

The School of Lost Borders - The Practice of Living and Dying

P. O. Box 796 Big Pine, CA 93513 USA

www.schooloflostborders.org

CHOOSING CONSCIOUS ELDERHOOD

A Retreat Center-based Rite of Passage

discovering purpose, meaning, and the call to service in the elder years

May 8 - 14, 2009

Western Colorado near Cedaredge

- *What distinguishes an “elder” from someone who is “older”?*
- *What deep yearning lies in the center of your heart to know your own wisdom and gifts?*
- *How are you called to serve the greater good as an elder?*
- *What inner work do you need to do to fully claim and embody your elderhood?*

WILDERNESS RITES OF PASSAGE Through the ages and around the world, rites of passage in the natural world have supported life transitions. By renewing our spiritual connection with wild nature, we tap into what is true and essential in ourselves, thus gaining a vision of our place in the greater whole and an understanding of how we can best contribute our unique gifts.

THE FORMAT Using reflective time in nature, deep imagery, Four Shields teachings, ceremony, sharing councils, and a 24-hour solo/fast, we move through the three phases of all rites of passage: **severance** from old beliefs, attachments and self-identifications; a **threshold** period of solitude and optional fasting in nature; **return/reincorporation** with an expanded vision for, and commitment to, your elderhood.

ACCOMODATIONS Stone Forest Retreat (www.stoneforestretreat.com) offers comfortable accommodations and spectacular scenery in a juniper forest on the south side of the Grand Mesa. Delicious, healthful lunches and dinners will be provided by the retreat center. Participants provide their own breakfasts.

THE GUIDES



Ron Pevny recognized his calling as a wilderness rite of passage guide in 1979 and throughout most of the 80's co-directed one of the first modern vision questing organizations. These days his passion is developing rites of passage for people committed to spiritual/conscious elderhood, coaching individuals feeling called to claim the role of elder, and developing nature-based programs to help create soul-supportive work lives and work places. He also derives deep satisfaction from doing oral history work with elders in his community of Durango, Colorado.

Contact Ron at ronp@frontier.net or **970-247-7943**.



Nancy Jane leads youth and adult vision fasts. She is a guide/instructor for the *Psychology of Wilderness Experience* course at Naropa University. On staff at the School of Lost Borders, Nancy has trained with Earth Rites and the Center for Council Training, Ojai, CA. For many years a naturalist and forester, as well as an author and editor, Nancy listens deeply in support of others' connection to nature and spirit. As she steps into her elder years, she sees her work as supporting other elders in their search for meaning. You may contact Nancy at nancyjane1@earthlink.net or **720-494-1989**.

COST Tuition is on a sliding scale \$800 - \$1200; retreat center fees are \$400.

GROUP SIZE Limited to 12 participants. No previous camping experience necessary. Our goal is to make this experience available to people with various levels of physical ability.