



Western Montana RPCV News

JANUARY 2010

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 1

Upcoming Events

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25,
POTLUCK & NOM
PARTY, 6:00 PM 84
Brookside, Missoula**

**SATURDAY, MAY 22
Potluck, 6:00 PM at 236
Dixon, Missoula**

**JUNE 11, 112 & 13!!!!
2010!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Goat Chase Retreat
Flathead Lake!!!!**



On Wildhorse Island last year!!!

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Happy spring everyone!! It is now time to take stock of what we have accomplished this last year and get ready to celebrate our group's activities once again on the shores of Flathead Lake. The registration form is on page 5. We can't guarantee the great weather we had last year and the outing to Wildhorse Island may or may not happen, but we always have a great time and hope that everyone can join us this year. We are being asked to let the camp know how many people we expect before we show up this year, so the sooner you get your registration sent in, the better.

Thanks to numerous generous hosts we continued having monthly potlucks this winter. In January many people showed up at my place. In February Joe Elliot (Kenya 71-73) and Nancy Volle hosted an enthusiastic potluck. In March Julie Brown (Benin 91-93) hosted a welcome to spring potluck.

Alan and Jennifer Wintersteen (Kenya) hosted a Helena area RPCVs potluck on Saturday March 20. A great turnout of about 25 local folks from age 4 to over 80! Matriarch Jeanne Younger (Honduras 86-88) helped spread the word through her yearly calendar sales in the area to RPCVs. Lots of good food was on hand and a list was developed of RPCVs attending and other friends who couldn't make it. Another Helena area potluck is being planned for the summer some time after the Goat Chase, which several folks mentioned they will try to attend.

Many people also participated in the International Food Fair and Cultural Festival at the U of M in March. They helped out at the Peace Corps information table by sharing stories of their experiences with interested prospective volunteers. Also the first week of March saw RPCVs heading out into the public school system for Peace Corps Week. Thanks to all of you for your efforts and hopefully we will see you at the upcoming potlucks and especially the Goat Chase Retreat in June.

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The WMRPCV Newsletter is published quarterly by and for the non-profit Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

All dues paying members receive a copy and are encouraged to participate in it's creation by sending comments, articles or other submissions to Dennis Bangs 1729 North Ave. West, Missoula, MT 59801, <wmrpcv@yahoo.com>

All newly returned volunteers will receive two free copies before they are requested to join.

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WMRPCV WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

**Mike and Debbie Lee from Helena who were in Liberia.
Phillip Mahle from Thompson Falls who was in Sierra Leone.
Pat and Sharon Sweeney from Huson who were in Lesotho.**



Peace Corps Week a Success!

Thanks to the 13 members of our group who volunteered to speak during the week of March 1 - 7, a great many young people learned of our Peace Corps experiences. Many thanks to all of those who took the time and made the effort to carry out the third goal of sharing Peace Corps with those at home. Our RPCVs spoke in ten public schools, one private school and at the University. We don't yet have a full count of how many students heard our stories, but many times teachers combined classes, which made it easier for the speakers. There were enough volunteer speakers so that most only had to visit no more than two schools. I for example, spoke to four classes at once at Willard School, and when visiting Rattlesnake Elementary, spoke to a first grade and then a second and third combined. The enthusiasm, gratitude and interest shown by students and teachers alike, make Peace Corps Week a truly rewarding experience. Kudos to all! Tish Herries (Sierra Leone 64-66).

The following is from the Montana Kaimin.

UM No. 10 for Peace Corps members again

by Carmen George | February 19, 2010 | Montana Kaimin

In a village without electricity on the side of a 13,000-foot mountain, University of Montana graduate student Amy Quandt served as a Peace Corps volunteer for more than two years, working on projects like constructing a local hospital and promoting environmental education.

The 27-year-old returned last July from Barjomot, Tanzania, a rural village in Africa with about 3,000 residents. UM graduates and students like Quandt have helped rank UM as No. 10 in the nation for medium-sized universities (those with enrollments between 5,001 and 15,000) that produce the most Peace Corps volunteers. This is the second-straight year UM was ranked 10th, with 29 undergraduate alumni serving in the Peace Corps this year and 30 last year.

Quandt, a graduate student in resource conservation, said she hopes those numbers increase. Quandt, also UM's Peace Corps campus representative, said that while her official work title in Tanzania was "environmental education and sustainable agriculture," she had the freedom to work on a wide variety of projects. She helped with family planning education, teaching about subjects like contraception, HIV and AIDS. She also raised between \$6,000 and \$7,000 to help fund the construction of a local hospital. She gained experience with grant writing, project and budget management and working independently and within the context of another culture, she said.

Melanie Forthun, public affairs specialist for the Peace Corps' Northwest region, said UM has produced some high-caliber graduates who are globally minded and interested in service on a national level. Many of these graduates have gone on to be fantastic Peace Corps volunteers, Forthun said.

With 29 UM alumni serving in the Peace Corps, the University has produced more than half of the 52 Peace Corps volunteers from Montana this year. Since its founding in 1961, 743 UM graduates have joined, Forthun said.

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Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 2009 Financial Report

Submitted by Mary J. Younger, Treasurer (Cameroon 1974-76)

BALANCE: Year End 2008 **\$2,158.03**

INCOME:

2009 Retreat Registration	\$1,555.00	
Int'l Calendar Sales		
2009 Calendars	230.00	
2010 Calendars	3,860.00	
Western MT RPCV Dues	740.00	
NPCA Member Dues		300.00
NPCA Dues Rebates		30.00

2009 INCOME **\$6,715.00**

TOTAL INCOME **\$8,873.03**

EXPENSES:

Donations		
International	\$1,125.00	
Fiji Water Project Transfer	400.00	
Montana	906.00	
Goat Chase Retreat		
Facility	1,314.00	
Food	194.04	
Entertainment	400.00	
2010 Calendar Fundraiser		
Calendars	1,600.00	
Postage	120.14	
WMRPCV Website		155.55
Newsletter		
Printing	28.20	
Postage	34.80	
NPCA Individual Dues	350.00	
NPCA Affiliation Dues	20.00	
Office Supplies & General Postage	90.99	
Miscellaneous Supplies	74.06	

TOTAL EXPENSES **-\$6,812.78**

BALANCE: YEAR END 2009 **\$2,060.25**

WESTERN MT RPCV

Membership Profile

January 2010

NPCA: 15
Western MT RPCV only: 53
TOTAL: 68 Members

Missoula Area:	42
Western MT:	16
Helena Area:	3
Great Falls Area:	3
Bozeman Area	2
Out-of-State	2



(Continued from page 2)

“UM is the only (university) in Montana that placed in any of the rankings,” Forthun said. “That’s kind of a nice distinction.”

Since John F. Kennedy founded the organization, more than 195,000 Americans have served in the Peace Corps. Of that number, almost 1,300 have been from Montana, Forthun said. Volunteers have been invited by 139 host countries to work on efforts such as AIDS education, environmental preservation and information technology.

The Peace Corps’ Master’s International program integrates a master’s degree with overseas service in a variety of fields at more than 60 academic institutions nationwide. Forthun said UM’s involvement with Master’s International is a valuable aspect of the university. The School of Education offers an Intercultural Youth and Family Development degree, while the College of Forestry and Conservation offers International Conservation and Development, both of which are part of the Master’s International program.

Steve Siebert, coordinator of the International Conservation and Development option, said students like Quandt have been able to develop projects related to their majors that are supported by the Peace Corps. Including Quandt, there are five UM students currently working to finish this degree option that have served, or are serving, in the Peace Corps. Students pursuing this degree option can choose to use Peace Corps service to fulfill their international work requirements to graduate.

Two students in the program are abroad working on their degrees through the Peace Corps, Siebert said. One is in Honduras working on a forest management study of frogs and amphibians in tropical mountains, and the other is in El Salvador working on forest conservation and community-based conservation.

Siebert said the students are well prepared academically and highly motivated, focusing their Peace Corps work in a way that allows them to produce their own research goals. That experience helps Peace Corps volunteers get jobs after they complete their service, he added.

Quandt said the Peace Corps has a rolling admissions process, but the whole application process takes about a year.



1729 North Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN WMRPCV OR NPCA

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail _____
 Peace Corps country of service _____ Years _____
 Peace Corps job title _____

*****Membership dues expire in June of each year unless you are an NPCA member through the Western MT RPCVs.*****

WMRPCV only, \$15.00 _____
 National Peace Corps Association, includes WMRPCV \$50.00 _____
 WMRPCV Student/Low Income \$7.50 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WESTERN MONTANA RPCVs and send to:
Mary Younger, 100 Erika Court, Missoula, MT 59803**