

Earth Day

The ART of Mentoring



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COYOTE'S PATH WILDERNESS SCHOOL IN
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How can learning be fun and interesting? How can we rekindle appreciation of nature?

There are many people who say our current model for learning is ineffectual. Parents and educators are asking how do you reach young people who seem apathetic and unmotivated to learn. In old cultures before schools, books, and grades; people learned by being mentored. Using stories, ceremony, games, and survival skills everyone and everything was a teacher. In the modern model of education learning is forced, sitting in chairs, listening to an adult spouting out information to be memorized. Modern children learning this way are trained to get their knowledge by memorization of someone else's knowledge. They do not learn how to develop the ques-

tioning mind or follow their hearts to learn from their own experiences.

We have all heard about the studies done on the modern human brain which show we only use 10% of our brains. These same studies done on people living in aboriginal cultures demonstrated brain use at 60% and up to 70% in the healers and trackers. Could it be due to using all their senses to get information about their world, which means using all of their brain to learn?

At Coyote's Path Wilderness School one of the skills we mentor to others is the art of survival skills. I was at my teaching station telling my students everything I knew about the Cedar Tree. I was deep in "show and tell" mode. Giving answers even before I was asked a question. How much more meaningful would the experience have been if I had them find the answers by asking:

So what could you use this for in the woods?

How could you use it in a shelter?

Could you put it on your skin?

Go ahead rub a little bit of it between your fingers?

What does it smell like?

How does it make your skin feel?

Does this tree grow in real dry places or wet places?

So do you think it needs to have defenses against burning?

This questioning has called many of their senses engaging more of their brain. They have answered the questions, not me and in the process they have learned many things about the Cedar tree by linking one bit of information, and on and on. Deductive reasoning demands a conclusion that all roads lead to Rome. For the questioning mind learning never concludes because it is an endless journey with an infinite number of destinations.

Mentoring is the art of developing the question-

ing mind. The questioning mind that asks of nature; what happened here, what does this tell me, and what does this teach me. This questioning encourages a concentric process rather than a linear process. The linear process dead ends when the answer is given too easily. Concentric thinking teaches relationships, how one thing leads to another, to another, and then circles

back again. Like nature; in circles and cycles. All our senses have evolved to communicate and learn from nature. We are hard wired to learn with all of our senses in this way. Once you begin to think in this way and apply the questioning mind to your life outside of nature you will soon find not only teachers in nature but in everyone and everything around you.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 1999 Join The Procession

Be a star - or a fish or a tree - in Portland's first Procession of the Species on Saturday, April 24. This fun and slightly wacky celebration of the natural world will start at 1 PM from the North Park blocks and make its jolly way to Pioneer Courthouse Square for a millennial event at 2 PM.

Now until April 24, local artists, dancers and musicians are holding free workshops to create the giant puppets, masks, costumes, handmade instruments, rhythms and dances needed for the Procession. Everyone, regardless of age, background or beliefs, is encouraged to

help create this Earth Day Marti Gras celebration.

The Procession workshops take place at a Community Art Studio at a former Nature's Fresh Northwest store at 5909 SW Corbett. Workshop artists and musicians are using scavenged, donated and recycled materials to make the drums, headdresses, animal masks, and other props. The Procession rules are no written words, no live pets, and no motorized vehicles. Otherwise, the limit is your imagination!

To participate in the workshops, call 452-4483, ext. 1. Procession reg-

istration sites include Powell's Travel Bookstore at Pioneer Square and Nature's Northwest stores. Procession registration fee is two cans of food for the Oregon Food Bank.

For procrastinators, last-minute registration, face painting, mask making and drum construction starts at 11 AM the day of the Procession, Saturday, April 24, at the North Park blocks.

Sweet Honey In The Rock

civic
auditorium

Saturday,
May 22
8:00 PM

all FASTIX outlets
PCPA box office
or by phone
224-8499

ON SALE
TODAY!

Sign language interpreted



Portland Habitat for Humanity
and adidas America present:

Walk for HUMANITY 99

SATURDAY
MAY 1ST

ALBERTA PARK
9:30 AM

Build a brighter tomorrow at the 7th annual Walk for Humanity, a 5 and 1 mile pledge walk and 10 mile bicycle ride to benefit 17 local nonprofit organizations. Gather pledges and meet your friends at

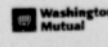


Alberta Park at 9:30 a.m., then walk or bike past more than 50 sites improved by Habitat and our community partners. Bring in \$50 and get a full-color T-shirt. \$250 gets you a sweatshirt. After the walk, enjoy a free lunch, music provided by Nextel Communications, and a multicultural neighborhood celebration at the Alberta Street Fair.

PLEDGE FORMS AVAILABLE AT WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANKS

For details, call

287-9529



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