

Friday

Today, we went on an eco tour in Colonia San Anton, a neighborhood in Cuernavaca. Because the government does little to protect the environment, the neighborhood developed a recycling center and a water clean-up project on its own. A breathtaking area of deep ravines and waterfalls, it's an area worth saving. The clean-up efforts have succeeded to an extent. Unfortunately, communities upstream still dump their refuse and sewage in the river so it winds up in San Anton. Consequently, initiative members hope to teach other communities how to recycle and preserve water resources.

For the remainder of the morning, our group members meandered the grounds of the Ethnobotanical Gardens. In that lush setting, each of us did an individual reflection and later shared our personal feelings of the past week.

Because it's important to carry our new learning forward, we spent most of the afternoon developing Action Plans, including how we would inform the community of our experiences. Particularly exciting was an idea that the annual 4-H charity dinner could benefit a project in Mexico that we had visited. Several group members thought about connecting the artisans we had met and shopped from with the Just Fare Market in Fond du Lac which sells fairly traded gifts and food. High school staff considered holding dialogue sessions in the homes of local Hispanics to learn of their needs and concerns. In conjunction with the Fond du Lac Public Library, UW-Extension staff hopes to host 4-5 evening sessions on issues related to immigration. We're on the move!

The closing ceremony allowed us to laugh at the week's funniest moments and to share our hopes as we lit community candles. The song *We Are One* drew us together as our hosts presented us each with a clay necklace handmade by a local artist and a card with the words *Always Seek Truth, Compassion, and Justice*.