

# Mount St. Helens Institute 2011 Annual Report



## President's Address



2011 has been another great year for the Mount St Helens Institute. Under the leadership of Hailey Heath, we coordinated over 17,000 volunteer hours supporting a wide range of services for the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Thanks to the great work of Ray Yurkewycz, we interacted with over 5,000 participants in a variety of education and recreational programs. The Institute supported over 14,000 climbers and sponsored 9 college interns. We completed the seismic exhibit at Johnston Ridge Observatory, including a new touch screen interface.

It was a year of significant accomplishments and ended with a big transition. At the end of the year we said goodbye to Jeanne Bennett, who has taken a new position as executive director with another non-profit in the Vancouver area. We are all indebted to Jeanne for her vision, energy and passion for the Institute, the monument and the mountain. She has been the face, the soul and the engine of the Mount St. Helens Institute for the past 7 years. We wish her well in her new position, and thankfully she will continue to be involved with the Institute as a volunteer. See you on the mountain Jeanne!

Our talented staff and committed board worked hard during this transition to make it as seamless as possible. After careful consideration of several strong applications, we selected Travis Southworth-Neumeyer, formerly the Director of Outdoor Science Education and Classes at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, to fill the executive director position. Travis has a strong background in non-profit management, creative partnerships, and outdoor-based programming. We are confident that under Travis's leadership the MSHI team will continue to provide all the service and programs you have come to expect from the Mount St. Helens Institute.

For the Board,  
Bill Kelley, President



# High School Students Learn In Outdoor Classroom

Clockwise from top:  
Enthusiastic bunch from a  
recent excursion. Teachers and  
students discuss the day's  
activities back at camp. Students  
gather samples and record data  
at lakes' edge.



## Students hike up the mountain and come down with invaluable experience in the field.

Ray Yurkewycz (MSHI Science Education Coordinator) and Tom Wolverton (Prairie High School science teacher and MSHI board member) met while working on Mount St. Helens doing biological research. Both were in awe of the ecological stories that the mountain had to tell. Last summer, Tom and Ray came up with the idea to get students up to Mount St. Helens to experience the same kinds of inspiring outdoor research experiences that they did.

Piloted last fall with great success, MSHI is able to expand this program to include 4 schools in southwest Washington with funding from Washington STEM. In order to engage students in meaningful scientific work, this project aims to provide project-based learning through ecological research conducted alongside Mount St. Helens scientists. The hope is that this program will be repeated year after year, with students and teachers tracking ecological changes through the sharing of data from all participating schools.



Students will travel to Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument for an overnight field trip in September. They will learn how to select field sites for study and perform a variety of forestry and ecological sampling techniques using technologies in the field; including GPS devices, clinometers and LabQuest probeware. Students will deposit this data in an online database accessible to all participating schools. Using this data, students will choose what sort of scientific questions they would like to ask and potentially answer.

After returning to the classroom, the students will engage in a post-field trip curriculum that focuses on the collected data. Student teams will use Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint to enter data, analyze the reliability and validity of the data using statistics, generate explanations for data trends and maintain an online database for other schools and classrooms. At the end of the school year, students will present their results and conclusions in a scientific presentation at a conference that includes all participating schools and scientists from the area.



# Volunteers: An Integral Part of the Volcano

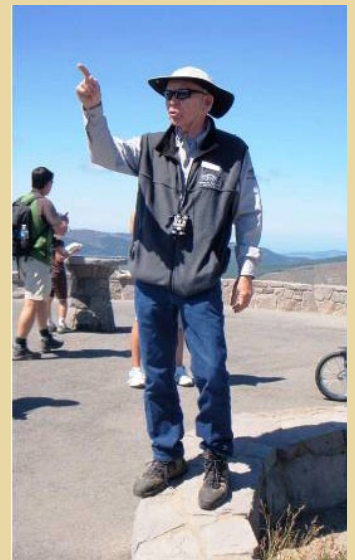
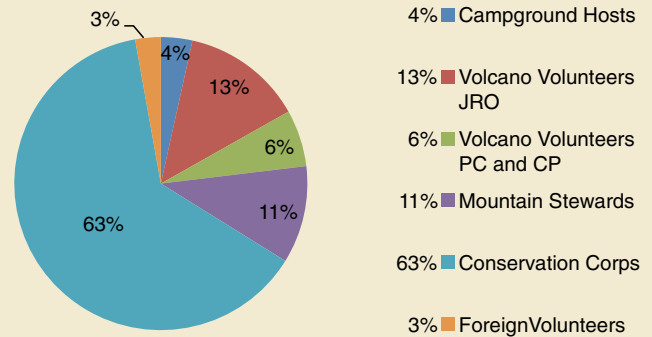
If you were lucky enough to visit Mount St. Helens this season then we hope you were also fortunate enough to meet a Mount St. Helens Institute volunteer during your visit. Institute volunteers around the volcano: help maintain trails, answer questions at local view points and visitor centers, assist hikers and climbers on trails, and much more.

What a relief to stop at a remote visitor center and find the smiling face of an Institute volunteer, someone who can offer a myriad of resources for your travel experience. Volcano Volunteers stationed at Johnston Ridge, Cascade Peaks and Pine Creek visitor centers do just that for explorers each season. These volunteers led hikes, visited schools, and answered thousands of questions. Through the work of these well-trained and enthusiastic docents over 108,000 people were enlightened and inspired. During your next visit make sure to stop and learn from a friendly and knowledgeable Institute volunteer.

Our volunteers bring the Mount St. Helens features and stories to life and help create the experience of a lifetime. Thank you to our almost 300 volunteers for your dedication to service and sharing the Mount St. Helens story.



## 17078 Hours of Service



# Statement of Financial Position

Fiscal Year January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011\*

## Assets: Year End 2011

Current Assets	126,495
Fixed Assets	4,145
Total Assets	\$128,640

## Liabilities:

Current Liabilities/Total Liabilities	50,551
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## Net Assets:

Unrestricted	36,263
Temporarily Restricted	41,706
Total Net Assets	77,969
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$128,519.50

## Statement of Activities:

### Revenue

Donations and Membership Dues	25,503
Foundation Grants	32,209
Agency Contracts	410,716
Climbing Fees	96,958
Merchandise Sales	7,818
Event and Program Income	53,153

Other Income	29,859
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Total Income	\$656,216
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### Expenses:

Science Programs	251,289
Conservation Programs	164,762
Recreation Programs	87,756
Management and General Fundraising	142,638

Total Expenses	\$646,445
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*\*This is an unaudited financial statement.*

# Mount St. Helens Institute Board Members

## Jim Adams

Discover Your Northwest

## John Bishop

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## Peter Jewett

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Salter Joyce Ziker

## Tom Wolverton

Teacher, Battle Ground School District

# Mount St. Helens Institute Staff

## Travis Southworth-Neumeyer

Executive Director

## Hailey Heath

Director of Volunteer Programs

## Caitlin Sinkewicz

Administrative Assistant

## Ray Yurkewycz

Science and Education Manager



The Mount St. Helens Institute operates under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service and is an equal-opportunity service provider.

# Many Thanks To Our Donors!

Your generosity supports our mission to promote stewardship, science, and appreciation of the volcanic landscapes of Mount St. Helens and the Pacific Northwest.

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## Donors and Members

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Ray and Starr Yurkewycz



MOUNT ST. HELENS  
INSTITUTE

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## Looking Forward to 2012

### Events:

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**May 12** It's a Blast: Volcano Science in Your Backyard  
A day of hands-on science fun for the whole family  
*Johnston Ridge Observatory, Mount St. Helens*

**June 2** National Trails Day

**June 23** 6th Annual Weed Rodeo

**July 28 & Aug 11** The Awesome Hike  
10 miles of the most amazing views in the Pacific Northwest  
*Johnston Ridge Observatory, Mount St. Helens*

**Sept. 29** National Public Lands Day

**Field Seminars:** Experience Mount St. Helens first hand through engaging field classes taught by highly experienced and passionate instructors. Classes in Biology/ Ecology, Geology, Natural History, Art and Outdoor Skills.

**Guided Climbs:** Our staff will lead you on the unforgettable journey to the rim of Mount St. Helens

**Into the Crater Hikes:** Join an experienced geologist and biologist as we hike to the base of Crater Glacier, inside Mount St. Helens' dynamic crater.

### New Signs Throughout Monument in 2012

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With the help of American Recovery Act dollars, the Mount St. Helens Institute was able to support the re-design and re-writing of interpretive signs throughout the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Our interpretive writer spent 6 months researching locations, discovering the best new information, finding archival photographs and in some cases, taking new photos. The result of this laborious process is new signs that tell an up-to-date story of Mount St. Helens and the new growth since the 1980 eruption.

For more information on upcoming events, programs, guided climbs, and more please visit [www.mshinstitute.org](http://www.mshinstitute.org)