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’ play an important role in the health of citizens and communities alike.

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).

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.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:30 – 9 a.m. Registration
9 a.m. Keynote Presentations
Stephen Kellert - The Child/Nature Connection
The impact of nature on children's physical, mental and emotional health and the importance of biophilic design. Q&A follows.
Robin Moore - Landscape Design for Healthy Child Development
Design principles and practices informed by research findings. Case studies of a variety of designed natural places for outdoor play and learning. Q&A follows.
12 noon Lunch, explore the Arboretum
(Lunch included in registration fee.)
1 – 1:30 p.m. Stephen Kellert - The State of Evidence: Research Strengths and Gaps
1:30 – 3 p.m. Roundtables - Implementation, Barriers and Strategies.
3:30 – 4 p.m. Reports, Wrap Up

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CHILDREN AND NATURE: Healthy Development by Design Thursday, November 6, 2008
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