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Ecotones: The Heartbeat of Huxley, 2002, Spring, Issue 08

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Huxley Hosting International Conference

by Amy Shelkin

Huxley will host 20 nations at an international conference and workshop titled “Collaborative Planning for the Metropolitan Landscape” on campus June 20-22. This will be the fourth workshop of the International Studygroup On Multiple Use of Land (ISOMUL), which is based in the Netherlands. The workshop will address the problem of urban sprawl in the Cascadia Pacific Region, and promote a plan that is currently used in the Netherlands for sustainable development.

The Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Cities are so close together that they risk merging to cover the entire country. In order to prevent this from happening and preserve the remaining farmland, the Dutch designated a block of land between large cities that will not be developed. They call this land “Green Heart Land.”

ISOMUL has international conferences every few years to promote this idea of designating a “Green Heart Land” between large cities in order to prevent them from merging.

At the conference here in June, specialists from around the world, policy makers and planners, stakeholders and citizens will discuss creating a “Green Heart Land” here in the Skagit River Valley.

Water Whys: Whatcom TV Wisdom

by Alissa Martz

For those of you seeking a television show similar to the hilarity of ‘Almost Live’ and the wholeness of ‘Discovery,’ may I suggest ‘Water Whys’?

This two-year-old television program combines local history, “on-the-street” interviews, wacky music, entertaining hosts and a well-traveled rubber duck to educate Whatcom County residents about water issues in the area. Topics range from “Salmon-Friendly Gardening to ‘Stormwater Management.’”

Viewers are likely to see familiar faces as locals are interviewed by hosts Kim Spens, Heather Higgins-Aanes, and Bill “Y” Evans. [Continued on page 4]
Congratulations to the Huxley Award Winners!

Jori Burnett, a graduate student who has won one of the two Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) awards given to Huxley, is "studying the Georgia Pacific redevelopment." Burnett believes that the redevelopment "should stand for things that make communities strong," such as local ownership, free access to the waterfront and letting people learn from the development by including a school, aquarium or library.

"This summer [I'm] planning on several focus groups of local community members and asking them what qualities this site should have," Burnett said. "If they [Trillium] come up with the same solution that I do, then maybe social sustainability and economic sustainability can be the same thing."

Burnett defines social sustainability as development seeking to meet the needs of the present generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Karen Dubose, winner of the Outstanding Environmental Studies Scholar Award, hopes to "get into more research. With Andy Bach, I've been able to get out and do more real live research stuff, and that's been eye-opening."

Dubose helped examine the Ozette prairies on the peninsula. The preliminary evidence "suggests that the Native Americans were burning the area out there to keep it open." Dubose has also been president of the Geography Club and Gamma Row for the last year, and went to California with the Geography Club, where she and another student presented to the Association of American Geographers.

"Whatever I do, I want to have an impact on something...I just want to do something that involves fieldwork and getting outside," Dubose said. "That's why I'm a geographer. We get to do that kind of thing."

Jeremy Fox, (no picture available), winner of the Thomas Henry Huxley award, Huxley's highest honor, was not available for comment, but according to Wendy Walker, his advisor, "he starred in an environmental education drama called 'Nobody's Ever Alone in the Forest' and brought the house down with his comic portrayal of an old-growth Douglas-fir tree that sings many of its lines."

Fox has also created several of his own dramatic presentations and worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a trail crew member and a wilderness ranger, according to Walker.

Gwen Heisterkamp, (no picture available), winner of the Community Service Award, "spent this year working with the Associated Students Environmental Center organizing events, getting speakers and "working to educate the community about different environmental events in the community and the world."

Heisterkamp has also been co-leader of Western Environmental Watch doing the annual paper cup display in Red Square, getting all printers in the labs to automatically print double-sided, and raising awareness about environmental issues on campus such as pesticide use.

She also worked with the WWU Compost Crew to try and get a composting system started on campus last year, and with AT-Risk Use, an affiliate of Campfire Boys and Girls, for two years. "Once a month we took at-risk kids to do outdoor activities," Heisterkamp said.

"It's always nice to be recognized for hard work," Hurley said.

Jena Lemke, winner of the Undergraduate Research Award, has graduated, but Associate Professor Leo Bodensteiner, who nominated her for the award, said that her project on The Effects of Wetland Restoration Breakwaters on Fish Communities, Vegetation and water quality in two Wisconsin Lakes was "an excellent thesis. We don't have many people who go for the thesis option. I think we should encourage that."

"The breakwaters were providing an uncommon habitat," Bodensteiner said. They were providing refuge for a unique group of species. Students were hired to study the lakes, Bodensteiner said, and..."
Valley between Vancouver, B.C. and Seattle.

The Skagit River Valley, with its famous annual tulip festival, is a valuable landscape in danger of urbanization. In addition to the major cities lying to the south and north, the Cascade Mountain Range borders its eastern edge and the Puget Sound its western edge. "Vancouver and Seattle are both growing a lot. We don't worry about the problem of space running out. It's a commodity in short supply, and we need to figure out how to manage it best," said Robert Tibbs, who is organizing the conference.

The first day of the conference will be dedicated to the presentation of academic papers regarding collaborative land-use planning and related topics. Forty papers from over 15 countries will be presented.

On the second day, participants will tour the Skagit River Valley, stopping at three specific places. The first stop will be in Sedro-Woolley, a small logging town in the eastern part of the Valley. Then they will go south to Mount Vernon and Burlington, and observe the Valley's urban sprawl. Finally they will visit Anacortes, a more wealthy area with oil refineries, boaters and farmland.

The final day will involve discussions of observations, and collaborative planning for how to preserve the valley.

Anyone who is interested in planning for sustainable land use is welcome to register for the conference. The more citizens who show concern for the issue, the better.

"You can't leave it to the government. The government is quite busy enough without getting involved in everything. The citizens have to be involved in this," Tibbs said.

To register, call 650-2132 or email ISOMUL@wwu.edu. For more information, go to www.ac.wwu.edu/~huxley/ISOMUL.

Lemke evolved that into a thesis because "she loves fish."

"Now she's studying fish for ABR Incorporated," Bodensteiner said, noting that the company will be studying 400 streams this summer. "So she'll get her fill of fish."

Salina Lyons, (no picture available), winner of the Outstanding Internship or Project Award, has also graduated and was not available for comment. Her internship was with the City of Bellingham Planning Department, where she was involved in plat review, environmental impact assessment, water quality planning for the Lake Whatcom Watershed sub area and downtown urban redevelopment investigations.

Lyons was nominated by her advisor, Nick Zaferatos.

Brendan Ward, (no picture available) winner of the Outstanding Environmental Science Scholar Award, thinks Environmental Science "is a lot of fun. Other people hate it, but for me, it gives me an excellent chance to combine my computer science minor with my environmental science major. That gives me kind of a unique place within environmental science, because most environmental science folks don't have any programming background. So they usually hire programmers that don't have an environmental science background."

Ward finds his work very important. "Say that we want to understand an ecological process. We can develop a simple model that will predict the behavior of the process given a certain combination of conditions. Then we can take that model and compare it to reality and if it's way off we start over. If it does all right, we continue to refine it until we can better approximate what the real process does."

Students (and Wildlife) Speak: How Do You Feel About Eating Genetically Modified Foods?

Freshman Jesse Davidson - "I don't care - as long as it doesn't kill me."

Junior Charles Walker - "I'd rather not, but I do. As long as I don't know about it, I'm fine."

Senior Dan Mond - "I'm so not down, dude."

Fanny Fawn - "Please don't eat me!"
Restoring Eden and Christian Environmentalism

by Alissa Martz

While these historical actions do not act in accordance with one another from today's perspective, countless Christians are now teaming up to promote stewardship and care for the natural environment.

On campus, Restoring Eden is a Christian environmental organization striving to work for environmental justice and education. While Restoring Eden was tured over 25 Bellingham citizens either in a short interview downtown or in their own homes where they "pledged" to reduce their impact on the watershed.

To learn more about what you can do to protect the watershed, take the "Watershed Pledge" at www.watershedpledge.org

Western students can check out videos of 'Water Whys' from Professor Gene Myers and also from the Wilson Library. Besides its valuable content, and the chance of seeing someone you know from the community, Monjure recommends watching 'Water Whys' for the "spectacular" Public Service Announcements aired during the breaks.

The show airs on the Education and Government Channel 10 on Sundays and Wednesdays at 8 pm, Tuesdays at 4 pm and Saturdays at 10 am. It also airs on KBCB Channel 24 on Saturdays at 5 pm.

Feedback is always helpful for the producers, so don't be shy to give them your opinions and comment via email at www.waterwhys.org
created in 1986, the club was not officially on campus until the Spring quarter of 2000.

Katie Frankhauser, Huxley student and a co-coordinator of the campus organization, began Restoring Eden after she began to observe the dichotomy between Christians and environmental groups here at Western.

In April, Restoring Eden was responsible for bringing the acclaimed author and theologian Loren Wilkenson to campus to speak on poetry and Creation.

In the Fall, Restoring Eden gathered participants to help glean Fall's bountiful leftover harvest in Whatcom County.

The group also works with several other environmental organizations, such as Greenways, in the effort to "serve as a bridge between existing Christian and environmental organizations," says Frankhauser.

Part-time Huxley student Candace Youngren is a co-coordinator along with Frankhauser. Lance Culnane, also a student, will likely replace Youngren when she graduates.

On a side note, Restoring Eden used to go by the name of Target Earth, but was changed to its current title after the splitting of its parent organization, Target Earth (TE), into TE and Restoring Eden. The campus chapter at Western now belongs to this new fragment based out of Vancouver, Washington. Got it?!

"Stewardship" is a widely used term among Christian environmentalists, as the Target Earth pamphlet reads "We are stewards of God's earth, ruling over that which is not ours."

"God's original plan was to hang out in a garden with some naked vegetarians." — www.targetearth.com

Frankhauser suggests environmental stewardship to be a "biblical mandate" as "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till and keep it," reads Genesis 2:15.

To find out more about Christian environmentalism and a couple other environmental organizations, you can visit the websites listed below.

Restoring Eden meets every other Wednesday at 5 p.m. in Bond Hall 103 and to get a hold of Frankhauser or Youngren, you can email them at restoringeden@yahoo.com.

If you'd rather go to a website for more information, here are a few that are recommended:


Photos courtesy of Atlas Rxz.

The greening of the cross.

Huxley Professor Explores Conservation Psychology

by Laurel Eddy

"Environmental problems all have to do with human behavior... it's humans that define them as problems, and it's human behavior that creates impacts and human behavior that we need to change to deal with those problems. It's humans that interpret scientific studies."

Professor Gene Myers, just back from a Conservation Psychology Conference at Brookfield Zoo in Illinois, said that Conservation Psychology has not been a priority for the social sciences, the humanities, or psychology. A person at the conference reported that about 1 in 1000 articles on PsychInfo, a psychology database, deal with environment, but most of these papers are "interested in how people are influenced by environmental factors" such as the layout of a building.

"A few people have asked about how human behavior contributes to environmental problems," Myers said, but it's not considered serious academic work because it's problem-based and not pure research.

Environmental problems with other countries can't be solved without taking into account the culture and background of the people involved, Myers said. "They can't just come in there and manage it. They need to deal with the social side."

The Brookfield Zoo includes a groundbreaking Play Zoo where kids can "go and dress up and pretend to be a lemur," along with several other interactive activities, including a mock hospital where stuffed animals come with organs and kids can operate on them.

The conference was funded by $35,000 from the Rice Foundation, as well as donations, and consisted mostly of panel discussions. One of the goals was to get people to "think about the place that they live in differently... and think about their own behavior," Myers said.

"Gene Myers is at the forefront of this emerging field of conservation psychology," said Huxley registrar Mary Moores.
What's Happening Around Bellingham and WWU

Tuesday, June 4
6 - 9 pm
Vegan Cooking: Angela Edwards will teach "Cooking Without Wheat or Dairy Products" at the Co-op's Connections Building (1200 N. Forest). Vegans, those on low-fat diets or folks who suffer from allergies will learn how to make a variety of foods without the aforementioned products. Cost is $15-18. Info: 734-8150.

Wednesday, June 5
New Playwright's Theatre: See the latest from aspiring writers Wednesday and Thursday at WWU's Performing Arts Center Underground Theatre. Tickets are free, but must be picked up in advance at the box office. Info: 650-6146.

3 - 7 pm
Wednesday Farmer's Market opens at 11th and Mill St. in Fairhaven and continues every Wednesday through Sept. 25. Info: 647-2060.

Friday, June 7
8 pm
Hear everything from Celtic to medival, folk and world music when Lydia McCauley holds a CD release concert at the Leopold Crystal Ballroom (1224 Cornwall Ave). The Beauty of the Earth also includes performances from Phil Heaven, Brian Cunningham, Frank Jackson, Lynne Givler and Jason Darling. Tickets are $10 at the door ($20 gets you a CD). For more info call 647-0152 or go to www.lydiamcauley.com.

Saturday, June 8
1 pm

5 - 7 pm
See a variety of works from four Northwest artists at an opening reception at the Lucia Douglas Gallery (1415 13th St.). New paintings from Susanna Bluhm, figurative ceramics by Sue Roberts, mixed media narratives by Cindy Small and Sally Hayden's figurative mixed media sculpture will be on display. The exhibit runs through July 14th. Info: 733-5361.

Sunday, June 9
Nearly 20,000 visitors are expected for today's 81st Peace Arch Celebration. "Children Helping Children" will help celebrate the kinship between Canada and the U.S. The hour long parade starts at 1 pm. If you're planning to go, get there early. Info: (360)332-1421.

7 pm
Members of the Mt. Baker Ballet and students from the Nancy Whyte School of Ballet will celebrate the school's 33rd year with a performance of Water Dance at the Mount Baker Theatre. A cast of over 100 will highlight the dance of water throughout the world in its many guises. Tickets are $9 at the box office or by calling 734-6080.

Monday, June 10
7-9 pm
Learn about Network Spinal Care with Dr. James McCluskey, DC, at the Co-op's Connections Building (1200 N. Forest). You'll find out about this holistic healing approach that addresses patterns of tension and distress through a series of gentle contacts along the spine. The event is free but registration is recommended. Info: 734-8150.

Wednesday, June 12
7:30 pm
Quality folk tunes can be heard when Connecticut duo Charlie Kind and Karen Brandow perform at the Roeder Home (2600 Sunset). Expect topical subject, humorous stories and "songs that make you think, laugh, weep, and dance." Cover is $5 at the door. Info: 734-7979.

Saturday, June 15
9 am
Sprint to Bellingham's maritime Heritage Park for The Human Race, a yearly event that raises money for your favorite nonprofit group. Info: 734-3055.

10 - 1 pm
Join the Whatcom Land Trust for a tour of Nesset Farm in Acme. Meet and carpool at Acme Presbyterian Church (Rt. 9, Acme). Cost is $5 per person. Register at 650-9470.

8:30 pm
Bellingham folk goddess Havilah holds a CD Release concert for Delilah's Gold at The Majestic (1027 N. Forest). She'll be joined by members of Twang Factor Four and the Badass Sextet. Admission is $7 (free if you buy a CD). For more info, call 303-0751.

Sunday, June 16
10 - 4 pm
Spend Father's Day at the Bellingham International Airport for Airfest 2002. Admission is $2 (children six and under are free). Info: 617-5674.

Tuesday, June 19
10 - 3 pm
Learn about protecting Puget Sound's natural beauty and resources from marine recreation experts at a free "Marine Recreation Best Practices Workshop" organized by People For Puget Sound. The day-long workshop features presentations on voluntary guidelines developed and adopted by marine recreation businesses and enthusiasts, ranging from commercial whale watching, kayak touring, SCUBA diving, recreational boating, and hiking and camping. This event is being held at the Skagit County PUD #1 Aqua Room, Mount Vernon. For information, registration, or inquiries about display opportunities, contact People For Puget Sound at 336-1931 or northsound@pugetsound.org.

Visit us on the web!
www.ac.wwu.edu/~ecotones/
Or email us with comments!
ecotones@cc.wwu.edu

Ecotones Mission Statement:
Ecotones is a student publication devoted to providing a voice for the Huxley community and reporting on current events and issues affecting everyone. We appreciate comments and criticisms about any aspect of Ecotones.