



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.

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I. Redbuds and Acorns Planted by Bible Explorations Youth Group

On April 15th 2009, 19 volunteers from the Bible Explorations Youth Group out of Terra Bella, CA, planted 33 bare-root Western Redbuds (*Cercis occidentalis*) and 44 acorns from local Valley Oaks (*Quercus lobata*). It was a fun and informative time for all involved. Enjoy these photos!







II. Porterville Youth at the Goldman Environmental Prize Ceremony in San Francisco

On April 20th WildPlaces was honored to be able to take six High School youths from Porterville and four college-age youths from San Francisco to the Goldman Environmental Prize Ceremony. The ceremony was located in downtown San Francisco, and our youths from La Sierra High School, Granite Hills High School, and Soka Gokkai International were able to connect with a world-wide community of grass-roots environmental leaders. The group was inspired by the stories of prize-winners, such as Marc Ona Essangui of Gabon in Central Africa, who successfully campaigned against mining and deforestation in the Congo Basin. They were also delighted to be in the audience of the key-note speaker, former Vice President Al Gore, and to hear Tracy Chapman perform two songs. After the ceremony, the youths got to mingle with other attendees in the San Francisco City Hall, where they were introduced to activists, scientists, leaders, and others. For more information about the Goldman Prize and to see all the inspiring and amazing people who have won in this year and years past, visit www.goldmanprize.org. Please enjoy the photos below which are courtesy of Ann Garner.





III. Rio Limpio 2009 Starts out with River Fair May 30th

We are proud to say that our season of river clean-ups will start May 30th 2009. Volunteers are encouraged to attend! In 2008 volunteers removed thousands of pounds of trash, removed graffiti and educated hundreds of river visitors about the importance of personal responsibility in keeping our river clean and safe. Areas of focus included the Stairs, Peace Hole, Wishon, the Slides as well as portions of the river going through Porterville. WildPlaces' strategy is a watershed-wide approach that will reduce trash, remove graffiti and stop gang activity that threatens "Our Tule River."

Volunteers will meet at 8:30am in the Springville Memorial Park before carpooling to clean-up destinations. At 1:00PM, we will gather at Lake Success where there will be a free barbecue and live music! Who can say no to that? If you would like further information about volunteering or to bring a group to the clean-up, contact Ian Herrick at 559.539.5263 or e-mail ian@wildplaces.net.

IV Meet the Board: Peyton Ellas

Did you know WildPlaces has a Board of Directors? WildPlaces is legally and tax-wise a project of the International Humanities Center (IHC) and so their board is also WildPlaces'. But we also have our own "Board of Advisors" and "Working Board."

The Working Board currently has eight members who have committed to helping with ongoing projects and long-range vision for WP. We will be featuring the members of this Working Board the next several issues of the Wild Update.

Peyton Ellas

Many of you know me already, and I look forward to meeting more of you during upcoming projects. I began with WildPlaces as a paid intern on the rangeland restoration project at River Ridge Ranch in Springville in 2004, and continued as a paid consultant working on just about everything from 2005-2006. I joined the Board at the end of 2007. My interests in California native plants, visual arts and gardening led me to start Quercus Landscape Design in 2006. I graduated from UCLA's film school (long, long ago), and since my teen years have dabbled in writing of various sorts. My writing has appeared in BackHome, Grindstone, Gihon River Review and Onthebus. Currently I write a weekly column for the Southern Sierra Messenger newspaper and I just completed my first novel!

For WildPlaces I am primarily responsible for writing and sending press releases and post-event articles to press outlets in the Central Valley. You can also find me at WildPlaces events such as Rio Limpio and Nursery Days.

I'd like to suggest an easy way for all of you to help WildPlaces. Have you searched for WP on **Goodsearch** lately? I know there are other search engines out there, but Goodsearch helps by making a donation for WildPlaces every time you search. Here's what you do: log onto <http://www.goodsearch.com/>. In the box "Who Do You Search For?" type in "WildPlaces" (remember to capitalize the "P") and verify when the correct "WildPlaces – Springville CA" appears. WildPlaces will remain the default recipient. That's it! I have found GoodSearch to be completely satisfactory for all my searching needs—and as a landscape designer, I search a lot! You can also use Good Shop from the Goodsearch website. It's also easy to put Goodsearch on your toolbar or add it as a tab.

Thanks for helping to support WildPlaces!

You can reach me at peytonellas@gmail.com or peyton@quercuslandscapedesign.com.

Peyton

V: 2009 Spring-Summer Calendar

May 13-17th- Porterville Fair

May 14-17th : Monache Intertribal Gathering at Bone Creek

May 30th: Rio Limpio 2009 Number One

June 5th through 7th: Standing Bear Pow Wow at Bakersfield College

July 4th: Rio Limpio 2009 Number Two

July 16th through 19th: Immersed in the Wild with Walt Whitman High School

Are you on FaceBook? WildPlaces has a public group! Keep up with WildPlaces news and photos! You don't have to add anyone to your friends' list, so you can maintain your privacy. The group is here: [WildPlaces Group](#)

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