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Subject: **Environmental Volunteers Newsletter: April 2011**
Date: April 7, 2011 3:55:50 PM PDT
To: justyne@evols.org
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Environmental Volunteers

Innovative environmental science education that improves student learning

Newsletter for EV Community

April 2011

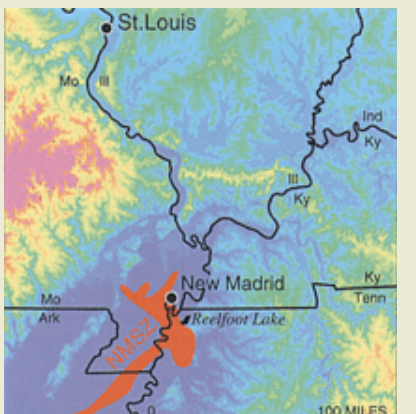
EcoCenter



To see pictures of the EcoCenter's restoration journey, click on the photo above.

To learn more about the EcoCenter, click [here](#).

Bicentennial of New Madrid Earthquakes



In This Issue

[The EV Welcomes a New Staff Member](#)

[School Services Update](#)

[Who's News: Meet Jan Hustler](#)

[Summer Programs](#)

[Galapagos Tortoise](#)

[Your Home, Your Future, Your Choice](#)

[Good News from the IRS](#)

[EV Snapshots](#)

The EV Welcomes a New Staff Member

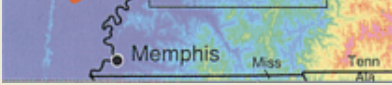
by Allan Berkowitz, Executive Director



A couple of weeks ago I told you that I have been working on a staffing plan that better supports our current needs and sets us up for the impending transition to the EcoCenter.

An initial step is a reorganized administrative position: Administration and Data Manager. This is a full time position that will focus on administrative support organization-wide, database management, and in the short-term, capital campaign administrative support.

I am VERY excited to announce the appointment of Lisa Myers to this position. Lisa spent many years managing a family business and in recent years has worked in administrative support in high tech and insurance companies. In addition to her administrative experiences and glowing references, Lisa is very personable, has a good sense of humor, is extremely well organized, and passionate about the natural world and our mission.



New Madrid Seismic Zones

Occurring in New Madrid, along the Mississippi River, in the Louisiana Territory (now in Missouri), this event started in December of 1911 & continued into February 1812. The magnitude of the quakes ranged as high as 7.7, which makes them very close to those in San Francisco in 1906, at 7.8.

Of the 50 United States, only Alaska (April 1964, at 9.2) and Hawaii (1868, at 7.9) have had bigger quakes.

During the New Madrid quakes, the "area of strong shaking associated with these shocks [was] two to three times as large as that of the 1964 Alaska earthquake and 10 times as large as that of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake....Huge waves on the Mississippi River overwhelmed many boats and washed others high onto the shore. High banks caved and collapsed into the river; sand bars and points of islands gave way; whole islands disappeared." - [USGS](#)

So remember, we may live in "earthquake country," but so do many people in Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee -- the the middle of our country!

Thanks Leni for sharing this great fact. If you have any fun facts or pictures to share with the EV Community, please submit them to justyne@evols.org.

Quick Links

And....she is a professional birder! In her spare time she is the proprietor of Let's Go Birding, leading tours and bird-watching expeditions. In fact, she has guided two such tours for our Board Emeritus Group -- most recently the Condor trip. It was on this trip that the head of our Board Emeritus Group suggested that Lisa might make a nice addition to our staff some day. Well, following a successful interview process, 'some day' was March 28 when she started her employment with us.

When you have the chance, stop in and give a warm EV welcome to Lisa.

Regards,
Allan

Allan Berkowitz
Executive Director



School Services Update

by Laurie Lopez, Programs Coordinator



During the month of March, our EVs gave **604 hours** to fill **271 volunteer slots** to serve **1,421 students** in **56 classrooms** and guide **16 field trips!**

In the classroom, Foothill Ecology was our most requested service with 15 services, and Nature in Your Neighborhood was close behind at 14. As for field trips, March

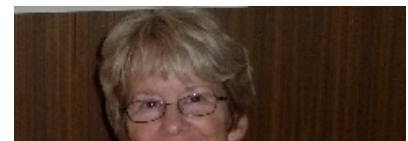
was certainly the month of Jasper Ridge with 10 of our 16 field trips at the preserve.

Thank you for all your effort, EVs!

Image: EV Mel Bernstein at a school service.

Who's News: Meet Jan Hustler

by Jan Whitmer



[Want to Volunteer](#)
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Environmental Volunteers

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Jan Hustler has returned to the EV! About 25 years ago, while she was job sharing as an elementary schoolteacher, Jan was an active EV for 5 years. Then, after teaching young people for 20 years, she began a different life, working full-time in professional development. For the last 10 years before retiring, Jan was the director of 2 National Science Foundation grant projects, which focused on teaching science to K-8 teachers. This was done in conjunction with both corporations and universities in the area which provided the space to teach and the science expertise, respectively. The project worked with 9 school districts and reached about __ __ teachers.



Curious about the number of teachers? Click [here](#) to learn how many.

Summer Programs

Vandy Shrader, Summer Programs Director

Summer will be here soon, and NOW is a great time to register for S.N.A.K.E. Camp or Explore!, the Environmental Volunteers' fun and informative summer programs. This year, both camps will meet at JLS Middle School in Palo Alto, adjacent to Mitchell Park.

The logo for S.N.A.K.E. Summer Camp. The letters "S.N.A.K.E." are in a large, bold, black serif font, with a green snake-like shape winding through the letters. Below "S.N.A.K.E." is the text "Summer Camp" in a smaller, black serif font.

S.N.A.K.E. Camp (for kids entering Grades 1-5)

This year, S.N.A.K.E. Camp will run for 4 sessions: EARTH (June 20-24), SEA (June 27-July 1), Day Trippers (July 5-8) and SKY (July 11-15). Our activities will include hiking and hunting for hidden geocaches; swimming

in the JLS Pool; squid dissection; trips to the beach, Safari West animal park, Chabot Space & Science Center, Hiller Aviation Museum; and LOTS MORE! As always, campers will have plenty of time for tree climbing, park exploring, meeting new friends, and arts and crafts. Click [here](#) to learn more about S.N.A.K.E. Camp.



EXPLORE! (for Explorers entering Grades 6-8)

Explore will run for 3 sessions (July 18-22, July 25-29, and August 1-5) of exciting Eco-Adventures, including experiencing the San Francisco Ropes Course; sailing San Francisco Bay on an 82-foot wooden sailing ship, while learning about the Bay's ecosystems; learning to surf in the ocean; learning to rock climb on real rocks; kayaking Elkhorn Slough; hunting for hidden geocaches; learning how to survive in the wilderness; and expeditions to the beach, Safari West animal park, and IFly indoor skydiving. Click [here](#) to learn more about Explore!

For more information-including how you can qualify for discounts-or to register for S.N.A.K.E. Camp or Explore!, please visit the Summer Programs web [page](#).

Click [here](#) to see our camp flyer...and please feel free to share the flyer with your friends!

Galapagos Tortoise

by Sheena Ignacio, Intern

Did you know that the Galapagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador, were named after the Galapagos tortoise, the largest tortoise in the world? Spanish sailors who founded the islands in 1535, referred to them as galapago meaning "saddle," in resemblance to the shape of the tortoise's shell. These gentle giants can weigh anywhere from 60 to 700 pounds, reach lengths of four feet, and have a lifespan of 100 years. The largest Galapagos tortoise ever recorded weighed 550 pounds and measured in at five feet long and the oldest was said to be 152



years young. Diet for these creatures include 70 to 80 pounds of vegetation such as leaves, cactus, vines, grass, and fruits. Although they consume vast amounts they can go without food or water for...

How long can the Galapagos Tortoise survive without food or water? Click [here](#) to find out.

YouChoose
Bay Area

Your home, your future, your choice

Summer will be here soon, and NOW is a great time to register for Your Home, Your Future, Your Choice

The Bay Area is your home. You volunteer here. Raise your kids here. Hike the hills.

Well, change is coming to the region. Over the next two decades it is expected to add nearly a million new households and more than as many new jobs. Meanwhile, the growing cost of energy and the realities of climate change require us to get smarter about how we move people and where we build.

Bay Area residents can now have a direct say in what happens in this place we call home. This month regional planning agencies will begin to plan how and where we build transportation and housing in the region for the next two decades.

Take a seat at the table. Go to YouChooseBayArea.org and experiment with housing and growth options and see how they will impact the things you hold dear in your community. Go to a YouChoose county forum and talk directly with the regional leadership, letting them know your choices and priorities.

Remember, the decisions are made by those who show up. Go to YouChooseBayArea.org to learn and/or register for a public forum. Or contact [Margot Rawlins](#) for more information.

Good News from the IRS

Congress has renewed the special opportunity for people 70-1/2 years of age and older to make tax-free charitable contributions using Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA). Through December 31, 2011 gifts up to \$100,000 made from a traditional or Roth IRA would be excluded from your taxable income and they would count towards your minimum distribution requirement for 2011. Such gifts must be transferred directly from your IRA administrator to the EV. Contact us for more information and for assistance.

EV Snapshots

Images of the dam from EV Jack Tomlin from a field trip at Jasper Ridge. After the heavy rain, it's really flowing.





If you have any images, from EV services, field trips or your own excursions, and would like to share them with the EV community, please send them to justyne@evols.org.

Photo Credits

EcoCenter Update: **Andrei Sarna-Wojcicki**

Fun Fact: **Wikipedia**

EV Welcomes a New Staff Member: **Provided by Subject**

School Services Update: **Huff Teacher**

Who's News: **Provided by Subject**

Galapagos Tortoise: **Provided by Author**

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