April 7 – 9, 2015  |  Hyatt Lost Pines  |  Austin, Texas
Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for this important event! We are proud to convene hundreds of dedicated change-makers from across the world to learn, connect, envision and build the future of the children and nature movement at this inaugural Children & Nature Network conference.

Continued innovation, collaboration and commitment are the key ingredients for meaningful grassroots change. As we move forward, utilizing tools and strategies we gain from our time here in Austin, we are mindful of how important it is to highlight and reinforce partnership.

Together, we can tear down the barriers between children and the natural world and ensure that our communities are vibrant places where all children and families can access and enjoy the many benefits of nature in their everyday lives.

Sincerely,

Sarah Milligan-Toffler
Executive Director,
Children & Nature Network

Jennifer Bristol
Coordinator,
Texas Children in Nature

Molly Stevens
Executive Director & CEO,
Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center

Betsy Townsend
Board Chair,
Children & Nature Network

George L. Bristol
Board Chair,
Texas Audubon

William “Buddy” Steele
Board Chair,
Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center

Children & Nature Network is supporting 465 children & nature campaigns in 48 states and 12 countries by training and convening leaders, broadcasting critical information and research, and changing the system through partnerships, programs, and policy.

Texas Children & Nature is a grassroots network of 6 regional collaboratives and over 300 partner organizations and individuals who are dedicated to connecting children and families with nature in Texas.

Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center leads the Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin (CiNCA) which regularly brings partners together to share experiences and resources and to encourage collaboration to increase efficiency and programmatic impact to get more kids outside more often.

Share your #CNC2015 experiences with @childrennature!
We can all agree: children, families and communities need nature. Our collective wisdom, supported by mounting research, tells us that kids who engage with the natural world on a daily basis are healthier, happier and smarter stewards of our planet. The great work of the remainder of the 21st Century is the development of a new and positive relationship between human beings and the rest of the natural world.

This work is already underway in many parts of the world, including right here in Texas. We are proud to support this first-of-its-kind opportunity to celebrate accomplishments, share lessons learned, activate collaboration, spark new connections and chart a path for expanding the work that must be done.

Most of all, we hope you will be inspired and discover strategies for fueling inspiration in those around you. Even though there are challenges ahead, we have confidence in the talent, the creativity, and the commitment of each one of you attending this conference. Working together, we can define and achieve a future where all children have access to nature in their everyday lives.
Schedule Overview

**TUESDAY | April 7th**

8:30 am - 5:00 pm  **Technology & Nature Summit**

Technology inspires nature experiences in new ways by making learning and playing outdoors accessible and engaging for all children.

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm  **2015 Gala for Children & Nature: Celebrating our Nature Heroes**

Benefitting Texas Children in Nature and Children & Nature Network. Tickets for this event must purchased in advance.

**WEDNESDAY | April 8th**

8:00 am – 6:00 pm  **Conference: Inspiration & Action for Healthy Communities**

Engage in inspiring presentations, discussions and workshops that highlight the latest research, promising practices and innovative solutions to connect children, families and communities with nature. A powerful speaker line-up will cover five key themes:

**TRACK 1: CREATING VIBRANT CITIES: A New Vision for All Communities**

**TRACK 2: GROWING HEALTHY CHILDREN: The Imperative for Nature Connection**

**TRACK 3: BUILDING DIVERSE NATURE-SMART LEADERS: The Next Generation**

**TRACK 4: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: Outdoor Learning in the 21st Century**

**TRACK 5: SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD: Inspiring Grassroots Action**

**THURSDAY | April 9th**

9:00 am – 11:30 pm  **Action Labs**

Building on Wednesday’s momentum, we will forge new partnerships and generate community-based action plans.

12:15 am – 5:00 pm  **Field Trip, Service Project or Networking for Action**

Choose one of three exciting ways to wrap up the day:

Field Trip: Discover Places for Nature Play and Learning! (registration required)

Service Project: Restoring the land at Bastrop State Park

Networking for Action: Hyatt Lost Pines

Share your #CNC2015 experiences with @childrennature!
# Schedule at a Glance

## TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH: TECHNOLOGY & NATURE SUMMIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Registration Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:15</td>
<td>Breakfast (Pecan Court)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:30</td>
<td>Summit Opening: What is the Role of Technology in Nature? (Barons D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 – 11:15</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Far Out! (Barons AB)</td>
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<td>Technology in the Classroom (Barons C)</td>
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<td>Citizen Science (Barons D)</td>
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<td><strong>Tool Time!</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00 – 4:00 (Riversong Lawn)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 – 11:30</td>
<td>Break &amp; Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 – 12:15</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 1:00</td>
<td>Luncheon Keynote: Raising Tomorrow’s Explorers (Barons D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:15</td>
<td>Break &amp; Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 – 2:30</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Games &amp; Contents (Barons AB)</td>
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<td>Virtual Nature (Barons D)</td>
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<td>From the Field (Barons C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 – 2:45</td>
<td>Break &amp; Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 – 4:00</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family-Friendly Tech in Nature (Barons AB)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>STEM, Nature &amp; Technology (Barons C)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kid Talk (Barons D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 – 4:15</td>
<td>Break &amp; Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15 – 5:00</td>
<td>Summit Closing: The Case for Nature in a Virtual World (Barons D)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(tickets must be purchased in advance)</td>
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## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH: CONFERENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Registration Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00-8:30</td>
<td>Breakfast (Pecan Court)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15-10:00</td>
<td>Opening Plenary: The Nature-Rich City: Creating Vibrant &amp; Healthy Communities for All (Barons DEFG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-11:30</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 1:</td>
<td>Promoting Access to Nature in &amp; with Cities (Barons DEFG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 2:</td>
<td>Helping Them Get It: Communicating the Importance of Nature to Leaders in Medicine and Public Health (Barons A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 3:</td>
<td>The Value of Nature Play in Child Development and Learning (Barons B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 4:</td>
<td>Green School Grounds: Integrating the Outdoor Classroom into the Culture of the School and Community (Austin Colony AB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 5:</td>
<td>Texas Children in Nature – Celebrating the Collective Successes in Texas! (Barons C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-1:30</td>
<td>Lunch Buffet (Pecan Court)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:30</td>
<td>Luncheon Panel: Increasing Nature Connections for Children – A Funder’s Perspective (Barons DEFG)</td>
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<td>1:45-3:00</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 1:</td>
<td>Successful Nature-Connection Projects—Getting Past the Grown-Ups’ (Austin Colony AB)</td>
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<td>Track 2:</td>
<td>Re-wilding for Human Flourishing: Practical Tools from Ecopsychology (Barons A)</td>
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<td>Track 3:</td>
<td>Place Matters in Nature—Policy Matters, Too! (Barons B)</td>
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<td>Track 4:</td>
<td>Integrative Education: Community/School Partnerships that Support Students, Families and Neighborhoods (Barons DEFG)</td>
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<td>Track 5:</td>
<td>Worldwide Inspiration from the Children &amp; Nature Movement (Barons C)</td>
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<td>3:15-4:30</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 1:</td>
<td>Risk Management for Nature Play: It’s Not as Lame as You Think It Is (Barons C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 2:</td>
<td>Nature and Health – Bringing Evidence to Action: Translating Research for Community Action (Barons A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 3:</td>
<td>Nature-Smart Jobs: Green Play to Green Pay (Barons B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 4:</td>
<td>Healthy Childhood, Healthy Planet: Creating Natural Environments to Engage Young Children (Barons DEFG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 5:</td>
<td>Inspiring Programs that Address a Nature Connection for All Children (Austin Colony AB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45-6:00</td>
<td>Closing Plenary: The Re-Wilding Revolution: Growing Nature Lovers in Cities and Communities The White House “Every Kid in a Park” Initiative (Barons DEFG)</td>
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Share your #CNC2015 experiences with @childrennature!
### THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH: ACTION LABS & ACTIVITIES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00-9:30</td>
<td>Breakfast (Pecan Court)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00-8:50</td>
<td><strong>Morning Plenary:</strong> Forward to Nature: The Years Ahead (Barons DEFG)</td>
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<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td><strong>Action Labs</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Breaking Down Legal Barriers: Risks and Opportunities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Austin Colony B)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Next Generation of Family Nature Clubs: Leveraging Success</td>
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<td>through Partnerships and Collaborations (Barons A)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Green School Grounds: Transforming Education, Access to Nature, and</td>
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<td>Community Health (Barons B)</td>
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<td>Engaging Diversity in Careers in the Outdoor Industry: A Working Session</td>
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<td>to Launch a Texas Children in Nature Initiative (Barons C)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Transforming Youth Outdoors</td>
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<td>9:00-10:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td><strong>Action Labs</strong></td>
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<td>Igniting Policy Change to Create Nature-Rich Cities</td>
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<td>(Barons F)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bridging Health and Park Professionals: Building and Sustaining Community</td>
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<td>Initiatives (Barons D)</td>
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<td>Open Space for Self-Organizing (Barons D)</td>
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<td>Share YOU! The Power of the Personal Narrative in Connecting People to</td>
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<td>Nature 10:30-11:30 (Barons E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Lunch on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-5:00</td>
<td>Field Trip: Discovering Places for Nature Play and Learning (registration</td>
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<td>required and lunch provided)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-5:00</td>
<td>Service Project: Restoring the Land at Bastrop State Park (lunch provided)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-5:00</td>
<td>Networking for Action: Hyatt Lost Pines</td>
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Featured Speakers

**Kim Moore Bailey**
Executive Director, Foundation for Youth Investment

Kim is an experienced management executive, with expertise in strategic planning, community engagement and youth outdoor program development. Kim is the former COO of College Possible, a national non-profit focused on making college attainable for low-income students. She was also Vice President of Outward Bound, Inc., Manager of Denver City and County Parks and Recreation, and a Regional Manager for the Chicago Parks District. Kim continues to serves as a Board Member for GP RED (Research, Education, & Development for Health, Recreation & Land Agencies) and for the Voyageur Outward Bound School.

**Melina Gerosa Bellows**
Chief Education Officer, National Geographic Society

Melina is responsible for the Kids and Family media divisions, School Publishing, the National Geographic Education Foundation and the National Geographic Bee. Bellows joined National Geographic in 2000 as the editor of National Geographic World magazine (now National Geographic Kids). In 2007, she launched National Geographic Little Kids for preschoolers and their parents, which received the Parents’ Choice Gold Award for the past seven years. She is an internationally published, best-selling author of both children’s and adults’ outdoor adventure books.

**Ellen Braff-Guajardo**
Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation - Healthy Kids

Ellen’s work with Healthy Kids supports creating healthy communities through policy and systems change with a focus on vulnerable children ages 0-8 and racial equity. Prior to this role, Ellen served as a Senior Policy Advocate with CA Food Policy Advocates, a Program Officer with The California Endowment and Project Director for the Agricultural Worker Health Project at California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. Ellen is a K-12 teacher and a clinical supervising attorney and lecturer at Santa Clara University’s School of Law.

**Angie Chen**
Director, Blue Sky Funders Forum

Angie leads a collaborative of funders who support environmental education to advance conservation, civic engagement, and healthy communities. She has led strategic initiatives for the Pisces Foundation, S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council. Angie was named an American Express NGen Fellow in 2011. She currently serves on U.S. EPA’s National Environmental Education Advisory Council, the board of Pie Ranch and the Program Committee of the Foundation for Youth Investment.

Share your #CNC2015 experiences with @childrennature!
Christina Goldfuss
Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality
Christy oversees implementation of environmental and energy policies and initiatives, including the President’s Climate Action Plan, and works with other partners to develop new strategies to tackle this global challenge. Christy joined the CEQ in early 2015, after serving as the Deputy Director for Congressional and Legislative Affairs with the National Park Service. Prior to this role, Christy worked at The Center for American Progress, where she created and directed the Public Lands Project, which introduced new policy ideas to responsibly develop energy on public lands.

Patricia Hasbach, Ph.D.
Psychotherapist and Consultant, Northwest Ecotherapy
Patricia is a licensed Psychotherapist with a private practice in Eugene, Oregon, a faculty member at Lewis & Clark College and Antioch University Seattle, and a consultant for hospitals, schools, design firms, corrections facilities, and community groups on various topics related to the human-nature relationship. She has published articles in numerous journals and is the co-author of two books published by MIT Press: Ecopsychology: Science, Totems, and the Technological Species (2012) and The Rediscovery of the Wild (2013).

Jonathan Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
Jon began his career with the National Park Service in 1976 as a seasonal interpreter in Washington, D.C. Today, he is responsible for overseeing that agency and the preservation of America’s 407 most treasured national parks and cultural icons. Jarvis’s 37-year career has taken him from ranger to resource management specialist to park biologist to superintendent of parks such as Craters of the Moon, North Cascades, Wrangell-St. Elias and Mount Rainier, before being named the 18th Director of NPS in 2009.

Richard Louv
Chairman Emeritus, Children & Nature Network
Author, “Last Child in the Woods” and “The Nature Principle”
In his bestselling book Last Child in the Woods, Richard sparked a national debate that helped build an international movement to reconnect kids and nature. He coined the term “Nature-Deficit Disorder,” influences national policy, and to date has helped inspire 470 campaigns in cities, states, and provinces worldwide.

Juan Martinez
Director of Leadership Development, Children & Nature Network
Juan empowers youth leaders worldwide to connect children with nature, pursue conservation careers, and transform lives in underserved communities. In 2011, Juan was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer and the promotional video series highlighting Juan’s work won an Emmy. His TED talk is featured on the curated educational videos, TEDEd. He represents The North Face as an ambassador for outdoor engagement. In 2012, Juan became the youngest board member in Sierra Club Foundation history.
Featured Speakers

**Thomas Norquist**
Senior Vice President, GameTime Marketing
Product Development & Design, Playcore

Tom is an award-winning playground designer and children’s advocate for safe, inclusive and fun play. He was a founding board member of the International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association in 1995, and still serves today. Tom is an active representative of the American Society for Testing and Materials, a founding steering committee member on the U.S. Coalition for Play, and he serves on the boards for the International Playground Contractors Association and Dr. Stuart Brown’s National Institute for Play. Tom recently received Auburn University School of Industrial and Graphic Design Distinguished Service Award.

**Guillermo “Gil” Penalosa, M.B.A., Ph.D.H.C.**
Executive Director, 8-80 Cities

Gil is passionate about cities for all people. He advises decision-makers on how to create vibrant, healthy communities for everyone, regardless of social, economic, or ethnic background. As former Commissioner of Parks, Sport and Recreation for Bogotá, Columbia, Gil successfully led the design and development of over 200 parks. Gil currently serves as the Executive Director of the Canadian non-profit organization 8-80 Cities, where he has worked in over 150 different cities on all continents to create livable cities with nature at their center.

**Ray Rivera**
Vice President of Elected Leadership, Leadership for Educational Equity

Ray is a leader in political campaign management, policy advocacy, coalition building, and grassroots organizing. He served in President Obama’s Administration at the Obama-Biden Transition, Department of the Interior, and at the White House. Ray was a political director and union organizer for AFSCME, America’s public employees’ labor union. Ray earned his Master’s degree in Public Administration at the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he co-founded Democracy.com. Ray is currently Vice President of Elected Leadership at Leadership for Educational Equity and co-founder of the Team Tío Foundation. Ray also serves on the board of the Children & Nature Network.

**Scott D. Sampson, Ph.D.**
Vice President of Research & Collections and Chief Curator,
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Scott is a dinosaur paleontologist, science communicator, and passionate advocate for connecting people with nature. He serves as Vice President of Research and Collections and Chief Curator at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. He is perhaps best known as “Dr. Scott,” host and science advisor of the Emmy-nominated PBS KIDS television series Dinosaur Train, produced by the Jim Henson Company. Sampson is author of Dinosaur Odyssey: Fossil Threads in the Web of Life (University of California Press, 2009) and How to Raise a Wild Child: The Art and Science of Falling in Love with Nature (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015).

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Featured Speakers

Andrew Sansom, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University

Andrew is one of Texas’ leading conservationists. He is a former Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Executive Director of the Texas Nature Conservancy, and founder of The Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas. For his commitment to the management and protection of natural resources, Dr. Sansom also is a past recipient of the Chevron Conservation Award, The Chuck Yeager Award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Pugsley Medal from the National Park Foundation, and the Seton Award from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He is a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas Tech University and Austin College.

Laura Turner Seydel
Chair, Captain Planet Foundation

Laura Turner Seydel is an international environmental advocate dedicated to creating a healthy and sustainable future for our children. Laura is chairperson of the Captain Planet Foundation which promotes hands-on environmental education projects worldwide. She is a director of, and works with, the Environmental Working Group to limit the toxic chemicals in food, air, water and consumer products. In 2004 she co-founded Mothers and Others for Clean Air and is currently the Chair of the Board. In 1994, she and her husband co-founded Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

Carter Smith
Executive Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Carter Smith began his professional career at TPWD more than two decades ago as a Management Intern assisting in the Private Lands and Public Hunting programs. Today, he is responsible for overseeing an agency of 3,100 professionals in 11 different divisions, including Wildlife, Law Enforcement, State Parks, Coastal Fisheries, and Inland Fisheries. He serves on a number of local boards and has been particularly active in the realms of private lands stewardship, coastal resource and invasive species issues, children in nature initiatives and expanded outreach to the state’s urban populace. He was recently named an outstanding alumnus by Yale University and Texas Tech, and was honored by the Audubon Society with their Victor Emmanuel Conservation Award.

Taldi Walter
Community Affairs Program Manager, Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

Taldi oversees grant requests, administers funds and monitors outcomes for REI’s corporate grantmaking program. Previously, she served as the Assistant Director of Government Relations for the National Audubon Society in Washington, D.C., building partnerships with congressional staff, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and diverse stakeholders to build support for national conservation outcomes. She’s an avid cyclist and advocate for local bike-friendly transportation and land use policy in the state of Washington.
7:00  Registration Opens  
7:30-8:15  Breakfast  
(Pecan Court)

8:30–9:30  OPENING PLENARY  
(Barons D)

What Is the Role of Technology in Nature?
Patricia Hasbach, Ph.D., Author, “Ecopsychology: Science, Totems and the Technological Species”
Andrew Sansom, Ph.D., Executive Director, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University

International leaders will emphasize the efficacy of using technology to inspire, encourage, and augment the experiences of nature play and learning. There is ample evidence that direct contact with nature is essential for our psychological and physical well-being. This session will address complexities and the challenges as we seek to find a balance between direct experience with nature and a technologically-mediated one.

9:30-9:45  Break & Networking

9:45–11:15  CONCURRENT SESSIONS  
(Barons AB)

Far Out!  
Nature Passport App—Using Technology to Get Kids Off the Couch and Into Nature
Ben Klasky, IslandWood
Griffin Longley, Nature Play WA

The Nature Passport app is a first-of-its-kind international collaboration between IslandWood (USA) and Nature Play (Australia), using smartphone technology to get kids outside playing, exploring, and learning. The app rewards children for completing missions outdoors, and the platform allows users and partners to easily create custom missions.

Invisible Nature Seen Through the Lens of Technology
R. Brent Lyles, Austin Youth River Watch
Jessica Gordon, Department of Watershed Protection, City of Austin
Suzanne Pierce, Ph.D., Texas Advanced Computing Center and Jackson, School of Geosciences, University of TX-Austin

Visible Earth is vast, yet the invisible elements of our planet are immense. Technology advances our ability to ‘see’ and understand nature. From digital field notebooks to 3D printed tangibles, explore how technology opens access for at-risk youth to parts of the planet that are invisible to the unaided experience.

A Casual Visit to the Upper Stratosphere
Mikal Hart, Intel Corporation

During this session we’ll see some spectacular new footage taken with a camera sent to the edge of “Near-Space.” Mikal Hart shares how a team of Intel engineers got a GoPro to 100,000 feet and safely back down—and how someday soon your kids will, too.
Technology in the Classroom (Barons C)

Engaging the Nature Enthusiast With iNaturalist
Trevor Hance, Laurel Mountain Elementary School, Round Rock, TX
Cullen Hanks, Texas Nature Trackers, Texas Parks & Wildlife
The iNaturalist platform provides an online and mobile interface for documenting observations of plants and animals, and it promotes validation through feedback from the community. It is a powerful tool for learning how to identify species and contribute to our knowledge of natural history.

Tech In (and Outside) the Classroom: An Aquatic Science Pathway
Rudolph A. Rosen, Ph.D., The Meadows Center for Water and The Environment, Texas State University
Join us to discover our journey to develop mobile and interactive technologies to enhance experiential education about water that actually augments and fits seamlessly into classroom curricula.

Citizen Science (Barons D)

Any Bird, Anywhere, Seen by Anyone
Nancy Trautmann, Ph.D., Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Using eBird, anybody can submit bird observations from anywhere in the world. The website displays what birds are seen in your community, which ones migrate, and where to go to see species of interest. Our free Merlin app uses eBird data and 3 simple questions to help beginners identify birds.

FrogWatch USA & FieldScope
Nette Pletcher, Association of Zoos and Aquariums
FrogWatch USA is a citizen science program that provides individuals with an opportunity to learn about wetlands in their communities. Citizens report data on the calls of local frogs and toads, that are entered and accessed using an innovative online data entry, mapping, and analysis platform.

Monarch Citizen Science: Conservation in Action
Katie-Lyn Bunney and Sarah Weaver, Monarch Lab, University of MN-Twin Cities
Monarchs and their story of international migration attract a variety of citizen science undertakings throughout North America on their behalf. These initiatives make them the perfect fit to merge conservation and education with technology and nature.

10:00–4:00 Tool Time! (Riversong Lawn)
Head outside to play with some of the technology & nature toys.

11:15–11:30 Break & Networking (Pecan Court)
11:30–12:15 Lunch

12:30–1:00 Luncheon Keynote (Barons D)
Raising Tomorrow’s Explorers Melina Gerosa Bellows, National Geographic Society
In her new role as Chief Education Officer of the National Geographic Society, Melina is charged with getting kids excited about the outdoors. As the mother of two, she also knows the power screens have over our youngest explorers. Hear Melina speak about National Geographic’s vision for raising the next generation of explorers on and offline.
1:00-1:15  Break & Networking

1:15–2:30  Concurrent Sessions

**Games & Contests**

**Ravenous—Play Like a Bird, Be the Bird**
Jamie Larsen, Educational Gaming Environments (EdGE) at TERC
Re-skin yourself in black feathers and see if you've got what it takes to get from here to there, find what you need to survive, avoid predators, and even hook-up with that special “somebird.” Ravenous helps uncover how the real world interplay between adaptation, natural selection, and energy influences survival.

**Terraplay: Tangible Play for Science and Sustainability**
Suzanne Pierce, Ph.D., Texas Advanced Computing Center and Jackson School of Geosciences, UT- Austin
Rea Wolfe, Connally High School
Terraplay is an immersive game that delivers focused curricula and digital tools with interactive 3D tangibles to teach sustainability science concepts. Developed as part of a serious game training program, Terraplay has been developed in collaboration with high school students to build a skills-based career path through digital media.

**Agents of Nature**
Joel Krupa, Get to Know Program
Agents of Nature is a mobile game that transforms the user into a ‘secret agent of nature.’ This game is designed to make learning fun for youth visiting parks, forests, zoos, aquariums, museums, or any place-based education facility. Find out lessons learned from this unique project and identify best practices in using gamification to get kids learning and moving in the great outdoors.

**Virtual Nature**

**Nature Cat**
Parke Richeson, WTTW Chicago
Adam Rudman, Spiffy Pictures
How does a tv show, online and mobile games, music and related activities inspire kids to go outside, connect with nature and explore? We'll take you inside the producers’ studio and share how a curriculum brief, character’s story, and community engagement activities placed in the imaginative hands of kids, become catalysts for action.

**Pacha’s Pajamas: A Story Written By Nature**
Dave Room, BALANCE Edutainment/Pacha’s Pajamas
Pacha’s Pajamas is an ecosystem of digital and physical products for pre-teens, which make learning a play-based family experience and encourage real life experiences in community and nature. When Pacha goes to sleep, she goes on journeys with the plants and animals on her pajamas to learn more about herself.

Share your #CNC2015 experiences with @chilennature!
Blindfolds, Binoculars & Tablets: Enhancing Outdoor Curiosity Through Mobile Technology
Ilya Shmulenson, M.Ed., Keep Austin Beautiful
Mobile devices, such as tablets and digital microscopes, should be added to the list of field tools utilized by environmental educators. These devices create wonder, offer opportunities for in-depth investigation, photo journalism and data entry while utilizing digital technology to keep students engaged outdoors.

“Vital Signs” & “PowerHouse”: Engaging Middle Schoolers in Outdoor Learning
Donald Perkins, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Gulf of Maine Research Institute has developed two programs that blur the distinction between formal and informal education, hands-on and digital: Vital Signs (hunting for invasive species) and PowerHouse (reducing household energy consumption). GMRI’s President/CEO will share their experience, successes and failures while developing and refining these programs.

The Great Nature Project
Elena Takaki, National Geographic Society
The Great Nature Project is a worldwide celebration of our planet’s natural wonders and a massive scientific undertaking to document the Earth’s incredible biodiversity. We encourage you to look for living organisms, snap pictures of those organisms, and upload the pictures to the Great Nature Project website. By doing so, we are collaboratively creating a global snapshot of the world’s amazing array of life.

2:30-2:45 Break & Networking

2:45–4:00 Concurrent Sessions

Family-Friendly Tech in Nature
The Geocache Challenge: Kids, Caches and Texas State Parks
Cassie Honolka and Robert Owen, Texas Outdoor Families, Texas Parks & Wildlife
Harnessing children’s familiarity with technology and using it as a gateway to outdoor play keeps them tuned to nature’s bounty. Geocaching is a popular activity around the globe that turns our natural areas into playscapes with endless opportunities. The State Parks Geocache Challenge was born from the desire to embrace the game.

The Opposite of Geocaching: Carrying the Treasure with You
Mikal Hart, Intel Corporation
What began as a wedding gift from the speaker to his old college roommate has become a global platform for intimate adventuring. Come hear the story of the mysterious box that opens at only one place on the face of the earth; a hidden waterfall, a cave or a secluded island.

STEM, Nature & Technology
Plum Landing: Go Digital, Get Outdoors, and Learn Some Science, Too
Jennifer Cutraro, WGBH Educational Foundation
Photograph weird things in nature, map animal habitats and more with WGBH and PBS Kids’ new ecosystem science project Plum Landing! See how our digital curriculum, photo app and digital badging system get kids and their families to experience the outdoors and recognize that nature is everywhere, even in the middle of a city.
STEMlandia: The Nature’s Apprentice Geocaching Adventure
Jamie Larsen, Educational Gaming Environments (EdGE) at TERC
STEMlandia uses nature to facilitate STEM-infused play. Developed in cooperation with an arboretum, it builds on the popularity of geocaching to introduce STEM concepts tied to STEMcaches near plants. Players navigate to a cache, solve a puzzle to get credit for a find, and learn while having fun exploring the world around them.

Drones in the Piney Woods
Jessica Snider, Capitol Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
Today technology is an integrated and vital part of children’s lives. Capitol Area Council, BSA, aims to use technology to enhance children’s interest in the outdoors by including activities like using apps to teach erosion and drones to teach forestry. Called E-STEAM, this program combines STEAM education with Environmental Studies.

Kid Talk (Barons D)
Minecraft & Biophilic Design
Andy Kuhlken, Austin Montessori School (8th grade)
Learn how biophilic design principles can be incorporated into the game of Minecraft. Andy will show examples of how nature can be involved while playing a computer game.

Who Is a Scientist? A Fifth Grader Finds a Voice Through iNaturalist
Sahil Shah, Canyon Vista Middle School (6th grade)
When Sahil’s 5th grade science class was given the opportunity to individually select, design and pursue an 8-week ecology-based service learning project, his interests led him to iNaturalist, where his questions about the reliability of the “scientists” using the platform helped him realize the value of his own voice.

Adventures with Invasive Species
Benjamin Shrader, CommanderBen.com
Can you triumph over invasive species with a video camera? Yes you can! Ben shares his adventures creating his blog and YouTube video series to help educate kids of all ages about invasives. He also shares his experiences as a citizen scientist recording observations in the Invaders of Texas Program.

4:00–4:15 Break & Networking

4:15–5:00 Closing Plenary (Barons D)
The Case for Nature in a Virtual World
Christina Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality
The presenters will explore the case for direct experience in nature in a virtual world. Ms. Goldfuss will highlight the “Every Kid in a Park” initiative and Mr. Louv will offer some closing thoughts for the Technology and Nature Summit.

Share your #CNC2015 experiences with @childrennature!
**Program Agenda**

**CHILDREN & NATURE CONFERENCE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Registration Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00–8:30</td>
<td>Breakfast (Pecan Court)</td>
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<td>8:15</td>
<td><strong>Morning Plenary</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Welcome</strong></td>
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<td>Carter Smith, Executive Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</td>
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<td>Ray Rivera, Vice President of Elected Leadership, Leadership for Educational Equity</td>
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<td><strong>Fueling the Children &amp; Nature Movement</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Nature-Rich City: Creating Vibrant &amp; Healthy Communities for All</strong></td>
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<td>Gil Penalosa, M.B.A., Ph.D.H.C., Executive Director, 8–80 Cities</td>
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<td><strong>Conference Launch</strong></td>
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<td>Sarah Milligan- Toffler, Executive Director, Children &amp; Nature Network</td>
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<td><strong>Networking Leadership Strategies for Change-Makers</strong></td>
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<td>Carolyn Verheyen, Principal and COO, MIG, Inc.</td>
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<td>10:00–10:15</td>
<td>Break &amp; Networking</td>
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<td>10:15–11:30</td>
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<td><strong>Promoting Access to Nature in &amp; with Cities</strong></td>
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<td>Jeannette Hofferman, REI San Antonio</td>
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<td>Richard Louv, Chairman Emeritus, Children &amp; Nature Network</td>
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<td>Andrew Moore, National League of Cities</td>
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<td>Gil Penalosa, 8–80 Cities</td>
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<td>Marcia Pradines, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>Roberto C. Treviño, City of San Antonio District One Councilmember</td>
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<td>Jessica Wahl, Outdoor Industry Association</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Ray Rivera, Leadership for Educational Equity</td>
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<td><strong>Families in lower-income urban communities have significantly less access to natural areas than those in higher-income areas, adding to disparities in health, wellness and other benefits associated with nature access. Panelists will explore barriers to regular nature connection and share success stories from cities around the country. C&amp;NN, in partnership with National League of Cities, recently launched Cities Promoting Access to Nature, designed to help municipal leaders increase access to nature in cities. Join Richard Louv and our expert panel to discuss promising practices for connecting diverse urban communities to the natural world and discover ways your city can get involved with the project.</strong></td>
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Helping Them Get It: Communicating the Importance of Nature to Leaders in Medicine & Public Health  
**Panelists:**
Stephen Pont, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P., Dell Children’s Medical Center, American Academy of Pediatrics
Nooshin Razani, M.D., M.P.H., University of California San Francisco Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland
Cherelle Van Brackle, M.Ed., Dell Children’s Medical Center

We know that nature-based experiences are good for health, but how do we convince those working in the health field that nature is a powerful tool for promoting health? In this session we will discuss the language of medicine, public health, and school health and will explore specific ways that we can promote nature-based solutions both as a prevention and intervention tool. We will hear about ways that pediatricians and health care professionals can increase time outdoors with education and specific initiatives such as park prescriptions, and participants will learn about ways to influence public health initiatives in communities.

The Value of Nature Play in Child Development & Learning  
**Joe Frost, Ph.D., Ed.D., L.H.D, University of Texas at Austin**
**Rusty Keeler, Earthscapes, Author of Natural Playscapes**

Get inspired by these accomplished experts and authors! Based on years of research, Dr. Joe Frost makes the compelling case for learning through whole child development approaches, and most especially including play. Then Rusty Keeler will help you see the outdoors as a learning environment and understand the benefits of outdoor play in natural settings— all seasons, all weather. See inspirational playscape examples from around the world to spark the imagination filled with trees, grass, gardens, sand and water and more.

Texas Children in Nature— Celebrating the Collective Successes in Texas!  
**Panelists:**
Jaime Gonzales, Katy Prairie Conservancy
Judit Green, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Colleen McCue, University of Texas Marine Science Institute
Molly Stevens, Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center
Susan Rowe, Lubbock Lake Historic Landmark
Melody Wood, Dallas Zoo

**Moderator:** Nancy Herron, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Hear from the regional grassroots leaders in Texas who organize their communities to raise awareness and take action to connect more children and families with nature. Each leader will focus on successes in their regions that you can be inspired by and replicate in your communities of practice.

Share your #CNC2015 experiences with @childrennature!
Green School Grounds: Integrating the Outdoor Classroom into the Culture of the School & Community

Panelists:
Sharon Danks, Green Schoolyards America
Scott Feille, Real School Gardens
Jaime Zaplatosch, Openlands, Space to Grow

Moderator: Margaret Lamar, Children & Nature Network

Greening school grounds works best when the entire community of the school is invested. Learn from experts how the community can be involved in designing and participating in green school grounds, how teachers and school staff learn to use these outdoor classrooms, and how facilities and maintenance departments engage in new practices to sustain projects. A national and international perspective will be offered with specific examples of work in Dallas/Fort Worth and Chicago.

11:30–1:30 Lunch
(Pecan Court)

12:30–1:30 Luncheon Panel
(Barons DEFG)
Increasing Nature Connections for Children: A Funder’s Perspective

Panelists:
Kim Moore Bailey, Foundation for Youth Investment
Ellen Braff-Guajardo, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Angie Chen, Blue Sky Funders Forum
Tom Norquist, PlayCore
Laura Turner Seydel, Captain Planet Foundation
Taldi Walter, Recreation Equipment, Inc. (REI)

Moderator: Juan Martinez, Children & Nature Network

Our expert panel of foundation, corporate and government grantmakers will share the most exciting trends they are seeing in the children and nature movement. They will highlight metrics that matter to them and how they think about scaling and replicating promising programs. Gain valuable insight about dos and don’ts when applying for funding. Come away with new ideas and energy for funding your children and nature initiative.

1:30–1:45 Break & Networking

1:45–3:00 Concurrent Sessions
(Barons DEFG)
Integrative Education:
Community/School Partnerships that Support Students, Families & Neighborhoods
Annie Bogenschutz, Community Learning Center Institute, Cincinnati
Carmen Burks, Safe Routes to Schools, Cincinnati Public Schools

In recognition of the social challenges facing many of today’s children, addressing student achievement in the 21st century often goes beyond the academic school day, involving after-school programs, summer learning and school-based health initiatives. Community/school partnerships offer significant benefits for students while supplementing tight school budgets. This session highlights successful, innovative partnership models that not only improve academic outcomes and student wellness, but also engage the community and revitalize neighborhoods.
Re-wilding for Human Flourishing: Practical Tools from Ecopsychology  
Patricia Hasbach, Ph.D., Northwest Ecotherapy

Many people who advocate for nature and for the importance of nature in our lives focus on what is close at hand: domestic, nearby nature. Domestic nature is important. We can access it easily and garner immediate benefits from interacting with it. But domestic nature is only part of who we are and what we need. The other part is wild nature. For as a species, we came of age in a natural world far wilder than today’s, and that need for wildness still exists within us. Session participants will reflect on a wild experience in their own lives, and then relate that experience to the concept of “re-wilding.” We’ll explore the importance of wilder nature experiences as part of “our story” that shapes our environmental identity as individuals, as communities, and as a culture.

Place Matters in Nature—Why Policy Matters, Too!  
Panelists: Martin LeBlanc, IslandWood  
Jackie Ostfeld, Sierra Club, Outdoors Alliance for Kids  
Autumn Saxton Ross, Ph.D., National Collaborative for Health Equity  
Moderator: Juan Martinez, Children & Nature Network

Nature is for all communities. How is access to nature connected to policy and how does policy impact equity of nature access? How can we develop policy that benefits an entire community? Join our panel to discuss current policy endeavors and best practices for connecting diverse urban communities to nature in and around cities.

Worldwide Inspiration from the Children & Nature Movement  
James Bartram, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Canada  
Bronwyn Cumbo, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia  
Monica Franco, Associação Movimento Bloom, Portugal  
Conor O’Gorman, Ph.D., Parent and Founder, Nature Club for Families, England  
Sarah Bateman, Middle Years Shared Ecological Education Community, Canada  
Moderator: Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., Children & Nature Network

Nature-Deficit Disorder is a worldwide phenomenon. Fortunately, however, people throughout the world are working to reconnect children, families and whole communities with nature in their everyday lives. Join us for a lively panel that offers insights and inspiration, strategies and stories that represent some of what is working to create and sustain a nature-rich present and future for children everywhere.

Successful Nature-Connection Projects—‘Getting Past the Grown-Ups’  
Adam Bienenstock, Bienenstock Playgrounds  
Heather Cowie, City of Calgary  
Scott D. Sampson, Ph.D., Denver Museum of Nature & Science

What are the greatest challenges and opportunities facing the New Nature Movement? In particular, how can collaboration help us to rapidly scale nature connection efforts in the coming generation? In this interactive workshop, three highly acclaimed professionals in the movement will convey their tales of success and failure. Come ready to share your roadblocks and breakthroughs as we work together to map out a pathway into a vibrant future for children and nature.
3:00–3:15 Break & Networking

3:15–4:30 Concurrent Sessions

Healthy Childhood, Healthy Planet: Creating Natural Environments to Engage Young Children (Barons DEFG)
Nilda Cosco, Ph.D., Natural Learning Initiative, North Carolina State University
Robin Moore, Ph. D., Natural Learning Initiative, North Carolina State University

Engaging young children with nature beginning in the first year of life is an important intergenerational strategy to promote healthy outcomes for both children and planet. Since 2006, the Natural Learning Initiative (NLI) has worked with North Carolina governmental and nongovernmental organizations using a system change, grassroots, evidence-based, best-practice approach to improve the quality of childcare center outdoor learning environments. NLI’s comprehensive, community-based strategy linked to community college programs in early childhood, culinary arts, horticulture, and construction, will be described and illustrated with best practice demonstration sites.

Nature & Health—Bringing Evidence to Action: Translating Research for Community Action (Barons A)
Jeannette Ickovics, Ph.D., Yale University
Catherine Jordan, Ph.D., University of Minnesota
Nancy M. Wells, Ph.D., Cornell University

Research is providing more and more evidence of the benefits of nature exposure for children’s health. How do we get this evidence into practice and policy? This session will provide an update of the latest research on the health impacts of nature exposure, from physical activity and obesity prevention, to enhanced mental health, to improved birth outcomes, and more. In this interactive session case examples will offer illustrations of strategies for making research actionable. Session attendees will work with one case example to elucidate practice and policy implications and are invited to bring their own needs for actionable evidence for discussion.

Nature-Smart Jobs: Green Play to Green Pay (Barons B)
Steve Chase, National Conservation Training Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nick Clemons, National Park Service
Caitlin Cox, Disney
Ky Harkey, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Nate Hawley, National Conservation Training Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Millennials are the future of the conservation workforce. Whether you’re approaching graduation or retirement, you’ll appreciate this session as we explore the process and the significance of millennials entering Green Jobs. Hiring Experts and Natural Leaders lead a facilitated discussion about opportunities and trends in the green jobs fields. Complete with advice, career development Q&As and a simple activity that will remind everyone of the greater truth in our workplaces.

Risk Management for Nature Play: It’s Not as Lame as You Think It Is (Barons C)
Allen Cooper, National Wildlife Federation

This boring session will tell you what you cannot do and will keep you from being sued, so you had better attend even if you don’t want to. JUST KIDDING. In fact we will challenge the dominant approach to risk, give you tools so that you can restore reasonable risk to children’s play, and have some fun of our own.
Inspiring Programs that Address a Nature Connection for All Children

Panelists:
Jose Gonzalez, Latino Outdoors
Bill Kilburn, Back to Nature Network
Dave Room, BALANCE Edutainment
Ryan Spencer, Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center
Haily Summerford, Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, Texas Audubon
James King, Natural Leaders Network

Facilitator: Paul Hai, SUNY-ESF’s Northern Forest Institute

Grassroots successes come in all shapes and sizes. Come hear how the Road Runner Outdoor Adventure Bus, a partnership with the Ontario College of Family Physicians, outdoor science education, a network of support for Latino Outdoor leadership, and even a pair of pajamas are changing the world.

4:30–4:45
Break & Networking

4:45–6:00
Closing Plenary

Introduction
James Bartram, Canadian Wildlife Federation

The Re-Wilding Revolution: Growing Nature Lovers in Cities and Communities
Scott Sampson, Ph.D., Vice President of Research & Collections and Chief Curator, Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Every Kid in a Park
Jonathan Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

Wrap-Up
Facilitator: Margaret Lamar, Children & Nature Network

Share your #CNC2015 experiences with @childrennature!
Program Agenda

CHILDREN & NATURE CONFERENCE

7:00–9:30  Breakfast  (Pecan Court)

8:00–8:50  OPENING PLENARY  (Barons DEFG)

Introduction
Betsy Townsend, Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Leave No Child Inside—Greater Cincinnati; Chair, Board of Directors, Children & Nature Network

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Forward to Nature: The Years Ahead

8:50–9:00  Break & Networking

9:00–11:30  ACTION LABS (Note variable start and end times for each Action Lab)  (Austin Colony B)

9:00–11:30  Breaking Down Legal Barriers: Risks & Opportunities
Allen Cooper, National Wildlife Federation
Steve Smith, Student Conservation Association
Joe Frost, Ph.D., Ed.D., L.H.D., University of Texas at Austin
Richard Dolesh, National Recreation and Parks Association
Facilitator: Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., Children & Nature Network

This Action Lab will outline ways to gain traction toward reducing and removing existing stringent restrictions on children’s outdoor play. Legal issues and barriers will be identified, and participants will have an opportunity to create a plan of action for addressing the issues at hand.

9:00–11:30  Next Generation of Family Nature Clubs: Leveraging Success through Partnerships & Collaborations
Nette Pletcher, Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Mike Bingley, Canadian Wildlife Federation
Stacy McReynolds, San Antonio Zoo
Heather Kuhlken, Austin Families in Nature
Facilitator: Janice Swaisgood, Children & Nature Network

Family Nature Clubs are growing! Ready to take the first or next step with a Family Nature Club? Then join us! Participants will hear a short panel discussion on the current models for Family Nature Clubs (FNCs), including grassroots, zoo-based and international partnerships. Participants will then convene around and take action for personal or organizational next steps for their FNCs. Attendees of this Action Lab will include both experienced FNC leaders and those new to the idea of FNCs who are ready to plan and grow.
9:00–11:30 (Barons B)
**Green School Grounds: Transforming Education, Access to Nature & Community Health**
Margaret Lamar, Children & Nature Network

In this Action Lab we will set in motion next steps for building on the success of the green schoolyard movement to transform school grounds into community nature hubs and quality environments for play, health and learning. We will have a working session to determine concrete steps for expanding green school grounds to more communities through policy change, sustained funding, school staff training, and community partnerships.

9:00–11:30 (Barons C)
**Engaging Diversity in Careers in the Outdoor Industry:**
A Working Session to Launch a Texas Children in Nature Initiative

This Action Lab is open to all conference participants and will be broken into three cumulative sessions.

**Session 1: Diversity in Careers in the Outdoor Industry**
David Buggs, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Brian Trusty, Texas Audubon  
Dr. Andrew Kim, Comal ISD  
Facilitator: Jennifer Bristol, Texas Children in Nature

This session will investigate the issues surrounding why young people are not set up for success in middle & high school to make choices about careers in the outdoor industry. This session will also explore how career counselors, admission advisors and human resource managers can contribute to opening the doors for young minorities and women to explore careers in the outdoor field. It will also address how marketing influences these barriers.

**Session 2: Voices from the Field**
Ky Harkey, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Iliana A. Peña, Audubon Texas  
Parc Smith, American Youth Works  
Nakia Douglas, Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy, Dallas ISD

This session will address the topic of diversity from the perspective of what is currently being done to engage a more diverse workforce and common limitations. Panelists will share their experiences with breaking down the barriers that inhibit diversity in the outdoor industry.

**Session 3: Taking Action**
Jennifer Bristol, Texas Children in Nature  
Haily Summerford, Audubon Texas  
Johnnie Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Participants will take part in drafting a community action plan to raise awareness, create a unified message and lay the foundation for a simple tool kit that can be built upon and shared. They will also agree to take action in their communities to engage other leaders to participate.
9:00-10:00
Transforming Youth Outdoors
Christopher Rutgers, founder of Outdoor Outreach

Come learn about recently launched TYO: Transforming Youth Outdoors. TYO is an online learning community created for outdoor youth program leaders and designed to provide all of the tools and resources needed to build and grow programs while allowing users to connect and collaborate with other leaders across the country. In 1999, Chris founded Outdoor Outreach as a means to give at-risk and underprivileged youth the same life-changing opportunities. Drawing from his own personal experiences, Chris developed the Outdoor Outreach program model and philosophies that have proven to be so successful working with at-risk and underprivileged youth.

9:30–11:30
Igniting Policy Change to Create Nature-Rich Cities
Paxton Barnes, Children & Nature Network
Jackie Ostfeld, Sierra Club, Outdoors Alliance for Kids
Autumn Saxton-Ross, Ph.D., National Collaborative for Health Equity

Change happens from the bottom up and the top down. This session will identify policy-change processes and resources to empower grassroots leaders to engage policy makers in their city or community. This Action Lab will explore the many ways that communities can integrate nature access and experiences into the policies that support the built environment, schools, parks, public health, and other key leverage points.

9:30–11:30
Bridging Health and Park Professionals: Building and Sustaining Community Initiatives
Pam Hess, Outdoors Rx, Appalachian Mountain Club
Nooshin Razani, M.D., M.P.H., University of California San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

Parks and green space are key components to both prevention and intervention of a number of chronic health diseases. We are all looking for ways to increase use of these spaces in a meaningful way, and there are a number of innovative approaches to directly tie medical and public health professionals to parks and outdoor recreation. But how do you get started on creating a program that will work for you? In this Action Lab, a pediatrician and an environmental educator will first present lessons learned in their respective collaborative work. Then we will break into small groups with guided discussions to determine what kind of partnerships make sense for you and concrete steps to take in creating partnerships for health.

10:30-11:30
SHARE YOU! The Power of the Personal Narrative in Connecting People to Nature
CJ Goulding, National Park Service
Sarah Walker, Child and Nature Alliance of Canada
James King, Natural Leaders Network

An integral piece of Natural Leaders Legacy Camp training is learning why sharing your personal story is important and how to use storytelling to achieve personal goals and action steps in your community. Storytelling is one of the oldest components of humanity and community. What is your story? Some people mistakenly believe that they do not have a compelling story to tell. Share YOU! is an interactive session designed to show you the power of story, provide tools to help you develop your personal narrative, give you an opportunity to practice sharing that story with others, and show how you can use your story to create change in your community.
9:30–11:30
Open Space
Facilitator: Avery Cleary, Children & Nature Network

Don’t see an Action Lab with the action path you are most passionate about? Plan to attend the Self-Organizing Open Space Action Lab that will run concurrent with the other Action Labs. This session will operate as Open Space Technology giving participants the opportunity to identify topics and facilitate and/or participate in a discussion.

11:30 Lunch on your own (unless otherwise indicated below)

12:15–5:00 Field Trip: Discovering Places for Nature Play and Learning
Box lunch will be provided.
If you have registered for this field trip, please join us on the bus.
We will tour several demonstration sites where Austin organizations are making good things happen! We will tour a public park nature play area, a school site where outdoor learning is at the center of instruction, and a family-based play area that inspires physical and mental wellness.

**Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Luci and Ian Family Garden:** a destination nature-play area in a remarkable setting on the edge of the Texas Hill Country

**Discovery Hill Demonstration Gardens:** National Wildlife Federation and Austin Independent School District: a site that serves as an outdoor classroom for children in AISD and for district-wide teacher trainings in the Austin area

**Dove Springs District Park:** a nature play site in a public park focusing on increasing access to nature and outdoor activity as part of a larger revitalization project to create healthy community

12:30–5:00 Service Project: Restoring the Land at Bastrop State Park
Box lunch will be provided.
Join C&NN’s Natural Leaders at Bastrop State Park. We’ll enjoy lunch under the trees, help with park restoration and still have time for a walk in the woods!

1:00–5:00 Networking for Action: Hyatt Lost Pines
Great opportunity to network outside! After lunch on your own at the resort, there is plenty of time to finish up conversations and/or start new ones while enjoying the beauty of the resort grounds and the trails and natural areas along the river.
Plan NOW to join us in 2016 & 2017!

**Upcoming children & nature Conferences**

**May 2016**

**Minneapolis-St. Paul – Minnesota**

*In collaboration with the Minnesota Children and Nature Connection*

**May 2017**

**Canada**

*(City TBA)*

*Celebrate Canada’s 150th Anniversary in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Federation*

Stay tuned to [www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org) for further details.
The Children & Nature Network, Texas Children in Nature and Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center thank our 2015 conference sponsors!

**Presenting**

PLAYCORE

*Building communities through play*

**Founding**

Canadian Wildlife Federation

Disney Conservation Fund

The Meadows Foundation

serving the people of Texas

**Champions**

Applied Materials

Texas Parks & Wildlife

**Advocates**

Johnson Family Foundation

Audubon Texas

Conservë School

Landscape Structures

Peggy & Matt Winkler

The Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation

**Promoters**

Toyota

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