



S H A D O W C L I F F

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Box 658, Grand Lake, CO 80447 970.627.9220 www.shadowcliff.org

March 2009

The Shadowcliff Experience

by Robert J. Mann, Co-Director

"I think that what we're seeking is an experience of being alive, so that we actually feel the rapture of being alive" ~ Joseph Campbell

In 2002, Shadowcliff adopted the phrase "inspiring the journey" as a way of communicating the special place that we want to hold in the lives of our guests. Shadowcliff is more than vacation lodging or great educational opportunities. Shadowcliff is a mountain sanctuary where memories are created: memories of time together, of family, of new friends, of pine trees and pine beetles, marmots, deer, elk, moose and chipmunks and of being up close and personal with the beauty and lessons of the natural world.

In these mountains, sitting by the streams, hiking the trails, our senses come alive. Guests hear with new ears, smell in a new way, walk with renewed awareness of their surroundings and see the sacred everywhere. Life is old in these mountains. Oceans once covered Shadowcliff and seashells and fossils are still found along high mountain trails and passes. With hopeful eyes, Shadowcliff guests reconnect with nature. Tensions ease as they become more at peace with themselves and the world around them. Lives change, commitments are made and new dreams arise.

At the heart of the Shadowcliff experience is the affirmative commitment to live our values. Shadowcliff guests can feel the vitality of these values simply in the way volunteers, staff and guests honor this place and those who make it part of their lives. This is the reason nearly 80 percent of Shadowcliff groups, individual and cabin guests return year after year. This is a mountain sanctuary where lessons are learned and guests, volunteers and staff leave inspired for the journey.



Shadowcliff Education

The fulfillment of Shadowcliff's mission calls us to explore and expand the opportunities for education in all that we do in day-to-day operations as well as in the services we offer our guests. As highly as we regard this modeling role, we are equally committed to affirmative pro-active teaching of the principles and values that are critical to creating a climate for a restorative world.

Shadowcliff Facilitated Workshops

In 2002, Shadowcliff launched its first multi-day Sustainability Series Workshop. These workshops, facilitated by Shadowcliff faculty, have increased in number and impact during each succeeding year. In 2008 there were six such workshops with attendees including mayors, federal and state agencies, CEOs of major corporations and not-for-profit organizations. Shadowcliff workshops emphasize the interdependence of all of creation and the lessons that nature offers to the human family as well as practical tools and strategies for addressing those challenges in creative and effective ways.

Shadowcliff workshops are often strategic planning experiences applying the principles of sustainability, which inspire participants to plan actions to be implemented when they return to their home communities and work places.

Ongoing Educational Opportunities

Shadowcliff staff offer interactive nature hikes on a regular basis. The hikes are usually one to three hours in length, are offered weekly at no cost to guests and incorporate teachings about nature, Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) and

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Shadowcliff Experience, cont.

the important lessons nature offers to the human family.

Each week a Rocky Mountain National Park ranger visits Shadowcliff to share stories and educational opportunities of RMNP with Shadowcliff guests. Continuation of this and other ways of intentionally connecting with RMNP and the Rocky Mountain Nature Association are an important aspect of Shadowcliff's educational emphasis.

Periodically, Shadowcliff staff offer additional educational opportunities to guests, such as an evening program or presentation on issues related to the Shadowcliff mission.

Facilities as Educational Message

To be restorative, we must always be conscious of our everyday choices in everything that we do as an organization. This includes the energy we use, the materials we use for construction or repairs, the meals we provide to our guests, the diversity of our staff, our transportation choices and dozens of other daily choices we make as a part of our operations. We don't claim to have all of the answers, but do hold ourselves accountable for making conscious choices in these areas and remaining ever vigilant for new and better choices each year.

Food Choices as Educational Message

We like to think of Shadowcliff's kitchen as a compassionate kitchen, a place where the food we prepare and serve is a further expression of the principles of sustainability and hospitality that guide our meal service as part of the overall Shadowcliff experience.

By modeling ethical choices that result in tasty and nutritious meals, served with care and attention, we show guests and staff alike one more way to bring our daily decisions into alignment with a sustainable, restorative world. From planning menus to buying, preparing, serving and, ultimately, disposal of waste, our goal is to live both well and lightly on the Earth.



To learn more about all that Shadowcliff offers, visit www.shadowcliff.org. We hope you choose to join us soon and gain first-hand knowledge of the *Shadowcliff Experience*.

Shadowcliff Strategic Planning and Sustainability Workshops

Clearly the times are changing, as are the economic and natural climates. We must develop systems-based thinking that permits us to address multiple problems. This is at the heart of the principles of sustainability; recognizing and acting upon the interconnectedness of our all of our decisions.

In the trenches of municipal and state government, businesses large and small, educational institutions and churches there are many questions about what to do and how to do it. How do we reduce our carbon footprint? How do we reduce our energy and water use, transportation impacts, purchasing and supply chains? How do we educate our communities, our employees and constituents? And how do we do all of this in the midst of very difficult economic times and collapsing job markets?

These questions do not lend themselves to boilerplate responses. They cry for collaboration and often for outside leadership.

This is the gift of Shadowcliff's Sustainability Workshops. For the last seven years, Shadowcliff's faculty have led sustainability action-planning workshops focusing on strategic planning for individuals, governments and organizations and incorporating the principles of sustainability.

If your organization is interested in exploring a strategic planning workshop for 2009, please contact Bob Mann at 970-627-9220 or rjm@shadowcliff.org as soon as possible.

Spring Silent Auction

Shadowcliff will host its fifth annual silent auction as part of our Memorial Day Volunteer Weekend and Celebration. The auction will be Sunday afternoon May 24 and is open to all volunteers and the local community. If you have special items to contribute please mail or bring them to Shadowcliff or send them with a friend. This is a great way to support Shadowcliff and add a fun event for the Volunteer Weekend.

If you have questions, contact Joan at joangrant@comcast.net. If you are unable to join us in May, you may still send interesting items to support the auction!





Volunteers Join Staff for May Projects

May is Volunteer Month at Shadowcliff, one of our richest traditions. Last May, about 30 volunteers spent time with us during the three weeks preceding Memorial Day and another 30 or so arrived for the annual Memorial Day Volunteer Weekend. The Shadowcliff board coordinates the Memorial Day work weekend and we already have some great new projects waiting for you!

Sometimes we get a little crowded on Memorial Day, so you may want to consider joining us earlier in the month if that is more convenient for you. Please call Judith and let us know you are coming, when you will arrive and how many are in your party so we can reserve a room for you. If you have not already done so, please call 970-627-9220 or e-mail judith@shadowcliff.org.

In appreciation for the great work of our volunteers, Shadowcliff invites volunteers to return in the fall for a weekend of play! Please save Friday September 18 to Sunday September 20 as Shadowcliff's gift to its volunteers this year. We have scheduled the weekend while the Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre (RMRT) is still in residence so that volunteers may attend, if interested. Order show tickets early as RMRT consistently performs to sell-out crowds.

Wish List for 2009

Shadowcliff is dependent upon those who love and care about its presence as a mountain sanctuary and a place to learn to live in more sustainable ways on the planet. We have some special needs for next season and would appreciate any way that you or your organization can help support our mission. Call Judith at 970-627-9220 or e-mail judith@shadowcliff.org.

- Contributions to underwrite the costs of this newsletter
- Composite decking with recycled content for exterior decks and stairs
- New mattresses (we replace a few each year)
- Volunteers for May 2009 (*see volunteer article, above*)
- Large pull-down or free standing projection screen for workshop presentations
- Hammocks for cabins
- Queen size quilts or bedspreads
- Carbon offsets
- Contributions for the new stove/fire suppression system
- Native plants and shrubs for the Welcome Garden

Shadowcliff Needs You!

Shadowcliff is experiencing many of the same economic pressures as the rest of our society. We have more vacancies in cabins and in our Sustainability Workshops than we've had for several years. There are many ways that those of you who love Shadowcliff can treat yourselves and support Shadowcliff this season. Here are just a few ideas:

- If you are planning a vacation this summer or early fall, come to Shadowcliff and support our long-term mission while experiencing a wonderful mountain getaway.
- If you are one of the many people who have had difficulty finding an available date in one of our cabins, this is the year to check us out! To offer additional incentive, we have reduced the minimum stay for post-March 1 reservations from seven nights to a minimum of three.
- If you have previously been a lodge guest, consider a cabin on the river for 2009. It is a very different experience.
- Is it time for your family to explore a low cost family reunion or just gather in the mountains for time together? Shadowcliff is the place and we still have some great dates available
- Is your business, church or not-for-profit organization struggling with its responses to a changing economy? Shadowcliff offers strategic planning workshops and retreats using the principles of sustainability to focus on problems specific to your organization (*see workshop article, page 2*).

The following dates are available for cabin rentals in the 2009 season. Fireside Cabin rates are \$175 per night for the entire cabin, up to six persons; \$125 per night for the upper level only, up to four persons; \$100 per night for the lower level only for two persons. Riverbend Cabin is available for \$125 per night for up to four persons. There is an add-on charge of \$11 per night for each additional person in the cabins. Cabins may be rented for a three night minimum stay. For reservation information, contact Judith at www.Shadowcliff.org or 970-222-8285.

Fireside Cabin	Riverbend Cabin
May 23-May 29	May 23-29
May 30-June 5	June 13-26
June 6-26	July 18-24
June 27-July 3, lower only	August 1-14
August 8-14	August 22-September 4
August 22-September 4	September 19-October 3
September 12-October 3	



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Please Join Friends of Shadowcliff

Friends of Shadowcliff is an annual membership group whose purpose is to support Shadowcliff and its mission through gifts of money, time and service. Friends of Shadowcliff (FOS) provides a source of financial support to help sustain Shadowcliff's mission and to build upon the 40-year commitment to the dream that has become Shadowcliff today. During the next several years, these funds will be used for necessary property improvements and to enhance our outreach efforts.

Friends of Shadowcliff members receive certain membership benefits as a "thank you" for their commitment to helping make Shadowcliff sustainable for future generations. The benefits include the first opportunity for cabin reservations, the Shadowcliff newsletter and an invitation to a weekend of service each Memorial Day. FOS group members may reserve lodge accommodations two years in advance (all others are limited to one year in advance).

New gifts of \$100 or more will receive a set of note cards featuring our own Shadowcliff photographs. New Sustaining members will also receive a Shadowcliff T-shirt.

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Type of Membership:

Individual\$50

Family \$100

Group\$100

Sustaining Individual\$500

Sustaining Family\$750

Sustaining Group\$1000

Other\$_____

Visa/Mastercard accepted by completion of the following information:

____ Visa ____ Mastercard

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to 520 N Sherwood, #32, Fort Collins, CO 80521

E-mail Newsletter Policy



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If your e-mail address has changed or if you want to be sure that we e-mail the newsletter to you, just let us know at judith@shadowcliff.org. We will not distribute this e-mail list to anyone without your consent.

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NOTE: We are upgrading our data base so please bear with us during this transition.