



“News” Items and Meeting Announcements Selected Email Messages Sent in 2012 (most recent first) To San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative Members

Subject: SD Children and Nature #1, local events/resources, next mtg Tues. October 9 @ 4-6 pm
Sent: September 23, 2012

Local news items about children and nature! We invite you to join us at the next San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN) general meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Girl Scout center. This #1 and email #2 are both posted at <http://sdchildrenandnature.org/newsletters.php> (in .pdf format). /s/ Anne Fege and others



COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS

NEXT MEETINGS. The general meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Girl Scout program center, 1231 Upas Street, with a theme of “Community Connections to Children and Nature” and snacks (apples and cookies). We’ve confirmed a panel of community leaders who are inspiring and engaging children and adults in gardening, walking, canyons, and urban forestry! We will ask them: What engages and excites San Diegans about your programs? How can we work more together, to enhance San Diegans’ nature? (trees, gardens, canyons, schoolyard habitats, walking, learning, playing, and more). The Girl Scout program center is at 1231 Upas Street, on the southwest corner of Richmond and Upas Street on the northern edge of Balboa Park, directions at [MapGirlScoutCtr](#). In addition, the Board will meet on Wednesday, October 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the SD Audubon Society office, 4010 Morena Blvd., #100. Contact Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org or 858-472-1293 for more information about either meeting.

INSPIRATIONS FROM Tuesday July 31 MEETING. Yes, we were inspired! Twenty attended the Collaborative meeting on July 31 from 4-6 pm. Introductions brought us a community college professor who just completed a sabbatical focused on nature experiences in early childhood, and two teachers who participated in the ScienceBridge program with UCSD. Using the “pecha cuha” format (20 slides, 20 seconds each), we started with a tour of the new website, and then Leta Bender inspired us with Grandkids in Nature. Norrie Robbins shared the “Scientist in Training” program she has led on eight Indian reservations for 7- and 8-year olds in monthly after-school field programs, for the past 11 years. Students are outfitted like scientists (vests, magnifying lenses, journals, more) and explore local places and field methods. Norrie features a different science each month: geology, hydrology, mineralogy (tourmaline, magnetite), geomorphology, botany, ethnobotany, ornithology, entomology, herpetology, and astronomy (with overnight on school campus timed for meteor shower). What if every elementary school student spent time practicing field science methods? What if every middle school student could learn earth science in local places? And sharpened observational skills through writing about plants, birds, herps, insects?

ESCONDIDO EDUCATORS’ NIGHT OUT, September 27, 4:00-6:30 pm. San Diego Children's Discovery Museum, <http://www.sdcdm.org/community-events/educators-night-out>, in partnership with SDCaN is excited to host our FREE annual fall Educators' Night Out in our brand new location with a special focus on nature programs

in San Diego County. Along with information on several different community organizations, the night will feature a raffle, 20% discount off SDCDM experiential workshops, a complete nature guide for North San Diego County, light refreshments and more! Children welcome and admission to the Museum is FREE. To bring a teacher-focused exhibit, call (760) 233-7755 ext. 1002 or email ColleenS@sdcdm.org.

MILITARY FAMILY NATURE FAIR on Saturday, November 3 from 10:00 to 2:00 pm at Mission Trails Regional Park, Equestrian Staging Area. Connect hundreds of military families to your organization's awesome nature-based activities and programs! Bring an activity and exhibit from your nature education organization to this first "Military Family Nature Fair." There is room for only 25 organizations to exhibit at the fair and there is no fee. Register at <http://militaryfamilynatureday1.eventbrite.com>. Co-sponsors are Mission Trails Regional Park, SD Sierra Club, SD Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research, Family Adventures in Nature, and SDCaN.

SD SCIENCE EDUCATORS ASSOC. (SDSEA) CONFERENCE, November 3, co-sponsored with San Diego Computer-Using Educators (SDCUE), Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012, 8:30am - 4:00pm at Cal State San Marcos. More than 60 sessions and 25 exhibits covering all curriculum areas and the use of technology for novice and experienced technology-users. Practical presentations by and for classroom teachers addressing standards in engaging ways, [download and share the event flyer](#). [SDCaN has organized a "Nature Strand" with eight presentations on nature-based learning for various grade levels!] Admission includes parking, morning snack, and lunch. Pre-registration (cheaper) by October 10, 2012, SDSEA and SDCUE Members \$50, Non-members \$60, at [Early Bird Preregistration Information](#). There are [two group promotions](#) this year, for 5- 20 attendees - only \$35 each and 20+ attendees - only \$30 each. If you sign up to volunteer for 3 or more hours, you will receive free registration, including free lunch, [fill out the form!](#)

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT TEACHER WORKSHOPS in August. Schoolyard Habitat Planting Workshops were held on Sat. mornings Aug. 25 at the Water Conservation Garden and Sept. 8 at Southwestern College, and Wed. afternoon Aug. 30 at SD Botanic Gardens, Encinitas. More than 60 teachers, parents and gardeners attended and learned about Attracting Wildlife, Selecting Plants, Propagation, Planting demonstration, and Maintenance. These free workshops sponsored by SDCaN, SD County Master Gardeners, and the SD Chapter of the California Native Plant Society followed the first workshops on May 19 and 23, attended by 60 teachers, parents, and gardeners to learn about the purpose of schoolyard habitats with native plants, formation of a team, site assessment, master plan and design, project needs, resources, and funding (presentation by Ilisa Goldman posted at www.sdchildrenandnature.org/designpro.php). The third workshop this fall will actually be offered as the "Nature Strand" at the November 3 teachers' conference at CSU San Marcos (see information above). More info from Leta Bender at benders2@cox.net.

STEMposium2012 TEACHER WORKSHOPS in July. SDCaN helped organize sessions on nature-based learning and field trips at two one-week workshops offered by the SD County Office of Education in July. Meredith Vaughn (SDSU science education professor) taught a session on "Investigating Birds, Learning Lab" for grades 6-8, and Crystal De Soto, Liz Paegel, Leta Bender, and Anne Fege gave concepts and examples of nature-based learning for grades 4-5. For the field trip on July 18, the four stops clearly illustrated the range of nature places: (1) outstanding schoolyard habitat is outstanding at Marie Curie Elementary School with school garden coordinator Mary Ricci and teacher Karen McKelvey; (2) Nearby nature walk in Rose Canyon (Regents Street) with Debby Knight and Susan Breisch featuring exploration, letting nature be the teacher, (3) Tecolote Nature Center with Eloise Battle and senior ranger Tracey Walker, with history of the Tecolote Canyon open space and the center, and lessons taught for field trips to the Center; and (4) last stop at the larger, more developed nature center/institution (Scripps Aquarium). On July 25, the field trip featured nearby nature walk in Calaveras Hills with Liz Paegel, and visit to San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy with Tara Fuad.

EVENTS

STEM OR STEAM? Integrating the Arts into Science, Mon. Oct. 1, 4-7pm at SDG&E Innovation Center, 4760 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., between Genesee Avenue and I-805. Stem Education, Economics and Equity (SEEE) Seminar Series offers, "STEM OR STEAM? Integrating the Arts into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Education." Speaker is Nan Renner, UCSD and San Diego Natural History Museum Learning Research Scientist, followed by panel discussion with local scientists and science educators. Does integrating the arts with STEM education enhance or dilute student learning? Should the arts be part of school curriculum? Join us

to participate in several interactive stations ranging from elementary through high school level involving integrating the arts with the sciences, technology, engineering, and math, followed by a discussion of the questions surrounding the integrating arts of hands-on learning in different environments and what we learn from such experiences. Sponsored by SDSU CRMSE-Research in SCIENCE and Mathematics, SDSU'S Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education (CRMSE). Register [here](#) by September 25 or at www.seeeseminar.com.

LIVING COAST DISCOVER CENTER themed events for COASTWEEKS CELEBRATION through Oct. 6!

Creative programming for three weeks of fun-filled family activities, special speakers, hands-on art workshops and more, all highlighting the special places and species of our unique local coastline habitats. For more information and registration for (most) programs, visit <http://www.thelivingcoast.org/coast-weeks/> or call (619) 409-5908 [CLICK HERE](#) for flyer.

- Coastal Connections Weekly Lecture Series, every Thursday evening, 6:30 to 8:00 pm, Sept. 27 on Ocean Friendly Gardens with Susan Krzywicki of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation; Oct. 4 on Skimmers & Sea Turtles with Sheila Madrak and Chris Millow, UCSD research biologists.
- Coastal Connections Marine Debris Art Workshops featuring different global coastal destinations each week and art work using marine debris, with local artist and environmentalist, Teresa Espaniola. Saturdays, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Sept. 22 Venice, Italy; Sept. 29 Australia; and Oct. 6 California.
- Daily Coastal Themes! Shark and Ray Sundays; Marsh Mondays; Tidal Zone Tuesdays; Watershed Wednesdays; Turtle Thursdays; Fishy Fridays; and Shore Bird Saturdays.
- Early Bird Saturdays- Especially for Birders! Refuge open early every Saturday, Sept. 15-Oct. 6. Meet the shuttle in the parking lot, pick up on the half hour to pick up birders beginning at 7:00am and going until 9:00am.

INTRODUCTION TO BIOMIMICRY for High School Students. Saturdays from Sept. 22 to Nov. 17 (likely too late to enroll, but wanted to share this program with you!). 10:00am - 12:00 pm UCSD Extension Mission Valley and 12:00pm - 3:30pm San Diego Zoo , <http://sdsa.org/resources/science-alliance-e-news/2012/july/introduction-to-biomimicry-for-high-school-students> . This course, a unique partnership between the University of California, San Diego and the world-famous San Diego Zoo, is led by Stephanie Snyder, Marine Biology Doctoral Student at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Sunni Robertson, Lead Educator Guide at the San Diego Zoo. Each Saturday, students will spend the morning learning about the fundamental principles that shape design in both man-made technologies and the natural world. In the afternoon, students will explore living examples of these principles within the Zoo's collection of animals and plants.... The primary objective of this course is to foster an appreciation of both nature and interdisciplinary research by demonstrating the innovative ways that nature uses the principles of physics, chemistry, and biology to solve problems. Students will work in pairs on a Design Challenge, where an adaptation from an animal or plant is used as inspiration for solving an engineering challenge.

RESOURCES

LIBRARY Check-out Membership Cards for R.H. FLEET SCIENCE CENTER. Partnership with Museum, SD Public Library (all 36 locations), and ScholarShare College Savings Plan to Offer FREE Family Membership Cards Available to Check Out ~ Just Like a Book! Library patrons get full membership benefits for two weeks, including free admission to the hands-on science galleries for two adults and up to six children under the age of 18, discounts on IMAX® films and digital shows, and discounts at Galileo's Café and the North Star Science Store. Through May 2014. Websites <http://www.sandiegolibrary.org> and <http://www.rhfleet.org>. Article by Richard Louv about the role of libraries in connecting children and families to nature (March 2011) at <http://richardlouv.com/blog/how-libraries-can-connect-children-and-adults-to-nature/>.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS FOR SCHOOL GARDENS, August 2011, by Betsey Landis. Designed to answer questions from teachers, parents and students about planning and planting a native plant garden at a school site. Available only by download, four .pdf files at <http://www.lasmmcnps.org/referencelist.html> .

LA MESA STUDENT ART-ENVIRONMENT CONTEST, The City of La Mesa's Environmental Sustainability Commission invites students to enter the.... "Our Planet, Our Home" K-12 Environmental Literacy and Art Contest. Are we ready for the next 100 years? Earth. Water. Air. Animals. Plants. Energy. Space. Community. Awards for poetry, art, and essays. Students in La Mesa-Spring Valley or Grossmont Union High School Districts. Due October 16. More info at <http://www.cityoflamesa.com/DocumentView.aspx?DID=2534>, call 667.1338 or email EnviroSvc@ci.la-mesa.ca.us.

SD CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM in ESCONDIDO has a Garden! The Children's Discovery Garden continues to grow with a new pumpkin garden, edible garden, climbing structure, and straw bales. More info in September newsletter at <http://sdsa.org/resources/science-alliance-e-news/2012/september-2012/san-diego-childrens-discovery-museum-september-newsletter> .

SAN DIEGO WALK SCORECARD. Volunteers are sought to help rate streets throughout the region using a new smart phone app we created (BestWALK). This information will become part of the regional walk scorecard to be released in October/ November of this year. Scores will be ranked for each city in the region based on a variety of items. More info at www.walksandiego.org/walk-scorecard/.

ARTICLES

SANTEE TURNS SAN DIEGO RIVER INTO A CLASSROOM. Santee city staffers pitched in... as guest teachers for a group of Rio Seco Elementary School 4th graders that made a science-oriented field trip along the San Diego River at Mast Park. Two City Hall workers teamed up with Shannon Quigley of the San Diego River Park Foundation and Rio Seco 4th grade teacher Heather Glanz to offer facts and insights into the river's ecology. The students, in turn, took detailed notes that will come in handy for writing stories about their field trip. At one point, a duck unexpectedly blurted out a loud quack that interrupted the lesson, causing the children to bellow with laughter..... Escorted by a half-dozen volunteer parent chaperones, nearly 30 pupils walked about a quarter-mile from their school to the bridge at Mast Park that spans the river adjacent to the Mission Creek community..... In her lesson, [City Arborist Annette Saul] focused on the effects that non-native invasive plant, such as the vine-like primrose, have on the river's ecosystem.... Ms. Saul also showed students a tube-like device underneath the bridge that serves as a kind of trap that biologists use to detect the presence of non-native invasive mussel species. Article posted at <http://cityofsantee.blogspot.com/2012/09/santee-city-staffers-pitched-in-today.html> .

BIRDS IN ROSE CANYON GET BIRD BOXES MADE BY GIRL SCOUTS. Fifth graders in Troop 3012 earned the Bronze Award, and birds got nesting boxes and newly-planted lemonadeberry, toyon and elderberry donated by Recon Nursery. "Troop 3012 has girls from Curie Elementary in University City and Hawthorne Elementary in Clairemont. The purpose of a Girl Scout Bronze Award Project is to make a difference in the community and inspire others to act. Troop 3012 succeeded on both counts. The Girl Scouts inspired Friends of Rose Canyon to become involved in a project we otherwise would not have taken on. We learned a lot, had great fun and saw the benefits for birds. This year, 30 % of the boxes were occupied, and there were three species of birds. We'll be looking for new monitors, so let us know if these Girl Scouts have inspired you and you'd like to help." Article at http://www.sdnews.com/view/full_story/19817306/article-Birds-in-Rose-Canyon-win-bronze--thanks-to-Girl-Scouts?instance=news

LET THE KIDS GO WILD, article by Linda Hawley in San Diego Family magazine, July 2012, Page 54 in <http://www.smpdigitaledition.com/publication/?i=116145> . Also Nature Adventures1 Taking indoor learning to the great outdoors at Mission Trails Regional Park, September 20, Page 66 in <http://www.smpdigitaledition.com/publication/?i=79448>.

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Subject: SD Children and Nature #2, national resources/articles, mark calendars for Tues. Oct. 9 mtg, 4-6pm
Sent: September 23, 2012

News items about children and nature! Note that we've just sent another email message w/ local events, resources, and articles—and information about the next Collaborative general meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Girl Scout center, 1231 Upas Street. /s/ Anne Fege and others



NATIONAL RESOURCES

EXPLORE FUND \$2500 GRANTS from NorthFace due Oct. 8. Grants up to \$2500 in The North Face® Explore Fund™. It will support organizations that encourage youth outdoor participation, focusing primarily on creating more connections of children to nature, increasing access to both front & backcountry recreation, as well as providing education for both personal & environmental health. Grants will be given up to \$2,500, must have experiential component that involves getting youth outdoors. Info at <http://www.explorefund.org/>.

AT HOME WITH NATURE: Creating Nature Explore Playscapes for Families, new book by Nature Explore (from Arbor Day Foundation), Families Nature Kit, \$24.99 <http://www.arborday.org/explore/families/>. You can view the kit at <http://www.arborday.org/explore/families/thanks.cfm> but not download it. The Families' Club kit is packed full of easy to use, developmentally appropriate activities shown to engage families in exploring the natural world together. The kit includes general information and customizable forms to get your club started, a facilitator's guide with helpful hints on organization, and nine visual, child-friendly activity sheets with facilitator notes specific to each one.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE NEW NATURE MOVEMENT: Great Resources You Can Use. Posted at <http://richardlouv.com/books/nature-principle/field-guide/>. Welcome to a happy cause. Many of us believe it's time for a New Nature Movement, one that includes but goes beyond traditional environmentalism – one that connects children *and* adults to the natural world. Here are a few examples for how to apply the Nature Principle where we live, work, learn and play, <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2012/07/16/five-great-ways-to-nurture-your-inner-hunter-gatherer-wildcrafting-wildwatching-birding-cloudspotting-stargazing/>. Most of us have some kind of barrier to getting outside. Time, work, lack of knowledge. But biologically, we're all still hunters and gatherers. So how do we feed that gene? Hunting and fishing are the traditional ways—and many families bond through these outdoor activities. [And you] have alternatives. Wildcrafting, "[wildcrafting](#)" focuses on hunting and gathering of plants in their wild state, for food, herbal medicines or crafts. Wildwatching, observing wild animals, combined with drawing or journaling or photographing. Birding, here's a Cornell guide: [Top 10 Tips for Birding with Kids](#). Stargazing, the stars you see tonight are the same stars your ancestors saw thousands of years ago, ancestors who were, indeed, hunters and gatherers. Cloudspotting, "Look up." Cirrus, cumulonimbus, and altostratus come to remind us that the clouds are Nature's poetry.

WEBQUEST. This webquest is a fairly simple one, "Quest for Learning: Technology vs. Nature" at <http://www.questgarden.com/40/62/9/061106170352/> From intro: "The purpose of this webquest is to give an introduction to webquests in a classroom. More specifically it will help show the pros and cons of technology versus nature in the classroom learning environment." Kirstin Lasto-Coastal Academy-Oceanside showed us one she had created, "Lorax: Save the Animals!" at <http://www.questgarden.com/120/00/0/110224194329/>. The challenge will be to draw students out to nature, while using classroom-based technologies such as Webquest to organize lessons and nature-focused technologies such as GPS to map field sites.

NATURE FIELD METHODS FOR TEACHERS. Teacher guidance, *Field Investigations: Using Outdoor Environments to Foster Student Learning of Scientific Processes*—was developed to help K-12 teachers introduce their students to the methodologies used for scientific field research and guide them through the process of conducting field studies. This 102-page volume demonstrates how to use descriptive and comparative methodologies for field studies; it was done by the Pacific Education Institute, with funding from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/CEStrategy-Field-Investigations_1.pdf

NATIONALLY-ORGANIZED EVENTS

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY. Saturday, September 29. This day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands, more information at <http://www.publiclandsday.org>. To [register a public land site](#), click here. To volunteer, view our [Find a Site map here](#). [17 sites listed on this webpage for activities in San Diego on Sat. Sept. 29.] National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three sites and 700 volunteers; in 2011, more than **170,000 volunteers** worked at 2,067 sites in every state!

SERVE OUTSIDE SEPTEMBER (S.O.S.). C&NN created the Natural Service Network and S.O.S. to inspire, cultivate and nourish a life-long commitment to nature-based play and recreation in people of all ages, especially children and youth; to physically enhance, maintain and restore natural areas; and to bring high visibility to nature-based inter-generational service projects all year long with a special emphasis on outdoor service in September. More information at <http://www.childrenandnature.org/movement/serveoutside>

SEND A MONARCH TO MEXICO! SYMBOLIC MIGRATION 2012-2013. This fall, the 17th annual "Symbolic Monarch Butterfly Migration" is taking place across North America, and you're invited to join the celebration. Over 60,000 students in the United States and Canada will work together to create symbolic butterflies and send them to Mexico for the winter. Children at the monarch sanctuaries will protect the butterflies all winter and send them north in the spring. United by the monarch butterfly, children across North America will learn authentic lessons of conservation and ambassadorship. Students will work collaboratively to make and send ONE classroom butterfly and individual life-size monarchs to the students in Mexico. Postmark deadline: October 12, 2013. More information in 10-page teacher packet, www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/symbolic/symbolic_migration_packet2012.pdf.

VIDEO: THE DISCOVERY OF THE LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS, two-minute video from the Netherlands portraying the fun and healthy playing in the woods, very creative and impactful. Ilisa forwarded this with a note, "It's great! We need something like this for our publicity campaign!" posted at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyhRzZbU1i4&sns=em>

LOOK, DON'T TOUCH: THE PROBLEM W/ ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, by David Sobel in July-Aug 2012 issue of Orion, <http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/6929>. Excerpts: And perhaps even environmental education is one of the causes of children's alienation from nature.... From the summer camp and Scouting roots, the environmental education movement emerged in the late '60s and '70s. It started out as nature education, but with all the bad news about rainforest destruction, the ozone hole, and toxics in the environment, it soon became dominated by a desire to recruit children to fix all these problems..... Meanwhile, in formal educational spheres, environmental education wanted to play with the big boys. It wanted to be more like reading and math and science, wanted to be more incorporated into the academic standards. As a result, environmental education got reduced to a set of facts to be mastered, content to be internalized and regurgitated. In the efforts to gain legitimacy and solve pressing problems, all the joy was sucked out of environmental education..... [An inspiring program at the Wilderness Youth Project in Santa Barbara] is the kind of environmental education that I believe leads to environmental values and behaviors in adulthood—education that originates in children's innate play tendencies in the natural world; supports and allows wild nature play; recognizes the importance of hunting, gathering, collecting, and, when appropriate, consuming the natural world; encourages adults and children to explore and learn together so adults can model attention and respect; and supports children's appetite for imagination and fantasy.....

NATURE PRE-SCHOOL = OUTDOORS ALL DAY LONG. Students at Blue Heron School in Holderness, N.H., spend most of their preschool day outside -- studying rocks, turning over logs and learning about their environment. Article at <http://www.unionleader.com/article/20120812/NEWHAMPSHIRE03/708129977>. "They're dressed for the weather every single day. There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing." The nature preschool model was popularized in Scandinavia in the late 1960s with the aim of getting kids outside and keeping them there to learn their letters, numbers, science and motor skills, among other things.

REVIEW OF SOCIAL/ECONOMIC BARRIERS/BENEFITS of Learning in the Natural Environment. Natural England Commissioned Report NECR092, 48-page publication at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/1322812>.

NEWS

GLOBAL ACTIONS TO ADDRESS Children's Nature-Deficit Disorder. Actions taken at the 2012 World Congress of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in Jeju, South Korea provide dramatic support for the worldwide movement to re-connect children and nature—for their health and well-being and that of the Earth itself. Cheryl Charles, President and CEO of the Children & Nature Network (C&NN) attended this Congress, along with 10,000 people representing 150 nations and more than 1000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in the Congress which convenes every four years (NGOs include the C&NN). Two declarations relate directly to the children and nature movement: "Child's Right to Connect with Nature and to a Healthy Environment,"

and "Jeju Declaration on National Parks and Protected Areas: Connecting People to Nature" to create a global campaign that recognizes the great contribution of these natural treasures to the health and resilience of people, communities and economies. C&NN and the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (www.iucn.org/cec) jointly released the "Children and Nature Worldwide Summary of Research," a 68-page annotated bibliography of peer-reviewed research and studies from scholars throughout the world to dramatize the critical reasons for connecting children and youth with nature, <http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/CECCNNWorldwideResearch.pdf> . It includes studies from five volumes of research summaries that have been compiled by the C&NN.

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From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org] **On Behalf Of** sdchildrenandnature@sandiegoaudubon.org
Sent: Sunday, July 08, 2012 4:46 PM
Subject: SD Children and Nature, next mtg Tues. July 31 @ 4-6 pm, also 15 news items!

News items that might interest you! And mark your calendar for the next Collaborative general meeting on Tuesday, July 31, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Girl Scout center. /s/ Anne Fege and others



COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS

NEXT MEETINGS. The general meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 31 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Girl Scout program center, 1231 Upas Street, with a theme of "Innovating and Inspiring to Increase Nature Experiences for Children." We're assembling a program with success stories, of bringing nature programs into children's programs (that otherwise wouldn't be playing or learning outdoors, nor the standard-but-important school field trips). Contact Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org or 858-472-1293 by July 16, to volunteer to share your innovative program. Also, the Advisory and Working Boards will meet on Tuesday, July 17 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the SD Audubon Society office, 4010 Morena Blvd., #100. We'll continue planning for three local initiatives: Happier, Healthier, and Smarter by Nature. You're all welcome to attend!

NATURE-BASED SCIENCE LEARNING, Tues. May 15. The last Collaborative meeting focused on "Nature-based science learning: Local high school students, projects, and possibilities." Students Daniel Vitenson (Influence of Tides on Behavior of Light-footed Clapper Rails) and Erica Barrett (Osage Orange: Does It Have Antibacterial or Insect Repellent Effects?) brought their Science Fair project boards and described their research projects. They were two of the four nature-based projects recognized by the Collaborative in the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair. They were presented with day-packs donated by Adventure 16, and books about local nature. Meredith Vaughn (Science education professor, SDSU) outlined the power of nature experiences for students to learn science, and her urban ecology experiences and research. Corrin LaCombe (educator, Institute for Conservation Research-SD Zoo) described science teacher workshops. Stephanie Dawes (Girl Scouts) outlined the Imagine Your Future science programs offered to older girls this spring, a pilot program funded by AT&T).

The program closed with the students and others addressing these three questions: 1. Jane Goodall, in her book *The Ten Trusts*, speaks of providing the "right experiences" to build connection with nature. What experiences did you have that shaped your feelings about nature? 2. Richard Louv asks, "What would our lives be like if we were as immersed in nature as we are in technology?" How do you see nature and technology in your own life? As separate parts of your life or somehow working together? 3. A recent SDSU study came to the disturbing conclusion that the "Millennial" generation is LESS interested in saving the environment than previous generations, citing in particular their own willingness to put effort into conserving energy and protect the environment. Do you

agree? What are your experiences with this age group that lead to your conclusion? [Thanks, Nancy Sunday, for organizing the program and posing these questions!]

MILITARY FAMILY NATURE activities. The “Nature Fun Area” at the Kids First Fair on MCB Camp Pendleton brought “nature” to this 17th Annual Fair for the first time. Seventeen local nature providers and organizations provided hands-on nature experiences for children and their families, as well as information about programs, camps, and other opportunities to get out in nature. Experiences ranged from live animal encounters to trying out kayaks on dry land to building forts to planting seeds and beyond! The Fair's main sponsor was the Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), and key collaborators were SDCaN, the Sierra Club national (with \$5000) and local chapter, the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, Family Adventures in Nature, and Mission Trails Regional Park.

Beyond "bringing nature" to the Kids First Fair, we opened doors between families and local nature providers, often their first exposure to the wonderful local nature places and programs! In addition to building relationships with military personnel and support agencies (critical to our efforts), we will organize a similar event on Saturday, November 3. This "military family nature day" (official title TBD) will offer a variety of exhibits (we're hoping for about 25) that provide hands-on, nature-based activities for kids. The "Loose Parts Nature Play" area was a hit, so we'll be sure to include it in the upcoming event! Event reported at <http://childrenandnature.ning.com/group/lets-go/forum/topics/how-did-your-2012-let-s-g-o-get-outside-event-go>.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2012 PARTNERSHIP AWARD for Sustained Program to MASTER GARDENER-SCHOOL PROGRAM. The San Diego Science Alliance recognized them on May 15, and Judy Crall, Jerry Jois and Vince Lazaneo accepted the award for their accomplishments and advocacy for establishing and using school gardens and schoolyard habitats for learning. Currently the 120-plus volunteer School Garden consultants have furthered the understanding and contribution of gardens to academic achievement, healthy lifestyle, environmental stewardship, and community and social development. They work with 314 schools that have a garden and/or schoolyard habitat in San Diego County. The School Garden Program was started in 1998 by Charlotte Getz and a committee of ten Master Gardeners when they decided to research and write a book to help teachers create school gardens in San Diego County; a copy of this book, *Plant a Seed-Watch it Grow*, was sent to every public and private school in San Diego County (more than 780 schools), and the program has flourished since then.

PROPOSALS SOUGHT BY SDG&E, due July 27. Environmental Champions Initiative Request., instructions at <http://sdge.com/environmental-champions-initiative-request-proposal>, due July 27, total of \$1 million for grants of \$25,000 on individual projects and \$50,000 for collaborations. Here's the language about the environmental education program area: "Environmental Educational and Youth Programs that involve and educate students grades K-12 as stewards of the environment; that enhance the understanding and awareness of ecosystem and environmental sciences; and that include outreach activities that connect the program and its participants to the greater local community. For example, a candidate program may include a hands-on project that applies learned curriculum to a local or regional environmental quality issue."

LEARNING FROM TREES, GRANT FROM CALFIRE. The grant agreement for “Urban Forestry Education: Teachers and Students Choosing Lessons in Nature” has been signed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) and the San Diego Audubon Society (fiscal sponsor), and work has begun! The goals of this project are to develop, offer, and evaluate local nature-based urban forestry lessons. Students will be engaged in reading about trees, then in science lessons in their schoolyard and neighborhood, and then in tree inventory, citizen science, or oak restoration projects. They'll discover that “trees are cool!” Starting with personal connections with teachers and administrators in selected school districts, the project will provide urban forestry lessons that meet core curriculum, and offer activity choices based on the interests of teachers and students. Project objectives are to: (1) Expand capacity for educators to teach urban forestry-based lessons, and evaluate factors affecting their choice of these lessons; (2) Based on students' and teachers' interests, provide “nature champions” and other resources to teach hands-on lessons about schoolyard and neighborhood trees; (3) Develop curriculum for students to learn about oaks and threats of the gold-spotted oak borer; and (4) Organize stewardship projects to collect and enter data about trees or plant acorns for oak restoration.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INTERPRETIVE TOUR/WALK MODULE preview on Wed. July 11. Based on considerable interest in offering naturalist training on interpretive skills, a local interpretive module has been assembled, for naturalists. The training module will first be given on Wednesday, July 11, 1:00 to 5:00 at the Tijuana River Estuarine Research Reserve. This module will include thematic interpretation; designing a tour/walk; interpreting an object; and review. **WHY ATTEND?** To preview this module for your 2012-2013 naturalist training (yes, the instructors will teach this in YOUR series). To brush up on the interpretive concepts as "it's been awhile!" To provide feedback on what elements most meet your needs, and how the organizers can improve it. The meeting/training will be held at the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. Directions at http://trnerr.org/?page_id=279. No RSVP. Call Anne Marie Tipton for further information, at 619-575-3613 x 304, amtipton@parks.ca.gov.

CERTIFIED INTERPRETIVE GUIDE class offered August 6-9 in San Diego! This 32-hour workshop includes principles of interpretation, connecting with audiences and tailoring for diverse learning styles, interactive groups activities, and emphasis on working with children in nature. The CIG is an internationally recognized professional certification offered by the National Association of Interpreters-NAI, and many potential employers and volunteer recruiters actively seek certified interpreters. More information at www.interpnet.com/certification. Course will be held at the San Diego Coast State Park District office in Old Town. Anyone age 16 or over with a desire to increase their knowledge and skills related to interpretation may participate. Costs range from \$320 for current NAI members to \$375 for non-NAI members. For full registration information and questions contact Crystal De Soto, the NAI-Certified Trainer at crystal@localpointofview.com, phone 619-537-9286. Please share this with educators and naturalists in your organization.

ESTUARY TEACHER TRAINING, Aug. 9-10, 2012. Want to have your students experience field based science monitoring at San Diego's largest coastal wetland? Then come to the Tijuana Estuary's High School and Middle School Teacher Training on August 9-10, 2012; this opportunity only happens once a year. Get trained on the Tijuana Estuary High School Teacher's Guide, the only field-based, multi-disciplinary, estuarine high school program in the County. Brand new this year, we will roll out the Estuaries 101 Middle School Curriculum. These programs allow teachers to combine disciplines in the classroom and apply knowledge in the field through field trips. At this two-day training, we will also introduce you to the Estuaries 101 system-wide curriculum and the data visualization website. See first hand what it is like to be an estuarine scientist! August 9-10, 2012. Thurs: 9:00am-3:45pm & Fri: 9:00am-1:30pm. At the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach. Cost is only \$10 (for lunch on Thursday). Register by contacting Anne Marie Tipton, Education Coordinator, at 619.575.3613 x304 or amtipton@parks.ca.gov. Website for more information. <http://trnerr.org/?p=470>

TIJUANA ESTUARY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS' GUIDE – Grades 6-12 <http://trnerr.org/?p=470>. Chapters and lesson plans to be done in the classroom and the field trip guide for programs done here at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. Readings in five chapters (ecology, geology, history, language arts, human use), plus individual lessons for these five areas. [Note from Anne: Definitely worth skimming through... wouldn't it be great to have parallel lessons for chaparral and coastal sage scrub? For our riparian ecosystems? Or use the Investigating the Oak Community lessons (http://www.californiaoaks.org/ExtAssets/investigating_the_oak_community.pdf, 110 pg.) in more classrooms?]

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY TEACHER WORKSHOP, August 11 and 12 for Elementary, Middle School and Informal Science Educators. Classes will be held at the San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road (Hwy 78) Escondido, CA and Kumeyaay Ipai Interpretive Center, 13104 Ipai Waaypuk Trail (Silver Lake Road), Poway, CA. Teachers will receive a copy of *Intrigue of the Past: A Teacher's Activity Guide for Fourth Through Seventh Grades* with 28 exciting interdisciplinary lessons in social studies, math, science, art, communication and language. There will be presentations by archaeologists and facilitators experienced in using archaeology with elementary and secondary students, hands-on guidance through lessons which include the process of archaeology and issues in preservation of archaeological resources, and instruction on experiential techniques. Saturday and Sunday, 8 AM to 4 PM, with field trip to an archaeological site. Tuition for the program is \$100 for materials. Scholarships of \$25 are available for educators teaching in the Escondido, San Diego, San Pasqual and Poway Unified School Districts. Pre-registration is necessary for this workshop, contact Annemarie Cox, Center Program Coordinator at 760-291-0370 or acox@sandiegoarchaeology.org. Deadline to register is

August 1, 2012. Posted at <http://sdsa.org/resources/science-alliance-e-news/2012/june/project-archaeology-teacher-workshop-offered-to-elementary-middle-and-informal-educators-aug-11-12>

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT WORKSHOP—PLANTING on August 25, 30, or Sept. 8. A “how and what to plant” workshop for Schoolyard Habitats will be offered at three gardens at the end of summer! This is the second in a series of three (and we’ll help you catch up, if you didn’t attend the “planning” workshop in May). The workshops will be held on Saturday, August 25, 9:30-12:30am at the Water Conservation Garden adjacent to Cuyamaca College; Thursday, August 30, 3:30- 6:30 pm, SD Botanic Gardens in Encinitas; and on Saturday, September 8 at 9:30-12:30 at Southwestern Botanic Garden (attend only one). The topics will be Plant Selection, Wildlife that can be attracted to the habitats, Planting demonstration for native plants, Short and long term maintenance, information and nursery resources. It is co-sponsored by the SD Children and Nature Collaborative, the School Garden Program of the SD Master Gardener Association, the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and the gardens hosting the workshops. Send email to Leta Bender at benders2@cox.net to register.

This follows the first workshops on May 19 and 23, attended by 50 teachers, parents, and gardeners to learn about the purpose of schoolyard habitats with native plants, formation of a team, site assessment, master plan and design, project needs, resources, and funding. The third workshop this fall will focus on using on-campus habitats for science, language arts, project-based learning, after-school programs, and community engagement.

RESOURCES

INTERPRETATION PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES. The California State Parks resources, The Basic Interpretation Learning System (BILS) are key references for naturalists and educators:
Module 3, Communication, <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/735/files/BILSModule03Communications.pdf>
Module 4, Planning. <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/735/files/BILSModule04Planning.pdf>
Module 5, Program, <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/735/files/BILSModule05Programs.pdf> (features themes and uses bird examples)
Module 7, Walks. <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/735/files/BILSModule07Walks.pdf>
Module 9, Kids, <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/735/files/BILSModule09Kids.pdf>
Module 12, Evaluation. <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/735/files/BILSModule12Evaluation.pdf>

NEW FRAMEWORK K-12 SCIENCE STANDARDS. The Committee on a Conceptual Framework for New K-12 Science Education Standards was charged with developing a framework that articulates a broad set of expectations for students in science. The overarching goal is to ensure that by the end of 12th grade, *all* students have some appreciation of the beauty and wonder of science; possess sufficient knowledge of science and engineering to engage in public discussions on related issues; are careful consumers of scientific and technological information related to their everyday lives; are able to continue to learn about science outside school; and have the skills to enter careers of their choice, including (but not limited to) careers in science, engineering, and technology. The committee recommends that science education in grades K-12 be built around three major dimensions: Scientific and engineering practices : Crosscutting concepts that unify the study of science and engineering through their common application across fields; and Core ideas in four disciplinary areas: physical sciences; life sciences; earth and space sciences; and engineering, technology, and applications of science. The seven Crosscutting Concepts can be taught clearly in nature! 1. Patterns; 2. Cause and effect: Mechanism and explanation; 3. Scale, proportion, and quantity; 4. Systems and system models; 5. Energy and matter: Flows, cycles, and conservation; 6. Structure and function; 7. Stability and change. Reference: National Research Council. (2012). *A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas*. The National Academies Press., 401 p. at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13165 .

NATURAL LEARNING PLACES. The Green Desk is a resource for early childhood educators, childcare providers, administrators, and professionals seeking the latest information to create high quality, healthy outdoor environments for young children. Tap into resources for Community Engagement, Design Guidance, Outdoor Play, Pathways, Affordable Settings, and more, at <http://www.naturalearning.org/greendesk> , and sign up to get e-newsletter. SDCaNBoard member and landscape architect Ilisa Goldman is a graduate and practitioner of this program.

GET TO KNOW NATURE ART CONTEST due July 23 online (July 16 postmarked). The Get to Know Contest invites youth of all ages to get outdoors and then share their experiences through art, photography, videography, writing and music. Partners are the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Federation and many others. Prizes include entry published in the 2013 Get to Know Contest Calendar, a week long “Get to Know Art and Nature Camp” supported by Parks Canada and other prizes from partners! Contest information at <http://www.get-to-know.org/contest/us/> . Gallery of entries at <http://www.get-to-know.org/gallery>

MILITARY FAMILY ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS. Members of the military will receive free passes to National Parks and federal recreation lands as part of the Joining Forces initiative spearheaded by Michelle Obama and Jill Biden. "In recognition of their service, we're so pleased to be putting out a welcome mat for our military families at America's most beautiful and storied sites," Biden said during a conference call announcing the program. Passes are available for active-duty military and their families at more than 2,000 sites across the nation. Posted at <http://www.politico.com/politico44/2012/05/military-to-get-free-passes-to-national-parks-123442.html>.

ARTICLES

INSPIRING LA TIMES ARTICLE ABOUT SCHOOLYARD. Inspiration from LATimes article, about schoolyard habitats, birds, and learning, At an urban L.A. school, nature grows — and test scores too, By Louis Sahagun, Los Angeles Times, April 16, 2012, , From http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-bird-school-20120416_0,1384226.story. “At Leo Politi Elementary, workers ripped out concrete and planted native flora. The plants attracted insects, which attracted birds, which attracted students, who, fascinated by the nature unfolding before them, learned so much that their science test scores rose sixfold.....”

SAN DIEGO FAMILY MAGAZINE in May 2012 featured home-school-community gardens (p. 28), From Fairy Tails to Waterfalls, nature-based designs (p. 34), and summer camps. Posted at <http://www.smpdigitaledition.com/publication/?i=108467>.

WHERE'S NATURE IN NEW EDUCATION STANDARDS? Blog by Richard Louv, 5/15/12. Thanks to artificial intelligence, according to *Washington Monthly's* reporters, the need for standardized testing will fade away, replaced by what proponents call “stealth assessment” — nonstop electronic monitoring of students, employing systems similar to ones grocery chain stores now use to track inventory. Most learning will occur through cutting-edge software “often in the form of video games..... From *The Next Big Test*, [a special report in the May/June issue of The Washington Monthly](#).

The reshaping of standards reform movement... is coming in under the radar, without a vigorous national debate. We need that debate. Now.... So here's a call to action — for parents, teachers, environmental educators and other concerned citizens to get involved in the process of determining the future direction of our schools. Let's start with a few questions. Does the newly released draft of the science standards, include sufficient focus on environmental education and learning in nature — or is it mainly focused on engineering and technology? Will the standards allow enough flexibility and support for teachers to take students outside for authentic, experiential learning opportunities? What role will *play* play (beyond the use of video games)? If the new wave is as dependent on electronic learning technology as the *Monthly* suggests, are we convinced it will work? ...As schools become more high-tech, will the outdoors classroom be considered a balancing agent, one that will build learning capacity but also to protect the psychological and physical health of students? This and other blogs by Richard Louv at <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/category/featured/>.

KID-FRIENDLINESS CITY DESIGN. From Yes! Magazine: “To Save our Cities, Put Children First.” What's the universal design principle that can make our cities great? Kid-friendliness, says architect Jason McLennan. Posted (a year ago) July 13, 2011, at <http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/to-save-our-cities-put-children-first> . [In the past decades] we exchanged a sense of community for take-out and parking lots. We converted the scale of our communities from a human to a highrise level. The scale of the child has been left behind in most of America. The new American society was an automobile paradise... And children are left with residential neighborhoods that no longer have the cultural benefits of functioning urbanism or the ecological benefits of functioning ruralism. No wonder they play so many video games! With automobiles in dominant roles, it is less safe for children to bike, walk, or play outside. Our increased isolation and lack of connection to our neighbors has made us increasingly

paranoid (egged on by irresponsible, fear-mongering media), prompting us to restrict our children's ability to enjoy unstructured time outdoors.

.... As simplistic as it may sound, the best way to plan our cities to function as nurturing, dynamic communities for all people is to design them well as places for children first... Think about what makes a place great for kids: a focus on found learning, serendipitous personal interactions with others, opportunities to interact with nature and natural systems (water in particular), right-sized designs that aren't intimidating and automobile-based, a city with an all-around gentle touch. Now consider a city that extended such considerations to everybody. If communities were built in ways that nurtured children rather than worked around them, all ages would be the better for it. What, then, would a children's city look like? Here is a sampling of what I think we are collectively capable of creating: 1. Opportunities for families. 2. Clusters of urban services. 3. Inner-city nature. 4. Educational neighborhoods. 5. Real places to play 6. Revealed systems 7. Appropriate density. 8. A soul.

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

From: Anne Fege [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 12:04 PM
Subject: SD Children and Nature, next mtg Tues. 5/15, 15 programs and news items!

[Sent about April 20] News items that might interest you! Programs for educators, youth and children, also some resources, and stories! Note that our next meeting features Nature-based Science-STEM Learning, on Tuesday, May 15, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Girl Scout center. /s/ Anne Fege and others



COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS

NATURE-BASED SCIENCE-STEM LEARNING, Tues. May 15, 4-6 pm. Join us for the next meeting of the Collaborative, "Nature-based science learning: Local high school students, projects, and possibilities." The meeting will feature teachers and students in the UCSD ScienceBridge program that are doing class projects in their nearby natural areas; the students recognized for their nature-based projects at the 2012 science fair; and suggestions from science education specialists on the values of observing and learning science in nature, benefits of science curiosity, and awareness of careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Girl Scout program center, Florence Burnham Hall, 1231 Upas Street. No fee, no RSVP.

CONNECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO NATURE: WHAT, SO WHAT, AND NOW WHAT? At the March 15 meeting of the Collaborative, we explored this topic with Marti Erickson, Ph.D. (national Children & Nature Network board chair) and Janice Swaisgood. They gave us insights on What? (disconnections to nature), So what? (importance to children's development), and Now what? (successes from other communities). Additional resources:

- Audio of weekly parenting show by Marti and her daughter, at www.MomEnough.com
- Family Adventures in Nature groups in San Diego, <http://www.meetup.com/FamilyAdventuresinNature/>
- Together in Nature: Pathways to a Stronger, Closer Family, Sara St. Antoine, 14 p., 2012, http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/C&NN_FamilyBonding_2012.pdf
- Nature Clubs for Families, 2009, 20 p., http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/NCFF_toolkit.pdf

NEXT meetings of ADVISORY and WORKING BOARDS. The Working Board will meet on Wednesday, April 25 from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the SD Audubon Society office, 4010 Morena Blvd., #100. The Advisory and Working

Boards will meet together on Wednesday, May 2 from 8:30 to 10:30 at the same location. We'll be planning for three local initiatives: Happier by Nature, Healthier by Nature, and Smarter by Nature. You're all welcome to attend! Contact Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org for more information or to confirm the meeting dates/agendas.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2012 PARTNERSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS for San Diego Science Alliance-SDSA due Tues. May 1.

Recognize individuals or groups that have demonstrated a collaborative effort with at least one partner to positively impact K-12 STEM* education. Nominations of individuals and organizations will be considered for their partnership activities in the community or at the school site or district that have positively impacted science teaching and learning. Partnerships recognized can include teachers, student leaders, school administrators, industry, higher education, informal education, and community members. More information at <http://sdsa.org/resources/science-alliance-e-news/2012/april/2012-sdsa-partnership-awards-call-for-nominations>.

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT WORKSHOPS on May 19 or May 23. The Collaborative offers the first of a series of three free workshops to help schools, teachers (K to 12), PTA leaders, gardeners, and parents establish and use a Schoolyard Habitat. The first one is scheduled for the morning of May 19 from 9 to noon and May 23 from 4 to 7pm to increase the possibility that you can attend one of the two days, and both will be held at the Girl Scout program center, 1231 Upas Street, at the north edge of Balboa Park. Topics will include the purpose of schoolyard habitats with native plants, formation of a team, assessment of your site, development of a master plan and design, project needs, resources, and funding. (The second workshop in the series will be offered this fall, with topics to include plant selection, attracting birds and butterflies, pest control and water management, and "hands-on" planting methods. The third workshop will also be offered in the fall, and will focus on using on-campus habitats for science, language arts, project-based learning, after-school programs, and community engagement.) Register at <http://sdcanhabitatworkshops-eivtefrnd.eventbrite.com/>. Questions? Contact Leta Bender, benders2@cox.net.

EDUCATOR OPEN HOUSE at Cabrillo National Monument on Sat. June 9. Invitation to host a booth at this event, the fourth annual Parks and Open Spaces Day and Educator Open House on Saturday, June 9. The one day festival will feature programs and ranger-led nature hikes, exhibitors and family-friendly activities. Exhibitors should plan on setting up at 9AM and the fair will be open to the public until 5PM, when the park closes. From 7PM to 9PM, for the Educator Open House, 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. Your organization will have the opportunity to promote its education programs in a 5 minute formal presentation in the auditorium or informally as teachers stop by your booth. Bring a table, chairs, and any other materials for the 10'x10' exhibit space. RSVP by May 11 to Emily_Floyd@nps.gov, and contact Emily at (619) 523-4566 with questions.

CERTIFIED INTERPRETIVE GUIDE class offered August 6-9 in San Diego! This 32-hour workshop includes principles of interpretation, connecting with audiences and tailoring for diverse learning styles, interactive groups activities, and emphasis on working with children in nature. The CIG is an internationally recognized professional certification offered by the National Association of Interpreters-NAI, and many potential employers and volunteer recruiters actively seek certified interpreters. More information at www.interpnet.com/certification. Course will be held at the San Diego Coast State Park District office in Old Town. Anyone age 16 or over with a desire to increase their knowledge and skills related to interpretation may participate. Costs range from \$320 for current NAI members to \$375 for non-NAI members. For full registration information and questions contact Crystal De Soto, the NAI-Certified Trainer at crystal@localpointofview.com, phone 619-537-9286.

SAN DIEGO NATURALISTS, next mtg on Wed. April 25. Several recent meetings have focused on ways to work more effectively together. In a meeting after the workshop on the California Master Naturalist program, participants reflected that the workshop "made us think we're ready to do a local cooperative training program." Naturalist training can be more standardized in presentations and materials; ensure that local naturalists have competencies in core subjects; add topics that currently are only taught by a few organizations; and allow for more instructors to teach each topic. The next meeting will focus on coordinated training modules, on Wed. April 25 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Girl Scout office, 1231 Upas Street. Participants are asked to mail electronic copies of current training materials to Anne Marie amtipton@parks.ca.gov by Wednesday, April 18 and also bring 2 paper copies of each to the April 25 meeting.

PUBLIC EVENTS

EarthFair NATURE PLAY ACTIVITY in children's area on Sun. April 22. Together with Family Adventures in Nature, the Collaborative is organizing a Nature Play Activity at EarthFair in Balboa Park on Sunday, April 28. We will bring "loose parts" (sticks, boxes, sheets, twine) that children can use to build tunnels and forts and other "play" structures. Described at http://www.dnr.state.md.us/cin/nps/Loose_Parts.asp . We invite you to help us for 2-3 hours during the fair, please volunteer by contacting Ilisa Goldman, igoldman12@gmail.com.

MILITARY FAMILIES NATURE EVENT on Sat. April 28. Activities to introduce military families to local outdoor recreation and nature exploration will be featured at the Kids First Fair at Camp Pendleton on Sat. April 28. The fair is sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services and is likely to draw 5,000 children and parents at Paige Field House. The "Military Families Nature Area" will provide fun 'how to' activities in the outdoors, such as setting up a tent, loading a back pack, exploring nature in the backyard, natural history on the base, and more. The planning team includes Sierra Club (national and local), San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative, Family Adventures in Nature, and the Institute for Conservation Research-San Diego Zoo. Contact project coordinator Janice Swaisgood, Janice@familyadventuresinnature.org, 619-540-7246.

Science Festival's EXPO DAY on Saturday, March 24 included a booth co-sponsored by SDCaN and Chula Vista Nature Center, featuring live native animals and local habitats. There were more than 140 booths, and 27,000 K-12 students and their families turned out to explore a generous sampling of the ways in which science and engineering relate to everyday lives.

YOUTH NATURE PROGRAMS

Awards at THE GREATER SAN DIEGO SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR on March 21 included five from SDCaN to recognize nature-based science projects. Congratulations!

- Ants of Southern California, by Adam Recht and Gabriela Rothman, San Diego Jewish Academy (Senior)
- Small Insect, Large Dilemma, by Boris Stepanyuk, High Tech High (Senior)
- Hooked by Bait or Lure, Desi Charfauros, Good Shepherd School
- Influence of Tides on Behavior of Light-footed Clapper Rails, Daniel Vitenson, Rhoades School
- Osage Orange: Does It Have Antibacterial or Insect Repellent Effects? Erica Barrett, Rhoades School

CITY OF SAN DIEGO 2012 GREEN STUDENTS YOUTH FORUM on Sat. May 12. The 2012 Green Students Youth Forum is an opportunity for students from a broad range of schools to discuss what they understand about the future of our region with respect to resource use, waste reduction and other key challenges they identify. The goal is to empower students to speak out and make a difference. From 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM, at the Energy Innovation Center, 4760 Clairemont Mesa Blvd in San Diego, CA 92117. Agenda includes keynote speaker - Alec Lorz, Internationally known youth activist www.imatter-movement.org; questions and answer sessions with elected officials, including U.S. Congressman and City of SD mayoral candidate Bob Filner; environmental activities and workshops; and free lunch that demonstrates sustainability. Admission is free and restricted to only high school students in San Diego County. More information at <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/sustainable/youthforum.shtml>. Register by May 7 at <http://registryouthforum.eventbrite.com/>.

SIERRA CLUB training for YOUNG, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS "Sprog," Aug. 5-12. Ages 14-26. Held at the San Diego Chapter Foster Lodge at Mt. Laguna. Every year over 200 youth commit one week of their summer to attend the Sierra Student Coalition's nationally recognized Summer Leadership Training Program, Sprog! Whether you're a seasoned veteran of organizing looking to take your leadership to the next level or a brand new activist looking to start building a toolkit for making real change, Sprog's complete overview of time-tested skills and knowledge has something for you. San Diego's training is one of six offered nationally this summer. \$300 fee, scholarships available. More information at <http://ssc.sierraclub.org/content/sprog-0> .

CHILDREN'S NATURE PROGRAMS

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SUMMER CAMP at PALOMAR, June 17-21 for children 10-12 years old who missed sixth grade camp due to budget cuts, or want another week at outdoor camp. For one week, Camp Palomar will become Outdoor Ed Summer Camp, a program that combines the traditions and activities of "6th Grade Camp" and the theme of Outdoor Education, with the fun of summer camp. Set in the beautiful forests, meadows, and streams of Palomar Mountain: campers will go on nature hikes; learn outdoor skills and games; learn how to square dance; shine in a talent show; and meet new friends. For each paid camper, a \$25 donation will be made to the Outdoor Education Foundation. \$495 before 5/1 and \$520 after 5/1, free tuition for limited number of junior counselors. Now it's possible. More information at www.sd-camps.com, or contact Brian Swagerty at bswagerty@sd-camps.com.

OUTDOOR SURVIVORS summer camp session organized by Brian Moehl and Judy Osman, SDCaN Board members! This will be part of the South Bay YMCA day camp program. This themed session is June 11-15, ages 7-12, \$185 for YMCA members, more info at <http://www.southbay.ymca.org/yprog/cat5.html>. Based on Judy's and Brian's training on these skills, and modeled after the days camps at http://wildernessawareness.org/youth/summer_camps.html. Campers will travel by bus to canyon site from Hedencamp Elementary School. Here's the description: Join us for a fun-filled shrublands adventure and discover skills that can help you in the wild. Using the real-world wilderness of our local canyons, we will explore how indigenous people lived here without the trappings of modern civilization. Get to know the plants and animals that live in the canyons, learn wilderness safety, and build your confidence in the great outdoors.

RESOURCES

NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION. Dozens of links to curriculum materials!

Exposure to Nature and Physical Activity Brings Health Benefits. Spending time outdoors can benefit children who have learning challenges like attention-deficit disorder or health challenges like obesity. Exposure to green spaces also helps reduce stress levels in people of all ages. Bringing your students outdoors for one lesson or a series of linked lessons could provide benefits on multiple levels.

Interacting With the Outdoors Can Inspire Future Scientists. Learning about the stars and planets or studying soil and insects up close fosters students' long-term science literacy and may influence future career paths in the sciences. Further text and a lot of internet links are posted at http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=177305536&message_id=1900305&user_id=NSTA&group_id=463279&jobid=9820820.

SENIORS ARE GREAT NATURE GUIDES for their grandchildren! Free event for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and all relative caregivers is offered Sat. Apr. 21 from 8:00-3:00 by the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, in concert with community partners, at Meridian Baptist Church, 660 S. 3rd. St El Cajon 92019. Next year, perhaps nature can be one of the topics—perhaps a SDCaN member can organize this? The symposium addresses the maze of health and social services and to provide them with the tools that they need to make their families healthy, safe and thriving; this year, topics will be internet safety, legal issues, school advocacy, applying for CalWorks/CalFresh and effects of trauma on children. RSVP is required for free lunch and childcare. To register, call (toll-free): 855-238-5978 or online at www.211sandiego.org/grandparents.

EEI CURRICULUM. Teachers can now take full advantage of our completely free, web-based professional development training for California's Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) curriculum units. Study at your own pace – when you want, and pick the topics you most want to explore. We have a number of tools to help you, including active, content-rich videos. See the EEI in action in the classroom! The EEI Curriculum is approved for use in all K-12 California classrooms by the State Board of Education and meets academic standards; provides an effective resource for English Language Learners; engages students with California Connections, stories that relate the academic material to real world, relevant examples; gives environmentally-based lessons to teach in place of sections of your current textbook; and provides alternative and established assessment tools to choose from. At <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/TeacherEd/default.htm>

GET TO KNOW ART CONTEST. The Get to Know Contest is open to all youth! Get outdoors and create original works of art, writing, photography, video or music inspired by your wild neighbors! Entries must be received by July 16, 2012. Prizes include entry published in the 2013 U.S. Get to Know Contest Calendar; week-long 'Get to Know Art camp in Canada; congratulations from Robert Bateman, Wyland and other renowned artists; trip to Disney's

Animal Kingdom® for themselves and up to 3 family members; fishing gear and the chance to attend the State Fish Art Expo; and more. Info at <http://www.get-to-know.org/contest/us/>

STORIES

RISK AND REWARD IN NATURE, essay by Ron Swaisgood, SDCaN Advisory Board Member, at <http://childrenandnature.ning.com/group/natureclubsforfamilies/forum/topics/risk-and-reward-in-nature-can-a-family-nature-club-help-you-tip>. Excerpts: As parents, one of the most important decisions we make is how to deal with parental fears. Personally, I don't let those fears cause me to lock up my kids. True, I don't let them roam the woods alone like I did in my childhood, but I do get them out there, and try to give them as long a leash as I can. That's what this essay is about—stretching our comfort zones..... When my wife and I take our kids out, we acknowledge that nature outings are not risk-free. But, statistically these risks are low and the ride home in the car is probably more dangerous. The risk of staying home and stagnating, mentally and physically, is greater.... Sometimes it's societal pressure. There is no greater shame than being accused of poor parenting, and these comments are powerful de-motivators for nature play. When we let our kids get too far ahead on the trail or scramble around some boulders, some well-intentioned hikers will remind us that this is rattlesnake country.... Joining a group of like-minded families for your nature explorations [such as a family nature club] may address those fears, real and imagined (and exaggerated)..... And, you may well stretch your boundaries by observing other parents' greater tolerance for dirt, mud, and, yes, risk.

Kindergartners using the POCKET NATURALIST GUIDE FOR CHAPARRAL. A short story from March 21, after naturalist Lilian Cooper led a group of kindergartners on a nature walk with the chaparral guide near Lake Murray. "We thought it went well with the shorter walk and the wider path to walk along and explore. Some of the many things we saw were a pair of mallards, wild cucumber, painted lady butterflies, and laurel sumac. We talked about the differences of prickly pear, beaver tail, and coast cholla cactus. The kids really liked using the chaparral field guides." The pocket field guide is sold at local nature centers and at Waterford Press, http://www.waterfordpress.com/index.php/component/option.com_catalog/Itemid,143/id,371/task,showTitle/.

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From: SD Children and Nature [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:18 AM
To: SD Children and Nature
Subject: SD Children and Nature, next mtg. Thurs. 3/15, 4-6pm, Families and Nature @ Girl Scouts

Join us for the next meeting on Thursday, March 15, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Girl Scout program center, Florence Burnham Hall, 1231 Upas Street. We will feature Families in Nature, with child development professor and national C&NN board member Marti Erickson, Ph.D. and family nature club organizer Janice Swaisgood, M.A. /s/ Anne Fege and others



Connecting children and families to nature: What, so what, and now what? We'll explore this topic at our next general meeting, on Thursday, March 15, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Florence Burnham Hall, Girl Scout program center, 1231 Upas St. (directions at end of email message). Speakers will be child development professor Marti Erickson, board member of national Children & Nature Network and family nature club organizer Janice Swaisgood.

Abstract: Children today spend much less time outside than previous generations did, at great cost to their health, learning, and even the future of our environment. In the growing movement to reconnect children and nature, Marti will illustrate how nature education providers, educators, urban planners, parents, grandparents and many other professionals can play a role. Learn more about why so many children are disengaged from nature, why it's so important to reconnect them, and what you can do to make a difference right where you are. Learn about planning family-centered events with children of all ages, and how nature educators and early childhood specialists can work together. Janice will identify barriers to planning family events, and outline the value of family nature clubs. Both will lead a discussion on outreach to families and how to include the whole family in nature-based activities at your location and/or organization.

Marti Erickson, Ph.D. is co-founder and chair of the Children & Nature Network, and Professor Emerita, Child Psychology and Family Social Science, University of Minnesota. Marti retired in 2008 after a long career that included serving as founding director of the Children, Youth & Family Consortium and director of the Irving B. Harris Training Programs in Children's Mental Health. Marti continues to be a frequent speaker at major conferences and community events throughout the U.S. and abroad. With a special interest in translating research for general audiences, Marti has appeared regularly since 1995 on KARE-TV News (NBC). Since 2006 she also has been co-host (with her daughter Erin) of a weekly parenting show, Mom Enough™, available for listening online a www.MomEnough.com. Marti is passionate about the role of nature in children's health and development and delights in helping her four young grandchildren discover the wonders of the natural world.

Janice Swaisgood is National Coordinator, Nature Clubs for Families Children & Nature Network; Coordinator of Family Programs (SDCaN); founder of Family Adventures in Nature; teacher; and mom of two young, adventurous boys. Janice provides leadership and support to establish and maintain local families' engagement in nature, and is working to recruit and foster the development of community-based groups, organize and publicize regular outings in nearby nature, maintain a calendar of events, and recruit families for outings through both casual contact and formal presentations about families, children, and nature.

Resources for FAMILIES IN NATURE:

- Shared Nature Experience as a Pathway to Strong Family Bonds, Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D., 2009, 9 p. http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/CNN_LWS_Vol1_01.pdf
- Together in Nature: Pathways to a Stronger, Closer Family, Sara St. Antoine, 14 p., 2012, http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/C&NN_FamilyBonding_2012.pdf
- Nature Clubs for Families, 2009, 20 p., http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/NCFF_toolkit.pdf
- www.momenough.com, wonderful resources from Marti Erickson including radio broadcasts
- Family Adventures in Nature (in San Diego), <http://www.meetup.com/FamilyAdventuresinNature/>

DIRECTIONS to Florence Burnham Hall, at the Girl Scouts of San Diego program site, located on the southwest corner of Richmond and Upas Streets. From 163 south, take Washington Avenue east, very soon turn right on Richmond, and follow that about 10 blocks. Cross Upas and take the first driveway to the right. From 163 north, take the Richmond Avenue exit and take the fourth driveway to the left. Map is posted at http://maps.google.com/maps?oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&cid=0,0,8118617490291292571&fb=1&split=1&gl=us&dq=girl+scouts+san+diego&daddr=1231+Upas+St,+San+Diego,+CA+92103&geocode=14319406359893793034,32.740974,-117.151755&ei=OzqJSp2DOIXQsgO3i6iNDw&sa=X&oi=local_result&ct=directions-to&resnum=1

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From: SD Children and Nature [mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:34 PM
To: SD Children and Nature
Subject: SD Children and Nature, some local and national news items!

News items that might interest you! Also, note that our next meeting features Families in Nature, on Thursday, March 15, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Girl Scout center (separate email message). /s/ Anne Fege and others



NEXT meetings of ADVISORY and WORKING BOARDS. We will meet on Wednesday, March 14 from 8:30 to 11:00 am at the SD Audubon Society office, 4010 Morena Blvd., #100. Topics will include possible initiatives for Happier by Nature, Healthier by Nature, and Smarter by Nature, and a “stakeholders’ summit” this fall. You’re all welcome to attend!

MOTHER NATURE’S CHILD and Jan. 25 meeting. The San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN) met on January 25 and viewed the *Mother Nature’s Child* film, and elected the slates of the Advisory and Working Boards. The 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. See 8-minute preview at <http://www.mothernaturesmovie.com/the-film/> and borrow the non-profit, no-fee-charged copy of the film to show your staff, volunteers, or members.

SAN DIEGO NATURALISTS. Several recent meetings have focused on ways to work more effectively together. There are opportunities for bringing the California Master Naturalist training to San Diego, and 30 attended a workshop on February 16 on that topic. Two local certified instructors will teach the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) course for Interpretive Guide Certification on August 6-10, 2012 (32 hours) at the San Diego South Coast State Park District. Others are working together to teach basic interpretive skills to current naturalists, naturalist training classes, park rangers, and nature educators, including an online survey. The next meeting with San Diego Naturalists will be Thursday, March 15, 2:00-3:30 pm, immediately before the general SDCaN meeting and also at the Girl Scout office, 1231 Upas St.

MILITARY FAMILY NATURE EVENT. Several folks are working with Camp Pendleton to schedule nature activities in their Kids First Fair on Saturday, April 28. When this is confirmed, we will organize 20 or so organizations to share information about local outdoor adventure and nature education activities for families and youth in the San Diego area. Co-sponsors are the Sierra Club (national and local), SDCaN, Family Adventures in Nature, and the SD Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, and employees in the natural resource programs on the Base; and Janice Swaisgood is serving as project coordinator, janice@familyadventuresinnature.org.

SIGN UP to get SD SCIENCE ALLIANCE e-news: <http://sdsa.org/resources/science-alliance-e-news> . Includes teacher workshops, opportunities for middle school and high school classes-students, festivals, contests, and much more!

Free ESTUARY EXPLORERS TEACHERS PROGRAM, 3-6th grades, Wed. March 14, 1-5pm, Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, 619-575-3613. “Tijuana Estuary Explorers” is an in-class and field trip program, targeted at 3rd – 6th grade that meets state standards, is DAIT approved, and incorporates reading, expository writing, and science into four comprehensive hands-on activities about the Tijuana Estuary and its watershed. A mandatory teacher training is required for all teachers who wish to participate in this program, that includes the student journal, in-class and field trip portion (mostly outside). After completing this, you will be able to bring your class on a field trip every year. Transportation grants are available. Bring: Walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, & a bag or box to put your student journals. Register by March 6 with Lorena Warner-Lara, ext 305, Lwarner@parks.ca.gov OR Marya Ahmad, ext 306, mahmad@parks.ca.gov. For more information about Tijuana Estuary Explorers, visit: <http://trnerr.org/?p=468>

SD BIRD FESTIVAL free FAMILY DAY, Sun. March 4 at the Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivera Way (south side of West Mission Bay Drive). Kid-friendly activities include a Beginning Bird Art Workshop 11:30-1:00, the Raptor Rap Workshop 1:30-3:00, Community Bird Painting 1:30-3:00, Bird Calling Workshop 3:30-4:15, Big Sit Birding 3:30-5:00, and Guided Estuary Walk 4:00-5:15. All family events on Sunday are free with no pre-registration needed, although we do ask you to check in at the San Diego Audubon Society registration desk at

festival headquarters upon arrival so that you can get handouts, important information, and announcements about the Family Free Day events. More information at <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/index.php/events/bird-festival>.

CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK recent columns by RICHARD LOUV

--View them at <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/>

--Ten ways camps can reduce nature-deficit disorder and build support for their programs, <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2012/02/22/ten-ways-camps-can-reduce-nature-deficit-disorder-and-build-support-for-their-programs/>

--Every child needs nature, 12 questions about equity and capacity, <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2012/01/26/every-child-needs-nature-12-questions-about-equity-and-capacity/>

--Vitamin N and the American Academy of Pediatrics, by Mary Grown, M.D., <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2012/02/02/%e2%80%9cvitamin-n%e2%80%9d-and-the-american-academy-of-pediatrics/>

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GIRL SCOUT EXHIBIT at San Diego Archaeological Center, Feb. 25-Dec. 2012. “Camp Winacka: Digging into History.” The Girl Scouts were founded 100 years ago (March 12, 1912), and for generations, girls have explored everything from archaeology to zoology. In 1970, the Girl Scouts purchased a large piece of property in the Cuyamaca Mountains with profits from cookie sales. The exhibit features some of the artifacts the Girl Scouts excavated in 1971-1978, led by a SDSU team, as well as the humorous entries from their excavation notebooks. Girl Scout leaders are encouraged to schedule a troop meeting at the Center Museum during the exhibit run; explore the past with the Archaeology Quest Activity; and create, make and take projects. SD Archaeological Center is located at 16666 San Pasqual Valley Rd, Escondido, CA 92027, www.sandiegoarchaeology.org. For info on this exhibit or to schedule your visit, please contact Program Coordinator Annemarie Cox at acox@sandiegoarchaeology.org or (760) 291-0370.

WALKING/EXERCISE... Watch this 9 minute video to “learn about the single best thing we can do for our health.... Information-filled, active video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUalnS6HIGo> . (about walking/exercise 30 minutes each day)

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

Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2012 12:44 PM

To: SD Children and Nature

Subject: SD Children and Nature, 2 January events, 9 resources, 3 success stories, next mtg Wed. Jan. 25, 4:30-6:30 @ MTRP

Please join us for the next meeting on Wednesday, 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). And take time to skim this email message for more than 20 items about workshops, new resources, grants, and success stories! /s/ Anne Fege and others



NEXT MEETING on January 25. Our next general meeting will be Wednesday, 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). 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 meeting.

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.mothenaturesmovie.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.

ADVISORY AND WORKING BOARDS. All are welcome at the Board meetings, and the next one will be Wednesday, January 18 from 8:30 to 12:00 at the SD Audubon Society office at 4010 Morena Boulevard (just north of Balboa, overlooking I-5 freeway). 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 Leta Bender at benders2@cox.net or Anne Fege at fege@sandiegoaudubon.org.

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

JOHN MUIR PORTRAYAL, Sat. Jan. 14, 6:30 pm, "Celebrate Trees: an Evening with Naturalist John Muir," portrayed by Doug Hulmes. At Balboa Park's Recital Hall, 5:30 public reception w/educational tables, 6:30 to 8:30 program. This is a 2012 historical re-enactment of the famous California naturalist and tree lover John Muir . A fun-filled evening of entertainment and education with scholar and actor Doug Hulmes, who has portrayed John Muir at hundreds of venues since 1993. Hulmes transforms into Muir in a grand style that will leave you feeling like you met the great naturalist himself. This event is FREE to the public, registration requested at http://energycenter.org/index.php?option=com_civicrm&task=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=684 . Environmental groups are invited to bring INFORMATION TABLES about public service or conservation efforts. No fee, register by sending info to Robin Rivet at the California Center for Sustainable Energy: robin.rivet@energycenter.org; (858) 634-4741 (Send Non-profit or agency name, Contact person and title, E-mail, Office phone, Date of event phone, and Special needs or questions.)

RESOURCES AND REPORTS

FILMS ABOUT LOCAL NATURE. Jim Karnik has made more great short films that can be used in educational and public programs, view them at <http://www.fieldnotes.com/videos.html> (in vimeo format). Examples are Children and Nature, <http://www.fieldnotes.com/csdprcn.html>, Trails of Torrey Pines <http://www.fieldnotes.com/tpattp.html>, and Five Habitats of San Diego, <http://www.fieldnotes.com/csdprhds.html>. Eleven were made for the City of San Diego, Open Space Division, and they are posted at <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/ospvideo.shtml> . Ten were made for the Torrey Pines Association, all posted at <http://torreypines.org/webfilm-series> . . Films have also been made for Friends of Rose Canyon, San Diego Botanic Garden, and others.

WHOLE CHILD REPORT from National Wildlife Federation, "Whole child: Developing mind, body and spirit through outdoor play," 16 pages, posted at http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Be%20Out%20There/BeOutThere_WholeChild_V2.ashx/ "Wake up: during this day-in-the-life, our typical child goes outdoors barely enough to pick a dandelion and scatter its seeds to the wind. It doesn't matter if the seeds would zig-zag down a city street, dodging between taxi cabs, or quietly float down a country lane—modern children just don't have the time, inclination or motivation to follow where they may lead."

GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS Award Nominations in California. California Department of Education has announced guidelines for Green Ribbon Schools at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/greenribbonprog.asp>, based on the national program announced this fall, <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>. Award nominations for Calif. schools are due Feb. 15 and are extensive and focused on the building efficiency and

sustainability. One criteria for learning and environmental literacy is: “Students have a meaningful outdoor experience(s) at every grade level; a meaningful experience is considered to be an investigative or experiential project that engages students in critical thinking, problem solving and decision making.” One of the links in the Framework from US Dept Education is <http://www.handsontheland.org/>, focused on Federal land and agencies. [Note: An earlier Green Ribbon Schools initiative started in Texas and is much more focused on the nature learning and the children, rather than the building, at <http://www.greenribbonschools.org/>.]

SHARED NATURE EXPERIENCE as a Pathway to Strong FAMILY BONDS, by Marti Erickson, Ph.D., retired professor, University of Minnesota, and Board member of Children & Nature Network, 9 p. posted at http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/CNN_LWS_Vol1_01.pdf . “in many ways, the natural world seems to invite and facilitate parent-child connection and sensitive interactions.... Unplugging and taking baby into the back yard, a park, or a nature trail can eliminate those distractions and create an opportunity for what is called “affective sharing”—oohing and aahing together over the sun shining through the leaves of a big tree, feeling the rough bark and the soft moss on the tree’s trunk, listening to the sounds of birds or squirrels, feeling a soft spring rain or a light winter snowfall on your face.... Because the natural world is filled with sights, sounds, and smells that ignite a young child’s curiosity and invite active exploration, being outdoors also can make it easy for a parent to follow the child’s lead, to respond to the child’s cues and expressed interests, to share the child’s delight in new discoveries and experiences—the very ingredients shown to lead to a secure attachment.”

THE ECOLOGY OF HOPE, essay by Children & Nature Network president Cheryl Charles, <http://www.childrenandnature.org/blog/2011/12/02/the-ecology-of-hope/> . “Without hope, we die—if not immediately in a physical sense, we do in terms of dreams, aspirations, and spirit, all of which are fundamental to human health and well-being..... Hope is derived from the exercise of will—learning as well as practicing, from the youngest of ages, how to do so..... For young children, efficacy and hope are nourished by playing and learning in wild and semi-wild places outdoors—turning over a rock and feeling connected to all of life; climbing a tree and feeling a surge of confidence and exhilaration, peace and perspective; having an adult share a place so special that the child feels valued and develops a lifelong connection to the power and the beauty of the natural world. In my view, the most inspiring and effective parents, grandparents, teachers, friends and mentors are those who labor with love and respect, heart and humor, to create an ecology of hope every day in the lives of those they touch—beginning in childhood’s earliest years.”

THE NATURAL LEARNING INITIATIVE, website at <http://www.naturalearning.org/>, led by landscape architect Robin Moore at North Carolina State University. “Creating environments for healthy human development and a healthy biosphere for generations to come.... Increasing numbers of children are losing contact with the natural world. The purpose of the Natural Learning Initiative is to promote the importance of the natural environment in the daily experience of all children, through environmental design, action research, education, and dissemination of information.”

NATURAL HISTORY UPGRADE with technology? Article about a workshop sponsored by the Natural History Network (www.naturalhistorynetwork.org), a new group dedicated to “reawakening human connections with the natural world.” The workshop participants were mostly people who teach natural history or otherwise earn a living as naturalists.... Much of the conversation was about how technology can draw people back to the natural world. And the general consensus was that naturalists themselves need to change if they hope for natural history to thrive in this distracted new world..... “So much of environmental work tends to be based on fear rather than love” Natural history is the process of falling in love with the world. That’s a very powerful thing.”.... Apps such as iNaturalist cleverly exploit people’s technological infatuation to get them back outside. The smartphone becomes a tool to resurrect their curiosity about the natural world—and even get them actively contributing to the science. <http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2011/09/natural-history-upgrade/>

CANADA report card on ACTIVE HEALTHY KIDS. This national organization focuses on making physical activity a major priority in the everyday lives of Canadian families. It brings forward scientific knowledge and advocacy strategies to stakeholders who can improve the physical activity opportunities for children and youth across Canada, and publishes an annual Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card, <http://dvqdas9jty7g6.cloudfront.net/reportcard2011/ahkcreportcard20110429final.pdf> . It gives letter grades on such indicators as physical activity (e.g., active play and leisure, organized sport) or factors influences it (e.g., physical education, availability of physical activity facilities, government policies). The figure on page 53 figure

depicts the drastic reduction in a child's home territory (the area where he or she is free to move around unsupervised) over several generations. "The contemporary 8-year-old, Ed, is allowed to walk on his own only to the end of his street. By contrast, his mother, Vicky (8 years old in 1979), was allowed to walk to the swimming pool, about one-half mile away, on her own. Ed's grandfather, Jack (8 years old in 1950) was allowed to walk on his own to the woods about a mile away. Finally, Ed's great-grandfather, George (8 years old in 1919), was allowed to walk 8 miles on his own to go fishing. These results support the perceptions of adults who sense that childhood experiences have changed over the past decades."

CONNECTING KIDS TO NATURE report from National Wildlife Federation, at http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Campus-Ecology/Reports/CKN_full_optimized.ashx. This 36-page report describes what is at stake, including the health of our children, the economy, and the future of American conservation efforts. It then offers solution to reversing the nature deficit and how to connect children to nature, including actions that can be taken in the home, in the community, and at the state and federal policy levels.

SUCCESS STORIES

SHRUBLANDS CURRICULUM on a FIELD TRIP. Lillian Cooper led fourth graders on nature walks at Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary (in Lakeside) in December, and shared her insights: "It was a great day for all of us to see the Shrublands curriculum in action and to be part of this exciting project. The children I led were so engaged in exploration and discovery. Their teacher told me about halfway through our hike that my group of 10 were his worst behaved children at school. I replied that, observing them on our hike, I never would have guessed they had that label. We then discussed how being in nature with active learning is just what these kids need, instead of sitting at a desk all day. He was impressed by their level of engagement and how much they showed evidence of learning about the plants and animals at Silverwood. The teacher then indicated that he is using our Shrublands materials as his social studies curriculum this year. It made me feel good that all our collaborations and efforts of connecting children to nature are paying off."

SEEDS:ECO-LOGIC FOR TEENS PROGRAM at CAMP STEVENS. An experiential outdoor education for high school students, it's a great combination of gardening, ecology, conservation, learning, and leadership, <http://www.campstevens.org/year-round-programs/environmental-education#seeds>. "Designed to fit into the busy schedules of today's high schools and their students, our two-day/one-night programs feature programs customized to each class, and include outdoor exploration time, meals and service projects for a hands-on educational experience." 10-minute video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d2NsDNM4w4>. Through the generous support of the San Diego Women's Foundation and the Seamen's Church Institute of Los Angeles, programs were offered during 2011 at a very reduced rate: \$50/person, and the Seamen's Church just gave a substantial endowment to sustain this program. For information, contact revor@campstevens.org.

INNER CITY OUTINGS. Short article by college student who gained outdoor interests-skills in Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's Inner City Outings (ICO), <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/scrapbook/2011/11/giao-tran-inner-city-outings.html>. "Before joining her school's Wilderness Adventure Club as a high school freshman, Giao Tran had never experienced the outdoors. Little did she know then that after her first outing, she'd be more than just a club member -- she'd become an outdoors lifer..... One early memory that sticks with Giao is the fact that kids change when they're together on an ICO trip. The group of high schoolers I was with -- we all worked together as a family unit," she says. "We looked out for each other. It made me see how the outdoors can be this common force that brings people together. That's what hooked me. I realized that the environment could be the one unifying force that everyone can stand behind." More info about San Diego's ICOs at <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/ico/>.

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