The objective is to teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees, and to enjoy what he understands.

Aldo Leopold
Last semester I was pleased to hear Scott Sampson here on campus describe his vision of education for the future. I offer my thanks to Max Norman and the Science Department for bringing him here to speak. Dr. Sampson is a paleontologist, (essentially dinosaur hunter), and evolutionary biologist (essentially one who wonders how organisms grew up over time.) He is also profoundly concerned with education – as are, I daresay, we all. Sampson believes that education should be rooted in your sense of place, your full understanding of where you live – and that there is much in our current methods of education that alienates us from knowing about where we are – and more than knowing, feeling. Sampson believes that for the sake of our environment and our planet we need to develop our sense of topophilia – which is Sampson’s term for our innate bias or affinity – our love - for the place we call home.

The benefits of strong topophilia may be or may not be obvious to you – but suffice it to say that we tend to take care of those things with which we have a positive emotional bond. They matter to us. Home matters – and we will defend it against defilers, work to preserve it for future inhabitants, and, perhaps most significantly, we find ourselves at home.

But where is home for you? Where is it you find worthy of defense against vandals and preservation for future inhabitants? And where is it you find a sense of yourself? Where is home for you?

Do you feel at home in the classrooms and hallways you frequent? Perhaps. Do you feel at home here on campus? The courtyard, the cafeteria, the circle? Is it with your team? Your band or ensemble? Or a club to which you feel you belong? Or in a class
whose subject matter simply makes sense? Where do you feel at home?

Or is it here in our little corner of west San Rafael? Fourth street? The Canal? Is Marin County your home? The East Bay? Sonoma? The city? Or is it Mt Tam? Point Reyes? The Lost Coast? Big Sur? Mt Shasta? Maybe you see where I am going with this?

David Orr, activist, educator, and denizen of the planet – has written that “all education is environmental education” and it is all environment. From classroom to wilderness and beyond – the planet. And some day even beyond that, but that’s a different speech. The point is it is all about the where. Where you find yourself and what you call home.

And that is why we get outside – to grow and develop our sense of what we call home, to expand what we find worthy of defense against vandals and preservation for the future. Take a walk on Tam – and be at home. Learn to SCUBA dive – and be at home – underwater. Walk the Lost Coast or bathe in Sykes Hot Springs – and be at home.

Twenty-nine outings offered this semester and each one a new opportunity to be at home.

Get outside, MA!

Peter Poutiatine
Director of Outings
Marin Academy, San Rafael, CA
If you would like to learn how to SCUBA dive this is the outing for you! John Hicks, a certified SCUBA instructor, will be teaching the PADI open water diver class. This first weekend is spent at the Pinnacles Dive Center in Novato conducting the academic and pool sessions needed for you to learn how to SCUBA dive. Loaner books, wetsuits, and SCUBA equipment are supplied for this portion of the class. Students are responsible for transportation to and from Novato and they must supply their own swimsuit, mask, fins, snorkel, and booties. This equipment can be rented or purchased. Class will meet from 9AM to 6PM on Saturday and 9AM to 5 PM on Sunday.

After successful completion of academics and water skills the first weekend, students are eligible to participate in the open water sessions conducted in Monterey. The open water portion of the class will take place January 26-28. To become certified Openwater SCUBA divers, students must complete both weekends.

NB.: The cost for this outing includes certification cost, log book, equipment rental for both weekends and food for the first weekend.

10 students
Cost: $350
PE Credit Available

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter. The lasting pleasures of contact with the natural world are not reserved for scientists but are available to anyone who will place himself under the influence of earth, sea, and sky and their amazing life.

Rachel Carson
JANUARY 28-29, 2012

Thursday-Saturday
January 26-28, 2012

SCUBA CERTIFICATION – OPEN WATER AND POOL SESSIONS
John Hicks & Karen Hicks

This outing is the second half of the SCUBA certification program however, room permitting, students that are already certified are also eligible to participate on this outing. We will leave for Monterey on Thursday after school using school vans and camp at Veteran’s Memorial Campground in Monterey. There will be four SCUBA dives at San Carlos Beach in Monterey Bay. Students will completing skills and see fish, kelp forests, star fish, sea otters and sea lions in this extraordinary underwater world. Students must supply swimsuit, mask, fins, snorkel, and booties. Priority is given to students in the certification process.

NB.: The cost of this outing covers the remaining costs of renting SCUBA gear, food, camp fees, and transportation to & from Monterey. It does not include the purchase or rental of snorkeling equipment.

10 students
Cost: $150
PE Credit Available

FEBRUARY 11-12, 2012

Saturday
February 11, 2012

ROAD BIKING FOR FUN!
Randi Martin and Betsy Muir

Cycling is an excellent way to get outside, stay in shape, be social, and see the world! This outing is for students that are looking for an easy-medium paced ride with a safe, supportive and fun group. We’ll ride about 21 miles, mostly on bike paths or secondary roads with lighter traffic. If you have not done much cycling, it is a lengthy ride. Expect about 3 hours on the saddle! Participants should be in fairly good cardiovascular shape.

We will meet at the Mill Valley Community Center at 930a and go over
some cycling basics, then ride to Tiburon together. In Tiburon, we will soak in the gorgeous views of San Francisco, Angel Island, and the GGB. Following along Paradise Dr, we will loop back to the Mill Valley Community Center and finish early-afternoon. *Bring money for lunch.* Depending on interest, we can discuss equipment, maintenance, nutrition, stretching, changing a tire, or other biking topics. There will be a required meeting prior to the outing.

16 students  
No Cost  
PE Credit Available

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**Humanity is cutting down its forests, apparently oblivious to the fact that we may not be able to live without them.**  
Isaac Asimov

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Saturday  
February 11, 2012  
**SUNSET-MOONRISE HIKE IN POINT REYES**  
Ellie Brockman & Julie Barnes

Join Ellie and Julie for an afternoon hike in Point Reyes - a world-renowned park that right in our backyard that combines beach, bay and beauty. Amazing vistas of redwood groves overlooking the pacific, secluded beaches and dramatic rocky cliffs define the landscape.

We will meet at MA at noon, and drive to Point Reyes where we will begin our hike on the Tule Elk Reserve. We will hike 4.5 miles along a dramatic ridge. The Pacific ocean will be crashing on our left, Tomales Bay will be on our right and Elk will be hiding just around the corner. When we reach the tip of the peninsula we’ll enjoy an afternoon snack while watching wildlife and waves. As we head back along the ridge we’ll choose a comfortable spot to witness the sunset in the West and the moonrise in the East. As darkness falls we’ll finish our hike and return to campus.

Eat lunch before you arrive at MA. Bring a daypack with a sizeable snack, water bottle, headlamp or flashlight, and waterproof jacket. We will leave MA at noon and return by 9p.

6 Students  
No Cost  
PE Credit Available
MT TAM CIRCUMAMBULATION
Jared Baird & Dave Marshall

On October 22, 1965, Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, and Philip Whalen walked a formal clockwise orbit around Mt. Tamalpais in contemplative fashion. In a ritual they called “opening the mountain,” they stopped at intervals, offered prayers, and experienced the power of various sites on the mountain. They probably also had a great day on the mountain.

Since then circumambulation has become something of a tradition on Mt Tam. On various auspicious days, people of all kinds take the same walk in their own fashion. Today, we will do the same, taking our place in the long line of circumambulators.

This is a long walk – around 15 miles from start to finish. We will begin in Muir Woods at dawn and return before sundown. As such, this outing is for experienced hikers in good shape. You will need a day pack with trail food to share, water, rain layers, and an offering to the mountain that welcomes us and makes our circumambulation possible.

6 students
No Cost
PE Credit Available

FEBRUARY 18-19, 2012

Thursday to Sunday
February 16-19, 2012
BACKCOUNTRY SNOWSHOEING, BACKPACKING, AND TRAMPOOZING TO GLACIER POINT, YOSEMITE
Patrick Ford ‘02 & Tim Kline

Winter is the best time to visit Yosemite - with no hordes of tourists and a blanket of snow accentuating the tall pines and steep granite faces, the landscape takes on a beautifully different form. We’ll be hiking one of the most beautiful and majestic loops in all of Yosemite, from Badger Pass to Glacier point, ending in a dramatic view of Yosemite Valley and the high country to the South. We will set up our camp in the snow near Glacier Point to take advantage of its epic view without the intrusions of the automobiles and crowds present.
in summer. (This area is only open to cross-country snow travelers during winter.)

All are welcome! Backpacking or snowshoeing experience is not essential. You simply have to be in good shape and ready for adventure. We’ll leave after school Thursday and drive to Yosemite. We’ll head back on Sunday getting back to MA between 5-7p.

Patrick graduated from MA in 2002 and has been leading outings ever since. Tim, among many things, is an avid outdoorsman, skier, and rock climber.

NB.: Cost does not include snowshoe rental, if necessary. MA has a limited supply to lend.

Patrick graduated from MA in 2002 and has been leading outings ever since. Tim, among many things, is an avid outdoorsman, skier, and rock climber.

NB.: Cost does not include snowshoe rental, if necessary. MA has a limited supply to lend.

6 students
Cost: $100
PE Credit Available

Keep close to Nature’s heart, yourself - and break clear away once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.

John Muir

MARCH 10 - 11, 2012

Saturday-Sunday
March 10-11, 2012
STARGAZING & NIGHT TIME PHOTOGRAPHY
Jon Bretan & One Other Spectacular Star Gazer

Come spend a night staring up at the sky! We will camp overnight at a group campsite at either Briones Regional Park in the East Bay or Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Sonoma County. After making dinner, we will setup telescopes and cameras and partake in one of humanities oldest practices. In the morning (after sleeping in a bit because we will be up late!) we will make breakfast and then head back home. Having your own camera is not required, nor is much outdoor experience. This outing is, of course, weather-permitting.

Recommended, but not required equipment: camera & tripod, binoculars, telescope and bright laser pointer

14 Students
Cost:$35
Friday-Sunday
March 9-11, 2012

TAHOE DOWNHILL SKIING/SNOWBOARDING
Hideko Akashi & Cherie Lockwood (and maybe Yuki!)

Hideko and Cherie, want to bring a group of students up to Tahoe to enjoy the outdoor experience of snowboarding or skiing, and the indoor experience of cooking and sharing a cabin together. We will depart from MA on Friday afternoon at 230p and drive up to North Lake Tahoe to check into a beautiful rental house. We'll spend the first night planning for and preparing a home-cooked meal together. On Saturday, we'll head to Northstar Ski Resort for some downhill snowboarding or skiing, which ever is your preference. This trip is also open to beginners who would like to take a lesson at the resort. In the evenings, we'll prepare meals together and watch movies or play games. On Sunday, we'll pack up and head to another local ski resort before heading back to the Bay Area. We'll stop on the road for dinner and get back to MA by 830p You will still have all of Monday at home to get any work done for the weekend.

The trip fee includes transportation, 2 nights lodging in a nice cabin, and all meals cooked and prepared in the cabin. You will need to provide or rent your own equipment and pay for lift tickets and/or lessons as well as any meals bought on the road. Any equipment rentals will need to be done up in Tahoe.

12 Students
Cost: $300
PE Credit Available

MARCH 17-18, 2012

Thursday - Saturday
March 15 - 17, 2012

BOAT DIVING, SCUBA IN MONTEREY
John Hicks, Karen Hicks & Peter Poutiatine

If you are a certified SCUBA diver, you can join us and explore the incredible kelp ecosystems of the Monterey Coast. SENIOR CLASS, this is your last chance to go on an MA SCUBA Boat Diving outing. I hope you can join us for one more dive!!! We will leave Thursday after school and return Saturday night at 7p. We will tent camp at Veteran’s Memorial Campground. We will have a two tank boat dive on Friday, possibly at Point Lobos. After boat diving on Friday Morning other possible SCUBA dive sites include: reefs off the aquarium, Hopkins
Marine Lab, and possibly a night dive at San Carlos Beach.

You won’t forget this otherworldly experience. Come see why California is one of the richest marine environments on earth. Students must supply their own mask, snorkel, booties and fins.

NB.: Cost of this outing covers boat charter, SCUBA equipment, wetsuits, transportation and food for the weekend.

6 Students  
COST: $325  
PE Credit Available

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A woman who can evoke her childhood experiences of gazing at the moon and stars on clear nights, or lying on the grass, or listening to the sea, or watching the sunset is Elementally inspired. When she can recall early experiences of the smell of leaves on an October day, the taste of raspberries at a picnic, the feel of sand warmed by the sun, she is empowered. Energized by her own unique Elemental memories, she can break through the maze of 'adult categories' and become herself.

Mary Daly

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Sunday  
March 18, 2012  
EARTHEN ART, NATURAL BUILDING, AND URBAN PERMACULTURE  
Jen Coté & Massey Burke of Villa Sobrante

Join us at Villa Sobrante, an in-process East Bay urban permaculture community, for a day of earthen art, natural building, and ecological gardening. We’ll continue to work on Massey’s little home, enhancing structures and fine-tuning the roof and water catchment system. If the weather’s disagreeable, we’ll work inside, plastering and adding details. This is an amazing opportunity for anyone who wants to learn more about sustainable living practices and witness a remarkable example of an urban eco-dwelling. Previous experience not required - just come ready to work and get dirty! Lunch is included.

Check out the site at: www.villasobrante.blogspot.com.

14 students  
Cost: $35  
PE credit available
Friday-Sunday
March 23-25, 2012

SIERRA SNOW NARTING (Nature + Art = Nart)
Seth Chanin & Jeremy Franklin

Snow and ice are striking, yet temperamental mediums. With the goal of manipulating an environment of stark contrasts and transience to create original works of natural art, an intrepid group of students will venture out on an overnight backpacking trip in the snowy Sierras. Though we will not journey more than a few miles, travel may be arduous. Once at camp, we’ll spend a few hours creating nart and practicing some backcountry gourmet arts, pushing the envelope of what can be cooked over a camp stove.

The trip will depart MA for Kirkwood, CA on Friday evening. We’ll get an early start Saturday morning and snowshoe/cross country ski about 4 miles to Winnemucca Lake south of Highway 88. After an evening of art, we’ll pack up on Sunday morning and return to MA by 8p Sunday evening. Prior snow camping experience is not required, but participants should be ready to snowshoe or cross-country ski a reasonable distance with a heavy pack and spend a cold night camping the mountains.

6 Students
Cost: $60
PE Credit Available

Friday-Monday
March 30 – April 1, 2012

THE WISDOM OF THE WILDERNESS: SYKES HOT SPRINGS
Julie Barnes & Will Spangler

There is a certain wisdom the wilderness holds and journeying down the coast of Big Sur, and up the mountains into Sykes hot springs is a sure fired way to encounter it. The vast expanse of the sea, the quiet of the forest under-story, the cleansing water of hot springs will be pieces of this adventure that is sure to relax, rejuvenate and inspire.
We will leave MA after school on Friday, drive down to Big Sur and camp near the trailhead that evening. Saturday we’ll head into the hills, hiking 7 miles into our campsite that will rest alongside a babbling brook deep in the forest. After setting up camp we’ll settle into our new surroundings and share in a delicious feast. Sunday will be our day to soak in the springs that rest a mere 4 miles from our camp. After a good afternoon’s bath we’ll return to camp fully cleansed and refreshed, ready for another night of stories and deliciousness. At the close of each day Julie will invite you to join her in a nature-based meditation to provide space for us to be present to what, if any, wisdom we encounter in our day’s ventures.

On Monday we’ll hike out of the mountains and drive up the coast, returning to MA no later than 8 pm. FYI - We will cover a total of 24 miles of moderate to difficult terrain over the course of three days so while the trip will be relaxing, it will also involve physical work of the best kind. Our time together will be rich with story, soaking and silliness. Can you think of a better way to start your spring break?

6 Students
Cost: $100
PE Credit Available

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All my life, people have asked me the question, directly or indirectly. “Why in the hell do you climb mountains?” I can’t explain this to other people. I love the physical exertion. I love the wind. I love the storms. I love the fresh air. I love the companionship in the outdoors. I love the reality. I love the change. I love the rejuvenating spirit. I love to feel oneness with nature. I’m hungry; I enjoy eating. I get thirsty; I enjoy the clear water. I enjoy being warm at night when it’s cold outside. All these things are extremely enjoyable because, gosh, you’re really feeling them, you’re living them, your senses are really feeling. I can’t explain it.

Paul Petzoldt

Friday-Sunday
March 31-April 1, 2012

BEGINNER CAMPING IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS
Hideko Akashi & Cherie Lockwood

“There’s a humbling feeling when you’re in the presence of redwoods. A gentle peace envelopes you like a fog that drifts in. This peace is found every day at Memorial Park.” - Memorial State Park website
Kick off your spring break with this great getaway into nature and beauty. You don’t want to miss this camping trip in the Santa Cruz Mountains where you’ll be surrounded by old-growth redwoods in a forest that looks almost exactly as it did 200 years ago. This trip is a perfect opportunity for those with little or no camping experience. This is not a strenuous backpacking experience, but more like family camping with full bathroom and shower amenities. We will take some easy hikes through the redwoods and a small road trip down to the beach to enjoy the sun. In the evenings, we’ll cook, eat, play games together, roast marshmallows, chat and appreciate the amazing scenery together.

We will leave MA on Friday at lunchtime and drive down to Santa Cruz to set up camp. Saturday we will enjoy all that this state park has to offer, and on Sunday morning we’ll pack up and head home. We will stop for lunch on the way and will return to MA by 4p.

Please bring a little cash for one lunch on the road. If you don’t have camping equipment, the MA Outings Department can supply you with what you need.

6 Students
Cost: $120

APRIL 21 - APRIL 22, 2012

Thursday - Sunday
April 19 – 22, 2012
(Celebrating John Muir’s Birthday and Earth Day!)
SKIING AND BOARDING: MT. LASSEN’S DEVASTATED AREA
Leaders: Glenn Stanfield, Scott Ebke & Two Other Backcountry Folk

No longer a dirty little secret: There is a spot not too far away where you can climb 2000 feet and ski 4000 feet. There IS such a thing as a “free lunch”! We will car camp below the summit at Lassen Volcanic National Park, arriving Thursday night. Friday and Saturday after a warm breakfast we will trudge up the southwest side of this dormant volcano on skis or split-boards. Just below the summit we will crest out and ski the famed Devastated Area down to the waiting vans. WE will snack or lunch, then drive back and DO IT AGAIN!!! (and if possible a third time!!) On Sunday morning we take a last “lap”, then scoot home. If all goes well we will have skied over 25,000 vertical feet of “backcountry” snow.
Funky weather or road conditions moves the endeavor to another, equally fun but more standard workload, location. This outing is open to 12 intermediate or better skiers and boarders.

Departing Thursday after school at 3p, returning by 6p Sunday evening. Cost does not include AT skis, splitboard or climbing skin rentals.

12 Students
Cost: $100.00
P.E. Credit Available

Friday – Saturday
April 20-21, 2012

CYCLING TO TOMALES BAY
Randi Martin, Betsy Muir & Jim Bakken

Use your pedal power to ride out to gorgeous Tomales Bay! We will roll out on Friday during lunch and ride 25-30 miles to Inverness. We will go out for dinner and have a fun evening at the lovely Motel Inverness (or other fine establishment). On Saturday we will make an important stop at the delicious Bovine Bakery in Point Reyes Station, then ride back to Marin Academy by early afternoon. All of your equipment will be shuttled in the SAG wagon so you may thoroughly enjoy the ride. **Requirement:** you must have previously done the cycling Minicourse.

16 students
Cost: $130
PE Credit Available

Friday-Saturday
April 20-21, 2012

STARGAZING & NIGHT TIME PHOTOGRAPHY
Jon Bretan & Another Spectacular Star Gazer

You get another Chance! Spend a night staring up at the sky! We will camp overnight at a group campsite at either Briones Regional Park in the East Bay or Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Sonoma County. After making dinner, we will setup telescopes and cameras and partake in one of humanities oldest practices. In the morning (after sleeping in a bit because we will be up late!) we will make breakfast and then head back home. Having your own camera is not required, nor is much outdoor experience. This outing is, of course, weather-permitting.

Recommended, but not required equipment: camera & tripod, binoculars, telescope and bright laser pointer

14 Students
Cost: $35
Friday – Sunday  
April 20-22, 2012 

**SPRING SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING**  
Jared Baird & Ellie Brockman

Skiing in the springtime is an altered state. Down jackets give way to vests, t-shirts and shorts. Skiers seem more playful and the mountains more inviting-- and you are far more likely to get a sunburn than frostbite. Skiing and snowboarding become pursuits of pleasure rather than a test of technique.

The mountains have a different magic that reveals itself as the weather warms. Crisp snow softens into glistening mid-morning corn snow, goggles are swapped for sun glasses, temperatures are mild, no one has to dress for the cold, everyone can eat lunch outdoors and quitting early and doing something different in the afternoon is part of the experience. If the snow season ends early (or doesn’t even start!) we’ll plan some hiking adventures instead. The area is beautiful in any weather.

We’ll leave campus on Friday after tutorial and drive to the Kirkwood area, stopping to eat some dinner on the way. We’ll return Sunday evening. We’ll go to bed early so we can get an early start and maximize our time on the mountain. In the evenings we will cook communally in our cabin and play games. This is a great outing for those who are new to winter sports or who already know and appreciate the finer aspects of spring skiing.

NB.: Lift tickets and meals while traveling are not included in the cost.

6 People  
Cost: $300  
PE Credit Available

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What we get from climbing is just sheer joy. And joy is after all, the end of life. We do not live to eat or make money. We eat and make money to be able to enjoy life. That is what life means and what life is for.

George Leigh Mallory

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Friday – Sunday  
April 20 – 22, 2012  

**MOUNTAINS, MEDITATION AND MANDARIN IN BIG SUR**  
Julie Barnes & Evelyn Tseng

Where can you do yoga, meditate, hike *and* learn some Chinese all at the same time? How about along one of the most beautiful coast lines in the United States, Big Sur!
Big Sur has some of the most epic landscapes imaginable - rugged cliffsides descend thousands of feet into the beginning of a vast Pacific Ocean. Lush forests and spiky brush are scattered through wet river ecosystems and dry desert landscapes. Evelyn and Julie are excited to spend a weekend exploring this place with you while weaving in two of our favorite things – meditation and Mandarin!

We’ll start each morning with yoga on the beach, we’ll explore the trails and coastline by day, and we’ll finish each evening sharing stories with each other as the sun descends into the Pacific ocean. The wilderness (and Evelyn!) will teach us some pictographic Chinese characters as we go and Julie will lead us in a few nature-based meditations in the evenings.

Exploring, mandarin and meditation will enrich our experience with the wilderness - come join us on this mind-expanding, soul-centering weekend of exploration and fun! We’ll leave campus on Friday morning at 8 am and return by Sunday at 4 pm.

6 Students
Cost: $100
PE Credit Available

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**After you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, and so on - have found that none of these satisfy or permanently wear, what remains? Nature remains.**

Walt Whitman

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**Saturday April 21, 2012**

**HONEY BEE HUNTING**
Peter Poutiatine & Another Intrepid Apiarist

No, we’re not hunting them for food; we are hunting them to know where they are and see them in their wild habitat. The hunting of bees is an old practice and involves patience, process, perseverance, and practice. And for all that, there is no guarantee of success. This is an experimental outing that seeks to locate and observe at least one wild hive of honey bees. Our basic technique will be to place a small dish of honey in a bee-likely spot and wait. After a few bees find it and go back to their hive, we are likely to attract a steady stream of foragers. Then all we have to do is follow the trail. In theory, of course. As far as I know it has never been tried in MA Outings. We will leave MA at 8a on Saturday, spend the day out and walking, and be back at MA by 6p.

6 students
No cost
PE Credit Available
Thursday before school to Monday evening  
April 26 - 30, 2012  

**LOST COAST END TO END**  
Patrick Ford ’02, Peter Poutiatine, Julie Barnes & Another Intrepid Through Hiker

There is nowhere more beautiful than the Lost Coast. The scenery is dramatic – thousand foot cliffs overlooking expanses of redwoods, black-sand beaches, and the endless Pacific ocean. And we want to see all of it. The north half, end to end. All 24.3 miles of it. Care to join us?

We’ll leave early Thursday morning, drive up to the mouth of the Mattole river on the Lost Coast, and walk an easy 4 miles south along the coast that afternoon to our first campsite. Meanwhile *another* group will do the same starting from Black Sands Beach, hiking north. Saturday night we will meet up for a glorious reunion at the halfway point, cook together, eat together, and make camp together, swap stories and lies, and bask in the glow of a golden sunset. A full group picture will surely be in order. Then we will part ways and continue our respective treks down and up the coast, each group emerging on Monday afternoon where the other began. We will be back at MA by 630p Monday evening.

Please note: half of this trip is an OLE leadership training outing and open to current OLE members only. The other half is open to all.

12 students  
Cost: $150  
PE Credit Available

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Saturday-Sunday  
April 28-29, 2012  

**STARGAZING & NIGHT TIME PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Jon Bretan & Another Spectacular Star Gazer

Did you miss us last time? Was it so much fun you can’t stop thinking about it? We’re doing it again! Like our last search for the starts we will camp overnight at a group campsite at either Briones Regional Park in the East Bay or Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Sonoma County. After making dinner, we will setup telescopes and cameras and partake in one of humanities oldest practices. In the morning (after sleeping in a bit because we will be up late!) we will make breakfast and then head
back home. Having your own camera is not required, nor is much outdoor experience. This outing is, of course, weather-permitting.

Recommended, but not required equipment: camera & tripod, binoculars, telescope and bright laser pointer

Tell me the landscape in which you live and I will tell you who you are.
Jose Ortegy Y Gasset

Sunday
April 29, 2012
TRANS TAM: MICROCLIMATES, MAGNIFICENT VIEWS, AND MORE
Jen Coté & Scott Young

What better way to celebrate spring than to get outside and take a hike! Join us for a special one-day journey across the gorgeous slopes of Mt Tam. We’ll enjoy the seasonal waterfalls and experience the many microclimates on this magical mountain. Many trails and routes are possible, so we will wait to decide our exact route in response to the weather and whims of the moment. This is an excellent way to get to know the amazing peak that perpetually overlooks MA.

We’ll go rain or shine, unless there’s a full-on deluge. We will meet early at the Deer Park parking lot in Fairfax, and we will return to just after sunset. Our hike will cover approximately 17 miles of trail beginning in Fairfax and ending just north of Muir Beach.

You need to be in pretty good shape for this, but you don’t have to have lots of “hiking” experience. You will also need clothes appropriate for the weather, good hiking shoes, headlamp, a daypack, lunch, 2 water bottles, snacks to share, and your good energy.

IMPORTANT
Morning Departure Location: Deer Park parking lot in Fairfax at 7:15a
Evening Return Locations (after sunset):
One van will return to MA for students who were dropped off at Deer Park and want their parents to pick them up at MA and one van will return to Deer Park for students who drove themselves.

14 students
No Cost
PE credit available
Thursday - Saturday
May 3-5, 2012
LANDSCAPE AND FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY
John Hicks, Karen Hicks & Evelyn Tseng

Are you passionate about photography? Me too! This is not a SCUBA outing. If you are currently taking photo at MA or you just enjoy taking pictures this is a great outing for you. We will travel to one of my favorite places to take pictures, the Sonoma County coast. This time of year we should have lots of wild flowers and some amazing landscapes and sunsets. We can visit the local redwood groves in the area and take pictures of the Sea Ranch chapel with its amazing hobbit style architecture. We will be tent camping at Salt Point State Park and will go on a good number of day hikes to take pictures. You must supply your own camera. Hope you can make it.

6 Students
Cost: $125
PE Credit Available

Friday-Sunday
May 4-6, 2012
BEACH BUMMIN’ AND CAMPING
Hideko Akashi & Cherie Lockwood

Celebrate the end of the year with this kick back outing to the beautiful beaches up and down the San Mateo Coast along Highway 1. We’ll head down on Friday at lunch time (stopping at a beach or two) and set up camp in the gorgeous temperate rainforest-like campground in Butano State Park. On Saturday, we’ll pack up a picnic and head to the beach for some genuine California soak in the sun fun. Just when the sun is about to set, we will take an easy hike through the redwoods to lookout points with stunning views of the ocean, where we’ll watch the sun goes down. In the evening, we’ll cook, eat, play games, roast marshmallows, chat and appreciate the amazing scenery together. Sunday we’ll pack up and head home, stopping on the way for lunch. We’ll return to MA on Sunday by 4p.

Please bring a little cash for one lunch on the road. If you don’t have camping equipment, the MA Outings Department can supply you with what you need.

6 Students
Cost: $120
Saturday
May 5, 2012
FROM SCHOOL TO SEA WITH A FULL MOON
Julie Barnes & Doreen Clark

Have you ever seen the waves glimmer in the light of the moon or chased your moon-shadow on the beach? How about hiked from school to the sea, over Mt Tam. Talk about magical experiences.

Come do all three in one day with Doreen and Julie. We’ll start our day around noon at Phoenix Lake and wander our way around lakes, through cool redwood forests, up and over Tam. If we’re lucky we’ll see blue heron, turtles and the bright colors of wildflower on the way. We’ll eventually pop out of the woods onto a rolling grassy ridge that drops to the ocean. After taking in the breathtaking views of the coast we’ll descend to the sea as the sun sets and the moon rises - revealing those magical shadows and glimmering waves.

We’ll share dinner on the beach before hopping in our chariot (read school van) which will be waiting for us. We’ll return to school around 10 p. You need to be in reasonable shape for this, but you don’t need any hiking experience. You will need sturdy hiking shoes and a daypack with layers, a raincoat, a sizeable snack, a water bottle and money for dinner in Stinson.

6 Students
No Cost

In every walk with nature
one receives more than she seeks
John Muir

Sunday
May 6, 2012
NATURAL BUILDING AT VILLA SOBRANTE
Jen Coté & Massey Burke of Villa Sobrante

Join us at Villa Sobrante, an in-process East Bay urban permaculture community, for a day of earthen art and natural building. We’ll continue to work on Massey’s cottage, the granny unit, and the outdoor bathhouse. And you never know... Massey may have a new project in the works! This is an amazing
opportunity for anyone who wants to learn more about sustainable living practices and witness a remarkable example of an urban eco-dwelling. No previous experience necessary—just come ready to work and get dirty. We will leave at 9a and return by 4p. Lunch is included.

Check out the site at: www.villasobrante.blogspot.com.

14 students
Cost: $35
PE Credit Available

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You cannot stay on the summit forever; you have to come down again. So why bother in the first place? Just this: What is above knows what is below, but what is below does not know what is above. One climbs, one sees. One descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen. There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions by the memory of what one saw higher up. When one can no longer see, one can at least still know.

Rene Daumal

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MAY 19-20, 2012

Thursday–Monday
May 17–21, 2012
**MT SHASTA PEAK ATTEMPT**
Peter Poutiatine & Will Spangler

Mt Shasta rises 14,179 feet into the atmosphere and we are going to try to stand on top. Why? As renowned alpinist George Mallory famously said, “Because it is there.” The air is thin, the glaciers are cold, the trail is steep, and conditions on the mountain are inherently unstable. Our ascent will involve hiking in technical boots on snow and ice, learning to use crampons and an ice axe, roped glacier travel, and mastering the art of self arrest. For all that, topping out is a slim possibility; MA has been turned back on 3 of the last 5 attempts.

**Please note:** This trip constitutes a serious endeavor. Mountaineering is not for everyone. For the safety of the expedition members, participation on this outing is by petition, and only students in good physical condition who possess strong outdoor skills as evidenced by
previous MA Outings experience will be accepted.

We will leave from MA on Thursday morning, pick up our technical gear and permits in Mt. Shasta City, and drive on to the trailhead on the north side of the mountain. We will hike to 7900 feet for Camp I. Camp II is at 10,000 on the moraine below our route to the summit. We will spend Friday evening and Saturday there acclimatizing and learning the technical skills necessary to ascend the mountain. Early Sunday morning – 3:30 am – we will wake up, assess the conditions, and decide whether or not to make the attempt. We will return on Monday in the evening.

If agony, travail, and disappointment appeal to you, talk to Peter about getting on this advanced outing.

5 students
Cost: $220
PE Credit Available

Friday-Sunday
May 18-20, 2012
COLD WATER, HOT SPRINGS: EXPEDITION RAFTING ON THE EAST FORK OF THE CARSON RIVER
Seth Chanin & Glenn Stanfield.

During a brief window each spring the East Fork of the Carson River rises high enough to become one of the few navigable, free-flowing rivers on the Eastern slope of the Sierras. Though this class II run isn’t particularly technical, the water is swift, and the high alpine surroundings are stunning. As an added bonus, both sides of the river are dotted with natural hot springs, providing a welcome respite from the frigid snowmelt. Unlike past rafting outings, this will be an expedition trip, meaning we’ll take turns learning to row a fully loaded gear boat carrying supplies necessary to camp in the wilderness.

The trip will depart MA for Markleeville, CA on Friday afternoon. We’ll spend the night camping at Grover Hot Springs, and pack our gear for an early departure on Saturday morning. Most of Saturday will be spent floating down the river in a raft and two inflatable kayaks. We’ll pull off the water to make camp early on Saturday afternoon, making sure to have plenty of time to enjoy the hot springs. Sunday morning will be relaxed, as we break camp and float the remaining few hours to take-out. Back at the van, we’ll pack up our gear and return to MA by 8p Sunday evening.

*Please note:* Though no prior rafting experience is necessary,
participants should be comfortable in extremely cold, fast-moving water. Students will be expected to supply a wetsuit for themselves.

5 Students
Cost: $190

You cannot stop the waves, but you can learn to surf. 
Jack Kornfield

Saturday
May 19, 2012
BEGINNING SURFING IN BOLINAS
Evelyn Tseng & Ellie Brockman

Want to try a day of surfing at our local break in Bolinas? We will leave from MA in the morning to meet with our surfing instructor, Nick Krieger, who is the owner of a local surf shop in Bolinas. He will give us his basic surfing lesson. If you’ve never surfed before or have surfed a few times but have not yet mastered catching sweet little sliders you’re welcome to join us. You must be a proficient swimmer for this adventure. Wetsuits and surfboards will be provided. Bring your sunglasses and swimsuit! Let’s go surfing!

14 students
Cost: $95
PE Credit Available

JUNE 5, 2012

Tuesday
June 5, 2012
STARGAZING & THE VENUS TRANSIT
Jon Bretan And Another Spectacular Star Gazer

This is a once in a lifetime experinece - wintesing the VENUS TRANSIT. As before, we will camp overnight at a group campsite at either Briones Regional Park in the East Bay or Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Sonoma County. After making dinner, we will setup telescopes and cameras and partake in one of humanities oldest practices. In the morning we will make breakfast and then head back home. Having your own camera is not required, nor is much outdoor experience. This outing is, of course, weather-permitting.

Recommended, but not required equipment: camera & tripod, binoculars, telescope and bright laser pointer

14 Students
Cost: $35
ELECTRONICS AND CELL PHONES
Use of cell phones and other electronics is not permitted on MA Outings without permission from the outings leaders. As a standing rule, students may not text or make calls or receive calls from the vans or while on an outing. If communication with home or elsewhere is necessary, check with your MA Outings leader first.

SIGN UPS AND PERMISSION FORMS
MA outings are open to everyone, but each outing has a maximum number of students it can safely accommodate. To sign up for an outing, return a completed permission form to Peter Poutiatine, MA’s Director of Outings in the MA Outings Office in Thacher Hall. Sign ups are registered in the order in which the permission forms are received. Permission forms may be obtained online from the MA Outings webpages, the Outings bulletin board in the café, or the MA Outings Office.

Sign ups and waiting lists will be posted several times a semester on the MA Outings bulletin board in the café. However, sign ups and waiting lists change daily as permission forms trickle in. The best way to find out if you have a spot on an outing is to contact Peter directly via email or in person. Stop by the Outings Office in Thacher to check your status.

In most cases, you will be notified of your status - registered participant or wait listed - via email about two weeks before your outing departs. Nonetheless you are encouraged not to assume your spot on an outing but to verify your status officially.

TRIP FEES
MA Outings leaders make every attempt to be frugal in running outings and to price them as affordably as possible. Student trip fees are calculated to cover only the necessary expenses. These include food, fuel, equipment rental, and permitting.

Once you turn in your permission form, your availability and your commitment to going on the trip is assumed. We ask that you confirm your availability and your commitment before you turn in a permission form. Cancelations complicate logistics and can raise the cost of the outings we offer.

Financial aid is available for those students who qualify through the Admissions Office and Dan Babior, Director of Admissions.
CANCELLATIONS
Cancellations are permissable in the event of truly unavoidable circumstances that preclude a student’s participation on an outing. Such circumstances include illness, injury, death in the family, and other unforeseeable events. Such cancellations should be made with the Director of Outings directly. A change of heart, poor planning, or lack of scheduling foresight is NOT an acceptable reason to cancel going on an outing, and in some cases, where deposits have been made or prepayments levied, MA Outings may have to charge a family for an outing even if the student does not attend the outing in order to preserve the affordability of the outing for all students.

So, before you submit your permission slip, be certain that you are sure that you know that you can and want to go.

MISSING CLASSES AND PRACTICES
Students are responsible for pre-arranging their absences with their teachers and coaches. No prearranged absence form is required but clear communication prior to going on the outing is. Going on an outing is not an excuse for not completing one’s homework or missing tests, and extensions are not guaranteed. However, in the spirit of supporting MA’s cocurricular programs, teachers and coaches are asked to be as flexible as possible in allowing students to participate in outings.

Check with your teachers and coaches at least a week in advance and make every effort to complete required work ahead of time. You are still accountable for class assignments, assessments, and homework.

GEAR FOR LEND
The MA Outings Program maintains a collection of clean and quality gear available to students to borrow. Not owning the gear should not preclude a student from going on an outing. Talk to Peter about what gear you need and we will try to supply you with the necessary equipment. Borrowed gear should be returned promptly and clean. Students may be charged for lost, broken, or non returned gear.

PE CREDIT
PE credit is automatically granted for MA Outings carrying the “PE credit available” notation. Credit is awarded for outing with a strong skills basis and a clear athletic component. Credit is given at a rate of 0.25 credits for a qualifying multiday outing, 0.125 credits for qualifying day trips.
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