes brought on by overpowering forces of greed and climatic disintegration. But it’s also conceivable that we will choose, by acts of imagination and collective will, to create new narratives of how to inhabit the planet. This will require a radical re-imagining of who we are in relation to the world and how we ought to live. We have to do everything possible to end dependence on fossil fuels, stop the privatization of water, seeds, and the atmosphere, and arrest climate chaos. But that work will fare better if we have tangible visions of new/old ways to live that promise thriving without exhausting the Earth. This symposium test a different sets of ideas about how to live on Earth.

Spring 2014

Saturday, May 10, 7 pm
location TBD
Performance: Paul Miller, aka DJ Spooky
Writer, musician, and performance artist Paul Miller/DJ Spooky will give a live performance at the end of his week as writer-in residence at the Andrews Forest.
SPRING CREEK PEOPLE

Director, Charles Goodrich

Charles Goodrich is the author of a new book of poetry, *A Scripture of Crows*, and two earlier collections, *Insects of South Corvallis* and *Going to Seed: Dispatches from the Garden*, as well as a collection of essays about nature, parenting, and building his own house, *The Practice of Home*. He also co-edited, with Kathleen Dean Moore and Fred Swanson, *In the Blast Zone: Catastrophe and Renewal on Mount St. Helens*. Charles holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Oregon State University.

Program Director, Carly Lettero

Carly Lettero is our capable new Program Director and also works part-time as Program Manager for the OSU Environmental Humanities Initiative. She holds an MAIS in applied ethics, anthropology, and sociology and a BA in creative writing. Lettero has ten years of program design and management experience for environmental organizations and has co-founded a series of energy-reduction programs, including the Campus Carbon Challenge, the Community Carbon Challenge, and Classrooms Take Charge.

Research Associate, Nathaniel Brodie

With funding from the Pacific Northwest Research Station and US Forest Service Spring Creek hired Nathaniel Brodie to do a literature review of writings about cultural perceptions of wildland fire, organize the “Words on Fire” symposium, and help us establish the Reflections Network. Nathaniel is an MFA graduate of University of Arizona.

Student Intern, Maya Polan

Maya Polan is a graduate student in the MFA Creative Writing program. Maya was responsible for the Campus Creature Census, and the success of the Census owes much to her hard work and imagination.
Spring Creek Senior Fellows

Senior Fellows carry out writing, speaking, teaching, and other activities that support the mission of Spring Creek. When called upon, a Senior Fellow may serve as a resource for ideas, information, and connections to people and institutions, collaborate on Spring Creek programs, and contribute to the discussion of future visions and programming.

Alison Hawthorne Deming is a Professor of English at University of Arizona and the author of Science and Other Poems, The Monarchs: A Poem Sequence, Genius Loci, and Rope, along with three nonfiction books: Temporary Homelands, The Edges of the Civilized World, finalist for the PEN Center West Award, and Writing the Sacred Into the Real. She has recently completed a nonfiction book titled Zoologies: On Animals and the Human Spirit.

Kathleen Dean Moore, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy (retired) and co-founder of the Spring Creek Project, is an environmental philosopher who writes about moral, spiritual, and cultural relationships to the natural world. Her books include Wild Comfort, The Pine Island Paradox, and Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril (co-edited with Michael Nelson). She publishes widely in professional and popular journals, and serves on the Board of Directors for Orion magazine.

Michael Paul Nelson is an environmental scholar, writer, teacher, speaker, consultant, and professor of environmental ethics and philosophy. He holds the Ruth H. Spaniol Chair in Natural Resources and serves as the Lead Principle Investigator for the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest Long-Term Ecological Research program at Oregon State University. With Moore, he co-edited Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril.

Frederick J. Swanson is an Emeritus Scientist with the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the US Forest Service and Professor (courtesy) in the Departments of Forest Ecosystems and Society and of Geosciences at Oregon State University. Fred was instrumental in launching the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program, a major component of the Spring Creek Project.
GRATITUDE

Our deepest thanks to the many supporters whose gifts of energy, wisdom, and moral and financial support help sustain our work.

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

**Special Thanks:** Laura Dolp, Dawn Jones, Carol Mason, Garret Meigs, Chris Dunn, Janean Creighton, Gail Woodside, Tony Vogt, Cindy Miner, Bov Eav, John Laurence, Larry Rodgers, Ben Mutschler, Courtney Campbell, Donald Hartline

**Shotpouch Caretaker:** Dave Lettero

**Collaborative Partners**

- Andrews Forest Long-Term Ecological Research Program
- Joint Fire Science Program
- United States Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Forestry
- School of History, Philosophy, and Religion
- Hundere Endowment for Religion and Culture
- OSU Student Sustainability Initiative
- OSU Native American Longhouse
- Grass Roots Books & Music
- OSU Beaver Store
- Friends of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
- OSU Valley Library
- American Indian Initiative
- National Science Foundation
- Student Association for Fire Ecology