



Richard Louv

On

Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

Richard Louv

Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, has spurred a national dialogue among educators, health professionals, parents, developers and conservationists on the growing divide between children and the outdoors. He brings together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. His work has brought international attention to the growing evidence linking the lack of nature in children's lives and the rise in obesity, attention disorders and depression. Louv also provides practical solutions and simple ways to reverse this alarming trend. He is recipient of the 2008 Audubon Medal; chairman of the Children & Nature Network; and honorary co-chair of the National Forum on Children and Nature.

The No Child Left Inside movement, which was inspired by Louv's work, has widespread support from many sectors of American society. Business, faith, environmental, health, recreation, and many other organizations have come together to work towards the goal of achieving environmental literacy for all students. The value of environmental education is well-accepted: it helps increase student achievement, promotes environmental stewardship, and gives classroom teachers more flexibility to meet individual student needs. Environmental education is also recognized as a way to increase student engagement in the core subject areas, as well as in the sciences.

"The children and nature movement is fueled by this fundamental idea: the child in nature is an endangered species, and that the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable."

-- Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods*

Richard Louv's Central Oregon Visit

The primary activities planned by the Visiting Scholar Program include:

- **Community Presentation and Resource Fair on May 12, 2010.** Louv's presentation will provide the audience with an update on the latest findings on the links between direct exposure to nature and the physical and emotional development of children, as well as how various individuals and groups are successfully addressing the issues of nature-deficit disorder. Louv will take questions from the audience.

The resource fair will provide an opportunity for increasing awareness of the many resources available within Central Oregon that are relevant to Louv's message. Organizations and companies will be able to host tables and displays with materials and information that address the many aspects of the link between nature and the healthy development of children. The fair will be held in a space adjacent to the auditorium and would be open prior to and following Louv's presentation.



- **Dialogue with Community and Civic Leaders on May 13, 2010.** A morning session with Louv is being planned for community and civic leaders, providing an opportunity to discuss ideas and initiatives, both present and potential future, for Central Oregon communities, schools and organizations.

Separate, but related, events that are scheduled during, and close to the time of, his visit include:

- **The City Club of Central Oregon Forum.** The City Club is planning to address some of the issues raised by Richard Louv and the No Child Left Inside Movement in a spring 2010 forum. Focus will be on the recently-passed No Oregon Child Left Inside Act.
- **Watershed Summit.** Louv will deliver the keynote presentation to the annual *Students Speak: A Watershed Summit* which showcases and celebrates the innovative watershed projects of Central Oregon's elementary, middle and high school students in art, science, videography, stream stewardship and creative writing. The *Watershed Summit* is coordinated collaboratively by The Freshwater Trust, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and Wolfree and incorporates teachers, students, and their parents. Attendance will be open to the public.
- **Deschutes Public Library.** With the theme of "Get Outside!" library branches throughout the county will be offering programming during May related to Louv's book and to the No Child Left Inside Movement.

Response to his forthcoming visit has been enthusiastic. Conversations with individuals and organizations indicate that Louv's presentations will be well attended by the target audience. I anticipate that his presentation will be 'sold out.'

Partnerships

The Visiting Scholar Program coordinator is working together with a variety of local organizations and businesses to maximize the impact of Louv's visit, and therefore, the lasting impact of his message. The following organizations have already expressed their interest in sponsorship and participation:

Bend Metro Parks and Recreation
Newton Consultants
Wolfree
The Freshwater Trust
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
Central Oregon Environmental Center
Trout Unlimited
Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory
Heart Institute of the Cascades
Central Oregon Pediatric Associates
Bend La Pine School District
City Club of Central Oregon
Deschutes Public Library
Trust for Public Land
US Forest Service
Concerned individuals



The Nancy Chandler Visiting Scholar Program

The Visiting Scholar Program of COCC Foundation is a non-profit organization with the mission of providing education programming on a wide variety of subjects. Many are programs to which the residents of Central Oregon might not otherwise be exposed due to the geographic isolation of our region. We accomplish this by identifying and bringing renowned scholar and lecturers to present a balanced and broad-based scope of programs for Central Oregon's students and residents. In doing so, we seek to encourage stimulating conversations that broaden perspectives on and perceptions of other people and events.

The program was established in 1985 by the late Mr. Robert W. Chandler, Sr. and Mrs. Nancy Renne Chandler. Currently, two endowments provide annual disbursements that together fund approximately 60% of the program's budget. The Oregon Community Foundation manages the Robert W. Chandler II Fund and reviews the program annually to ensure the program meets the criteria set forth by the Chandlers. The Central Oregon Community College Foundation provides management of an additional endowment which is also designated to support the VSP. The program coordinator is responsible for securing additional funding through grants, sponsorships, donations and ticket sales.

The program has a history of bringing seminal thinkers to Central Oregon. Most events are free or have subsidized admission. Attendance has ranged from 50 to 1500 people, with most maintaining an audience of approximately 150 people. Recent examples include:

- Dr. Victor Strasburger – pediatrician and national expert on impact of media on children
- David Bacon – award-winning photographer and labor journalist
- Tony Leavitt – NASA specialist on Mars exploration
- Naomi Nontombi Tutu – daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- Richard Leakey – paleoanthropologist and conservationist

For more information please contact:

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