

Center for ENVS & MEM Newsletter

Friday, June 9, 2017



**Water Workshop: June 21-23**

In it's 42nd year, the [Water Workshop](#) has been a mainstay here at Western. The topic this year is *Rural & Urban Issues in an Evolving Political Landscape*.

The [Gunnison River Festival](#) follows the Workshop on Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday.

Scholarships for the Workshop are also available. Contact Jeff Sellen at [jsellen@western.edu](mailto:jsellen@western.edu).

**Western's MEM Alumni and Current Students:**

Share your project, share potential projects, ask questions and make connections! Have awesome job opportunities posted or share your post-graduation journey [here!](#) We are all here to help each other. Make sure you follow us on [Facebook](#).

**MEM Housing Options:**

To any MEM student who is still looking for a place to live, please post your available apartments/housing in the Gunnison Valley to the [MEM Student Housing Exchange](#) Facebook page for new incoming MEM students. A good place to check is also the [Gunnison Market Place](#) group or the [Gunnison Shopper](#).

**Events:**

**Mountain Root's Volunteer Opportunities:** There's a lot of work to be done in our community gardens and we need all the help we can get! Here's our permanent summer workday schedule:  
Bill's Park Giving Garden (14th & Georgia)- Sundays 4-6 and Tuesdays 12-2  
Cottonwood Community Garden (12th & Gothic)- Sundays 12-2 and Wednesdays 4-6  
Gunnison School Garden- Mondays 12-2 and Thursdays 4-6  
Crested Butte School Garden- Tuesdays 4-6 and Fridays 9-11 Happy growing.

**2017 Environmental Leader Conference:** From **June 5-7, 2017** at the Hyatt Regency Center in Denver, the Environmental Leader Conference, featuring the Energy Manager Summit, offers a unique opportunity for environmental, sustainability and energy professionals to come together to identify new areas of opportunity to work more collaboratively in addressing their organizations goals. Unlike other conferences, this program unites a group of multidisciplinary, forward-thinking executives to share diverse perspectives and approaches to improving processes and better managing resources. Engage with the industrial and commercial organizations leading the way and go back to your organization with actionable steps to improving sustainability performance and reducing negative social and environmental impact. More info found [here](#).

## *Events and Items of Interest:*

**Annual Midsummer Solstice Eve Party at Coldharbour Ranch. Saturday, June 24.** Food, music and celebration out at the Ranch. 8 miles east of Gunnison.

**NWF EcoLeader Graduate Student Fellowship Opportunities:** In Spring 2014, National Wildlife Federation launched the EcoLeaders Program to help students and young professionals develop sustainability leadership skills and secure great jobs that help the planet. The EcoLeaders leadership and career development program advances a proven model of leadership for sustainability. It draws on the lessons learned over nearly three decades supporting thousands of sustainability projects at more than 2,000 colleges and universities across the U.S. and world through NWF's Campus Ecology, Greenforce, and other programs. Go [here](#) to learn more and apply!

**Summer Immersion Tropical Farm Retreat:** There are two different opportunities: **JUNE 5 - 10:** Summer Immersion, a week-long program focusing on gardening, eco-living, and an introduction to permaculture. And **AUG 17 - SEP 30:** Fall Living Internship, a 6-week course including field projects, community living, and hands-on learning in areas including beekeeping, mycology, agroforestry, intuitive nutrition, leadership and activism, and Hawaiian culture and plant medicine. This is a great opportunity for students to gain skills before farming themselves, or simply gain more exposure to permaculture and holistic living. More info [here](#).

**Second Annual Gunnison Tree Planting Day:** Since 2011, the Gunnison Ranger District has been actively managing a spruce beetle epidemic which has impacted more than 184,000 acres of National Forest. They are seeking volunteers who are interested in planting the forests of the future! This will be **June 10th, Check in 8:30 am – 9:30 am.** Contact: Martin Chavez at the Gunnison Ranger District Phone: 970-642-4424 Email: martinchavez@fs.fed.us. This is 10 miles south of Lake City, Colorado at the Slumgullion Campground (along state highway 149). More info below!

**Youth Conservation Camp in South Fork Volunteer:** The camp is **June 20-22** and is for kids ages 8-13. Right now, they have a need for people with experience in agriculture and range management to do a couple of activities in those topic areas. If you might be interested in volunteering your time with their campers, Bethany Howell, the Executive Director, would like to discuss with you further! (719)-480-4864.

**AASHE's Sustainability, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshop:** Discover how you can help close the opportunity gap, connect diversity and sustainability initiatives on campus, create community partnerships and more through the Sustainability, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshop on **June 28 - 30th.** Go [here](#) to register!

**Summer Conservation Course:** The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute's Center for Conservation and Sustainability conducts research and monitoring to study, understand, predict and integrate biodiversity conservation needs with development priorities of large infrastructure projects striving to be leaders in their areas of operation. The CCS Biodiversity Action Plan Course focuses on implementing best practices in biodiversity management for the private sector. This course will be from **August 7-11th** in Virginia. Go [here](#) for the application process!



MEM Graduate Bandon MacNamara's ENVS 397 course, settling in after a productive day.

**The National Environmental Policy Act Course:** This course from **November 2-3rd** consists of approximately 12.5 hours of continuing education, including 1 hour of ethics. You must let us know, at least 45 days in advance of the conference, the states or organizations for which you will need credit (see registration form). Credit hours for states will vary and are subject to each state's approval and credit rounding rules. Foundation conferences are typically accredited by all mandatory CLE states and Canadian provinces, the AAPL, NADOA and NALTA, and other professional organizations. Attorneys from certain states may be required to pay an additional fee. The Foundation is a State Bar of California MCLE-approved provider. Register [here](#) for the class.

### *Internships/Fellowships:*

**Powderhorn Creek Ranch Summer Internship:** Cindi West, has a HUGE opportunity for one of our ENVS or MEM students (Undergrad or Graduate) to work on the Powderhorn Creek Ranch, a 135 Acre ranch located 30 minutes southwest of Gunnison off CR-25, she has two big projects this year. Here's a brief description of her two projects: The first project, is a work-related project focused on holistic land management, grazing strategies, and organic sustainable practices. Work would entail developing strategies to become more resilient to climate change. The second project, is a water management project related to the development of a newly found water spring on the ranch, work would entail water conservation practices and strategic water use planning to fully utilize this newly found resource. It is a PAID internship (\$\$\$), and you get to stay in "sunny-Gunni" for the summer! Have students with questions call Cindi West for the direct contact @ (970) 641-5644

### *Possible Student Project:*

Currently homes in the old Irwin townsite are required to have leach field and not permitted to install incinerating facilities for human waste. Do leach fields produce more pollution than an incinerating toilet? Investigating these techniques, and the consequences associated with each could be a project that would not only benefit the community, but also the headwaters. Contact Amy Honan ([ahonan@western.edu](mailto:ahonan@western.edu)) for more info (she works in the biology department).

Recent graduate student Nell Jordan created an amazing [video](#) of MEM student Joe Acampora and his Bay Area Puma Project.



MEM Graduate Ayodeji Oluwalana featured in [Tweak](#), discussing his plastic bottle green house and the Master in Environmental Management Program.

# Gunnison Ranger District 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Tree Planting Day!



**WHO:** Everyone is invited! (long pants, boots, gloves and lunch needed)

**WHAT:** Planting 1,200 Spruce Seedlings

**WHEN:** June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Check in 8:30 am – 9:30 am

**WHERE:** 10 miles south of Lake City, Colorado at the Slumgullion Campground (along state highway 149)

**WHY:** Since 2011, the Gunnison Ranger District has been actively managing a spruce beetle epidemic which has impacted more than 184,000 acres of National Forest. We are seeking volunteers who are interested in planting the forests of the future!

**HOW:** Contact: Martin Chavez at the Gunnison Ranger District

Phone: 970-642-4424 Email: [martinchavez@fs.fed.us](mailto:martinchavez@fs.fed.us)

\*Please wear clothing suitable for the weather and volunteers under the age of 18 need to be accompanied by an adult to sign the volunteer agreement.

## *Volunteer Opportunities:*

### **2017 AEE International Conference Volunteer Opportunities**

**We are currently seeking volunteers for the 45th International Conference!**

Click on a volunteer title for more information:

[Ask an Expert](#)

[Attendee and Partnership Recruitment](#) (Earn complimentary access to AEE events!)

[Conference Ambassador](#)

[Graphic Design](#)

[Local Host Committee Opportunities](#)

[Silent Auction Committee](#)

AEE has created a number of new volunteer opportunities for this year's conference. Please take a look at the roles that interest you and contact Devon Binder if you are interested in not only supporting the AEE conference, but in connecting with other members, sharing news ideas and learning new skills.

Contact [devon@ae.org](mailto:devon@ae.org)/303-946-2522 with questions.

***The Crested Butte Wildflower Festival is looking for volunteers for 2017 events.*** This festival has taken place in the Gunnison Valley for over 30 years and strives to build appreciation, awareness, and conservation support for the amazing wildflowers of the area. We do so by offering dozens of hikes, jeep tours, and classes to locals and visitors alike throughout Crested Butte and surrounding areas. [Here](#) is the official website for additional information.

Participating in this festival is a great opportunity for MEMers to get acquainted and be involved with the community. Additionally, it's a wonderful opportunity to network and meet local professionals. The festival takes place July 7th-16th, and you are welcome to volunteer as much or as little as you'd like. Some of the volunteer positions have compensation whether its payment, discounts in the CBWF shop, or discounted classes/hikes.

We are needing volunteers in the following areas:

- Instructors for flower identification hikes (no need to be an expert! Just willing to learn flowers beforehand!)
- Volunteers to help instructors on hikes
- General support for festival operations
- Cashiers
- Photographer for the festival

If you are interested, please email me at [shayhlavaty@gmail.com](mailto:shayhlavaty@gmail.com) with the dates and what volunteer areas you'd like to help with.

## *Some Job Links:*

[Community Engagement and Sustainability Coordinator, Park City, UT](#)

[Resilience Fellow, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, Arlington, Virginia](#)

## More Job Links:

[Communications Specialist III, Department of Health, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, King County, Washington](#)

[Environmental Public Health Planner III, Public Health, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, King County, Washington](#)

[Mekong Program Coordinator, International Rivers, Bangkok, Thailand](#)

[Puget Sound Stewardship Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy, Mount Vernon, Washington](#)

[Sustainability Manager, City of Lewisville, Texas](#)

[Assistant Sustainability Scientist, South Central Climate Science Center, University of Oklahoma, Norman](#)

[Sustainability Compliance Auditor, IKEA, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania](#)

## 'Growing' practice finds Gunnison home

Coldharbour to serve as Colorado's Savory Institute hub

Alan Wartes  
Times Staff Writer

The Gunnison Valley has officially joined nearly three dozen other locations around the world chosen to research and showcase cutting edge grazing and grasslands management practices. The Savory Institute — an international organization dedicated to promoting grassland restoration — recently named Coldharbour Institute as its officially accredited Colorado hub.

"We are very excited to see Coldharbour join the network," said Savory Global Network Coordinator Abbey Smith. "We see that it will bring global recognition to Coldharbour, and the network will benefit from the expertise and experiences of students and faculty at Coldharbour."

Coldharbour Institute is a local nonprofit dedicated to facilitating "education, incubation, and demonstration of responsible personal, community and land practices." The group is closely allied with Western State Colorado University's Master of Environmental Management (MEM) program.

The Savory Institute was founded by Rhodesian ecologist and farmer Allan Savory — who is credited with developing a method he calls "holistic management," in response to the increasing degradation of grasslands around the world. According to the group's website, Savory recognized that grazing itself was not the culprit in declining grassland health. Rather, how it is traditionally practiced is to blame.

"Holistic Management is a process of decision-making



Gunnison-based Parker Pastures has used the concept of holistic management for the past decade. *Courtesy*

and planning that gives people the insights and management tools needed to understand nature: resulting in better, more informed decisions that balance key social, environmental, and financial considerations," the website states.

Though Savory's official involvement in the Gunnison Valley is new — through the Coldharbour Institute hub — holistic management as a local practice is not. Bill and Kelli Parker, owners of Parker Pastures, have managed their operation using Savory's ideas for the past decade.

"Livestock has really been vilained in the West," said Kelli Parker. "And, honestly, there's reason for that. But it wasn't the animals themselves, it was how they've been managed. But they're the only tool we have to regenerate it."

Holistic management, she said, offers a method for doing that.

"Our landscapes are degrading, and nobody can really deny that," she said. "There are definitely ranchers who do a better job than others, but landscapes are in trouble. We see it in increasing invasive weeds, in denuded soil, in a water cycle that's become a nightmare. But when you look at a holistically

managed ranch, it's different."

In the case of grazing, though traditional practices may have yielded economic and social benefit through increased revenue and optimized use of labor, they often overlooked damage to the underlying grassland ecosystem. Savory's holistic approach led him to develop "planned grazing" techniques "to properly manage livestock — mimicking the predator/prey relationships in which these environments evolved."

Savory theorizes that the technique leads to increased soil health, microbial diversity and density, water retention and carbon sequestration.

"We believe (soil health) is the most important work to create a healthy environment for future generations," said Savory's Smith. "In a brittle environment at high altitude (Coldharbour) can demonstrate the power of Holistic Management to regenerate land in this climate. They can demonstrate this for other hubs and producers throughout the world. This is very in line with our mission to restore grasslands."

According to Coldharbour Executive Director Suzanne Ewy, one thing that sets the Savory Institute apart from other sustainability nonprofits is the

emphasis on making new practices economically viable for producers. That means finding and promoting new markets for the products of holistically managed agriculture operations.

"This is absolutely an economic development opportunity for the ranchers and farmers in the Gunnison Valley," she said.

As Savory's Colorado hub, Coldharbour Institute will offer a variety of training programs and workshops to ag producers around the state. In collaboration with Western's MEM program, they will also provide a research platform on local pastures to test innovative grazing techniques — and assess their effectiveness with scientific rigor.

"We are the Colorado hub, not just the Gunnison hub," said Ewy. "It's all around the state that we will begin to bring this concept of ecological, economic and social sustainability to ranching. This will provide a place where people can come and learn and actually see what's going on on the ground."

For more information visit [www.savory.global](http://www.savory.global) or [www.coldharbourinstitute.org](http://www.coldharbourinstitute.org).

(Alan Wartes can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or [alan@gunnison-times.com](mailto:alan@gunnison-times.com).)

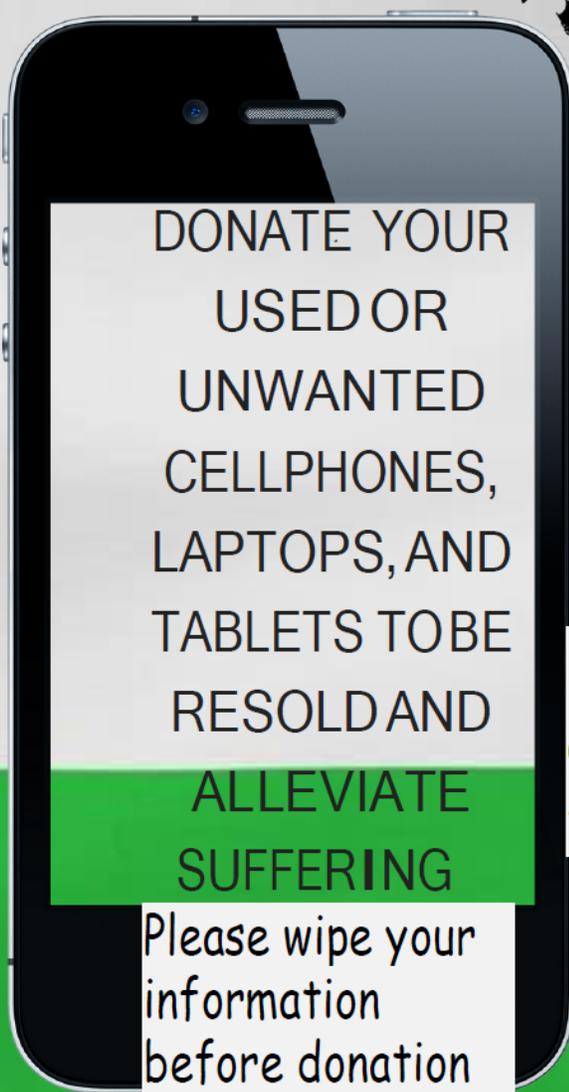
Coldharbour was featured in the Gunnison Times on May 25, 2017. The Gunnison Valley is now the Colorado Hub for The Savory Institute.



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FAMILIES  
NEED  
YOUR  
HELP IN  
AFRICA



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