Children in Nature: Healthy Development by Design

Conference Agenda

Thurs., Nov. 6, 2008; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

8:30 – 9:00  Registration, breakfast  MacMillan Auditorium

9:00 – 9:10  Welcome & Conference Overview
Dr. Mary Meyer, Director, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Tim Kenny, Director of Education, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

9:10 – 10:25  Keynote Part 1: The Child/Nature Connection by Dr. Stephen Kellert,
Co-Director of the Hixon Center for Urban Ecology at Yale University
Introduction by Dr. Cheryl Charles, President & CEO, Children & Nature Network

10:25 – 10:40  Break

10:40 – 11:55  Keynote Part 2: Landscape Design for Healthy Child Development by
Dr. Robin C. Moore, Director, The Natural Learning Initiative, North Carolina State University
Introduction by Dr. Cheryl Charles, President & CEO, Children & Nature Network

12:00 – 1:10  Lunch  Reedy Art Gallery

1:10 – 1:30  Outcome Report from November 5th National Children & Nature Research Summit, by Dr. Kellert

1:35 – 2:35  The Minnesota Experience: Identifying Challenges & Strategies
Breakout discussions
Group A: MacMillan Auditorium
Group B: MacMillan Auditorium
Group C: Snyder Building Auditorium
Group D: Snyder Building Auditorium
Group E: Classroom #1 (upstairs in Snyder Building)
Group F: Classroom #2 (upstairs in Snyder Building)
Group G: Tea Room (Snyder Building)
Group H: Azalea Classroom (upstairs in Oswald Visitor Center)

2:35 – 2:50  Break

2:50 – 3:45  Getting to Solutions  MacMillan Auditorium

3:45 – 4:00  Wrap up, fill out evaluations  MacMillan Auditorium
ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE

Recent studies add to the evidence that time spent in natural environments improves the health and well-being of children and families. Enhance your professional knowledge and gain a deeper understanding of emerging trends, related research and design concepts that reconnect children and families to nature and create natural spaces for communities, schools, daycares, parks and neighborhoods. Hear from two of the nation’s leading research and design experts as they share case studies, practical applications, design models and effective strategies for connecting people with nature. Learn how evidence-based design of simple spaces that provide ‘nearby nature’ plays an important role in the health of citizens and communities alike.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Join scholars, architects, designers, child psychologists, health professionals, educators, urban planners, park and recreation managers, community leaders and interested individuals for a lively exchange of ideas about reconnecting children and families to nature.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**Stephen Kellert** is the Tweedy/Ordway Professor of Environmental Studies and Co-Director of the Hixon Center for Urban Ecology at Yale University. He is recognized as one of the world’s foremost authorities on human relationships to nature. Kellert has authored numerous books and articles on the connection between human and natural systems and design approaches that harmonize the natural and human built environments. He authored *Building for Life: Designing and Understanding the Human-Nature Connection*, and co-edited *Children and Nature* (with Peter Kahn) and *The Biophilia Hypothesis* (with E.O. Wilson).

**Robin Moore** is Professor of Landscape Architecture in the College of Design at North Carolina State University and Director of the Natural Learning Initiative. He is an expert in the design of play, learning and education environments. He holds degrees in architecture, London University, and in city and regional planning, MIT. His publications include *Natural Learning*, (with H. Wong), *Healing Gardens for Children* (edited by Cooper Marcus & Barnes) and *Healthy Planet, Healthy Children: Designing Nature into the Daily Spaces of Childhood* (in *Biophilic Design* by Kellert, Heerwagen and Mador).