

Sustainability in Prisons Project Newsletter

Winter 2013-14
Issue 4



Photo by Benj Drummond & Sara Joy Steele

We bring
science, nature,
and sustainable
practices into
prisons

SPP-WA Nears One Million Plants!

By Conservation Nursery Manager, Carl Elliott

SPP's conservation nurseries are thriving at three facilities in Washington State: Stafford Creek Corrections Center, Washington Corrections Center for Women and Shotwell's Landing Nursery. Since 2010, we have grown **almost 1,000,000** plants for restoration and habitat enhancement projects on Puget lowland prairies; 967,000 delivered, a mere 33,000 to go!

SPP's conservation nursery programs represent a highly collaborative effort. Regional coordination is provided by the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM; also see partner profile p. 3). CNLM brings together managers responsible for prairie habitat to develop detailed restoration and habitat enhancement plans for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. The plants cultivated by SPP's nurseries benefit stakeholders such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wolfhaven International, and CNLM. We have also increased the number of plants sent to restore northern Puget lowlands, including Whidbey and the San Juan Islands; we hope to further increase our north-bound deliveries in the future.

Though we came up just short of the magic number of 1 million in 2013, we will blow right past that goal in 2014 and continue on to our next milestone!

SPP-grown western buttercup in the hoophouse at CNLM-owned Shotwell's Landing. Photo by Jaal Mann.



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Featured Partner



Anthony Pickard

Classification Counselor & SPP Liaison
Cedar Creek Corrections Center

Anthony Pickard (yes, pronounced like the Captain from Star Trek) has worked for WDOC since the fall of 2008, first as an officer and then as a Classification Counselor. He has been involved with SPP in one capacity or another since his start. He is committed to serving and contributing to the community to make it a better and safer place for the next generation. As the SPP Program Liaison at Cedar Creek, Anthony, with the assistance of the wonderful SPP Graduate Research Assistant Fiona Edwards, supervises the Oregon spotted frog and western pond turtle programs (see *Turtles!* this page), as well as bee-keeping with Officer Glenn Epling. Anthony's leadership style harkens back to those great qualities found in both Alexander of Macedon as well as the ever magnificent Barry Gibb.

When asked why he enjoys working with SPP, Anthony responded: "Because at the end of the day I want to say that I've been involved with something important and bigger than myself. I care about our environment and I want to ensure that my children and their children can enjoy it as I have. And quite frankly, it's amazing to see that with a little hard work we can save a species or restore an ecosystem or eliminate an entire facility's waste. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that?"

Turtles!

By Graduate Research Assistant, Fiona Edwards



Inmate technician Jamar Glenn welcomes Andrea406 back to Cedar Creek after a successful veterinarian check-up at PAWS.

In June 2013, SPP began working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on a western pond turtle rehabilitation program. WDFW, Woodland Park Zoo and Oregon Zoo have been working toward the recovery of western pond turtles since the late 1990s. At the start of recovery efforts, only about 200 turtles remained in two locations in the wild. So far, they have released more than 1500 turtles at 6 locations.

In the last few years, WDFW has found that some western pond turtles in Washington have an infection of the shell ("shell disease"). In some individual turtles, the disease is severe. Currently, WDFW and their partners do not know why this disease is showing up in Washington's western pond turtles. WDFW is working with many partners, including veterinarians and researchers, to figure out what is causing the infections.

SPP is playing an important role in helping WDFW care for the sick turtles. Initial treatment requires a great deal of intensive care from a specialized veterinarian at PAWS, a rehabilitation facility. The turtles are then moved to Cedar Creek Corrections Center for extended care while their shells heal. Cedar Creek staff adapted an outbuilding to house six turtle tanks, each of which can house two turtles with areas for swimming, basking, and eating. Inmate technicians monitor their health and provide frequent, hands-on care. Two turtles have already been released back to the wild. After their release, WDFW monitors the turtles to see if they remain healthy and are able to reproduce normally in the wild.

Director's Corner

Carri LeRoy

SPP Co-Director

Please join us in celebrating our 10 year anniversary! Early SPP programming was initiated at Cedar Creek Corrections Center in Littlerock, WA in 2003. We have since grown our programming considerably and have expanded in Washington to all 12 prisons. In addition, within the past two years, the SPP idea has spread to many new SPP sites across the US and is inspiring corrections changes in other countries on almost every continent! Our SPP Network is growing and we welcome you to continue to support our work. Please join us in celebrating 10 years of amazing partnerships and collaborations.

Of course, it would not be possible to thank the hundreds, if not thousands of partners who have dedicated their time and energy to SPP programs, but we are hoping to highlight some of our terrific partners from the past year. Please see the list on the back page of this newsletter for major partner organizations, and please visit our website and earlier versions of our newsletter to view past partner profiles. We have done a significant amount of work in the past 10 years and SPP is bigger and stronger than it has ever been. Thank you for all of your continued support and interest! Keep up with our new programs on Facebook, Twitter (@SPP-WA), and our regular blog posts.



Dr. LeRoy speaks at SPP's 10 year celebration at The Evergreen State College, with Kelli Bush and Superintendent Cole. Photo by Dani Winder.

Featured Partner

Sierra Smith oversees the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM)'s seed nursery operations. CLNM manages two seed farms and Shotwell's Landing nursery; the latter is also one of SPP's nursery sites, managed by Carl Elliott and Jaal Mann with assistance from the restoration crew from Cedar Creek Corrections Center.

Sierra grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and studied Marine Biology at UC Santa Cruz. After starting his own landscape company and working as a nursery manager for Mendocino Coast Botanic Garden, he completed his graduate studies in Restoration Ecology at the University of Washington. Following this experience, he moved on to become a botanist for Yosemite National Park and start an organic farm in east San Diego County.

In his work with CNLM, Sierra works hard to keep SPP's nursery operations fully funded and running smoothly. His most memorable experience with SPP: "getting to know inmates on a personal level and opening my eyes and heart to a portion of our society that is typically ignored and written off." He hopes that in the future SPP will be able to involve inmates in working with as many people of varied backgrounds as possible: "If our correctional systems are going to improve, people need to know and care about them and this will only happen with a personal connection."



Sierra Smith

Conservation Nursery Program Manager
The Center for Natural Lands Management

Utah's INSPIRE launches new programs

By Emily Gaines-Crockett



INSPIRE's Antonia Fitzgerald prepares the greenhouse for the new program.

The INSPIRE (Initiative to Bring Science Programs to the Incarcerated) program at the University of Utah's Center for Science and Mathematics Education plans to launch a science lecture series at both the Draper State Prison and the Salt Lake County Jail later this month. Faculty members from the University of Utah and other institutions and agencies will present monthly lectures at each correctional facility, with the first lecture given by Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, INSPIRE Director. Extensive evaluation of the program will provide an opportunity to examine impacts and identify future program directions.

In addition to the lecture series, a greenhouse project is underway at the Salt Lake County Jail. In collaboration with Dr. Karin Kettenring (Utah State University) and the Jail's existing horticulture program, INSPIRE's greenhouse project will provide an opportunity for offenders to work with scientists and gain hands-on science experience as they help to identify the optimal growing conditions for two species of bulrush. The findings of the research project will contribute to wetland restoration efforts along the Great Salt Lake, where the invasive weed *Phragmites* sp. is currently out-competing bulrush and other native plants.

Featured Partner

INSPIRE: Initiative to Bring Science Programs to the Incarcerated

INSPIRE and SPP-WA have partnered on planning and support for the SPP Network from the start, and it continues to be a productive, innovative collaboration. Nalini Nadkarni is SPP's Senior Advisor, and she is well supported by Program Manager Emily Gaines-Crockett and Program Assistant Antonia Fitzgerald; their efforts to further the SPP Network have been impressive and relentless. We feel very lucky to partner with these hard-working, generous women!



INSPIRE's Nalini Nadkarni, Emily Gaines-Crockett & Antonia Fitzgerald.

Correctional Industries' dedication to Roots of Success

by SPP Network Manager, Joslyn Rose Trivett

Roots of Success is an environmental literacy curriculum that was first brought to our attention by SPP-Ohio. In Washington state, SPP and Correctional Industries (CI) saw the program as a way to expand offerings to offenders preparing for release. CI employs incarcerated men and women in WA to build, manufacture, ship and receive products for use in corrections and other state institutions. They also offer training & education programming throughout the term of employment with the goal of post-release success. In 2013, CI funded Roots of Success (Roots) at four facilities: CI's warehouse, Washington State Penitentiary, and Cedar Creek and Stafford Creek Corrections Centers. The trial run has been very successful, and in 2014 we are considering training for instructors at several more WA prisons, and for two of our own Master Trainers!

One of the Master Trainers would likely be CI's Lucienne Banning (see photo); she and Mike Colwell, Assistant Director for CI, have been champions of the program. Lucienne and I co-supervise a student-staff coordinator for Roots, and planning, delivering, tracking, and improving the program is an ongoing collaboration between CI and the SPP offices at Evergreen.

Special thanks to many others from WA corrections who have made the Roots program successful: Chris Idso, Robert Aleksinski, Robert Branscum, and Superintendents Cole, Glebe, and Sinclair. Thank you also to the many inmate instructors and students who have contributed to the program's success.

I am excited to see where we can take Roots of Success. At the same time that we are expanding the offering in WA, Oregon's SPP has a similar plan. SPP staff in the two states hope to learn from each other how to make the most of the curriculum and spread the benefits of environmental literacy far and wide!



CI's Offender Workforce Development Manager Lucienne Banning has been central to offering Roots of Success in WA state. She is also an Evergreen Masters of Environmental Studies graduate!



Roots' graduating classes at Cedar Creek and Stafford Creek Correction Centers: staff, instructors, and students alike expressed satisfaction with the program and pride in their many achievements. All photos by Joslyn Rose Trivett.

SPP-Washington Partners

Founding partners

The Evergreen State College

Washington State Department of Corrections

Program partners

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Center for Natural Lands Management

Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Oregon Zoo

Woodland Park Zoo

Wolf Haven International

Northwest Trek

Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium

PAWS

Whidbey-Camano Land Trust

Friends of Puget Prairies

Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship

Steilacoom Tribe

The Center for Math and Science Education, University of Utah

Brigadoon Dog Service, Prison Pet Partnership, Spokanimal,

Diamonds in the Ruff, and many more

WSU Cooperative Extension offices, including Master Gardener programs

University of Washington, Washington State University, Edmonds Community College, Tacoma Community College, Centralia College, and many more

Also see our Thank you page



The Sustainability in Prisons Project

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Sustainability in Prisons Project Vision

The mission of the Sustainability in Prisons Project is to bring science and nature into prisons. We conduct ecological research and conserve biodiversity by forging collaborations with scientists, inmates, prison staff, students, and community partners. Equally important, we help reduce the environmental, economic, and human costs of prisons by inspiring and informing sustainable practices.

This union of ideas and activities—and people inside and outside prison walls—creates a collaborative, intellectually stimulating environment in which incarcerated men and women play key roles in conservation and the advancement of scientific knowledge. We encourage teamwork, mutual respect, and a stewardship ethic among individuals who typically have little or no access to nature or opportunities in science and sustainability. To donate to the project, please go to: <http://goo.gl/jkYHF7>



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