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

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ECOTONES

The Heartbeat of Huxley

Spring Issue 8
June 3, 2002

FAREWELL!

The Ecotones staff would like to thank you all for a great quarter, and we hope to come back in the fall better than ever before! Come join the team as a photographer, reporter or layout person! WE WANT YOU!

Editors

Tennyson Ketcham
Laurel Eddy

Staff

Alissa Martz
Amy Shelkin
Nick Woodhams

Advisors

Dr. Brad Smith
Mary Moores

Heads Up!

Huxley T-shirts avail. in the ES 534 12-2 Mon-Fri. Proceeds go to Huxley graduation.

16 Ushers needed for Huxley Graduation. Free T-Shirts! Contact: Mary Moores, x3748.

Prefixes Changing Next Year

GEOG will be changed to EGEO, and ENVR classes will be either ESCI (Environmental Science) or ESTU (Environmental Studies.)

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



The Case Study area.

Photo courtesy of www.ec.wm.edu/~huxley/ISOMUL

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.

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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,



Hosts Heather Higgins-Aanes, Bill "Y" Evans and Kim Spens.

Photo courtesy of www.waterwhys.org

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Congratulations to the Huxley Award Winners!

by Laurel Eddy



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.

"I kind of do a lot of behind the scenes work and I'm not a stand-out person, but it's nice to be recognized and it's a really good resume builder."



Kathleen Hurley, the other winner of the SAIC

award, is doing "remote sensing of the coral reefs in the middle Florida Keys."

"Can we see change using satellites over a 10-year period of coral substrates [sea grasses, sand, etc]?" asks Hurley.

"The first phase is done. I have a 2000 map," Hurley said. Getting the maps involves sorting through USGS archives and selecting one that fits. Hurley was looking for one with no cloud cover, since she was studying the ocean floor.

"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

Continued from page 1 - **Conference**
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@www.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!"

Photos taken by Nick Woodhams

Continued from page 1 -

Water Whys

Heather Higgins-Aanes and Bill "Y" Evans. Spens is a city planner, Higgins-Aanes an environmental educator, and Evans is the chief operator at the City of Bellingham's water treatment plant.

Water Whys has aired 18 episodes so far. In one episode, called 'Down the Drain,' Evans shows viewers how to inspect their septic tank: a vital skill for Huxley students!

'Go With the Flow' features an ex-Huxley student who takes the audience through the local water system from a glacier on Mount Baker to Bellingham Bay. The star of the show is a rubber duck that can guide the viewer through the water and sewer pipes in the system.

Water Whys would not exist without the dedication of people like Joy Monjure, education coordinator for the City of Bellingham and executive producer of 'Water Whys.'

Before the conception of the show, Monjure hosted a call-in talk show on KGMI, and con-

cerned citizens called in to talk about water issues.

"I wanted to talk to the farmer who was sitting with his coffee in his hand," Monjure said of her quest for real people with real water issues. The talk show was cancelled when the station moved it to noon on Saturday.

The idea of a television show sprouted when Monjure attended a class given by Duane Elgin, the author of Awakening Earth. Part of Elgin's message

dealt with the influence that the media has on the public. "They tell you to turn off your TV, but half the world gets their information from TV." And that was when Monjure realized that she could reach the public better through television.

After the workshop, Monjure dedicated her time and knowledge to understanding the complexities of water issues in Whatcom County by

talking with Western professors, students, and local experts. 'Water Whys' is currently produced by Black Dog Productions and the City of Bellingham. Funding for the show is generously provided through the City of Bellingham's public education funding from the water, sewer and stormwater utility funds.



The Watershed Pledge logo.

The contract runs from June of 2002 to June of 2003 and will provide \$60,000 next month. "I feel very fortunate," Monjure said of the city's funding.

'Water Whys' has won four awards since its first show in the Spring of 1999. These awards included the 2002 Excellence in Communication Award from the American Waterworks Association and the Videographer Awards in 2002, where the Pledge Program video, 'Water You Doing to Help Your Watershed' won under the Environmental Issue category.

This episode cap-

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 KCB 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

Restoring Eden and Christian Environmentalism

by Alissa Martz

After taking Huxley's Environmental Ethics class, I became aware of the environmentally destructive activities sometimes carried out by missionaries from around the world.

These missionaries were seeking to connect others with their God, but they were also claiming the Earth to be the creation of this God.

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



Photo courtesy of Alissa Martz

Candace Youngren and Katie Frankhauser with Restoring Eden members from other states.

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:
www.targetearth.org,
www.restoringeden.org,
www.columbiariver.org,
www.cob.org/parks/greenways/.



Photo courtesy of Alisha Hartz

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: 734-8158.

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 medieval, 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.lydiamccauley.com.

Saturday, June 8

1 pm

REI Camping Clinic: the first of three free Camping Clinics at the REI in Sehome Village. "Backpacking 101" will cover backpacking essentials like pack frames, clothing and footwear. On June 15th, learn about "Camping with Kids." The final workshop, "Backcountry Cooking," happens on June 22. For more info, call 647-8955

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 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: 734-8158.

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 Heri-

tage 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 Nessel 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 *Deli-lah's Gold* at The Majestic (1027 N. Forest). She'll be joined by members of Twang Factor Four and the Bad-dass 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.