

# ENH Ink

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**EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS  
OUTDOOR SCHOOLS**  
a non-profit organization

### Special points of interest:

- Get updated on all of the ENH sites!
- Looking for a location for a staff training, family reunion, or other group event? Our Sempervirens Outdoor School Site is available for weekend and summer rentals. Contact us at (831) 338-3013.
- Want to subscribe or unsubscribe to *ENH Ink*? Contact us at (831) 338-3013, or through our website:  
[www.exploringnewhorizons.org](http://www.exploringnewhorizons.org)

*"I want to thank you for letting me go to science school! What I learned is that you can hear a lot of things in the woods with some silence. I can see better with my eyes because you taught me how to see in nature! I thought I was scared to come, but now I want to stay! The solo hike changed my life because I got to do something by myself!*

*~ Student Fall 2006*

## ENH Receives a Third year of Federal Funding

This fall ENH received \$41,500 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) B-WET program for the third straight year. This funding will once again be used to bring underserved students from Salinas schools to our Sempervirens Outdoor School, where they will participate in a sand crab study while attending outdoor education.

This year we anticipate over 450 students from seven Salinas schools attending SVOS, where they will explore Big Basin State Park, mingle in our organic garden, and visit with our new non-releasable Red Tail hawk.

Since 2001, over 2,000 Salinas students have attended SVOS



Don Kleinfelder and other B-Wet grant recipients receive a check from Congressman Sam Farr

through our scholarship program. The experience has not only impacted their lives and (con't. p.3)

## New Executive Director for ENH

Greetings! My name is Tracey and I am so happy to be part of the wonderful family of Exploring New Horizons! For many years I have been dedicated to supporting environmental organizations for youth throughout the Bay Area, and now it is my honor to be leading such a great organization as ENH.

My past has been leading me to this moment in time with my previous work with the Girl Scouts both domestically and abroad, and most recently with Camp SEA Lab at CSU Monterey Bay.

I am privileged to be the leader of an organization that works with dynamic students, teachers, administrators and staff.

I have always been amazed at how powerful an outdoor experience is for kids today. The

magic that a week in the outdoors provides a child, is inspirational. To sing songs around the campfire, to get dirty, and to gain empowerment through self-reliance are the skills that children cannot learn within the classroom walls.

I was reminded of these lessons during one of my first weeks. A girl, after a week of camp, once timid, stood in front of her class and exclaimed that she never knew that a fresh tomato, right out of the garden, could actually be good. These are the (con't p.3)





*Dear Friend,*

*Thank you for letting me go to the science school! You have made me really happy. I am having a blast! Let me tell you something I really liked here. I loved the barnyard boogie. At first I was really shy. I was just sitting next to the wall. After a while I noticed there's no reason to be shy because everyone was my friend. I really broke out of my shell. I have really changed since I got here. I'm much more fun to be with and I have a lot more friends. I'm happy to say it's thanks to you!*

*Sincerely,  
Student, Fall 2006*

## From the Executive Director—Don Kleinfelder

For the past ten years I have thoroughly enjoyed leading ENH through many changes, including the creation of our Sem-pervirens site and our scholarship fund. Now the time has come to pass my position along to another, and so it is with great pleasure that I welcome Tracey Weiss as the new Executive Director of Exploring New Horizons.

Tracey brings with her many years of camping and outdoor education experience, and was most recently the Program Director of Camp SEA Lab, a project of CSU-Monterey Bay. In addition, she has established relationships with many of our funders, including NOAA, and is well known throughout the Northern California outdoor education world. Add to that her many years with the Girl Scouts and you have a

solid professional who still knows the weird stories and goofy songs appropriate to my position.

Tracey has been a delight to work with, and when you get a chance to meet her I'm sure you'll agree that the future of ENH will long remain bright.

As for me, I'm am off to explore a few of my own new horizons in the Sacramento area, where I have family. But I will always carry with me hundreds of memories of the beautiful redwoods, the majestic ocean, the wonderful wildlife, and above all, the thousands of fine people and hundreds of naturalists that have made ENH a truly special place. My thanks go out to you all. Be well.

*-Don Kleinfelder*

Interested in sharing your expertise and making a difference in our world? Consider joining a non-profit board! For more information about the ENH Board of Directors, contact Tracey at (831) 338-3013, or by email: [tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org](mailto:tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org)

## Thank You to Our 2006-2007 Donors!

Many individuals and organizations have combined to send over 700 underserved students to ENH. On behalf of these children, we offer our thanks and appreciation to our contributors!

Special thanks go to the following organizations...

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- The Rancho San Carlos Education Foundation
- The Peninsula Community Foundation
- The Boyd Family Foundation
- The Leshner Foundation
- The Educational Foundation of America
- The North Pleasanton Rotary Club
- The Harden Foundation

...And our individual donors:

- Sheila Curtis
- Sarah Jones
- Jennifer Jachym
- Oded Kafka
- Dori and Craig Eger-Lauxman
- Lorraine Merrit
- Craig Peters and Maureen De-Boer
- Donald Shortridge
- Quentin Shuldiner
- Jonathan Lamb
- The ENH Board of Directors

## ENH Ink Going Paperless!

Starting this spring, the ENH Ink publication will be going paperless! In order to better support our environment, and to stay in touch with everyone who is near and dear to our program, look forward to receiving your next issue of the ENH Ink in your email inbox.

If you would like to ensure you receive the ENH Ink online, please send a note to Tracey Weiss at [tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org](mailto:tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org) with your correct email address and contact information.

We look forward to sharing all the great stories of success and wonder at ENH through email. Please contact Tracey Weiss at (831) 338-3013 with any questions.

## Sand Crabs *(continued from page 1.)*

their schools, but has changed our program as well. There is something exceptional about sharing experiences in nature with children that have rarely left their own town!



Students measure a sand crab shell length with calipers, then determine the crab's gender and record the data, which is eventually posted on a NOAA website.

Additional funds for this project are pending with the Harden Foundation and Rancho San Carlos Education Foundation (both organizations have funded the project for the past several years). In addition, many individuals have donated time and money to make this program a success. If you would like to help us serve the students of Salinas, please visit our web site at [www.exploringnewhorizons.org](http://www.exploringnewhorizons.org) and make a secure online donation. Thank you to all our past supporters!

## New ED for ENH *(continued from page 1.)*

moments that make the mission of ENH come alive.

This is an exciting time for ENH as we are looking forward to a new partnership with California State Parks at our Sempervirens site and we continue to raise scholarship dollars to support every student, from every school, with a dynamic Outdoor School experience.

I look forward to getting to know everyone better, and to immersing myself in the culture and history of ENH. Please come by for a visit, give a phone call at (831) 338-3013, drop me an email at [tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org](mailto:tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org) or stop by and introduce yourself! ENH has affected the lives of many, and I am proud to be the newest member of this exciting program.

Cheers!

*Tracey Weiss*

## Thoughts from Rikki Shackelford: Program Director at SVOS

My name is rikki Shackelford I am the new Program Director at Sempervirens Outdoor School. The first month as the Program Director of Sempervirens Outdoor School has been filled with great schools and teachers, good counselors and the staff has done a wonderful job of welcoming me to SVOS.

My past, I grew up in Pittsburg, PA and I have worked in Arizona, Hawaii, and all over California. My most recent job was as a Program Director for the Web of Life field School. Where I had the chance to be a part of an incredible program and legacy.



The 2006-07 Sempervirens Staff

I am excited to come to ENH, a program that helps students reach a new level of environmental understanding and the opportunity to work with a staff that is dictated to helping their students achieve that goal. I'm excited about SVOS and how well the naturalists create an experience where students can discover the wonders of the environment and their place in it. It is an exciting time at Sempervirens as we have new educational opportunities growing for our students. We have received a non-releasable Red-Tailed hawk from Shasta Raptor Rehabilitation Center named Isis and we hope to add a Western Screech Owl to our family. We will help our camp reduce our energy by sublimating it with solar power. We are working with the Solar Schoolhouse to install new solar units and receiving training in solar curriculum.

I would like to thank every one for welcoming me to the Exploring New Horizons family and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

See you soon! ~rikki

## Thoughts from Scott Klein: Program Director at Loma Mar



The 2006-07 Loma Mar Staff

Greetings from Loma Mar!

Preparations are already being made for the 2006-7 Outdoor School Show of a Lifetime! Many of the characters are the same: Fog the Surfer, Aspen the Birder, Aaron the Drummer, Hongo Chum the Artist, Allison (our new

Program Coordinator!) the Writer, Spark the Gardener, Orion the Carpenter, Mountain

the Music maker, Calypso the Tracker and Bee the Dragon. We are excited to include a few new faces: Cheetah and Bobcat who are joining us from San Joachin Outdoor Education School as well as Natalie Gilliam and April Price who are our Naturalist Interns. Naturally, Big Red and the Pescadero Creek

as well as The Ocean and Mountains will be affecting our show greatly.

We are very proud to welcome the Barn Owl who has finally come out of her shell and is willing to make appearances during the show – but only at night time! The Garden has grown amazingly well and is producing some of the finest veggies and fruits, organic of course, and will be feeding all of you who visit us this year. Unfortunately, our friend and longtime participant Don the Doberman will be directing other shows this year. But the show is under new leadership and will be directed by the new, amazing, Tracey Weiss formerly from Camp SEA Lab. We do invite all of you to come to our show this year and we hope to all get connected to the only entity that could make this all possible: THE EARTH!

See ya soon, - Scott "Burl" Klein

## Thoughts from Dan Irelan: Program Director at PPEEP



The Pigeon Point Environmental Education Program Site

Greetings from the redwood coast!

Our school year started with Pescadero Middle School 6th graders in September. Working with a special curriculum that emphasized team-building and diversity, we explored the redwoods and stalked some deer, conquered some group challenges, went tide-pooling at the first light of dawn, and caught a couple of beautiful autumn sunsets.

cited to work with two new staff members and several new schools along with our old friends from around northern California.

Don't forget that Pigeon Point, Año Nuevo and Memorial Park are all public parks – you and your family can come visit any time! Reserve now for public elephant seal walks this winter and spring. Take care, and I'll see you at the Point!

- Dan Irelan

Hosting the locals is one of several exciting new developments we've had recently. In addition to serving students in Kindergarten, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 8th grades, PPEEP has brought in some small rural multi-grade classes, and this year we will host homeschooled students to our standard 3-day program for the first time. We are working with California State Parks to present special versions of our elephant seal puppet show, first for the annual Lighthouse Lighting ceremony in November, then for the graduation ceremony for new docents at Año Nuevo State Reserve in December.

Starting in January, we will be running full-speed through the elephant seal and whale watching seasons. Gusano (the Magician Naturalist) will be joining Oscar, Lil and Ace as returning characters this year; and I'm ex-



# Exploring New Horizons Summer Camp 2006

Summer 2006 proved to be the best summer at Sempervirens yet. This year we hosted three summer camp sessions each with a different theme. In addition to our various themed activities we enjoyed our classic summer camp entertainment such as Arts n Crafts, Swimming, Nature Hikes, Archery, Sports, Drama, Backpacking, Beach Exploration, Music, Team Building, Ropes Course, Organic Gardening, Night Hikes, Campfires, and our new Gaga Ball Pit. Each counselor brought numerous their own talents including martial arts, yoga, poetry, astronomy, and dance just to name a few. Before we began our summer with campers all staff met the week prior to map out how we were going to create a summer to remember. Staff training brought us all closer together as we learned about being successful leaders. While doing this we accidentally learned about our fellow leaders and quite a bit about ourselves. We talked about how to form new activities for returning campers, and how to create an appreciation for the natural world as well as build self esteem.



We had dynamic themes and activities for each of the three sessions of camp. We kicked off our first session with Superhero Week. Each of our evening activities revolved around the concept of a villain named Dr. Ero and his assistant Joe Nasty. Their plans...to take all the fun out of camp. Campers were encouraged to change into their alter egos and become superheroes in order to save camp. We hunted for abducted counselors, played carnival games against Joe Nasty and ultimately conquered Dr. Ero and his plans. Session two was Holiday



Week. Each day we celebrated a different holiday including Halloween, Valentines, Thanksgiving, Birthday, Winter Wonderland, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and New Years. Our meals and activities celebrated the days holiday. Our Halloween Boogie was epic, our Thanksgiving Feast was spectacular, and our Birthday celebration was dazzling. Session three reminded us of times gone by with our Blast to the Past Week. Once again our meal and activities were all geared towards a different moment in time. Our prehistoric dinner was savage, our Titanic banquet was elegant, and our New Years Eve Boogie celebrated recent memorable decades including the 50's 60's 70's 80's and 90's. Each session was concluded with a candle ceremony the night prior to departure and a

talking stick closing ceremony the day of. After each ceremony we enjoyed a family BBQ and a tearful goodbye. We vowed to keep the friendships and memories of summer of 2006 in our hearts as campers and staff alike departed and returned to the life away from Sempervirens.

See you soon!

~ The Dude, Camp Director



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**Dedicated to enriching the lives of young  
people through an awareness of the  
beauty and diversity of nature.**

## From the Students: When I think of nature, I think of...



All Pictures from the Boronda Meadows  
6th Grade Class from Salinas.

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