



# THE RESTORATION REPORT

Winter 2019

## NEIGHBORHOOD ECOLOGY CORPS

### REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES, ONE NATURE PRESERVE AT A TIME



Students hold up Raven Rock's namesake cliff with the help of NC State Parks Educator Sean Higgins and C.H.E.R. President Randy Senzig

Students enrolled in the Neighborhood Ecology Corps (N.E.C.) have been working hard in 2019. They traveled to two Raleigh owned Nature Preserves, Annie Louise Wilkerson and Horse Shoe Farm, to help staff remove invasive species before the spring and enjoy hiking among old-grove forests. Earlier this year, the N.E.C. went to Raven Rock State Park to hike and help NC State Park Educator, Sean Higgins, complete a service project that will be used at Haw River State Park. Students and staff are looking forward to the next challenge, project *Big Sweep* at Walnut Creek Wetland Park in April.

Want to learn more about the N.E.C. and how you can help? Visit our website, <https://www.centerforhuman-earthrestoration.com>.

# C.O.R.E.S.

## Observation Skills and Science with Elementary School Children

C.H.E.R. President Randy Senzig and Program Instructor Holly Theobald visited the campuses of Ballentine, Lincoln heights, and Kingswood Elementary Schools this winter. Students in grades Pre-K to 5 had a blast learning about bluebirds, geology, paleontology, soil, observation skills, and weather. Using the outdoors, students explored the relationships between things learned in the classroom with experiences in nature. Soon students will learn how to properly maintain the bluebird nest boxes on their campuses, where they will record nest data to send to the NC Bluebird Society.

## North Carolina Celebrates Aldo Leopold

### N.E.C. Students Help Honor Conservationist

Five N.E.C. students helped C.H.E.R. staff at Historic Yates Mill County Park to Celebrate one of the nation's first conservationists, Aldo Leopold. Wake County Audubon and NC Bluebird Society volunteers led outdoor programs while C.H.E.R. team members discussed NC Geology. N.E.C. students helped children make Earth Bracelets, which were used to teach ecology principles through relationships. Overall, it was a bright day to get outside and celebrate nature.



Left to right: CHER President Randy Senzig, N.E.C. Students Mikiya, Elijah, Nicole, and Mariah.

## Volunteer and Internship Opportunities

### Spring and Summer Openings Are Now Available

If you are interested in helping bring children to a closer relationship to nature, please apply for our volunteer and internship positions. For more information, visit our website or email us at [humanearthrestoration@gmail.com](mailto:humanearthrestoration@gmail.com).

## Nature Now

### Bluebirds

Now is the time to install, clean-out, or prepare your Bluebird Nest Boxes! Bluebirds begin nesting in March, and they are already looking for suitable sites. To help attract these beautiful birds to your yard, provide them with mealworms, suet, or sunflower seeds.



Photograph Courtesy Of: [NestboxBuilder.com](http://NestboxBuilder.com)

## Upcoming Events

### Big Sweep

On April 13 Walnut Creek Wetland Park will host this bi-annual stream/park clean-up. C.H.E.R. and N.E.C. will participate in the cleaning of Walnut Creek Watershed. Please volunteer and come out to help.

### Leopold Education Project

C.H.E.R. will partner with Historic Yates Mill County Park to host the Leopold Education Project May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This event is geared towards informal and formal educators. The mission is to provide teaching tools to help students "see the land, understand what they see, and enjoy what they understand."

## Ross Andrews Nature Poetry Contest

This annual contest is dedicated to celebrating the life and work of C.H.E.R. co-founder Ross Andrews. We will accept entries until March 31, 2019. There will be winners in five categories, k-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, and Adult. The winning poems will be read by their authors at Historic Yates Mill County Park on April 26<sup>th</sup>. To learn more about Ross and the contest, please go to our website or email us at [humanearthrestoration@gmail.com](mailto:humanearthrestoration@gmail.com).

## Summer Camp Wind Eagle

C.H.E.R. will host Summer Camp Wind Eagle during the weeks of June 17-21 and July 8-12 at Historic Yates Mill County Park. This is a week-long day camp for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. See our website to register.



Rebecca Cope, Assistant Manager/Director of Programs of Historic Yates Mill County Park, explaining 18<sup>th</sup> century farming techniques to our campers.