

Lime Hollow's Woodland Whispers

Volume III Number I

New Opportunity to promote LHCEC:

Exhibit Sponsors Needed!

Exciting days are here! Lime Hollow is actually designing and building the exhibits and displays that will grace its new visitor center. It has taken a long time to reach the stage where dreams take shape. It is also a critical time to ensure good decisions are made in selecting exhibits and displays that provide visitors with educational and meaningful experiences - ones that relate to their personal lives.

The Lime Hollow Center for Environment and Culture (LHCEC) is fortunate to have leaders and friends with backgrounds in environmental and cultural interpretation. While professional expertise is important, many volunteer opportunities also exist to help complete exhibits and displays. To date, exhibits featuring birds, wetland and upland forest ecosystems, natural resources, outdoor recreation opportunities in the Cortland/Ithaca area, and work of local artists are being designed. Other aspects needing attention at the new center include a library section, refreshment area, staff preparation room, and reception/customer service section.

Therefore, volunteers are needed who can: construct cabinets, shelves and counter tops; clean and stain logs; paint walls, floors and trim; make curtains/ drapes; and draw and letter. There will also be landscaping work opportunities once spring arrives.

And, of course, there is a continuing need for funds to support construction of exhibits and displays so they are professional in appearance and provide visitors with interesting educational experiences. Naming opportunities also exist for other exhibit and display areas like the Robert P. Bush Memorial Bird Education Room featured in the last issue of Woodland Whispers. Individuals wishing to volunteer at the new visitor center or donate funds may contact the Executive Director at 607-753-4968 or via email at lhncortland@cortland.edu.

An Opportunity for Natural Connections:

Adopt a Trail Stewardship Program

LHCEC is inviting individuals and families to help maintain it's wonderful seven miles of trails. The goal is to have people develop a connection to a particular part of our trail system and help maintain it. You may be a trail steward for the trail section of your choice on a first come first serve basis. We hope that this will not only help provide a safe and clear trail system for our community, but also will benefit people in many ways. Stewardship over a section of trail can help you and your children develop a sense of place, a sense of responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. It will help you develop a more personal connection to Lime Hollow as you get out in the fresh air.

You are invited to please help us continually improve our trail system. We have the tools and supplies and just need "green" sweat. Got green Sweat? Please call Carol at the center and sign up for your section today.

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Visitor Center and NatureScaping Coming Soon

Woodland Whispers readers traveling McLean Road almost certainly are aware of the progress being made on Lime Hollow's new visitor center. As the road-front sign suggests, the visitor center opening is coming soon (summer 2006). However, most people probably are unaware that the Lime Hollow Center for Environment and Culture (LHCEC) is launching a NatureScaping service this spring to complement its ongoing efforts to provide environmental education programs, outdoor recreation opportunities, and preserve wild land habitat in the Lime Hollow area.

NatureScaping (see full page enclosure in this newsletter) will provide local residents with landscaping designs that feature use of native plants to create privacy screens, snow/wind breaks, and habitats for wildlife. Of course, LHCEC NatureScaping services will incorporate use of organic materials (beddings, fertilizers, mulches) and natural methods to help control pests. Services provided can range from basic consultations to complete installation of a NatureScaping design.

NatureScaping is a natural extension of services offered by the Lime Hollow Center for Environment & Culture. First, LHCEC leaders see it as a form of environmental education for Naturescaping recipients as they learn about earth friendly ways to beautify their home grounds.

Those who nature scape also spend more time in the out-of-doors and benefit from the therapeutic tonics and recreation that fresh air, sunshine, and exercise provide. And third, LHCEC's mission is furthered as more and more residents preserve natural habitat in their own backyards. Last, but not least, dollars spent for NatureScaping services benefit an ecologically unique, not-for-profit environmental center in a naturally beautiful part of New York State.

Those who stop by the new LHCEC visitor center this spring will see NatureScaping principles being applied as a detailed landscaping plan materializes. Following a plan provided by landscaping professionals Cindy and Ken Teter, native grasses, trees, and shrubs will beautify and protect



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Our Mission

The mission of the Lime Hollow Center for Environment & Culture is to provide year-round environmental education and outdoor recreation opportunities through the utilization and protection of the natural and cultural attributes of the Lime Hollow area.

LHCEC Visitor Hours

Monday – Saturday: 9AM - 4PM

Sunday: 1PM – 4PM

LHCEC Trails: Open during daylight hours

LHCEC Telephone: 607.758.5462

E-mail: limehollow@clarityconnect.com

Web: <http://www.limehollow.org>

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Layout

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"Naturescaping" continued from page 1

the wetland ecosystem that surrounds the visitor center. Plantings will also attract wildlife in various forms to enrich visitor experiences.

The new visitor center on McLean Road will connect with LHCEC's 7.5 miles of existing trails via a new Marsh Trail behind the building. Visitors unable to walk large portions of the overall trail system will especially enjoy the Marsh Trail that, if funding materializes, will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities. The trail will cross a stream, meander along the marsh and provide users with a view of Gracie Pond and its resident geese, ducks, and other wetland ecosystem creatures.

Work inside the new visitor center is progressing at a good pace. Interior walls are in place along with necessary insulation and electrical wiring. Workers will soon finish the walls, install plumbing and lavatory systems, hang doors, trim windows and begin constructing exhibits and displays.

LHCEC is most fortunate to have renowned nature center builder and wildlife artist, John Weeks consulting and helping design exhibits. Mr. Weeks has created many of LHCEC's current interpretive displays and is hard at work designing the Robert P. Bush Memorial Bird Education Room. The room overlooks a streamside bird sanctuary allowing visitors to view birds, and other wildlife, in their natural habitats. Equipment, materials, and exhibits are being created to aid identification of birds and creatures sighted. Visitors will also be able to purchase materials and supplies to assist bird watching endeavors at home.

Other exhibits and displays will illustrate the wonderful array of outdoor recreation opportunities available to people in the greater Cortland/Ithaca area. Special emphasis will be placed on the wonderful forest and clean water heritage enjoyed by local residents. Following guidelines from the Museum Store Association of America and professional experts, the goal is to create interesting exhibits and displays that can be easily rearranged as seasons change and new thematic concepts materialize. A strong effort will also be made to select sale items that support LHCEC's educational mission and earth stewardship philosophies.

A visit to Lime Hollow's new visitor center will acquaint people with "green building construction" technology. Building features will include geo-thermal radiant floor heating, photovoltaic solar panels, superior insulation, composting toilets and, hopefully, motivate thoughtful consideration about one's own energy conservation endeavors. Interested individuals may telephone LHCEC headquarters (758-5462) to arrange personal "sneak previews" as the new visitor center nears completion. Several naming opportunities still exist at the new visitor center, and along trails, for those who might wish to honor their family or other worthy persons.

-Charles

Spring Ornithology Class Experience '05

By Arnold Talentino



A lucky 13: that's how many of us were in the class; some with a lot of experience watching birds; others with very little. Some were well equipped with binoculars (a couple even with spotting scopes); others advised that an equipment upgrade would be desirable. Advice on good equipment by our teachers, Matt Young and Steve Broyles, marked the beginning of our experience; seven classes and seven field trips.

Tuesday nights we had class at Lime Hollow, the main feature was Matt's power point presentation of the birds we would look for on Saturday's field trip: usually excellent photos and beneath them a few lines about key features, habits, and habitats. We also received a handout that complemented what we saw, with space for our own notes. For the owl-searching and hawk-watching weeks, actually sighting the birds was not as important. Steve gave a class on migration, explaining how birds use the setting sun and the earth's magnetic field as their primary guides, and one on bird song, complete with sound spectrographs correlated with actual bird songs.

Although the classes were good, the field trips were even better. We got to see birds that I had thought only Roger Tory Peterson ever got to see: Pied Bill Grebe, Scaup (Lesser as well as Greater), Northern Water Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Savannah Sparrow, to mention a few. The exotic names, shapes, and colors of the bird books, alive before our very eyes. We began with water birds, going to Cayuga Lake locations and on to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; then visits to local lakes and ponds; then a Saturday night in search of Woodcock, Snipe, and owls; followed by a day at Derby Hill, the place at the southeast corner of Lake Ontario where hawks and other birds congregate to make their way around the lake during migration; and finally three successive weeks in the deciduous and conifer forests around Summerhill, Bear Swamp, Lake Como, and Skaneateles Lake.

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Matt led the trips with enthusiasm that was infectious, walking around to each of us to make sure we knew what tree, what limb, exactly where - helping us to see whatever bird he saw or knew was there. Then he would remind us to note the habitat in order to know what to expect where, and to note the songs, another clue to their presence. On the occasions when Steve came on the trips, we were doubly blest with expert enthusiasm. And we learned as well to help each other see, much like teammates who cheer each other on. (Special thanks to those generous folks with the spotting scopes who would step aside after sighting in a bird so that the rest could get the super close-up.)

As we were coming toward the end of our series of trips, we began to understand that the life of birds, even those unusual to us, was an essential part of our surroundings. We were learning where to go and how to look once we arrived. We realized that the birds were there to be seen and that we were learning of incomprehensible wonders, things that birds do as a matter of course and must do to survive on this planet. The singing for example, to us just beautiful songs, for birds is an extraordinarily complex production of two syringes (the singular is "syrinx"), voice boxes, which sometimes work simultaneously. Birdsong is not a luxury, though, but a necessity that establishes territory and attracts mates.

The day of our trip to Derby Hill was not a peak hawk day (wrong winds), but nonetheless we saw quite a few, and many other birds as well. And most remarkable that day, to a few others and me at least, were the continual flocks of a dozen or so Blue Jays that came by us every few minutes, only 10 to 20 feet above us. They would come from the tree line off in the distance, passing around us or several yards closer to the lake, then continue toward another distant tree line - a stream of life come from far away and steadily making its way around the immensity of the lake to where it had to go. Bird migration is a given, of course, but that day it became more than simply something to know about. From those flocks of jays, the profound wonder of migration was instilled into our very being, as we bore witness to the mystery and magnificence of the life of birds.

Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker



Mr. Tim Gallagher, author of *The Grail Bird*, will present a lecture on the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Thursday, March 30th in the SUNY Cortland Brown Auditorium (Old Main Building) (Parking in the rear) at 7 PM.

The lecture, entitled "Hot on the trail of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker" promises to encapsulate the exciting story of how Tim Gallagher and a colleague unmistakably encountered the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. For more than 60 years, every potential sighting of an ivory-billed woodpecker had been met with ridicule and scorn. Respected researchers and naturalists were branded as quacks just for having the temerity to say that the Ivory-bill still exists. But Tim Gallagher refused to accept the grim conclusion of most scientists that the Ivory-bill was extinct. He traveled through the South, interviewing people who claimed to have seen this ghost bird of the shadowy swamp. If a sighting seemed credible, he hit the swamp with his colleague Bobby Harrison, wading through hip-deep, boot-sucking mud and canoeing through turbid, mud brown bayous where deadly cottonmouths abound. On one of these trips, checking a recent sighting by an Arkansas kayaker, an unmistakable Ivory-bill flew past at close range in front of their canoe. This sighting-the first time since 1944 that two qualified observers had positively identified an Ivory-billed woodpecker in the United States-quickly led to the largest search ever launched to find a rare bird and ultimately to the announcement on April 28, 2005, of the rediscovery of the species. Gallagher will tell the story of the Ivory-bill's near demise and miraculous resurrection and discuss *The Grail Bird*, his new book on the rediscovery.

Living Bird editor Tim Gallagher is an award-winning author, wildlife photographer, and magazine editor. He is currently editor-in-chief of *Living Bird*, the flagship publication of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

A book signing and sale are planned at the end of the lecture. This program is co-sponsored by the SUNY Biology Club, the Campus Artist and Lecture Series, CALS (SUNY Cortland Campus Artist and Lecture Series) and the President Erik Bitterbaum's office. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Thanks to New LHCEC Members

The following have become **new** members since our last newsletter. Congratulations to them for their sense of vision about the environmental and outdoor education needs of present and future generations.

Anderson, Margaret & Michael
Anderson, Tammy
Bertram, Fred and Russo, Sanna
Bilodeau, Rosanna
Castellot, Denise
Chamberlain, Joyce
Church, John & Holly
Contento, Mary
Ferro, Toni & Julie
Hokanson, Jim & Freese, Kerri
Klessig, Dan & Judy
LaParco, Dave & Marie
Mueller, John & Nancy
Navarro, Daniel
Rolfe, Steve & Vicky
Rottmann, Don & Luann
Thompson, Jim
Whitson, Tammie
Ziobro, Lisa & Jim

Special Salute to New Life Members – Thanks for Believing in LHCEC So Strongly!

Ken and Cindy Teter

Many thanks also to all renewing members especially to those who renewed at a higher level of giving. Continuing support of this sort will help LHCEC make the transition from relying on grants from business, industry, and government into an organization that is supported by its own programs and committed individuals.

Please use the enclosed membership form to make a gift membership or encourage a friend, neighbor or relative to join. (*The form is not a reminder that your membership is due for renewal.*)

Special thanks to
Nancy & John Gustafson

for sponsoring this issue of Woodland Whispers



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As the spring migration starts to pick up...

Nature's magnificent treasure: On the Move

By Matt Young

Here's the spring migration version of the column named "On the Move". This resurrected column featuring birding and migration was part of a local birding newsletter a few years back.

Lets hope this past spring's weather pattern is more cooperative than last fall's blocking high which halted migration to a trickle. For a good spring migration we need warm fronts accompanied with southern winds then followed by cold fronts. This pattern will transport southern birds our way, and any cold front will bring these birds down so they settle with us for a few days.



Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and many others start to show up in the area between the beginning and middle of April. Mid April is also time to see the

first swallows; large numbers of sparrows; and many returning raptors. By the middle of April the first warblers are being reported – Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes (Northern Waterthrush is usually a good week or so behind Louisiana Waterthrush) can be found in appropriate habitat.

During the beginning of May warbler migration really starts to flourish, and by the middle of the month warblers can be seen in large numbers. Usually between May 15-20th peak migration is here in central NY. At this time 20 species of warblers can be seen throughout the course of a day. Vireos, thrushes, and finally the flycatchers appear as migration starts to wind down. At this time, many beautiful species such as Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Wood Thrush, and Great-crested Flycatcher can be seen and heard in our diverse woods. Good migrant hotspots are Lime Hollow Nature Center, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Mundy Wildflower Garden, East Ithaca Recreation Way, and Green Hills Cemetery in Dryden. Cemeteries can be especially good in years migration is ahead of leaf-out. Many local cemeteries have lots of conifers which harbor early season insects before the maples, ashes, and oaks have leafed-out. In addition, cemeteries often have well-placed trees that make viewing a bit easier.

After the 20th of May many species have returned to their nesting haunts. Great locations to see these nesting jewels locally are Summerhill State Forest, Bear Swamp State Forest, Salmon Creek Finger Lakes Land Trust Preserve, The Dorothy McIlroy Preserve (also owned by Finger Lakes Land Trust), Danby Biodiversity Preserve (FLLT), Labrador Hollow, Hoxie Gorge, and Heidelberg Experimental Forest just to name a few.

Good luck and make sure to get out in May to witness one of nature's magnificent treasures.

Till next time,
Matt Young

An interview with Lime Hollow's "Mr. Fix it Man":

A Talk with Tom

By Carol Navarro

As a staff member of a small non-profit organization, it is a great comfort to know that off in the wings, or off on the trails, is a kind-hearted volunteer who can fix just about anything that needs a fix at Lime Hollow. We are very lucky to have a friend such as Tom Reese, our "Mr. Fix-it Man". Tom is a longtime friend and fellow hiker of board member Bob Martin. Tom brings to Lime Hollow a myriad of skills, such as designing bridges, plumbing, carpentry, construction, and electrical engineering, and he has a great sense of humor too. He has been involved at Lime Hollow for many years since his retirement, and recently became a part-time employee. Now we have the opportunity to chat more often.

As a volunteer, you have worked on all the trails. Do you have a favorite?

Tom: Well sort of. The terrain at Lime Hollow is so varied and interesting, I love to hike all the trails, but I do like High Vista Loop on foggy days. And walking down Mill Pond in the fall, as you approach Salamander springs, it feels like I am entering an enchanted place, the leaves turning fall colors and listening to the waterfall. Of course, Fenway connector to Hermits Way. In the spring, hiking parallel to the Mill Race is always impressive thinking that the race was dug with muscle power. On a hot summer day meandering around or near the little brooks and streams is always pleasant. I guess I just love poking around in the woods, spotting a Pileated Woodpecker, or the total silence on a snowy day. I love them all.

What do you like about volunteering at Lime Hollow?

Tom: I get to work, and meet with very interesting people. I get to do something that is socially useful, and I always have fun in the process. Whether building a bridge, or clearing dead branches from the trails, it is like being a kid again and playing in a sand box, but this if for real.

You are playing a part in the completion of the new visitor center. What are your feelings about the new center?

Tom: It will be a wonderful facility. I hope it becomes a place where people will come to meet their friends before hiking the trails, or just to drop by, to watch birds. The new center will be here for a very long time, so the paid carpenters and volunteers are building with great care and pride.

You have recently become a part-time employee of Lime Hollow. So what has changed?

Tom: Well, I probably volunteer more than I used to. In the past I volunteered for the tree sale once or twice; this year I was there almost every day. I still go out with Bob Martin on weekends to clear the trails.

What do you like about working at Lime Hollow?

Tom: Lime Hollow is a great place to work. My co-workers are always teaching me something. I just learned how to make a bird feeder with a pinecone. That will be very useful when I visit with my grand children. And I witnessed, and got an explanation of "mobbing," when crows gang up on a "poor" hawk.



LHCEC's very own Mr. Fix-it: Tom Reese

If you had unlimited resources and time, what would be your ideal project for Lime Hollow?

When I was little, there were a lot of hermits where I grew up. I would like to rebuild a hermit's cabin on Hermits Way. I would also like to rebuild the old water-powered mill on the Fenway Trail and have it operational. It is important to know where we came from.

Tom, when I work on the trails when there is snow on the ground, I like to use my sled to carry tools. When you need to clear a tree off a trail, why don't you use my sled to carry the chain saw into the woods?

Tom: Carol! Who would respect me if I carried a chain saw on a flexible flier!

Tom is an important member of the Lime Hollow family whose support, wit and good nature are appreciated by all. We are grateful for the many hats he wears, his humor and dedicated service.

Thoreau's Legacy Revisited

By Charles Yapple

It appears we humans are slow to learn some lessons. Recent, and greatly deserved, attention given to Richard Louv's new book, *Last Child in the Woods-Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* (see last issue of *Woodland Whispers*) prompts one to recall prophetic words penned by Henry David Thoreau more than 140 years ago. He had much to say concerning what happens when a culture divorces itself from nature. Richard Louv defines nature deficit disorder as "the human costs of alienation from nature, among them: diminished uses of the senses, attention difficulties, and higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses" (Louv, 2005, p. 34).

Indeed, it is almost as if Thoreau had nature deficit disorder in mind when he uttered perhaps his most remembered statement: "In wildness lies the preservation of the world." Thoreau's words reflect not merely a love for wild places but a strong belief in their numerous biophysical and sociocultural values. Most readers will quickly see the biophysical application of Thoreau's insight about wildness as it provides varied and integral maintenance functions for the biological health of the planet.

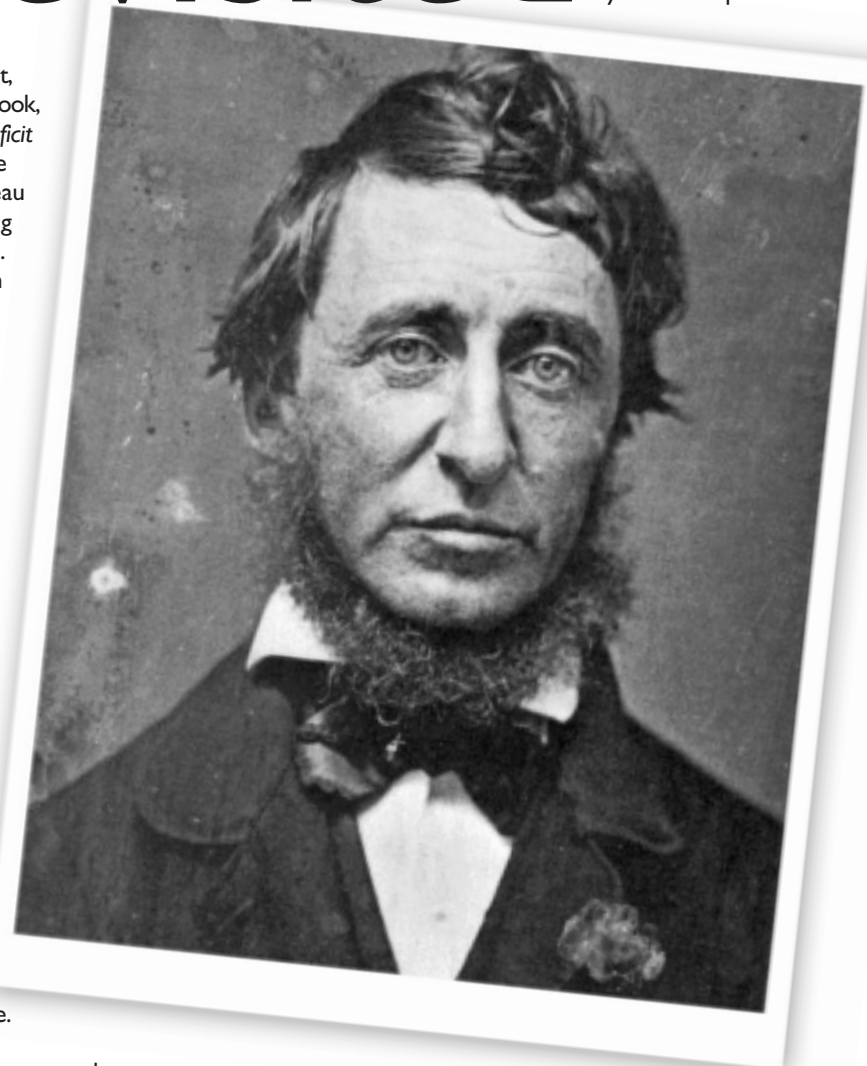
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More important to our discussion of nature deficit disorder (NDD), Thoreau believed human well-being, on the personal and cultural level, would prosper if individuals planted one foot in natural surroundings and the other in civilization. He saw wildness "as the source of vigor, inspiration, and strength," and "to the extent a culture, or an individual, lost contact with wildness it became weak and dull." Thoreau cited the breakdown of civilizations (the Roman Empire) as historical evidence of what could happen when humans forgot their origins and source of spiritual, mental, and physical sustenance.

Does Thoreau's philosophy offer guidance to parents and educators who are struggling to develop children's minds and character? This abridged article (which appeared in *Taproot* – a journal of outdoor education, see www.outdooredcoalition.org) examines Thoreau's legacy to modern society. His wisdom may contain a key to preventing NDD and one of the major social problems of the day – the aimlessness and apathy of young people.

Evidence of frustration and apathy among America's youth is not difficult to find. A look at U.S. Department of Justice records shows that the suicide rate for all youngsters (ages 15-24) has more than doubled (4.5 vs. 9.9 percent) between 1950 and 2002. And, if one looks at differences between males and females specifically, the suicide rate (2002) for males in the same age bracket is more than five times higher (16.9 vs. 2.9) than for females! Why are so many young males so despondent? Do we need to invest more in young people?

Many of the problems that young people presently experience can be traced to the breakdown of the family. Contemplate for a moment what far too many pre-school youngsters encounter each day - breakfast (if any)



on the run in a single-parent household; a quick car ride to the day-care center; a limited range of mainly indoor activities and experiences because centers operate on limited budgets to keep fees low; home to television as mom (sometimes a dad) prepares dinner and tends to the myriad duties of housekeeping; finally, bedtime approaches and a weary parent tries to spend some "quality time" with the youngster. What bonds and fundamental values does such a scenario create especially when blended with weekly megadoses of television – children ages six to eleven spend about thirty hours a week looking at TV or a computer monitor (Louv, 2005, p. 47).

The situation for many youngsters improves little as they enter grade school. Often they are in bigger classes with teachers who are usually pressed to meet curriculum mandates and who are certainly not comfortable teaching in the outdoors. Youngsters soon learn that success is measured in test scores, or in athletics, if one is not academically inclined. Youth culture quickly impresses the importance of conforming with the latest dress, language, and behavior code. The school day ends and

Astronomy for the Whole Family continued from page 4

many just "hang out" and learn what the street has to teach about values and appropriate behavior. So where does this leave us in the quest to raise "good children?" Thoreau provides some answers.

Thoreau believed that the forests and wilderness provided "the tonics and barks which brace mankind." To him wild places were a source of inspiration containing the "raw material of life" that instilled a sense of wonder, spiritual truths, and the basis of sound intellect to those who frequented such haunts. Interestingly, in *Last Child in the Woods...* Louv tells us that modern educational psychologists are discovering similar things. Citing results of Swedish researchers who compared children in two daycare settings, we learn that children in "green" day care "who played outside every day, regardless of weather, had better motor coordination and more ability to concentrate" (Louv, 2005, p.104). Researchers at the University of Illinois have also found that green outdoor spaces "foster creative play, improve children's access to positive adult interaction - and relieve symptoms of attention-deficit disorder." And by comparison, "activities indoors, such as watching TV, or outdoors in paved, non green areas, increases these children's symptoms" (Louv, 2005, p. 104).

If we give credence to what education professionals are saying, it seems obvious that we need more readily available natural places for people. However, special people are also needed to help youngsters make earthly connections and feel whole. What is being advocated here is the employment of recreation (re-creation might be a better term) educators

"Wilderness provides the tonics and barks which brace mankind."

-Henry Davis Thoreau

in our pre-schools and elementary and secondary institutions. This is not a new idea, but one whose time has come. Harlan Gold Metcalf created a recreation education degree program at State University of New York, College at Cortland in the 1960's. Metcalf and others envisioned every school district employing a recreation educator just as they do physical educators. These professionals would be well versed in environmental, outdoor, and leisure education and would work with children in developing healthy (wholesome) leisure lifestyles that include earth-bonding activities: natural history exploration, journaling, drawing, nature-crafts, bird-watching, life-time sports: fishing, hiking, camping, biking, etc.; and community-service experiences such as constructing nature trails, cleaning parks, and caring for SPCA animals. Much of the recreation educators work would take place after school and provide adult companionship (which recent studies show children strongly need) for the many children not involved with traditional activities such as competitive athletics.

Recreation educators would also consult with other teachers to identify students with special needs and ways of dove-tailing academic subjects with

outdoor experience. Society and schools would benefit, for example, if these educators facilitated an experience for older youngsters (16-18) that is sorely lacking in our "civilized" society - the power or vision quest. Huge numbers of teenage youth have no vision or dream for their lives. They drift aimlessly from one poorly conceived notion to another and are susceptible to the consumer-oriented pitches of the media and more dangerous lures of "the street." For many, without a strong family, gang membership beckons and promises to fill their emptiness. Gary Nabhan tells us the "disaffection found in much of today's street graffiti, videos, and rap music indicate that schools are now offering youth even less experience which they consider to be of lasting value." (Nabhan and Trimble, 1994, p.41)

Character education expert, Dr. Thomas Lickona (*Educating for Character: How Our Schools Can Teach Respect and Responsibility*, 1994) tells us that these very important R's must be taught. We can not assume traits such as respect and responsibility will be picked up serendipitously as children mature (Lickona, 1995, p.9). Human history defies such assumption. Families and their schools support employment of coaches for a myriad of activities they and their children deem important. Why not, in this day of family breakdown, character coaches (recreation educators) who would help youngsters develop respect for themselves, others, and the planet that sustains life?

We each begin this earthly journey through natural life-giving processes that pre-date the emergence of our species itself. Humans were not consulted as to the design of this place called Earth or of the life that exists on it. It spawned us, whether one believes in a creator God or evolution, and has survived much longer than our meager historical footnote. It is, therefore, arrogant and perhaps suicidal to think we can cut our roots to the natural world. Like the biblical prophets, Thoreau was not appreciated in his lifetime. His words, however, continue to provide direction for the living. He, personally, may not have fully understood all aspects of his words about "wildness" and "preservation of the world." They are, however, a lasting gift to human-kind; a prescription for the survival of our species and the planet. We best heed them well. Being forgetful creatures, it is to our good fortune that every so often a talented writer comes forth (Thoreau-Muir-Leopold-Carson-Louv) to remind us.

It is said that on his deathbed Thoreau was asked if he had "made his peace with God?" He responded, "I never knew we quarreled." Likewise, those who dedicate their lives to outdoor, environmental and recreation education because of the benefits it provides children and society will "have no quarrel" for we will have followed in Thoreau's footsteps and also have left a legacy of great value.

"In wildness lies the preservation of the world."

-Henry Davis Thoreau

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