

Volume 1

Issue 4

Mar. 26, 2009

The EPIB TRAIL

An EPIBer's Guide to the Galaxy

Eco-fact:

The world's largest wind farm in Altamont Pass, CA has 6,000 windmills! The cost of wind energy has dropped 90% in the last 20 years.

THIS MONTH ALONG THE TRAIL

Spotlights:

- Dr. Tom Rudel and Stella Capoccia's experience with peace corps -page 2
- The Green Print Wants You! -page 1

Volunteer for a Better Future:

- Suggestions for volunteer initiatives - page 2

Special Events:

- April 2 - Informal Advising Session with Dr. George Clark (details below)
- April 7 - Informal Peace Corps Seminar with Stella and Dr. Rudel (details below)

Save the dates:

- March 28 -Earth Hour -page 3
- April 3-5 -PSEG GreenFest 2009: A New Jersey Celebration -page 3

Fun Stuff

- Forget Podcasts listen to EPIB student's Eco-Casts! -page 3
- Join the Human Ecology Facebook Group! -page 2
- GustoOrganic Restaurant Review -page 3
- Dr. Clark's Weird Tales -page 3

Join us at the Human Ecology Department

Informal Advising Session with Dr. George Clark
 April 2 -Cook Office Building room 226 - 7:00pm to 9:00pm
 It's time for Fall registration! AHHH!!! Come get help from one of the best advisors on campus!

Peace Corps Night with Stella Capoccia & Dr. Tom Rudel

April 7 -Cook Office Building room 226 - 7:00pm to 9:00pm
 Not sure if the Peace Corps for you? Looking for information or to talk to actual volunteers? This is the night for you!

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED @ BOTH EVENTS



THE GREEN PRINT WANTS YOU!

Cook Campus' originality, uniqueness, and individuality are at stake! In recent years, upperclassmen have been witnessing the Cook Community slowly but steadily become just another part of Rutgers. We still have a chance to keep Cook in SEBS. The Campus' very own newspaper, *The Green Print*, is one of the few remaining reminders of Cook's identity. The new editor, Dan Clark, is

looking for students to join the Green Print staff, or simply submit a few articles to edit and publish. Being published in the paper is easy said Dan: "The deadline for submissions is Sunday evening: e-mail the article to me, or Jean Altomare, our managing editor, or preferably to tobeedited@yahoo.com" Don't forget to include your name and a contact number!

As for content, the Green Print focuses on issues at Cook, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ, US, and the World. "Though the paper has an environmental focus," Dan added, "the articles can be about anything, including on and off campus plays or events, editorials and art or poetry submissions". By submitting just three articles per semester the author earns the title of staff writer, which looks great on resumes. To get more involved, Dan invites everyone to attend Green Print Staff meetings every Sunday at 9pm at the Cook Campus Center on the second floor in the office located on the left upon entering the quiet study room. Get involved in the Cook community. Help *The Green Print* stay alive.

You can read a new Green Print issues online on Wednesdays at <http://thegreenprint.weebly.com> For more info contact Dan Clark at danclark@eden.rutgers.edu or Jean Altomare at jeanbean@eden.rutgers.edu.

FEEDBACK

Tell us what you think! What can we do better?

Send comments, questions, and concerns to Kristen Drusjack at: drusjack@aesop.rutgers.edu or 732-932-9153 ext. 301



Volunteer Your Way To a Better Future



One of the best features of the EPIB major is its focus on humans and their communities. More so than any other fields of study, human ecologists place high value on giving back to the communities and the people they research through volunteer work.

Volunteering can occur on many levels: local, national, and even global. There are a plethora of organizations looking for help. A simple Google search can bring them straight to your finger tips. In this newsletter, we've laid out the groups that may best suit EPIB students. See the "Join a Corps" section for a series of links about some of the organizations.

But why volunteer? The reasons are endless. Unfortunately, in economic times like the present, many college graduates join organizations like Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, or Green Corps for lack of other options. Some individuals may feel the call to give back. Still others, like Dr. Tom Rudel at the Human Ecology Department, apply out of "an appetite for life".

Over all, on top of being a great act of altruism, volunteerism can also be fulfilling on a variety of concrete personal levels. The experiences gained and the people met during volunteer work can lead to personal edification,

acquisition of practical skills, and creation of networks that may be useful in future careers or life in general. Human Ecology Teaching Assistant, Stella Capoccia, feels that the "Peace Corps experience has shaped every aspect of my career since 1998".

If you are looking for rewarding life lessons, or simply a break from school and not ready to join the work force, consider volunteering!

Don't forget Peace Corps Night at the Cook Office Building room 226 April 7 at 7:00pm to hear more from Dr. Rudel and Stella!

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/>

Living the Peace Corps

Ecuadorian rain forests and the middle of African jungles are only two of the places Peace Corps can take you. Read the accounts of Tom Rudel, Human Ecology Chairman and Stella Capoccia, Human Ecology T.A. to find out what Peace Corps did for them.

Tom Rudel

I ended up in the Peace Corps in the early 1970s largely out of an 'appetite for life'. I had been in school for 16 years and I wanted to do something different. What I did turned out to be really different! In the middle of Ecuadorian Amazon, I ran around helping poor people start new lives on small farms that they had carved out of the forests. In some senses I have never gotten over the experience; I have gone back to Ecuador on multiple occasions to do field research, often in the same locale where I was a Peace Corps volunteer (PCV). Overall, being a PCV was a more intense, formative experience for me than any of my schooling, before or after the years in Ecuador.

Stella Capoccia

A year after completing a Bachelors of Science in Biology with a focus on wildlife conservation and ecology, I went to Kenya with the Peace Corps in May of 1998. I took a post as an urban forester in the Bomet District, between the Maasai Mara and the Mau forest. For 2 years I lived there without running water or electricity. In 2000, I completed my service and returned to the states. While working as a wildlife biologist in Arizona, I truly realized the benefit of the Peace Corps. I understood natural resource management differently and geared my work towards collaboration between the human environment and non-human environment. I left AZ to pursue a Masters at Clark University in International Development Community and Environment. My newfound ability to combine community interests with natural resource management led me to the position of director for the Montana Wildlife Center. I am currently working for a Ph.D. in Geography with Rutgers. My main focus is on the influence of non-government organizations on wildlife management in Kenya. Overall, my Peace Corps experience has shaped every aspect of my career since 1998.

EPIB on facebook

If you are a college student you probably have a facebook page. It's ok - don't be ashamed - I too have fallen into the web of online social networks. So show your EPIB pride on facebook too! Search "Department of Human Ecology" and join the group for our unique major. Keep in touch with current students and alumni, network, and meet new EPIB enthusiasts!

Join a Corps!

So you're tired of school, and you don't want to work when you graduate... whatta ya gonna do? If the Peace Corps isn't for you, check out some other volunteer organizations:

- AmeriCorps - www.americorps.org
- Green corps - www.greencorps.org
- Teach for America - www.teachforamerica.org



Earth Hour

Gimmick or Eco-Unity Event

Over 850 cities around the world and hundreds of thousands of individuals will spend an hour in the dark between 8:30 and 9:30 pm on March 28th. Though many think 'Earth Hour' is a giant gimmick, the World Wildlife Fund, promoting the initiative, describes it as "a global event created to symbolize that each one of us, working together, can make a positive impact on climate change".

Becoming increasingly popular, Earth Hour began in 2007. Originally limited to Sydney, Australia, the event made the Coliseum, The Golden Gate Bridge, and Time Square's Coca-Cola sign go dark for one hour last year. Earth Hour can now boast its very own counter events and some criticism.

Mathew Wheeland of EarthBiz.com reports that one of these counter efforts is "Human Achievement Hour" promoted by the Competitive Enterprise Institute. Human Achievement Hour will take place simultaneously to Earth Hour. The CEI has announced that pretty much anyone not partaking in Earth Hour will be celebrating Human Achievement by simply going about their normal routine.

Though Human Achievement Hour may seem a somewhat backhanded yet silly attempt to counter Earth Hour, a more serious critique came from Joel Makower of GreenBuzz: he states, "It is, simply put, a media event in search of actual content". Makower also points out that Earth Hour organizers provide no information on action to take after turning lights out for an hour and the lack of a positive message.

Green renaissance or pretentious gimmick, sitting in the dark for an hour has, if nothing else, at least created some stir and has played some part in bringing climate issues to the mainstream. The real question is can our generation take it to the next level?

Get more info and sign up for Earth Hour at

<http://www.earthhourus.org/main.php>

Read about the controversy at

<http://www.greenbiz.com/enewsletter>

Dr. Clark's Weird Tales

Charles Silveira filed a lawsuit in March in Morristown, N.J., to recover the \$250,000 he had incrementally paid to a "psychic," who said she needed to make a golden statue for him to ward off negativity. The woman also convinced Silveira to buy her a \$700,000 home, but that house is in Silveira's name, and he has asked a court's permission to evict her.

In January, Scott Coy and Darren DeMeio, assistant coaches of the Westminster College football team, were seriously injured after a coaches' convention in Nashville. During a 4 am horseplay-wrestling match, the men crashed through the double-paned window in their fourth-floor hotel room and fell to the ground in their underwear.

Now Playing

Do you watch or listen to Pod-Casts? **Screw'em!!** Start watching "*Eco-Casts*". Take a digital journey to ruggens09.wordpress.com/enhanced and check out the pod-casts created by Dr. Chess' students in her Environmental Pod-casting and Blogging Class.

Learn about tapping-out bottled water, reducing food waste at the dining hall, getting a membership at the New Brunswick Bike Library, or conserving energy in your dorm room. The work is original, inspiring, and well put together! Feel free to leave comments, suggestions, and questions. What would you like to see in future eco-casts?

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-11:20

Eco-Restaurant Review

Looking for a nice cozy place to take a date? Bored and hungry on a Friday night but you can't cook? Have no fear; GustOrganic is here.

I chose this little restaurant on 6th Ave and 14th St. in Manhattan as a green dinner destination. All the products here are purchased through fair trade and are USDA organic, yes that's what I said: USDA ORGANIC. The menus are hand crafted with 100% post-consumer recycled paper, put together with string, and printed with soy ink! The chicken and turkey on the menu are free range, while the beef is grass fed (much lower environmental impact than common corn fed beef). They offer a variety of whole grain and gluten free pasta options, as well as vegetarian and vegan meals. Their bar only serves organic wines and liquors (no sulphites means no hangover heh heh heh).

The portion sizes are sensible and worse come to worse take a doggy bag home. Prices are reasonable too, you can get a meal from \$12 and up. The most expensive item on the menu is \$29 filet mignon. I give this place 5 green leaf approval!!

 PSEG



April

GreenFest 2009 3rd to 5th

A New Jersey Celebration.

The Mission of GreenFest is: Information, Inspiration, and Action. Information will come by way of some of the leading environmentalists in the country. Charismatic and well known speakers will bring the inspiration to our attendees. **Ed Begley, Jr., Bill Nye and Van Jones** all share a passion for the environment and will bring that fire in their keynote speeches to our attendees. Knowledge and passion alone won't save the planet. That requires action. Action is what GreenFest Exhibitors bring to the event.

Log on to <http://pseggreenfest.com/index.html> to buy your passes!