

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 Sempervirens Outdoor School Facility is available for weekend and summer rentals. Contact us at (831) 338-3013.
- Celebrating ENH's 30th Anniversary— Register now!
- eScrip: A New Way to Support ENH.

Quotes from the kids:

*"Surrounded by trees
There are no bees
This spot is a magical spot.
Edible leaves on the ground
There is always moss around
This spot is a magical spot.
Hearing the creek
There wasn't a squeak
This spot is a magical spot.
Sadly I see all the stumps
In my throat forms a bump,
This spot is a magical spot. "
- Student, Winter 2009*

When I think of Nature...

Every year, thousands of students come to ENH. With each week we watch students transform into activists, fall in love with the world around them, and learn how to protect and conserve all living things. As educators we innately feel the benefit of participating in Outdoor School, but frequently we are asked: "How do you know?".

Thanks to a partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Program and NOAA we have been afforded the opportunity to start asking the students this very question. The grant focused on providing students from Salinas with a 'meaningful' outdoor experience and the opportunity to participate in a five-day residential program at Sempervirens, and a follow up restoration experience with the Return of the Natives Program through California State University, Monterey Bay in the Creeks of Salinas.

The goal of the evaluation component of this grant is to measure was the ability of ENH to raise the students' knowledge of the natural world and their connection to it by teaching basic ecological concepts and immersing each student in the natural environment. The students experience was broken down into two dimensions that would be measured with the assistance of a rubric; 1) students individual connection with

(Cont' on pg. 6)



From the Executive Director: Tracey Weiss



Spring is in the air. The quieter times of winter are soon behind us, and with spring comes the calls of all of our returning friends. Salmon, birds new growth are all making appearances each week at outdoors school.

With the spring and this time of economic uncertainty, I want to thank all of the individuals, foundations and service organizations that continue to support ENH. The demand on our teachers and school system continues to increase, and it is our goal to continue to provide a significant level of financial support to those schools that are in need. We are working to cultivate new sources of funding, so we can guarantee all students are able to participate.

During this period, we are improving our efficiency and our capability to reach out and serve more students. But more importantly, we have been reminded that no matter their economic status at home, ENH provides each student with the comfort, skills and knowledge of how to be comfortable within their natural environment. While families are having to tighten their belt with any weekend outings, their student is able to lead their parents and siblings in adventures that can be had in their own backyard.

(cont' pg. 7)

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. Currently, we are close to meeting our financial goals for 2008-2009, so please help support our students and help us make this final push by making a contribution today. On behalf of the participating EEUS students, we offer our thanks and appreciation to our contributors!

- **Bear Gulch Foundation**
- **Education Foundation of America**
- **Harden Foundation**
- **Kimball Foundation**
- **The Lesher Foundation**
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
- **North Pleasanton Rotary**
- **Save the Redwoods League**

...And our individual and corporate donors:

Coastal Oak (\$1,000+):

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Joanne Greenbaum
Sheila Nickolopoulos
Craig Peters and Maureen DeBoer

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Donald Shortridge

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Winnie Gin

Support ENH! Make a contribution today!
Please make a online donation through our
secure website at
www.exploringnewhorizons.org/site/enh/donate



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



Join us in the Redwoods

We're inviting everyone who has been a part of the Exploring New Horizons Family to celebrate 30 years of inspiration, education, empowerment and transformation! Join us for a day of fun, food, music and memories with ENH co-founder Laura Tucker, the Banana Slug String Band and more! It's our way of saying **THANK YOU!** for making ENH so enduring and successful, and helping us to reach the lives of so many children.

for our Anniversary Celebration!

SWIMMING ! HIKING ! GAMES ! SPORTS ! DEMONSTRATIONS ! FOOD ! FUN



SATURDAY • JUNE 20, 2009 • 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
SEMPERVIRENS • BOULDER CREEK
 Live Music • Raffle • Local Fresh Farm Foods
 Games for Kids of All Ages!

As an eco-friendly and carbon neutral event,
 please make every effort to carpool!



REGISTER AT www.exploringnewhorizons.org

831.338.3013

Calling All Former Staff!

Following the 30th Celebration on June 20th, all former staff and naturalists are invited to spend the evening and gather for an evening reunion! Join us around the campfire while we share talent, stories and memories about the evolution of ENH. Limited accommodations are available on site for individuals wishing to stay over. For more information regarding the reunion, including costs, overnight options and registration please contact Laura Tucker at tucker@berkeley.edu.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, June 20th 10am to 4pm

30th Celebration for all friends families and campers.

Register at www.exploringnewhorizons.org

Individual Registration \$20, Family Registration \$50

Saturday, June 20th– 6pm Staff Reunion

Cost \$15 per individual, \$8 for meal only,

Register with Laura Tucker at tucker@berkeley.edu

For more information regarding any of the 30th events, please contact Tracey Weiss at (831) 338-3013, or via email at tracey@exploringnewhorizons.org.

Sunday, June 21st 11am—Departure

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

Greetings from Loma Mar!

Spring is upon us in the Pescadero Valley and life is unfolding in front of our eyes. As we are finishing our “winter” school session, it is nice to reflect on the learning, creativity and positivity that has taken flight at our site. We have served communities as far as Winters Middle School and as near as Milpitas, some of which have been coming to our site since the beginning of our program 30 years ago. The children have learned to recognize their connection to nature. Regardless of what community they come from, we have



The 2008-2009 Loma Mar Community

all recognized the larger community of forests, ocean, rivers, plants and animals that we depend upon for our survival. Through their investigation of the web of life, the fun activities and music that the naturalists prepare for them and the independence they feel living in a cabin, the children go through a

life changing experience that they will never forget. It is not uncommon to hear students exclaim after a week of Exploring New Horizons Outdoor School, “This was the best week of my Life!”

The good news from our site is that we are now enjoying a new 30 foot Yurt that was constructed by the YMCA staff and is a temporary replacement for the Old Dining Hall that was recently closed this winter. We are also excited about our new Earth Journal called the “Hot Spot”, which is a compilation of species witnessed during a week at outdoor school. Every week the schools that attend are compiling a list of species and Earth Information which is later written and stored as a blog on the ENH website. Check it out at www.exploringnewhorizons.org.

Lastly, as spring takes hold in this pristine valley, as the Steelhead Trout make their way up the creek and the Grey Whales continue their migration north with their young, we are reminded of the cycles that have always been and hopefully will forever be. It is through interaction with nature that we become aware of these cycles. As Wise Owl Hal Stein the famous naturalist from Camp Loma Mar once said, “To know nature is to love nature.”

See ya soon,

- Scott “Burl” Klein



3 Easy Ways to Earn for Our Group

1.

Sign Up/Add Cards

2.

eScrip Online Mall

3.

eScrip VISA®

[Click to learn how!](#)

A new way to support ENH: eScrip

Sign Up online. It’s quick and easy!

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 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!

It’s Easy!

It’s Free!

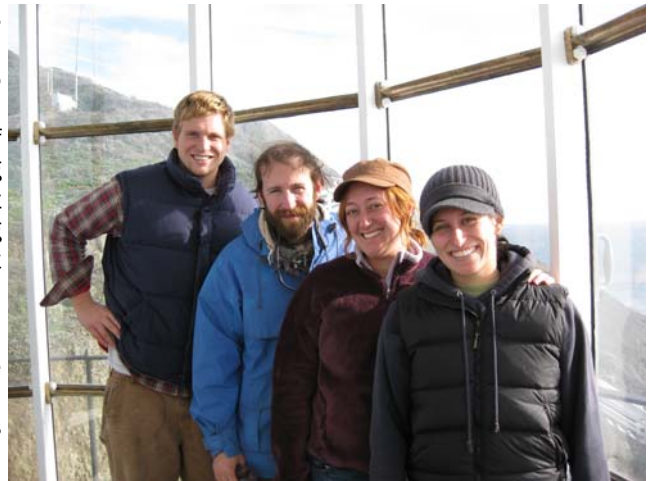
It’s Powerful!

ENH Group Number: 500020305

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

This is a monumental year as Exploring New Horizons recognizes 30 years of service in environmental education, and the Pigeon Point Environmental Education Program (PPEEP) celebrates 25 years of facilitating K-8th grade students from the Bay Area and beyond in the exploration and appreciation of the ecosystems of the Central California Coast. Since 1984, students attending PPEEP have had the opportunity to learn about the redwood forest and coastal ecosystems, to share the splendor of observing marine mammals in their wild habitat, and to enjoy ocean front accommodations at the historical Pigeon Point Lighthouse.

PPEEP’s 25th year started off on an exciting note as the PPEEP staff training went on the road to visit some local lighthouses. The PPEEP naturalists, “Mountain” Mike, Sara “Rana”, and Sean “Larch”, and I enjoyed a private tour of the Point Sur and Piedras Blancas Lighthouses on the Big Sur Coast. The trip was fun and educational, as visiting local lighthouses and elephant seal populations helped enrich our knowledge of the lighthouse and seals of our own outdoor classrooms.



2008-2009 PPEEP Staff

The PPEEP staff contributed trail maintenance at Ano Nuevo before the start of the season in order to prepare the trails for the visiting PPEEP students. The staff joined forces for a trailwork day; in which we put in bridges through wet areas and cleared the trails. It was rewarding to see how our work held up through the test of the heavy winter rains, when grasslands seemed to transform into marshlands almost overnight.

As the days grow longer and spring brings forth newborn Harbor Seal pups and the annual Grey Whale migration at Pigeon Point, PPEEP is continues to enjoy sharing time with many of the schools that have been part of the program for many years; such as Roosevelt Elementary from San Leandro and Glenshire Elementary from Truckee. PPEEP would like to welcome several new schools this year, including the German International School of Silicon Valley, the German American International School of Fremont, Forest Charter Creekside Cooperative of Tahoe City, the CA Montessori Project of Sacramento, and Renaissance School of Oakland.

We want to thank all of the people who have supported us and helped shape the program into what it is today, and all of the students, teachers, and parents who have been a part of PPEEP over the past 25 years.

See you at the Point! ~ Heidi “Tigerlily” Plowe

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



2008-2009 Sempervirens Outdoor School Staff

Rain! Finally winter has come to Sempervirens and the waterfall on our new trail is finally flowing. We have had 10 inches of rain in Boulder Creek in the last three days and the mushrooms, banana slugs, frogs and salamanders are loving it!

We are gearing up here for the Pescadero Valley Conference which will bring over 10 outdoor education programs from around the Bay Area to our site for a weekend of celebration, inspiration and education. The conference will include workshops, an open mic night, a blueberry pancake breakfast and two key note speakers.

Three new teaching spots have sprouted up at SVOS over the winter just in time for the rain clouds. We have converted one of the rooms of our office into a discovery room so students can come visit our corn snake and bearded dragon during the recreation time. This also provides (cont. on pg. 6)

When I think of Nature *(cont. from Pg. 1)*



nature and 2) understanding of environmental concepts.

Due to the unique population demographics of the students served with this program (high majority Hispanic and English Language Learners) we were faced with the challenge of utilizing an evaluation tool that could reach the broad understanding and learning of each individual. Students completed a pre-post evaluation activity that allowed them the opportunity to answer the question "When I think of nature, I think of..." in a pictorial format. (See samples to the right) These images were then paired, and coded with the assistance of an educational rubric.



Data collected was analyzed for each individual school, and as a total sample set. Looking at the trends from data collected over the last three years we were pleased to see that ENH is having a statistically significant impact upon the lives of the students (like we didn't know this already) specifically in our ability to improve students knowledge about the natural environment including plants and animals. Following their experience at Sempervirens students were able to depict a greater number and habitat specific species within their drawings.



Looking more in depth at our goal of impacting students individual connection with nature: At this point the data tells us that students are not leaving outdoor school with a greater personal connection to the natural world. With further analysis we have discovered that our implementation protocols did not give enough direction for the students, and often times students provided greater information regarding their increase in knowledge rather than reporting any specific changes in their attitudes. We do not believe this data is a true representation of the experience of the student at Sempervirens or at ENH and are continuing to test new methods of measuring the impact of the SVOS/ENH program.

As we look towards the future, we are pleased to continue our partnership with the National Marine Sanctuaries BWET Program, and our ability to hire an evaluation consultant. It is our goal to further develop our evaluation tools so that we can not only know in our hearts, but we can have the necessary evidence to show our donors, our families and the world how Exploring New Horizons touches the lives of every child that comes through our program.

Sempervirens Outdoor School Update *(cont. from Pg. 5)*

naturalists another rainy day teaching spot and a place for projects, bones, feathers, shells and other natural teaching materials to be on display for the students to examine during hikes and recreation time.

Our second new teaching spot is the rock garden, which has a pile of various types of rocks, a rock bench and a painting of the rock cycle, which helps students figure out if the rocks are igneous, metamorphic or sedimentary. Geology is a branch of science we are always trying to incorporate more into the program, and we have already seen students sitting and pondering the rocks during their recreation time.

Finally, our site director, Steve "the Dude" Maes, has built a new covered area in the garden which greatly helps the garden program to run more smoothly during the rainy winter. He, Milkweed and River have set up a water catchment system for the rain that runs off the new roof into a giant tank that can be used to water the garden. This can be used to teach students about water conservation which is especially important now while we are in the midst of a drought.

Even with the 10 inches of rain we received, we are still 20 inches below our average. The rain brings new and old challenges to working outside with children, but mostly it gives us all a chance to see the redwood forest in its true element, and reminds us all why we love our home.

We hope to see you soon!

Jacob "Millipede" Sackin



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OUTDOOR SCHOOLS**

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

From the Executive Director (cont. pg 1)

The First Solo Hike

*The first time I walked
through the forest alone...
I felt the breeze blowing in my face
The sunshine, shining at me
But the most important thing is....
Er.... Ummm....
Where am I?*

With spring comes all the final planning for the ENH 30th celebration. I hope everyone will be able to join us for this special occasion on June 20, 2009. It promises to be a day full of friends, families and reflection as we look at the past 30 years and how much we have grown as an organization. Registration information, and event details can be found within this newsletter or online at www.exploringnewhorizons.org.

As I reflect on our past, I am reminded of the number of individuals that have contributed their time, knowledge, heart and experience to help make ENH so special. With that foundation, I know that our future will continue to stand strong for another 30 years.

I hope to see you all soon!

Warmly,

Tracey "Mushroom" Weiss

**Roses are red and violets are blue
I'm in a hollow tree stump, what about you?**

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