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

ANNUAL REPORT
2013—2014
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Front cover: *Capra aegagrus hircus* by Alice Marshall.
Back cover: Panel at the “Transformation without Apocalypse” symposium with Tim DeChristopher, Sarah van Gelder, Kathleen Dean Moore, and Michael Paul Nelson.
The Spring Creek Project
for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word
As Spring Creek achieves an ever-wider reputation for creative programming, we receive more and more suggestions for speakers and events, and more and more invitations to collaborate with other individuals and groups. It can be a challenge to maintain our focus, to decide which fascinating opportunities to pursue and which to forego. Fortunately, we can always take counsel from our inspired and eloquent mission statement, which reminds us that our challenge is “to bring together the practical wisdom of the environmental sciences, the clarity of philosophical analysis, and the creative, expressive power of the written word, to find new ways to understand and re-imagine our relation to the natural world.”

Along with our interdisciplinary focus, we are also adamant about the need to marry theory and practice. Witness the design for this winter’s two-day symposium, “Transformation without Apocalypse: How To Live Well on an Altered Planet.” While featuring nationally-known keynote speakers, we also included dynamic workshops on political activism, engaged art, despair and empowerment work, and many other practical, transformative skills. To further the connection to praxis, we hosted the “Radical Reimagining Fair” with more than thirty activist organizations offering opportunities for symposium participants to put their shoulders to the wheel.

To address the growing impacts of global warming, and the increasing disparity between have and have-nots, we promise to help promote clear thinking, bold imagining, and inspired action. We are grateful beyond words for the bounty of the Earth, and the privilege of working on behalf of all creatures, human and other-than-human.
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Over 1,000 people attended the two-day symposium *Transformation without Apocalypse: How to Live Well on an Altered Planet*, which featured a Radical Reimagining Fair, workshops, and keynotes by Ursula LeGuinn, Kim Stanley Robinson, and Tim DeChristopher, among many other speakers. Details on page 10.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the *Wilderness Act*, Spring Creek Project hosted a panel discussion with Craig Childs, Jacob Hamblin, and Lisa Machnik. Details on page 10.
From April 15 to May 15 nearly 40 writers, poets, photographers, artists, musicians, and scientists spent time at the Shotpouch Cabin during the ninth annual Trillium Project. Details on page 10.

Ying Yang Spring. Roka Walsh.

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 10.

Pipilo maculatus by Allyson Jackson
THE CABIN AT SHOTPOUCH CREEK

WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMS

Collaborative Retreats at the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek

At the Spring Creek Project, we believe that the writing life is far richer than the myth of the solitary individual, struggling alone to put words on paper, would suggest. The Cabin at Shotpouch Creek recognizes that writers are part of a dynamic system of writers, readers and wider communities. Unusual energy and inspiration can emerge when people from different backgrounds work together in a place of natural quiet and beauty.

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. At least one of the applicants must be a writer who takes inspiration from the natural world. The second applicant may also be a writer, or he or she may work in any other field (e.g. science, philosophy, music, art, crafts, etc.). The retreats culminate in a reading and discussion at the Cabin led by the participants.

Fall 2013

Maxine Martell, artist, and Martha Gies, writer
Roger Reid and Wendy Reed, writers
Christopher Dewan and Bree Barton, writers

Spring 2014

Aerienne Russell and Vanessa Breeding, poets and songwriters

Photo: James O’Neill, ‘Shotpouch Creek’
Graduate Student Writing Residency

Spring Creek invited OSU faculty members to nominate graduate students in the humanities or environmental sciences for a one-week writing retreat at the Shotpouch Cabin. The Retreat provides a beautiful space for graduate students to focus their place-based writing or research.

Spring 2014

Meagan Louise Nuss, graduate student in Forest Ecosystems and Society Graduate. Nominated by John Bliss.

Andréa Kuchy, graduate student in Forest Ecosystems and Society Graduate. Nominated by Mark Needham.

Writing and Working the Woods

Spring Creek hosted two Writing and Working in the Woods days at Shotpouch Cabin. In the morning participants work together on habitat restoration, trail maintenance, and cabin maintenance, and in the afternoon they gather inside for a free writing workshop hosted by a special guest. This year we planted over 200 cedar trees.

Guest Instructors

In the fall of 2013, Jen Richter hosted the writing workshop. Jen’s poetry collection, Threshold, was a 2011 Oregon Book Award Finalist. She earned her MFA at Penn State University and was a Wallace Stegner Fellow in poetry at Stanford University. She currently teaches in OSU’s MFA program.

In the spring of 2014, Matt Love hosted the workshop. Matt is the author/editor of eleven books about Oregon and won the Oregon Literary Arts’ Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award. He is the publisher of Nestucca Spit Press, which was established in 2003 to publish books about Oregon, and writes a blog “Of Walking in the Rain.”
THE TRILLIUM PROJECT

The Trillium Project is a residency program that takes place during the spring wildflower season and focuses on the Cabin and the Shotpouch land. Spring Creek invites proposals from people of a variety of backgrounds—artists, writers, philosophers, scientists, composers, etc.—to visit for a day or a few nights and engage thoughtfully with the land by writing, studying, listening, and creating.

From April 15 to May 15 nearly 40 writers, poets, photographers, artists, musicians, and scientists spent time at the Cabin and on the land. They were inspired to contribute song, poems, maps, woodcarvings, writings, paintings, weavings, among many other offerings, which are archived at the Cabin.

OTHER SHOTPOUCH 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.

Spring has Spring. Roka Walsh.
From Trillium Project Participants

I just wanted ... to thank the Trillium Project again for allowing me to stay at the cabin. It was a great experience and I came away with so many ideas for my writing. I hiked each of the trails and read many of the books and projects in the cabin. I also wrote, printed and hand-bound a small book while I was there and left it among the other Trillium Projects. – Sarah Baker

It was delightful to get away from my computer and cell phone for a couple of days. So many wonderful ways to fill my senses at the cabin—shelves of fascinating books and artwork, changing light coming through the windows, murmuring creek and birdsong, intricate web of trails, lush growth of woods, sunrise warming the table both mornings, the full moon rising over the fire circle, the graceful company of poet and turtle. - Susan Peck

Becky and I had such an incredible weekend at Shotpouch. What a magical place ~ not only the environment, but the cabin, and all of the art inside the cabin. Being there was such an inspiration! We continuously spoke of how fortunate we were to be there, soaking in the silence, beauty, and inspiration. – Roka Walsh
CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fall 2013

Reading: The End of Night

Paul Bogard, author of *The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness* in an Age of Artificial Light shared his insights, photographs, and stories in a fascinating program at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. Based on his extensive travels Bogard sought out dark spaces that best reveal the night skies, while considering our affinity for artificial light, the false sense of security it provides, and its implications.

Reading: Braiding Sweetgrass

Robin Kimmerer, botanist, author, and Spring Creek Senior Fellow, read from her new book, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*. Robin was joined by poet Alison Hawthorne Deming in an event celebrating the 10th anniversary of Long-Term Ecological Reflections program. As a botanist and professor of plant ecology, Robin Wall Kimmerer has spent a career learning how to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. As a Potawatomi woman, she learned from elders, family, and history that the Potawatomi, as well as a majority of other cultures indigenous to this land, consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowing together to reveal what it means to see humans as “the younger brothers of creation.”
Winter 2014

Transformation without Apocalypse: How to Live Well on an Altered Planet

In February Spring Creek hosted one of its most ambitious symposiums, “Transformation without Apocalypse: How to Live Well on an Altered Planet.” The goal for the two-day symposium was to inspire hopeful alternative visions of the future and create a growing, engaged community to help address the challenges of environmental decline, social inequity and global warming.

Friday’s keynote speakers included Rob Nixon, author of *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, Susana Almanza, Co-Director of People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER), and geographer Carolyn Finney, author of the forthcoming *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors*. On Friday evening, renowned artist Amy Franceschini spoke on her work with Futurefarmers, an international collective of artists, activists, researchers, farmers and architects who work together to propose alternatives to the social, political and environmental organization of space.

Saturday speakers included environmental activist Tim DeChristopher, renowned authors Ursula K. LeGuin and Kim Stanley Robinson, eco-philosopher Joanna Macy, author and environmental philosopher Kathleen Dean Moore, and *Yes! Magazine* editor Sarah Van Gelder.

Saturday events also include workshops in Creative Activism, Engaged Writing, Active Hope and more. A “Transformation Literature and Film Fest” featuring regional poets and non-fiction writers along with a fascinating series of short films. In addition, the “Radical Reimagining Fair” presented engaged tabling by more than thirty environmental and social justice groups.

Videos of all the keynote speakers are available on the Spring Creek website.
An OSU student works on an art piece during the Radical Reimagining Fair. Photo: Emily Boyer.
Climate Van

The Spring Creek Project partnered with the Environmental Arts and Humanities Initiative in the College of Liberal Arts to sponsor a call for Environmental and Ecologic Art Proposals that explored who we are in relation to the world and how we ought to live without exhausting the Earth. A team of local artists—soil science professor Jay Noller and graduate student Elizabeth Garton—won the $2,000 award and with their “Climate Vān” proposal. The Climate Van is created an interactive eco-art sculpture that concentrates on the thin layer of Earth that supports all terrestrial life. With experiential education in mind, Garton and Noller engaged over 400 students and community members in the creation of the sculpture during the Radical Reimaging Fair at the Transformation without Apocalypse symposium and during soil science classes at OSU.

The free-standing sculpture is shaped like a seed and consists of six whorls that spiral about one another when the sculpture is spun on its vertical axis. Each whorl represents a global soil type that is vulnerable and responding to change, thus calling attention to human connection to the environment. The sculpture will be finished this summer and displayed on campus next year.
Spring 2014

Reading: Linda Hogan

In April, Linda Hogan, a Chickasaw novelist, essayist, and environmentalist, read from her work in the OSU Valley Library Rotunda. Linda Hogan is the author of *Seeing Through the Sun*, the essay collection *Dwellings: A Spiritual History of the Living World*, and the novels *Mean Spirit*, *Solar Storms*, *Power*, and *People of the Whale: A Novel*. This special event was part of the OSU Visiting Writer Series. In advance of her Corvallis visit, Hogan was writer-in-residence for the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program.

Campus Creature Census

For the second year, Spring Creek sponsored the Campus Creature Census, inviting 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 of prose, field guide, poetry, art, and photography.

Environmental artist Ian Boyden helped launch the Census with a fascinating presentation on his art installation project, “Avian Flame: Mirror Ecologies of the Mind Consumed.”

Winning entries can be viewed on the Spring Creek website.
2014 Campus Creature Census Student Winners

- **Art**: Alice Marshall, Applied Visual Arts student, Saanen goat
- **Photography**: Kyle Ellis, Applied Visual Arts student, campus cow
- **Prose**: Alyssa Halton, Creative Writing MFA student, magnolia
- **Poetry**: Ellie Douglass, Creative Writing MFA student, inside-out flower

Campus Rambles

The Spring Creek Project celebrated the distinctive flora, fauna, and landscapes of the seasons with Campus Rambles. These walking workshops for creative writing and photography were hosted in the fall, winter, and spring by Jill Sisson, naturalist, and Cub Kahn, photographer. Participants met on Sunday morning to stroll through campus and visit designated sites with writing and photography prompts. Each Campus Ramble was followed by an evening session where participants shared their favorite images and writings.
Spring 2014

Reading and Slide Show: Craig Childs

Writer and world-traveler Craig Childs shared stories and images from his work-in-progress, “On the Trail of the First People: A Journey into the American Ice Age.” Through spectacular images and storytelling, Childs took the audience through Paleolithic landscapes from Alaska to Chile to Florida.

Craig Childs is a writer who focuses on the relationship between humans and the landscape, often told from mind-blowing journeys in the wilderness. He is a regular commentator for NPR's Morning Edition, and the author of more than a dozen critically acclaimed books, including Apocalyptic Planet and The Animal Dialogues: Uncommon Encounters in the Wild.

Symposium: Wilderness at 50

Craig Childs joined historian Jacob Hamblin and Forest Service Wilderness Program Manager Lisa Machnik for a conversation on the past and future of “Wilderness.” The Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, after over sixty drafts and eight years of work. The Act created the legal definition of "wilderness" in the United States and set aside 9.1 million acres of federal land to be forever protected from development. Over the last 50 years, we’ve developed a set of reasons we value wilderness: as a safeguard of habitat, a repository of clean water, a baseline for scientific research, essential sanctuaries for plants and animals, a refuge for overworked and underexposed humans, an economic asset. But the world is changing quickly, and so is the value of wilderness. How will wild places survive the next fifty years? Are they a tonic to LED screens and high-speed connections or a relic of simpler times?
Performance: DJ Spooky

In May, DJ Spooky, aka Paul D. Miller, performed in concert with OSU musicians Dana Reason and Michael Gamble. A composer, multimedia artist and author, DJ Spooky, is known for his genre-bending art, vast catalogue of music, and work in environmental awareness and social justice. He is currently the executive editor of Origin Magazine, which focuses on the intersection of art, yoga and new ideas, the composer of the multimedia performance piece Terra Nova: Sinfonia Antarctica and author of Book of Ice, a multimedia, multidisciplinary study of Antarctica that contemplates climate change and humanity’s relationship with the natural world.

The concert is co-sponsored with the OSU Music Department’s “Between the Cracks” series. In advance of his Corvallis appearance, Miller was writer-in-residence for the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest.

Reading and Discussion: Cristina Eisenberg: The Carnivore Way

What would it be like to live in a world with no predators roaming our landscapes? In her new book, The Carnivore Way: Coexisting with and Conserving North America’s Predators, Cristina Eisenberg argues compellingly for the necessity of top predators in large, undisturbed landscapes. Eisenberg conducts trophic cascades research focusing on wolves in Rocky Mountain ecosystems. and teaches ecological restoration and public policy in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University.
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

Fall 2013: Kathleen Dean Moore
Spring 2014: Linda Hogan (see page )
Spring 2014: Paul J. Miller aka DJ Spooky (see page )

Andrews Forest Writers-in-Residence

Fall 2013: Charlotte Austin and Bill Yake
Spring 2014: Frederick H. Swanson and D. Allen

OTHER REFLECTIONS EVENTS

Associated Writing Programs conference
In August, Fred Swanson, Kathleen Dean Moore, and Charles Goodrich presented talks on the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program at the annual conference of the Associated Writing Programs (AWP) in Seattle.

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 for nearly 20 partner organizations, how-to information, featured art, and other useful documents. www.ecologicalreflections.com/
Workshop: Long-Term Ecological Reflections 10 Year Visioning

In October, a special gathering at Andrews Forest reviewed accomplishments from the first 10 years of Long-Term Ecological Reflections program. The workshop surveyed themes from the writers-in-residence’s works and field symposia, and envisioned future strategies for the Reflections program over the next decade. The workshop concluded with a Saturday evening at OSU with readings by Alison Deming and Robin Kimmerer.

Since its inception in 2002, Long-Term Ecological Reflections has hosted more than 40 writers-in-residence at Andrews Forest, and sponsored field symposia on challenging topics such as “The Meaning of Watershed Health” and “New Metaphors for Restoration.” Writings produced by our writers-in-residence have appeared in prominent national publications such as The Atlantic, Orion, and OnEarth. With funding from the PNW Research Station and programmatic leadership of the Spring Creek Project, Reflections has garnered attention from the leadership of the National Science Foundation, been the focus of an article in Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, and helped inspire more than twenty other sites around the country to initiate Reflections-type programs.
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.

Carly Lettero, Program Director, 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.

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.

Laura Harris received her B.A. in English Literature and Cultural Anthropology from Oregon State University in 2013. She was responsible for the Radical Reimagining Fair during the Transformation without Apocalypse symposium and for this second-annual Campus Creature Census. She’ll be leaving this summer to volunteer for the Peace Corps in Cambodia.
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. This year the Spring Creek Project welcomed two new Senior Fellows: Robin Kimmerer and Robert Michael Pyle.

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.*

Robin Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, writer and Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York, and the founding Director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment. Her writings include *Gathering Moss* and *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants.* She has also authored numerous scientific papers on plant ecology, bryophyte ecology, traditional knowledge and restoration ecology.

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.

Robert Michale Pyle is an independent biologist, writer, teacher, and speaker. He has published hundreds of articles, essays, papers, stories, and poems, and eighteen books including Chasing Monarchs, Walking the High Ridge, and Sky Time in Gray’s River. A Guggenheim Fellow, Pyle has won the John Burroughs Medal, three Governor’s Writer’s Awards, and a Pacific Northwest Booksellers' Award, among other awards.

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.
UPCOMING EVENTS 2014-15

Year-long theme: “Humans and Other Wild Animals.”

Throughout the year, we will host readings, seminars, workshop and discussions focused on the role of humans in and possible responses to the ongoing sixth mass extinction, arguing for the biologic necessity of intact natural habitats for humans and all other creatures. With impacts from global climate change escalating, we believe that seeing these changes through their impacts on wild animals can move people to insight, empathy and action.

Fall 2014

Reading: Two renowned authors (and Spring Creek Senior Fellows) reading from new books, Robert Michael Pyle, *Origin of the Genus Iris*, and Alison Hawthorne Deming, *Zoologies*.

Winter 2015


Symposium: “Re-wilding North America.” Cosponsored with Horning Lectures, a series of readings and discussions by authors, ecologists, and environmental historians and ethicists on the ecological and philosophically issues related to the Re-wilding concept which advocates continental-scale conservation particularly the need for large carnivores and a permeable landscape for their movement.

Spring 2015

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, Tony Vogt, Cindy Miner, Bov Eav, 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