



## **WildPlaces' Mission**

WildPlaces is a community based non-profit organization located in Springville, California in the foothills of the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Our mission is to preserve, support, and protect California's natural and rural places and the people of these landscapes through volunteer driven habitat restoration, natural and cultural education, and career development.

Contents:

I. WildAppreciation Concert 3/28/09: A Good Time had by All!

II. Immersed in the Wild Snowshoe Trip in Camp Nelson March 21 2009

III Photos from WildPlaces Outreach at OVCD's Family Fun Day in the Park

IV. Community Day in Springville Park

V. SCICON BBQ April 19<sup>th</sup> – Volunteers needed for WildPlaces' outreach

VI Goldman Environmental Prize Ceremony in San Francisco

VII Outdoor Educator Gathering Post-poned to 2010

## VIII. 2009 Calendar

### **I. WildAppreciation Concert March 28 2009, a Great Success!**

Thanks to everyone who made it out to River Ridge Ranch on Mar 28<sup>th</sup>. We are very grateful for all the donations we received and pleased that everyone had a great time! Thanks to the volunteers who were able to help with setting up and those of you who helped clean up. “It was really fun and [River Ridge] is beautiful,” said attendee Jocelyn Sabori. Our event was also featured in the Porterville Recorder; you can read Sabrina Ziegler's article [here](#). Stay connected for more fun events from WildPlaces!



The dance floor during WildAppreciation 2009. Photo by Christie Fields.

## II. Immersed in the Wild Snowshoe Trip With LaSierra High School



On March 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 WildPlaces had the privilege of partnering with La Sierra High School in taking six students (and one parent) from Porterville on a snowshoe trip on the Freeman Grove Trail in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. With gear provided from Bay Area Wilderness Training (BAWT) in Oakland, we were able to snowshoe into the Freeman Grove of Giant Sequoias and enjoy the quiet winter beauty surrounded by 2000 year-old trees.

This trip provided an excellent opportunity to bring our local youth out and introduce them to an area that is “at their back-door.” Without WildPlaces' help, and the gear provided by BAWT,

these students (and parent) would not have had access to the Grove during the winter. They were also provided with advice on the gear as well as fun and interesting facts provided by WildPlaces director Mehmet McMillan and AmeriCorps member Ian Herrick.

### **III. OVCDC Family Day in the Park April 5<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Please enjoy these photos from our outreach at the Owen's Valley Career Development Center's Family Day in the Park outside of Bakersfield!





## **IV Springville Park Native & Heritage Plant Garden**

### **Turns One Year Old! – by Peyton Ellas**

That's right! Our little project area of the renovated Springville Park was established last year, with the major work being done April 10-14, 2008. We had 170 people contribute over 400 hours of town. Wow. Do you remember? I remember the day the Cub Scouts planted and planted and wanted more to do. I remember the Lindvall boys and Terry Manning putting in the post and rock terrace walkway. I remember all the help on converting the sprinkler system to a drip system. And Sally Henry and her marvelous magic wheelbarrow.

During the past year, many of you have continued to enjoy the park and have helped to keep it looking good—for those of you who come during the week or other times other than “official Saturday work day,”—I do notice and really am glad it is just not me, but rather a community project (as it should be). The Lowerys are my frequent Saturday helpers, and Schifra Walder seems to always know when to bring the soy latte.

I invite you to stop by the Park this Saturday to say “hi,” and/or lend a hand with some planning and tasks. I will be mostly working on irrigation checks and repairs and weeding in the playground section and thinking of ways to make improvements. Bring gloves and weeding tools and your opinions.

## **Springville Park Native & Heritage Plant Garden**

### **First Year Anniversary!**

**Saturday, April 11**

**8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

(come when you want, leave when you want)

**If you can't come then, but want to help, feel free to contact me at [peyton@quercuslandscapedesign.com](mailto:peyton@quercuslandscapedesign.com). Thanks!**

**V. SCICON BBQ April 19<sup>th</sup> 2009 – Volunteers Needed for  
WildPlaces' Information Booth**

We at WildPlaces are excited to once again be a part of the annual SCICON barbecue. If you are interested in helping out with our educational display and information table please e-mail [ian@wildplaces.net](mailto:ian@wildplaces.net).

## **VI. Goldman Environmental Prize Ceremony in San Francisco**

WildPlaces is honored to take a handful of youth from our partner organizations La Sierra High School, Granite Hills High, and SGI to the Goldman Environmental Prize Ceremony in San Francisco on April 20th. This inspiring event is a chance for our community to interact with grass-roots leaders from across the globe. Of course, our youth are also looking forward to going to San Francisco! Check out [www.goldmanprize.org](http://www.goldmanprize.org) from more information. If you would like to make a donation to help cover the cost of lodging (we will be staying at a youth hostel) and travel, please contact Mehmet at [mehmet@wildplaces.net](mailto:mehmet@wildplaces.net) or call 559 539 5263.

## **VII: Southern Sierra Outdoor Educator Postponed to 2010**

We are still excited to host the first ever Outdoor Educator Gathering in the Southern Sierra; however we regret to say we are forced to delay it until next year. Fortunately this will allow us more time to plan an excellent event to build relations among community youth leaders in the southern Sierra, Central Valley, and adjacent areas.

## **VIII. 2009 Spring Calendar**

April: 11: Springville Park Native & Heritage Plant Garden First Year Anniversary 8:30-11:30AM

April 15: Nursery Day with Bible Explorations Youth Group at WildPlaces Springville Nursery 10:00AM

April 18: Jackass Mail Run in Springville

April 19: SCICON BBQ 11:00 am to 4:00pm

April 20: Goldman Environmental Prize Ceremony in San Francisco 3:30pm

April 19-25: National Volunteer Week

April 22: WildPlaces' Earth Day Event

April 24-26: Springville Sierra Rodeo

April 25: National Arbor Day

April 25: Iris Festival in Porterville

April 25: StepSons Blues Band at River Ridge Ranch 3:30-6:30PM

April 26 – 29: White Blanket Gathering in Onyx, CA

May 14-17<sup>th</sup> : Monache Intertribal Gathering at Bone Creek

May 30<sup>th</sup>: Rio Limpio 2009 Number One

**Ian Herrick: Program Coordinator, AmeriCorps Member [ian@wildplaces.net](mailto:ian@wildplaces.net)**

**Mehmet McMillan: Director [Mehmet@wildplaces.net](mailto:Mehmet@wildplaces.net)**

WildPlaces (559) 539 5263 PO Box 853, 35625 Hwy 190, Springville CA 93265