

Updates from Wild Gift Base Camp

Wild Gift Receives Morgan Family Foundation Grant

Wild Gift was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant by The Morgan Family Foundation. Established in 1993, this private, family foundation focuses its giving on youth, education, the environment, and stewardship.

First ever 'Local Wild Film Festival' to be held on June 27

Local Wild will celebrate the wildness of home, focusing on the spirit of the land, wildlife and people that endure in the hearts of Wood River Valley residents. Films portray landscape, wildlife, sport activity, or human interest and integrate our wild nature – within and out there. Proceeds will benefit the Wild Gift program.

Friday, June 27th, 2008 at the NexStage theater in Ketchum, Idaho.

1% for the Planet

Wild Gift is now a beneficiary of 1% For The Planet, which encourages members of the business community to contribute 1% of sales to environmental groups around the world. It requires that environmental organizations receive their donations directly from member companies. Businesses interested in donating to Wild Gift should visit onepercentfortheplanet.com for more information.



The Wild Gift Leader Network is Online!

Visit wildgift.org/network to get the latest scoop on Wild Gift Leaders and Alumni. Join the Network to participate in collaborative actions or share your mentoring expertise.



Bob's Wild Connections

Support Wild Gift by joining Founder Bob Jonas on a sea kayak trip in Southeast Alaska!

Option 1 • July 12-18 • 7 days (Sat – Fri)

Visit 4 salmon streams. View the dynamic of the salmon run and grizzlies.

Option 2 • July 20-27 • 7 days (Sun – Sat)

Kayak Tracy Arm/Ford's Terror Wilderness - a flooded Yosemite.

For more information, contact Bob Jonas @ 208-726-8579 or bob@wildgift.org



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The 2007 Wild Gift Class in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Newsletter **WILD GIFT** Spring 2008



Notes from the Field

Events

Convergence is a new experiential environmental education centre in Tamil Nadu, India and a project of **Iain Duncan** (WG 07). The 4-week course will be offered this summer for individuals who are passionate about environmental issues and interested in energizing the actions that they are taking in their local community with international and diverse perspectives. Find out more information at thepointofconvergence.org.

Xmas Adventure Opportunity: Experience real sustainable development in Africa by visiting and supporting a Wild Gift project in the Nigerian rainforest. Learn how one community is working to live in harmony with some of the last remaining rainforest in West Africa. Optional jungle treks, cave visits, endangered elephant and primate viewing, village and urban Christmas festivities. Proposed dates: December 20-January 3, with optional third week for extended trekking. For more details, contact **Monica Samec** (WG 07) at monica@renewablenigeria.org.

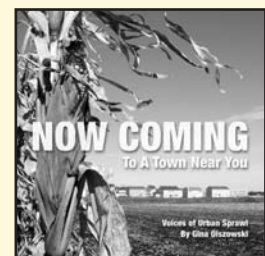
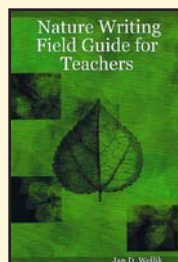
Awards

Lauren Baumann (WG 06) was named Vice President at New Ecology in Boston.
Pete Land (WG 03) was awarded an Environmental Leadership Program Fellowship.

Books

Emily Owen (WG 06) published a conservation land-use planning manual based on her work with rural Chilean landowners. The manual, using simple language and diagrams, guides landowners through the process of mapping their lands, listing current uses, and describing how they envision using these lands in the future. The manual is available for download on the Wild Gift Leade Network at wildgift.org/emilyowen.

The Nature Writing Field Guide for Teachers is a curriculum guidebook written and developed by **Jan D. Wellik** (WG 04), founder of Eco Expressions, a nature-writing program for grades K-12 nation-wide. The book offers young people a chance to explore the wonders of the natural world while expanding literary and creative expression. Order online at EcoExpressions.org.



Now Coming to a Town Near You tells the story of small towns that are being forever changed by sprawl. **Gina Olszowski** (WG 06) explores the topic through the eyes of farmers, mayors, environmentalists, and average citizens. They share their hopes, fears, disappointments, and ideas about the future. Order online at atownnearyou.com.

Greetings from Sun Valley! Things have been busy at Wild Gift, as the program continues to evolve and grow. For those who may not know me, I am Wild Gift's first Executive Director. As an alum of the program, I remain deeply committed to the purpose and mission of the organization. I am excited to take the organization to the next level, building a Wild Gift leader network that keeps alumni supported, extending the impact of their work well beyond the program. My goal is to ensure that Wild Gift will continue to flourish, giving life to founder Bob Jonas' dream.

Since I arrived in Sun Valley in late November, Wild Gift has:

- Updated our Strategic Plan. We have expanded the Purpose and Mission statements to reflect our goal of building a Leader Network in addition to our primary mission of launching the 'better world' entrepreneurial projects of new Wild Gift leaders.
- Raised over \$80 K, to fund my position and a 08/09 Wild Gift class, thanks to the generosity of our dedicated supporters.
- Contracted Pete Land (WG 03) as our first Communications Director.
- Revamped the Wild Gift website, www.wildgift.org. It's time to let the world know about Wild Gift and our important work. Besides a new look and a site that's easier to navigate, the major addition is the Leader Network. Check it out. I invite you to be part of the Network.
- Kick-started an aggressive fundraising campaign to bring new donors and the first foundation grants to Wild Gift. This is the primary focus of my work in 2008.

Additionally, we have recently selected 4 fine Wild Gift recipients that are excited to participate in the trek this summer before heading off into the field to implement their leadership action projects. You can continue to follow their work on the Leader Network at wildgift.org/network. Interested in getting more involved? Feel free to contact me at jenna@wildgift.org about mentoring and financial sponsorship of our leaders.

It is an exciting time to be working for such a dynamic organization – supporting a generation of leaders and the diverse communities that they serve. The Wild Gift family is growing - we are now a force of people working collectively while having a positive impact on the planet. We hope that you continue to support us and be a part of it!

Cheers,

Jenna Ringelheim

Jenna Ringelheim
Executive Director



Jenna Ringelheim with Wild Gift Founder Bob Jonas

Meet the 2008-09 Class

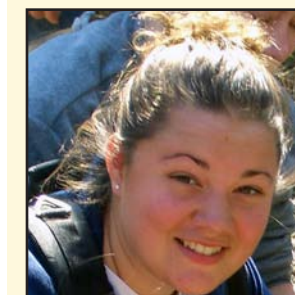
Rachel Barge is a 22-year old graduating senior, University of California at Berkeley, in the area of Conservation & Resources Studies and Forestry, and a winner of the 2007 David Brower Youth Award for her campus environmental activism. Called The Green Initiative Fund, Rachel's project empowers students across the country to implement a nominal campus fee, which provides the vital monetary resources and administrative leverage for campuses to successfully invest in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure.



Joshua Marcus Greenberg lives in Philadelphia, PA and is currently finishing a Masters Degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Joshua also composes and performs folk songs, mostly on the banjo, and is releasing two new recordings in 2008. His Wild Gift project is a combination of these two interests: co-authoring folk song-stories with individuals and community organizations in the U.S. to raise awareness of their struggles of, or success over, current issues of environmental and social injustice.

You can support these leaders by mentoring or donating... for more information contact Wild Gift Executive Director Jenna Ringelheim at jenna@wildgift.org

Tall Trees Youth Stewardship Project is a project of **Justin Hellier**, 26, an environmental educator and community activist in Olympia, Washington. The mission of Tall Trees is to empower young people and sustain the land through community-based stewardship of natural resources. In 2008/2009, Tall Trees will focus on leadership development and community building around ecological restoration in the urban forest.



Loons and People: Guidelines for "Nesting" Together on Adirondack Lakes is a project of **Amanda Marino**, age 21, a Virginia Tech graduate. The mission of Loons and People is to develop conservation guidelines for lakeshore development and utilization within the Adirondack Park of New York State. These guidelines will use Common Loon nesting habitat as an example to outline principles for maintaining or enhancing wildlife habitat and to promote sustainable development practices and human activity along shorelines.