In recognition of his achievements as the graduating senior in environmental studies who has made exceptional contributions toward protecting the western North Carolina environment, Marc Williams was presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Upper French Broad River Defense Association. In addition to compiling a solid academic record, Williams has pursued his passions for food system, permaculture, and sustainable living as the first residence director of the EcoDorm, student treasurer of the Warren Wilson Board; regular food preparer in the Campus – the student-run vegetarian café member of the Garden Crew; shuttle driver; student representative on the Governance Review Committee; and, volunteer for local environmental organizations including the Minters’ Gardening of Buncombe County and the Long Branch Environmental Center.

Marc Williams is sure to make a positive impact on humanity’s relationship with the natural world. We honor Marc – he grows us hope.

In the past year, with support from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the Environmental Defense Program utilized the work of nine of the state’s leading conservation scientists to create Horizon 2100 – a report that describes the healthiest environment North Carolina could have and encourages the aggressive conservation required to fulfill that promise. Realizing the vision of Horizon 2100 will require that policies guiding the state’s conservation efforts be verified and fundamentally altered.

ELC Partners with Environmental Defense To Realize the Vision

Come Hear Heartstone Poets at Warren Wilson Public Reading

The ELC invites Heartstone Poets to gather at Warren Wilson College for a public reading of their works at Kittredge Theatre, Friday, September 17th. The Environmental Leadership Center, along with Warren Wilson’s Undergraduate Creative Writing Program, serves as the host site for this literary event. A celebration of the poets’ works will begin at 7 pm in the Kittredge lobby. Poets David Blood, Marie Harris, Dee Klein, Sebastian Matthews, Marcy Messer, and Christian Stoltzfus will read from their work starting at 7:30 pm with a book signing to follow. Their books and cd’s will be available for purchase in the ELC.

Heartstone will be teleconferenced to colleges and universities throughout the state on critical policy issues in substantive ways that engage our students while serving the needs of our region and state. We aim to use the lessons we have constructed for wider impact. And in these critical times, we need to be more entrepreneurial, proactive, and effective in constructing “new levers” to accelerate the change process. In the months ahead, the ELC will facilitate four roundtable discussions throughout the state on critical policy issues in collaboration with Environmental Defense. These roundtables are scientific summations available online, as pdfs, and via webcasts. ELC’s work is self-crafted for wider impact. And in these critical times, we need to be more entrepreneurial, proactive, and effective in constructing “new levers” to accelerate the change process. In the months ahead, the ELC will facilitate four roundtable discussions throughout the state on critical policy issues in collaboration with Environmental Defense. These roundtables are scientific summations available online, as pdfs, and via webcasts. ELC’s work is self-crafted for wider impact.
Environmental Leadership Center's vision from the very beginning. A man who misses no opportunity to encourage good ideas and to lend his support whenever needed, Ben's service and leadership have been essential to the ELC's success.

Ben has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as CBO of Key Printing in Greenville, a company that has been widely recognized and honored for its commitment to excellence and service to the community. The qualities that have made Ben a superb business leader are the same qualities that he brings to his involvement with the Environmental Leadership Center.

As an example, we have posted energy-saving tips and statistics around campus to encourage the community to reduce their energy consumption. The Green Primer is assisted by several Warren Wilson College environmental studies students.

Did you know the nation’s idling automobiles create a huge economic and ecological cost? Five minutes of one warm engine, light-duty, idling vehicle burns, on average, .03 gallons of gas and produces 16.8 pounds of high-quality protein every year. In addition, pork, beef.

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WWC Natural Science Seminars – Students Address Regional Environmental Challenges

Warren Wilson science students are diving into the ecological challenges we face in western North Carolina. One of the most meaningful current research areas is the impact of invasive species on the region. Students are teaming up with faculty to study the effects of invasive species on the local ecosystem and to find ways to mitigate their impact.

One student team is focusing on the impact of invasive species on the local bird population. They are studying the probability of different bird species being affected by the invasion of the European Starling, which is an invasive species that has recently been observed in the area. The team is using statistical methods to estimate the probability of bird species being affected by the invasion and to identify potential mitigation strategies.

Another student team is studying the impact of invasive species on the local plant population. They are using remote sensing technologies to monitor changes in the plant population over time and to identify potential management strategies.

These projects are examples of how students are using their research to address real-world ecological challenges. The students are working closely with faculty to develop their research projects and to ensure that their findings are relevant and actionable.
ELC Explores Baja

The next ELC Expedition travels to enric Baja California Sur on the Sea of Cortez. The Big Expedition, January 24-29, 2005, will be a perfect opportunity to experience the outdoor sea-adventure travel with luxury accommodations totally off the grid. We will get EXTREMELY close to 18 different wild and unique animals; bird watch we will learn of the flora and fauna so distinct to this region as well as cultural history.

ELC Expeditions are a wonderful way to immerse yourself in outdoor adventure and true immersion to lifelong stewardship by immersing in a culture and place that is different from what you are used to.

This experience is at a 1:8 student to guide ratio and is offered to those entering the 15-hour per week work-study programs. The next ELC Expedition program call the ELC at 775.3000.

Internships Inspire Next Steps

What becomes of ELC Internships? Environmental Studies graduates claim internships are their most compelling undergraduate experience. Upon graduation from Warren Wilson, many pursue lifelong environmental careers. In fact, more than 33% of Warren Wilson’s environmental studies graduates attend graduate school—far more than the national average of 18%. Warren Wilson should be proud of Warren Wilson College—it is the largest known granite fissure cave in the U.S. The cave will quickly understand why.

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