



ANNOUNCING

The Cerulean Warbler Conservation Pen-Pal Program

Linking high school students from...

- The coal fields of the Appalachian Mountains
and
- The coffee region in the Andean Mountains of
Colombia, South America

The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), ProAves, and the **Cerulean Warbler Technical Group (CWTG)** are inviting high school Science and Spanish teachers to participate in a pen-pal program that will link students (age 14-16) in the coal fields of the Appalachian Mountains with students in the coffee region in the Andean Mountains of Colombia. The "ambassador" between the two cultures will be the Cerulean Warbler, a neo-tropical migratory songbird that needs the help of people young and old to conserve habitat in both its core breeding area (the coal fields of Appalachia) and wintering grounds (which includes the Andean Mountains of Colombia). Students who participate in this program have the potential to learn important lessons in conservation of wildlife, reforestation of coal surface mines, shade-grown versus sun-grown coffee plantations, foreign language, world geography, and cultural diversity.

How will the Pen-Pal Program work?

- The Pen-Pal program will start in February 2009 with Colombian students receiving instruction and writing letters. Each participating US student will receive a letter to respond to in March 2009.
- Approximately 40 students from a high school in San Vicente de Chucurí, Colombia will participate and a team of 2 teachers (one English teacher and one Biology teacher) will coordinate. During October through March, Cerulean Warblers live in forests and coffee and cocoa plantations near San Vicente (and even in the town park!), and a reserve that provides habitat for Cerulean Warblers was established nearby in 2005.
- High school teachers in the coal fields of Appalachia are invited to participate. In each high school, we need a team of 2 teachers (one Spanish teacher and one Biology, Environmental Science, or related subject teacher). Several teams of 2 teachers can be located at different schools in different states in order to pair with the 40 Colombian students who will participate. The teachers could use an after-school group such as an environmental club or team instead of an organized class.
- Students in both countries should be between 14 and 16 years old.
- The Colombian students will be enrolled in an English course and a biology course. Although it is preferred that the US students be enrolled in a Spanish course and a Biology, Environmental Science, or related course, this is not absolutely necessary.
- Students in both countries will write their letters in their native language, and teachers will assist the students in translating the letters that they receive into their native language.
- ARRI, ProAves, and the CWTG will provide instructional materials and teaching aids to the teachers on the Cerulean Warbler, surface mine reforestation, and shade-grown coffee production. Teachers are encouraged to give instruction on the following topics:
 - the Cerulean Warbler and other neo-tropical migratory song birds
 - the impact of forest fragmentation, population growth, global climate change, etc
 - the coal surface mine industry in the US, and reforestation and other conservation practices that can be employed to protect the Cerulean Warbler
 - the coffee industry in Colombia, and conservation practices that can be employed to protect the Cerulean Warbler

- exploration of world geography and ways to foster goodwill and cooperation in the field of conservation between the youth of the US and Colombia
- A coal company in the US, which is in proximity to the participating school, will be encouraged to collaborate in this project. At the teachers' discretion, students may become involved in a tree planting project on reclaimed mine land organized around an ARRI Arbor Day celebration. A major coffee producer in Colombia, which is in proximity to the participating school, will be encouraged to collaborate in this project.
- Teachers will guide the students in the composition of the letters and monitor letter content for appropriateness. Students do not have to write lengthy letters, but should be encouraged to, at a minimum, include an introductory paragraph that relays some cultural information on their family and local community, a paragraph that describes how various industries in their area can impact wildlife, and a paragraph that explains things they are doing (or can do) as a student to protect the Cerulean Warbler.
- At least one complete exchange should occur (i.e., a Colombian student who writes a letter should receive a letter and vice versa). Two or more complete exchanges can occur if the students show interest in doing so.
- Funding will be provided to cover the cost of postage for the first exchange of letters.

Teachers who are interested in participating should contact:

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