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Environmental Volunteers

Innovative environmental science education that improves student learning

Newsletter for EV Community

Back to School September 2011

EcoCenter



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

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

Fun Facts

One of the Top 10 Incredible Species - 2011

The International Institute for

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Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year!

The EV...teaching kids to love science and nature since 1972

The Year Ahead (And What A Year It Will Be)

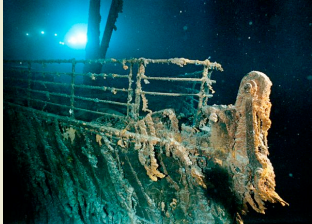
by Allan Berkowitz, Executive Director



On the Chinese calendar this is the Year of the Rabbit.
On the EV calendar this is the Year of the EcoCenter.
More about this in a moment.

Species Exploration (ASU) announced in May their choice for top ten recognized species of 2010. Here is one of the interesting species on the list:

Halomonas titanicae



Found on the Titanic, this bacteria is part of a family that has never been seen so deep underwater (about 2.4 miles).

It is an iron oxide-eating microorganism that sticks to steel surfaces making mounds of corrosion products. This is slowly adding to the deterioration of the shipwreck.

Check on our [homepage](#) for more species in the upcoming weeks.

Quick Links

[Want to Volunteer](#)

[Read the June Issue](#)

[Buy EcoCenter Apparel](#)



[Environmental Volunteers](#)

Here we are at the beginning of another school year. September is a hopeful month at the EV. We look down the road and see hundreds of classroom programs and field trips. We know that soon enough thousands of kids will pound acorns, squeeze mud through their hands, ponder carbons, and giggle and gaze their way to a nature education.

New Beginnings: You know what? This will be the EV's 40th year. And to celebrate this milestone birthday we're getting a new....EcoCenter!!!!!!!



It's been 7 years in the planning but we're almost there. The construction trucks roll September 19 and they tell us the project will be completed by end of December.

This is going to be a crazy, frenetic, whirlwind year. We are officially in 'transition mode.' Staff has already started purging the offices of stuff (you know, the stuff that accumulates but that really should be tossed). We've assembled a Transition Team to plan and manage the physical transition to our new home. They will guide us in everything from determining where telephone and computer ports will be needed; how best to allocate office space in the new facility; and how to plan and carry out the actual move.

Our best estimate of a timeline is this. The physical move will take place sometime between January-March 2012. We will plan on running our administrative operation from the new building for a few months, getting used to it, and learning the ropes (ok, honestly, learning how to get staff to do their work and stop bird-watching from the Bridge Deck). During this time we will continue to develop and install the educational elements that will comprise the nature center. My best guess is that we would open the facility to the general public in summer 2012.

Stay tuned - we'll provide you with updates. And soon enough I'll meet you on the Bridge Deck for an awesome view from our new EV home. The champagne toast is on us.

School Services Update

by Laurie Lopez, Programs Coordinator

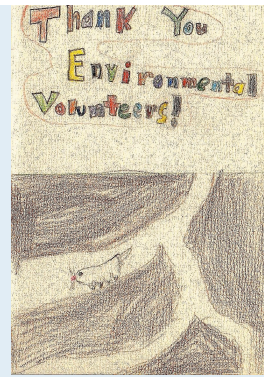
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Welcome back to school, everyone!

This year we look forward to doing over **585 classroom presentations and field trips** at local schools throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. We expect to deliver over **100** Foothill Ecology programs, over **50** Early California Indian Life, Water, All About Birds, and Marine Ecology programs, and high numbers in Bay Ecology and Energy & Natural Resources. We've also received multiple requests for our new hybrid programs: Chemistry & Nature (a Water and Energy & Natural resources combo) and Water Shapes Our State (Water, Marine, Bay, and Earthquakes combo).



"Thank You" card from one of the children we serve

Not familiar with a subject area? Consider signing up for one of our upcoming [Fall training programs](#).

Volunteer Training

by Brittany Sabol, Education and Training Director



The Environmental Volunteers reach thousands of students each year. We can only do it with the help of our wonderful volunteers. The more volunteers who join our family, the more students we can reach. We are always looking for more people interested in working with students to share their passion for the environment. There is no requirements for teaching experience or knowledge of natural science. Our training courses will give you all of the knowledge you need. Training courses begin throughout the year. The next course (Explorations in Ecology) will begin at our Peninsula office on October 20th. Full details of our

training programs is on our [website](#). For more information, simply complete our Information Request [Form](#) or call our office at 650-961-0545.

2011 Summer Programs Update

by Vandy Shrader, Summer Programs Director

Wow! What a fantastic time we all had at S.N.A.K.E. Camp and Explore! this summer! We met lots of new campers, said hello to lots of returning campers, welcomed some terrific new staff members, set ourselves up in a great new home base, had some really cool experiences, made the camps available to a record number of scholarship recipients, and had the largest enrollment EVER, with almost 100 camper-weeks for each program. As always, a BIG thank you to all the EVs who volunteered to help out during the "off season," cheerfully leading hikes, presenting kits, leading art projects

and purchasing squid.

We had 4 weekly themes at S.N.A.K.E. Camp this year: EARTH, SEA, SKY, and Day Trippers (daily field trips during the short holiday week). Each week, in addition to climbing trees, playing in Mitchell Park, doing art projects, swimming at the JLS Pool, enjoying free choice time, and decorating their camp T-shirts, S.N.A.K.E. Campers participated in a variety of theme-related field trips and activities...

To read more about each of the exciting themed weeks, click [here](#).



S.N.A.K.E. Campers showing off the Bay mud on their shoes after a hike in the Baylands.

Silicon Valley Open Studios Art Exhibit

A Benefit for the Environmental Volunteers

The theme of this exhibit is "Environment & Conservation." At this event, there will be a silent auction, raffles and wine tasting.

Sunday, September 25

2pm - 5pm

Los Altos Hills Town Hall
26379 Fremont Road

Come see work from talented artists in all fine art media while supporting the EV.

YAO PI HSU



EV Snapshots

Jack and Jan Tomlin captured these shots on a trip to San Antonio Open Space.



They spy a



**red shouldered hawk
in a tree.**

**A red shouldered hawk
spies them.**



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**

Volunteer Training: **Laurie Lopez**

2011 Summer Programs Update: **Vandy Shrader**

Fun Facts: Information and picture from **National Geographic** and **IISE**.

Silicon Valley Open Studios: **Yao Pi Hsu**, from [Silicon Valley Open Studios](#)

EV Snapshots: **Jack Tomlin**

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