

# Voices of Women in Experiential Education



WPG: Women's Professional Group Newsletter  
Professional Affiliation Group of AEE



Volume 14, Issue 2

Created by Anja Whittington

Summer 2009



## WPG Hero: Nadine Budbill Executive Director Girls Move Mountains

[www.girlsoutdoors.org](http://www.girlsoutdoors.org) – Marjorie Morgan

Have you ever felt like you're a little isolated as a woman who loves outdoor activities, or that you're working in a male-dominated industry? Ever felt a little bit different from your male counterparts in the way you approach your outdoor adventures? Ever thought like you'd rather be taught skills by a female instructor, or that you'd like to learn in a single gender environment? Or wondered what it would have been like if you'd been introduced to the outdoors as a young girl? Or perhaps were interested in looking at ways in which you could improve your instructing for women in both co-ed and single-gender groups?

GO! Girls Outdoors ([www.girlsoutdoors.org](http://www.girlsoutdoors.org)) was set up in February 2009 as a resource for women involved in outdoor activities and/or working in the outdoor industry. The aim of the site is to provide a communication and support network, an information hub, a resource base and a variety of inspirational role models, all for women who love the outdoors. The website and a study/information gathering trip to the USA and Canada was initially funded by a scholarship I received from organisations within the Queensland Government in Australia.

I have been an outdoor enthusiast since high school and worked as an outdoor educator and outdoor guide/instructor for many years. When I was working as a freelance outdoor instructor and guide, I never had any trouble finding work because the industry seemed to be lacking women

Nadine Wolf Budbill is the Executive Director of Girls Move Mountains, a non-profit organization located in Wolcott, Vermont. She has been an AEE member and WPG member for the past three years. She is named the WPG Hero for her contributions to promoting girls in the outdoors—more specifically mountain biking and for the fact that she just recently moved back to Northern Vermont to develop a year-round non-profit organization.



Nadine has a B.A. in Race and Gender Studies from Hampshire College and a M.A. in Education from Prescott College. Included are a bunch of questions to get to know Nadine:

**What are your passions?** Mountain biking. Watching spring bust forth from the dormancy of winter with ferocious life force. Making a difference.

**What is something you are proud of?** Bringing my skills, expertise, and passion for working with girls back to my home community after many years away.

**What do you like about working with women/girls?** It's unbelievably fulfilling!

## Go Girls Continued

with higher levels of technical skill. I always wondered why there were less women than men in the industry, particularly in leadership and management roles, in the higher levels of technical competence and in the higher perceived risk activities such as white water kayaking and rock climbing.

When I left the industry to study teaching I had the opportunity to choose a topic for a paper and presentation so I chose to write about the needs of women in outdoor education. I found out that there was a small body of research on the topic, all of which stated that women have a different way of perceiving outdoor activities and therefore different needs from men in an outdoor environment.

I found out that the key needs of women in the outdoors are support and positive role models. In 2008 I obtained a Diploma in Outdoor Recreation through a Cadetship Program, associated with which was a scholarship. I decided that I would apply for the scholarship to fund a project that would provide women with a support network, role models and a source of information. I applied, received the scholarship and GO! Girls Outdoors was born!

GO! Girls Outdoors supports women who love the outdoors by providing them with the support and role models that research indicates they need. The forum on the website provides a place to discuss issues, swap stories, compare notes and gather information. The resource pages are being developed for each outdoor activity and will provide a comprehensive list of organisations, businesses, research papers and websites specific to women and the outdoors. The profiles feature a wide variety of women who are pursuing outdoor activities, either for pleasure or for a career, as well as trip reports and gear reviews.

A key aspect in the development of GO! Girls Outdoors was the study and information gathering trip that I undertook to the USA and Canada in 2009. I spent March and April travelling around North America meeting with people, writing profiles, gathering resources and promoting the website. It was a highly successful trip – I was able to gather a significant number of profiles, increase readership and make a large number of valuable contacts. It was inspiring to meet with so many passionate and dedicated women who are following

## ...WPG Hero continued...

**What are the challenges and rewards of starting a non-profit organization?** The challenges: Working too much and wearing a ridiculous number of hats (Executive Director, Fundraiser, Administrative Assistant, Program Director, Outreach Coordinator, etc.!) The rewards: Doing EXACTLY what I want to be doing and loving it.

**What is your favorite Quote:** "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." Helen Keller

**Where do you hope to be ten years from now?** Doing good work in the world, running a sustainable, viable, thriving organization/business AND living a life that prioritizes community, play, relaxation, and joy.

**Nadine is also an avid writer. Included is one of her most recent pieces:**

### hurricane voices

audre lorde said:  
*your silence will not protect you*  
so we are mending the pathways between  
lungs, throat, mouth, voice

sonia sanchez said:  
*we need your hurricane voices*

so we speak syllables of sound  
pounding harder than rageful fists  
gonna take this hurricane voice  
these tornado words  
this is not the time for silence

we must speak  
when boys dominate sports fields, public spaces and  
classrooms  
when videos games, tv, movies and magazines  
distort women into sexual objects

use women's bodies to sell products  
when you are harassed, whistled at, stared at  
when a girl or woman you know is raped  
when you are sad and angry  
when you are inspired  
when you think you have the answer

## GO Girls Continued

their dreams and doing a job that they love, and I have done my best to make sure this is reflected in the profiles on the website.

GO! Girls Outdoors has been accepted with enthusiasm and a great deal of support by many members of the outdoor community and the general public. It has been said to be a well written and valuable resource for women in the outdoors, and for men interested in the issues that can face women in the outdoor environment. Reader numbers and page hits have grown steadily since the website was introduced. I have promoted the website in a wide variety of places, including online, in magazines and newsletters, on local radio and through lecture presentations. I will be continuing to run the website from my home in Tasmania, Australia.

GO! Girls Outdoors has generated a fantastic response and a large amount of support from a wide variety of people in the outdoor industry – including men who are often interested in what they can learn from the site! I strongly believe it is a valuable international resource, a unique support and communication network and a great source of inspiration for women who are involved in outdoor activities or would like to be. I am dedicated to continuing and developing GO! Girls Outdoors into the future and will do everything in my power to make this happen.

If you would like to support GO! Girls Outdoors, there are several ways to do so. First, the more readers the better the resource, so tell as many people as you can, join the forum and consider creating links to the site. Second, it is also possible to contribute to the site, either by being the subject of a profile, listing your organisation or resource or contributing an article to the monthly blog carnival.

Third, I'm in the process of attempting to secure sponsorship and sell advertising because the site costs money to run and maintain, and any help with contacts or donations is greatly appreciated.

Meet the woman behind the brainstorm and the work-MARJORIE!!!!



## WPG Preconference

Would you like to spend a day and a half getting to know incredible women who happen to be outdoor and experiential educators? Would you like to learn new skills, refresh old ones, share your experiences and laugh a lot? Would you like to be inspired as well as inspire others? Then this is the preconference for you! We will have a blend of activities ranging from interactive presentations to outdoor fun and learning about working with young girls and women as well as sharing our own experiences.

Denise is in the process of planning a pre-conference workshop for the International AEE conference in 2009.

Here are some preliminary details:

**Title:** Women's Outdoor Skills Conference and Retreat

**Date/Time for Beginning of Event:** 4pm, Tuesday October 27

**Date/Time for Ending of Event:** 10am Thursday, October 29

**Pre - Conference Length:** two nights/1 ½ days

**Costs to participants:** Cost - \$ 115 We will provide meal / snacks Tuesday evening, 3 meals on Wednesday, B-fast Thursday as well as lodging for Tuesday and Wednesday night.

**Location:** TBA

*Join us for this wonderful time together.  
Prior preconference workshops*

## WPG T-Shirts

Denise wants to create a new WPG t-shirt. Do you remember and love the one from the last few years? Then please get involved. Denise is accepting logos/designs for a new t-shirt design. Have a good idea please contact her at [dslifeventure@gmail.com](mailto:dslifeventure@gmail.com).

## In the News

### Research

Megan Pope a graduate student at Oklahoma State University is investigating factors that influence women's career development in outdoor leadership. This study is based on content drawn from a research study conducted by Dr. T. A. Loeffler in 1994, and is intended to update that study with information regarding women's career experiences today. The survey has 30 questions, including questions about the organization at which you work (such as personnel policies and approximate pay scales), and questions about yourself (such as career expectations, social support, and opinions about women's career development), and should take roughly between 30 to 40 minutes to complete. This survey is open to both men and women. Your participation is greatly appreciated!!! For more information or to access the survey, please visit: <http://frontpage.okstate.edu/coe/meganpope/index.htm>.

Any questions please contact Megan at [meganpope@okstate.edu](mailto:meganpope@okstate.edu)

### WPG Co Chair

**In November Anja Whittington will be stepping down from her position as co chair for the Women's Professional Group. Interested in serving in this three year commitment please contact Denise at [dslifeventure@gmail.com](mailto:dslifeventure@gmail.com).**

## Newsletter Submissions

### HELP!!

Let me put this out here I am running out of materials....please send submissions to

[anja.whittington@umpi.edu](mailto:anja.whittington@umpi.edu).

We welcome poetry, writing about trips, topics about girls and women, and any other tidbits of news that we should know about. Please don't hesitate to contact me with an idea!!

### National Girls Collaborative Project

The vision of the NGCP is to bring together organizations throughout the United States and Puerto Rico that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The goals of NGCP are to:

1. Maximize access to shared resources within projects and with public and private sector organizations and institutions interested in expanding girls' participation in STEM.
  2. Strengthen capacity of existing and evolving projects by sharing promising practice research and program models, outcomes and products.
  3. Use the leverage of a network or collaboration of individual girl-serving STEM programs to create the tipping point for gender equity in STEM.
- (taken from the NGCP website)

The National Girls Collaborative Project has many regional collaboratives with opportunities for organizations to work together and obtain mini grants to implement programs for girls. Do you work for an organization that integrates science or technology in program and planning then check out this site:

<http://www.pugetsoundcenter.org/ngcp/>

## Contact Information

**Website:** [www.aee.org](http://www.aee.org)  
Professional Groups

**Email:** [wpg@aee.org](mailto:wpg@aee.org)



### WPG Chairs

Anja Whittington [anja.whittington@umpi.edu](mailto:anja.whittington@umpi.edu)  
Denise Ouellette [dslifeventure@gmail.com](mailto:dslifeventure@gmail.com)  
Sara Boilen [sarapgb@gmail.com](mailto:sarapgb@gmail.com)

### WPG Regional Contacts

#### **Rocky Mountain:**

Anna Ridder [aridder@eaglerockschool.org](mailto:aridder@eaglerockschool.org)

#### **West:**

Nina Roberts [ns\\_roberts@earthlink.net](mailto:ns_roberts@earthlink.net)

#### **Northwest:**

Donna Drader [dlroincz@wsu.edu](mailto:dlroincz@wsu.edu)

#### **New England:**

Laura Perry [perryla@gmail.com](mailto:perryla@gmail.com)

### AEE's 37th Annual International Conference

Join us for a variety of events at the Annual conference being hosted in Montreal, Canada on October 29th-November 1st. We will host a preconference workshop and several activities throughout the conference. Please check the directory for times and events.

## Submissions

Voices is edited by WPG Chairs each quarter or as time provides based on chair duties and volunteer involvement. The newsletter is published via pdf format and sent to WPG members & friends as well as posted on the website.

### Submissions

Voices is seeking submissions on various subjects and in various forms. Submissions should reflect the WPG and AEE missions.

- Essays
- Research
- Accomplishments
- Insights
- New Resources
- Articles
- Poems
- Activities & Games
- Practitioner Information
- Workshops & Conferences
- Upcoming events, etc!

Please submit entries to  
[anja.whittington@umpi.edu](mailto:anja.whittington@umpi.edu)



### AEE Mission

To develop and promote experiential education. The association is committed to supporting professional development, theoretical advancement and the evaluation of experiential education worldwide.

### WPG Mission

WPG is rooted in education programming and research for women and girls. WPG serves a dual function: 1) provides a structure to voice the interests, needs, and concerns of women within AEE and in the larger professional community; 2) serves as a forum to support, network and mentor each other around the joys, pains and problems women meet within the workplace.

when you think you might be wrong  
when every 7 seconds a woman  
is beaten by her partner or boyfriend  
when god is always called he  
and it was all eve's fault  
when women make 73 cents for every dollar men make  
when our country promotes violence to solve problems  
and you know there's gotta be a better way

we must speak  
louder than the pages of cosmo and seventeen  
louder than budweiser ads and maybeline  
take your body back  
rip it from the hands of corporate executives  
gettin' rich off our own self hate  
listen to your sisters' stories  
they are more your own than you know  
say, i got your back girl  
rather than talkin' behind it

welcome boy comrades into your struggle  
because it is just as much theirs  
grow gardens of wild flowers in your mind  
plant seeds of rebellion in your throat  
sow visions of justice in your heart  
fill your lungs with the capacity  
to breathe life back into your wounded places  
set a fire of action in your belly  
tie comfortable shoes onto your feet  
infuse your legs with the power to run, kick and dance  
wipe the clouds of other people's perceptions from your eyes  
so that you may see your own truth  
feed your soul daily with doses of your own love

and sometimes actions are louder than words  
you don't need to open your mouth to make the biggest sound  
and sometimes our voices are screams articulated  
through poetry or sports or music or movement  
and sometimes it is a statement shot through  
loud music or with the tv on  
during math class, on the subway or at the dinner table

we need your hurricane voices  
it's gonna take the power of us all  
with rebellion in our throats  
justice in our hearts  
fire in our bellies  
and the strength of our own love  
in our souls

-nadine wolf budbill

To learn more about Nadine and Girls Move Mountains see the website at: <http://www.girlsmovemountains.org/home.html>.