



“News” Items and Meeting Announcements Selected Email Messages Sent in 2010 To San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative Members

From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 11:02 AM
To: afege@aol.com
Subject: SD Children and Nature, mtg. Jan. 28, 4-6 pm (1 year celebration!) and workshop on early

The next meeting of the SD Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN) will be Thursday, January 28, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, at the Girl Scouts of San Diego-Imperial Council office, Cabin 1, at 1231 Upas Street, at the corner of Richmond Avenue and the north edge of Balboa Park (directions below). RSVP only if you want to share a babysitter.

Agenda:

4:00 Introductions and celebration of one-year anniversary of the first meeting of SDCaN !!!
4:15 “Learning in nature: What it means for development of young children,” by Patti Shields, Early Childhood Education Specialist
5:15 Brief reports on local curriculum content (Schools), gardens, families, and communications interest groups
6:00 Adjourn, the potluck (bring a dish to serve six and cup-plate-silverware, beverages will be provided)

Abstract: Very young children are natural scientists. Nature holds every element and possibility to foster all areas of a young child’s development; cognitive, social, emotional, gross and fine motor. Through direct, ongoing experiences in the natural world—whether it is a field, a canyon, a tree—the child becomes a keen observer of his/her world. Exploring nature develops a sense of adventure, a sense of community, camaraderie, leadership skills, and teaches ways to reduce stress for teacher and child alike. Early literacy takes on new meaning when a child uses a field guide to identify animal tracks or birds, or understands the meaning behind trail or plant markers. Nature changes and these changes represent real science. Why do we only see monkey flower this time of year? How does our canyon change after a heavy rain? Young children learn through their senses and nature offers an abundance of sensory experiences. Patti Shields is a 30-year veteran teacher and nature guide, an early childhood education specialist, and a practitioner of “mucking about” nature experiences for many years! This is our first “learning workshop,” supported by the Sempra Foundation grant.

The **Steering Committee** met on December 7, 9-11 am, at the San Diego Audubon Society office. [You are welcome to attend the next meeting, Monday, January 18, 9-11 am at the Girl Scouts-Cabin #1.] The 2009-2010 workplan was reviewed, which includes the \$100,000 grant from the Sempra Foundation. A list of 2009 accomplishments is underway, and a “survey” of participants to get feedback about this first year of SDCaN!

The **Nearby Nature School Field Trips** project is progressing, and five providers were selected to help develop the “guide” and lead field trips with classes in five elementary schools this spring: Friends of Rose Canyon (Debby Knight), Groundwork San Diego Chollas Creek (Leslie Reynolds), I Love a Clean San Diego (Connie Glen), San Diego Natural History Museum (Crystal Desoto), and San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Tara Fuad). Four **community social asset maps** will be compiled this spring for Early Childhood programs (Patti Shields), Youth programs (Crystal DeSoto), High school and college environmental groups (Robin Rivet), and Health professionals (Jennifer Douglas).

Directions. We will meet at the Girl Scouts of San Diego-Imperial Council office, in Florence Burnham Hall, at the southwest corner of Richmond and Upas street. From 163 south, take Washington Avenue east, very soon turn right on Richmond, and follow that about 10 blocks. From 163 north, take the Richmond Avenue exit, and the gate to Cabin 1 is on the left.

--Directions are posted at http://maps.google.com/maps?oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&cid=0,0,8118617490291292571&fb=1&split=1&gl=us&dq=girl+scouts+san+diego&daddr=1231+Upas+St,+San+Diego,+CA+92103&geocode=14319406359893793034,32.740974,-117.151755&ei=OzqISp2DOIXQsgO3i6iNDw&sa=X&oi=local_result&ct=directions-to&resnum=1

/s/ Anne Fege, Camille Armstrong, Chris Redfern, and many others

Anne S. Fege, Ph.D., M.B.A., Co-coordinator

San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN)

Phone 858-472-1293, email fege@sandiegoaudubon.org

From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 8:47 PM

To: sdchildrenandnature@yahogroups.com

Subject: SD Children and Nature, training for camp directors, news articles, Hawk Watch!

Some training opportunities, a family Hawk Watch reminder, some news articles... and if your schedule doesn't allow you to join in on the training programs this year, this time.... make a note of the opportunity and catch one of them next year! And send your news items and programs to me at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org, for these occasional news emails. /s/ Anne Fege

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS:

NEW CAMP DIRECTOR ORIENTATION, Wed. Feb. 3, East County YMCA. The SoCal/Hawaii section of the American Camping Association (ACA) is sponsoring a New Camp Director's Orientation class February 3rd at the East County YMCA. The target audience is "New or Seasonal Directors and other Administrative Staff". Topics include role of the camp director, staff training and supervision, and camper development and behavior. From risk management to leadership styles and camp staff recruitment, you'll leave with a range of tools to ensure a successful summer! Intended for Camp Directors and leadership staff with less than five years experience who are interested in learning the fundamentals of camp leadership, risk management, camper behavior and staff supervision. Register by calling 213-483-4300 or sending an email to info@acasocal.org or contact Cindy Moore at 858-755-2634 or winacka@aol.com, \$75 for ACA members and \$85 for non-members. ACA, the professional group of organized camping, is a partner with C&NN in their Camp 2 Grow: Environmental Leadership Program (www.ACACamps.org/education).

ALSO ACA "CONNECTIONS" EVENT, Thursday, February 4, 2010, 10:00am - 12:00pm, at Salvation Army Kroc Center, 6845 University Avenue San Diego, CA 92115 Torrie Dunlap from the National Training Center on Inclusion will be a guest speaker. This networking event is lots of fun and a good way to meet others interested in day and resident camps in our area. Register at 213-483-4300, bring \$5 for ACA members and \$10 for non-members.

HAWK WATCH EVERY SATURDAY MORNING through February 27, 9:00 am to noon. Visit the Ramona Grasslands with the Wildlife Research Institute, Inc. Observe both our wintering and resident raptors. You will see raptors such as the Golden Eagle, the wintering Ferruginous Hawk, the Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon and the Red-shouldered Hawk. Nineteen (19) species of raptors alone have been recorded at this Raptor Hotspot! The event is at WRI Headquarters, which is located on Highland Valley Road near the intersection of Rangeland and Highland Roads in Ramona.

DOCENT TRAINING. Tijuana Estuary 2010 Docent Training Course begins on Wednesday, February 3 at 9 a.m. Share your love of nature with others by becoming a Tijuana Estuary Docent! Docents are highly trained volunteers who promote a greater understanding of the Tijuana Estuary through working with school groups,

leading nature walks, and helping out at special events. It is a 10-week training, 30-hour course to be held on Wednesdays from 9am until noon starting in February. Please help us spread the word to recruit more docents!

For more information, contact Danielle Litke, Community Outreach Coordinator, at 619.575.3613 x330 or volunteer@trnerr.org. View the docent training flyer at <http://trnerr.org/Volunteers/Docent%20Training%202010%20Flyer%208.pdf>.

MILITARY FAMILY RETREAT. <http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/family-retreats/> . If you or someone you know has recently returned home after being deployed, you and your family may qualify for a free 4-day family retreat in some of the most beautiful National Parks in the country. The National Military Family Association (NMFA) is sponsoring these 2 programs with the funding provided by the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation. Service members and their families are qualified for the programs if they have been deployed in the last 15 months and will have been back 3 months by the time of the programs. When you arrive at the retreat each family will be given \$200 to help cover travel costs. The 2 sessions are: *The Headlands Institute, Sausalito, CA on February 12 – 15, 2010, and at The Teton Science School, Jackson, Wyoming on March 19-23, 2010.*

NEWS:

IF YOUR KIDS ARE AWAKE, THEY'RE PROBABLY ONLINE, By TAMAR LEWIN, New York Times, January 20, 2010. Maybe you've already seen a summary of this article, , at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/20/education/20wired.html>. The average young American now spends practically every waking minute — except for the time in school — using a smart phone, computer, television or other electronic device, according to a new study from the Kaiser Family Foundation. (posted at <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/upload/8010.pdf>) Those ages 8 to 18 spend more than seven and a half hours a day with such devices, compared with less than six and a half hours five years ago, when the study was last conducted. And that does not count the hour and a half that youths spend texting, or the half-hour they talk on their cellphones. And because so many of them are multitasking — say, surfing the Internet while listening to music — they pack on average nearly 11 hours of media content into that seven and a half hours.... The study's findings shocked its authors, who had concluded in 2005 that use could not possibly grow further, and confirmed the fears of many parents whose children are constantly tethered to media devices. It found, moreover, that heavy media use is associated with several negatives, including behavior problems and lower grades. The third in a series, the study found that young people's media consumption grew far more in the last five years than from 1999 to 2004, as sophisticated mobile technology like iPods and smart phones brought media access into teenagers' pockets and beds.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY, Michelle Obama talks to mayors about her initiative to combat childhood obesity, Article by [Robin Givhan](#), Washington Post Staff Writer , Thursday, January 21, 2010, posted at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/20/AR2010012004550.html?referrer=emailarticle>. Better eating habits, improved nutrition and a more physically fit America do not have to come with a high price tag and all are imperative to this country's economy, its future productivity and the well-being of the next generation of children. That was the message first lady Michelle Obama delivered Wednesday afternoon to the U.S. Conference of Mayors at the Capital Hilton..... "The idea here is very simple: to put in place commonsense, innovative solutions that empower families and communities to make healthy decisions for their kids," she said. Her initiative will focus on improved school lunches, more physical activity, increased availability of healthy food in all communities and more nutrition education for both kids and their parents. And the mayors, she said, are key to making it all work. They can measure the impact of an overweight workforce on a community's economy; they understand the burdens an unhealthy population puts on neighborhood health centers; they witness kids laboring to walk, to run, to play..... [So... what part will Children and Nature play?]

RESTORING OUTDOOR PLAY. Leadership Writing Series volume one, number 3. *Back to Nature and the Emerging Child Saving Movement: Restoring Children's Outdoor Play*, Joe Frost, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas, writes on the movement and the need to restore outdoor play. Download 13-page article at http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/CNN_LWS_Vol1_03.pdf?utm_source=Children+%26+Nature+Network+Subscriptions&utm_campaign=adf6b84f4d-Oct_News10_26_2009&utm_medium=email . Excerpts: City kids in confined schools and neighborhoods, especially those in slums and barrios, cannot be taken to the wilderness regularly, but thoughtful, innovative adults can bring exciting chunks of nature to city schools, neighborhoods, and parks. Some playground planners are doing just that by helping child care centers, parks, and schools rebuild their stark, fixed parks and playgrounds and integrating nature into limited spaces. Over a ten-year period, Robin

Moore and Herb Wong (1997) transformed an asphalt schoolyard playground into a naturalized environment or "environmental yard." Their research and work with children are a profound expression of the value of play and natural habitats and a powerful example of qualitative research. Numerous other professionals lend their research and experience in transforming sterile, fixed playgrounds into integrated play-yards featuring materials and natural environments that accommodate a wide range of developmental needs.

NATURE GIRL/DOLL. New American Doll Aims to Get Girls Outdoors, from Parent Dish – December 30, 2009, by Honey Berk, posted at

http://www.childrenandnature.org/news/detail/new_american_doll_aims_to_get_girls_outdoors . On January 1, American Girl will debut Lanie, its blond-haired, hazel-eyed 2010 Girl of the Year doll. Lanie Holland, who will be available for one year only, will launch with a collection of clothing and accessories, along with the books "Lanie" and "Lanie's Real Adventures." The books will introduce 10-year-old Lanie, who loves wildlife and the outdoors.

Lanie was created to help encourage girls and their families to spend more time outdoors and connect with nature, regardless of where they live. Inspired by a visiting aunt, Lanie learns to connect with nature through everyday experiences -- growing a garden, bird-watching, camping in her backyard, and creating a butterfly habitat -- and discovers that there's a wide, wonderful world right outside her door.

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From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 12:08 PM

To: Anne Fege

Subject: SD Children and Nature, next mtg Thurs. 3/18, 3:45 pm @ Girl Scouts w/ Evaluation workshop, also sending C&NN webpage listing and '09 accomplishments!

Learn how to set up a practical evaluation plan for your nature education projects! The next meeting of the SD Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN) will offer this topic as a "Learning Workshop" on Thursday, March 18, 3:45 to 6:00 pm. We will meet at the Girl Scouts of San Diego-Imperial Council office, Learning Center (main level), 1231 Upas Street, at the corner of Richmond Avenue and the north edge of Balboa Park (directions below). RSVP to Adrienne Marriott at Creec9a@hotmail.com if you want to share a babysitter. You're also welcome to join us at 1:00-3:15 for a joint meeting of the Steering and Communications committees, to review the draft Communications Strategy that consultant Sara Napoli has developed with and for us. (The subsequent SDCaN meeting will be Tuesday, May 18, same location and time.)

Agenda:

3:45 Networking and nametags... seeking a few folks to bring a snack to share, RSVP to Anne at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org !

4:00 Introductions and short updates

4:15 "**Developing a practical evaluation plan for your organization or project**," by Roxanne Ruzic, Ed.D., Research and evaluation consultant

5:15 Brief reports on SDCaN projects, including flyers for environment/community fairs, communications strategy, speakers' bureau (May 20 engagement), nearby nature school field trips, families, and one-year evaluation survey!

5:45 Networking and snacks

6:00 or so... Adjourn

Abstract: Evaluation, when done well, can have profoundly positive effects on your organization. In addition to helping you track desired outcomes, evaluation can help you identify strengths, improve programming, better understand the populations you serve, set direction, and improve decision-making. Evaluation can also provide concrete data about the effectiveness of programs that can be shared with funders and stakeholders, leading to increases in support for your organization's work and mission. In this interactive session, we will discuss how to design simple but effective evaluation for your organization or project that makes the most of limited resources.

Dr. Ruzic designed the evaluation system for OutdoorExplore! after-school programs for San Diego Audubon Society, and has worked with many local environmental and educational organizations. Trained both as a researcher and an instructional designer, Dr. Ruzic has a bachelor's in English and a master's in education from Stanford University and a doctorate in human development and psychology with an emphasis in research methods from Harvard University (posted at <http://www.roxanneruzic.com/organizations/about>).

Directions. We will meet at the Girl Scouts of San Diego-Imperial Council office, in Learning Center, at the southwest corner of Richmond and Upas street. From 163 south, take Washington Avenue east, very soon turn right on Richmond, and follow that about 10 blocks. From 163 north, take the Richmond Avenue exit. Directions are posted at http://maps.google.com/maps?oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&cid=0,0,8118617490291292571&fb=1&split=1&gl=us&dq=girl+scouts+san+diego&daddr=1231+Upas+St,+San+Diego,+CA+92103&geocode=14319406359893793034,32.740974,-117.151755&ei=OzqIsp2DOIXQsgO3i6iNDw&sa=X&oi=local_result&ct=directions-to&resnum=1

Correction (for date): **Bill McKibbin Lecture** on Friday March 26, 7 pm, Crill Auditorium in Cooper Music Building, Point Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive, San Diego 92106 . Part of the *Writer's Symposium by the Sea*. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at www.pointloma.edu/writers . (incorrectly listed as Mar. 28, A.Feje)

Webpage listing for SDCaN Collaborative on national Children & Nature Network website. We've finally written a short description, and it's posted at http://www.childrenandnature.org/movement/detail/san_diego_collaborative .

Thought you might be interested in these accomplishments, that we shared at the January 28 meeting!
First-year Accomplishments, January 28, 2009 to January 28, 2010

The San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN) was launched on January 28, 2009, inspired by the national Children & Nature Network and local columnist Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods*. The **mission** of the SDCaN is to "inspire communities to nurture, empower, and engage youth in cultivating their relationship with nature."

Initial efforts focused on marketing Louv's February 24, 2009 presentation at Point Loma Nazarene University, which drew an **audience of 1200!** On March 19 at the Girl Scout office, 70 educators, environmental professionals, community leaders, and nature advocates shared their vision for working together to enhance experiences for children and nature. In April, the City and the County of San Diego declared "**Children and Nature Awareness**" month.

The Collaborative has held **bi-monthly meetings**, with participants from more than 50 organizations. **Interest groups** for Families, Schools, Gardens, Health, and Communications were set up on May 19. They met again at the July 16 meeting, which was held at Mission Trails Regional Park and was followed by a sunset hike. The September 16 meeting included confirmation of the mission and strategic goals, and reflections of the national Children & Nature Network annual conference that four San Diegans attended. At the November 12 meeting, partners shared displays and materials for 20 local nature-based programs.

A **Steering Group** meets monthly, and provides direction for strategic planning, organizational structure, and ongoing projects. The **Families Interest Group** focuses on providing more resources for "families and nature," including support to organizers and hike leaders of "family nature clubs." The **Schools Interest Group** is consolidating existing curriculum for chaparral and coastal sage scrub, to produce common local nature lessons for fourth-grade classes. Five environmental groups are collaborating to design a **Nearby Nature School Field Trips Program** to encourage nature-centered, curriculum-based classroom field trips to nearby natural areas. A guidebook will be created and piloted to provide guidelines to schools, teachers, nature providers, and naturalists.

The **Communications Committee** is providing guidance for a Communications Strategy, and for "community asset maps" of organizations focused on early childhood, youth, health, and school-based programs for children. A **webpage** was established, www.sdchildrenandnature.org , and planning for an interactive webpage has begun. It will include an inventory of local nature places, outdoor nature programs and scheduled events, activities for children in nature, and resources for Collaborative partners. It will build on the **national Children & Nature** webpage, www.childrenandnature.org , which offers resources and connections to other local groups.

In October, the Collaborative was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the **Sempra Foundation** to support the establishment of Family Nature Clubs, Nearby Nature School Field Trip Program and guidebook, communications strategy and community asset mapping, website redesign, speakers' bureau, learning workshops, organizational development, and evaluation.

Six **strategic goals** are established for the next three years: (1) increase public awareness of the value of nature and outdoor experiences; (2) enhance schools' ability to connect children to nearby nature; (3) partner with community groups to value, promote and provide opportunities for outdoor experiences; (4) drive change in attitudes, skills and behaviors that lead to positive relationships with nature; (5) promote learning, sharing and networking; and (6) build sustainable organization to support mission. [And, let's get out in nature and let's have fun!]

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From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 3:37 PM
To: Anne Fege
Subject: SD Children and Nature, news items, upcoming trainings, and many resources!

Lots of news items, upcoming trainings, and on-line resources! Enjoy! /s/ **Anne, Chris, Camille, and others!**

SD UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD. Friends of Rose Canyon were invited to give a presentation to the SD Unified Board of Education on May 4, about their field trips for students to Rose Canyon Open Space Park, and they made a great impression! Look at the video, posted at <http://old.sandi.net/board/reports/2010/0427/video.html>, slide the fast forward bar to 20 minutes and 30 seconds into the meeting (past public comment, color guard, and a high school student speaking). Board of Education Vice President John Lee Evans introduced the group, then a recent video, "Seedlings" was shown (students from Spreckels Bilingual Magnet Elementary scattering native plant seeds in Rose Canyon Park). Five students from the school gave great testimonials!! (on the video, at 28 minutes and 15 seconds). Board of Education member John DeBeck made some very positive comments about connecting children and nature. (Chair Richard Berrara is on our mailing list, and former chair Sheila Jackson referred to Children and Nature in radio talk last spring).

PRESENTATIONS ABOUT SDCaN. Anne Fege talked to the San Diego Floral Association on April 20 (using the general Speakers' bureau presentation), to the Teachers' School Gardens Conference on April 24 (more info about research/benefits of children learning in nature and playing outdoors), and will give a workshop on June 5 for the Parent-Teacher Association, San Diego and Imperial county (tailored to their role in advocacy and support within schools). Patti Shields and Myrian Solis Colonel are giving a bi-lingual workshop for the San Diego Family Childcare Association on May 15, "Using Nature as Your Classroom." We invite your organization to invite us to give a presentation about Connecting Children with Nature OR/AND about the collaborative! Send requests to fege@sandiegoaudubon.org.

JOB—EDUCATION COORDINATOR. San Diego Audubon, a dynamic and growing non-profit organization working to promote the protection and appreciation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats in San Diego County, seeks a highly motivated individual with an extensive background in outdoor, experiential education to serve as the organization's Education Coordinator. Primary job responsibilities include management and program development of our OutdoorExplore! outdoor nature education program, development of new, innovative educational program offerings, and coordination support for the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative. Seeking someone with passion for connecting youth and families to nature and have the experience and skill to develop innovative and outstanding outdoor education programs for San Diego Audubon. Applications due June 11, get details at: <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/ecnotice.pdf>.

NATURE WORKSHOP for pre-school and elementary teachers, Sat. May 22, 7:30 to 12:45. Create an Environment of Wonder and Discovery: Help Prevent Nature Deficit Disorder in Today's Child. Sign up for three

workshops (with handouts), choose from Art, Extraordinary Possibility (inside and outside classroom), Spiders, Emergent curriculum, Expanding nature in math-science-literacy, Comparing all five senses to those of animals, and animal scavenger hunt. \$40 pre-registration, \$50 on-site, registration and information at http://www.campfiresdi.org/pdf/Spring_Staff_Development_Conference_5.22.10.pdf. More information from Katie Zolezzi, 619-291-8985, kzolezzi-campfire@sbcglobal.net

BIOBLITZ, May 21-22, at TORREY PINES. BioBlitz is a 24-hour inventory of species of plants and animals found in a given area, and the San Diego Natural History Museum is bringing BioBlitz to Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. BioBlitz creates awareness and appreciation of biodiversity in our region and beyond. Over 50 regional biologists will be racing the clock to document: scorpions, snakes, beetles, birds, mushrooms, plants, and many more...all in 24 hours! After that, it will be time for the final tally. Activities and booths will be open from 10 AM-3 PM, on Sat. May 22. \$10 fee for day-use general parking pass. More information at <http://www.torreypine.org/activities/bioblitz-2010.pdf> and <http://bioblitz.sdnhm.org/>. In 2009, scientists discovered 1193 in San Diego's Mission Trails Regional Park on May 1-2, 2009, get info at <http://bioblitz.sdnhm.org/>.

BIOBLITZ, May 22, at SWEETWATER MARSH. Kids BioBlitz! Saturday, May 22, 10am-2pm, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Sweetwater Marsh/Chula Vista Nature Center. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Chula Vista Nature Center will host a kid friendly bioblitz (an event to observe and record as many species as possible). Kids of all ages will be able to go on guided bird walks, nature hikes and learn about the many interesting animals and plants of the Sweetwater Marsh. We are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of activities such as helping with hands on activities like bird bingo, assisting with guided walks, people management and more. If you are interested in helping with this event in any way please contact Chantel Jimenez at chantel_jimenez@fws.gov or 619-691-1262. You are also welcome to bring your family for a fun day on the coast.

CAMP STAFF TRAINING DAY, Sat. June 5, 8:30 to 4:00, by American Camp Association (ACA). At Salvation Army Kroc Center ([map](#)), 6845 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115. Costs \$22 to \$32 per person, depending on ACA membership and group size. Agenda includes keynote speaker Torrie Dunlap from Kids Included Together, and sessions on Leadership, Camper Discipline, Communication & Working with People, Today's Camper & Parent Issues, Working with Special Needs Youth, Problem Solving, Developing Structure for Unstructured Activity Times, Skills – Leading Arts & Crafts, Aquatics, Orienteering and Nature Activities, Teambuilding Activities & Hip Pocket Games, and much, much more! More information at www.ACAsocal.org/cstdsd.php, including phone for registration (818) 274-6637 and online registration, due May 28. Questions to info@acasocal.org and winacka@aol.com (Cindy Moore).

CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT, Inviting Exhibits for Parks and Open Spaces Day, Sat. July 24, 9am to 4:30. . This year our second annual Parks and Open Spaces Fair is scheduled for Saturday July 24th. Invitation to host a booth at the fair OR a talk-activity-film for the program, no fee, park provides 10 ft x 10 ft space (bring your own table, canopies optional and likely to become parachutes with the wind at the point). "Please save the date and come and enjoy this day as we celebrate and honor the existence of these amazing and much needed parks and open spaces that we all love and enjoy." Sign up with Emily Floyd, Park Ranger, Cabrillo National Monument, Emily_Floyd@nps.gov, (619) 523-4566.

NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP. Friday-Sunday: June 4-6 or June 11-13. Organized by the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Nature Knowledge Workshop (NKW) combines education and appreciation for our precious (and dwindling) natural resources with a sharing and a building of new friendships. We hope you will leave the weekend with a renewed vigor towards a society respecting and preserving all living co-habitants. **Location:** The Sierra Club's scenic [Foster Lodge](#) on Mt. Laguna (el. 5,800 feet, San Diego County). **Date:** Friday evening through Sunday noon. Pick either weekend, June 4-9 or June 11-13, 2010. **Cost:** Early Bird registration before May 1: \$125.00 per Sierra Club member, \$135.00 per non-member. After May 1, \$140.00 member / \$150.00 non-member. Further information and registration posted at <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/nkw/>.

RESOURCES, LESSONS, CURRICULUM!

EARLY CHILDHOOD. 25 Easy Nature Play Ideas for Preschool Yards,

http://www.greenheartsinc.org/uploads/25_Easy_Nature_Play_Ideas_for_Preschool_Yards.pdf . First five are: **1. Outside Door.** Use it — more than you already do, and in all safe weather conditions! **2. Water.** Kids love water play! Provide water from multiple sources, if possible: a hose, a faucet, a sprinkler, a rotating sprayer, a rain barrel, a hand pump, or even just spray bottles. **3. Water Transport .** Part of the fun of water play for young children comes from moving it around! Use buckets, watering cans, hollow bamboo poles, plastic pipe (with curves & connectors), plastic gutter sections, pots and pans, recycled milk jugs, etc. **5. Dirt Pile.** Just plain dirt, going up. The larger the pile, the more fun and creative play your kids will have. It will inevitably get muddy and messy — and your kids will have even more fun.

OAK CURRICULUM. Investigating the Oak Community: Curriculum for grades 4-8: Curriculum from the California Oak Foundation, posted at http://www.californiaoaks.org/ExtAssets/investigating_the_oak_community.pdf

1.0 FIELD JOURNALS. John Muir Laws, Building science observation skills through field journaling (field sketching activities for science teachers and outdoor educators). Posted at <http://www.johnmuirlaws.com/sketchingforteachers.htm> . Also Techniques for using a journal, posted at <http://www.johnmuirlaws.com/techniques.html>.

SHARING NATURE WORLDWIDE webpage established by Joseph Cornell and colleagues (author of Sharing Nature with Children), <http://www.sharingnature.com/index.php> . Flow learning concept: awaken enthusiasm, focus attention (on one of physical senses), direct experience, and share inspiration (reflect on and share experiences). Eight activities for families and youth groups, 4-page guide to take along on a walk, <http://www.sharingnature.com/activities.pdf>

NATIVE PLANTS. Educational resources from California Native Plant Society (CNPS), posted at <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/resources.php> Includes Project Budburst (phenology), list of Herbaria, references for botanical identification, and many other resources for teachers.

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From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 8:36 PM

To: Anne Fege

Subject: SD Children and Nature, notes from May 18 mtg and workshops on Effective communication strategies and Social media, next mtg Tues. July 27

Our SD Children and Nature Collaborative meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 4-6 pm gave thirty-eight attendees “the latest” information about how to effectively communicate about the benefits of children learning in nature and playing outdoors and a short “primer” on social networking. We started and ended with time to “network,” and we learned a lot about communications strategies and social media! Mark your calendars for the next meeting on Tuesday, July 27 from 4-6 pm at Mission Trails Regional Park as a “Nature Education Fair” with invitations extended to teachers and other educators.

Notes from the May 18 meeting follow. Anne Fege gave a double-speed version of the presentation drafted for the Speakers’ Bureau,

“**Connecting Children to Nature,**” and extended an invitation to give this presentation and also to incorporate the elements into community talks that you’re giving.

Sara Napoli gave an overview of **Effective Communication Strategies for Children and Nature—Your Organization and Our Work Together.** In its initial communications strategy, the Collaborative should mirror the

community-based and cooperative nature of its organization, forming easily understood messages that can move through a grass roots effort. Messages focused on hope, help, simplicity, and goodness will engage leaders, partners and participants. The passion for and “rightness” of the *children and nature* cause are powerful attractants. Central to the movement is the concept of child development, that children who learn and play in nature are happier, healthier and smarter. Crafting of messages and choice of methods and media should be informed by this concept.

Children and Youth are the ultimate beneficiaries of the Children and Nature movement, and their thoughts, behaviors and selection of activities are influenced by parents, grandparents, caregivers, teachers, pediatricians, and others with whom they are in contact in their daily lives. Attracting and keeping the attention of children, especially in competition with engrossing electronic pastimes, is a challenge that is best met by addressing communications to parents and influencers of very young children. Affordable and just plain good, this cause has the same type of appeal as apple pie soup – but with a twist. The need to *ensure the wellbeing of children by introducing them to nature* is also the way we will create tomorrow’s compassionate, connected leaders and champions of the environment. It is a feel good story with a heroic ending.

Lindsay Hawley outlined, “**Social Networking—What’s it Mean and What’s it Worth?** Social media is the latest buzzword in the marketing, business and social world but what can it do for organizations and what is social media exactly? We understand media in its traditional sense including broadcasting and published information. The conversation is one way, whereas social media the conversation is between many groups with other groups with individuals and so on.

There are many simple, time efficient “Social Media” strategies you can use to increase your support base, keep your supporters in the loop and also communicate with them as well as raising money and awareness. First start by defining your goals and keep them measurable. Stick with one platform at first so you really concentrate your efforts and see your results in one area and also measure your results. If you’re not getting the desired response that is equal to your efforts reevaluate, but be patient as well. I suggest starting with and sticking with Facebook.

Build your personal profile by importing your email contacts (“Account” at the top right corner,” Edit Friends” then “Invite friends” on the left side of the page) Also suggest them to your organizations Page. Be consistent in your updates without being a “Spammer” or too inactive. You want to add value to the conversation as well as engage with your audience, supporters and where the conversation is already started. I recommend sticking with Facebook, Twitter (for finding other networks and content), StayClassy.org (for fundraising, event planning and PR) and change.org for connecting with other organizations. Don’t take on too much at once, just take it one day at a time for ten minutes a day with a specific goal or task and watch your results take form. Social Media is your chance to not only lead and be heard but to **listen** and **learn**. Two webpages to get more information: http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/GG09_PPT/GG2009_NETWORKING.pdf and <http://spurspectives.com/why-every-nonprofit-needs-a-social-media-strategy/> .

Future meetings.

Tuesday, July 27 (not July 20 as announced earlier) at Mission Trails Regional Park, with exchange/networking of current nature education programs—please help us extend the invitation more broadly to teachers and other educators

Wednesday, September 22, The value of schoolyard habitats and native gardens as really-nearby nature, and how to work with schools and communities to grow more accessible nature (at Girl Scout office)

Thursday, November 18, Interpretive skills, how to develop and deliver nature programs to children and families, extend invitation to local naturalists and docents (at Girl Scout office)

Anne S. Fege, Ph.D., M.B.A., Co-coordinator
San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN)
Phone 858-472-1293, email fege@sandiegoaudubon.org

From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 4:45 AM

Subject: Invitation to Teachers' Nature Education Fair, Tues. July 27, 4-6 pm, Mission Trails Reg Park, organized by SD Children and Nature (free!)

You are invited to a San Diego Nature Education Fair on Tuesday, July 27, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, at Mission Trails Regional Park! Register at <http://natureeducationfair2010.eventbrite.com/>. And please forward this to your colleagues in San Diego County schools!

San Diego Nature Education Fair
Tuesday, July 27th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm!
Mission Trails Regional Park

Why do you want to come to this event?

- a variety of local exhibitors will be on hand
- learn about nearby nature field trips and curricula
- network with like-minded colleagues and collaborators
- learn about ways and resources to enhance your nature-based learning
- you might win something in the raffle
- IT'S FREE!

What do you need to do to participate? It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Register here (register individually please), <http://natureeducationfair2010.eventbrite.com/>
2. Attend the event (learn, network, share, have fun!)
3. Give us feedback (a survey will be distributed)

This Nature Education Fair is sponsored by the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN), which was organized in January 2009 and has involved participants from more than 50 organizations that offer nature-based and other children's programs. The mission of the collaborative is to "inspire communities to nurture, empower, and engage youth in cultivating their relationship with nature." One of the six strategic goals is to enhance schools' abilities to connect children to nearby nature—and hopefully this Nature Education Fair will give you many ideas, resources, and activities for you and your students in the coming year!

Anne S. Fege, Ph.D., M.B.A., Co-coordinator
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From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2010 6:34 AM

To: afege@aol.com; fege@sandiegoaudubon.org

Subject: SD Children and Nature mtg. Thurs. Sept. 23, 4-6pm, Schoolyard habitats/gardens, also other mtgs.



Join us for the next meeting! The SD Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN) will gather on Thursday, September 23, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, at the Girl Scouts of San Diego-Imperial Council office, Cabin 1, at 1231 Upas Street. RSVP only if you want to share a babysitter (to fege@sandiegoaudubon.org). Please note that meeting room availability has switched this from Sept. 22, so please Hard to believe that summer's ending and it's

September, and now we're refocusing our efforts on more children learning in nature and playing outdoors in the fall, winter and spring seasons!

Agenda, Thursday, September 23:

3:45 Sign-in, networking, and some snacks

4:00 Welcome and introductions

4:15 Learning workshop, "Schoolyard habitats and gardens: Nature on campus," by Leta Bender and Jerry Louis, Master Gardeners' School Gardens program

5:15 News from the national Children & Nature Network gathering

5:25 Brief reports and invitations to participate in families, health, local curriculum, and communications projects

6:00 Adjourn

Abstract: School gardens and habitats can connect children with nature each day—on their school campus! Students observe and care for their plants, learn about local nature that complements their experiences in canyons and open spaces, and gain an appreciation for the wonder of nature. Schoolyard habitats and gardens provide hands-on experiences, shown to be the most effective way to reach many students, as well as places for counseling, cooperative learning, and creative thinking. Teachers can integrate a garden with their curriculum in ecology, earth sciences, environmental stewardship, plant and animal science, and nutrition. Gardens are "low-cost" places for nature experiences, and they vary from potted containers to vegetable beds, fruit trees, flowerbeds, themed gardens, butterfly gardens and native plant habitats. The San Diego Master Gardener Program assists in creating and sustaining Learning Gardens on campuses throughout the county for public and private schools, preschool through college. Over 60 volunteer consultants currently work with about 200 school gardens and are available with a website request.

DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM ART AND NATURE, Saturday, September 4, 2010; 4:00-5:30 PM

Robert Bateman, Artist. World renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman started his "Get to Know" program 10 years ago to encourage children to go outside and explore nature. Hear Mr. Bateman discuss his personal connection with the natural world and describe how he uses his art to inspire people—especially children—to find their own place in nature. This is part of the San Diego Natural History Museum's lecture series this fall on *Sustainable Planet: Children and Nature!* \$5 for lecture, pay at the door or in advance at https://tickets.sdnhm.org/public/load_screen.asp.

BOARD MEETING on Monday, Sept. 13. You're welcome to join us, 9:30 to 11:30, at the SD Audubon Society office, 1410 Morena Blvd, San Diego. Call 858-273-2800 if you have questions or need directions.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS on Thurs. Sept. 16. Join us for one or more of the three committee meetings, at the Girl Scout Office, 1231 Upas Street, Cabin 3 (see directions below)

--**Gardens** Committee (Leta Bender, chair), 1-3:00. Many local resources are available, to work together to design, install and maintain schoolyard habitats and the supporting curriculum.

--**Education** Committee (seeking chair), 3-4:30. Chaparral-coastal sage curriculum is almost ready to pilot this fall. Need to expand contacts with PTAs, connect more to families, and think about middle- and high-school students.

-- **Health** Committee (Jennifer Douglas, chair), 4:30-6:00. There is great interest in educational materials (brochure, poster) and training of local health professionals. Can build on National Environmental Education Foundation-NEEF initiative for children's health (http://www.neefusa.org/health/children_nature.htm).

DIRECTIONS. The Girl Scouts of San Diego-Imperial Council office is located at 1231 Upas Street, the southwest corner of Richmond and Upas street. For the Sept. 23 meeting, park at the main level, and walk down the stairs to Cabin 1 (at the south and grassy side of parking lot). Cabin 3 is at the third and lowest level, and there's plenty of parking there. From 163 south, take Washington Avenue east, very soon turn right on Richmond, and follow that for about 10 blocks. From 163 north, take the Richmond Avenue exit, and the cabins and parking are located on the left. Directions are posted at http://maps.google.com/maps?oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&cid=0,0,8118617490291292571&fb=1&split=1&gl=us&dq=girl+scouts+san+diego&daddr=1231+Upas+St,+San+Diego,+CA+92103&geocode=14319406359893793034,32.740974,-117.151755&ei=OzqISp2DOIXQsgO3i6iNDw&sa=X&oi=local_result&ct=directions-to&resnum=1

Anne S. Fege, Ph.D., M.B.A., Chair
San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN)
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From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 3:46 PM

To: Anne Fege

Subject: SD Children and Nature news about workshops, contests, R.Louv keynote speech to Pediatricians, and more!



Short list of items in this msg: Humor workshop 10/18, Parks for Everyone in SD report, Zoo kids free in Oct., Get to Know Nature art contest, Louv's talk to pediatricians at national mtg, field trips guides from SDNHMuseum, and small grants from Disney Project.

Humor and EE: It's all fun and games until somebody learns! PROBEA (a program of the San Diego Natural History Museum) and the Environmental Education Exchange are sponsoring this free workshop on Monday, October 18th, 2010, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, at the San Diego Natural History Museum. This supercharged interactive workshop will stock your environmental and conservation education toolkit with tools and techniques that use play, humor and laughter to help you: Open people's minds to new ideas. Create lasting positive emotional associations with the environment. Attract new audiences. Bring together people with diverse backgrounds and skill sets. Bridge cross-cultural divides. Empower people to take positive action. Workshop series sponsored by Together Green, a dynamic and innovative Audubon initiative, funded by Toyota. Facilitators: Aliza Weller, Ian Signer and Pepe Marcos-Iga. More information here: <http://bordereeweb.net/training/humor-and-ee-it-s-all-fun-and-games-until-somebody-learns> . Register here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/eelol>

PARKS FOR EVERYONE, study completed by CityProject and released by The San Diego Foundation.

Despite vast green space in San Diego, residents do not have equal access. --Robert Garcia, founder of CityProject in Los Angeles, outlined the *Parks for Everyone* report, done by CityProject for The San Diego Foundation. The study used geographic, demographic, and economic data to map and assess the overall accessibility of the region's green space, as well as to examine the equity of green access by analyzing whether certain groups of people, based on income level, race or ethnicity, have more or less access to these resources. With 39,737 acres of dedicated park and open space land, the city offers approximately 32.5 acres of parks per thousand residents, far greater than the three acres per thousand resident threshold of "park poverty." Summary report is 24 pages, http://www.sdfoundation.org/Portals/0/Newsroom/PDF/Reports/parkforeveryone_finalsm.pdf , the longer 47-page report has maps, tables, 223 references, and the challenge to create new green spaces and improve access to existing green spaces to realize equal justice, democracy, and livability for all. Longer report and Spanish version available at www.sdfoundation.org/GrantsScholarships/Programs/Environment/ParksforEveryone.aspx ,

FREE! "Kids Free" in October to the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park (ages 11 and under)! Information page at http://www.sandiegozoo.org/kidsfree/activities_zoo.html with activities about endangered species, conservation, behavior, animal diets, dance, and art! "List of 101 things to discover..." in English, http://www.sandiegozoo.org/kidsfree/101_things_english.pdf and Spanish, http://www.sandiegozoo.org/kidsfree/101_things_spanish.pdf . Includes great questions about adaptations and comparisons, such as, "How are the animals playing? Why do you think it's important for animals to play?" and "How is this animal able to run so quickly? Do you think you could run as fast as this animal?"

101 THINGS TO DO OUTSIDE! From the Idaho Children in Nature "Be Outside" program, <http://www.visitidaho.org/children-in-nature/assets/documents/101thingstodooutside-flyer.pdf>

GET TO KNOW NATURE Contest sponsored by wildlife artist Robert Bateman and his organization, October 1st to November 30 (entry deadline). Information and instructions at <http://www.gettoknow.ca/us/contest/> The

2010 contest theme for art, writing and photography entries is “*Celebrating Biodiversity*,” and the theme for videos is “This is my Forest.” Emphasis is on children/youth (K through 12) getting to know their local nature: “Adventure, fun, exploration - it's all waiting for you. Get outdoors and discover all the cool things to do and see in your local environment. From your own backyard to our towering national forests, you can find plants and animals at every turn. Develop a connection with these wild neighbors! Learn their names. Find out where they live.” Best-practices page with many lessons for art, creative writing, digital photography, video, and drama, posted at <http://www.gettoknow.ca/teachers/index.php> Sponsors include USFS, USFWS, NWF, C&NN, SCE, SDGE, Wyland Foundation, SD Zoo, SDNHM, REI, Calif. State Parks, and others (this time, I'm not spelling them all out!)

PEDIATRICIAN CONNECTIONS. Richard Louv was the keynote speaker at the American Academy of Pediatrics national conference on Saturday, October 2. Article posted on <http://www.aapconvergence.com/highlight.aspx?p=109&id=1970> . Long excerpts are posted at <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2010/10/04/grow-outside-keynote-address-to-the-american-academy-of-pediatrics-national-conference/> : [More than three decades ago, when Dr. Mary Brown's children were growing up.... it never occurred to her that much of her practice as a pediatrician would one day be so focused on childhood obesity and depression. These maladies, as she described them in an e-mail to me a few days ago, are the ones “that happen when kids move inside and interact with their video games and computers instead of outside playing with each other and using their imaginations.”The disconnect with the outdoors, especially the natural world, is, she says, “one of the core reasons for so many of the physical and mental problems that have changed the practice of pediatrics over the last 20 years.....

“An additional benefit of nature experience has received scant attention, yet it is one of the most stirring: family bonding. “Research has not looked specifically at a link between outdoor experience and quality of parent-child attachment, and certainly parents can be sensitive and responsive to their babies and young children indoors or out,” says Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D., a developmental psychologist and a past children's health advisor to the White House. “But, in many ways, the natural world seems to invite and facilitate parent-child connection and sensitive interactions.” What better way to escape the constant, interrupting beeping of modern life, and actually have a chance to spend concentrated time with your child, than with a walk in the woods?

CONNECTING SAN DIEGO'S KIDS TO NEARBY NATURE! panel at SD Natural History Museum on Tues. evening, Oct. 4. Yasmin Shaddox (Family Adventures in Nature) told of a 3-year-old who refused to get out of the stroller on the first nature walk, and soon was climbing hills and gaining confidence—illustrative of setting few expectations and of nature experiences for appropriate risk-taking. Chris Redfern (San Diego Audubon Society) reminded us of the societal benefits of children's experiences in nature, that we are growing the next generation of leaders and affecting social beliefs. Teresa Hardisty, M.D. (Pediatrician at Sharp Rees-Stealy and mother of four) outlined the benefits of nature and outdoor play for children, and encourages her patients and parents to get outdoors. Relative to the increasing time spent with electronic devices, she noted that psychiatrists are considering whether this is an “addiction.” Robert Garcia (founder of CityProject in Los Angeles) outlined the *Parks for Everyone* report (see info item above). Closing comment from a young adult in the audience, “Young adults are aware and ready to contribute to the green economy, arts and culture, the environment, and more”... and it's time that we invite their leadership!” (Next SDCaN mtg will precede the Tues. Nov. 9 public lecture at the Museum, by Stephen Kellert, on Nature and Human Development.

FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES AND PLACES IN SAN DIEGO AND BAJA CALIF. From PROBEA (a program of the San Diego Natural History Museum), this is a catalog of ecologically and educationally significant sites, General Guidelines for Field trip based environmental education, posted at <http://www.eecc.net/binders/Field%20Trip%20Binder.pdf> . Also Our Natural Heritage, Bioregional Pride San Diego County and Baja California (big file!) Has good habitat descriptions and recommendations of local natural areas. Also see Chapter 5 for field trips. http://www.sdnhm.org/education/binational/curriculums/EnglishCurriculumDEC09_web.pdf .

Disney's Planet Challenge FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, up to \$650, for grades 3-8. Matching funding to hands-on environmental project(s) for \$650 or less in materials. Get more information at www.dpcproject.com . Applications due November 1, from full-time 3rd through 8th grade teachers at public schools. “Three easy steps to qualify for this funding: First, log in to your teacher account on www.DonorsChoose.org (if you don't have

one, any public school teacher can sign up at www.donorschoose.org/teacher). Once you're logged in, submit a hands-on project request focused on benefiting the environment (projects on water conservation and watershed protection, recycling, composting, restoring/creating community gardens, etc.) requesting \$650 or less in materials. If interested, visit <http://dpcproject.com> and sign up for the Disney's Planet Challenge, using the same email address you used for your DonorsChoose.org account. Within a week of project approval, if your project meets the above criteria, you will see a Disney's Planet Challenge logo on your project page. This means it has qualified for this match offer and now has a great chance of being fully funded by the other donors that visit our site. If your project qualifies and you sign up for Disney's Planet Challenge, your project will receive this funding by 12/18/10."

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Phone 858-472-1293, email fege@sandiegoaudubon.org

From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Saturday, October 23, 2010 8:39 PM

To: Anne Fege

Subject: SD Children and Nature Tues. Nov. 9, mtg @ 5pm and Stephen Kellert lecture @ 6:30 pm, Nature in Human Development, pls forward this shorter msg!

Join us for an inspiring evening **on Tuesday, November 9** at the San Diego Natural History Museum, first at 5:00 for the bi-monthly meeting of the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative then a lecture at 6:30-8 PM on **Nature in Human Development**, by Stephen Kellert of Yale University Please forward this message to the members and friends of your organization; include it in your newsletter and e-mail blasts; and post it on your website! We'll look forward to seeing you on November 9!!

Nature in Human Development, Tuesday, November 9, 2010; 6:30–8 PM, *Stephen Kellert, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies*. That's the next lecture in the San Diego Natural History Museum's lecture series this fall on *Sustainable Planet: Children and Nature!* This lecture explores the role of nature in the evolution of human biology and culture and how we can better connect the natural and built environments to create positive connections between children and nature. In today's world, the "natural habitat" of people has become the built environment where children spend on average 90% of their time. Learn about the "biophilic design" as a strategy for creating positive, beneficial connections between children and nature in the human-built environment. Dr. Kellert is the Tweedy Ordway Professor Emeritus of Social Ecology and Senior Research Scholar at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. His work focuses on understanding the connection between nature and humanity with a particular interest in environmental conservation and sustainable design and development (more information at <http://environment.yale.edu/profile/kellert/>).

Meeting of the SD Children and Nature Collaborative, Tuesday, November 9, 5-6:30 PM. We will introduce the Board and active leaders of SDCaN, and invite you to learn about and give suggestions for increasing the opportunities for San Diego's children to learn in nature and play outdoors. These discussions will build on the findings of the four community asset inventories that were completed in June and have been posted on www.sdchildrenandnature.org, for early childhood educators, youth programs, high schools and colleges, and health professionals. We'll also discuss opportunities for families and seniors! Five local organizations will set up tables and share their programs for nature and outdoor play for children, between 6:00 and 6:30 pm.

For the SDCaN meeting, bring \$5 and we'll provide pizza, veggies, and sodas for dinner. Bring \$5 for the lecture or register in advance at https://tickets.sdnhm.org/public/load_screen.asp, but you can also pay \$5 at the door.

Anne S. Fege, Ph.D., M.B.A., Chair
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From: SD Children and Nature [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2010 12:20 PM
To: SD Children and Nature
Subject: SD Children and Nature news items, two requests, and next mtg Tues. 1/25

On behalf of SD Children and Nature Collaborative board members, we thank you for your countless hours of support in 2010 for children to learn and play in nature. We are excited about 2011 and even more local collaboration, with the launch of the SDCaN webpage in March, family nature days featured in April, the launch of Richard Louv's new book in early May (The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder), the Chaparral and Shrublands curriculum going to all fourth grade teachers, and much more. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 25, 5:00 pm featuring youth (bring high school students and teachers!) and pizza, and 6:30 for a lecture on Grounding Learning in Place and Community, both at the SD Natural History Museum. A few news items and two requests/needs follow! /s/ Anne Fege and others



SAN DIEGO SCIENCE ALLIANCE RESOURCE CATALOG is a useful inventory of local science and environment resources, that matches the search criteria that you define, check it out at <http://sdsa.org/resources/resource-catalog>

FAMILY ADVENTURES IN NATURE IS SEEKING NEW LEADERS and looking to "grow" more of the small, regionally based groups (like Encinitas Explorers, O'side Trail Tribe, etc.). Do you have a passion for spending time in nature with your kids? Do you enjoy getting out on a regular basis, at least as much as you can? What would this "leadership" entail, you ask? Here are some basics:

1. Planning weekly or biweekly outings in nature at existing trails or nature centers near your home. You choose a regular day and time, then vary the location each outing (re-visiting favorites of course!)
2. Posting your outings on our Facebook and "BigTent" sites.
3. Greeting participants as they arrive and then gently guiding along the way.
4. Maintaining a sign-in sheet for each outing (provided) and "waivers" for participants (also provided).
5. Attending occasional meetings for leaders (3-4 times per year, as you are able) to share ideas and get information.
6. Enjoying even more time than you may already be spending in nature with your kids and inspiring others to do the same!

Contact Janice Swaisgood, 619-540-7246, Janice@FamilyAdventuresinNature.org .

RICHARD LOUV BOOK-SIGNING EVENT ON (likely) MAY 5. We seek SDCaN participants for a planning committee for the national "book launch event" and lecture/talk by Richard Louv here in San Diego. We're exploring some venues (1000 seats or more), a nature education fair with exhibits, two-tiered ticket prices (low- and with-book), fund-raising or VIP event preceding lecture, and marketing approach. To volunteer for this committee, contact Danielle Heckman, outreach coordinator at the SD Audubon Society, heckman@sandiegoaudubon.org.

TWILIGHT AWAKENINGS, SATURDAY, DEC. 18, 2:30 PM, Torrey Pines State Park Reserve, 12600 North Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, CA 92037. Sponsored by Outdoor Education Foundation. Join us for a lively, interactive exploration with Sidney Wildsmith, "The Nature Man". Whether you are a seasoned explorer or just wanting to rediscover the outdoors with family and friends, you will enjoy exploring with Sidney, as we discover new wonders, awaken the senses, and reaffirm our essential connection with nature. Outdoor Education Foundation (www.oefoundation.org) provides resources to connect all kids to science and nature through the quality Outdoor Education programs provided by the San Diego County Office of Education since 1946. Twilight Awakenings are FREE but space is limited, RSVP at <http://twilightawakenings.eventbrite.com/>. Each participant will receive a free gift courtesy of REI. Bring water, wear comfortable shoes, and dress in layers.

MEETING ON JANUARY 25, BRING YOUTH and EXHIBIT. Our next meeting, on Tuesday, January 25 at the SD Natural History Museum, will feature youth—and we invite you to attend with some students from your high school environmental programs and/or clubs. Registration at 4:45, then meeting and pizza 5:00-6:15 (\$5 donation, optional), then lecture on Grounding Learning in Place and Community in the adjacent theatre at the Museum, 6:30-8:00, \$5 fee (advance registration recommended; register at

https://tickets.sdnhm.org/public/load_screen.asp , or bring \$5 to pay at the door. Also put May 3 lecture on your calendar!

GROUNDING LEARNING IN PLACE AND COMMUNITY, Tuesday, January 25, 2011; 6:30–8 PM

Greg Smith, Lewis & Clark College. Recently, a growing number of educators across the United States (and elsewhere) have been experimenting with an approach to teaching and learning that is breaking down the boundary that often stands between schools and the social and natural worlds that exist beyond them. Called place- and community-based education, teachers who adopt this approach integrate local knowledge and concerns into the classroom, involve students in field studies and real world problem solving, and work with community partners to provide opportunities for young people to participate in projects that have value for others. The result is higher levels of academic engagement as well as the cultivation of children and youth committed to citizen participation and environmental stewardship. More info at http://www.lclark.edu/graduate/faculty/members/greg_smith/

REI AWARDS GRANTS TO 9 LOCAL NONPROFITS (from article by Jenna Long, The Daily Transcript. 12/2/10). Congratulations!

REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.), a national outdoor retailer committed to connecting people with nature, provided nearly \$67,000 in grant funding to nine nonprofit partners in the San Diego area. These local grants are the result of nominations made by the Chula Vista, Encinitas and San Diego REI stores. Awards include:

--San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL) -- A \$10,000 grant to involve 500 local youth and adults in environmental education and volunteer stewardship programs, focused on revitalizing four urban canyons in underserved areas of San Diego.

--San Diego Mountain Biking Association -- A \$10,000 grant to develop volunteer programs for youth with a focus on environmental stewardship, education and outdoor activities, complementing the organization's trail-building and maintenance programs.

--San Diego River Park Foundation -- A \$10,000 grant to expand volunteer initiatives to protect and enhance the upper San Diego River Gorge through the organization's Save the Source program, with funding for two river surveys and three clean-ups.

--San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy -- A \$9,760 grant to fund project staffing and provide volunteers with planting and restorations materials, supporting efforts to restore wildlife habitat at Crest Canyon, Del Mar. Additional grant recipients include Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation, Groundwork San Diego -- Chollas Creek, San Diego Coastkeeper, San Diego County Outdoor Education Association Inc. and Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association.

CULTIVATING THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CONFERENCE. For Early Childhood professionals, on Saturday, January 29, 2011, at the Child Educational Center, 140 Foothill Blvd., Ca Canada, CA. More information at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e33guo2a0f8fa3bd&llr=scky79cab> : A variety of workshops designed to inform and inspire on a range of facets of the Outdoor Classroom, with three tracks of participation, to benefit both those just beginning to work with their Outdoor Classroom, as well as the experienced. Observe the Outdoor Classroom play yards of the Child Educational Center's model program in La Canada-Flintridge. \$165 fee by January 19.

RECYCLING OUTREACH PROGRAMS. The Outdoor Education Department of the SD County Office of Education is sponsored by the City of SD Department of Environmental Services Department to do outreach education on recycling in San Diego. Presentations are free at schools and places of employment (within the City of SD limits), community events with information booth, and "Enviro-tours" of the Miramar Landfill, teaching students from Grades 4-12 on the importance of recycling while showing them the magnitude of the trash problem "up close and personal." Contact

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