

ENH Ink

www.exploringnewhorizons.org



**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 Sem-pervirens Outdoor School site is available for weekend and summer rentals. Contact us at (831) 338-3013.
- New Addition to the ENH Family! Burl and Ulli Klein welcomed their daughter Simone India Klein into the world on March 21, 2007. **Congratulations Burl & Ullii!**

*Ocean waves, tidal pools,
that's what you and I see*

*A body of water teeming with
life is what it can be*

*Every place you look, try to
find it*

*Animals are in every cranny
and nook for you to know*

*The ocean, you must see it to
believe it*

Come on with me

The ocean light is lit

*--S.N., 5th grade,
Fairlands School,
Pleasanton*

My Counselor Experience at ENH

by Ashley Petersen

When I signed up to be a counselor for Exploring New Horizons earlier this year I wasn't sure how the experience would be, but I was told that it was a lot of work and it also sounded like a great learning experience. I was willing to take a chance, I was ready to go.

The drive was about two hours long, but it didn't matter because once we got off the highway, it was absolutely gorgeous outside. There were tall luminous trees outside that seemed to reach the sky. I had not even been to the camp yet, I knew nothing; but I had a good feeling about everything at this point.

When I got to Camp Loma Mar, everyone seemed extremely nice; it was a very welcoming environment. Entering through the dining hall doors, we found a huge group of eager, rambunctious students; some were eating, *(Continue on Pg. 3)*



Counselors learn to be a mentor, friend and supervisor to students from their home town.

New Individuals Join the ENH Board

The backbone of any dynamic organization is its Board of Directors. The Board works to maintain the integrity of the organization, while driving the work forward. The Board of Directors of ENH meets 6 times a year, to stay in touch with the program, work on committees and to assist with the strategic development and planning for the future of ENH.

We are happy to welcome two new members to the ENH Board of Directors, Bryan Cole and Tammi Khaleel. Bryan is a previous staff member at Loma Mar and now comes to us as the Director of Field Experience Marketing with Clif Bar & Co. After leaving ENH Bryan explored new horizons in Tahoe, before returning to the Bay Area. He is a tireless advocate of an organic and sustainable lifestyle and will be getting married this June.



Bryan Cole and Tammi Khaleel are the newest members to the ENH board.

Tammi currently works as an engineer at IBM in San Jose. With her high energy and enthusiasm she has started the ecology club at IBM, which brought a weekly farmers market, along with planting a native garden at her IBM site. In her spare time Tammi coaches recreational sports teams, and finds new ways to give back to her community.

Continued Pg. 3



Dear Friend,

Thank you for being so good to us, and giving us the chance to go to Science Camp. Without you we would not have been able to come, I enjoyed being at Science Camp!

I have always wanted to go to the ocean and see the tidepools and touch a starfish, and I did! I am surprised that anybody would do this for us. I've done so much this week 've never had the experience to do before. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

*Sincerely,
Student, Spring 2007*

From the Executive Director—Tracey Weiss

I would like to thank everyone who has graciously welcomed me to the ENH family. I have enjoyed my first months here with the organization, and enjoyed getting to know all the wonderful individuals throughout the ENH community.

Currently, ENH is growing and thriving. This is an exciting time for the organization, we have new partnerships, new educational opportunities at each site, and new systems in place to ensure that the organization continues to grow and thrive for years to come.

What continues to amaze me is how many lives ENH has touched. I run into past staff around town, previous campers throughout the East Bay, and supporters from the beginning who all echo many of the same thoughts—memories of Big Red, Barn Yard

Boogies, hikes along the beach, high school counselors and the magic that a week under the redwoods brought to their lives.

I hope you are enjoying our new web-based newsletter. Please share this newsletter electronically with your friends and family and encourage them to visit www.exploringnewhorizons.org to register their email so no one misses out on future ENH news. As we look towards the future we are preparing for a new partnership with the California State Park System, an exciting summer camp season, and the closing to my first school year with Exploring New Horizons, I am looking forward to being around for many more. Be Well.

-Tracey Weiss

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
- North Pleasanton Rotary
- Vodafone US Foundation
- Dreyer's Grand Foundation

...And our individual donors:

Coastal Oak (\$1,000+):

Jeffrey Stine
Lynn and Ted Spitler-Eger
Joanne Greenebaum

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David and Lisa Auerbach
Amador Valley Lions Club

Monarch Butterfly (\$250+):

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**Support ENH! Make a contribution today!
Please return your generous gift in the enclosed envelope, or make an online donation today on our secure website at www.exploringnewhorizons.org**

Counselors *(continued from page 1.)*



Counselors make a huge impact on the program and participants at Exploring New Horizons.

some were yelling, some were even running around. I felt a bit overwhelmed at first but once I sat down to eat and started talking with the kids, everything was totally fine.

While we were all heading up to our cabin in the girls village, I noticed that I had a girl who wandered off and seemed to trail off to do unconventional things, like trace the letters of nearby signs we would see, or stop dead in her tracks and become entranced with the flight of a raven or a different forest bird. I greatly admired her appreciation and observation of simple beauties that most people, don't stop to admire or observe. But as her counselor, I was afraid that I would lose her when I was attending to another one of my eight girls. These, of course, were unnecessary scary thoughts. After dropping our things off at the cabin, we all walked over to the campfire up past the girl's village. I made sure my girls were all sitting together and remained silent while some of the naturalists and other people who worked for ENH performed various skits and talks for the kids. We then got to meet our naturalist. No words can describe my girl's naturalist, he was just too awesome to explain, along with all of the other staff members there.

The counselors then met in the office where we were given instructions and binders to help us get through the week. We met here everyday to share our highlights of the day and voice our concerns to the counselor coordinator. I found this helpful because it kept us all on the same page and it prevented small problems from turning into big ones.

After the meeting, I was told by a woman that she was one of the girl's teacher, and that my student who seemed to wander had autism. I was shocked, she did wander a bit, but other than that she was fine. One of my biggest struggles as a coun-

selor was getting all of my girls to meals and nature activities on time. I tried to get them to hustle, but I found it extremely challenging to get them going faster.

During one of our hikes through the forest, I felt at total and complete peace with the world and my life. I felt intrigued with the nature around me. In my most precious memories, I can still see the sun delicately glazing the stream that so gracefully flowed atop the earth in between its crevices. I still feel humbled by the large, standing trees. I can still feel the cool crisp air upon my face. And I can still hear all of the bird's sweet singing that warmed my soul.

Leaving Camp Loma Mar was the hardest task of the week. Before we all said our goodbyes, our naturalist took us on a small walk back to the forest. He read a book to everyone in the group while the other counselor and I kept everyone seated and silent. We then had to say the painful goodbyes. I said goodbye to the other counselors, the naturalists, and my girls who I also gave a sorrowful hug to. I will never, ever, in all of my life, forget that one fateful week at Camp Loma Mar.

On the drive back to school from the camp, I was so dismayed to see buildings, houses, concrete and asphalt again instead of tall trees and the fresh blue sky. I still had a very high feeling of content, for I had just had the most amazing week of my life. Heading home from the camp, one of the teachers, taking a short look at us, commented on how we all had a glow to our faces accompanied by a huge smile. It was true, all of the counselors and I were so happy at that moment. Being a camp counselor is a lot of work, but it's worth every single, strenuous, beautiful second of it.

New Board Members *(continued from page 1.)*

We are very lucky to have two new dynamic individuals join the ENH family—so please welcome Bryan & Tammi!

Interested in sharing your expertise and making a difference in our world? Consider joining the ENH non-profit board! Currently, we are looking for educators, individuals with fund development experience, and individuals with a financial background. For more information about the ENH Board of Directors, contact Tracey at (831) 338-3013, or by email: tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org

Thoughts from Scott Klein: Program Director at Loma Mar



The 2006-07 Loma Mar Staff

Greetings from Loma Mar!

The days are slowly becoming longer as the sun reaches higher above the horizon to warm the earth. Many of the forest plants have begun their annual flowering: western hounds tongue, red-wood sorrel and red-wood violet to name a few. The steelhead

trout have been observed laying their eggs in calm water in the Pescadero Creek. The resounding call of the pacific tree frog is back once again. The children who come the East Bay and beyond continue to fill our valley with laughter. The beauty of this place is that every year it completes a similar cycle as the year before, except that when one looks very closely, change is always apparent.

What has changed around here? Tracey Weiss, our new Executive Director has begun the march of preserving age-old traditions while making certain that we continue to evolve as an organization and community. We are very grateful that such an amazing woman is currently our fearless leader. The YMCA has once again collaborated with the infamous Bing to recruit an amazing group of volunteers from Pleasanton who just completed a renovation of the far village cabins. The change of old to new in the far village is much appreciated. Thanks to all who assisted in that effort. And lastly, the talented naturalists continue to change their stories as more experiences are created. Thanks to all who have helped us create the magic that is alive at Loma Mar.

See ya soon,

- Scott "Burl" Klein

Thoughts from Dan Irelan: Program Director at PPEEP



PPEEP Staff 2007: Glacier Dan, Kodiak Bear, Tigerlily and Gusano

"Take a left at Prisoner Rock..."

Spring is a season of massive migration around Pigeon Point, and this year is providing some great viewing of wildlife on the move. Already our students have seen dozens of humpbacks and grey whales spouting, sounding and even breaching. We see a

gration, soon to return to Año Nuevo for their late spring molt. The last few bulls patrol the beaches. Hundreds of weaned pups remain, soon to find their way into the ocean.

Hundreds of students from the East Bay and the Peninsula have enjoyed this spectacle already, and the annual migration of Sierra Nevada students is about to begin. Enjoy your own journey, and we'll see you at the Point!

- "Glacier" Dan Irelan

tiny fraction of the thousands of birds – cormorants, scoters, gulls and loons – heading north upon ocean waters every day. The blaring buzz of blackbirds drowns out the local song sparrows and colors our imaginations as we observe and write stories in the sun.

At Año Nuevo, swallows and sparrows are setting up shop under roofs and in the bushes, and the return of kelp forest to the surface waters has increased our views of sea otters. Among the elephant seals, the females are back at sea on their feeding mi-



Thoughts from rikki Shackelford: Program Director at Sempervirens Outdoor School



The 2006-07 Sempervirens Outdoor School Staff

Hello
Friends!

We have been having a great spring season with a couple of new additions to the ENH family. Our existing red tail

hawk Qetesh is showing well in front of the children and in the Santa Cruz community. Qetesh was a big hit at the Natural Bridges Migration Festival. We have completed work on our cob oven and the kids are enjoying hot, home made pizza during camp.

This year has been challenging, but rewarding for us, and through it all, we have not lost our focus and purpose of providing awesome experiences for our students. The time has come to say fare-well to several of the staff members who have been an instrumental part of the ENH family. Each of you will be greatly missed, good luck to you for the future and thank you.

Lastly we are getting ready for summer at break neck speed. We have interest in our program and we are looking forward to a big summer. We will even be starting a new program encouraging students to pursue careers in the environmental education field with a special emphasis on helping to diversify the environmental education community.

We are also grateful to North Face Berkeley for a huge donation of rain and cold weather gear and backpacks. A big thank you to them. I hope you are having a wonderful spring and if you get the chance we would love to have you come and visit the SOVS family. Peace, rikki

Get Ready! Summer Camp 2007

Summer 2007 is taking form and looks like it's going to be the best summer yet. We are pleased to announce new programs including Labor Day Weekend Family Camp, a two week Earth Adventure Program and the Earth Seed Project.

To celebrate the end of an amazing summer we are inviting families back to Sempervirens to experience 4 days of relaxing, swimming, family games, guided hikes, campfires, arts n' crafts, and sports just to name a few. Families will get an opportunity to bond and enjoy a peaceful nature experience.

Earth Adventure will be an extension of our outdoor school where campers can get closer to nature than ever before. In addition to our traditional summer camp activities Earth Adventurers will backpack through Big Basin State Park, learn about wilderness survival and first aid as well as lots of hands on nature studies.

Our Earth Seed Project is aimed at young adults who are interested in learning more about environmental education. Earth Seeders will be learning how to teach and explore nature with young ones, as well as leadership and group management.

This year resident camp program is looking to be the most successful thus far. This year we are offering 5 themed sessions



including Super Hero Week, Holiday Week, Renaissance Week, Super Spy Week, and Time Travel Week. During these sessions campers will get a chance to experience nature while enjoying favorite camp activities such as Gaga

ball, archery, art n' crafts, drama, hiking, beach trips, ropes course, campfires, and a whole lot more.

To register, or to get more information visit www.campsempervirens.com, or call (831) 419- 2899.

See you soon! ~ Steve "The Dude" Maes, Camp Director

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 or call (831) 338-3013



**EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS
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P.O. Box 1514.
Felton, CA 95018

Loma Mar Phone: (650) 879-0608
SVOS Phone: (831) 338-3077
PPEEP Phone: (650) 879-1213
ENH Corporate Phone: (831) 338-3013
Fax: (831) 338-3500
www.exploringnewhorizons.org

Exploring New Horizons inspires young people to be responsible stewards and engaged citizens through exploration of the natural world.

From the Students: Thank You



Dear Friend,

I don't know who you are, or why you showed such generosity, but I do know that I can't find any words or express my feelings well enough to thank you for allowing us to explore the wild world, gaze at the stars and hear the forest sing. But these are the closest words I can muster up: YOU ARE THE BEST!

Because of you we have received a week to explore at Sempervirens Outdoor School. We are very fortunate to experience the great wild for one more day, all resulting from your very kind heart.

Many Thanks,

Student, Spring 2007

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