

\$10 a Tom Cat

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Only in July

SNYP Certificates can be purchased at:
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 Grange Co-Op stores,
 and Mini Pet Mart on Stewart.

Visit spayneuter.org
 or call 541-858-3325 for details.

Another lifesaving program by SNYP with support by FOTAS.

WOOOFing

by Robert Casserly, Executive Director
 Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm

In 1971, Sue Coppard, a woman working as a secretary in London, had an inspiration that was so simple, it was brilliant. She decided to form a group that connected organic farmers who could use a little extra help with city dwellers who were looking for a way to reconnect with nature.

For years Coppard struggled to find even one farm willing to try out her scheme. But luckily for the world she persisted, and eventually one farm agreed to open their gates to 15 volunteers recruited by Coppard. From these humble beginnings, a global phenomenon called Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WOOOF) was born.

42 years later, there are WOOOF hosts located in 99 countries around the world. This is a win-win proposition on a truly massive scale. Thousands of organic farmers are growing and prospering with help from WOOOFers, while tens of thousands of volunteers receive a hands-on education, a chance to meet new and interesting people, and the physical, emotional, and spiritual health benefits of living on a farm.

In a recent interview, Sarah Potenza, Executive Director of WOOOF-USA, the San Francisco-based nonprofit that coordinates WOOOF activities in the U.S., said "WOOOF-USA has 14,000 members and 1,600 hosts in all 50 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. We are now the second-largest WOOOF group in the world."

"We organized and hosted an international WOOOF conference in San Francisco last year," Potenza said. "More than 25 WOOOF coordinators attended, from places as far away as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Chile, Uganda and more. We work with other WOOOF groups around the world to

help promote our mission of connecting visitors with organic farms, creating an educational exchange, and building a global community conscious of ecological farming practices."

Of the 1,600 American farms registered with WOOOF-USA, 96 of them are in Oregon. A third of those farms are in southern Oregon, including Sanctuary One. Over the past five years, the Sanctuary has hosted 22 interns, and all of them have been smart, caring, hard-working people. They have come from places as far away as Russia, Canada, Washington State, Nebraska, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, Florida, and Hawaii.

The average length of stay for Sanctuary interns is four months. We provide hands-on care farming and permaculture education, while the interns help us with routine chores, special projects, and hopefully teach us something in return, too.

The Sanctuary is currently accepting applications from people interested in becoming a WOOOFer. The ideal applicant will be self-motivated, dependable, a team player, and flexible about what kind of volunteer work he or she is assigned to perform on a daily basis. Sometimes it's hard, physical volunteer work, and thus only suitable for people who are physically fit and able to work outdoors in all sorts of weather conditions. As is the case at most WOOOF host farms, farming experience is a plus, but not required.

If you or someone you know is interested in WOOOFing at the Sanctuary, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

For more information, please visit the Sanctuary website at www.SanctuaryOne.org or call 541-899-8627.

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