

News Summary Report April 2007 – September 2008

WHO'S TAKING ACTION?

- **The Sierra Club's donation** of more than \$1 million to the National Military Family Association's Operation Purple Summer Camps enables an additional 1,000 children of deployed military members to attend Operation Purple Summer Camps for free. The April 2007 announcement was linked to Sierra's Building Bridges to the Outdoors (BBTO) program. The program has the ambitious goal of giving every child in America the opportunity for an outdoor experience.

<http://www.sierraclub.org/youth/>

http://www.sierraclub.org/youth/events/operation_purple.asp

- **On May 22, 2007, in Washington, D.C.**, Richard Louv and Forest Service Deputy Chief Ann Bartuska announced recipients in 15 states that will benefit from the More Kids in the Woods challenge cost-share funds. The event was co-hosted by the American Recreation Coalition, National Forest Foundation and Reserve America. By awarding more than \$500,000 for 24 projects around the country, the Forest Service took steps, along with its partners, to help remedy the disconnect between nature and children for an estimated 23,000 children. Partners will provide matching or exceeding funds, resulting in \$1.5 million for the effort.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/>

- **In New Mexico, Gov. Bill Richardson** signed the New Mexico Outdoor Classrooms initiative, SB 2, a collaboration between the Public Education Department and New Mexico State Parks. This first-of-a-kind program provides strategies to get schools to parks and parks to schools.

http://www.cnaturenet.org/01_news_center/articles/LNCI_ACTS.html

- **Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire** signed HB 1677 to create an outdoor education and recreation grant program for underserved children. The legislation puts in place sustainable funding for outdoor education and recreation programs that will engage underserved children. The bill passed the House on a 97-0 unanimous vote. Budget Vice-

Chair Hans Dunshee, when announcing the legislation, dubbed it the Leave No Child Inside Act.

http://www.cnaturenet.org/01_news_center/articles/LNCI_ACTS.html

- **In Connecticut, state officials** launched a No Child Left Inside program in 2006 that, among other things, allows foster families to use state parks free and encourages families to visit parks through a contest called the Great Park Pursuit. In 2007, hundreds of Connecticut families accepted the second-annual pursuit challenge and enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities.

<http://www.nochildleftinside.org/>

- **California legislators are considering** the Sierra Club-sponsored bill, SB 207, put forward by Sen. Alex Padilla, which will ensure permanent funding for outdoor education and recreation programs for at-risk youth. Legislation is co-sponsored by the American Diabetes Association and the California Sheriff's Association.

[http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-](http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_207&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen)

[bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_207&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen](http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_207&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen)

- **In July 2007, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed** a proclamation supporting the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, conceived by the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism (CRRPT), an *ad hoc* group of public and private organizations from federal, state and local levels. The bill includes 10 easy and fun things that every young child should have the opportunity to experience outside.

<http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/proclamation/6883/>

- **U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes, D-Maryland, in 2007 introduced** a “No Child Left Inside” bill in Congress to ensure environmental education funding in the No Child Left Behind program, and to require states to develop benchmarks for environmental literacy. Sarbanes, a father of three who is concerned about nature-deficit disorder, believes spending time outside is critical to the intellectual, emotional and physical health of children.

http://www.hometownannapolis.com/cgi-bin/read/2007/07_17-29/TOP

- **The National Wildlife Federation launched** several major programs to get kids directly involved in the outdoors, including its *Backyard Wildlife Habitat*TM program, the Great American Backyard Campout, and The Green Hour Forum, a new national campaign to persuade parents to encourage their children to spend an hour a day in nature, whether that nature is found in a forest or a backyard.

<http://www.greenhour.org/>

- **The Bureau of Land Management** instituted a "Take It Outside" initiative, offering information on 200 sites identified by BLM as suitable for family recreational activities, such as hiking, paddling, historical and archaeological interpretive programs, adventure sports, as well as geologic sightseeing and wildlife-watching. The BLM will be encouraging state and field offices to work closely with schools, youth groups, and parents to take advantage of outdoor opportunities in their communities.
http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/children_and_nature.html

- **In South Carolina, environmental educator Ed Falco** coordinates an environmental education pilot program for the state Department of Education. Seven of the nine schools involved in the program last year showed increases in standardized test scores in three of four content areas, reports Andy Brack in the South Carolina Statehouse Report.
<http://statehousereport.com/columns/07.0408.nature.htm>
http://www.scwf.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29

- **In June 2007, Gov. Jim Douglas** launched the No Child Left Inside challenge – a program to encourage young Vermonters to get outside. The program was part of the governor's Fit and Healthy Kids Initiative, and a collaborative effort among various state agencies and Vermont's outdoor recreation and health organizations. The program ran through July.
<http://www.vermont.gov/tools/whatsnew2/index.php?topic=GovPressReleases&id=2492&v=Article>

- **In June 2007, more than 30** of the nation's most influential public and private leaders—including governors, mayors, CEOs, educators, and clergy—participated in The Conservation Fund's National Forum on Children and Nature, an ambitious effort to bring greater attention to the issue of reconnecting kids with nature. The Forum's members will select 20 nationally significant demonstration projects to fund. The goal: \$20 million.
http://www.conservationfund.org/children_nature

- **Camp Fire USA, Central Ohio Council**, responded to nature-deficit disorder with "Vision 20/10: Reuniting Children and Nature—Bringing 10,000 kids into the woods by 2010." That number is indeed their stated goal.
<http://www.ohiocampfire.org/reuniting.asp>

- **Several San Antonio schools** now include visits to parks and overnight camping trips in their curricula. A number of area elementary schools have also established wildlife habitats on their grounds in an attempt to help students connect with nature.
http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/metro/stories/MYSA021007.01B.outdoor_learning.1b4d024.html

- **The Schlitz Audubon Nature Center Preschool in Milwaukee**, with a program for children ages 3 through 5, was founded just a couple of years ago, but already has a long waiting list. As more and more nature centers begin to offer preschool programs, they may adopt outdoor programs similar to those offered here.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/?id=414299>

- **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Green City Youth program**, funded by the National Recreation Foundation in 2005 and 2006, and created in partnership with Delaware Valley Earth Force, worked with five Philadelphia schools to bring teachers, students, and community greening activists together and to engage them in horticultural activities. During the program's first year, about 150 students took part in Green City Youth.

<http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/phlgreen/youthinthegarden.pdf>

- **The Missouri Botanical Garden** is the first botanical garden and second institution in the country to establish a certified Nature Explore Classroom, which opened May 5, 2007. The National Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation were responding directly to nature-deficit disorder. Children ages 3 through 8 can enjoy innovative play areas separated by "walls" of native plants.

<http://www.mobot.org/finn/images/07025NatureExploreClassroomGGA.pdf>

- **Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., was the site of BioBlitz 2007**, a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, volunteers, and community members identified as many local species as possible. The event, May 18-19, was the first of 10 BioBlitzes to be held in different urban parks through 2016. Teams identified at least 666 unique species, according to National Geographic, which conducted the event in partnership with the U.S. National Park Service. Just as important, the occasion brought many schoolchildren into contact with researchers and gave them a close-up view of the wildlife in the middle of the Washington area. More than 800 people attended.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/18/AR2007051801919.html)

[dyn/content/article/2007/05/18/AR2007051801919.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/18/AR2007051801919.html)

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/conservation/bioblitz/>

- **Also in May 2007, the nonprofit Children's Nature Institute** hosted Urban Nature Week in Los Angeles. Events included nature hunts at schools across the city, and a nature walkathon in Franklin Canyon Park—all designed to introduce children (and adults) to nature in the greater Los Angeles area. The group continues to offer family nature walks and other resources.

<http://www.childrensnatureinstitute.org/index.html>

- **Chicago Wilderness launched** a Leave No Child Inside program in June 2007. This is a multi-year initiative to encourage Chicago-area residents to enjoy the region's 300,000 acres of protected forests, prairies, savannas, wetlands, lakes, and other open spaces. Next year, Chicago Wilderness organizations pledge to offer innovative programs to get kids into nature, as well as workshops for educators and efforts to increase funding for outdoor activities.

<http://chicagowildernessmag.org/issues/summer2007/people.html>

<http://kidsoutside.info/>

- **Nancy Herron and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department** are developing a statewide approach, beginning with a few tangible projects—such as influencing standards for playgrounds, parks and play areas for children that include nature, and having cities make sure there is an outdoor classroom on every elementary school campus. Policy work will focus on cooperation with the Texas Medical Association's healthy child initiative, with a goal of reaching physicians and health-care professionals with a clear message about the importance of nature play for healthy youth.

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>

- **The Lake County Parks and Recreation Dept.** and Chicago Wilderness have joined forces to launch the regional Leave No Child Inside initiative, reports The Times [of Munster, Indiana; Jan. 9, 2008]. It will include workshops for educators, opportunities for partnerships among local organizations, and efforts at the state and national levels to support outdoors programming for children.

- **The Bangor Daily News' Kevin Miller reports** (Aug. 1, 2007): "State officials unveiled a new initiative Tuesday aimed at encouraging young people to spend less time on the couch and more time outdoors. Known as 'Take It Outside,' the program is aimed at helping children reconnect with the natural world. On Tuesday, Gov. John Baldacci was joined by two Olympic gold medal winners — 1984 medalist Joan Benoit-Samuelson and 2006 medalist Seth Wescott — in announcing the program during an event in Cape Elizabeth."

- **Robert Sewell in Sacramento** joined with friends and neighbors to apply for a California grant (from cigarette taxes), called First 5, to help them conduct nature walks along the nearby American River. As reported by the Sacramento Bee (Jan. 2, 2008) they were inspired to help others appreciate the nature around them after reading "Last Child in the Woods."

- **A new program in San Francisco** introduces the city's low-income youth to camping by making use of a natural area close to the urban core. Eligible groups sleep overnight in a grove of trees. (Featured on KQED Radio, Nov. 20, 2007.)

- **Sixth-grade teacher** Charles Watkins, of Mount Markham Middle School in West Winfield, N.Y., encourages students through nature walks. (Utica Observer-Dispatch – Dec. 30, 2007). He also takes the students camping twice a year and persuades them to listen quietly to nature. His strategy has resulted in students' improved grades and higher self-esteem.

- **In September 2007, Julie Stoneman**, executive director of the Grand Rapids-based Land Conservancy of West Michigan, said the ideas expressed by Children & Nature Network's Cheryl Charles fit the conservancy's mission to preserve natural areas for public use. C&NN has partnered with the Outdoor Discovery Center of Wildlife Unlimited in Fillmore Township, Mich., to establish a local branch.

- **Liz Baird, director of school programs** for the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, reports (News & Observer, Sept. 23, 2007) their inaugural Take a Child Outside Week, from Sept. 24-30, 2007, attracted more than 70 partners across North America. Free play encourages children to develop a connection to the natural world and the motivation to protect it in later life, Baird said.

- **The Orlando Sentinel reported** (Oct. 4, 2007) on Florida's Trek Ten Trails program. Amy Edwards wrote: "Developed by the Friends of the Parks foundation ... the Fort Fraser Trail will be featured in the first of 10 organized treks through next September in the innovative program that also features geocaching.... Organizers hope the Trek Ten Trails program will help address nature-deficit disorder and get people off their couches."

- **In Kentucky, Brian and Melinda Lowry** offered local children weekly visits to their 45-acre Meadow Glen Farm near Scottsburg. As reported by The Courier-Journal in Louisville Kentucky (July 27, 2007), the Lowrys are teachers who enjoy sharing their gardens and pond and woods where Melinda grew up. Reporter Dale Moss wrote: "They can help children overcome what has been called nature-deficit disorder."

- **Akron, Ohio's most famous historic home**, Stan Hywet, offer a program to engage children in the nature to be found on the estate's extensive grounds. The Akron Beacon Journal (Dec. 28, 2007) reports a "Great Garden Adventure" exhibition will be roughly based on the book "Last Child in the Woods."

- **In Washington state, North Cascades Institutes'** NC Wild outdoor education program for disadvantaged youths gets kids outdoors for six days of hiking, canoeing and maintaining trails. As reported in the Skagit Valley Herald (Aug. 7, 2007): "In an era when children are more likely to play video games than play outside, NC Wild attempts to offer disadvantaged youths a chance to connect with the environment. Some participants said they lived in cities their entire lives and had never seen the stars nor eaten food cooked over an open flame."

- **Developers of Playa Viva** call their project on the Pacific coast of Mexico, south of Zihuatanejo/Ixtapa International Airport, a "sustainable resort and residence community." Their online description states: "Playa Viva comes at a time when some families are experiencing a 'nature deficit disorder.' ... Playa Viva is designed as place for families to reconnect to the land and to each other. From releasing turtles to planting trees to playing in the waves, Playa Viva will transform kids and parents alike."
www.playaviva.com

- **April was designated the first annual Children & Nature Awareness Month by the Children & Nature Network.** People and organizations working to reconnect children with nature were offered more tools in 2008, resulting in greater access to news, research and a peer-to-peer network. (www.childrenandnature.org)

- **Connecticut's Great Park Pursuit** returned for a third season, beginning May 10, 2008, as a central element of the state's No Child Left Inside initiative. New this year: an Across the Generations program.

- **The Minnesota Arboretum Children and Nature Conference**, aimed at more than 200 professionals from around the state, offered participants many ways to help children get more daily exposure to nature. The April 2008 event was held at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen. The Arboretum's public policy program director, Mary Vidas, said Richard Louv's book, "Last Child in the Woods," spurred attention to the issue.

- **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched** an initiative to encourage urban dwellers and atypical conservation audiences to get out and enjoy the many natural resources in the 97 million acre National Wildlife Refuge System, or other natural areas. The "Connecting People with Nature" initiative stems from a summit conference with author Richard Louv.

- **The Alliance for Childhood**, a Maryland-based advocacy group, promotes a number of pro-child issues though its presence in several states, including Dr. Elizabeth

Goodenough's efforts through the PBS documentary "Where Do the Children Play," produced by Michigan Television. The film examines trends that threaten unstructured play, especially playtime in nature. (allianceforchildhood.net)

- **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission** encouraged public and private groups, as well as schools and individuals, to apply for grants from a pool of \$1.5 million available through the state's fledgling No Child Left Inside program (January 2008). With only five weeks' notice, the agency received nearly 240 applications, requesting a total of \$8.7-million, according to the online Chronicle of Philanthropy. The money has been set aside to support outdoor education and recreation programs to help reverse the nature-deficit trend children.

- **After Arnold Schwarzenegger signed** the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights in 2007, outdoors and children's advocates were eager to sign on. They have since developed ways to spread the word and to enact policy. In San Luis Obispo County, for example, the director of the parks and recreation department became a strong supporter. Schwarzenegger had worked with the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism, a volunteer group comprising public and private organizations at the federal, state and local levels. As of April 2008, however, these same groups are battling proposed park-funds cuts.

- **National Wildlife Week**, a longstanding National Wildlife Federation program, marked its 70th year April 19-27, 2008, with this message on the group's Web site: "This year, National Wildlife Federation, in collaboration with its partners, supports empowering young people to respond to local needs through service projects and programs that encourage civic engagement. In fact, America's youth are quickly defining themselves as one of the most civic minded generations in nearly a century." A Conservation Action Guide was available on the site.

- **President Bush proclaims National Park Week April 19-27, 2008.** The theme for 2008 is "Kids in Parks," to highlight "youth programs and initiatives offered by the National Park Service to encourage children to be good stewards of the land," according to his proclamation. He encouraged America's youth to explore the National Park Service Junior Ranger program.

- **In Iowa, officials with the Polk County Health Department** and county Conservation Board called on Iowa parents to help prevent nature-deficit disorder (April 2008). The Conservation Board offered a list of nature-friendly programs on their Web site, including classes on local wildlife.

- **A conference at North Carolina Zoo in March 2008** promoted outdoor activities and nature play for children. Teachers, health professionals, government representatives and others gathered in Asheboro to discuss ways to engage communities to draw more children to the outdoors. Elizabeth Goodenough told the group, “We need massive involvement of communities to revitalized neighborhoods around children’s access to nature and play.”

- **South Dakota launched its No Child Left Inside program** in spring 2008 in response to the trend that has “so many kids spending hours each day in front of the TV or computer,” according to Chad Tussing, Education Services Coordinator for South Dakota’s Game and Fish department and its children and nature initiative. The program has three components: a resource Web site, loaner backpacks and a grant program. The backpacks are to include field guides, butterfly nets, magnifying glasses and the like.

- **In Hertfordshire county in England, Children’s Nature Week** was celebrated for the fourth year, in February, with nature-themed events to encourage children to connect with nature. Events are booked in advance and spaces limited, indicating the degree of success. Nature Week is organized by Three Rivers District Council, in partnership with Hertfordshire Libraries, a museum of local history, and others.

- **New Hampshire Project Learning Tree** and Bicentennial Elementary School established a partnership program called Connecting Schools to People and Places. Students at Bicentennial have been charged with coming up with a blueprint for an outdoor classroom. Together, they will incorporate into the curriculum the use of the outdoor classroom and the study of the environment surrounding the school.

- **In Northern California**, Marin County Department of Parks and Open Space, Health and Human Services, and the Environmental Education Council of Marin (EECOM) drafted the April 2008 Children and Nature Awareness proclamation. Signed April 1 by the Marin County Board of Supervisors, the proclamation declares the county's commitment to “the ongoing promotion of programs, policies, and practices that will reconnect children and nature in enduring, meaningful ways.”

- **Also in Northern California**, April 2008 was Children and Nature Awareness Month in Mendocino County. Many events keyed with Earth Day celebrated child-friendly activities in nature, from birding to horseback riding on the beach.

- **In South Carolina**, the National Wild Turkey Federation paid particular attention to its longstanding role connecting children with nature as it planned events to honor Children

& Nature Awareness Month in April 2008. NWTF programs encourage conservation ethics in youth through outdoor pursuits, including hunting and fishing.

- **North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley proclaimed** April 13-19, 2008 to be Environmental Education Week. “We would like to see adults and children in North Carolina spending more time outdoors,” said the governor.

- **Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm** proclaimed April 22-27, 2008 as No Child Left Inside Days, noting that “a national movement has been initiated to connect children with nature, and it is in our state’s interest to join this initiative.” The Department of Natural Resources posted online resources including tips for getting started and a pledge for parents and children.

- **New Jersey Audubon Society** conducted a statewide outreach program in April 2008, inviting families to use their centers as bases for nature exploration. Citing their ongoing programs to introduce children to nature, they praise “Last Child in the Woods” for galvanizing organizations across the country.

- **In Cedar Creek, Texas**, the Acorn Eaters Nature Club for Kids offered outdoor adventure for kids who know more about computers than hawks. Classes went through May 2008.

- **The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority** at Fairfax Station, Virginia scheduled an afternoon of events for children at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on April 20, 2008. “Get outside and off the couch!” organizers urged.

- **A subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee** held a field hearing April 22, 2008 at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, MD. The hearing, with Rep. John Sarbanes and testimony from Gov. Martin O’Malley, brought more national attention to the No Child Left Inside Act (NCLI), and to improving environmental education in the nation’s schools. The NCLI Act would authorize \$500 million over five years in federal funding for states to train teachers in environmental education, support outdoor environmental education programs for children, and develop model environmental education curricula.

- **Virginia held the first statewide gathering** of National Park and State Park leaders on April 16, 2008 to collaborate and develop ways to most effectively reconnect children and families to nature, and to explore the most effective ways to overcome obstacles to park visits. Attendees shared information on marketing, collaborative training and fund-

raising initiatives, among other topics. This “Children in Nature – Virginia Project” event was a result of a September 2007 conference on the children and nature movement.

- **Girl Scouts of Maine began offering** a “No Child Left Inside” patch in early 2008, a distinction girls can earn through activities outlined in an outdoors-oriented program.

- **The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** is ramping up efforts to reverse the statistical trend by encouraging younger residents to enjoy the outdoors. There are new mentoring programs. More family-based activities are on the way. And parks officials are considering offering camping gear for rent. This summer (2008), state parks staffers plan to partner with co-op retailer REI to give camping and outdoor cooking demonstrations at three parks.

- **A former elementary schoolteacher in Iowa** and his wife formed a nonprofit organization to help strengthen children’s (and adults’) bond with nature. Taproot Nature Experience offers an afternoon enrichment program a few afternoons a week. According to a report in the Daily Iowan (April 22, 2008), founder Zac Wedemeyer “dreams of holding sustainability conferences and environmental seminars along with the existing children’s programs and family camping workshops that teach metropolitan-minded parents the ways of the wild...”

- **Utah State Parks is offering** a Reaching Out Connecting Kids In Nature (ROCKIN) initiative designed to help families explore Utah’s outdoors. Staff from various parks came up with activities, and Utah State Parks director Mary Tullius formed a group in park headquarters to consolidate the program. According to the Salt Lake Tribune (April 17, 2008), Tullius believes Richard Louv’s work “helped the agency with the ongoing challenge of getting more families outdoors.”

- **The National Recreation and Park Association** summit in Portland, Oregon in May 2008 inspired leaders to reach outside their typical spheres of influence. Their event roster includes: “the provision of services and experiences that connect children and youth with nature and inspire them to embrace conservation as a core principle.” Featured speakers include C&NN chairman Richard Louv, Larry Selzer (The Conservation Fund), and Gina McCarthy, commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Environmental Protection.

- **No Child Left Inside Act:** In mid-June 2008, members of the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee approved the No Child Left Inside Act, in effect pushing the legislation forward another step by recommending it be considered by the House as a whole. Sponsored by U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes and others, the legislation would send

money to states to expand environmental and outdoor education programs. The states also would receive money to develop plans to make sure graduates are environmentally literate.

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-3036>

- **The Children & Nature Network initiated** a Nature Clubs for Families program through the Web site (<http://www.childrenandnature.org/natureclubs>). The program offers inspiration -- and resources -- for people who want to start their own family nature club. Get inspired, get organized and get out in nature. This new initiative is sponsored by the outdoor retailer, REI.

- **More than 2,500 members of The Outdoor Industry** took a pledge during Outdoor Retailer Summer Market (August 2008) to take at least two children outside during the next year to experience outdoor recreation activity. The pledge was an opportunity for individuals and businesses to connect youth with the outdoors and to help reverse downward participation trends in outdoor recreation. The pledge is part of the I WILL campaign. The Outdoor Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, is now reaching out to involve the general public. All Americans are invited to sign the pledge and become part of this effort.

<http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/iwill>

- **Take a Child Outside Week (Sept. 24-30, 2008) is catching on.** It is an international program initiated by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and held in cooperation with partner organizations across the U.S. and Canada. "By arming parents, teachers and other caregivers with resources on outdoor activities, our goal is to help children across the country develop a better understanding and appreciation of the environment in which they live, and a burgeoning enthusiasm for its exploration."

<http://www.takeachildoutside.org/>

- **Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) invited children, adults and families** to get active in the outdoors from May 12 through Labor Day with a national Kids' Passport to Adventure program. Families stop by any local REI store to register for the program and pick up a complimentary adventure journal (or download one) to help guide them in outdoor experiences. REI.com also lists kid-friendly hikes and bike rides in local areas. Seasonal information online includes trail descriptions, distances, driving directions and tips.

<http://www.rei.com/>

- **Coyote Club Wilderness Education of Dover, New Hampshire,** is a wildlife education organization that was developed (in 2007) in direct response to nature-deficit disorder. They introduce children to their environment through a nature-based program.

<http://www.nhecology.com/index.html>

- **The first generation of children to follow "ground-breaking"** play-based learning in Wales is starting school, BBC News reports. Trials at 80 schools last year brought good results. The so-called foundation phase includes class outdoors and experience of the environment. It starts with three and four year olds and extends up to the age of seven.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7592406.stm>

- **Chip Donahue and his family helped to launch** a free outdoor adventure network for families in the Roanoke, Va., area called Kids in the Valley, Adventuring! (KIVA). These are monthly events that showcase outdoor opportunities in their area and they have had great success with their outings as well as positive attention from media, including a visit from the Today Show. Chip and his family are among the inspiration for C&NN's Nature Clubs for Family initiative.
<http://kidsadventuring.org/blog/>

- **Nature Strollers** became a place for families in the Orange County New York area -- with a common interest in nature -- to meet and become friends, and for parents and children to discover the natural world together. They also were featured on the July 16, 2008 Today show.
<http://www.naturestrollers.org/>

- **The National Wildlife Federation presented a petition** for online signatures to be directed to Acting U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Steven Galson that stated, in part: "We the undersigned urge you to issue a Surgeon General "Call to Action" to promote the health benefits of daily, unstructured outdoor play for children and families."
<https://online.nwf.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=605>

- **The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service continues** to promote outdoor activities for children with its Let's Go Outside! Programs, such as teaching schoolchildren about monarch butterflies and their unique migration pattern.
<http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/#>

- **The National Wildlife Federation continues** to fight environmental illiteracy with its Reversing Nature Deficit initiatives, including lending its support to still-pending No Child Left Inside legislation, and embarking on an event they call Make Tracks!, scheduled for Oct. 11-13, 2008. The object is to get families outdoors and on a trail.
http://online.nwf.org/site/PageNavigator/Environmental_EducationPage2
<http://gogitto.blogspot.com/2008/09/national-wildlife-federations-make.html>

- **A world-class environmental-education center for Seattle's youth** opened in Seward Park in late April 2008, thanks to two years of effort by Washington Audubon and Seattle Parks and Recreation.

http://www.pacificpublishingcompany.com/site/tab3.cfm?newsid=19700193&BRD=855&PAG=461&dept_id=515262&rfi=6

- **The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)** and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) continued their partnership in May 2008 by delivering the Take Me Fishing program to local communities. Take Me Fishing is a national initiative to grow participation for recreational boating and fishing for youth ages 6-15.

<http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=7337>

- **Children's Nature Zoo:** zoo leaders and the North Carolina Zoological Society in Asheboro joined educators, executives and environmentalists to find ways to get kids and their families outside at the North Carolina Zoo. Their achievable goal is to raise \$2.8 million for a 4-acre outdoor classroom. Also, in Greensboro, the Natural Science Center's zoo is building a Naturally Fit Adventure Forest, to get kids outside and active.

<http://search.news-record.com/sp?keywords=zoo>

- **National Wildlife Federation's new 35-page report**, "Connecting Today's Kids with Nature: A Policy Action Plan (May 30, 2008), offers numerous specific recommendations and provides a useful list of successes in the children and nature movement.

http://online.nwf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=environmental_education&JServSessionIdr012=eefjvb8oq5.app44b

- **The Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature** initiative (August 2008) complements the U.S. No Child Left Inside initiative (which is pending congressional approval at this date) in that it will: Create trails between schools and communities to encourage walking and biking; increase support for schoolyard habitat programs; provide at-risk youth with opportunities to serve in conservation crews in state parks and public lands, and develop a state environmental literacy plan that will identify model outdoor learning experiences that can be integrated into regular school curricula.

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/news_nochildleft08.aspx?menuitem=30285

- **The No Child Left Inside Coalition**, whose focus is passage of the federal No Child Left Inside Act, now has more than 640 member groups, according to Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

http://www.cbf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=act_sub_actioncenter_federal_nclb

- **The Canadian Wildlife Federation is launching a Get Out campaign** in September 2008. Webisodes will focus on an indigenous creatures (children) in nature, in an effort to combat nature-deficit disorder.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/story/4210837p-4803623c.html>

<http://www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=421>

<http://www.canada.com/topics/news/story.html?id=288596f7-cff7-4e5e-a292-d59c260440d9>

- **The Pennsylvania task force** created last year proposed more than 40 action items, the most notable of which is the establishment of a Governor's Commission on People and Outdoor Connections.

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/>

<http://www.connectoutdoors.state.pa.us/Documents/GovOutdoorTaskForceSummary.pdf>.

- **The Ohio Department of Natural Resources** recently distributed nearly 800,000 outdoor activity guides to public school students to encourage activities such as hiking and fishing.

<http://www.herald-dispatch.com/entertainment/outdoors/x1657961918>

- **The Military Family Outdoor (MFO) Initiative**, a joint project of the Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation, announced (May 7, 2008) a three-year grant of up to \$23,324,000 to support three organizations that provide returning veterans and their families with healing, life-affirming experiences in the natural world.

<http://www.sierraclub.org/youth/blog/>

- **The National Wildlife Federation's fourth annual Great American Backyard Campout** June 28, 2008, had 29,652 individuals and families sign up to participate this year.

<http://www.nwf.org/backyardcampout/>

- **Bay Area Wilderness Training** and City CarShare are making it easier and more affordable for youth educators to take groups of kids on outdoor excursions (June 2008). BAWT recently purchased two all-wheel-drive minivans, each capable of carrying up to seven people, for the City CarShare fleet.

<http://www.bawt.org/>

- **Playday in England**, this year supported by Persil, is an annual celebration of children's right to play. It took place on August 6, 2008. "This year's theme – Give us a

go! calls for a rethink of our risk-averse culture of banning conkers in the playground and outlawing tree climbing,” wrote Play England.

http://www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_7663lg_88857648193x4s_200883188v

- **In New Jersey**, Baby and Me hikes are an example of the many affordable educational programs hosted by the Morris County Parks Commission. "We want to get everyone outdoors enjoying nature, but especially children," said Jenny Gaus, superintendent of environmental education for the park commission. "There is a big push, being called the 'No Child Left Inside Movement,' that taps into the fact that nature is a powerful teaching tool, and it's also good for your mental well being, and if they are engaged in the natural world now, they are more likely to take responsibility for it and help reverse the damage we've done to it as a species when they are adults."

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/> (Sept. 1, 2008)

- **The Tyler Arboretum in Media, Pa.** exhibit of 17 houses was created by Delaware Valley architects, landscape architects, buildings, students and artists as part of Totally Terrific Treehouses (through Sept. 28, 2008). "Today, fewer kids have a connection to nature — they're not getting outside for unstructured play, and they're not experiencing nature on the soccer field — and tree houses are a way to get them excited," according to Betsey Ney, Tyler's Director of Public Programs.

http://www.packetonline.com/articles/2008/06/06/time_off/entertainment_news/doc4846c3810671d736008019.txt

- **The National Park Service and National Geographic Society** hosted the Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz the last weekend in May 2008. BioBlitz was designed to draw together scientists, naturalists, community leaders, and more than 1,400 Los Angeles schoolchildren in a 24-hour race to discover and record as many plant and animal species as possible. The Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz is the second of 10 annual BioBlitzes that will be held at urban national park units around the country, leading up to the Park Service's centennial in 2016. The first was held at Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., last year. According to one of this year's BioBlitz team members: "Teams turned up 1,364 unique plant and animal species (in 24 hours) -- more than twice the hoard volunteers ID'd in the same time at Rock Creek Park last year."

<http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/bioblitz/santa-monica-mountains-bioblitz/>

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/National-Geographic-Society-National-Park-Service-858286.html>

- **Mark Sommer reports in the Buffalo News (June 27, 2008):** "Less time is being allotted for play even as research continues to re-enforce its importance," said Wendy Paterson, chairwoman of the Buffalo State College elementary education and reading department. "Many of the structures and mandates that govern what goes on in schools

are not written by those who know children in school best, and generally those are good teachers," Paterson said.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/>

• **Idaho Statesman writer Erin Ryan wrote (May 26, 2008):** "Julia Rundberg has seen the benefits of allowing and encouraging young people to explore the natural world. She is executive director of Idaho Botanical Garden, and she and her staff agreed that the garden's existing children's area needed to grow. "It wasn't a place where kids could go and play and explore on their own. The new garden is an attempt to give them the opportunity," Rundberg said. She mentioned Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-deficit Disorder." In exploring the mental, physical and societal impacts of our increasingly wired culture, Louv suggests children need wild, untamed places.

www.idahostatesman.com/

• **William Penn Elementary School in Forward, Pa.,** opened a nature habitat garden three years ago for hands-on science training and to help connect pupils to the outdoors. Marcia Menzies, a fourth-grade teacher: "I can teach them more in 40 minutes here than in a regular class for a week," she said in the nature preserve. "They will remember the name of the plant when they hold it in their hand and feel the texture. You can't do that with a picture."

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/southwest/s_586219.html

• **Prairie Village, Kan.,** chose Indigo Design to help determine the future of parks and recreation programs in that city, according to KC Community News (Sept. 2, 2008). "They have a theme that ties everything they do together, based on the book "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder" by Richard Louv," said Chris Engel, assistant to the city administrator. The firm will assist Prairie Village in developing a parks master plan. Prairie Village maintains 14 parks, and several recreation programs.

http://www.kccommunitynews.com/articles/2008/09/03/overland_park_sun/news/doc48bd552fc7e8d461634065.txt

• **The Iowa City Press-Citizen newspaper** reports there is a \$20 million bond measure coming on the November 2008 ballot. If approved, the money would be used to preserve remnant areas of land scattered throughout the county. "Nature-deficit disorder is pervasive among our young people," Johnson County Conservation Board Director Harry Graves said. "Our need to connect with nature is greater than ever before." Although it is possible to reconstruct a prairie in five years, "we can't recreate a native prairie," he said.

[http://www.press-](http://www.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/NEWS01/808280346/1079)

[citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/NEWS01/808280346/1079](http://www.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/NEWS01/808280346/1079)

WHO'S LISTENING?

- **In September 2006, the National Conservation Training Center and the Conservation Fund** hosted the National Dialogue on Children and Nature in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The conference drew some 350 people from around the country—educators, health-care experts, recreation companies, residential developers, urban planners, conservation agencies, academics, and other groups—and was a watershed event. It led directly to the launch of the National Forum on Children and Nature in June 2007.

http://www.doi.gov/news/06_News_Releases/060908.html

- **USA Today gave major exposure** to the children-and-nature movement in a front-page Thanksgiving Day article in 2006, which featured a photo of President Bush with children from the Wonderful Outdoor World program.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-11-21-no-child-left-inside_x.htm

- **In January 2007, The Quivira Coalition's** sixth-annual conference focused on the importance of keeping the next generation connected to the land. Events included a roundtable titled No Child Left Inside: A Roundtable on Farms & Ranches as Outdoor Schoolyards, the subject of the keynote speech by Richard Louv.

<http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:Cc9G3NzksvQJ:quiviracoalition.org/images/pdfs/1018->

[2007_Conference_Program.pdf+The+Quivira+Coalition+hosts+a+\"No+Child+Left+Inside\"+roundtable&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=2&gl=us](http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:Cc9G3NzksvQJ:quiviracoalition.org/images/pdfs/1018-2007_Conference_Program.pdf+The+Quivira+Coalition+hosts+a+\)

- **The Economist reported** on leaders in the Children and Nature movement in February 2007, citing the work of Martin LeBlanc of the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation programs.

http://www.economist.com/world/na/displaystory.cfm?story_id=8677221

- **In March 2007, at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum conference, Nature Nourished: Biophilic Design,** Stephen Kellert of Yale University gave the keynote address and Cheryl Charles, president of the Children & Nature Network, provided an update on the growing coast-to-coast campaign to reconnect children with nature.

http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:LC_Pa89-

[NkoJ:www.arboretum.umn.edu/education/adult/GTLRegistration.pdf+Yale+Biophilic+design+conference&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us](http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:LC_Pa89-NkoJ:www.arboretum.umn.edu/education/adult/GTLRegistration.pdf+Yale+Biophilic+design+conference&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us)

• **On July 24, 2007, the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN)** published an online article describing the nationwide leave-no-child-inside movement. Reporter Heather Sells wrote: “A new ad campaign by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services just may be the trick. Together with DreamWorks Animation, they're urging kids to ‘Get out and play an hour a day.’

“It's a start. In fact, there's a nationwide movement underway to ‘leave no child inside.’ From hearings on Capitol Hill to legislative programs like the Texas ‘Life is Better Outside’ program, some kids are getting back to nature.”

CBN ‘s on-air TV report took the same approach, and potentially reached millions of viewers.

<http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/200917.aspx>

• **On July 25, 2007, California’s Tri-Valley Herald** ran a piece by Suzanne Bohan; she wrote about day-camp activities, and included this update:

“...On July 6, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, and on Monday, the East Bay Regional Park District announced it will formally endorse the state's outdoor bill of rights on Aug. 21. On Tuesday, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors became the first county statewide to adopt the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

“The resolution addresses the growing detachment of youth from nature. It encourages parents, educators and others to provide kids with the opportunity to swim in a natural body of water, camp under the stars, and catch a fish, among other activities.

“This newest back-to-nature movement is based on more than simply the wish to provide youth with wholesome activities. It's gaining momentum, based on mounting evidence that a disconnection from nature carries with it profound psychological and health effects.”

http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_6458379

• **In June 2007, Field & Stream magazine** included a very positive one-page interview with Richard Louv on the children and nature movement, and the movement’s importance to the future of outdoor activities for sportsmen.

http://fieldandstream.blogs.com/news/2007/06/what_does_the_d.html

• **James McCommons, writing in Better Homes & Gardens magazine,** recently suggested a number of ways to get kids outdoors and reconnected to nature.

<http://www.bhg.com/bhg/story.jsp?storyid=/templatedata/bhg/story/data/1184006495062.xml>

• **In July 2007, Sunset magazine** staff writer Peter Fish wrote (“Old Faithful Versus the Xbox”): “In 2006, visitation at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in southeast New Mexico was down 45 percent from 20 years ago. Between 2002 and 2005, Olympic National Park

reported a 16 percent decline. If the trend continues, this year about 500,000 fewer visitors will experience the Northwest park's rain forests and beaches than five years ago. While the smaller and more remote parks have reported the greatest decline in visitors, even the so-called flagship parks have been affected: Yellowstone use fell about 8 percent between 1995 and 2005. ...The Park Service is starting to pay attention. In March, it held a workshop called 'Reaching Generation Y,' which focused on finding ways to interest Americans born between 1980 and 2000."

<http://www.sunset.com/sunset/travel/california/article/0,20633,1632717,00.html>

- **The Children & Nature Network (C&NN)** collected and published online two volumes of updated research in 2007 focusing on the children and nature connection: studies documenting the overall decline in children's opportunities to connect with nature, as well as premier studies highlighting the benefits of nature experience to children and youth. C&NN regularly distributes informative newsletters to subscribers (no cost, so do sign up), and is committed to convening regional leaders for idea-sharing sessions.

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/index.html>

- **In April 2007, a three-day "Kids Outside—Nurturing a Land Ethic"** conference in Madison, Wis., included a keynote by Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy. More than 130 U.S. Forest Service employees and partners attended the USDA Forest Service event.

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/ce/spring2007conference/pages/thursday.shtml>

- **The Campaign for Environmental Literacy** calls for putting environmental education back in the schools, and voices its support for the No Child Inside Act of 2007. That bill, introduced in July 2007 by U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes to amend the No Child Left Behind Act, includes this language: "Studies documenting the increasing indicators of nature-deficit disorder show that time spent out of the classroom for learning during the school day is critical to the intellectual, emotional, and physical health of children and that providing students with quality opportunities to directly experience the natural world can improve students' overall academic performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community involvement, personal health (including child obesity issues), and understanding of nature."

<http://www.fundee.org/campaigns/nclb/>

- **On Feb. 11, 2007, Richard Louv's op-ed in The New York Times** explored solutions for greater urban access to nature: a Children's Zoopolis with thousands of small natural play areas and a galaxy of urban emeralds on the ground and on the roofs.

<http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F30710FD355B0C728DDDAB0894DF404482>

- **The American Journal of Health Promotion** collects more than a dozen articles on active living and health in a special issue, including one by Dutch researchers that recommends remodeling neighborhoods to increase activity in young people.
http://www.healthpromotionjournal.com/publications/journal/si2007_03.htm

- **In May 2007, the Sierra Club**, in cooperation with the Children & Nature Network, hosted a Leave No Child Inside Forum in Los Angeles. Participants included Ruth Coleman, director of parks, and state Sen. Alex Padilla.
<http://www.sierraclub.org/youth/california/forum.asp>

- **In June 2007, actor and director Clint Eastwood** hosted a Children and Nature Workshop in Carmel, Calif., which brought together key leaders from the business and developer community, as well as government regulators. The event was organized by the California and Nevada Fish and Wildlife Service, and was inspired by Richard Louv's book, "Last Child in the Woods." Richard Louv co-hosted the event.
<http://www.fws.gov/arsnew/regmap.cfm?arskey=21822&callingKey=region&callingValue=8Feel>

- **Responding to invitations to speak before two subcommittees** of the House Committee on Natural Resources in May 2007, "No Child Left Inside" panelists, including board members of the Children & Nature Network, urged Congress to take action to reconnect children with the outdoors.
<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/news/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=90>

- **The Schlitz Audubon Nature Center Preschool** in Bayside, Wis., is one of a rapidly growing number of outdoor-education programs across the country. Some cater exclusively to children, while others, like Wilderness Awareness School in Duvall, Wash., help people of all ages connect with nature.
<http://www.enn.com/med.html?id=1439>
<http://www.schlitzauduboncenter.com/natpre.htm>

- **Leave No Child Inside of Greater Cincinnati** formed a collaborative of all the major nature organizations in greater Cincinnati, and are continuing to add to that group. Nature centers, museums, educators and municipal organizations—all are anxious to promote the children and nature reunion. Though it's still early to measure successes, the group reports the University of Cincinnati Child Care Center is creating a "child-friendly backyard" on their premises in collaboration with the Civic Garden Center (a partnering organization). They have made contact with members of many other sectors of the community: health, faith-based, child services, etc., and have generated enough interest

that they have decided to plan a community forum to be held later in 2007. They also published a 37-page action guide.

<http://www.lncigc.org/>

- **Gov. Edward Rendell of Pennsylvania** appointed a task force in 2007 to organize and coordinate a series of public meetings to explore ways to help people connect with nature. The announcement came at the close of the Governor's Outdoor Conference in March.

<http://www.connectoutdoors.state.pa.us>

http://www.forbes.com/prnewswire/feeds/prnewswire/2007/07/12/prnewswire200707120900PR_NEWS_B_NET_DC_DCTH006.html

- **Environmental educator Brooke Levey**, at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln (UNL), initiated a professional reading group to meet on a weekly basis to discuss “Last Child in the Woods.” The group subsequently formed the Healthy Families Play Outside (HFPO) Partnership, which joined forces to start a movement to get families outside to experience unstructured time in nature. They have inspired a Lincoln Children’s Zoo program, where two-year-olds and adults play together in the zoo, a new nature club for families with young children, and other successes.

<http://www.cnaturenet.org/movement/index.html>

- **Orion Magazine’s March/April issue** (2007) featured a major article and extensive online discussion around Richard Louv and the Children & Nature Movement. Orion’s blog inspired many must-read comments.

<http://talkatorion.blog.com/1553892/>

- **On June 19, 2007 The Washington Post’s** Donna St. George wrote a major story on the children and nature movement, which appeared on page A-1 of the news section.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/18/AR2007061801808_pf.html

- **The Boston Globe featured** a section-front article July 7, 2007, on the children and nature movement, focusing on Pine Island wilderness camp in New England, one of many seeing a surge in popularity. Traditional camps may be acquiring a new appeal as an antidote to nature-deficit disorder, the writer noted.

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/07/07/nature_makes_a_comeback/

- **Michael Shaughnessy interviewed Cheryl Charles**, Ph.D., president of the Children & Nature Network, for EducationNews.org, a widely read online source for education-related information.

<http://www.ednews.org/articles/8961/1/An-Interview-with-Cheryl-Charles-PhD-President-Children-and-Nature-Network-CNN-wwwnaturenetorg/Page1.html>

- **The Providence Journal published** an article (“Connecting Kids, Nature”) July 24, 2007, describing the nature-deficit problem. Children & Nature Network’s Managing Director Amy Pertschuk was quoted on stranger-danger issues. Staff writer Tom Mooney also included another quote, from Dennis Schain, with the Connecticut Department of Environment Protection: “If people don’t establish that connection with nature, who in the future will care and fight to preserve the environment?”

http://www.projo.com/news/content/Indoor_kids_07-24-07_SN6FN37.3398998.html

- **Wildlife artist Robert Bateman’s** "Get to Know" Contest encouraged young Canadians to spend more time outdoors.

<http://www.gettoknow.ca/>

- **The World Future Society** ranks nature-deficit disorder No. 5 in its 2007 list of top-10 forecasts, anticipating the health threat will continue to grow.

<http://www.wfs.org/forecasts.htm>

- **The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**, the Ad Council, and DreamWorks Animation SKG joined forces to launch "Be a Player: Get Up and Play an Hour a Day," a public-awareness campaign featuring Shrek and other animated characters.

<http://www.healthierus.gov/video.html>

- **April 24, 2006, the National Press Club in Washington D.C.**, hosted a gathering of 120 environmental and education representatives emceed by Cheryl Charles, president of the Children & Nature Network. The event was convened by the Paul F-Brandwein Institute following a Conservation Learning Summit held in November 2005 and keynoted by Richard Louv. The gathering officially launched the campaign to “Leave No Child Inside.”

<http://www.naaee.org/news-and-events/national-press-club-april-24-2006>

- **The American Academy of Pediatrics** published a report on the value of free play to promote healthy child development in the April 6, 2007 edition of their journal, Pediatrics. The article offered guidelines on how doctors can help parents, schools, and communities increase the amount of playtime for kids.

http://www.cnaturenet.org/01_news_center/pdfs/Ginsburg.pdf

- **In February 2007, the Kesho Trust**, in cooperation with Mountain Equipment Co-op, Royal Roads University, and the University of Victoria, sponsored a dialogue focused on finding ways to significantly expand the engagement of children with nature in British Columbia. Richard Louv's University of Victoria lecture on the necessity of a nature-child reunion is presented in its entirety on the Web. Recommendations from the workshop that followed the lecture are also posted online.

<http://www.ekostv.com/node/497>

<http://www.naturechildreunion.ca/february-2007-dialogue>

- **June 2007, The Guardian reported** 15 city nature festivals taking place up and down England. They were created in association with the BBC's Breathing Places campaign, linked to Natural England's "green prescription"—a step-by-step guide to reconnecting with the natural environment on a personal, local level.

<http://environment.guardian.co.uk/conservation/story/0,,2095545,00.html>

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

- **July 15, 2007, The London Times newspaper** ran a prominently displayed article by Richard Louv headlined "Nurture with Nature," underscoring the importance of the children-and-nature issue to our neighbors across the water.

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/families/article2075239.ece

- **In support of the work of the Children & Nature Network**, the American Camp Association has launched two Web resources to provide information to promote the value of connecting with nature and respecting the environment.

www.CampParents.org

- **Public Broadcasting Service** has a Web offering called PBS Parents: Connecting Kids to Nature, originally linked to Earth Day 2007.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/special/earthday.html>

PBS posted an online parents' Q&A forum with author Richard Louv. Among the subjects discussed: why it's healthy to encourage a small child to play in the dirt.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/experts/archive/louv-kidsandnature.html>

- **Among the "16 Ideas for the Planet" published recently in Newsweek** magazine was a call from Fran P. Mainella, former head of the National Park Service, to connect kids with nature: "The best way to protect our resources for the future is by helping children develop an appreciation for the outdoors."

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17996835/site/newsweek/>

- **For Earth Week 2007**, biologist and educator Meg Lowman presented an “intergenerational decree” that no child be left indoors. The story was published in Florida’s Herald Tribune.

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070325/COLUMNIST18/703250598>

- **A front-page article in the October 2007 issue of *The Nation’s Health***, the official newspaper of the American Public Health Association, said: “The retreat indoors for many American children has environmental advocates worried that children ... might become adults for whom conserving the environment isn't a priority. For public health workers, the effects of sedentary indoor lifestyles are already evident among children: startling rates of obesity, the onset of one-time adult conditions such as diabetes and a shortened life expectancy. Thankfully, though, the movement to reconnect kids with nature has seen rejuvenation in the last few years, and experts predict that good health will be a major motivator in bringing

- **The Morning News in Northwest Arkansas reported** (Aug. 1, 2007): “‘Arkansas can and should be a leader -- it's our motto, the Natural State -- to encourage our young people to be able to get out and enjoy the outdoors,’ said Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe, speaking at a teachers' workshop on environmental education.” The workshop attracted 300 educators from throughout the state. Keynote speaker was Richard Louv.

- **On March 11, 2007, reporter Bob Frye’s article** in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review about the importance of the children and nature connection cited the upcoming Governor’s Outdoor Conference (March 18 – 20, 2007), and offered extensive quotes from Richard Louv.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/sports/s_497187.html

- **On Sept. 2, 2007, Seattle Times columnist Danny Westneat** wrote about “the quiet uprising in America.” Namely, the standing up against over-scheduling children. “Next month our state Legislature will do its part against ‘nature-deficit disorder’ with, you guessed it, a study on the value of outdoor recreation.” Westneat and his family did their part on summer vacation – camping, rafting and just hanging out in the outdoors.

<http://www.seattletimes.com>

- **Aug. 30, 2007, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer** ran a guest column by Ben Wheeler and Wendy Church that urged inclusion of sustainability education in classrooms – and outside of them, making the case that programs that enable students to learn skills in nature also promote a global perspective in productive citizens.

<http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/>

- **The Columbia Missourian's article by Annee Tousseau** on Aug. 29, 2007 wrote about a proposal to add a full-time community naturalist who could create a new outdoor education program primarily aimed at children, using local park habitats to create experiences in nature.

<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/local/>

- **Education reporter Kim Wheeler, at WKYC com news (TV) in Cleveland**, put together a report in August 2007 on how camps and classes at local Shaker Lakes Nature Center are countering nature-deficit disorder.

- **On Aug. 19, 2007 the Orlando Sentinel** ran an article headlined: "On the inside looking out: Kids are staying indoors more and more, eschewing nature." Reporter Kumari Kelly described the newspaper's look at daily activity diaries of four Central Florida children to explain why nature-deficit disorder is a problem in Florida.

<http://orlandosentinel.com>

- **In New Hampshire, The Citizen** reporter Lori Ingham wrote about two major land parcels in August 2007 that were to be conserved, thanks to action by the Squam Lakes Conservation Society. The society is continuing to work on a plan to conserve 25 additional parcels, with the goal "to cure children of an ever-increasing affliction, known as 'Nature Deficit Disorder.'" Society member Paul Guyer is quoted saying, "We want future generations to learn about and see wildlife for themselves."

<http://www.citizen.com>

- **Also in New Hampshire, The Union Leader newspaper** ran a story (Nov. 9, 2007) describing the upcoming New Hampshire Leave No Child Inside Forum, and speaker Richard Louv. The coverage was linked to the New Hampshire Children in Nature Initiative. Honorary Chairperson for the forum was New Hampshire's first lady, Dr. Susan Lynch.

- **On Dec. 9, 2007, the Concord Monitor** published a story about a "Leave No Child Inside" forum, in Manchester, New Hampshire, that was inspired by a daylong conference held Nov. 27, 2007. As columnist John Corrigan wrote, "The setting was the largest local gathering I can remember of conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts, educators, public health professionals and others concerned about a new generation of kids that is disconnected from nature."

<http://www.concordmonitor.com>

- **New Hampshire's Nashua Telegraph** (Nov. 1, 2007) also covered the upcoming children and nature forum. Writer Michael Brindley interviewed Martin LeBlanc, of the Sierra Club and C&NN, who said: (children's) lives have become so structured. They get home, then it's homework, dinner, TV and video games."

- **In Hays, Kansas, the Hays Daily News** carried an article Nov. 3, 2007 detailing a keynote speech by C&NN's Cheryl Charles to the 9th annual Kansas Environmental Education Conference. An enthusiastic audience heard her comments on the disconnection between children and nature.

<http://www.hdnews.net/Story/educationconference110407>

- **The Boston Globe published a front-page article** by Peter Dizikes on environmental education (Dec. 31, 2007), focusing on a Boston-area elementary school where "bugs are part of the curriculum." The school is referred to as in the vanguard of a national back-to-nature movement, with much of the impetus for the movement coming from studies documenting health benefits of nature exposure. Richard Louv and E.O. Wilson are quoted, as is pediatrician and Harvard Medical School professor T. Berry Brazelton, who says, "The tragedy we are facing in this generation is that there is no time for children to explore, to play, to go outside."

- **Connecticut Hunting Today, a Web site for hunting advocates**, posted a story Jan. 7, 2008 announcing the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Winter Festival, part of the state's all-season "No Child Left Inside" initiative, launched in 2006 to get kids into underused parks.

- **The Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune** featured an interview (Jan. 2, 2008) with Randy Quale, manager of Bloomington's Parks and Recreation Division, who is well versed in the reasons for nature-deficit disorder. At one point Quale said, "We're so driven by fear of the unknown, stranger danger and everything else that we program the heck out of our kids and don't let them just be kids and play."

- **The Herald newspaper in Puyallup, Wash.**, ran a story on a land-use meeting (Dec. 20, 2007) where public input will help decide ultimate best use for 2,000 acres of parkland. "Last Child in the Woods," and a need to reconnect people with nature, figured prominently in discussions.

- **Nancy Cole, writing in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette**, details the growth of agritourism in her state and elsewhere. There are many reasons for this, Cole says, including the children and nature connection. She quotes Miles Phillips, who oversees nature tourism in Texas. "...There's a lot of activity in the whole sector, Phillips said,

spurred in part by Richard Louv's 2005 book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder*. Louv wrote that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and the physical and emotional health of children and adults."

- **The Vancouver (B.C.) Free Press** published a lengthy article by Jack Christie (Sept. 20, 2007) on the opening of Brae Island Regional Park in Fort Langley. He began his article this way: "Do you or does someone you know suffer from nature-deficit disorder? If so, there's a quick fix: head outdoors. And if you've got kids, take them by the hand and bring them along. ..."

- **Jill Barker, reporter for the National Post**, a newspaper based in Toronto, covered Thomas McKenzie, a professor in the department of exercise and nutritional sciences at San Diego State University, who was in Montreal to talk to students and teachers about physical activity among children. "With childhood obesity on the rise and the latest stats suggesting that 73% to 91% of Canadian children don't meet physical activity guidelines, it's time to get kids moving," Barker writes, citing nature-deficit disorder in the opening paragraph. (Dec. 19, 2007.)

- **A Deseret News article by Joseph Cramer, M.D.** (Oct. 13, 2007) on the new generation of wired and worried children, offers suggestions for helping a child and adult wind down from stress. Citing "Last Child in the Woods," he suggests, with good-humored seriousness: "Perhaps as a physician I should prescribe fewer pills and hand out more pine cones, or give doctor's orders for hiking." Cramer, a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, has been a pediatrician for more than 25 years.

- **In Washington, Bellingham Herald** reporter Kie Relyea describes a book by educator Chris Mercogliano, who encourages parents and others to allow a child's "inner wildness" – their independence -- to flourish. One way to do that, he says, is to allow unstructured play and time in untamed nature.

- **The Toronto Star - Ontario, Canada** ran an article (Aug. 11, 2007) by Stephen Scharper, associate professor with the Centre for Environment, University of Toronto, on his profound sense of loss after hearing about the paving over of the ponds, streams and woods from his boyhood. He understood in a very personal way what is causing the rise of nature-deficit disorder.

- **Psychologist and educator Susan DeMersseman wrote in The San Francisco Chronicle** (Aug. 25, 2007) that teens need the faith in growth and transformation that

comes through nature experience. Her conclusions were cemented after watching her daughter raise butterflies.

- **The Mail Tribune of Southern Oregon reports** (Jan. 2, 2008) on the Bureau of Land Management's Medford-area launch of their national "Take it Outside" program, which was inspired by "Last Child in the Woods." The reporter quotes BLM educator Leah Schrod: "A big concern in this agency is that we are seeing young people becoming less and less connected and interested in our natural areas," she said. "And that's our future work force. We need young people who are interested in becoming land managers."

- **The fall/winter issue of Land & People** (Dec. 1, 2007), The Trust for Public Land's national magazine, shone a spotlight on the children and nature movement via a lengthy interview by writer William Poole with Richard Louv. In it, Louv explains how the Trust can support children's use of natural areas and how doing so can help groom a new generation of conservationists.

- **USA Weekend's cover story** on children and nature ("Mother Nature: Raising healthier kids," Nov. 18, 2007), featured interviews with C&NN board members Martha Erickson, Ph.D. and writer Richard Louv, who joined USA Weekend magazine health columnist Dr. Tedd Mitchell to discuss why parents need to get their kids outside, in nature. The magazine has 47.5 million readers.
http://www.usaweekend.com/07_issues/071118/071118healthy-kids-report.html

- **The San Francisco Chronicle** (Oct. 22, 2007) published a useful article by Peter Fimrite on teen-agers' detachment from nature, citing research and quoting youngsters in the know, as well as author Richard Louv. The article concluded with a helpful list of places to go and other resources for parents and children interested in nature and environmental programs, and links to data on the issue.

- **Cox News Service covered** Take a Child Outside Week (Sept. 24, 2007). Robert Kelly-Goss wrote: "Liz Baird had no idea that at its inception, organizations coast to coast would be clamoring to participate and promote this old-school notion of getting children outside to play and explore. 'Word got out,' Baird says. 'There is an organization, Children & Nature Network, and they hosted a meeting of organizations nationwide and Canada who get kids outdoors. In that group I presented my idea. The business cards flew back. Everybody wanted to be a partner with us. I think we have 100 partners right now.'"

- **The Sacramento Bee** (Sept. 17, 2007; by M.S. Enkoji) featured a story about Dr. Claude Arnett, a child psychologist, who incorporates walks along the American River

Parkway and gardening in his treatment program. "The children relax," he said, and that encourages healing.

- **The cover of Fish and Wildlife News** (Summer/Fall 2007) promotes their special 52-page issue on children and nature. The organization has formed a Children and Nature Working Group to identify ways to inform communities about the benefits of "nature play," which is good for both children and adults. The Fish and Wildlife Service Web site has links to this wonderful resource and information on other programs designed to strengthen the children and nature connection.

<http://www.fws.gov/news/date.html>

<http://www.fws.gov/children/>

- **Rhode Island schools** continue to establish new programs to teach the state's youth about the environment, the Providence Journal reports (Dec. 27, 2007). "Thousands more students are affected by special programs provided by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and Save the Bay. Audubon reaches 33,000 youths annually and Save the Bay, 20,000." Writer Peter Lord quotes an educator who said: "We now have the opportunity to create a generation of environmentally conscious people."

- **The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle** reports (Dec. 19, 2007) a new magazine, Conservationist for Kids, is part of a new campaign to connect children with nature. As part of the New York state's No Child Left Inside program, the magazine will eventually be distributed free to all fourth-graders in public schools across the state.

- **Jack Shea of the Teton Science School** has the attention of federal and state agency managers concerned about recreation in Wyoming, according to the Wyoming Business Report (Oct. 16, 2007). Phil Noble writes: "Shea asked the Recreation Action Team, or REACT, made up of federal and state agencies which deal with recreation, to join in what he proposed to call 'Children and the Nature of Wyoming.' He said it is his idea of how to combine all the various proposals from various federal agencies like the National Park Service called 'More Kids in the Woods,' the Bureau of Land Management's 'Take it Outside' initiative and others designed to 'have kids put down their Nintendo's and get outdoors....'"

- **Maine Audubon hailed** Sen. Susan Collins, "who became the first United States senator to co-sponsor the No Child Left Inside Act of 2007, which would amend the No Child Left Behind law (NCLB) to strengthen and expand environmental education in America's classrooms." The Oct. 31, 2007 publication also noted: "Sen. Olympia Snowe announced today that she, too, will co-sponsor the Senate version of the bill."

- **The Star-Tribune's** environmental reporter Whitney Royster wrote about the dozen middle-school students in Wyoming who took part in a "More Kids in the Woods" program in August 2007 that let them run the Snake River and walk in forests. Various partners in Teton County, Wyoming, including the Bridger-Teton National Forest, sponsored the U.S. Forest Service program.

- **In the Danville [Virginia] Register & Bee**, Denice Thibodeau (Dec. 11, 2007) covered the Governor's Forum on Land Conservation in Southern Virginia. "Sen. Charles Hawkins, R-Pittsylvania County, told the crowd family farms should not be allowed to disappear from the Virginia landscape.... And how we conserve and maintain that land is our legacy to our children, our children's children and on down the line." NASCAR driver Ward Burton, a native of South Boston and the founder of Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation, said, "... children are suffering from nature-deficit disorder because they are not connected with the outdoors. We have a responsibility to share our passion with the next generation."

<http://www.registerbee.com>

- **In a Dec. 18, 2007 Grist magazine** interview with Sally Jewell, the CEO of REI, Jewell was asked about resolutions and goals for 2008. Her response: "Connecting kids with nature, being part of the solution around climate-change issues, and reaching audiences that aren't being reached are huge and ongoing challenges -- for me and this organization."

- **A Dutch advocate for free-range play, Thomas van Slobbe**, in 2007 makes a short, humorous film in The Netherlands on "the discovery of the last child in the woods" that is posted on You Tube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyhRzZbU1i4>

- **In Scotland, The Sunday Herald reports** (Dec. 2, 2007) "What's more, children's alienation from the natural world doesn't just occur in cities. It is a growing problem in rural villages according to Richard Louv, whose book "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder" argues that even some youngsters living in the countryside have lost touch with nature, eschewing wildlife for an 'urbanised' existence in front of the TV or computer screen at home. In 2006, an NHS Scotland survey revealed that more than a third of 12-year-olds were considered overweight, with almost 20% obese and 11% severely obese. Meanwhile, according to the NHS, the number of prescriptions for antidepressants for children has quadrupled in the past decade. About 46,000 children in Scotland have been diagnosed with ADHD and in some areas the numbers of prescriptions for drugs to combat that disorder have, according to Scottish government figures, doubled in the last four years."

• **The Daily News & Analysis, Mumbai, India** reports (Oct. 24, 2007): “It seems obvious that children need nature but it is fast becoming evident that children, who are the treasure of any society and its future, are being starved of it and all that nature has to offer. Today our children's senses are being bombarded, literally attacked by images, sounds, emotions that are estranged to their natural and gentle development. This rude awakening and over-exposure of the senses exhausts children and can lead to lethargy, poor concentration or bad behaviour.”

• **Dan England reports in The Greeley (Colorado) Tribune** (Oct. 14, 2007): “As the chances to explore outside are lost to subdivisions and well-lit streets, the idea of traveling to a world where cell phones don't work, where the Internet isn't available and where dinner might be a hot dog over a fire seems increasingly foreign to families.”

• **The Daily Mail in Great Britain** reports (June 15, 2007) on the drastic loss of roaming room for children over the last four generations. Writer David Derbyshire looked at the George Thomas family and found a six-mile walking space had shrunk to 300 yards. "If children haven't had contact with nature, they never develop a relationship with natural environment and they are unable to use it to cope with stress," said Dr. William Bird, health advisor to Natural England.

• **The Telegraph, UK reports** (June 6, 2007): “Britain's safety charity suggested yesterday it would be better for the occasional child to fall out of a tree and break their wrist than develop repetitive strain injury from playing computer games. ... The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents called for the introduction of specially made ‘wild’ areas where children could wander around and take risks.”

• **Richard Louv joined Rachel Carson, E.O. Wilson,** and other notables as a recipient of the prestigious Audubon Medal, in particular “for sounding the alarm about the health and societal costs of children’s isolation from the natural world—and for sparking a growing movement to remedy the problem,” noted the Audubon Society in a press release. Louv was the 50th recipient of this honor, which was established in 1947. (January 2008.)

• **The New York Times’ article headlined,** “Taking Play Seriously” (Feb. 17, 2008), by Robin Marantz Henig, explains why public attention is now beginning to focus on play deprivation, overscheduled kids and the undesirable social consequences.

• **Tacoma News-Tribune columnist** Jeffery P. Mayor followed up a conversation with Richard Louv by writing about his own ideas (March 13, 2008) for funding nature

education in Washington state. Among them: revenue from specialized license plates, increased fines for violators of fish and wildlife laws, and an outdoor-equipment tax.

- **Asheville Citizen-Times reporter** Lockie Hunter interviewed summer-camp operators about the benefits of being outdoors (March 10, 2008), citing “Last Child in the Woods” as a reference, and garnered telling quotes, including this from Adam Boyd: “Real play engages the whole person, physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually. You cannot become a friend, or make a friend, sitting in front of a screen.”

- **The Toronto Star reported** on the first serious study to look at homework load in Canada. The report card is mixed, to say the least. Homework cuts into family time and allows little time to play, it seems. The professors who conducted the study found scant evidence homework improved student achievement in younger years.

- **Feb. 21, 2008, NPR’s Morning Edition** featured a thoughtful piece by Alix Spiegel on children’s play. When, for example, did play shift from activity to *things*? Psychologist Elena Bodrova said her research concluded, “today’s 5-year-olds were acting at the level of 3-year-olds 60 years ago, and today’s 7-year-olds were barely approaching the level of a 5-year-old 60 years ago. So the results were very sad.” (NPR.org offers links to this story and related topics.)

- **The Free Play Network in the UK declares:** “The Free Play Network aims to promote greater public understanding of the need for better play opportunities for children, by promoting discussion, exchange of information, and guidance on best practice in development of children’s play opportunities.” To that end, the site offers several worthwhile links for educators and parents. (www.freeplaynetwork.org.uk)

- **Free-play, child-friendly neighborhood advocates** (themselves parents) near Stanford University founded Playborhood.com and continue to offer create, thoughtful essays and useful links.

- **Children’s Environments Research Group (CERG)** is online to “provide an important link between university scholarship and the development of policies, environments and programs that fulfill children’s’ rights and improve the quality of their lives.” (<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/che/cerg/>)

- **Opus, the popular comic by Berkeley Breathed**, used “nature-deficit disorder” in a Sunday panel as a descriptive for what was wrong with a media-obsessed character.

- **Writing in Church Executive magazine** (March 1, 2008), Rachel Beach suggested: “As an engaged part of any community, churches can find ways to restore the connection between today’s children and nature — for their benefit, their communities and the creation they live in.”

- **The Star Press in Muncie, Indiana** ran a front-page story (April 23, 2008) on a keynote address by C&NN president and CEO Cheryl Charles, who kicked off Earth Week at Ball State University. Reporter Seth Slabaugh described the talk as a wake-up call for area participation in a “No Student Left Inside” effort.

- **A recent Nature Conservancy-sponsored study** of worldwide nature recreation found outdoor activities – hunting, camping, fishing – are in decline, in keeping with a trend that began in 1981. The 2008 report focused on statistics from the U.S., Japan and Spain, and built upon earlier Conservancy-funded studies by the same researchers -- Oliver Pergams of the University of Illinois-Chicago and Patricia Zaradic of the Environmental Leadership Program. In this latest study, published in February 2008, researchers concluded less contact with nature is likely to translate into diminished future support for the environment.

- **Chicago Sun-Times writer Andrew Herrmann** detailed the earlier work of University of Illinois at Chicago researcher Oliver Pergams (March 30, 2008), who found that since the 1980s, overall nature use in the United States has declined by as much as 25 percent, in large part because of what he terms “videophilia” – the attraction of electronic devices. The consequences could be “deep and far-ranging for health, for human well-being and for the future of the planet.”

- **Denver Post Outdoors Editor Charlie Meyers urged** readers to turn their attention to the April 22, 2008 Earth Day forum at the Denver office of the Environmental Protection Agency, because the title of the event was Connecting Kids to Nature. “In becoming prisoners of galloping civilization and its devices,” Meyers wrote, “we have lost so many of the things integral to our basic well-being. Now, finally, a movement has begun to win some of that back.” He concluded by urging parents to buy a copy of the revised “Last Child in the Woods,” saying, “it just may be the best investment they ever made.”

- **Washington Post reporter Moira E. McLaughlin** wrote about fifth-graders touring the U.S. Capitol in support of the No Child Left Inside bill (April 17, 2008). The measure would “create a \$500 million environmental education program to get kids out of the classroom and into nature,” McLaughlin wrote. The schoolchildren underscored their support by bringing classroom terrapins along for the excursion.

- **Singer-songwriter Jenny Morgan**, co-chair of the Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative, released “Nature Needs Kids and Kids Need Nature: Music Inspired by the Children and Nature Movement,” on April 28, 2008.

- **The Gazette, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa**, published a thoughtful article (April 12, 2008) by Orlan Love describing nature’s importance to Iowans, and the impact of modern society on today’s youth. As he points out, Iowa farmer and environmentalist Dick Jensen has been working to correct the problem for many years, and sees the movement gaining momentum. “Environmental knowledge gleaned from the Internet is no substitute for learning about nature “through the fingers, arms, brain and heart,” Jensen says.

- **Jack Green interviewed C&NN’s Cheryl Charles** for Bioneers, the online progressive forum focused on environment, health and social justice.

- **The corporation Miracle-Gro announced** in a press release (April 2008) that a recent company-commissioned online survey revealed (among other data): “When surveying parents, 84 percent feel it's important for their child to spend time outdoors, however, 69 percent say their children spend less time outdoors than they did as children.” Nature-deficit disorder may result, the message states, and gardening is one way to avoid the problem.

- **Travelocity, the online travel-oriented business**, pitched its services for 2008 outdoor vacations this way: “At Travelocity, we recognize that today’s children suffer from nature-deficit disorder as a result of a largely technology-driven world. Through trip ideas, environmental education, and travel inspiration, we are working together with MasterCard™ to reconnect our children with nature: because everyone should form a bond with the great outdoors that creates memories that go far beyond a computer screen.”

- **The Star Tribune in Minneapolis** featured an article (March 27, 2008) on an upcoming daylong conference at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen. About 200 professionals that focus on child learning and health were to explore ways to incorporate nature into schools and urban settings.

- **The Salt Lake Tribune’s Tom Wharton wrote** about outdoors schools (March 19,2008) in the Four Corners region whose mission is to teach youngsters – and others – about the natural history of the Colorado Plateau. Karla VanderZanden, director of the Canyonlands Field Institute in Moab, said: "There is a national groundswell of getting youth outdoors."

- **The Chronicle of Philanthropy** introduced its readers to the children and nature movement (April 17, 2008) through an article by Debra Blum, who cited various groups and quoted a number of individuals to construct a thumbnail history of the recent efforts to get kids outside.

- **Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine** offered “50 Ways to Get Kids Hooked on the Outdoors” (cover story, March 2008). Even the little things, such as looking for shapes in clouds, can help reconnect a youngster.

- **Santa Rose Press Democrat writer Derek J. Moore provided data**, as well as plenty of anecdotal evidence, to show California parks are attracting fewer visitors than in past years. (February 8, 2008.) Some natural areas may face closure due to budget cuts -- even as the state government launches a campaign to encourage more youngsters to visit parks to fight nature-deficit disorder.

- **The Toronto Star reports homework** is of little benefit to students from kindergarten to sixth grade (February 9, 2008), according to research by two professors from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.” I think the work should be completed in the classroom and then kids should be allowed to play,” a researcher said.

- **Northeast Land Trust Conference participants** meeting (April 2008) at West Point, New York, heard keynote speaker Cheryl Charles speak about the importance of the children and nature connection with regard to future stewardship. The gathering brought together conservation professionals, planners, volunteers, attorneys, appraisers, public agency representatives, educators, and other conservation partners.

- **The April 15 2008 issue of Woman’s Day** included a feature, “Take a Slow Nature Walk, based on tips provided by C&NN President and CEO, Cheryl Charles.

- **The May/June 2008 issue of Connect**, a bi-monthly journal for educators published by Synergy Learning International, featured a cover article (“The Ecology of Hope”) by C&NN’s Cheryl Charles. The focus of the issue: learning and the outdoors.
<http://www.synergylearning.org/>

- **U.S. News & World Report** focused on “Why Kids Need a Big Dose of Nature” in an article by Adam Voiland (posted Feb. 13, 2008) that is largely a Q/A interview with writer Richard Louv, where Louv focused on the positive aspect of nature interaction. <http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/2008/02/13/why-kids-need-a-big-dose-of-nature.html?PageNr=1>

- **The Chronicle of Philanthropy’s** article by Debra E. Blum (April 17, 2008) focused on environmental groups, health charities and other organizations that seek ways to help kids discover nature. <http://philanthropy.com/free/articles/v20/i13/13002201.htm>

- **New York Times reporter Andrew C. Revkin**, who writes the Dot Earth blog for the newspaper, mused about nature-deficit disorder during his day floating on a mangrove-lined creek with his son, Jack (April 23, 2008). <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/04/23/heron-babies-in-a-mangrove-patch/>

- **The Connecticut Jewish Ledger, from West Hartford** (May 6, 2008), included an article by Sharon Duke Estroff on a family trip to Israel. She wrote: “Author Richard Louv argues that kids are so plugged into television and video games that they've lost their connection to the natural world. In Israel, my children witnessed a connection and respect for the land that they rarely have an opportunity to see on our side of the planet.” http://www.jewishledger.com/articles/2008/05/06/news/on_the_cover/news01.txt

- **Richard Louv and the Children & Nature Network launched** Louv’s blog, “Field Notes from the Future” in May 2008. Louv’s **Psychology Today** blog is titled “People in Nature.” <http://childrenandnature.com/>
<http://blogs.psychologytoday.com/blog/people-in-nature>

- **Joe Miller, staff writer for the Raleigh News & Observer, described** his outing in a nearby wilderness area (May 10, 2008): “As yet there is no trail system in the Eno Wilderness. Since my last two timber-bashing attempts there were woefully unsuccessful, I was hesitant on this trip to lead my contingent of two 10-year-old girls and a 13-year-old boy (it was a teacher workday; I was obligated by my allegiance to Richard Louv to take the kids outdoors) into a situation where, with sun setting, they'd be prone to ask for the 10th time, "Are you sure you know where we are?" The day ended well. “When you're out in the woods, it's one of the few chances kids get to really explore, to let their brains and bodies work in tandem to solve problems ... Mom and Dad. Let them play; get in and play with them.” <http://www.newsobserver.com/105/story/1068557.html>

- **The American Alpine Institute Climbing Blog** offered a thoughtful review of “Last Child in the Woods” on May 12, 2008.

<http://alpineinstitute.blogspot.com/2008/05/book-review-last-child-in-woods.html>

- **KQED, a multimedia organization in Northern California, aired science video** podcast and a radio broadcast (May 12, 2008) on the nature-deficit disorder problem, and asked viewers to share photos relating to their experiences in nature. Their online links point to several related programs.

<http://www.kqed.org/quest/television/view/909>

- **Family Relationships Magazine writer** Andy Merrett focused on a study indicating women, especially, may suffer from too little time in nature (May 12, 2008). Merrett writes: “Spending time in nature and wilderness has proven therapeutic and restorative benefits, especially for women, according to a study disseminated by Awen Grove, an international organization that bridges the connection between people and nature.”

<http://familyrelationships.org.uk/2008/05/12/are-you-suffering-from-nature-deficit-disorder>

- **Denver Post writer Nancy Lofholm’s article** (“Learning goes into the wild,” May 9, 2008) is datelined Colorado National Monument,” a fitting place for a description of the U.S. Forest Service’s successful program in that area. Nature-deficit disorder? “I think this has finally reached a point in our general consciousness,” said Mark DeGregorio, education program manager at Rocky Mountain National Park. “It’s being looked at like global warming. It’s not going to go away.”

http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_9199398

- **The Oregonian newspaper reports** (May 8, 2008) that two Portland mothers are making a documentary film titled “Play Again,” which focuses on the nature-deficit culture of today.

http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/portland_news/1209851709177450.xml&coll=7

- **Science Daily offered information** (May 5, 2008) from a new study of outdoor physical activity at childcare centers, conducted by researchers at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. They identified some surprising reasons why kids may be staying inside. “It’s things we never expected, from flip flops, mulch near the playground, children who come to childcare without a coat on chilly days, to teachers talking or texting on cell phones while they were supposed to be supervising the children,” said Kristen Copeland, M.D., lead author of the study which was funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. “Clearly this is a complex issue ...but finding out what

the barriers are is the first step in addressing the problem and getting more kids involved in more much-needed physical activity.”

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/05/080505072824.htm>

- **The New York Times** (May 6, 2008) joined other media that reported on what they headlined “The Flip-Flop Factor: Why Day Care Kids Don’t Play Outside,” citing research from the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center study that resulted from focus groups in 34 childcare centers.

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/05/06/the-flip-flop-factor-why-day-care-kids-dont-play-outside/#more-329>

- **Allison Arieff, in her By Design blog essay in the New York Times’** Opinion section (Sept. 5, 2008), focuses on how school design adds to the nature-separation problem, and provides online links to “Last Child in the Woods,” as well as the film “Radiant City: A Documentary About Suburban Sprawl,” for what she calls “a devastating assessment of what contemporary suburban and exurban subdivisions are doing to Americans’ relationships with nature — and one another.”

<http://arieff.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/05/12/the-class-isnt-always-greener-but-it-could-be/>

- **The Bleeping Herald** offered a heartfelt, informative essay (May 2008) by Katie Elliott, who assembled many of the arguments for helping to reconnect children and nature.

<http://www.bleepingherald.com/may2008/nature>

- **NBC’s Today Show: Richard Louv talked about the family/nature gap, nature-deficit disorder** and the movement to get kids outside (July 16, 2008) during a lengthy segment; also featured: nature clubs.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/25701705#25701705>

- **Flickr now includes** a section for parents and others to post photos of kids enjoying the outdoors.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/kidsandnature/discuss/72157605309069357/>

- **The Sydney Morning Herald reported** on the mounting evidence that nature is healing (May 21, 2008), noting that “researchers are establishing credible grounds for green prescriptions - where doctors ‘prescribe’ contact with nature for various diseases - and for parks to be considered a national health resource.”

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/environment/the-benefit-of-nature-on-nurture/2008/05/20/1211182801366.html>

• **The Christian Science Monitor's staff writer** Gloria Goodale wrote about the furor caused by New York Sun columnist Lenore Skenazy, who urged her 9-year-old son to venture alone in Manhattan (May 22, 2008). Richard Louv was among those quoted: "We have begun to lose sight of the notion of comparative risk," he said.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0522/p17s01-hfgn.html>

• **The Nature Conservancy of Texas** reminds parents across the state that children who play outdoors and spend time in nature are happier and healthier. (May 22, 2008)
<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/texas/press/press3521.html>

• **BBC News reports on greenery (May 23, 2008):** "the notion that nature does you good is one of the themes of this year's Springwatch series on BBC 2. The results of a Mori poll, commissioned by Natural England and released exclusively to the BBC, show that 94% of us would be happy for our GP to provide outdoor exercise instead of prescription drugs, if he or she thought it would work."
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7417516.stm>

• **Cheryl Charles, president and co-founder of Children & Nature Network, spoke in August to the We Believe in Girls! Summit** organized by the Girl Scouts San Geronimo Council, which represents 15,000 Girl Scouts in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.
http://www.pe.com/localnews/rivcounty/stories/PE_News_Local_S_nature14.39a11f5.html

• **The Daily Herald** of suburban Chicago covered the Deer Park "Leave No Child Inside" program, sponsored by Chicago Wilderness, a consortium of more than 200 organizations.
<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=196330&src=1>

• **The Therapeutic Landscapes Database** blog offers information relating to built landscapes and children's rights and well-being.
<http://www.tldb.blogspot.com/>

• **Nancy Cambria, of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, wrote** a comprehensive story on the child and nature gap, while focusing on an area 9-year-old who is the last child to explore his neighborhood creek. (July 30, 2008)
<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/news/stlouiscitycounty/story/c50bc280b3014c5b8625749600102936?OpenDocument>

• **USA Today covered environmental education** (July 30, 2008) very favorably in an article by Ledyard King on the greening of schoolyards. According to King: “The National Environmental Education Foundation, which teams up with schools and other institutions to promote green curricula, has seen the number of partners jump from 330 in 2006 to 1,855 this year.”

http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-07-31-environmental-learning_N.htm

http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-07-31-green-schools_N.htm

• **Figures released Aug. 4, 2008 for Playday in England show** that half of children (51%) aged 7-12 years are not allowed to climb a tree without adult supervision and half (49%) also report that they have been stopped from climbing trees because it was considered to be too dangerous. The research also finds a change in the places where children and young people today experience adventurous and challenging play. As children, 70% of adults enjoyed most of their adventures in natural outdoor environments. This compares with only 29% of children today.

http://www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_7663lg_88857648193x4s_200883188v

• **Wall Street Journal writer Philip K. Howard** had this to say (Aug. 13, 2008) about our safety-conscious society: “The harmful effects of our national safety obsession ripple outward into society. One in six children in America is obese, and many of them will face a lifetime of chronic illness. According to the Center for Disease Control, this problem would basically cure itself if children engaged in the informal outdoor activities that used to be normal. But how do we lure children off the sofa? One key attraction is risk.”

<http://online.wsj.com/public/us>

• **Miami Herald writer Ana Veciana-Suarez focuses** on children’s loss of free time in the outdoors, and enlivens statistics through interviews with parents in her part of Florida.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/>

• **KGO-TV, an ABC station in San Francisco,** ran a feature (August 18, 2008) on nature-deficit disorder and groups in Northern California attempting to counter the problem, including the Children in Nature Collaborative and Yosemite Junior Rangers. Parents in Los Altos Hills received mention, as well.

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/assignment_7&id=6336145

• **The GeoChristian Web site** praises a piece by Albert Mohler on nature-deficit disorder. “Something precious is lost when children — or adults — are alienated from the created world.”

<http://geochristian.wordpress.com/2008/08/17/albert-mohler-on-nature-deficit-disorder/>

• **Raising awareness about the nature deficit** will be the focus of a summit hosted by the Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative, which formed in Columbus last year, reports Dana Wilson in The Columbus Dispatch. Its list of members includes the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, the Franklin County Board of Health, and Metro Parks. The good news: parents are starting to form nature clubs. There's a need. "Children today are just more sedentary," Cheryl Charles, president of the Children & Nature Network said. "They're in the house more, they're hooked up to the electronics. Their lives are out of balance."

http://www.columbusdispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2008/08/11/getout.ART_ART_08-11-08_B1_6OAVT2F.html?sid=101

• **Parenting Examiner, a national online publication, discusses nature-deficit disorder**, the National Wildlife Federation's Green Hour and the high price of children's structured play.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-494-Parenting-Examiner~y2008m8d6-Backyard-adventures-kids-in-nature>

• **Lloyd Alter's blog (Huffington Post, July 26, 2008) headlined: Go Play Outside!** provides an overview of the data from children and nature studies, and takes a swing at the short vacation allotments allowed the majority of American workers.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lloyd-alter/go-play-outside_b_115102.html

###