

# The Nature Connection

Bringing Nature, Animals & the Arts to People

SPRING BULLETIN

SPRING 2009

*THE NATURE CONNECTION (FORMERLY ANIMALS AS INTERMEDIARIES) is a nonprofit organization that brings nature-based programs to people with limited access to the natural world. Founded in 1983, The Nature Connection brings individuals together with nature's capacity to heal and to teach.*

Dear Friends—

**H**ello! My name is Sandy Campbell, and I'm delighted to be the new Executive Director here at The Nature Connection. As you may have already heard, I come to this position after close to 13 years as the Executive Director of a small, community United Way in my hometown of Acton, Mass. My years there were



the most rewarding of my career, with experiences that not only changed my own life, but my perspective on my community, on our

*(continued on page 2)*



*Jet, a therapy dog, provides comfort and connection for a young woman in residence at Germaine Lawrence*

Sue Huszar

## Youth Discover Animals' Lives Under Snow

**W**e brought the world of winter animals for our February visit to Germaine Lawrence, a residential treatment program in Arlington. Building a mini environment with pine boughs, fresh snow, and icicles, we explored the deep snow as a layer of insulating warmth and protection from predation. . . . Winter as a time when animals rest, reduce activity, doze and dream.

Our volunteers shared Ollie the rabbit, and branches that wild rabbits eat in winter—fresh-cut brambles and bitter-sweet with chewing marks. “Why are they eating wood?” Marie asked. We peeled back the bark with our fingernails to find the green cambium beneath. “Very cool!” Alicia said, “The bittersweet twigs smell really good.”

Serving a group of ten young women, The Nature Connection seeks to support

site staff's goals of helping these girls to experience positive social interactions and connect with healing aspects of the natural world. Our volunteer team enables us to connect one-on-one with participants. Later while the girls learned to make pieces of felt from sheep's wool, one girl named Monica was drowsy and withdrawn. Trish, a volunteer, encouraged her to explore the icicles we had brought. She listened as Monica held the biggest icicle with both hands and expressed surprise at how fast the thin areas melted. Finally, Trish brought her a mystery object coated with dried felt that had been made by some of the other girls. . . . Intrigued, Monica was able to guess what was inside—a seashell! This brief discovery connected her back to her peers' explorations on the other side of the circle.

—Kate Crosby, Program Coordinator

### Current Program Sites

Boston's Hope of The Home for Little Wanderers, Dorchester  
Cooperative Elder Services, Inc., Burlington\*  
Elder Service Plan of Cambridge Health Alliance, Central Square  
Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, Bedford  
Germaine Lawrence, Arlington\*  
Katherine Kennedy Senior Center, Natick  
Massachusetts Hospital School, Canton  
Minute Man Arc, Concord  
Walden Street School, Concord

\*pilot programs

August 2008 – July 2009

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Suzan Baltozer, *Program Coordinator*  
Kate Crosby, *Program Coordinator*  
Nancy Savage, *Office Assistant*

### Nature Connection Newsletter

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Leslie Hartwell, *Graphic Designer*  
Paulina Knibbe, *Website Assistant*

Davin and Jim Dentzer, Susan Huszar,  
Arlene Parillo, *Photographers*

Printed on recycled paper

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Website:  
www.nature-connection.org



*Ollie, a program rabbit, brings joy and a sense of well being to a woman at Cooperative Elder Services, Burlington.*

Arlene Parillo

### New Executive Director ... continued from page 1

world and most importantly, our collective social responsibility.

That point of view has been valuable as I transition to my new role here at The Nature Connection. What an amazing organization, an amazing mission, and an amazing group of people involved with bringing the natural world to those people who have limited, if any, access to it. I have been struck from the start by the passion, commitment and enthusiasm exhibited by the Board, staff, volunteers and supporters for the work of this organization. It has been truly inspiring, and I look forward to contributing my skills and talents to build on the success of the last 25 years.

As you might imagine, we face many challenges going forward—the current economic situation has not been kind to many of our supporters and partners in this mission, including program sites. We will be working hard to bring The Nature Connection's programs to new venues, and would love your help

to make that happen—please be sure to pass on any suggestions or referrals for new sites you may think would be a great fit for us. In addition, I invite you to spread the word about our organization to friends, colleagues, etc.—and be sure to attend our spring benefit, a concert with Tom Rush, which is certain to be a terrific event.

Spring is in the air, transitions are taking place all around us and the fresh air of the season, the extended daylight, the color and song that spring brings forward will surely raise our spirits, and refresh our positive energy. I look forward to working with each of you to channel that energy for the benefit of The Nature Connection, and invite you to contact me at [scampbell@nature-connection.org](mailto:scampbell@nature-connection.org) with any ideas, thoughts or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Campbell". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Sandy Campbell, *Executive Director*



Sue Huszar



Sue Huszar

**Weaving Nature with Youth at Stand High/Stand United**

**Weaving the Web of Life in Roxbury**

**W**earing a spider-web shawl and carrying a magical wooden stick as she spoke, program coordinator Kate Crosby wove a spider's tale of spring for youth from Stand High/Stand United, a Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministries youth enrichment program based in Roxbury. As she spoke, a mesmerized crowd of children and adults heard how this mythic Spider Woman talked to Crow, Snake, Rabbit and Mouse to find out what they did during winter. Volunteers John Bach, Lisa DuBois, Teri Kolpakova, and program coordinator Su Baltozer played each of the animal characters. Snake's brainwaves were piqued when seeing a tasty mouse run by. Crow used her voice to warn animals of danger. Rabbit was hiding in her den and Mouse was foraging for seeds.

And so, as always, we begin by weaving together plants and animals and stories. . . . Our team of volunteers then shared live animals with the children, including a rabbit, Ollie, a gerbil, and a soft chinchilla. Volunteer Sara Lefsyk recalls, "We also did a nature weaving activity with the kids. How meditative and calming it was for them to be touching and interacting with natural objects—grasses, reeds, flowers, twigs. I noticed how even the most hesitant children, once they got started, really entered into communion with the process and created beautiful pieces of art!"

— *Suzan Baltozer*

*Yes, I can help bring nature, animals and the arts to people!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (Stay informed with our periodic e-newsletter!) \_\_\_\_\_

- \$75                       \$150                       \$300  
 \$500                       \$1,000                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to help The Nature Connection by:**

- Volunteering  
 Applying for a Matching Gift from my employer:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send me information on how to make a bequest to NC through the Seabury Circle.

**Send your donation to:**



The Nature Connection  
 PO Box 155  
 Concord, MA 01742

*The Nature Connection is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.*

**Thanks to our most recent Grantors:**

- A Kinder World Foundation
- Harpley Foundation
- Fuller Foundation
- Massachusetts Cultural Council
- and Cambridge Trust Company

**Our Appreciation to Lead Supporters of our Fall Benefit,**

*A Sense of Wonder* by Kaiulani Lee:

- TSG Equity
- Jack & Judy Scotnicki
- Lorian Brown
- Double O Video
- Aliza and Wade Edwards
- North Bridge Inn
- Sally Ann Food Shop, *reception sponsor*
- The Concord Cheese Shop, *reception sponsor*
- The Sudbury Foundation
- Wellspring Sound

**And to Supporters of the Call of the Wolf Benefit Event:**

- O'Lalor Painting
- Naturally You/ Nu Yu Salons
- The Wolf Conservation Center
- Pam Driscoll, *Event Coordinator*

**To our Many Generous Individual Supporters and To our Devoted Volunteers . . . Thank You!**



massculturalcouncil.org

We have made every effort to be accurate and complete. Please accept our apologies and call us with corrections at (978) 369-2585.

**Wish List**

- Flat screen PC monitors
- Desk lamp with shade (1 or 2)
- 2 drawer metal file cabinets in good working order
- Small area rug for seating area
- Sturdy, but light, folding card table for events
- Radio/CD player in good condition
  - DVD labels and ability to make them for us!
- Projection Screen
- Gift cards to Staples

## Calendar

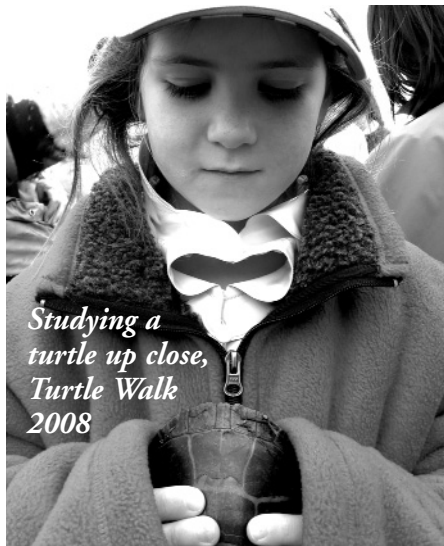
### Musketaquid Earth Day

Saturday, May 2, 10:45 am Parade, Lowell Road Boat Launch

11:30-2:00 Festival, Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts, 40 Stow St., Concord, MA

Parade through Concord and to the Earth Day Festival at the Emerson Umbrella.

Join The Nature Connection in the parade, bring your dog, or take part in the festival and visit our table—and perhaps we'll have a rabbit too!



*Studying a  
turtle up close,  
Turtle Walk  
2008*

Jim Dentzer

### Turtle Walk with Bryan Windmiller

Saturday, May 16, 10:30 am-12:00 noon  
Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge  
Concord, MA

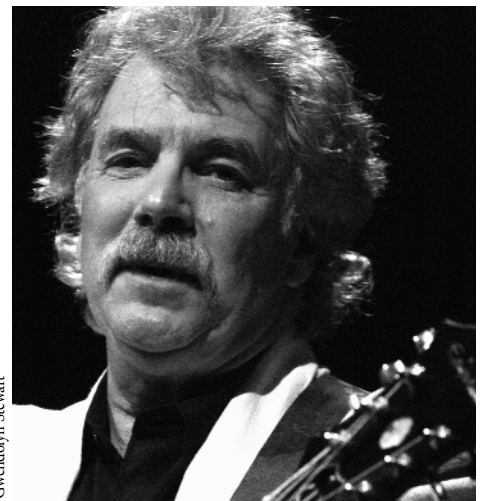
Explore with The Nature Connection and Bryan Windmiller again this spring as we look for live turtles and enjoy the fascinating nature of Great Meadows. A professional wildlife ecologist since 1987, Bryan's research includes human impact on vernal pool amphibians, and the conservation of Blanding's turtles. Walk is free. Meet at Great Meadows, end of Monsen Rd. off Rte. 62.

### Friends & Neighbors Night: The Nature Connection Annual Meeting

Thursday June 25, 6:00-7:30 pm

Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts, 40 Stow St., Concord, MA

A great opportunity to learn about our nature programs, meet our staff, volunteers and board, and get to know friends & neighbors.



Gwendolyn Stewart

### Tom Rush in Concert *to benefit* The Nature Connection

Saturday May 30, 2009

8:00 pm concert / 7:00 pm reception  
Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts  
40 Stow Street, Concord Mass.

Tom Rush is one of the great folk singer/songwriters of the past 48 years. He has just put out a new CD—his first recording in 35 years! Fellow musician James Taylor has said, "Tom was not only one of my early heroes, but also one of my main influences." Tickets are available for \$35 (\$40 at door) general admission or \$125 for premium seating and a pre-show artist reception with Tom Rush.

Visit [nature-connection.org](http://nature-connection.org)  
or call (978) 369-2585.