



Fall, 2005

Tecolote Times

Tecolote, originally an Aztec word, is commonly used in the Spanish language for owl. The owl is Cal-Wood's mascot and many species are observed or heard here. The most common owl is the Great Horned owl, pictured throughout this newsletter.

The Newsletter of Cal-Wood Education Center

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Message from the Executive Director

Rafael Salgado

Dear friends of Cal-Wood,
We are very excited about our second newsletter. We want to let you know what's happening here at Cal-Wood with our land, our programs, and our future.

This 2005 was a good year for us. We were successful in having a variety of client groups use our programs and facilities. We have also continued with our land management practices, and the improvement of our buildings and grounds. The 2005 wet spring turned our land into a paradise full of colorful flowers and tall green grass. However, this moisture also caused some problem with invasive weeds, which we had to deal with later in the summer and during the fall.

As some of you know, Cal-Wood has been owned by the Pilot Trust, a charitable trust created in 1962 by the owners of this land, Roger and Oral Calvert. The goal of this charitable trust was to create Cal-Wood by building the lodge and cabins, and support it with capital improvements in the future. For 23 years, Cal-Wood has been operated under the Pilot Trust's guidance. Recently, in 2005, the Trustees of The Pilot Trust agreed that it was time for Cal-Wood to have its own non-profit status; we will still get some support from the Pilot Trust to improve our buildings and grounds. So far, this process to become independent has begun and we hope to have all the paper work done in 2006. This process is very exciting for Cal-Wood but it will also be challenging. As part of this change, we will need to create a new board of directors for Cal-Wood. We will keep you posted on the progress of Cal-Wood's new non-profit organization.

One of our biggest challenges, and always will be, is raising funds to support low-income schools. We have always had a heart for these students and want to offer Cal-Wood's outdoor experience to them. In 2005, we gave \$20,900 to eleven low-income school groups from Commerce City, Aurora, Boulder, and Longmont. At this point, we have only \$3,700 for 2006 scheduled schools. We hope to raise \$17,000 more to bring back these same schools. As part of our efforts of raising funds, Cal-Wood will host its fourth annual Christmas tree fundraiser event and we hope to raise \$5,000. We want to invite your family and friends to be part of this important event. Please help us by letting others know. (See more information in this newsletter).

Angie Peterson, the Cal-Wood Kitchen Manager for over 2 years, has left to continue her education by obtaining a teaching certificate. We wish her the best of luck, and know that she will excel as a teacher. Angie's successor is Dee Timm. We are lucky to have Dee's talent for cooking and managing our kitchen.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this newsletter and we hope to continue having you as friends of Cal-Wood Education Center.



Science and Second Language Learners:

A Workshop for K-12 Teachers

April 29-30, 2006

At Cal-Wood Education Center

In partnership with Bilingual ESL Network (BEN), the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and the Colorado State Forest Service.

info@calwood.org

Staff and Programs

Megan Quitter, Program Manager



Once again the fall has returned with crisp nights that bring the call of bugling elk! When the students return to their homes, an incredible peace surrounds. We remind ourselves daily to appreciate our time as guests on this precious piece of land.

Our mission is to bring “people who are not normally able to visit the mountains” to Cal-Wood. In 2005 we had 66 school programs visit. We consider 20 of these schools to have a “low-income” status. Although Cal-Wood works with schools from any district, we focus on bringing schools with a high percentage of students in the free and reduced lunch program. Many groups rent our Lodge and cabins for retreats during the times that schools aren’t visiting. These retreat groups help offset the cost to run Cal-Wood and keep our prices low for the school programs. It is unique to have access to this much private land and to experience a natural area without sharing with other visitors! Consider bringing your group to Cal-Wood for a conference or retreat. Our spacious lodge is perfect to hold a meeting, and then relax afterwards with a hike and a delicious meal!

We offer several interesting workshops for teachers. For example, Rafael facilitated two Project Wild/Project Learning Tree workshops in 2005. Teachers can take these workshops for academic credit through the Colorado School of Mines. These workshops are taught using sheltered techniques for second language comprehension. Teachers can use these techniques to effectively work with ESL students. The next workshop will be Nov 19-20th and again in April 2006.

Our instructional staff excelled over the past school year. Betsy Bowman, Jennifer Raab and Jonah Levine have been strengthening our program and curriculum since August 2004. The field instructor position is extremely demanding. During the time when schools are not visiting, the instructors develop new curriculum for energy conservation, weather, fire ecology, and resource management. I want to extend my gratitude for their energy, dedication and professionalism.

Each year when the spring season ends, we lose a few staff members to new opportunities. We congratulate Melanie Joyce, who taught as an intern and as an instructor for a year and a half. She accepted a position with the Logan School for Creative Learning, as their Outdoor Education Coordinator. Although we will miss her, we welcome Lindsay Freeman as her replacement. Lindsay began teaching at Cal-Wood in August, and is a brilliant addition to our staff.

Last year, the Mexican conservation organization *Profauna* agreed to send an intern to us every six months. Yudith Lugo Porras from Chihuahua, Mexico worked at Cal-Wood from January until June of 2005. She is a fantastic, native Spanish speaking teacher, and we miss her excitement. She strengthened our Spanish curricula and developed new activities using sheltered techniques. With these additions, we are able to more thoroughly accommodate schools with diverse language needs.

Those who have visited understand why this land is special. The spectacular views and diverse wildlife viewing opportunities enhance the spirit, but it is the dedication of our staff that makes Cal-Wood unique.

Retreats!

Cal-Wood is the perfect place for a group to conduct trainings, workshops, retreats or even family reunions. Magnificent land, excellent facilities, delicious meals, and an expert staff create just the right experience. Our rates are reasonable, and a portion goes to support our scholarship fund that enables low-income students to attend school programs.

Conservation Efforts Update

Shane Milne, Natural Resource Manager

As stewards’ of the land, the Cal-Wood Staff recognizes the need to take an active role in managing the natural resources that exist on our 1040 acre property. A few of the challenges we face in managing such a large piece of property are limited personnel and limited funds to carry out desired projects. Fortunately, Cal-Wood has received much help from local agencies in the form of money and labor to accomplish some of our natural resource objectives.

In the fall of 2004, Cal-Wood received \$5,000 in cost share monies from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) to start work on a shaded fuel break at the east end of the property. A shaded fuel break is an area of forest that has been extensively thinned in order to slow down an approaching wildfire. The placement of our break had first been mapped out and suggested at least 25 years earlier in Cal-Wood’s first ever forest stewardship plan and then again in Cal-Wood’s 2004 forest stewardship plan. With the scare of the Overland Fire just one year prior, we felt it necessary to do our part in potentially preventing or slowing down such a devastating event. In all, the total project cost was just over \$14,000 (CSFS-\$5,000, Anonymous donor-\$2,500, The Pilot Trust-\$2,000, donated labor-\$5,000) and we were able to create ten acres of shaded fuel break with an additional ten acres remaining. Needless to say, Cal-Wood now has an abundance of wood that needs to be taken off the property; the wood has been cut to 8’ lengths and staged at our barn, if anyone is interested in this material contact Shane.

Although our forest dominates the landscape here at Cal-Wood, one can hardly overlook our open meadows and riparian zones. Our 200 acres of meadow habitat are a crucial part of the ecosystem in the area and are most certainly responsible for the high biodiversity that exists today at the ranch. In order to maintain that high biodiversity we are constantly monitoring for species that are non-native and threaten the health of the ecosystem, namely invasive plants. In the summer of 2005, we focused on Canada thistle, leafy spurge, dalmation toadflax, and mullein. Another invasive that we have managed heavily in the past is musk thistle. However, this year, we decided to back off and let a seed eating weevil have a try. The weevil was introduced as a control agent for musk thistle and has found its way to Cal-Wood just recently. As always, our approach to weed management combines many different methods in order to practice the most effective control with the least amount of impact to the land. For more on our conservation efforts, visit our website: www.calwood.org.



Before and after at the shaded fuel break



From the Instructors: Special Sightings

Since April, the biological community has been putting on quite a show! Here is a brief list of some special sightings.

- a family of red-tailed hawks were fun around the upper pond. Some days, they even granted us the pleasure of watching as they hunted for their meals.
- one evening a long eared owl surprised Jonah by responding to a call.
- the night hawks performed fantastic aerial displays for the quick eyes and open ears.
- the nest box program was in full swing this summer. There were about 20 nests and about 2-3 fledglings per nest.
- a strange looking, currently unidentifiable squirrel is haunting the volleyball court. A large animal, with white hair and a huge tail, he is thought to be a color-morph of an Abert's squirrel.
- the baby coyotes have been tons of fun, playing in the meadows, howling when airplanes pass, and playing with their echoes off the hillsides.
- a bear found it's photographic debut when Jonah's group came upon it at the lower pond.
- our friend and trustee, Janet Chu, also got a glimpse of a bear on the newly re-named Columbine road, at the east end of the property.
- the arrival of the North Boulder Elk herd for their annual migration and bugle-fest is always a sign of cooler weather.
- a muskrat had a couple of people fooled as a potential beaver, thankfully the experts appeared to rectify the mistake
- with the presence of about 53.6 million various flies (slight exaggeration) it's relatively safe to say that the ponds are in pretty good condition.
- large populations of tiger salamanders were in our lower pond this spring.
- fire was sighted at the east end of Cal-Wood on an early Sunday morning due to a lightning strike the day before. Less than an acre of low shrubs and grasses were affected. Every day this land entertains us more than if we had a satellite TV.



Every year, nearly 3,500 children participate in our school programs. These students come to Cal-Wood from diverse backgrounds. This diversity enhances the students' experience as well as our own programs. Please help us to better serve these children by donating winter clothing or by sponsoring children to participate in our school programs..



Beyond school groups, Cal-Wood offered it programs and facilities to many other groups during 2005:

Teacher Workshops: Project WILD and PLT for teacher who work with linguistically diverse students; training for teacher from Mexico; and Earthworks-CIRES-week long workshop for science teachers.

Summer Youth Programs: Asian Pacific Development Center; Astro Camp; Tiylul; Renaissance Adventures; 4H/UTREK exchange from Japan; Higher Ground; The Denver Indian Family Resource Center; Rites of Passages; and Cal-Wood Summer Camp.

BEST: Boulder Enhanced Supervision Team, a year round, 10 days per month program for at risk youth.

Retreats and other trainings: CU Upward Bound; Naropa; CU- Boettcher Scholars; Dances for Universal Peace; Denver North Stake; Hearts of Peace Foundation; Youth Services of Boulder; Boulder County Parks and Open Space; Art of Living; Wheatridge Regional Center; and many more.

Landowner Forestry Workshop: A workshop to help lan downer read forest management plans.

Boulder County Wildland Fire Cooperators: Red card fire training.

Camp Laughing Bear: A week long camp for people with disabilities.

Colorado Trail Symposium

Environmental Education Providers: How to work with second language learners.



Many Thanks

Our Major Donors:

The Pilot Trust
Anschutz Family Foundation
Community Foundation serving
Boulder County
The Bright Mountain Foundation
Longmont Community
Foundation
The Colorado State Forest
Service

Previous Staff:

Melanie Joyce
Conor Moran
Heather Murphy
Andy Pattison
Angie Peterson
Joy and Jay Breithaupt

Previous Interns:

Becca Michener
Dana Richardson
Yudy Lugo Porras

Staff Training Volunteers:

Pam Bungee, tracking
Nancy Commins, UCD
Jan Chu, Pilot Trust
David Hirt, BCPOS-botanist
Dave Hoerath, BCPOS-biologist
Laura Martin, Boulder History
Denny Morris, BCPOS- biologist
Rick Rudy, geologist
Eric Stone, USFWS- biologist

Donation of Materials:

Janet George, DOW
Joseph Kerski, USGS
Frances Matsumoto, Superior
Elementary

For Their Time:

Pam Davis, webmaster
Chris Neukom and Americorps
The Ogden Family
Cory Secher, CSFS
Boulder County Parks & Open
Space
NCCC Earth 3 Team
New Vista High School
Lee Rhinemiller

Teague Nystrom and Bill
Breithaupt from Balarat for being
wonderful neighbors.

Celebrate The Holidays By Cutting Down Your Own Tree!

You and your family and friends are invited to come to Cal-Wood for our annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser! Enjoy cutting down your very own tree and help manage our 1040 acre forest. After you have found your tree, you can join us for coffee and hot chocolate in the Calvert Lodge. A staff member will meet you in the parking lot on **Saturday, November 26, December, 3 or December 10 from 10am to 2pm.** We are asking for a minimum donation of \$20.00 per tree. Firewood is available for pick up. Minimum donations for split wood are also welcome.

The donations will be used to fund school programs for underserved schools. Cutbacks in school district funding have greatly curtailed the ability of many schools to benefit from outdoor education programs. This is especially true for low income schools where parents cannot pay the extra expenses for these programs. As a result, we are asking for your assistance to find alternative resources to continue offering this level of support.

A \$20.00 donation will fund two students for a one day program, \$30.00 will fund one student for a two day, one night program, \$55.00 will fund one student for a three day, two night program. Donations (cash or check) can be made on site at the parking lot or at the Calvert Lodge. If you do not have the time to come and get a tree or you are not interested in Christmas trees, mailed donations are highly appreciated. Please make checks payable to Cal-Wood Education Center.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting holiday event, please let us know! We have limited supplies and tools to offer, so please bring a handsaw and a rope to tie the tree to your vehicle. We are also asking for a few volunteers to help with this event. RSVP is required.



Cal-Wood Summer Camp!



Cal-Wood Education Center is pleased to offer kids age 9-13 a week of adventure and discovery at our private and pristine 1,040 acre outdoor learning center. Our natural classroom is a perfect place to learn and experience the Colorado Rocky Mountain foothills. Each adventure group of 12 children is led by Cal-Wood's professional, expert staff.

Each busy day concludes with a period of down-time before dinner for hot showers, playing volleyball, or just hanging out with new friends on the gorgeous deck of Calvert Lodge. A scrumptious dinner is followed by an evening program such as Night Hike, Storytelling, Music, Campfires, Crafts, or Astronomy. Participants then get well deserved sleep in our cozy cabins ready to start it all over the following morning.

Activities for the week include: Rock Climbing, Horseback Riding, Fishing, Peak and Mine Hikes, Orienteering & Compass Courses, Homestead/Pioneer living, Native American

Program, Pond/Stream exploration, Nature Arts & Crafts, Resource Conservation Projects, and Wildlife Ecology/Natural History.

Now Enrolling . Please check www.calwood.org for more information!



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