



“News” Items and Meeting Announcements Selected Email Messages Sent in 2011 (most recent first) To San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative Members

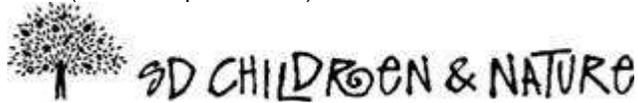
From: SD Children and Nature [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2011 5:30 PM

To: SD Children and Nature

Subject: SD Children and Nature, seeking Advisory and Working Board members, next mtg. Jan. 25 w/ Mother Nature's Child film

We send “best wishes” for the holiday season... we hope you are enjoying time in nature with your family and friends! We look forward to our work together in 2012 to increase opportunities for children to learn in nature and play outdoors! We'll start with our general meeting on January 25, 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Mission Trails Regional Park. This will be an official Annual Meeting, with election of Advisory Board and Working Board members, and will feature the new film, *Mother Nature's Child* (see description below).



- We invite you to serve on the Working Board that meets monthly, and are currently in need of a Secretary and Treasurer.
- And we seek a lawyer, marketing specialist, and media and financial professionals for the Advisory Board.
- Please suggest your colleagues-friends-neighbors who have a passion for increasing opportunities for all children to learn in nature and play outdoors! Send nominations to Leta Bender (benders2@cox.net) or call Leta at 619-316-7247.

As the Collaborative listens, evolves, takes a few steps, and learns, we are gradually developing our leadership structure. We have formed two boards: an Advisory Board and a Working Board. The roles of the Advisory Board are to represent partners and community interests and advise on overall direction for programs. Thus far, seven have agreed to serve on this Advisory Board and meet bi-monthly; their first meeting was October 18 and the second will be Wed. January 18, 8:30 to 10:30 am. The Working Board will focus on program development and oversight, with members leading the key areas of communications, education, families, health, nature places and spaces, and youth programs. This Board meets monthly, generally a weekday morning. The Collaborative's organizational structure will be reviewed briefly at the January 25 meeting, the slate of Board members and officers presented, and the election determined by a majority of those attending the January 25 meeting. This is all described in a Governing Document, similar to by-laws but less structured as we are not an independent non-profit but operate under the SD Audubon Society (as fiscal sponsor).

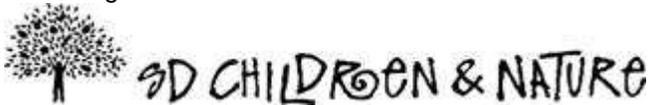
At the Collaborative's next meeting on January 25, 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Mission Trails Regional Park, we'll show this new film... and you may consider this a preview, as you may borrow this non-profit copy to show at your meeting, school, training, etc. (without charging a fee). The *Mother Nature's Child* film explores nature's powerful role in children's health and development through the experience of toddlers, children in middle childhood and

adolescents. The 57-minute film marks a moment in time when a living generation can still recall childhoods of free play outdoors; this will not be true for most children growing up today. *Mother Nature's Child* asks: "Why do children need unstructured time outside? What is the place of risk-taking in healthy child development? How is play a form of learning? Why are teachers resistant to taking students outside? How can city kids connect with nature? What does it mean to educate the 'whole' child?" (from <http://www.mothernaturesmovie.com/the-film/> , with 8-minute preview). The film features Richard Louv, David Sobel, Jon Young, other experts, and children in the outdoors! (The non-profit, no-fee-charged copy of the film can be borrowed by Collaborative partners to show.) After the film, we will moderate a discussion around questions and comments arising from the film viewing. Hope to see you there!

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

From: SD Children and Nature [<mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org>]
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2011 11:56 PM
To: SD Children and Nature
Subject: SD Children and Nature news items, meetings, and invitations!

A few news items about meetings, invitation for board members and project leaders, presentations at science teacher conference, high school nature-based classroom projects, naturalist guide coordination, and more! /s/ Anne Fege and others



WINTER SOLSTICE WALK on December 20. Celebrate San Diego's seasons on an informal walk with other Collaborative members. Mark the date and suggest a location, and we'll send time and place later.

NEXT COLLABORATIVE MEETING on Wed. January 25-tentative. Shifting to four meetings in 2012, and will follow the seasons. Suggestions and invitations for this "winter" meeting will be welcomed! Send to Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org.

BOARD MEETINGS. All are welcome at the Board meetings, and the next one will be Wednesday, December 13 from 9:00 to 12:00 at the SD Audubon Society office at 4010 Morena Boulevard (just north of Balboa, overlooking I-5 freeway). Meetings on October 18, November 1 and November 8 have focused on leadership roles, project approach and role of project leaders, website revision, and 2011 accomplishments report. Funds are being sought for the Collaborative's networking activities, pilot projects to add nature activities into various children's programs and services, support for naturalist guides and Family Nature Clubs, and general administration.

SEEKING ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Can you suggest individuals that can serve on our just-being-established Advisory Board/Committee? We seek leaders that represent the Collaborative Partners, financial and legal expertise, marketing, youth, community organizing, youth, and diverse communities. Send names and email addresses to Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org.

SEEKING PROJECT LEADERS. Are you interested in doing one of these projects? Some have a small stipend available, some could be an internship, and some are leadership opportunities that can lead to grant support in the future. If interested, contact Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org.

--Identify and enter local natural areas and gardens into the Nature Places map on the website, at <http://sdchildrenandnature.org/findnature>

--Update the California Regional Environmental Education Community-CREEC resource/program list by contacting each resource provider to get current-correct information, at

http://creec.edgateway.net/cs/creecp/search/creec_res

--Propose and initiate recognition/certification of schools with nature-centered learning

- Develop contact system for Parent-Teacher Associations, to increase their awareness and support of nature experiences
- Schedule (and/or give) Speakers' Bureau presentations to community and professional groups
- Draft Informational materials for exhibits, fairs, and other local audiences
- Take care of the logistics for quarterly general meetings of the Collaborative in 2012

PRESENTATIONS AT TEACHERS' SCIENCE CONFERENCE. Several presentations featured nature-based learning, on Saturday November 5 at the 28th Annual Conference of the SDCUE (SD Computer-Using Educators) Technology Conference & SD Science Educators Association-SDSEA, attended by 1000 teachers at CSU-San Marcos. Handouts for "Learning in Nature's Classrooms" (listed as Fege, Anne) and Citizen Science (listed as Hawke, Mary Ann and Varner, David) are posted at <http://sdcue.org/?p=3606>.

SHRUBLANDS CURRICULUM PRINTED. Thanks to the California Chaparral Institute for donating funds to print 200 copies of the shrublands curriculum, food chain species cards, and field trip guide (bound together)! We have about 100 printed copies left, as the first 100 copies are being distributed to the School District "nature champions" who have volunteered to actively contact and advocate to teachers and administrators in these districts: Arne Johanson in Poway Unified, Cathy Chadwick in Cajon Valley, Laura Spencer in Santee, and Leta Bender in Jamul. Contact Leta Bender at benders2@cox.net if you're interested in expanding the "School District Champion" pilot project to your District.

HIGH SCHOOLS START NATURE-BASED PROJECTS. The UCSD ScienceBridge program, SD Canyonlands, Audubon Society, and local naturalists are working together with high school teachers at Kearney, Lincoln, Mission, and Serra High Schools this school year. About ten high school classes will do a nature-based project at a canyon, reserve, or other natural area within walking distance of their school. Students participated in field orientation days: Serra HS in Shepard Canyon, Kearny HS in Tecolote Canyon, and Mission HS at Rose Creek and Kendall-Frost Marsh-UCSD Reserve.

From an article in Tierrasanta's community newspaper: "On a warm summer morning in October approximately ninety Serra High sophomores met in Shepherd Canyon to study the natural environment. The students are all taking Dr. Ericka Senegar's AP or Honors Biology. It was the first time in the canyon for some, and it proved to be a memorable learning experience. The kids broke into groups, each participating in three activities. Jan Eby, Tierrasanta's Maintenance Assessment District Open Space Inspector, led each group along the greenbelt to Dishwasher Pond, explaining the canyon's geography, including the water sources, wetlands, planting history, and maintenance. San Diego Canyonlands guides and John Hopper, Tierrasanta resident and Natural History Museum canyoneer guide, selected key native plants to show how various species survive and reproduce, how the Kumeyaay used them, and how some are used today. He also pointed out the non-native vegetation that has encroached on the natural habitat. Chris Kopp, UCSD biologist, taught students how to conduct a plant transect as well as set out bee collection bowls for their class research project."

NATURALIST GUIDES MEETING. On October 26, 22 naturalist guides shared their collective needs, interests, opportunities, and actions! Next steps are to gather information about current local programs, including trainings, nature walks, teacher info, and schedules; set up Wiki or Google page to post this information; connect naturalists by starting a Facebook group; review training outlines to identify standard elements and specialized elements, and learn more about California Master Naturalist efforts (<http://ucanr.org/sites/UCCNP/>) and programs in other states. They will meet again on Wed. Dec. 7, 2:00 to 4:00 at Girl Scouts-Cabin 3 (need to confirm location).

HEALTHY BEHAVIORS CONFERENCE for after-school programs, Dec. 7-9, 2011, San Diego. \$325 registration, then \$400 after Nov. 25 and on-site <http://www.healthybehaviorsconference.org/home>. One of the workshops is "Growing Your Own Nearby Nature Program," by Crystal De Soto-SDCaN board and Kathy Wilder-YMCA. Abstract: Nearby nature programs tap into valuable local resources in your backyard that are often over looked. Learn how to identify and access your own nearby nature, use practical tested tools to build curriculum, and cultivate positive community partnerships to support the program. Posted at <http://www.healthybehaviorsconference.org/workshops>.

Anne S. Fege, Ph.D., M.B.A., Chair
San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN)

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

From: SD Children and Nature [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:38 PM

To: SD Children and Nature

Subject: SD Children and Nature, news about 4 meetings in October, notes from 5 past meetings!

The Collaborative will have and has had a number of meetings recently! Please join us at some or all of the four upcoming meetings in October! /s/ Anne Fege and others



UPCOMING MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING on Tues. Oct. 18. All are welcome at the Board meetings! This meeting will be held from 9-12:00 on Tues. Oct. 18 at the SD Audubon Society office at 4010 Morena Boulevard (just north of Balboa, overlooking I-5 freeway). Agenda items include leadership roles and possible structures, project approach and role of project leaders, invite two new Collaborative Partners, and next steps for website.

CULTURAL RELEVANCY MEETING, Wed. Oct. 19: An Afternoon Discussion for Outdoor Youth Providers. Is your program meeting the needs of California's diverse youth population? Are your participants engaged? Are you helping to develop the leaders of tomorrow? Agenda includes the challenges to developing relevant programming, brainstorm short-term and long-term solutions, and how to work together to create a model for relevant programming. Wednesday October 19, 1:00 to 5:00 pm snacks provided, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm reception, at The San Diego Foundation, 2508 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92106. RSVP to Manav Thapar by October 14 to Manav Thapar mthapar@FYIfoundation.org. Seating is limited to two representatives from each organization (outdoor youth providers). Sponsored by The San Diego Foundation, REI, and Foundation for Youth Investment; and a number of Collaborative members plan to attend.

NATURALIST GUIDE MEETING ON Wed. Oct. 26, 2pm. The Collaborative invites you to a discussion on Wednesday, October 26, 2:00 to 3:30 pm at the Girl Scout's Cabin 3. This invitation is extended to Naturalist Guides, organizations that utilize naturalist guides to lead walks or activities (about a dozen organizations in San Diego!), and organizations that train naturalist guides. The meeting agenda includes: Confirm current naturalist guide-led programs in San Diego; Identify shared goals, interests, and ways to benefit each other; Pinpoint opportunities to expand naturalist guides reach to children throughout the county; and List key action steps for the next year to get more children into nature! San Diego has a wealth of extensively trained naturalist guides, yet many schools and youth programs are now realizing the value of naturalists and creating an increasing demand for qualified naturalist guides. Steps have been taken to establish a Naturalist Guide Fund to support "nearby nature" field trips for classrooms and youth programs. No RSVP. More information from Crystal De Soto at cidesoto@gmail.com or fege@sandiegoaudubon.org.

SCHOOL CHAMPIONS AND SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS MEETING ON Oct. 26, 4pm. The Education Committee of the Collaborative will meet to discuss these tools to enhance nature-based learning in schools! It will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm in Cabin 3 at the Girl Scout program center, 1231 Upas Street. An actively-used schoolyard habitat or nature-based lessons often depend on someone serving as a "nature champion," and we have thought about how to actively promote and support such champions. Questions have been posed about how many schools are already using nature classrooms, and if the children and nature movement is successful in increasing that, how we could track and celebrate this. The meeting will focus on School district champions (and school champions). What's the need? What's the concept? What suggestions do you have? And on school recognitions. Would this matter? What's important? Then what common interests do we have, and what action steps do we want to take? No RSVP. More information from Leta Bender at benders2@cox.net and Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org.

NOTES FROM RECENT MEETINGS

COLLABORATIVE MEETING on September 27. The meeting at the Visitor's Center at Mission Trails Regional Park featured four completed "nearby nature" products: Exploring San Diego's Shrubland Habitats, Nearby Nature Field Trip Guidebook, Pocket Naturalist Guide for Chaparral Shrublands of Southern California, and Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide. Several attendees gave their perspectives on the Children & Nature Network national meeting. At 5:00, five groups were formed for "nearby walks" focused on nature experiences for children and youth in five settings: Pre-school children, Elementary school classes, After-school and youth programs, High school service learning, and Family-centered walks. Thank you, Mission Trails Regional Park staff, for hosting the meeting!.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK in San Diego, Sept. 20-22 From C&NN info: "Join the Children & Nature Network for our annual Grassroots Gathering, a powerful opportunity to share, learn, and engage in the movement to reconnect children and nature. This year's theme of Let's G.O.! (Get Outside) included leading experts across the disciplinary spectrum—from youth leaders to engaged grandparents, pediatricians to business leaders, early childhood educators to university faculty. Thirty attended from San Diego, and since have shared their key insights:

- The value of stories, the impact of nature on lives and careers (be ready to tell your story!)
- Other regions have similar challenges and obstacles, it's a huge movement, and there are great ideas, connections and support available
- Value of engaging 16- to 25-year-old youth, as they give and deserve hope and spirit
- Advocacy must increase, for C&NN and networks to engage in keeping state parks open and public nature areas managed, in expecting schools to teach in nature, in healthy lifestyles, and access to nature for all families

BOARD MEETING on September 13. Key audiences were confirmed: nature education providers, children/youth program providers (employers and professional associations of educators and child-care professionals), and community leaders. In the year ahead, the Collaborative's actions and resources will be organized around projects, which have been identified and approved by the Board for each of the six goals. Regrettably, the website developer has "frozen" access to the site, and several actions taken to "get the site back" and make revisions and additions (including posting Collaborative meetings!) so it can be a valued, interactive site.

COLLABORATIVE MEETING on July 26. An inspiring meeting at the Hamilton Children's Garden at San Diego Botanic Garden! Thanks for hosting us, giving us a tour of the garden, letting us play music and climb in the tree house, providing shade and a breeze and refreshments, and most of all, for creating the wonderful garden for children (and adults) and nature! Garden staff shared the story of the Larabee's interests in youth in 1940s, the transition from SD County-managed to non-profit-managed garden in early 1990s, the steps to create the smaller Seeds of Wonder in about 2002 and then the Hamilton Children's Garden in 2010, the frequent family-centered events, and the 60% increase in membership from families since 2010 (even adding "third card" membership for care-taker/nanny, and allowing "family" to cover grandchildren). We noted that the garden is a great demonstration area for those interested in creating schoolyard habitats/gardens that draw out children's curiosity, creativity, learning, and connections to nature.

BOARD MEETING on August 4. Following a number of meetings to gather information and insights about future directions, the Board met to address roles, structure, and strategic objectives. What are the unique roles of the Collaborative? Positive and broad mission, capitalizes on nostalgia and biophilia for nature, gives voice to children and nature, brings together diverse organizations, and adapts products and resources for San Diego. Who is the Collaborative principally serving or should be serving? Nature education providers, children/youth program providers (employers and professional associations of educators and child-care professionals), and community leaders. What resources does the Collaborative have? Time of key leaders/volunteers, staff and volunteers from partner organizations, grants, and in-kind contributions. A two-year plan will be developed in the next month, structured around projects (rather than committees). The website is being transferred to local platform and then it will be revised to include pages for the Collaborative, key audiences (educators, media, donors), and the general public (benefits, places, partners, family-focused events).

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

From: SD Children and Nature [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:37 PM
To: SD Children and Nature
Subject: SD Children and Nature, 5 grant programs, 10 events, and 11 resources and reports!

Here are news items about grants, events and outreach, and resources.... more opportunities to learn from each other and work better together! /s/ Anne Fege and others



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

EDUCATION GRANTS \$25,000-plus from SD WOMEN'S FOUNDATION. Letter of Inquiry due Wed. Oct. 26. Grants will be for "programs that develop basic skills and knowledge for improved performance in school and life.... for individual and small groups of San Diego County elementary school students who are living at or below poverty level. Guidelines at http://sdwomensfoundation.org/grantmaking/current_guidelines.html. Here's a children and nature perspective: Nature and the schoolyard garden/habitat seem like great settings for more effective learning, and perhaps some organizations can work with school(s) that already has a schoolyard habitat/garden, teacher(s) that want to use it, and a plan for lessons and learning that involve smaller groups or individual students (see grant guidelines). Nature is accessible (nearby), affordable (low-cost), and such an awesome "outdoor classroom" for students to experience science, math, language and group learning by observing, touching, listening, smelling, telling and doing.... and much more. The grants are for basic skills defined as Academic: foundation skills related to school performance, including skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and English as a second language; and Practical: foundation skills related to optimal functioning in everyday life, including learning skills and study skills.

GARDEN GRANTS. Due November 18, 2011, San Diego Ag In The Classroom is offering School Garden/Ag Project Grants from \$250-\$1000, about \$10-15,000 total awarded each year. School gardens offer children a fabulous hands-on opportunity to bring learning alive! In this outdoor classroom, students can study science, math, literature, art, social studies – you name it! There isn't any subject that can't be taught in a school garden, especially the life-long and valuable lessons about agriculture. More info at <http://www.sdfarmbureau.org/AgintheClassroom/Garden-Grants.php>. More information from kathy@sdfarmbureau.org. Let's get growing!

SMALL GRANT PROGRAM. Weingart Foundation, informational session on their San Diego County Small Grant Program. Monday, October 17, 2011, 1:30 pm – Registration, 2:00pm - 4:00 pm – Program, Market Creek Events & Venues, at the Joe & Vi Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, directions at <http://www.marketcreekeventsandvenues.com/directions.htm>. Highlights of the San Diego County Small Grant Program: Targeting established and well managed organizations with operating budgets of \$1.5 million or less working in San Diego County in the areas of health, education or human services serving predominately low-income and underserved populations. Maximum grant awards of \$25,000 for a 12-month period. Next application deadline is January 27, 2012. Please RSVP via email to rsvp@weingartfnd.org. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Carr at (213) 688-6314.

AAUW COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS, from AAUW-American Association of University Women, http://aauw.org/learn/fellows_directory/community.cfm. In 2011, 27 grants were awarded, total \$225,000. Community Action Grants provide seed money to women, AAUW branches, AAUW state organizations, and local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or nondegree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. Recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

OUTREACH AND EVENTS

TIDEPOOL NATURALIST TRAINING, Sat. Oct. 15. Saturdays, October 15 and 22, 2011, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM . Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego's National Park, invites you to help protect the monument's popular rocky intertidal area as a volunteer in the Volunteers-In-Parks Program (VIPs). Volunteers-In-Parks in the Tidepool Protection, Education and Restoration Program (TPERP) help the National Park Service protect this intricate, fragile area by educating visitors and helping them to create their own personal, intellectual, and emotional connections with this fascinating environment. Please register as soon as possible by contacting Park Ranger Bonnie Phillips at (619) 523-4586 or via email to Bonnie_Phillips@nps.gov , and you will be sent directions, a class schedule and other relevant information.

SAN DIEGO AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM, Tues. Oct. 25. ("Food and Flower Happy Hour"). Third Annual Teacher's Resource Fair on Tuesday Oct. 25th from 4 to 6 PM in the San Diego Botanic Garden's Paul Ecke Room. Free, but RSVP to Kathy@sdfarmbureau.org or 760-745-3023 by Tues. 10/18. The purpose of this event is to familiarize local teachers with the major agricultural products grown in San Diego County, and ways in which this information can be incorporated into classroom teaching. This event will also connect teachers to local resources for garden-based learning, including nutrition, native plants, and environmental awareness. San Diego Agriculture in the Classroom (SDAITC) was founded in 1996 and aims to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of agriculture among San Diego County's educators and students.

CANYONEERS SCHEDULE FOR free guided nature walks. Get info about each walk at <http://www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers/calendar.php> and the overall schedule at http://www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers/pdf_files/CanyoneerCal2011-12rev1.pdf. No reservations needed.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE for teachers and educators on Sat. Nov. 5. Held at Cal State University San Marcos and co-sponsored by SD Science Educators Association (SDSEA) and SD Computer-Using Educators (SDCUE). Classroom ideas for science, technology, math (STEM), and all other areas of the curriculum. More than 400 attendees expected, most novice to experienced technology-using educators and core content teachers, also IT and science coordinators and administrators. **Sessions** are 45-minute, lecture-style presentations that address all areas of the curriculum and appeal to a variety of educators. More info at <http://sdsea.org/> . To present a session, register by Oct. 14 at <http://sdcue.org/?p=2459> and submit application at <http://sdcue.org/techfair/speaker-app.php>.

BRIGHT GREEN FUTURE Conference, Oct. 21-22, for green jobs and project networking will take place at University of San Diego on October 21 and 22nd. Get schedule at <http://brightgreenfuture.net/2011schedule.html> and register at <http://www.BrightGreenFuture.net>.

--Topic tracks on Friday: Green Business, Green Building, Zero Waste, Water, and Climate Change/Transportation. Special events on Friday: San Diego Mayoral Candidate's Forum (5:30pm) hosted by the San Diego Sierra Club and followed by a Green Networking Reception.

--Topic tracks on Saturday: All About Food, Green Jobs Workshop, Climate Change, Zero Waste and Water. Special Events on Saturday: All-day Green Jobs Workshop, Million Letter March Activist Workshop, "Permaculture and Graywater," Electric Car Owners Panel, CalGreen Building Codes Workshop.

NATURE IMMERSION COURSE FOR FAMILIES. Waldorf and Reggio Emilia-inspired Nature Immersion for the grade K-6 Child and the whole Family. Explore native habitats, learn about local plants and wildlife, gather and prepare wild foods, build stick huts, and more. Develop a deep connection with nature and community through hiking, playing, singing, creating in a beautiful wilderness setting in the foothills of Ramona at Rock Rose Nature Center. Every 1st and 3rd Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. \$120 for series of 6 classes, \$30 per class for drop-in. To get more information and register, contact Bonnie Morgal, bjmorgal@wildblue.net or 760-788-4394.

HEALTHY BEHAVIORS CONFERENCE on Dec. 7-9 in San Diego from THE BOOST COLLABORATIVE. Workshop topics include physical activity, gardening, health, summer learning, social policy, family advocacy, built environment, and more. The BOOST Collaborative is committed to creating opportunities for change in educational and social services agencies serving youth in the out-of-school time hours. They support out-of-school time professionals through quality professional development opportunities, program and resource

development, building community partnerships, promoting the importance of quality. More information at www.boostcollaborative.org , The conference fee is \$325 per person, more info at <http://www.healthybehaviorsconference.org/>. Program is not announced yet but conference brochure for 2010 is posted at <http://www.healthybehaviorsconference.org/PDF/HB-FINAL-BROCHURE-small.pdf>.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE for Calif. Native Plant Society, Jan. 12-14, 2012 in San Diego. Outstanding opportunity to learn more about California's habitats. Conference is at Town and Country Hotel and there are plenary sessions and keynote speakers, over 200 presenters in 22 sessions (Including Vital Role of Education in the future of Conservation), poster sessions, two days of pre-conference workshops, field trips, and public events (Sat. Jan. 14). More info at www.cnps.org/2012 .

SCIENCE FESTIVAL, Sat. March 24, BOOTH FEE DONATION. An anonymous donor has committed to paying the \$125 fee for a booth at the Science Festival for any organization or program that is willing to arrange and staff a nature-activities exhibit at "Expo Day" at Qualcomm Stadium on Saturday March 24 (this fee does not include electrical hookup). Then SDCaN would be listed as a co-exhibitor (or in the description of the activity/exhibit) and have a handout for participants. Details and sign-up at <http://www.sdsciencefestival.com/get-involved/host-an-expo-day-activity.html>. Contact Anne Fege by November 1 if you're interested, at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org .

RESOURCES AND REPORTS

NATURE CURRICULUM.

--*Exploring San Diego's Shrublands and the Nearby Nature School Field Trips: An Educator's Guide to Teaching in Local Natural Areas* are posted on two websites,

<http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/schools/shrubland/index.php> and <http://sandiegoaudubon.org/edu.htm>

--California Oak Foundation, *Investigating the Oak Community* curriculum at <http://www.californiaoaks.org/>.

--Curriculum developed by the California Native Plant Society: *Opening the World through Journaling: Integrating art, science, and language arts*, at <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/curriculum/index.php> .

CHAPARRAL SHRUBLANDS Pocket Naturalist Guide is AVAILABLE FOR SALE! The *Chaparral Shrublands of Southern California--A Pocket Naturalist Guide* has been revised and reprinted (based on comments from those using the first version)! It can be ordered for resale (at nature centers, bookstores, museums, etc.) from Sunbelt Publications (contact them for prices, www.sunbeltbook.com). Cover price is \$6.95. If you want to purchase copies for educational use (and will not sell the guides), we are offering them through the Collaborative for \$5.00 each plus shipping, and we have an inventory of 2,000 copies. The \$5 will cover the \$3 printing cost and net \$2 for the Collaborative. Send email to fege@sandiegoaudubon.org .

NEW SCHOOLYARD HABITAT GUIDE 132 pages! Clear steps, rationale, worksheets, examples, and inspiration to plan, design, install, maintain, and communicate about schoolyard habitats; it's posted at <http://www.fws.gov/cno/pdf/HabitatGuideColor.pdf> (132 pages, 2011). There's information about the Schoolyard Habitat program at <http://www.fws.gov/cno/conservation/schoolyard.cfm> with 5-minute video by FWS that's followed by two videos by National Wildlife Federation (NWF), and a two-page fact sheet at <http://www.fws.gov/cno/docs/conservation/Region8SYHfactsheet.pdf> . " The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Schoolyard Habitat program allows teachers and school children to build habitat for wildlife, and in doing so, learn about the outdoors through interdisciplinary learning in a broad context involving math, reading and writing skills, and science among others." Also resources are provided by the NWF at <http://www.nwf.org/schoolyard/> , with curriculum at <http://www.nwf.org/schoolyard/lessonplans.cfm> . Local resources for school gardens and schoolyard habitats are available at <http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/schools/schools.php>.

800 CARLSBAD THIRD GRADERS funded for field day at AGUA HEDIONDA LAGOON. The Carlsbad Charitable Foundation and Carlsbad Educational Foundation have granted \$60,000 for every third grader in the Carlsbad Unified School District to participate in the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation's "Third Grade Academy for Environmental Stewardship." This covers staffing and transportation for the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation to provide "hands-on" demonstration classes that stress responsible interaction with the natural surroundings and create an awareness of the impact of day-to-day human activities. There will be hands-on learning experiences for small groups of students, eight hours of instruction at the Lagoon's Discovery Center, and professional "edu-tainers" to enhance the curriculum, along with games, props, and outdoor activities to

engage the students in lagoon resources. More info at <http://www.carlsbaded.org/press-releases/carlsbad-students-engage-with-local-environmental-%E2%80%98gem%E2%80%99.aspx>.

VOLUNTEER SAN DIEGO is a great place to invite families to participate in your volunteer events! Its' mission is to Volunteer San Diego creates lasting community impact through meaningful individual and group volunteer action. "Basic Partners" (free) get unlimited posting of volunteer opportunities on Volunteer San Diego's (VSD) website, and other services described at http://www.volunteersandiego.org/HOC_Become_a_Partner_Page . [I ran a search at http://www.volunteersandiego.org/HOC_Volunteer_Opportunity_Search_page?p=sw for opportunities in zip code 92101 and dates 9/29 to 10/31, then "additional filters" for "what would you like to do?" and "Address these issues areas" and I selected Environment. There were 50 opportunities, hosted by a number (but not all) of our local nature education providers. Try listing your next volunteer event with Volunteer San Diego!

THE MORE HIGH-TECH SCHOOLS BECOME, THE MORE THEY NEED NATURE, at <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2011/10/04/the-more-high-tech-schools-become-the-more-nature-they-need/> (part two, follows part one, "Want your kids to get into Harvard? Tell 'em to go outside!" See link at bottom of blog). Also glance through this 23-page review of research on benefits of nature-based learning in educational settings, at <http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/Educationsynthesis.pdf>

LEARNING SCIENCE IN INFORMAL SETTINGS. Report by National Academy of Sciences, Information at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12190. Register and download the report. From description: Informal science is a burgeoning field that operates across a broad range of venues and envisages learning outcomes for individuals, schools, families, and society. The evidence base that describes informal science, its promise, and effects is informed by a range of disciplines and perspectives, including field-based research, visitor studies, and psychological and anthropological studies of learning. Contributors have... experience in a range of settings-- museums, after-school programs, science and technology centers, media enterprises, aquariums, zoos, state parks, and botanical gardens.

TIJUANA ESTUARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS. On a field trip preceding the national Children & Nature Network conference, the staff featured the restoration research, projects with neighboring high school, high school students serving as "estuarine ambassadors" and Junior Ranger programs. Two-page outline of Education Programs at http://trnerr.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/TRNERR_Ed-Prgrams.pdf . Their Junior Ranger Program takes place every Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm with different topics presented at each session. Two-page outline posted, including the 12 themes that rotate and have different lessons throughout the year, <http://trnerr.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/2011JRCalendar.pdf> . Info on high school program at <http://trnerr.org/?p=470>.

VERY YOUNG CHILDREN. Linda Hawley wrote an article on "Nature Adventures" in the September 2011 issue of Family Magazine, pages 66-67, posted at <http://www.smpdigitaledition.com/publication/?i=79448> . An excerpt: "Even the youngest children, at age 3, continually amaze me with their retention. No matter how young the audience, students learn scientific terms like camouflage, herbivore, metamorphosis, nocturnal. They learn to respect and co-exist with nature, rather than fear, disturb or avoid it. Parents learn along with children." Nature Adventures! schedule of dates, topics and registration at www.mtrp.org or contact Linda at 619-582-6261. October for bats, November for Kumeyaay Life before 1769, December about mule deer.

NATURE'S OWN STIMULUS PACKAGE, a great blog by Richard Louv, at <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2011/09/24/natures-own-stimulus-package-7-ways-to-improve-our-lives-in-tough-economic-times/>. Excerpts:

1. With high gas prices, families are rediscovering both the joy and the cost-effectiveness of getaways in nearby nature, including regional, state or national parks. As Outside magazine puts it, "near is the new far."
2. Unless we're talking about a new bass boat or a high-tech tent, nature toys are free or cheap, and they encourage self-directed creativity.
3. Green exercise is free. Groups of families form "green gyms" and meet once or twice a week to hike, garden or take some other type of exercise in the natural world.

4. By planting trees and preserving open space, we can improve energy efficiency, reduce the carbon footprint and protect property values.
5. Back-yard or community gardens offer improved nutrition and, for the wider society, reduced long-distance shipping costs.
6. To shorten the recession, we'll need to teach better and work smarter. Students learn better when schools promote place-based learning in the largest classroom of all: the natural world. And outdoor classrooms cost less than brick and mortar.
7. Nature can help us build social capital. In hard times, we need cohesive neighborhoods and supportive kinship networks more than ever. The family that plays together stays together.

SAN DIEGO SCIENCE ALLIANCE AWARD TO PROJECT SWELL. At the annual celebration on May 3, the Sustainable Program Award was given to Project SWELL (Stewardship: Water Education for Lifelong Leadership) and received by Jennifer Nichols Kearns and Alicia Glassco. (We missed this award in the June 17 news-resources email). Congratulations for all your accomplishments in the SWELL program!

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

From: SD Children and Nature [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2011 4:36 PM
To: SD Children and Nature
Subject: SD Children and Nature, next mtg Tues. 9/27, 4-6pm, one job and many news items!



Our next Collaborative meeting will feature Five nature projects and Five walks! Join us on Tuesday, September 27 at 4:00 pm in the Visitor's Center at Mission Trails Regional Park, beginning with sign-in, snacks (cookies and apples?), introductions and a welcome. Then four completed "nearby nature" products will be introduced, and the developers will outline them: Exploring San Diego's Shrubland Habitats, Nearby Nature Field Trip Guidebook, Pocket Naturalist Guide for Chaparral Shrublands of Southern California, and Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide. Plus an update from the Children & Nature Network national meeting (Sept. 20-22). At about 5:00, we'll choose one of five "nearby walks" focused on nature experiences for children and youth in five settings: Pre-school children, Elementary school classes, After-school and youth programs, High school service learning, and Family-centered walks. Directions are available at www.mtrp.org/directions.asp

JOB: CONSERVATION PROGRAM MANAGER, San Diego Audubon Society. The job will entail the guidance and expansion of our programs, monitor environmental policies, and mentor conservation volunteers who participate in our restoration events. (Shannon Dougherty is moving to upstate New York to work on Great Lakes issues, and we will miss her greatly!) Applications are due by September 30. More info at <http://sandiegoaudubon.org/conservationPM.pdf> .

Newsletter from CALIFORNIA REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY (CREEC) has dozens of opportunities for nature educators and teachers, far too many to summarize here, so read it at this link, <http://sdsa.org/current-events/August%202011%20News%20and%20Views.pdf> . Here's one item from the newsletter: GreenWorks! is a grant program managed by Project Learning Tree. This service-learning, community action program partners educators, students, and communities in environmental neighborhood improvement projects. GreenWorks! blends service activities with the academic curriculum and addresses real community needs as students "learn by doing." Get more info at <http://www.greenworks.org/> .

Three great BLOGs from RICHARD LOUV. Definitely worth reading, they're inspiring and affirming! Louv's blogs on "The New Nature Movement" are all posted at www.childrenandnature.org/blog .

---Apocalypse NO: Something large and hopeful is forming out there. You're already creating it, <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2011/09/07/a-different-view-of-the-future-and-our-lives-right-now/> .

---The more high-tech schools become, the more they need nature, <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2011/09/07/the-more-high-tech-schools-become-the-more-nature-they-need/>.

---Want your kids to get into Harvard? Tell 'em to go outside!

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2011/08/25/want-your-kids-to-get-into-harvard-tell-em-to-go-outside/>

---And article cited in that blog, describing an every-growing body of evidence that most science is learned outside of school, <http://caise.insci.org/uploads/docs/FalkandDierking95perc.pdf>

UCSD SCIENCEBRIDGE program will feature nature-based projects with teachers and local experts at four high schools, working with a number of nature educators that first met through SDCaN. Kearney, Lincoln, Mission, and Serra high schools are paired with local open space and canyon areas, and will focus class projects and "citizen science" data collection in these canyons. More information as the project develops this year, under the direction of Shelley Glenn and Alegra Bartzat. Their director, Dr. Maaten Chrispeels recently reminded us, "The path to science careers isn't through biotech, the path is through nature in the younger grades. Maybe also robotics and building things."

PHOTOS from JERRY SCHAD posted at <http://www.signonsandiego.com/photos/galleries/2011/aug/06/jerry-schads-backcountry-beauty/> . His hiking book, *Afoot and afield in San Diego County*, is legendary, and now sadly he is indoor-bound with terminal cancer, SDUT article at <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/aug/10/journeys-end-san-diego-explorer-faces-terminal-c/>

OUR GREATER San Diego VISION. Opportunity to advocate for nature, more info at www.ShowYourLoveSD.org . Attend 3-hour public workshops (some morning, some afternoon, some evening, various locations) on Sept. 13, 14 or 15. Register at <http://ourgreatersandiegovision.org/events> . From the "Enjoy" page, <http://ourgreatersandiegovision.org/enjoy>: Many of the cities within San Diego do not have adequate access to the cultural, artistic and recreational activities within the region. Only 30% of our residents are within walking distance of a park or natural area. Having access to community parks and other sources of physical activity is crucial to the health of San Diego's residents and vital to our economy. San Diegans are fortunate to enjoy a variety of activities through our unique access to beaches, parks, trails and other recreational facilities. Not all residents will have the same access to the region's green space, and with a possible 50% increase in residents, we may not have enough green space to provide for everyone.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY, Saturday SEPTEMBER 24. More info at <http://www.publiclandsday.org/>. Public Lands belong to all of us - think about what you can do to improve the park down the street, the school in your neighborhood or any public green space in your community. NPLD offers teachers, parents and community leaders a great opportunity to plan a service day or kick-off to a long-term community service project. NPLD is the nation's largest one-day volunteer event for public lands. During NPLD, volunteers typically clean up trash and debris, remove invasive species, restore historic sites and trails, plant native trees, and build bird and bat boxes. In 2010, over 170,000 volunteers contributed over \$15 million in improvements to public lands in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

Also **SERVE OUTSIDE SEPTEMBER (S.O.S.)** brought to you by the Natural Service Network (NSN), a cooperation of Children & Nature Network (C&NN), Sierra Club, REI, The North Face and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In this first year of the Natural Service Network, empty lots became native gardens; trails were mapped, created and improved; plants were inventoried; watersheds were cleaned; and ladybugs and butterflies were raised and released. To build on this energy, C&NN has designated the month of September as Serve Outside September (S.O.S.). Once again, NSN volunteers are planning to serve outside in community gardens, river clean-ups, trail maintenance, habitat restorations and more. Please join us this year. However and wherever you get outside to serve in nature, we want to hear about it! Share your plans, photos and stories on [C&NN Connect](http://www.C&NNConnect.org).

MY BIG BACKYARD events for youth ages 9-11 at SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY. For ten Sundays this fall, the Conservancy will offer "Exploring Our Sense of Place: My Big Backyard." With funding from Sempra Energy Foundation, partnerships with other organizations, and based on their successful series for adults, there are eight theme-based outdoor experiences for youth ages 9-11. The events are on

Sundays, 1-4 pm from September 11 to November 6 at various locations, to allow the kids to experience a different aspect of our watershed up close, with lots of docent-led hands-on activities. Schedule posted at <http://sdrvc.org/current/bigbackyard/> and flyer at <http://sdrvc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Big-Backyard-Flyer0811.pdf> . Adult monthly Journey Down the San Dieguito River series from Sept. 27 to May 5 (mostly Saturdays, \$250 tuition, max 25 participants), more info at <http://sdrvc.org/current/esp/>

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CONFERENCE at CampFire San Diego. Sat. October 1, 8:00 to 1:00 at 3101 Balboa Drive, (east of Sixth Street, between Quince and Upas) . Open to teachers, outdoor educators, parents, and all who like to work with young children! Choose two of nine workshops on spiders, art, using nature for math and literacy, amazing local animals, creating nature at school, using photos and narrative, trash awareness, surprise "bucket" workshops, and curriculum planning. Contact kzolezzi@campfiresdi.org - or call (619) 291-8985 to register. \$35 before Sept. 16, otherwise \$40, includes continental breakfast. Get more info at www.campfiresdi.org and flyer at <http://www.campfiresdi.org/OEConferenceSaveTheDateFlyer.pdf>.

Care2.com INCORPORATES NATURE into actions that children and adults can take, and exemplifies the (re)integration of nature into all aspects of our lives. Their website has links to circulating and signing petitions, various causes (that include environment & wildlife, and global warming), "healthy living" (garden & nature, health & wellness), e-cards, a "butterfly" system to earn and redeem credits, and an online community. The latest e-blast has a link to a National Wildlife Federation pledge for children to play outdoors each day, <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/773/871/362/?z00m=20051294>. Thanks to Richard Winkler of Victory Gardens of San Diego for forwarding an e-blast from this organization!

SD COMPUTER-USING EDUCATORS technology conference (Sat. Nov 5, CSU San Marcos). We are seeking folks to offer a workshop on technology applications "in nature" (need to submit by 10/14 at <http://sdcue.org/?p=2459>) . Perhaps identifying birds (and other animals) from iPhone applications, even with bird songs, recording the GPS coordinates for data collection, Citizen science data collection and submission. At the 2009 conference, there were sessions on Interactive Videoconferencing with California State Parks, and Geocaching on School Campus to Provide Engaged Learning for Students.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS REPORT. Afterschool Alliance has a 36-page report focusing on middle school youth: Afterschool Innovations in Brief, addressing four issues: Providing Multiple Benefits to Middle School Students; Middle School and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); Key to Health and Wellness for Pre-teens and Teens; and Supporting Career and College Pathways for Middle School Age Youth. Posted at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/MetLifeCompendium.pdf> . And a 32-page report on afterschool innovations for older youth, http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Afterschool_In_Brief_09_FINAL.pdf .

HEALTHY BEHAVIORS CONFERENCE Dec. 7-9 in San Diego from THE BOOST COLLABORATIVE. The BOOST Collaborative is committed to creating opportunities for change in educational and social services agencies serving youth in the out-of-school time hours. They support out-of-school time professionals through quality professional development opportunities, program and resource development, building community partnerships, promoting the importance of quality. More information at www.boostcollaborative.org , The conference fee is \$325 per person, more info at <http://www.healthybehaviorsconference.org/>.

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

From: SD Children and Nature [<mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org>]

Sent: Friday, August 05, 2011 4:06 PM

To: 'SD Children and Nature'

Subject: SD Children and Nature, new resources, next mtg Tues. 9/27, notes from 7/26 mtg, and national C&NN conference 9/20-22 in SD!



SD CHILDREN & NATURE

NEXT MEETING, TUESDAY SEPT. 27, 4-6 pm at MISSION TRAILS Regional Park. The meeting will likely feature Five New Products and Five Walks! More information will be sent in a separate message. (There will NOT be a meeting or teacher education fair on September 23, as announced in earlier email messages.)

Are you interested in attending the NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK in San Diego, Sept. 20-22? Attendance is by invitation only, and we will submit nominations by Aug. 12. If you are interested, send email to fege@sandiegoaudubon.org by Wed. Aug. 10. There is a \$225 registration fee (paid by attendees, not the Collaborative) that includes all meals and meeting materials (we've asked about a reduced fee for one day, but that's not confirmed). From C&NN info: "Join the Children & Nature Network for our annual Grassroots Gathering, a powerful opportunity to share, learn, and engage in the movement to reconnect children and nature. This year's theme of Let's G.O.! (Get Outside) offers professional development opportunities through workshops, panels, plenary and informational sessions with leading experts across the disciplinary spectrum—from youth leaders to engaged grandparents, pediatricians to business leaders, early childhood educators to university faculty. Topical threads will explore "Growing Outside," "Learning Outside" and "Playing and Serving Outside." Janice Swaisgood and Anne Fege attended the 2010 "grassroots gathering" in Princeton, NJ. Summary and video are posted at <http://www.childrenandnature.org/grassroots/report/89> .

COLLABORATIVE MEETING ON JULY 26. An inspiring meeting at the Hamilton Children's Garden at San Diego Botanic Garden! Thanks for hosting us, giving us a tour of the garden, letting us play music and climb in the tree house, providing shade and a breeze and refreshments, and most of all, for creating the wonderful garden for children (and adults) and nature! Garden staff shared the story of the Larabee's interests in youth in 1940s, the transition from SD County-managed to non-profit-managed garden in early 1990s, the steps to create the smaller Seeds of Wonder in about 2002 and then the Hamilton Children's Garden in 2010, the frequent family-centered events, and the 60% increase in membership from families since 2010 (even adding "third card" membership for care-taker/nanny, and allowing "family" to cover grandchildren). We noted that the garden is a great demonstration area for those interested in creating schoolyard habitats/gardens that draw out children's curiosity, creativity, learning, and connections to nature.

BOARD MEETING on August 4. Following a number of meetings to gather information and insights about future directions, the Board met to address roles, structure, and strategic objectives. What are the unique roles of the Collaborative? Positive and broad mission, capitalizes on nostalgia and biophilia for nature, gives voice to children and nature, brings together diverse organizations, and adapts products and resources for San Diego. Who is the Collaborative principally serving or should be serving? Nature education providers, children/youth program providers (employers and professional associations of educators and child-care professionals), and community leaders. What resources does the Collaborative have? Time of key leaders/volunteers, staff and volunteers from partner organizations, grants, and in-kind contributions. A two-year plan will be developed in the next month, structured around projects (rather than committees). The website is being transferred to local platform and then it will be revised to include pages for the Collaborative, key audiences (educators, media, donors), and the general public (benefits, places, partners, family-focused events).

NATURE CURRICULUM.

--*Exploring San Diego's Shrublands* and the *Nearby Nature School Field Trips: An Educator's Guide to Teaching in Local Natural Areas* are posted on two websites, <http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/schools/shrubland/index.php> and <http://sandiegoaudubon.org/edu.htm>
--California Oak Foundation, *Investigating the Oak Community* curriculum at <http://www.californiaoaks.org/>.
--Curriculum developed by the California Native Plant Society: *Opening the World through Journaling: Integrating art, science, and language arts*, at <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/curriculum/index.php> .

CHAPARRAL SHRUBLANDS Pocket Naturalist Guide is AVAILABLE FOR SALE! The *Chaparral Shrublands of Southern California--A Pocket Naturalist Guide* has been revised and reprinted (based on comments from those using the first version)! It can be ordered for resale (at nature centers, bookstores, museums, etc.) from Sunbelt Publications (contact them for prices, www.sunbeltbook.com). Cover price is \$6.95. If you want to

purchase copies for educational use (and will not sell the guides), we are offering them through the Collaborative for \$5.00 each plus shipping, and we have an inventory of 2,000 copies. The \$5 will cover the \$3 printing cost and net \$2 for the Collaborative. Send email to fege@sandiegoaudubon.org.

NEW SCHOOLYARD HABITAT GUIDE 132 pages! Clear steps, rationale, worksheets, examples, and inspiration to plan, design, install, maintain, and communicate about schoolyard habitats; it's posted at <http://www.fws.gov/cno/pdf/HabitatGuideColor.pdf> (132 pages, 2011). There's information about the Schoolyard Habitat program at <http://www.fws.gov/cno/conservation/schoolyard.cfm> with 5-minute video by FWS that's followed by two videos by National Wildlife Federation (NWF), and a two-page fact sheet at <http://www.fws.gov/cno/docs/conservation/Region8SYHfactsheet.pdf>. "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Schoolyard Habitat program allows teachers and school children to build habitat for wildlife, and in doing so, learn about the outdoors through interdisciplinary learning in a broad context involving math, reading and writing skills, and science among others." Also resources are provided by the NWF at <http://www.nwf.org/schoolyard/>, with curriculum at <http://www.nwf.org/schoolyard/lessonplans.cfm>. Local resources for school gardens and schoolyard habitats are available at <http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/schools/schools.php>.

JOB at OLIVEWOOD GARDENS. Volunteer and Program Coordinator will be responsible for recruiting, training, maintaining, and acknowledging volunteers for garden and kitchen program; assisting with programmatic tasks and field trips; as well as, the planning, outreach, and coordination of special events and workshops for a large edible education program that serves primarily National School District in National City, CA and other schools and organizations in the region. Fulltime position is dependent on continued grant funding. Monday-Friday work schedule, regular evening or weekend work may be required. Information at <http://olivewoodgardens.org/about/now-hiring>. Due Mon. Aug. 15 by noon, send cover letter and resume to Amy Carstensen amy@olivewoodgardens.org.

SAN DIEGO SCIENCE ALLIANCE AWARD to Project SWELL. At the annual celebration on May 3, the Sustainable Program Award was given to Project SWELL (Stewardship: Water Education for Lifelong Leadership) and received by Jennifer Nichols Kearns and Alicia Glassco. It reaches more than 50,000 students annually! More info at www.projectswell.org. (We missed this award, in the June 17 news-resources email.) Photos from the SDSA awards event is posted at <http://sdsa.org/programs/partnership-awards>.

CONFERENCE ON HEALTHY LIFESTYLES-AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS in San Diego! The BOOST Collaborative & the Center for Collaborative Solutions (CCS) announce their new collaboration to provide enhanced support and lead national K-12 educators in the out-of-school time field to promote healthy lifestyles for youth. As a result of this collaboration, the organizations will provide the second Annual Healthy Behaviors Conference- Changing Lives, Saving Lives December 7-9, 2011 at the Bahia Resort in San Diego, CA. Invitation to present workshops is posted at <http://www.healthybehaviorsconference.org/rfp>, due September 16 (main presenter will get complementary 2-day conference registration). More information at <http://www.healthybehaviorsconference.org/>. Program is not announced yet but conference brochure for 2010 is posted at <http://www.healthybehaviorsconference.org/PDF/HB-FINAL-BROCHURE-small.pdf>.

VOTE FOR ONE OF THE COX CONSERVES HEROES! Today is/was the deadline (August 5) for voting once for adult and once for youth, at <http://www.coxconservesheroes.com/san-diego-ca/2011-finalists.aspx...> and the videos tell six wonderful stories!

- Irene Barajas, Girl Scout leader working with Wildcoast on restoration projects at Otay Valley Regional Park.
- Gerry Keskeys, led the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to transform 2.3 acre vacant lot into New Roots Community Farm
- Denise Stillinger, naturalist volunteer at San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and president of San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy's board
- Isabel Herrera, youth, translates awareness of coastal issues into action, with Ocean Discovery Institute
- Luis Malo, youth, leader in Chula Vista High School Peace Club, student-driven graffiti cleanup group
- Blake Powers, youth, co-created East County Produce Exchange to encourage neighbors to trade homegrown vegetables, fruits and produce

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San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN)
Phone 858-472-1293, email fege@sandiegoaudubon.org

From: SD Children and Nature [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 12:18 AM

To: SD Children and Nature

Subject: SD Children and Nature, lots and lots of news items and resources! Next mtgs on Tues. 7/19 and Thurs 9/23

Learn more about health initiatives, local events, national programs, radio shows, and more! And mark your calendars! The next meeting of the Collaborative will be Tuesday, July 19, 3-5 pm at SD Botanic Gardens. A separate invitation will be sent, and questions directed to Pat Hammer, phammer@sdbgarden.org, 760.436.3036. Thanks for hosting this meeting! Thursday, September 23, 4-6 pm meeting will be a Teacher nature education fair at Mission Trails Regional Park. We'll send a separate email this summer, inviting nature educators to bring an exhibit.



HEALTH INITIATIVES

PARK PRESCRIPTIONS. Read the inspiring 44-page “Park Prescriptions: Profiles and Resources for Good Health from the Great Outdoors,” from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, at <http://www.parksconservancy.org/assets/igg-assets/igg-pdfs-docs/park-prescriptions-2010.pdf> . Three-part *Park Prescriptions* program, driven by Medical Professionals, Healthcare Experts, and Parks to encourage physicians to prescribe outdoor physical activity and to encourage all to visit parks.

PRESCRIPTION TRAIL PROGRAM in New Mexico (Albuquerque at <http://www.cabq.gov/parks/prescription-trails>, Santa Fe at <http://www.santafenm.gov/index.aspx?NID=1932> w/ trail guides in English and Spanish). Here's a presentation on Prescription Trails in California, posted at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1324/files/healthy%20trail%20prescriptions%20combined>.

LOCAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

CANYON AS CLASSROOM, outstanding article by *Cindy Jenson-Elliott, science teacher at The Child's Primary School, San Diego, CA* http://www.hightechhigh.org/unboxed/issue7/canyon_as_classroom/ . For students, parents and teacher, Tecolote Canyon became more than a place to learn science. It became a place to directly experience earth's amazing capacity for renewal—and to renew ourselves in the process. It became a place to measure our own impact on the world. It became the place where many students developed their first relationship with a healthy planet....

CALENDAR OF SUMMER CAMPS, posted at <http://www.sandiegoparent.com/Calendar/Camps.html?search=2011,6&category=0>

SAN DIEGO SCIENCE ALLIANCE AWARD. The SDCaN accomplishments have been recognized by the SDSA in their Partnership Award Recipients and Nominees! At the annual celebration on May 3, the Innovator in Education award was given to Anne Fege as chair of SDCaN. Another nature-based program was nominated for the Sustainable Program Award, Project SWELL and Jennifer Nichols Kearns (though not selected), that reaches more than 50,000 students annually.

NEIGHBORHOOD NATURE WALKS with REI Outdoor School. At Otay Valley Regional Park on Tuesday, June 21 from 5:30—7:30 pm and at on Tuesday, June 28 from 5:30—7:30 pm. Walks are free and bilingual (English and Spanish-speaking), designed to introduce and inspire community members to discover and enjoy the natural

areas in their community, learn about native and invasive plants and animals, and walk a moderate distance—perfect for families or groups. Suggest registering in advance at www.REI.com/Sandiego or by calling 619.591.4924.

SAN DIEGO PARKS AND OPEN SPACES DAY AT CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT on Saturday, July 23 from 9 am to 5 pm. Events will include ranger-guided hikes down the park's 2.5 mile Bayside Trail, special films about a variety of parks and open spaces, ranger-led walks, fun activities for children, including the park's Junior Ranger Program, and booths and exhibitors from local parks and land management organizations. Ranger-led talks throughout the day will focus on such diverse topics as Coastal Sage Scrub ecology, the history of the National Park Service, and fun facts about California. All events are included with the regular park entrance fee of \$5.00 per vehicle and \$3.00 for motorcyclists, bicyclists and walk-ins (valid for 7 days from date of purchase). Call 619-557-5450 or TTY 619-222-8211, or visit our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/cabr/>.

GREEN STUDENTS YOUTH FORUM. The SD Green Schools Youth Forum was held on Saturday, June 4, <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/sustainable/youthforum.shtml> , with about 60 high school students attending to hear keynote speaker Alec Lorz (see links below, age 17, from Ventura CA), participate in 5 hands-on workshops, and listen to and ask questions of Rep. Bob Filner and Councilmember Sheri Lightner. Perhaps SDCaN can co-sponsor this event next year, as part of engaging more with youth about nature and our future.

Alec Lorz saw the Inconvenient Truth movie at 12 and founded Kids vs. Global Warming, and has given hundreds of speeches to educate high school students about climate change and empower them to take action. View this 13-minute from Institute at Golden Gate, April 2009, posted at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Khs8IK3J4E&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL . Also video when he spoke at the first TedX conference for youth under 16, September 2011, and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYJD8ks_l5o . Also look at his 35-second video of amazingly creative icons such as iEmit, iWarm, iMelt, iFlood, iGone, iProfit, iMatter, "Story of Global Warming" on this page <http://kids-vs-global-warming.com/Videos.html> . Excerpts from videos: "Our generation is the one who will be most affected if nothing is done about global warming, so we need to be the ones leading the movement to bring change. Our voices do matter. David Brower said, 'I'm always impressed with what young people can do before older people tell them it's impossible.'"

FAMILY NATURE DAYS article in San Diego Family magazine, page 28-29, posted at <http://www.smpdigitaledition.com/publication/?i=65002>

TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS with SDCaN partners. In April 2011, telephone interviews were conducted with 16 partners about their perceptions of and suggestions for the Collaborative. Leaders were asked to relate their mission to the Collaborative, identify assets of their own organizations that could be shared with others, and "what will it take to get more nature into children's programs and schools in San Diego?" Send an email message to fege@sandiegoaudubon.org to get a copy of the report.

FOR EDUCATORS

"The Chaparral Shrublands of Southern California, A Pocket Naturalist Guide" is being re-printed! Many of you have asked about ordering copies to sell in your visitors/nature center, give to teachers, and use in your nature education programs! It has shrubs, vines, wildflowers, other plants, invertebrates, herps, birds, and mammals that all dwell in chaparral and coastal sage scrub! No guessing about whether a plant or animal in a guide actually lives here in southern California! We're working with Sunbelt Publications to be the distributor for these custom guides from Waterford Press. The retail price will be \$6.95, and cost (from the distributor) is still undetermined, likely to be between \$4 and \$5 (my guess).

STEMposium for teachers of grades 4-8. July 11-15, five separate workshops, each 9:00am – 3:00pm, at the San Diego County Office of Education, Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center. Teachers in grades 4-8 will enhance core science teaching and learning through engineering challenges aligned with grade level standards, instructional strategies, digital content and interactions with STEM professionals explored during *STEMposium, 2011*. Register at <http://sdcoe.k12oms.org/1022-49287>, registration fee \$25 and scholarships are available for

school site teams of two or more. For more information contact Nancy Taylor 858.292.3789 or ntaylor@sdcoe.net.

EDUCATOR OPEN HOUSE at Cabrillo National Monument, Saturday, July 23 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Announcement at <http://sdsa.org/resources/science-alliance-e-news/2011/june/educator-open-house-at-cabrillo-national-monument>. Teachers from across the San Diego area will visit the park to learn about the many opportunities and resources available to them outside of the classroom. During this time, the park will allow access to the lantern and balcony of the historic Old Point Loma Lighthouse, and celebrate the opening of the new art exhibit: Art throughout the Park - A Celebration of Cabrillo on Canvas. Please RSVP and direct questions regarding the event to Rick Jenkins at (619) 523-4573 or cabr_education@nps.gov. Please feel free to forward this invitation to your professional teaching colleagues.

SD SCIENCE ALLIANCE info for EDUCATORS. Sign up to get weekly email messages with events, grant opportunities, and more, at <http://sdsa.org/createMember>. The events are also listed chronologically at <http://sdsa.org/resources/science-alliance-e-news> and on a calendar at <http://sdsa.org/resources/calendar/show/month>. Really worth checking for nature and science events here.

INVITATION TO SET UP EXHIBIT at Parks and Open Spaces Day AND/OR Educator Open House. Nature education providers are invited to participate in either or both events. Exhibitors should plan on setting up at 9AM and the fair will be open to the public until 5PM, when the park closes. From 5PM to 6PM, the park will provide food and refreshments for exhibitors. The Educator Open House will be from 6PM to 8PM. The park will provide a 10'x10' space. Your organization will need to bring a table, chairs, and any other materials that you require. You may bring a canopy but the wind in Point Loma is unpredictable and can make conditions impractical for canopies. R.S.V.P. no later than June 27 by contacting Rick Jenkins by phone (619) 523-4573 or email rick_jenkins@nps.gov. Please specify if you will be participating in the Parks and Open Spaces Day, the Educator Open House, or both.

EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (EEI) has now "taken wing" in California. With State Board of Education approval of the EEI Curriculum last year, hundreds of California teachers are now implementing the EEI Curriculum in their classrooms. Twenty school districts have signed on as "Early Adopters" and scores of teachers outside of the Early Adopter districts are accessing the curriculum online for use. Materials posted at www.californiaeei.org. Surveys to gather information pre- and post-teaching, at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/Surveys/Default.htm>. For additional information, call (916) 341-6769 or send an e-mail to eei@calepa.ca.gov.

NATIONAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

NATIONAL CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK "grassroots gathering" is September 20, 6pm to noon Sept. 22, 2011 in San Diego. It's by "invitation only," so contact Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org if you're interested in attending (\$225 fee incl. most meals). We have made a commitment to sponsor (pay for) one youth from San Diego to attend.

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH in June, proclamation by President Obama posted at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/31/presidential-proclamation-great-outdoors-month>

NATIONAL PREVENTION STRATEGY released by PRES. OBAMA on June 16. From press release: "The National Prevention Strategy recognizes that good health comes not just from receiving quality medical care, but also from clean air and water, safe worksites and healthy foods." Children and nature can be central in two of the four strategic directions: Building Healthy and Safe Community Environments, and Empowering People to Make Healthy Choices. Announcement posted at www.HealthCare.gov/news/factsheets/prevention06162011a.html, more information on the More information on the National Prevention Strategy and the National Prevention Council can be found at www.HealthCare.gov/center/councils/nphpphc.

AMERICA's GREAT OUTDOORS report to the President, 173 p., posted at <http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/files/2011/02/AGO-Report-With-All-Appendices-3-1-11.pdf>. More info at <http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/>. It is a call for a grassroots approach to protecting our lands and waters and

connecting all Americans to their natural and cultural heritage. AGO seeks to empower all Americans to share in the responsibility to conserve, restore, and provide better access to our lands and waters in order to leave a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations yet to come.

GREAT AMERICAN BACKYARD CAMPOUT on Saturday, June 25. Summertime is almost here, when “Marco!” “Polo!” echoes through neighborhood pools and kids build forts and decorate sidewalks with chalk. Or not. Today’s kids are more likely to tag a friend on Facebook than in a game of freeze tag. This indoor childhood hurts kids’ bodies, minds and spirits. You can help us change that by joining NWF’s Great American Backyard Campout on June 25. Great American Backyard Campout raises much-needed funds for NWF programs that help get kids outside and get healthy. Register today at www.backyardcampout.org.

REPORTS

NATIONAL KIDS-RECREATION SURVEY. Five reports are available online at: <http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/nrrt/nsre/IrisReports.html>. Telephone survey by USDA Forest Service researchers to better understand how much time children spend outdoors and the activities that they engage in while outside. Key findings include: 1) over the two survey periods since 2007, about 61% of children were reported to spend two or more hours outdoors on a typical weekday and about 77% were reported to spend two or more hours outdoors on a typical weekend day; 2) more younger children (6- to 15-years-old) were reported to spend 2 or more hours outdoors as compared to older children (16- to 19-years-old) and more Hispanic children were reported to spend 4 or more hours per day outdoors on weekends as compared to white or black children; 3) the most popular outdoor activity reported was “just playing or hanging out outdoors” at 83% followed by “biking, jogging, walking, skate boarding, etc.” at 79%.

National OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION REPORT from The Outdoor Foundation, at <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/research.participation.2010.html>. Online survey of 40,000 in 2009. They found that most youth are introduced to outdoor activities by parents, friends, family and relatives, an influence that declines for older youth.

SYNOPSIS of research papers on PARKS AND RECREATION. Assembled by the National Recreation and Park Association summarizes the key categories in which parks and recreation contribute to building of healthy, vibrant communities. This white paper outlines in six main areas the latest research into the benefits provided by parks: physical health, mental health, social functioning, youth development, environment, and economic impact. Also 5 monographs on the benefits/scientific evidence of physical activity, economic impact of park/rec services, and evidence-based approach for youth recreation services, links at http://www.nrpa.org/research-papers/?utm_source=research_2011&utm_medium=email&utm_term=may6&utm_content=full_list&utm_campaign=eml_research_2011

WRITINGS FROM RICHARD LOUV

OUTSIDE MAGAZINE article in May issue on new book THE NATURE PRINCIPLE by Richard Louv. Posted at http://outsideonline.com/adventure/travel-ga-201106-richard-louv-nature-principle-sidwcmdev_156115.html

THE WONDER BOWL: Ten Spring and Summer Nature Activities for Kids and Adults, list and article by Richard Louv, posted at <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2011/05/23/what-are-you-doing-this-summer/> Excerpt: “Got dirt? “In South Carolina, a truckload of dirt is the same price as a video game!” reports Norman McGee, a father in that state who bought a small pickup-load of dirt for his daughter and friends. As McGee’s photo shows, the dirt was a great success. I told his story a couple years ago in this space. (An abbreviated version of this blog entry was published in 2009.) The story is worth repeating. So is Liz Baird’s idea — along with a few new ideas.

SEVEN REASONS FOR A NEW NATURE MOVEMENT by Richard Louv, at <http://richardlouv.com/blog/seven-reasons-for-a-new-nature-movement/>. 1. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need. 2. As of 2008, more than half of the world’s population now lives in towns and cities. If human beings are to enjoy nature, they’ll likely have to do it in urban areas. 3. Adults have nature-deficit disorder, too. The children and nature movement will not succeed unless adults come to see the importance of our own connection to the natural world.

4. Environmentalism needs to hit reset. For whatever reason, environmentalism remains a pup tent. We need a bigger tent. In fact, we need a river. 5. Sustainability alone is not sustainable. We need more than stasis; we need to produce *human* energy (health, intelligence, creativity, joy) through nature. 6. Conservation is not enough. Now we need to “create” nature. 7. We have a choice. Imagine a future in which our intelligence and creativity, our ability to feel and be fully alive is enhanced by more frequent contact with the natural world.

“.....Now comes a cascade of hope: biophilic design of new homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, cities; reconciliation ecology and human-nature social capital; restorative homes and businesses; ecopsychology and other forms of nature therapy; pediatricians who prescribe nature; citizen naturalists; nature-based schools; the Slow Food and simplicity movements; organic gardening; urban agriculture, vanguard ranching and other forms of the new agrarianism; the children and nature movement; and more. As these currents join, they'll lead us to a different view of the future. It won't look perfect, but it'll surely be better. That's a picture worth painting, a future worth creating. But first, we have to imagine it.”

RADIO INTERVIEWS AND A NEW BOOK

KPBS THESE DAYS with Richard Louv, BALANCE TECHNOLOGY WITH NATURE, May 5, 2011. Text (not audio) at <http://mobile.kpbs.org/news/2011/may/05/louv-balance-technology-with-nature/>. Imagine what your life would be like if your days were as immersed in nature as they are in technology. Richard Louv's new book, *The Nature Principal: Human Restoration And The End Of The Nature Deficit Disorder*, expands on his thesis that our society has developed such faith in technology that we don't realize how human capacities are enhanced through the power of the natural world.

RADIO INTERVIEW on TREEHUGGERS INTERNATIONAL, Reconnecting Children to the Outdoors, on Sunday, May 5 with Janice Swaisgood, Anne Fege, and David McDonald of Donate-a-pack Foundation. Radio personality, conservationist, and outdoorsman Tommy Hough hosts this environmental affairs and natural science show heard Sunday mornings, and each 30-minute program is also posted at <http://treehuggersintl.com/2011/reconnecting-children-to-the-outdoors/>.

With the impending influx of kids with abundant free time in the summer, now is the right time for a discussion on the issues and challenges surrounding kids in nature and enjoying the outdoors, or what can be argued as the current lack thereof.....

Also --I Love A Clean San Diego and the Creek to Bay Clean-Up Look Beyond the Beach, April 3, 2011, Posted at <http://treehuggersintl.com/2011/i-love-a-clean-san-diego/> Pauline Martinson. And --Because Old Packs Never Die: Adventure 16 and the Donate-A-Pack Foundation, June 22, 2008 and rebroadcast on May 30, 2010, Posted at <http://treehuggersintl.com/2010/donate-a-pack/> John D. Mead and David McDonald (both SDCaN participants), more information at <http://www.donateapack.org/>.

NEW BOOK: Wild Play — Parenting Adventures in the Great Outdoors, by David Sobel, Sierra Club Books, 239 pages; \$15.95. Excerpts from a review: Sobel records his experiences with his children and nature, and describes how the natural world helped to shape the adults they have become today. Sobel's work is also an exploration in parenting in general, and offers advice on how to sense and guide your child's passions, as well as how to use nature to help them grow. The guiding principle in Sobel's book is that if a child has enough euphoric experiences in his or her childhood, the fondness he or she feels for the natural world will become the basis for a strong environmental ethic that will stay with them throughout life.

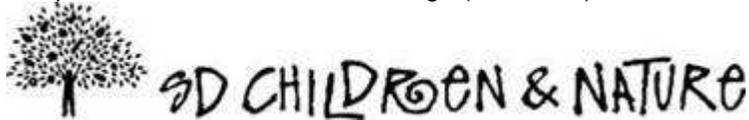
From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]

Sent: Friday, January 14, 2011 3:55 PM

Subject: SD Children and Nature next mtg. Tues. 1/25 5pm @ SDNHMuseum, Family Nature Days in April, three great videos, other news!

The next meeting of the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN) is Tuesday, January 25, 5:00 pm at the SD Natural History Museum (more info below). This “newsletter” also includes info about Family Nature

Days in April, opportunities for some consulting work, three videos, a small grant program, national American Camp Assoc. conference in San Diego (Feb. 8-11) and how-to-camp classes!



SDCaN meeting, January 25, 5:00 pm We will feature high school/youth programs and interests at our general meeting, 5:00 to 6:15. Please bring (as a guest) your favorite high school student that's active in an Eco-club, outdoor club, AP environmental science class, service learning, or other environmental program. High school groups are also invited to bring a table-top exhibit or other information from their club or class, and we can learn from each other! Other activities are:

--Eat pizza (RSVP not required, but it will help us plan the number of pizzas better, send email to fege@sandiegoaudubon.org)

--Attend the 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 (more info at bottom of message)

--All are at the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park, directions at <http://www.sdnhm.org/visit/directions.php> .

--Lecture overview: **Grounding Learning in Place and Community**, 6:30–8 PM, by *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.

Family Nature Days in April will be sponsored by SDCaN to publicize and draw attention to a wealth of family-centered nature events. Both collaborating partners and families will utilize the then-newly-launched www.sdchildrenandnature.org as a source of information pertaining to Family Nature Days and local places and activities for families to spend time in nature. Family-centered nature activities are specifically designed to be age-appropriate for one or more age ranges (0-5, 6-9, 10-14, or 15+ years old, and older generations), and often include periods of unstructured time to play and explore. They foster the child's sense of wonder and awe, and involve elements of exploration, discovery, knowledge, observation and/or stewardship. Organizations are invited to schedule these family nature days; contact Brian Moehl at Moehl@sandiegoaudubon.org. In addition, participating agency staff and volunteer naturalists will be offered training about how to conduct family-friendly nature programs that engage children of all ages. This will include setting realistic expectations of families with small children, hands-on and multi-sensory experiences in nature, and safety provisions for outings/walks.

Seeking consultants for naturalist guides and eco-clubs , as SDCaN has been contacted by a local group of philanthropists and is SDCaN is submitting a proposal for planning and pilot projects. We are seeking educators and others (just graduated? laid off? retired?) for work this spring to make local contacts, outline some programs, and write materials. Contact Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org or 858-472-1293.

"Get 'em outside," 5-minute video that has great scenes and voiceover about teaching in nature, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRR1feHqZPY&NR=1> . From No Child Left Inside Coalition, in the Chesapeake Bay area, www.nclcoalition.org .

"Play Again" film tells the story of children spending time "disconnected" in front of computer screens and not in nature, won "Best of Fest" at Colorado Environmental Film Festival. 7-minute trailer at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjCr3h1MOYw&feature=related> . From film description, "One generation from now most people in the U.S. will have spent more time in the virtual world than in nature. New media technologies have improved our lives in countless ways. Information now appears with a click. Overseas friends are part of our

daily lives. And even grandma loves Wii. But what are we missing when we are behind screens? And how will this impact our children, our society, and eventually, our planet? Is our connection to nature disappearing down the digital rabbit hole? This moving and humorous documentary follows six teenagers who, like the "average American child," spend five to fifteen hours a day behind screens. PLAY AGAIN unplugs these teens and takes them on their first wilderness adventure – no electricity, no cell phone coverage, no virtual reality. Through the voices of children and leading experts including journalist Richard Louv, sociologist Juliet Schor, environmental writer Bill McKibben, educators Diane Levin and Nancy Carlsson-Paige, neuroscientist Gary Small, parks advocate Charles Jordan, and geneticist David Suzuki, PLAY AGAIN investigates the consequences of a childhood removed from nature and encourages action for a sustainable future." More info on video at <http://www.groundproductions.com/playagain/index.php> and <http://www.groundproductions.com/playagain/about.php> about the film.

Childhood and Nature: Design Principles for Educators, fabulous video by David Sobel.

In late December I was reminded about the educator David Sobel,,,, and some new ways of articulating the values of learning in nature and playing outdoors, and educating about climate change. He has a great 54-minute video/lecture "Focus the Nation: Climate Change Meets Ecophobia," January 2008, definitely worth viewing (again?), posted at http://www.antiochne.edu/focusthenation/ecophobia_sobel.cfm Sobel talks about the importance of focusing on behavior change (not just knowledge), and that small behaviors show "sense of agency" (I can make a difference) and "intent" (if I had a decision to make, this is what I would do). That behavior "glues together" that recruit knowledge and attitudes, leading to larger behavior, and eventually led to dominant environmental stewardship. Sobel shows some of the "gloom and doom" videos for young children, and considers them very counterproductive. He advocates for "using the classroom as a microcosm of the school, the school as a microcosm of the community. Through teaching children to behave in an environmentally responsible fashion in the school, children develop the kinds of behaviors we want them to execute as responsible adults in the community."

Every Day Grants, \$5000 max, due January 30. For "Helping our Public Lands by helping their Friends," more information at "http://neefusa.org/grants/every_day_grants_2011/every_day_grants_details.htm. Our nation's public lands need our support every day. With stretched budgets and limited staff, land managers at federal, state, city and local public lands need all the help they can get. That help comes from volunteers, often in the form of "Friends Groups" who partner with local parks and green spaces to support, promote and help maintain public lands. These volunteer organizations, while dedicated and passionate, are often underfunded and understaffed. The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), with generous support from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc., seeks to strengthen "Friends Groups" who partner with local parks and green spaces to support, promote and help maintain public lands. Twenty (20) Every Day Grants of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded to those groups who make the best case for how the funds will build their capacity to better serve the lands they love. Every Day Grants define a Friends Group as a nonprofit organization whose mission is focused on serving a public lands site in the US and the improvement and responsible use of that site.

American Camping Association national conference Feb. 8-11 in San Diego, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront, more information at www.acacamps.org/conference . Based on a request from SDCaN board member Cindy Moore, the organizers will offer a local one-day rate on Wednesday, February 9, and we'll send this out in a separate message. Wednesday's program includes a general session, several breakout sessions, and evening opening of the exhibit hall, schedule posted at <http://www.acacamps.org/conference/schedule> . Anyone wanting to attend only the Exhibit Hall can stop by the registration desk and request an Exhibit Hall Only name badge at no charge.

Wilderness Basic Course (WBC) Every year the San Diego Chapter and North County Group of the Sierra Club hold a comprehensive 10-week backpacking course consisting of 10 Tuesday night information/training meetings and 4 weekend trips out to the local deserts and mountains in February and March. This course is great for both new and experienced backpackers. The weekend trips include car, desert, mountain and snow camping. All the outings are lead by experienced Sierra Club leaders whose primary goals are your safety and fun. There are a range of trips from easy to challenging. The WBC is only offered once a year. It is open to both members and non-members of the Sierra Club. The course is offered at two locations. San Diego (\$135.00-\$150.00 first class Jan. 25, 2011) or Escondido (\$100.00, first class Jan 11, 2011). NORTH COUNTY-- Meeting Place: San Pasqual High School, Escondido (3300 Bear Valley Parkway), First Meeting: January 11, Tuesday evenings (except

February 22th) from 7:00-9:30 pm for 10 weeks, and four weekend camping trips, more information at <http://Sandiego.sierraclub.org/wbc/nc>. SAN DIEGO-- Meeting Place: Jewish Community Center, La Jolla (4126 Executive Dr.), First Meeting: January 25, Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:30 pm for 10 weeks, and four weekend camping trips, more information at <http://www.wildernessbasics.com> .

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