



**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 Facility is available for weekend and summer rentals. Contact us at (831) 338-3013.
- Update on Camp Sempervirens for summer 2009.
- Celebrating ENH's 30th Anniversary
- eScrip: A New Way to Support ENH.

#### Quotes from the kids:

*"I was walking on a beautiful day in the forest.*

*It was awesome and glorious, sweet and peaceful.*

*If I could I would be a tree.*

*I saw the tall trees all alone.*

*I saw the glorious trees and the divine animas in the forest.*

*I was like the most cool adventure I ever lived.*

*If I could I would stay here for my whole life. "*

*- Student, Fall 2008*

## Connected to the Core

### Exploring New Horizons continues to expand organic options for students

By: Allison Lynn, Loma Mar Gardener

Three times a day I get to sit in a circle in our garden with a group of students and talk about growing food. We spend some time sharing ideas about the word organic and what it means in terms of keeping the soil, water, worms, butterflies and bees healthy. Oh, and banana slugs, of course. More often than not, it takes some prodding to work our way around to adding humans to that list. Kids learn in school about how the condors and bald eagles nearly went extinct because of pesticides being introduced into the food chain, and they can easily understand how that is a problem, but thinking about where our food comes from and how it is grown is a concept that has been far removed from our education. So we talk a bit about it. And just when I think I see in all of their young, impressionable eyes an eager and uncompromising commitment to plant gardens and shop at the farmers' market...inevitably, a hand goes up. "So is all the food we eat here in the dining hall organic?" No, my friends,



Author Allison Lynn enjoying a delicious organic apple.

with all your beautifully hopeful eyes, it is most definitely not. Umm, sorry.

That part of my day has gotten a lot easier lately. Hugo and Deborah live just minutes down the road from us in (Cont. Pg. 3)

## From the Executive Director: Tracey Weiss



With the start of this school year, I took some time to sit back and reflect...thirty years! While I am still considered the 'new kid' around ENH, as I continue to learn about the history, of the organization and of the countless lives that have been impacted by what we do—thirty years seems like quite the milestone. Planning for the 30th anniversary celebration is under way—and I hope that all of the friends, family, campers and past staff mark your calendars so you can join us for the festivities on June 20, 2009 at the Sempervirens Outdoor School in Boulder Creek. I have no doubt it will be a great gathering of friends and memories.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with many of the district administrators within the Pleasanton Unified School District. As Burl and myself discussed our

program, activities and lessons learned throughout the week I was reminded of the beauty that is ENH. We allow naturalists to teach, to find the teach-able moments in nature, the lessons that the seasons bring under a rock in the creek or along the beach. We work with teachers to empower their students so that the impacts of a week at ENH is felt throughout the entire school year.

I know what we do makes a difference. It is not often that we are afforded the opportunity to reflect on our past, present and future and know that the future of the students and ENH continues to shine brightly.

## Thank You to Our 2008-2009 Donors!

Many individuals and organizations have pledged their support to assist in meeting our goal of sending over 1,200 students to ENH through the Environmental Education for Underserved Students (EEUS) program. We have not yet met our financial goals for 2008-2009, so please help support our students by making a contribution today. On behalf of these children, we offer our thanks and appreciation to our contributors!

- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
- **Education Foundation of America**
- **Save the Redwoods League**
- **The Lesher Foundation**

### ...And our individual donors:

#### **Coastal Oak (\$1,000+):**

Lisa Duncan  
Sheila Nickolopoulos  
Craig Peters

#### **Monarch Butterfly (\$250+):**

Donald Shortridge

#### **Acorn (\$50+):**

Jordan Garrett-Williams

Exploring New Horizons is pleased to be a recipient of a generous grant through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA) Sanctuary Program and the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant program. Congressman Sam Farr has been instrumental in the continued funding support for the B-WET Program.



The B-WET Grant program provides funding support for students from eight Salinas Elementary Schools to attend the Sempervirens Outdoor School (SVOS). In addition to their participation at SVOS, students are given hands-on opportunities to assist with the restoration of native plant communities both within the Natural Bridges State Park, and through the Creeks of Salinas.

This is the fifth year that ENH has received B-WET Funds to support Salinas students. With the assistance of the Sanctuaries program, students have been given hands-on opportunities to experience science learning, meet professional scientists face to face and develop a deeper connection to the natural environment in their own backyard.

Through our evaluation program, we have been tracking the impact that our program has upon the Salinas students. After two years of data collection, we are please to see a trend of positive change in students knowledge, perspective and attitudes due to the significant impact ENH has upon the participating students.

*Photo: Grant Award Ceremony, Fall 2008*



**Just In! Exploring New Horizons has been approved to receive grants through the 1% for the planet foundation.**

## Celebrate 30 years of Exploring New Horizons!



**June 20, 2009**

**Sempervirens Outdoor School**

**Boulder Creek**

**Inviting all past and present  
campers, families, friends and staff!**

**Live Music • Raffle •  
Demonstrations • Fresh Local  
Farm Foods • Activities and Games  
for kids of all ages**

Stay informed about the upcoming celebration of ENH's past, present and future. Please visit the Exploring New Horizons website at [www.exploringnewhorizons.org](http://www.exploringnewhorizons.org) to join our mailing list. It is guaranteed to be an eventful day as we honor one of the ENH Founders Laura Tucker, and celebrate the thousands of lives impacted by the program over the past 30 years!

## Connected to the Core *(continued from page 1.)*

Pescadero (oh, Pescadero), and they happen to have both an organic fruit orchard and incredibly kind and generous hearts, and they have welcomed us onto their land for a second fall season to pick apples for the kids to eat each day with their lunch. The couple moved here from Sunnyvale six years ago to find a place in the sun, and inherited with their new home a 25 year-old orchard with over 150 fruit trees bearing many varieties of pears, plums, apricots, peaches, persimmons, walnuts, and apples. Hugo is a former university professor with a PhD in mathematics who now works in Silicon Valley as a software engineer, and his commute brings him home each day to the peaceful and bountiful orchard that he and Deborah tend into abundance. The trees are overflowing with fruit through the summer and fall months, and to avoid the food going to waste, they share their harvest with local folks and farms in exchange for help with pruning the trees. Hugo moved to the US as a teenager, and having grown up in Vietnam during the war with little to eat, he is now able to share the food he grows with the hundreds of students that will attend our program this fall.

We pick 400-800 apples each week for our program, and the kids say they are the best apples they have ever eaten. I love the apples because they are insanely delicious. I love the apples because the dialogue they can generate with a group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders has revolutionary potential. We do our best to open the minds and hearts of the children who visit us, and to make them aware of the choices that they have and will have as they grow – we can try to model a community that lives in relationship with the earth, with deeply rooted connections to the land and to each other. Picking local organic apples is a way we can set an example of a successful alternative food system for the students. And it is simple – our neighbors grow apples, and they have more than they need. So they share. Many, many thanks to Hugo and Deborah and their beautiful apple trees.



## Thoughts from Scott “Burl” Klein: Program Director at Loma Mar

Greetings from Loma Mar:

The Fall Equinox has recently passed as we begin a new year of outdoor education at ENH. These are exciting times for many reasons. New groups of students are getting excited to come visit us, traditions with teachers and school administrators are being strengthened



2008-2009 Students explore the redwoods.

and the Earth continues to bless us with its beauty. As I write this letter I can hear the pair of Kingfishers calling back and forth to each other by the creek. Please check out the Hot Spot Blog on the ENH website for more information about the life that is active on site these days.

One of the amazing aspects of ENH is our ability to recruit, train and sustain amazing naturalists. This year is no exception. Aaron is back for his 6<sup>th</sup> year and continues to grow as a naturalist and entertainer. Allison is returning as our gardener and resident baker. Brad “Cheetah” is also returning and continues to inspire through photography and storytelling. We are lucky to have Josh “Bobcat” back as our tracking specialist and singer/songwriter. Ryan “Orion”

is once again leading the Barnyard Boogie, studying the ocean and helping with his carpentry skills. Bridget “B”, our resident entomologist and culinary artist, continues to amaze children and adults by her many talents. Natalie “Luna”, resident drum maestro, fire spinner, naturalist and mother goose returned from Hawaii and is spreading the Aloha spirit. Lisa “Sol” is back for her second year and is inspiring students through her lessons on medicinal properties of plants. Alexis “Cypress”, former intern, is now an experienced naturalist and is in the process of making her own plant guide book of this region. Richard “Spruce”, also a former intern, is our kale specialist and is keeping us all healthy by plant-

ing this dark green everywhere on site. Josh “Sparrow”, our EMT and Health Specialist, is back for his second year and is enjoying the Health Habitat after his summer as a cow farmer.

The new staff this year at ENH has adjusted well to life in the redwoods. The two interns, Marie “Moose” and Kim “Dandelion”, both have knowledge and skills of working with children in nature. They are recent graduates from Skidmore and Hampshire College, and are excited to kiss banana slugs with their students on trail. Jocelyn “Rainbow” is the only naturalist that we hired for this year and she already has experience teaching in the Pescadero Valley because she worked last year at San Mateo Outdoor Education. Her calm ways combined with knowledge of the local area and a beautiful voice (she plays guitar and ukulele) is greatly appreciated and respected. Lastly, Kristin is our new Program Coordinator. Kristin comes to us from the sea where she spent the majority of her life sailing or teaching kids on boats. She is enjoying her land-based lifestyle and is doing an amazing job as the PC. And then there is me, Principal Burl, back for my 6<sup>th</sup> year as Program Director and couldn’t be more inspired to greet over 4000 students to our home in the Redwoods.

Enjoy the fall with hope for the rain and keep in touch as we begin our 32 weeks of outdoor education. Stay connected and we hope to see you soon,

See ya soon,

- Scott “Burl” Klein



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ENH is a new approved recipient of eScrip funds. **eScrip works with merchant partners to contribute to groups like ours each time you shop—at no cost to you!** Each individual has the ability to earn hundreds of dollars annually for ENH, by just continuing to shop normally.

Visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to register, or click on “Family of Merchants” to find a vendor that is close to you. Then all you need to do is register your club savings cards, Visa or MasterCard, designate ENH as your awards receipt, and then SHOP!

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ENH Group Number: 500020305

## Thoughts from Heidi “Tigerlily” Plowe: Program Director at PPEEP

Greetings from where the sea waves hello to the trees!

Autumn marks a time of abundance and change, as days become shorter and nature is busy getting ready for winter. As is usual for this time of year, the Pigeon Point Lighthouse has been showered with sunshine for much of the fall, freeing the coast of the misty blanket of fog that shrouds the area for much of the year.

Autumn is time for many different animals to move from their summer homes to their winter feeding and breeding grounds. Humpback whales have been spotted in great number this season close to the lighthouse on their migration to the warm waters where they spend their winters. Fall is a time when there are the fewest number of elephant seals hauled out at Ano Nuevo, a lull in numbers on land between the summer molt and winter mating and pupping season.

Autumn is a special time of year on the Pescadero Coast as it is time to celebrate the birthday of the Pigeon Point Lighthouse. This year marks the 136th anniversary of the historic monument. This landmark will once again be recognized with the lighting of the historic Fresnel lens, transforming the single beam that the lighthouse usually projects to 24 beams all at once. It is a remarkable sight that can be enjoyed from 6-8pm on November 15, 2009. There will be festivities all day leading up to the event, including light refreshments, marine mammal exhibits, and a PPEEP puppet show. Come out and see us at this very special event!

PPEEP is happy to welcome back two of our naturalists from last season, “Mountain” Mike and Sara “Rana”. We are pleased to welcome our newest PPEEP naturalist, Shawn “Larch” to the ENH family from San Mateo Outdoor Education. PPEEP naturalists had the pleasure of working with local Pescadero Middle Students this October, accompanying them in the exploration their coastal backyard. The season will be in full swing starting in January, and until then I will be conducting school visits throughout the Bay Area, Yosemite, and the Lake Tahoe area. We look forward to getting started after the New Year, and we hope to see you at the Lighthouse. We will leave a light on for you.



2007-2008 PPEEP Staff

## Thoughts from Jacob “Millipede” Sackin: Program Director at Sempervirens Outdoor School



2008-2009 Sempervirens Staff

Hello from Sempervirens,

We have gotten off to a spectacular start this fall and are looking forward to another great year connecting students to the natural world. We have six returning staff members this year: Shelia (or Milkweed), who is on her sixth year as the SVOS gardener, Rosalie (who has changed her nature name from Fawn to Moon Jelly), Trent (River), Rachel (Maple), Steve (The Dude) and June, who is on her third year as the Program Coordinator.

Our new staff members include: Anthea (Ringtail), Heather (Heron) and our medic, Caitlyn (Current). We also have Mike (Mountain), who is working the first ever split contract between SVOS and PEEP. Everyone is enthusiastic, hard working and is busy inspiring both the students and each other.

As SVOS begins its ninth year, we are getting more and more returning counselors and teachers who are committed to our program. We are also getting our first counselors who had come as students to our program and remember their old SVOS naturalists like Burl, Moonbunny and Kestrel. It is a wonderful experience and a great opportunity for me to be able to see Sempervirens Outdoor School flourishing due to the many years of hard work by Jupi, Beth, Shea and everyone who has been part of the SVOS family over the years. (cont. pg. 6)



## Camp Sempervirens Summer Reflection, and 2009 Updates

The summer of 2008 was a powerful summer for the campers and staff of Camp Sempervirens. As this dynamic program continues to grow and evolve over time, the campers of 2008 were provided a rich program. Campers came and had the opportunity to dive into their alter ego during Superhero Week, celebrate cultures around the world during Holiday Week, explore the world around during International Week, and finally let their imaginations run wild during Fantasy Week.

Campers came, had amazing experiences and as the summer camp to a close everyone looked forward to coming back together at their fall reunion, Halloween Camp. Halloween Camp had record numbers, and campers had the opportunity to participate in a costume ball, the haunted trail, and visit with friends and staff that they had met during the summer.

As we look towards the future of the summer camp program, the ENH administration and Board of Directors has decided to put summer camp on hiatus for the summer of 2009. We hope to utilize this time to build the necessary structure and support that would be needed to allow fur-



ther programmatic growth in the future.

While this decision was not taken lightly, we understand that it will have significant impact for you and of your family. We appreciate your patience during this time of transition. If you need assistance finding a program that would be able to serve your camper for the summer of 2009, please visit the American Camp Association ([www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org)) for a list of Day and Residential camp programs that would meet your programmatic and geographic needs.

Appreciation goes out to Steve "The Dude" Maes for his work on the Camp Sempervirens program, and for building a program that has touched the lives of many.

While we will not be seeing you at the Sempervirens facility this summer, please stay tuned for the exciting opportunities that will be waiting for you during the summer of 2010!

## Sempervirens Outdoor School Update Continued from page 5

Once again we have received us a grant with NOAA's BWET (Bay Watershed Education and Training) Program, enabling us to serve eight Salinas schools. The students have been pulling ice plant and planting native seeds at Natural Bridges State Park, learning about how pollution at home can affect the ocean and even getting to view a giant squid getting dissected right before their eyes!

The most exciting news from SVOS, however, is that Milkweed has gotten us a grant with the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation for thirty two new fruit trees to be planted in the garden! This means that the fence will be expanded to include an orchard and a lot more space to develop. Other exciting projects include two new SVOS hiking trails! One of the trails, planned and spear-headed by Trent, was built entirely by our staff. It winds along the original wagon road into Big Basin State Park to a waterfall that plunges down a fern-covered cliff into pool filled with newts! We have also formed a partnership with the Santa Cruz homeless shelter to bring all of our leftover food from the dining hall down to their kitchen.

Our kitchen, here at SVOS, has been incredible this year. Anna and Raul, who have both been with us for several years are churning out great meals every day and our new Kitchen Manager, John, has made several changes including the creation of the very popular Barbeque chicken night.

Lastly, we have one new addition to the SVOS family, a bearded dragon named Smaug that now graces the office. Come by and visit us all.



Rebecca Silver volunteers her time to help plant fruit trees donated to SVOS.



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

## Notes From the Students

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Please make a online donation today on our  
secure website at  
[www.exploringnewhorizons.org](http://www.exploringnewhorizons.org)



*I was walking through the forest  
I was walking through the leaves  
I thought about the earth  
I thought about me  
I looked at the forest  
I looked at the leaves  
I was scared at the forest  
But I know nature does not hurt  
And if I hurt nature, I hurt myself  
I love nature, just like  
I love me.  
- Salinas Student, Fall2008*

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