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Environmental Volunteers

Innovative environmental science education that improves student learning

Newsletter for EV Community

May 2011

EcoCenter



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

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

Background on Earth Day



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\$600,000 Challenge Grant Awarded for EcoCenter Completion

by Allan Berkowitz, Executive Director



The Environmental Volunteers has received a \$600,000 challenge gift that will match donations to the EcoCenter campaign from now until December 31. With only \$1.2 million remaining in our capital campaign, meeting this challenge will mean completion of the campaign and completion of the EcoCenter.

The donors who have issued this challenge gift -- a family foundation - - are motivated to help the EV complete the building and open it to the public. Gifts of \$5,000 and above will be matched through December 31.

EV Executive Director Allan Berkowitz notes, "We are excited by the generosity of this offer and the opportunity it presents: by meeting this challenge, the EV can open the EcoCenter in the first half of 2012."

Challenge gifts present a unique opportunity to double the impact of

Earth Day is a special day dedicated to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth and its natural environment. It was founded by US Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in first held on April 22, 1970. Earth Day is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and is celebrated in more than 175 countries every year.

Numerous communities celebrate Earth Week, an entire week of activities focused on environmental issues. In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 International Mother Earth Day.

Ways you can celebrate Earth Day:

1. Plant something.
2. Take a walk.
3. Bike/carpool/use public transportation to work.
4. Spring clean the green way.
5. Start a compost bin.
6. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

If you have any fun facts or pictures to share with the EV Community, please submit them to justyne@evols.org.

Quick Links

[Want to Volunteer](#)

[Read the April Issue](#)

[Buy EcoCenter Apparel](#)

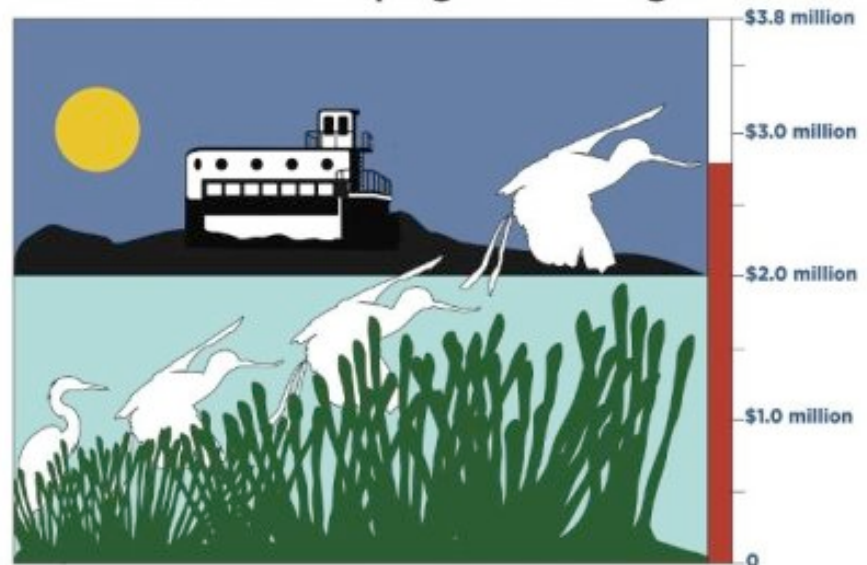


DONATE NOW!

your support. We invite you to learn more about how your support can help us meet the challenge.

Stay tuned as we move ever closer to making our dream a reality.

The EcoCenter Campaign Takes Flight



The EcoCenter...A Community Resource for Environmental Education

To learn more and support the campaign
650-961-0545 • www.EVols.org/EcoCenter



School Services Update

by Laurie Lopez, Programs Coordinator



For the month of April, our volunteers gave an impressive 510 hours to teach 1,146 students in 47 classrooms to love science and nature! Of these 1,146 students, 425 had the opportunity to be guided on 13 hikes at seven of our nine field trip sites!

Our Lead EVs were superstars this month, giving 150 hours in the classroom and on field trips. In fact, it was 13 of our Lead EVs that managed to ensure all 47

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classrooms, 13 field trips and 1,146 students had the opportunity to participate in our brand of hands-on learning! Their time alone accounts for almost 30% of the volunteer

hours this month! They are certainly a small but mighty group!

Great job, EVs! Let's have a strong finish to the 2011-2012 school year!

Who's News: Meet Lisa Myers

by Jan Whitmer

Our new staff member, **Lisa Myers**, joined the EV as Administration and Data Manager at the end of last month. She will be collecting, organizing, and entering information about donors and donations, as well as helping with Phase 2 of the EcoCenter capital campaign. Lisa became acquainted with the EV when she led our Board Emeritus bird-watching trip to the Central Valley and again last fall when she led a bird-watching trip to Big Sur for us.



Lisa has been involved with birding in Santa Clara County for many years. In addition to running her own bird-watching tour company, she was on the Board of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and also teaches birding classes for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. She especially enjoys the beginning/intermediate classes. She has also led bird-centered trips to Costa Rica for Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris. Lisa was given her first field guide to birds as a child and remembers one of her first identifications...

What was Lisa's first identification? You won't know unless you click [here](#).

Summer Programs 2011 Update

Vandy Shrader, Summer Programs Director

Camp season is almost here! Registration is still open for both S.N.A.K.E. Camp and Explore! Take a look below, to see what we have planned for the 7 exciting weeks of summer programs!



This summer's [S.N.A.K.E. Camp](#) will focus on 4 themes: **Earth, Sea, Sky,** and **Day Trippers** (our daily field trip solution to the short holiday week).

During **Earth Week (June 20-24)**,

campers will learn about Earthquake Geology and hike the woods at Huddart Park with EVs; spend a morning locating hidden geocaches; visit the Collective Roots Garden for some gardening, cooking, and eating; take part in an Arthropod Safari; and take part in theme-related activities and projects.

During **Sea Week (June 27-July 1)**, campers will enjoy EV kits relating to Marine Ecology, Bay Ecology, and Squid Dissections, and will join some EVs for hike at the Palo Alto Baylands. They'll travel to Santa Cruz to visit the Seymour Marine Institute and Natural Bridges State Beach, and to Fremont to have fun at the Aqua Adventure. They'll also participate in theme-related activities and projects.

Day Trippers (July 5-8) is a four-day natural science field trip extravaganza. On Tuesday, we'll travel to San Francisco's Exploratorium; on Wednesday, we'll trek with wild animals at Safari West; on Thursday, we'll head to Blackberry Farms for nature and swimming; and on Friday, we'll visit Ardenwood Farm in Newark, where we'll ride a train, visit with some farm animals, watch a blacksmith pound metal into tools, and see how old-time farms used to operate. Campers can sign up for 1 through 4 days.

During **Sky Week (July 11-15)**, campers will meet some bats and learn all about them, and build a bat house for them to live in; learn about local birds with some EV kits; visit Chabot Space & Science Museum and Hiller Aviation Museum; and have fun with theme-related activities and projects.

Each week, in addition to theme-related activities and field trips, campers will have time to explore Mitchell Park; climb trees; swim at JLS Pool; play with their friends; color, construct and create projects, learn about the world around them, and much more!



This year at [Explore!](#), we have 3 weeks of awesome eco-adventures planned...

Eco-Adventures 1 (July 18-22) will include climbing and swinging at the Fort Miley Ropes Challenge Course; hanging ten during a 3-hour surfing lesson at Pacifica; and embarking on a 3-hour adventure learning about sailing and the Bay aboard the Seaward, an 82-foot long sailboat.

Eco-Adventures 2 (July 25-29) will include going wild in a wilderness survival workshop, exploring Elkhorn Slough by kayak, and traveling to Santa Rosa's Safari West for an animal trek.

Eco-Adventures 3 (August 1-5) will include rock climbing at Castle Rock; hunting (and finding!) hidden treasure during a geocaching expedition to Los Trancos Open Space, and launching into the air at iFly Indoor Skydiving.

Each week, Explorers will also spend a day at the beach, and a day on-site, where they will have the opportunity to participate in fun activities and go swimming at JLS Pool.

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!

Teacher Announcements

Attention Teachers- Have You Applied For Your 2011-2012 Service Yet?

The time to apply for a 2011-2012 Environmental Volunteers (EV) program is NOW! Applications will be accepted from April 25, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. through May 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Please visit our [website](#) to submit an application for your next year services.



Due to high demand, we will use a lottery system to distribute our programs in the most equitable way. Teachers may apply individually or as a team. Please note that if applying as a team, we will need the contact information of all teachers included in the application.

Scholarships are available to schools that qualify; please contact [Laurie Lopez](#) for more information on how to apply .

Are you a teacher, or do you know a teacher who would like to receive a free Children's Discovery Museum class field trip?

One of our partners in education, the Children Discovery Museum, is looking for Kindergarten to fourth grade teachers who are interested in learning more about mammoths and who would like to help them develop Focus Field Trips for their new Mammoth Discovery! exhibit. Each participating teacher will receive a free field trip for their students during the 2011-12 school year and a paleontology classroom kit including fossils, teacher-tested activity ideas, resources, and links to the CA Content Standards.



Mammoth Discovery! Summer Institute for Teachers
Tuesday, June 21 and Wednesday, June 22
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Materials fee: \$75

The workshop will be available to the first 25 teachers (Grades K-4) who apply.

Registration deadline is May 27. Call (408) 298-5437 ext. 261 or e-mail lupe@cdm.org for details; spaces are limited and filling up fast!

Burrowing Away

by Keanna Harrison, Intern

I knew it was about time to start coming up with ideas for my next article, but I had no idea what I wanted to write. I recently got the opportunity to volunteer with the Audubon Society to enhance the habitat for the Burrowing Owls at Shoreline Park, in hope of increasing the numbers of nesting pairs. By getting the chance to physically see their habitat degraded I became emotional. In fact, knowing that there are only 3 nesting pairs left in Shoreline Park prompted me to write this piece. In all, there are less than __ nesting pairs of Burrowing Owls living in Santa Clara Valley.



Curious in how many nesting pairs of these owls are living in Santa Clara Valley? Click [here](#) "dig" up the facts.

EV Snapshots

Image of a rattlesnake from EV Bob Dodge (aka Scatman) while up in the grassland area of Jasper Ridge looking enjoying the wildflower display there.



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**

School Services Update and Teacher Announcements: **Huff Teacher**

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

Burrowing Away: **Provided by Author**

EV Snapshots: **Bob Dodge**

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