



SPP's New Co-Director: Steve Sinclair

by Joslyn Rose Trivett,
SPP Network Manager

Steve Sinclair has replaced Dan Pacholke as the Assistant Secretary for the Prisons Division with the Washington State Department of Corrections. With the new position, he has graciously accepted serving as Co-Director for the Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP). Steve has already shown himself to be a knowledgeable and capable leader for SPP, and we are thrilled to have him on board.

Steve takes over as Co-Director for SPP from his esteemed predecessor, Dan Pacholke. Dan was one of the founders of SPP, and his inspiration and creativity have helped make SPP what it is today. We have no doubt that Stephen will continue to rally WDOC's sustainability culture; he is dedicated to a more humane and sustainable way of operating prisons.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dan Pacholke for his tireless years of service and dedication to SPP—see an appreciation of Dan later in this newsletter. We warmly welcome Steve Sinclair to his new role as Co-Director for SPP. Thank you to you both!



Just before taking the reigns as SPP's new co-director, Steve Sinclair, co-led SPP's two day statewide summit. Photos by Joslyn Rose Trivett (top) and Karissa Carlson (above).



Liz Louie worked as a butterfly technician for more than two years, and now is one of the few butterfly husbandry experts in the world. Here she guides an adult Taylor's checkerspot butterfly to feed from a sugar-soaked Q tip. Photo by Benj Drummond and Sara Joy Steele.

The Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Program Releases Another Butterfly

by Liz Louie, SPP Butterfly Technician

It has been 26 months and three seasons, with two Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) bosses and three Department of Corrections (DOC) bosses, releasing approximately 8,000 caterpillars and 250 butterflies to the wild. I have come to the end of an amazing journey. As I leave Mission Creek and the TCB program, I want to say THANK YOU for the experience.

A writer from *Sierra Magazine* recently asked what I thought about the irony of having a butterfly program in prison; the contrast between the delicate, fragile butterfly and the “harshness” of prison life. **For me, butterflies are very resilient animals.** Their primary habitat was an artillery range, the aftermath of fire and destruction. Metaphorically, the butterfly symbolizes re-birth, new life and beginnings. So with that said, Mission Creek (prison) makes a lot of sense for a surrogate habitat.

In fact, there are other parallels between the butterflies and prison life. The larvae will sometimes go into second diapause (D2) if they feel conditions are not right. Maybe there’s not enough food, so the larvae will go back to sleep. Similar to D2 larvae, women come in and out of prison. They may not have gotten what they needed from prison the first time, or they lack outside support to help them be successful. But for me personally, at my age, its good to know that the final stage is a butterfly. **It means the most beautiful stage of my life is yet to come. All the other stages have been in preparation for that final one.**

This will be a time in my life that I won’t soon forget. The people I’ve met and the women I’ve worked with, I take away something from each of them. I've learned a lot about myself, both the good, and the things I need to change. I have a greater appreciation for the simple things in life. I walk away a stronger person and look forward to whatever life holds.



SPP Butterfly Technicians Liz Louie and Samantha Turner hosted visitors from University of Denver, DOC Headquarters, and SPP; the technicians provided program information for a proposal to study the social impacts of working in SPP's conservation programs. Photo by Andi May.



Future Roots of Success instructors gave their full attention to the day-long training with program founder Dr. Raquel Pinderhughes. Photo by Joslyn Rose Trivett.

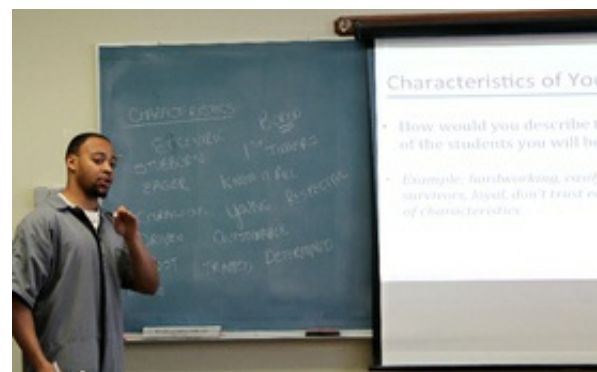
Roots of Success Marathon Instructor Training

by Christina Stalnaker, SPP Roots of Success Program Coordinator

After a rigorous 4-day training event, all 12 prisons in Washington State have a cadre of Roots of Success instructors. Each day, a fresh group of instructor candidates learned the necessary skills to teach Roots' environmental literacy curriculum. In total, we certified **31 new instructors** representing programs at Clallam Bay Corrections Center, Coyote Ridge Corrections Center, Larch Corrections Center, Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women, Olympic Corrections Center, Washington Corrections Center, and Washington Corrections Center for Women.

At the same time, 6 of our exemplary and seasoned instructors earned their promotion to Master Trainer. These Master Trainers now have the credentials to train and certify new instructors for the program. **Certifying Master Trainers is a major accomplishment for SPP-WA & WDOC; Roots of Success has become nearly self-sustaining.** This valuable education program is gaining momentum, and graduating hundreds of students across the state.

Congratulations to all the newly certified Roots of Success Master Trainers and Instructors! A giant Thank You goes out to Roots staff, Master Trainers, new instructors, WDOC staff, and SPP GRAs for helping us take this monumental step forward in our Roots of Success program!!!



Future Master Trainer Cyril Waldron leads the discussion on possible characteristics of Roots of Success students. Photo by Joslyn Rose Trivett.



The hoop house at Coyote Ridge Corrections Center brings nature inside the prison with a new conservation nursery. Photo by Kelli Bush.

Growing Sagebrush in Central Washington

by Environmental Specialist Dorothy Trainer
and SPP Program Manager Kelli Bush

With funding support from the [Institute for Applied Ecology](#) (IAE), Coyote Ridge Correction Center (CRCC) has launched a new Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) Sagebrush Steppe Conservation Nursery Program.

The new program also includes collaborators from [Bureau of Land Management](#) (BLM), [Washington Native Plant Society](#) (WNP), [Washington State University Tri-Cities](#) (WSU TC), and IAE.

Facility staff and Superintendent Uttecht eagerly accepted the opportunity to host this new program with very short notice, resulting in a busy spring and summer at CRCC. It was impressive how quickly they built a hoop house, hired an inmate crew, prepared containers for planting, and planted sagebrush seeds. Plant ecologist and horticulture educator Gretchen Grabber of WNP and WSU TCAs provides education and hands-on training.

The primary goal of this project is to provide sagebrush for restoration of [greater sage-grouse](#) habitat. Fifty percent of the sagebrush steppe habitat in the United States has been lost to large scale fires, conversion to other land uses, invasive cheat grass, and noxious weeds. All of the sagebrush plants grown at CRCC will be planted on BLM land in the Palisades Flat Fire Project area near Wenatchee, Washington.

Thank you to each and every collaborator involved and we look forward to watching this program grow! Special thanks to Stacy Moore with IAE for bringing this opportunity to CRCC.



This is what we want! A seedling sagebrush shows its beauty in the conservation nursery. Photo by Kelli Bush.



Dan Pacholke stands in front of the “Con-post” shed at Cedar Creek Corrections Center in the earliest days of SPP.

In Appreciation of Dan Pacholke: SPP Co-founder and Champion

by SPP staff at Evergreen

In 2003, Dan Pacholke was Superintendent of Cedar Creek Corrections Center, a small prison south of Olympia that became the birthplace of SPP. Dan was looking for ways to save the institution some money and offer green jobs training to inmates at the same time. He started composting and water catchment programs. He welcomed a scientist from The Evergreen State College, Nalini Nadkarni, who engaged inmates in research growing mosses and quantifying reductions in waste. Sustainable operations, green jobs training, and bringing science and nature to prisons proved a winning combination that later became SPP.

Dan’s inspiration and creativity have helped grow SPP into an internationally recognized organization. **We give him credit for changing the culture of Washington State’s DOC.** He has rallied every prison to take on sustainability programs, to meet ever-more ambitious sustainability goals. He has been a tireless advocate for a more humane prison environment, for the sake of both inmates and staff. He pursues an ambitious and practical vision for the future of prisons.

In 2015, Dan passed his SPP Directorship to his successor as Assistant Secretary of Prisons, Stephen Sinclair, an appointment that ensures SPP programs will continue to thrive. Dan will continue his commitment to SPP, now as a Senior Advisor. We are grateful to him for more than a decade of service and leadership.



Dan Pacholke and Dr. Carri LeRoy co-directed SPP from 2011 to 2015; under their shared leadership, SPP-Washington grew three-fold. Photo by Guinnevere Shuster.



Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) is a partnership founded by WA Department of Corrections and The Evergreen State College. Photo by Sadie Gilliom.

We bring
science and
nature into
prisons.

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