

## From the Director's Chair

At a time when so much in the world seems unstable, it's truly a blessing that the Northwest Service Academy continues to do service in the Mid-Columbia region. While many people still seem to ask, "What IS AmeriCorps?" the more we can get out there and show them firsthand, the easier it becomes to explicate our mission.

Midway through the Mt. Adams Center's ninth service term, the breadth of our goal to strengthen Northwest communities continues to grow. Bolstered by the support and appreciation of the folks our program interacts with, critical education and environmental needs are being met in ever-enriching ways.

For the first time this year, we have a team dedicated entirely to a single community. We are also piloting a more technical service team this year, surveying

and mapping tributaries of the Klickitat River. This helps determine the most promising areas to target salmon restoration efforts.

The constant thrill of doing such good work with such talented and dedicated members and staff makes NWSA a greatly fulfilling experience. I never cease to be amazed by the creativity and spirit with which our teams approach the work we do. It's truly inspirational to be involved with such a dynamic tool for positive change.

Visitors and questions are always welcome. Stop by anytime, we love to share how the Mt. Adams Center "gets things done!"

Cheers,  
Jim Wells, Director

### NWSA is now accepting applications for 2003-2004

If you know a person who is interested in working hard in the outdoors or in the classroom, please send them our way. AmeriCorps members must have at least a high school diploma. They receive a living stipend, basic health insurance, and an education award of \$4,725.

**For more information,** contact the NWSA Mt. Adams Center recruitment department at (509) 395-3469.

NWSA Mt. Adams Center  
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Northwest Service Academy is an AmeriCorps program of Educational Service District 112.

Spring 2003



Northwest  
Service Academy  
Mt. Adams Center

# Dispatches

ESD 112  
EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE  
DISTRICT 112



## Way Out Here

*Whew! We made it through the winter, and spring is well on its way. Fourteen hours of darkness for months leaves lots of time for reflection on what we've been up to here at the Mt. Adams Center. As we head into the last third of our service year, we thought we'd share it with all of you.*

deannab, Dispatches Editrix

### Trout Lake, WA

The Mt. Adams Center (MAC) in Trout Lake is one of three AmeriCorps service centers administered by Educational Service District 112 under the umbrella of the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA). AmeriCorps is a national service organization which began in 1993 to foster community service in education, environment, public safety and human needs. The MAC focuses its service endeavors on education and environment.

This year, our members range in age from 17 to 73, working in teams out in the field or individually at their own placement sites. In addition to the full-time members, there is also a host of part-time members who serve only for the education award. We serve government agencies, non-profit groups and in schools, both in the elements and in conference rooms.

If you live in Trout Lake, you've almost certainly seen the big, gray 15-passenger vans hauling us around nearly every day, but we can also be found bringing firewood to needy families or hosting activities for the whole community, such as the Thanksgiving dinner/potluck or our recent day of community service on Martin Luther King Day in January. If there were any snow, we'd be shoveling that around town too!

At the Mt. Adams Center, we attempt to make our entire operation as environmentally benign as possible. Our greenworks initiative is an ongoing long-term program designed to accomplish that goal. As it takes shape it will extend to all aspects of our service, including supply purchasing, energy/water efficiency and however else we can think to implement it!



*Hundreds of Trout Lake community members enjoy the Thanksgiving dinner/potluck hosted by the Mt. Adams Center.*

In addition to service, an AmeriCorps NWSA term involves instruction in cultural diversity, interpersonal communication and environmental restoration in the Northwest. We also receive training in first aid, handling tools and technology use. We attend full-day education events on topics such as environment, education or health and wellness. In addition there is the occasional cultural opportunity like attending the Portland Symphony or the many art museums there.

Above all else, we enjoy sharing what we do with others. We love having guests who come see what we're doing "way out here," and perhaps even volunteer, eat or play some music around the campfire with us too. Stop by and say hello – the welcome mat is always out!

Neither unexpected injury nor winter white-outs can discourage this year's Community and Natural Resources (CNR) all-star team from "getting things done". In fact, in their AmeriCorps debut, CNR managed to wrestle a large patch of old growth scotch broom to the ground, ensuring their status as native plant removal's heavyweight champions of the world.

If there were such a category, the team would grace the pages of the Guinness Book of World Records for the distinction of building the world's largest check dam, and don't forget hitting the top of the local music charts for their new sensations, "Coho was a Salmon" and "Free Swimming".

After beginning the year with invasive plant removal and the construction of cattle exclusion fencing, CNR team moved on to Snider Swale, where the monumental check dams were created. The team then served with Klickitat County, laying coconut fiber mats to combat erosion.

Shortly thereafter, it was off to the coast to plant violets at an endangered butterfly refuge and then a brief stint at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center planting native species. Hitting the road again to work with our field team in Naches, they helped



*The team of randomness -- L-R: Kristie Caratelli, Kji McIntyre, Andy Fox, Shenvaun Lewallen, Elise Garamendi, Brett Stevenson, Aaron Shelley, Nerissa Minnick. River Osborn was behind the camera.*

remove elk fence. Currently, CNR is teaching salmon curriculum at elementary schools in Glenwood and Mill A.

CNR's super powers are the result of a unique diet of music and laughter that makes even the eighth hour of scrubbing fish trays as entertaining as a big top circus. Just ask Nerissa Minnick, CNR's returning nut bar and contemplator of the nougat.

The team is also fortunate to have the musical stylings of Elise Garamendi, future superstar; Brett Stevenson, magician of the acoustic and Aaron Shelley (aka Trucker), king of funky bass lines, but every member

can be heard far and near belting out the occasional tune, including resident Beck cover band star Kji McIntyre.

The talent does not stop there, oh no, my friend – from the literary genius of Andy Fox to the artistic visions of budding photojournalist Kristie Caratelli – CNR is a force to be reckoned with. And of course what team would be complete without a fearless leader like River Joy Sweet Osborne?

The Community and Natural Resources team does not know what the rest of their time with NWSA will bring, but they do know that regardless of what it is, they will meet it with smiles, laughter and song.

*East Coast native Shevaun Llewallen keeps the CNR team on their toes with random wrestling challenges and a sharp sense of humor.*



*Chrissie Hodel attends the arts and crafts table during the Martin Luther King Day community celebration.*

### Mt. Adams Center Staff

**Jim Wells**, Center Director  
**Chris Nielsen**, Assistant Director  
**Stephanie Irving**, IP/EAP Coordinator  
**Angie Arkin**, Recruitment/Food Services Coordinator  
**Torsti Rovainen**, Member Training and Education  
**Eileen Rock**, Project Coordinator  
**Brendan Norman**, Project Support Specialist  
**Susan James**, Project Support Specialist, Fish Recovery  
**Cathy Russum**, Member Support Specialist



### The NWSA Mt. Adams Center, September 2002

*L-R: Foreground; Brett Stevenson, Jason Vourlos. Row 1: Kim Kadas, Karin Anderson, Laura Applegate, Brandie Hunter, Cathy Robart, Jen Goldman, Brook Geffen, Katie Baum, Chris Beeson, Stephanie Irving, Beth Brady. Row 2: Angie Arkin, Aimee Witteman, Desiree Clark, Muriel Malixi, Chrissie Hodel, Kellie O'Donnell, Kji McIntyre, Amanda Green, Brian Gerondale. Row 3: Jim Wells, Ellen Preece, Mackenzie Winchel, Stephanie Goldsmith, Don Noe, Eric Franta, Chris Nielsen, Justin Tonsfeld, Kristie Caratelli, Cassie Faggion, Rhyon Grech, Lydia Traum, Eiko Urmos, Karen Lamson, Elise Garamendi, River Osborn, Susan James, Kim Crossman. Row 4: Gary Baney, Jake Feather, Craig Fandel, Holly Sue Adams, Torsti Rovainen, Ryan Santens, Lindsay Dobrovolny, deannab, Brooke LeBlanc, Aaron Shelley, Matt Burbach, Isaac Daniels, Laura Kohtz, Eileen Rock, Brian Gaas, Pam Pin-Totaro, Andy Fox, Tom Orvis, Damon Little, Ben Marcus. Row 5: Michaela Drunasky, Anthony Villagomez. Top: Doug Jewell. Not pictured: Roger Allen, Nerissa Minnick, Hilary Nielsen*

### Thank you Sponsors!

Chenoweth School District  
 City of Mosier/Mosier Alliance  
 Columbia Gorge Discovery Center  
 Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center  
 Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon  
 Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 Hood River County School District  
 Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District  
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 Mid-Columbia Community Action Council  
 Odell Volunteer Fire Department  
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 Stevenson-Carson School District  
 Trout Lake Community Council

Trout Lake School District  
 US Fish and Wildlife Service  
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 Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Washington Department of Natural Resources  
 White Salmon School District  
 Worksource Columbia Gorge  
 WSU Cooperative Extension – Klickitat County

# HELP!

The Mt. Adams Center is seeking the following donations to help us "get things done" and enhance our residential center.

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- Refrigerator
- Upholstered Couches / Chairs
- Commercial Popcorn Popper
- Large TV
- VCR
- VCR Movie Tapes (for the residential program)
- Books (fiction and non-fiction)
- Book Shelves
- Camping Tents
- Sleeping Bags
- Storage Shelving / Lockers
- Winter Parkas
- Wool Pants and Shirts
- Red Safety Vests
- Computer
- Sewing Machine
- Snow Shoes
- Cross Country Boots and Skis
- Boat, Inflatable Canoe/Kayak
- Camp Trailer or Mobile Office (14ft to 40ft. in length for working in remote areas)
- Utility Trailer
- 4 Wheeler - All Terrain Vehicle
- Pick Up, Stake Bed, or Flat Bed Truck
- LED Projector (for power point presentations)
- Slide Projector
- Movie Screen (large)
- Bunk Beds
- Wood Splitter (we have a firewood giveaway program for elderly, needy and disabled folks)
- Tractor
- Auger
- Pressure Washer

We can arrange for pickup or shipping.

Contact: Jim Wells, Director  
Tel: 509.395.3469  
Email: james.wells@esd112.org

## Residential Life By Andy Fox

Field team members at the Mt. Adams Center serve in groups of six to ten and live in a concentrated community of about thirty-three. Unlike most dormitory settings, we are each responsible for ensuring that everything in our shared home stays in working order. Cooking and cleaning are done in rotations, each member theoretically pulling equal weight.

Every service day, two knights stay back from Adventures of Scotch Broom Removal or The Quest for Spawnable Culverts to spend the day cooking a supper large enough to feed the entire roundtable. There is a pantry, walk-in refrigerator and freezer full of local organic food at their disposal as they slave away.

Knowing that we always have a hot love-labored meal to come home to helps make even the coldest, rainiest service days easier and more satisfying. Past meals have included Pad Thai, fatoosh (Middle Eastern bread salad), roasted chicken and avocados, pizza, and many other things that were wonderful but have been digested beyond the reach of memory.

Virtually everyone here has been awed by the sound of the coyotes calling out their territories. Even after five months a hush passes over those who are outside to hear it. Lately, some of us have found ourselves howling back...

Sometimes the shared space and cold weather cause bouts of cabin fever. There have not been any fatalities, but strange things still happen. For instance, "headlamp attacks" have been reported by nearly every resident. Apparently, three or four individuals sneak up on people, blind them with sudden LED illumination, videotape the looks of terror in the victims' eyes, and disappear as suddenly as they came.

If one were to visit our idyllic little community with the eyes of a



Some of the many music-makers of the Mt. Adams Center.

anthropologist, one might observe certain recurrences such as campfire drum circles, frequent playful wrestling brawls sometimes involving ketchup, and a certain openness with the gaseous emissions of our digestive systems.

### Assorted Other Happinesses

Constant music making with drums, guitars, the piano and a strange little machine called the Looper.

Ice cream sundaes.

Breakfast and the crossword on Sunday morning.

The lake and the sun.

## Mosier

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Serving in a single community gives the team a chance to really learn about their projects. Working with people so knowledgeable in botany, geology and local history has presented continuous educational opportunities, and it's a thrill to contribute to the community's long term investment in itself. The Mosier team would also like to give a shout-out to Antoine and Matt, "the Mosier Market Boyz," for the support!

## The Mosier Smorgasbord By Kim Kadas

In Merriam-Webster dictionary, it is stated that the etymology of smorgasbord is found in the Swedish *smörgåsbord*, in which *smörgås* refers to an open sandwich and *bord* in reference to a table. For the Mosier Team, it is stated by no one in particular that both the team and their projects are a cornucopia of buffet table metaphors.

From their lair in the project room at the Mosier School, this team cooks up service dishes to improve the social, recreational and sustainability value of a small Columbia River community. Using their own creation of a community-wide recycling program, they combined it with educational lessons for the school's students into a slow-simmering stew to nourish the town for years to come.

The salad of invasive species, such as knapweed, blackberry and milfoil, that have been removed help eliminate competition for native plant species to survive. Under the supervision of local botanist Mike Igo, the team helped spruce up an old greenhouse for a plant nursery, and are making plans for a more permanent structure as the need



Guess who's coming to dinner?

increases for native plants in habitat restoration projects. As part of the sustainability plan, they also installed a solar water pump near the nursery.

To minimize heartburn at such a large meal, the Mosier team worked on fuel reduction projects in Dry Creek Canyon. Clearing dry brush helps keep combustible materials from fueling wildfires in the more drought-prone eastern Gorge.

Examining the team, we find Jason Vourlos, a fine spread of somehow vegan goat cheese, bringing a subtle subversive sense of humor to the table. Ms Amanda Green offers sweetness with a kick, as one might imagine a spiced rum

cake. Isaac Daniel is an invigorating microbrew, lending the team an elf-like giddiness and excitement, and Matthew S. Burbach, the dashing young tray of curly french fries with ranch sauce, offers philosophical discussion while maintaining an acute appreciation for the absurd.

Mecca Jackson, the buttermilk biscuit of the crew, provides comfort and Hilary Neilsen, as a cup of neon pink soda, induces a caffeinated high without the ill side effects. This brings us to Ben Marcus, the handful of Cracker Jacks, taking us back to the universal whims of childhood all the while keeping our eyes on the prize.

Some might overlook Kim Lynn Kadas II, like an indiscernible pâté mash, until attacked by an explosion of irrational humor and Flying Workgloves of Doom™. Last but not least, like every good smorgasbord, the Mosier team needs a solid gold cheese to keep it grounded -- Mackenzie Winchel is this wedge of good Danish Svenbo.

*Continued on page 6*

## Heigh ho, Heigh ho, it's off to work they go...



A rare glimpse of the Forest Service team, who are too busy working to pose for pictures.

The Forest Service team at the Mt. Adams Center earns their reputation as the workhorses of the program. Rivalling the feats of folklore hero Paul Bunyan, they regularly finish hard labor projects way ahead of schedule.

Starting the service term deep in the woods, the team rerouted a quarter mile of East Crater Trail in the Indian Heaven Wilderness Area. They also spent a week working on trail near Coldwater Lake on the north side of Mt. St Helens.

The team received chainsaw training and the corresponding envy from other academy members for two weeks of

fuel reduction at Gotchen Creek removing young white firs crowding out the more endemic ponderosa pine. With the Yakama Nation, they planted over 700 wetlands plants for a restoration project at the Yakama fish hatchery near Cle Elum.

In addition to the usual fence building and invasive plant removal projects, the Forest team hauled logs ranging in size from 60 to over 100 pounds on their backs for more than a mile in a trail building project and dug big boulders out of poison oak-infested ground to level turf for installing a greenhouse at a local non-profit.

## Even Further Out There By Laura Kohtz

Hello from the Wenatchee National Forest! This is the Naches Team hailing from our Forest Service house hidden amongst the trees just a stone's throw from the lovely Tieton River.

Every morning the five of us roll out of our warm mountain bungalow and travel down the road a few miles to the Oak Creek Wildlife Refuge where we will be working for the next few months. We help manage the thousands of elk (or Wapiti, as the Shawnee would say — elk is actually Scandinavian for moose) that migrate out of the mountains in the winter. Part of our job is to direct their attention from the apple orchards and other human developments in the Yakima valley by throwing hay to the hungry herds, and we also serve as

wapiti tour guides to educate the crowds of curious people about these beautiful creatures and the impact that our species has had on them.

Before the holidays, we finished roughly two miles of riparian fence at Lmumma Creek to stop the erosive action of cattle. We've been hastening the healing process of the stream by planting cottonwoods and willows, so that in a few years the stream will be a suitable haven for migrating salmon.

Just before Christmas we came out of the mountains for a week in the Seattle area, building houses with Habitat for Humanity. The city was an exciting change of pace, but we're happy to return to the woods and the wapiti.

We welcome visitors to come check out the appeal for themselves!



*Building riparian fencing at Lmumma Creek. L-R: Rhyan Grech, Doug Jewell, Tom Orvis.*

## I Pity Da Fish By Brian Gaas

*In October 2002, a crack NWSA AmeriCorps team was sent to culvert training by the Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife. These higher education graduates promptly escaped in the "Fish Mobile" to Goldendale, WA. Today, still wanted by the staff, they survive as surveyors and contingency planners. If you have a barrier, if no one wants to help, and if you can find them (did you check the office?), maybe you can hire: the Fish Team.*

The Fish Recovery Team is a pilot field team charged with the (slightly daunting) task of surveying the streams, riparian habitats, and man-made structures of all the tributaries to the Klickitat River. To this end, the team was trained to perform these surveys as well as outfitted with the high tech hardware needed to make us look spiffy.

Much of this year has been a series of unexpected challenges. As a pilot program, the optimal procedures for surveying and organizing the project have yet to be discovered. The Fish

Team has played a large role in shaping the direction of the project, as well as being an important resource for eating food the staff brings to the office.

One recent bright and sunny morning, we loaded up the Fish Mobile with maps and a Powerpoint presentation to present our findings to the Klickitat County Technical Advisory Group. Our apprehension over their response to our work turned out to be unfounded as they were thoroughly



*One of the many culverts surveyed on the Klickitat River.*

impressed by what we've accomplished thus far.

Surveying these streams helps determine places where salmon recovery is most likely to be successful. This helps environmental agencies focus scarce resources and funding to the areas that will benefit the most from rehabilitation.

One advantage of being on the Fish Team is all the new skills and knowledge we have obtained. For example, we have learned the value of snacks in the van, ArcView GIS mapping, some of Chrissie's special powers, how to interpret topographic maps, survey techniques, and the benefits of stress-relieving hikes and wrestling matches.

To date, the Fish Team has surveyed hundreds of culverts. While issues with private landowners have restricted the surveys to a road-based, driving-only approach, the Fish Team is confident that the Klickitat River Basin will be surveyed by the time we all leave in July.

## Non-Residential Members Get Things Done Too!

*In addition to the residential field teams, 20 full-time Individual Placement (IP) members serve independently throughout the Mid-Columbia region along with dozens of part-time volunteers in the Education Award Program (EAP).*

### Laura Applegate

*Natural Area Preserve Education and Outreach Volunteer  
WA Dept of Natural Resources*

Laura Applegate, one of the few natives to the area, was raised on a small sheep farm in Wenatchee, WA. She has a BA in Sociology from Whitman College in Walla Walla and Otago University, New Zealand.

In her second year with the Mt. Adams Center, Laura works in Natural Area Preserves (NAPs), protected because of their endangered species and purely functioning ecosystems. The NAPs are used for research and education.

One NAP site Laura studies is Trout Lake, the namesake of our town. It's a lake in the process of becoming a wetland, and one of the most ecologically diverse wetlands in the state.

With the help of students from Trout Lake School and various volunteers, Laura collects water data



*Checking water levels in the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve.*

and species lists for use by biologists. She is designing a set of interpretive signs to introduce sites to the public and serves as a liaison to those who want to have educational experiences in the NAPs. Laura's many interests include exploring these marvelous ecosystems with her dog Lucy, playing hand drums, yoga, and learning to live sustainably!

### Kasandra Mathany

*Elementary School Aide  
Stevenson Elementary School*

Kasandra Mathany, a senior at Stevenson High School, is an editor for her school's newspaper, plays varsity tennis, and is in the school's band and concert band. She was too young to join when first hearing about the Northwest Service Academy last year, but after turning seventeen and beginning to tutor at the local elementary school, found she could use the service hours to help fund her education.

She performs the usual tasks of a fourth grade teacher's assistant—grading and recording papers, making copies, and working with students both in small groups and one on one. To her, it's a great opportunity to experience the profession she intends to study while earning money to help pay for books and tuition.

## Scrapbook



*Clockwise from top right: Interactive storytelling with Bill Weiler; Even washing dishes can be a barrel of laughs!; Mmmmm...ice cream; Field and IP members catch up during MLK service; Ryan -- late to dinner.*

