



Tracker

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NEWSLETTER

a publication of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

Labyrinth Canyon Casts a Brilliant Reflection on the Masters Course

BY BEN LAWHON



Setting up camp on the banks of the Green River of Utah's Labyrinth Canyon provided a spectacular backdrop for a recent Leave No Trace Master Educator course.

When I attended my Master Educator course in the spring of 1999, I had no idea where it would take me. It was early April, and I was enrolled in the first Master course ever facilitated in the southern Appalachian mountains. The course started on a brisk spring morning just outside the Cohutta Wilderness Area located in the Chatahoochee National Forest in northeast Georgia. I had been practicing Leave No Trace skills for years, and had fully bought into the ethic...or so I thought.

Until my Master course, I didn't truly understand the philosophical depth of the program, its roots or its ultimate goal to change behavior through education. When you "live" Leave No Trace for several days in the backcountry with other students who are as eager as you to learn and understand more, it's infectious. What would unfold over the next five days would literally change my life.

One reason that my original Masters course was so outstanding was the broad backgrounds of the

participants and instructors. There were National Park Service employees, Ridgerunners from the Appalachian Trail Conference, U.S. Forest Service employees and Boy Scout leaders on the course. The instructors, one from the National Outdoor Leadership School and the other from the U.S. Forest Service, were excellent.

Although each one of us attended the course to learn from our instructors, we ultimately learned just as much from one another. The course location also added tremendously to the overall experience. The Cohutta Wilderness is one of the largest federally designated Wilderness areas east of the Mississippi. Rich in heritage, natural resources and solitude, it made for the perfect setting to learn about Leave No Trace.

The Masters course, started in 1991, has undergone some changes over the years, but has stayed true to its roots. The purpose of the course, whether a river, stock (horse) or backpacking course goal, is to immerse participants in the skills and ethics of Leave No Trace, and to teach them how to effectively teach those skills and ethics to others.

The Master Educator course is the highest level of training offered through the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, and successful completion of the course is required for individuals to facilitate the next

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THE Leave No Trace INDEX

Number of Americans that engage in the recommended amount of exercise: < 33%

Amount that increased accessibility of open space can boost physical activity levels within a community: 25%

Average annual economic growth rate for states with strong environmental standards: 2.6%

Amount of money Americans spent on outdoor recreation equipment in 2001: \$18 billion

Percent of U.S. land the Department of the Interior manages through the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs: 20%

National park that has the highest concentration of mammals in the lower 48 states: Yellowstone

Number of miles the birds, Red Knots and White-rumped Sandpipers migrate between summer and winter months: 10,000

Bird that enjoys the most hours of sunlight than any other species: Arctic Tern

Average number of miles the Arctic Tern travels annually: 22,000

Average number of miles each Leave No Trace Traveling Trainer team logs per year: 60,000

Length of time each Bald Eagle parent spends alternately incubating the eggs: 34-36 days

Year that Smokey Bear was inaugurated as the Forest Service mascot: 1944

Smokey Bear's very own zip code: 20252

Number of fires reported in wildlands in 2002: 88,458

Number of acres of wildlands burned in 2002: 6,937,584

Amount of money the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service spent on fire suppression in 2002: \$1,661,314,000

Primary culprit of damage after fires in Mesa Verde National Park: Erosion

Estimated amount of time it will take the Wetherhill Mesa pinon and juniper forest to re-grow in Mesa Verde National Park following the 2000 fire: 300 years

Length of time it takes cheatgrass, an exotic weed, to grow back in fire burned brush areas: 1 year

Length of time it can take indigenous sage brush and other shrubs to grow back in fire burned brush areas: 20 years

Factor by which wildfire incidence has increased since 1980: 3

Number of acres invasive exotic weeds infest on National Park Service land: 7 million

Percent of park land (outside of Alaska) infested by invasive exotic weeds: 31%

Percent that elk reduce foraging in sites invaded by an invasive exotic weed called spotted knapweed: 90%

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DISPATCHES

traces in the news

PATTI KLEIN SIGNS ON AS NEW BLM NATIONAL LAND ETHICS COORDINATOR

Greetings from Patti Klein, the new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Land Ethics Coordinator, replacing Stew Jacobsen who retired in August. I am new to the BLM and I love it! I graduated in 1984 from Prescott College with a B.A. in Outdoor Recreation, and have worked in the recreation industry since 1980. My background includes: Outdoor Instructor for Voyageur Outward Bound School, Ski Patrol, Alta Ski Resort, and 12 years as an Outdoor Recreation Planner and Wilderness Manager and Partnership Coordinator for the Forest Service in Salt Lake City's Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

I am passionate about recreation, working with people and teaching Leave No Trace. My position as the Leave No Trace Coordinator gives me the opportunity to be instrumental in taking the program in new directions for both the BLM and Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. My goal is to grow the Leave No Trace program within the BLM by integrating it more broadly into existing programs, while extending it to new groups, specifically youth. I am very excited to be part of the Leave No Trace team and am committed to spreading the program's essential message.



TRAVELING TEAMS LOOK TO A BUSY NEW YEAR:

FAREWELL PETE AND CRYSTAL

Leave No Trace would like to extend a huge thank you and farewell to Peter Borowski and Crystal Bethea. After their busy year of driving to 40 states and logging over 40,000 miles in their Subaru Outback, they are moving on to an abundance of outdoor opportunities, beginning with a through-hike of the Application Trail. Crystal and Peter did a phenomenal job and provided ample, creative teaching ideas. We will miss you both.

NEW ROUTES FOR TRAVELING TRAINERS IN 2004

The 2004 Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainer Teams will hit the road in February. If you are interested in having them stop in to conduct a staff/volunteer train-

ing, conduct an awareness workshop, or attend a special event, please let us know. The best way to submit a request is to log on to www.travelingtrainers.org and select "request a visit" option from the menu. If you have any questions please contact Laura Nilo at either Laura@LNT.org or 303-442-8222 x 106.

2003 WRAP-UP

2003 has been a busy year for the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers. The teams have traveled to 48 states, driving a total of 66,081 miles. This includes visits to: National Parks, USFS, BLM, USFW locations, festivals, schools and colleges, Boy and Girl Scout Events, retail stores, non-profit organizations, and cooperate partners.

Some highlighted stops for the teams- Adirondack Mountain Club, Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Maryland Geocaching Society, Subaru Eco-Primal Quest Adventure Race, 5th Annual Celebrate the Sequoias Festival, Yosemite National Park, Cochiti Lake National Public Lands Day, and the American Mountain Guides Association annual meeting in Red Rocks Nevada. Thank you to both Subaru of America and to L.L.Bean, the official program outfitter, for their support in 2003 and commitment to the program next year. Stay tuned to the Traveling Trainer Event Calendar at www.travelingtrainers.org.

ONLINE TRAINER COURSE REPORTING

In the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics' continuing efforts to get Leave No Trace Trainer certificates to new Trainers efficiently, an online reporting system has been recently developed. Currently, the Center sends each new Trainer a complementary certificate when the Master Educator who facilitated the course submits a course roster including participant information. To make this process easier, Master Educators can now log-on to www.LNT.org and select "Training Course Information." Once on the Training page, Masters can fill out a simple form that goes directly to the Center. Submitting course rosters online is the best way that Trainers can receive their certificates. For more information about Trainer course

Dispatches Continued ...

reporting, please contact Joel Stretch, Membership & Outreach Coordinator, at Joel@LNT.org.

CUB SCOUTS LEAVE NO TRACE AWARENESS AWARD

The Boy Scouts of America have recently introduced a Leave No Trace Awareness Award specifically for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts and Cub Scout leaders. The award is similar to the Leave No Trace Awareness Award for Boy Scouts and adult Scouters that was introduced in 2000, however the information is geared towards a younger audience. There are six requirements for earning the award, and there is a one-of-a-kind patch for those who complete the requirements. For more information on the award, please visit www.scouting.org. Once there, select "Cubmaster or Adult Leader", then select "Awards", then scroll to "Leave No Trace Guidelines." For a free BSA-specific Leave No Trace teaching guide, please visit <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/resources/21-117/index.html>. Copies may also be obtained through your local Scout Service center.

THE CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS UNVEILS A NEW TEACHING ACTIVITY GUIDE

Since 1999, when the Leave No Trace principles were changed from six to seven principles by combining two existing principles and adding two new ones: *Respect wildlife* and *Be considerate of other visitors*, the Center for Outdoor Ethics has been revising all of its educational materials to reflect the change. After a lengthy revision process, the Teaching Activity Guide has finally been completed. New teaching exercises, ideas, games and scenarios are included to help educators effectively teach Leave No Trace. Copies are available from the Center for \$9.95 each. This exciting new teaching guide is a must for all Leave No Trace educators!

LEAVE NO TRACE LABORATORY NEARING COMPLETION

The recently completed Leave No Trace Laboratory Project was an innovative way to target a community with Leave No Trace education and research. In cooperation with local partners, the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics implemented numerous educational efforts and research initiatives aimed at assessing the effectiveness of the education program. Educational work targeted Durango, Colorado area community members of all ages. Research findings showed that the education program appeals to visitors and successfully raises visitor knowledge levels of minimum impact recreation practices. Visitor receptivity to the Leave No Trace program tends to increase when the

information is packaged in practical and colorful ways that address visitor behavior. Research also revealed program weaknesses. Conclusions from the report suggest areas of improvement and potential future research initiatives. Once finally completed, the Lab report will be available for free from the Center for Outdoor Ethics website <http://www.LNT.org> or available in hardcopy for a nominal fee. Stay tuned to the Leave No Trace website for more information.

STATE ADVOCATE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW

As the Leave No Trace program continues to expand, so too has the State Advocate program. State Advocates essentially act as an ambassador for their state by helping coordinate statewide Leave No Trace educational efforts including Master Educator courses, Trainer courses, ad-hoc presentations, Traveling Trainer visits and events for youth. The ultimate goal for the program is to have an Advocate in every state helping to spread the Leave No Trace message.

Over the past few months, several new individuals have signed on to be State Advocates. New Advocates include: Judy Abernethy – North Carolina, Joe Cantrell – South Carolina, Richard Galloway – Oregon, Mark Gleason – Michigan, Karen Heady – Kansas, Steve Johnson – Rhode Island, Jim Joque – Wisconsin and Lindsey Riffle – Ohio. Other states with Advocates include: Georgia, Utah, Connecticut, California, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Florida, Virginia, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Iowa, New Mexico, Alabama, Washington and Arizona. If you are interested in contacting the State Advocate in your state, please visit the "Contact Us" section of the Leave No Trace website www.LNT.org. For information on becoming a State Advocate, please contact Ben Lawhon: ben@LNT.org

REVISED SOFT PATHS BOOK NOW AVAILABLE!

When the first edition of *Soft Paths* was published in 1987, the goal was to expand awareness of camping and travel practices that minimized damage caused by outdoor recreationists in wildlands. Since the first edition, *Soft Paths* has been updated twice to reflect changes in practices that are based on research and practical field experience. The third edition, published this year, contains new information, new statistics, revised graphs and up-to-date photos for those who want the latest additional sources of information on minimum impact recreation. *Soft Paths*, a truly definitive text on Leave No Trace, can be purchased from the Center for Outdoor Ethics.

We all extend our congratulations and best wishes to Leave No Trace's Executive Director, Dana Watts, and her family as they welcomed the birth of a son, Wynn, in September.



LEAVE NO TRACE IN WINTER

As the first snow of the season is beginning to fall in the Rockies, the Sierras, the Whites, and other parts of the country, many folks are feeling that all too familiar tug of the winter world. For many people, winter is the only time to be outside. There is something special about fresh snowfall—the quiet, cold beauty offers solitude, incredible scenic beauty and a chance to hone winter backcountry skills.

With winter use on the rise annually, users and land managers alike are seeing more and more winter recreation-related impacts such as user conflict, inappropriate human waste disposal, unnecessary vegetation damage and serious impacts on already-compromised wildlife. As the number of snowshoers, backcountry skiers, and snowboarders heading out for the day or for extended trips increases, the need to practice Leave No Trace winter techniques is now greater than ever.

Luckily, for those of us who enjoy spending time outside in the winter, snow provides a great minimum impact surface. The following are a few simple things to keep in mind next time you decide to get out and enjoy the beautiful winter world:

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

- > Think about where you are going and learn about the area and any rules and regulations that may be in place during the winter months.
- > If you're heading into the mountains, always check avalanche and weather reports before you even leave your house. Be ready for extreme weather—winter weather can change very quickly. A fun outing can quickly turn into a survival situation.

> Have the right gear and know how to use it.

> It is always a good idea to let someone know where you're headed and when you'll be back in the event something were to happen.

> It is also a good idea to carry a map of the area you're visiting. It's easy to get disoriented when everything around you is white!



FACT: WINTER BACKCOUNTRY USE HAS INCREASED 27% IN NATIONAL PARKS OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, WHILE SUMMER USE HAS ONLY INCREASED 7%.

TRAVELING AND CAMPING

> When traveling, stay on deep snow cover whenever possible. In winter, it's always best to travel and camp well away from avalanche paths, steep slopes, cornices and unstable snow. There's nothing like an avalanche to ruin your day!

> If you're choosing a campsite, look for a durable surface such as rock or snow — try to avoid exposed tundra or other fragile plants. Make sure your campsite is in a safe location, and if possible, out of view from heavily traveled routes.

WHAT ABOUT THIS WASTE?

> Pack it in, pack it out. It's always best to pack out everything you brought in with you. Trash or litter shouldn't be buried in the snow because it will just resurface once the snow is gone. Be sure and pack out all food scraps, ski wax shavings, and other litter.

> In most winter situations, solid human waste should be packed out. If packing human waste out just isn't an option, it should be buried in deep snow, well away from travel routes and at least 200 feet from water sources.

> Snow makes a great natural alternative to toilet paper—cold and refreshing! If you've never tried it, you should give it a shot. If you do use toilet paper, be sure to use it sparingly and pack it out.

> If you're going to be out overnight and have to clean dishes, it's best to use very small amounts of biodegradable soap if necessary. Once the dishes are clean, strain dishwasher into a sump

hole after removing any food particles, which should be packed out.

> Before you leave an area, be sure to inspect it for trash.

> If you've stayed overnight and built snow shelters, igloos or wind-breaks, dismantle them so others won't even know you were there.

FIRES

> Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. It's generally best for winter backcountry users to carry a lightweight camp stove for cooking. If you determine that it is safe and responsible to have a fire, use

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A BURNING DESIRE TO LEAVE NO TRACE
BURNING MAN, BLACK ROCK CITY, NEVADA

It's good to be back out West! Big skies, bigger mountains, and the second-biggest flat spot in the Northern Hemisphere, the Black Rock Playa, home to what some have called "The Biggest Leave No Trace Event Ever" ... Burning Man.

Burning Man is hard to put into words. It defies description! Have you seen the movie, *Mad Max, Beyond Thunderdome*? Remember Bartertown? Imagine Max, his neighbors, the Ringling Brothers, and over 30,000 of their closest friends decide to celebrate Mardi gras in the Nevada desert. They create some incredible artwork and then ...well, they burn it.

"Sounds like an environmental nightmare," you may ask? "No self-respecting, advocate of Outdoor Ethics would attend such an event," you say? "How could you, the pillars of Minimum Impact Piety, visit such a Gomorrah."

Much of our public land is held and managed for multiple uses. Logging, grazing, mining, off-road-vehicles, and, yes, even events dedicated to "radical self-expression" like Burning Man are permitted in some areas. We've been invited to share our expertise with nine new, Leave No Trace Master Educators, the Earth Guardians, in their mission to "educate, inform, inspire, and encourage citizens of Black Rock City to apply Leave No Trace Principles to life in their temporary desert home." How could we refuse? Besides, if they call it "the biggest Leave No Trace event ever," we figured, we'd better have a look!

The Earth Guardians function, as Burning Man's own Center for Outdoor Ethics (albeit, with a markedly-different, Black-Rock style). They have their own traveling trainers, the "Crusaders". Together, we toured the playa promoting and inspiring. They drive a motorized red pony waving a banner emblazoned with "L-N-T". It may not be "Driven by What's Inside", but it turns heads just like our Subaru Outback! While we favour clothes from L.L. Bean, sarongs with fishnet stockings and faux fur are popular Crusader attire.

The Earth Guardians' dedication and hard work have been major factors in reducing Burning Man's impact on the playa. They have worked closely with the Bureau of Land Management to develop policies, standards,

Crystal & Pete



A Leave No Trace flag flies high over this motorized red pony as it stops at the "Earth Guardians" shelter, Burning Man's version of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

and best practices. They have developed stringent clean up criteria. Artists now burn huge art installations on carefully constructed mounds to eliminate fire scarring. They lead hundreds of volunteers, picking up trash and working on reclamation projects.

Is Burning Man really "The Biggest Leave No Trace Event Ever?" One thing is for certain, it is the biggest event where Leave No Trace is "radically expressed" and where you'll find a half-naked advocates gathering micro-trash with chopsticks!

See You Out There,
Crystal and Peter



Subaru | Leave No Trace
TRAVELING TRAINERS

the field

TRAINING DAYS WITH GABE AND MARCIA

Great Smoky Mountains National Park glows in sunshine on this beautiful fall day. Following a three-mile hike from Elkmont Campground, our group of seven arrives at a primitive backcountry campsite. Taking inventory of the area, we search for the best location, one that causes the least amount of impact, for sleeping, cooking, food storage and the bathroom. With no outhouses, catholes will be in order.

We began this two-day Trainer Course with an indoor session covering the history of Leave No Trace, partners, principles, and teaching techniques using lecture, experiential learning, handouts, and multimedia resources.

Marcia & Gabe



A collection of newly inducted Leave No Trace Trainers enjoy a photo-op at the end of their two day in the field, hands on course.

For the remainder of this day and into the next, participants deliver the principles using skits, debates and lectures. We add anecdotal learning points and encourage group discussion. We break for dinner about 5:30. Everyone shares a responsibility—one group prepares the food, another manages the cooking, while the third group cleans up and secures the food from nighttime visitors. Tonight's meal, Marcia & Gabe's famous vegetarian burritos, is a big hit. After dinner, students are given action plans and asked to

list the user groups they want to teach Leave No Trace to, along with time lines, challenges to their teaching plans, etc.

As the evening comes to a close, we ask everyone in the group to describe their day. Have their needs been met? Is there anything in particular they want covered the next day? As we head off to our tents, the owls converse and the night sky fills with stars that appear as ornaments hung from the fir tree branches above us.

In a final activity on the second day, we ask students to draw a picture revealing a time in their life when a connection to the outdoors was established. They also define their personal outdoor ethic. We love this activity as it enables group members to think beyond the principles while considering the development of their personal ethics through their own histories.

An informal graduation where baseball caps and hiking shorts replace traditional caps and gowns is conducted as these new Trainers receive a certificate of completion, a pin and a patch. The hike back to the trailhead is filled with remarkable conversation marking the end of our camping experience and this course. People who barely knew one another before the course have become fast friends.

Course evaluation comments: "The instructors were passionate, flexible, humorous, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and supportive. Marcia and Gabe tapped into our strengths to engage us completely into the learning process." As William Yeats once said, "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." We remind each other that this is part of why we love teaching Leave No Trace.

When it came time to decide on serving as Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers for another year, we asked ourselves, do we have the energy and desire to teach for a third year, to travel 40,000 miles, to visit 40+ states, to educate thousands of people while living from Subaru to tent?

With a definitive YES to the questions above and the support of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and Subaru of America, we will return. Thank you all for a wonderful year...see you in 2004!!!



Masters Course, Continued from page 1 ...

level of training, the two-day Leave No Trace Trainer courses. Not only are Master Educators qualified to run Trainer courses, they can also facilitate Awareness Workshops, short clinics, presentations or simple on-trail contacts with others. Currently, more than 1500 individuals have successfully completed the Master Educator course.

The Center for Outdoor Ethics has two Master course providers, NOLS and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). Between NOLS and AMC, some 20 courses are offered at various locations across the country annually, training well over 100 new Masters each year. This, in turn, leads to the training of thousands of new Leave No Trace Trainers every year.

I recently had the pleasure of getting back out in the field to teach a Master Educator course. I normally co-instruct at least one Master course per year, and lucky for me, it was finally my turn! The course was a canoeing course on the Green River in Utah. Our route was to take us through 68 miles of desert and canyon. The highlight of the trip was the 45 miles that we would paddle through Labyrinth Canyon. Although a seasoned river runner, I had never co-instructed a river-based Masters course, and eagerly awaited the opportunity and the adventure that lay ahead.

As I traveled to Green River, Utah from Boulder, I took stock of where I had come since my own Master course in '99. I had moved from Asheville, North Carolina to Boulder, Colorado to work for the Center for Outdoor Ethics as the Education Manager, I had left family and friends behind and charted an essentially unknown course deep into the world of Leave No Trace. As I crossed the Gore Range, wound through the Eagle River Valley, descended into Glenwood Canyon and made my way into Utah, I began to realize that my Masters course was the

spark that caused me to change the direction of my life in such a substantial way. Just the thought of this was invigorating enough, not to mention the fact I was headed to Utah for a five-day 68-mile trip through an unbelievable canyon with a group of people who's lives might be forever changed because of this course, much as I was changed because of mine.

The author, Ben Lawhon, enjoying a break and taking in the view, while instructing a river-specific Leave No Trace Master Educator course.

As an educator, no matter how seasoned,

there always seems to be a touch of the butterflies before a course, especially a Master Educator course. There is a great deal of excitement—meeting the participants, dealing with the gear and food, thinking about your lesson plans, the logistics and the sheer adventure you're about to embark on! However, once the course starts, many of these pre-course jitters simply fly out the window and you get right in the groove. As we shoved our boats off at Green River State Park, I could already tell that this would be an excellent course. There were people with the U.S. Forest Service from the Boundary Waters, Colorado and Wyoming, National Park Services folks from Dinosaur National Monument, Girl Scout Leaders from California, Educators from Michigan, Bureau of Land Management folks from Oregon and Alaska and even staff from the Center for Outdoor Ethics.

Each day on the river we descended deeper into Labyrinth Canyon, and each day we descended equally into the Leave No Trace program, both the hard skills and the philosophy. It is always so magical to see the transformation of the participants as they begin to more deeply explore and fully understand what the program is really about and why they're floating down a river in Utah with strangers, who by the time we reached the take-out had become friends. The Master Educator course is truly unique. It's one of those rare courses that teaches people how to teach, and teaches them something about themselves in the process—that they too can become stewards of the land, one person at a time. If you're interested in taking a Master Educator course or just want more information, please visit www.LNT.org.

News You Can Use, Continued from page 5 ...

only dead downed wood, if you can find any. All fires should be put out completely, and the cool ashes should be scattered widely. When gathering wood, don't cut or break limbs off live, dead or downed trees.

WILDLIFE

> Winter is an especially vulnerable time for wildlife. Wildlife should always be observed from a distance,

and should never be followed or approached.

- > Feeding wildlife is not good and should always be avoided.
- > Be sure to properly secure your food and trash, even in the winter.

OTHER VISITORS

> It's always in good style to be considerate of other users by sharing the

trails, yielding to downhill and faster traffic and being courteous. When taking rest breaks, try to move off the trail to allow other to easily pass by.

- > Whenever possible, separate ski and snowshoe tracks. Also, avoid hiking on ski or snowshoe tracks.

BUT WE DON'T GET ANY SNOW!

Because we realize that 1) it doesn't snow everywhere in this country dur-

BOMBARDIER: THE TRUE CHALLENGE IS IN THE DELIVERY by Dara Johnson

Two teams line up for the relay. The first person in each line is in the ready position, trowel in hand. The whistle blows. They race to the designated spot, thirty feet from the start line, drop to their knees, and start digging.

Choosing the right activity to provide an engaging component in your lesson is key when teaching Leave No Trace. Activities can be effective teaching tools if used with the right audience, in an appropriate setting, and within the context of a comprehensive lesson. Reading your audience, designing an appropriate lesson plan, choosing the right activity to grab their attention and reinforce the content, and making sure that different learning styles are being addressed, are all crucial components to teaching a Leave No Trace principle. This is what is at the heart of the Leave No Trace Master Educator Course: teaching people how to teach Leave No Trace.

After a few seconds, the team members run back to their team and hand off the trowel to the next in their line. The two teams' catholes are quickly being formed as each team member digs furiously for a few seconds. The last person in the team must complete the cathole to its appropriate dimensions. The referee stands by with a water bottle, ready to drop it into the completed hole to assure its correct size. Each team is done with their hole. The teams are cheering, but it's not over. They are back to the first person in line. Everyone scrambles through the leaves on the forest floor searching for a quarter-size rock. The first person in each line tucks the stone between their "cheeks" and begins to waddle forward, concentrating hard on not dropping the stone before reaching the hole. They squat and release the stone in the cathole, then race back to their team and tag the next person.

The hilarity continues until a "deposit" is successfully made by each member of the winning team. Tears of laughter are streaming down faces, the winning team is being congratulated, and the toughest part of teaching Leave No Trace Principle 3, Dispose of Waste Properly, is checked off the list. No one in this group will ever forget how to properly dig a cathole.



Dara Johnson, the Appalachian Mountain Club's Leave No Trace Coordinator, soaks in the sun and views while hiking.

Master Link

The Master Link was developed to provide updates and new ideas for Leave No Trace's Master Educator Network. If you have an idea about this section or would like to make a contribution, please contact susy@lnt.org

NOLS OFFERS CUSTOM CONTRACT MASTER COURSES IN 2004 By Michael Cheek

The 2003 season of Master Educator courses has come to a successful conclusion, marking the 13th year these courses have been offered. NOLS trained 142 new Masters from diverse backgrounds in a variety of geographical areas. While federal land-management agency participation in these programs is still strong, many other private, non-profit, educational and youth serving organizations are embracing Leave No Trace and seeking the highest level of training for their staff. These groups now account for more than 50% of Master course participants.

"NOLS is offering custom or "contract" courses to deliver the training where there is a demand. If your organization has a core of participants (6-8 people) and is capable of providing some logistical support, NOLS is interested in working with you to bring a course to your area."

Many of these individuals were able to attend due to scholarship assistance from the Center for Outdoor Ethics. One of the more unique groups in 2003 was a team of 8 U.S. Navy Recreation Specialists trained on a sea kayaking expedition in Washington's San Juan Islands. These individuals will be incorporating Leave No Trace into the outdoor recreation programs at their respective bases throughout the U. S. that will reach thousands of enlisted personnel and officers.

In spite of the number of courses offered each year many organizations are unable to have their staff attend due to budget or travel constraints. In response to this need, NOLS is offering custom or "contract" courses to deliver the training where there is a demand. If your organization has a core of participants (6-8 people) and is capable of providing some logistical support, NOLS is interested in working with you to bring a course to your area. Although backpacking is typically the activity of choice for most organizations, we are prepared to offer courses focusing on Horsepacking, Sea Kayaking, Canoeing, Rafting or any other activity that NOLS teaches. This model has potential for substantial cost savings to the host organization. Contact the NOLS Leave No Trace office for details.

Looking ahead, the NOLS 2004 schedule of courses is complete and posted on the NOLS and Leave No Trace websites. Twelve courses are currently offered in some familiar venues and some new ones, with some additional proposals in the works.

Finally, a word of thanks to the agencies and organizations that hosted courses in 2003. Without their efforts we would not be able to offer this vital education.



Michael Cheek, the NOLS Leave No Trace Program Coordinator is hard at work in his office in Lander, Wyoming.

GREAT THANKS TO LEAVE NO TRACE 2004 PARTNERS!

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Adventure Professionals, Inc., Seattle, WA
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Campmor, Paramus, NJ
Coastline Adventures, Poway, CA
Esprit Rafting Adventures, Davidson, Quebec
Footsloggers, Boone, NC
La Cordee, Montreal, Quebec
Les Boises Champetres Des Laurentides, Quebec, Canada
Lost Canyon Ranch, Dolores, CO
Martin Creek Kayak Center, Seneca, SC
Mountain Adventures, Mills, WY
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Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting, Buena Vista, CO
Northwest Adventures, Ellensburg, WA
Outdoor ESCAPES New Hampshire, LLC
Paddle Masters, St. Paul, MN
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Rainier Mountaineering, Tacoma, WA
Rosebud Llama Utah, Fruitland, UT
Sinbad Tours, Salt Lake City, UT
SOLO, North Conway, NH
Sports Basement, San Francisco, CA
Sunrift Adventures, Travelers Rest, SC
The Trail House, Frederick, MD
Track 'n Trail, Champaign, IL
Track 'n Trail, Peoria, IL
Track 'n Trail, Grand Rapids, MI
Track 'n Trail, Grandville, MI
Track 'n Trail/Wolverine World Wide Rockford, MI
Volcano Cowboys Mountaineering, Chester, CA
Western River Expeditions, Salt Lake City, UT
Wet Planet Rafting, Inc., White Salmon, WA
Whitewater Challenge, Old Forge, NY
Wilderness Adventure, New Castle, VA

Non-Profits, Parks & Schools

Yosemite Concession Services, Yosemite, CA
Yosemite Mountaineering School, Yosemite, CA

Adventure Tourism Golden Campus
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
American Camping Association
American Hiking Society

American Mountain Guides Association
Appalachian Mountain Club
Appalachian Trail Conference
Arizona Trails Association
Aspen Recreation Department
Association for Experiential Education
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
Backcountry Horseman of America
Boy Scouts of America
Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center
Camp Chief Ouray/YMCA of Rockies
Camp Tekakewitha
Charles Country, MD Office of Tourism
Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission
City of Largo, Parks Division
Colorado Fourteener's Initiative
Colorado Mountain Club
Continental Divide Trail Alliance
Deer Lake Wilderness School
Educo Outdoor Leadership School
Florida Trail Association
Georgia Appalachian Trail Club
Girl Scouts - Arizona Cactus Pine
Girl Scouts, Lake Erie Council
Go For Green
Grand Teton Natural History Association
Green Mountain College
High Mountain Institute
Indiana University Outdoor Adventures
IMBA
Int'l Sustainable Development Studies Institute
Jefferson County Open Space
Landmark Learning, LLC
Little Miami, LLC
Maine Island Trails Association
Merle Thorpe Jr. Charitable Trust
Mid-East RC & D Council
Monmouth County Park System, Lincroft, NJ
Mount Washington Observatory
National Environmental Education Training Foundation (NEETF)
National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)
Nevada Division of State Parks
New York/New Jersey Trail Conference
New York State Education Department
Niobrara Council
Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Division
Outdoor Campus Engineers
Outdoor Industry Association
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Park Stewardship Through The Arts
Passport to Wellness
Penn State University Shaver's Creek Environmental Center
Randolph Mountain Club
Rocky Mountain Nature Association
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Saco River Project of The Nature Conservancy
San Juan Mountains Association
Santa Rosa Clean Community System (Rivers Watch)
Sierra Club Foundation
Teton Science School
The River Alliance
The Tahoe Rim Trail Association
Therapeutic Adventures, Inc.
Towson University, Campus Recreation Services
United States Adventure Racing Association
University of California Santa Barbara Adventure Program
University of Connecticut Huskyxcursions
University of Denver Alpine Club
University of Vermont Outing Club
United States Snowshoe Association
Utah Conservation Corps
Washington & Lee University Outing Club
Washington Water Trails Association (WWTAA)

Western Carolina University
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Wilderness Education Program
Wilderness Volunteers
Wonderful Outdoor World
Wyoming Chapter of the Backcountry Horseman of America

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MEMBERS OF THE LEAVE NO TRACE
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CAN SAVE UP TO \$3000 WITH THE
SUBARU VIP PARTNERS PROGRAM

Subaru is the official vehicle of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and a long-time sponsor of the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers.

Leave No Trace members are eligible for the Subaru VIP Partners Program. Save up to \$3000 off the manufacturer's retail price [depending on model and accessories] on the purchase or lease of a new Subaru from participating dealers.

To qualify, you must be a Leave No Trace member in good standing for at least 6 months prior to participation in this program. Please contact the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics at 800.332.4100 x106 BEFORE visiting your local Subaru dealer. Visit www.travelingtrainers.org for more information.

Last time we asked the question... WHAT WOULD YOU DO ?

You and your trusty Labrador are running at an area where dogs are permitted off leash. As you turn a bend, you see a doe and fawn about 20 yards off the trail. You have an impeccably trained dog and you are confident that she will stick with you.

Though we always suggest traveling with a leash on hand, the beauty of Leave No Trace is that your informed judgment plays an essential role.

Here is how you responded:

As we turned the bend Sparky, my trusty Lab, and I spotted the doe and fawn about 20 yards off the trail. With a hushed 'quiet boy, sit, stay' I took a firm grip on his leash and silently dropped to one knee. I slowly pulled my camera out of my backpack and took several pictures of the beautiful animals that would last a lifetime. Carefully Sparky and I crawled backwards out of site of the deer and

headed back towards a turnoff from the trail that our map indicated would still lead us to our destination, without disturbing the deer, but staying in an area that dogs are allowed. As we took the turnoff I saw some beautiful purple near-trailias and again produced my camera to take pictures. But first I had Sparky pick up some trash that took away from the setting. He is such a good dog.

Keith Abraham
Tandem Systems Administrator
Convergys Corporation

STOP. Sit the dog, bring her under hand control (scratching the ears, etc.) and wait while you watch the deer move along. They won't take but seconds to go on their undisturbed way and you can resume yours. Running toward or nearly toward the pair will certainly provoke flight even without

the dog's presence and if the Lab hasn't encountered wild animals fleeing before could well give chase.

Jim O'Quinn
Carrollton, GA

I would stop upon spotting the deer and call the dog to my side. Then, I would take the leash out of my lumbar pack and connect it to the dogs collar. Continuing on well past the deer, I might remove the leash. Dogs are animals, and animals are curious of other animals. No matter how well you think you've trained your dog, you can't possibly know what is on its mind. Better safe than sorry.

Jaime M. Weiner
Pennsylvania Search & Rescue
Wilderness EMT

FAST TIMES AT RESTORATION HIGH: ANOTHER NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IS A HIT BY JOEL STRETCH

Weed was flying on September 20th at the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic site in Pennsylvania. Volunteers helped remove over 12,000 teasel heads, an invasive plant, in the area. As part of National Public Lands Day, Kathy Penrod and 78 volunteers ranging from Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, college students, and volunteers from a local senior volunteer program, all came together to help restore public lands in their areas.

At Fort Dix in New Jersey, Mother Nature was not so cooperative. Hurricane Isabel forced them to postpone their event but, despite the inconveniences, they still had 50 adult and 71 kids as volunteers. They just did not want to quit.

On the same day, thousands of other volunteers willingly braved the outdoors to pick up litter, paint, rake, hammer, perform trail maintenance, teach people how to minimize the impact they

have on public lands, and a number of other tasks. There was even an event in Hawaii where 30-plus people spent the day weed whacking. All of this was done without even the slightest offer of payment.

Projects similar to this one were taking place all over the country as a part of National Public Lands Day. As in years past, this day was set aside as a restoration day for public lands and also included education to help reduce the need for restoration in the future.

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics joined the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation and provided educational materials as well as Clif Bars, to participating sites across the country. Kids' reference cards, totaling 4,365, explaining the basic principles of Leave No Trace, 4,590 Adult reference cards, 378 Leave No Trace posters, and 3000 Clif Bars were distributed to 62 sites across the country. The Center celebrates the thousands of volunteers, all individuals who understand the importance of our public lands and the need for education along with restoration.

News You Can Use, Continued from page 8 ...

ing the winter months, and 2) people in snow-free areas like winter recreation for the cool temps, long, unobstructed views, bug-free camping and solitude, we offer the following advice for minimizing your potential impacts: Stick to the general Leave No Trace principles, practicing the same skills and ethics you would at any other time of the year! BL

GIVE THE GIFT OF LEAVE NO TRACE!

The perfect gift!

Leave No Trace membership for those who share your outdoor world: Simply fill out the form below.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE

- * Personalized Leave No Trace membership card.
- * One-year subscription to the Tracker, an informative, quarterly newsletter to keep you updated on Leave No Trace issues.
- * Leave No Trace bumper sticker & reference card.
- * 10% discounts on Leave No Trace educational materials and merchandise.

- * Invitations to attend events and presentations in your area by Leave No Trace field experts.
- * The Membership Resource Guide to help you get involved and stay connected.
- * Eligibility for the Subaru VIP Partners Program (*must be a member for 6 months*) to help you save as much as \$3000 when you purchase or lease a new Subaru.
- * Satisfaction that you are playing an essential role in spreading the Leave No Trace message.

ABOVE & BEYOND BENEFITS

- * \$35+ Membership: receive the North American edition of the Leave No Trace Skills & Ethics booklet.
- * \$50+ Membership: receive the North American Skills & Ethics booklet and a Leave No Trace T-Shirt.
- * \$100+ Membership: receive the North American Skills & Ethics booklet, a Leave No Trace T-Shirt and the Falcon Guide to Leave No Trace.

I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP TO LEAVE NO TRACE.

- \$15 Introductory \$250 Tracker
 \$35 Basic \$1000 Trail Finder
 \$50 Friend \$_____ Other
 \$100 Advocate

Please send an acknowledgement holiday card to the recipient of this membership.

Please send an acknowledgement card to me so that I can hand deliver the gift membership.

In appreciation for this membership of \$50+, we would like to send the new member a Leave No Trace T-Shirt! Please circle the size:

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What Would You Do?

After a seven-teen hour drive to the desert Solstice party of some good friends, you arrive to chaos. A dozen vehicles are haphazardly parked atop vegetation. Two campfires have been started on the flat rock formations. Music pounds from car speakers. There is clearly no trash plan beyond throwing everything into the campfires. Everyone is having a great time. What would you do?

Send your response (150 words or less) to susy@LNT.org. Responses will be published in the next Tracker.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF LEAVE NO TRACE: 1 Plan Ahead & Prepare 2 Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces 3 Dispose of Waste Properly 4 Leave What You Find 5 Minimize Campfire Impacts 6 Respect Wildlife 7 Be Considerate of Other Visitors