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Rachel Carson in the Adirondacks Centennial Celebration www.esf.edu/rachelcarson

LEAVING NO CHILD INSIDE
Conversation & Celebration for Everyone

May 10, 2007. Newcomb, NY. "Leave No Child Inside" is fast-becoming the mantra of a growing national movement to address the troubling disconnect between children and the natural world.

Cheryl Charles, a co-founder of the "Leave No Child Inside" initiative, will give the keynote address for the **Children & Nature** panel discussion to be held at Lake Placid High School Auditorium from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The public is invited to attend and participate in this timely and urgent discussion. A family concert at 7:30 p.m. by folk duo **MAGPIE** of their *Songs for the Earth*, will bring the day to a uplifting close. Admission is free of charge and parking is available at the school.

Charles will share her expertise as an educator and innovator on the **Children & Nature** panel discussion. For close to 20 years, she served as National Director of the two most widely used K-12 environmental education programs in North America, *Project Learning Tree* and *Project WILD*, receiving numerous awards for her leadership. She currently serves as a member of the Advisory Board to the *National Conservation Learning Summit*, held near Washington, DC in November of 2005. Joining Charles on the panel are three regional proponents of nurturing a child's sense of wonder and connection to the natural world:

- Valerie Trudeau, former Education Director of the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks and current CEO of the Girls Scouts of the North Country;
- Yusef Wasi-Burgess, Environmental Educator and Coordinator of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Diversity Program;
- Libby McDonald, educator, filmmaker and author of forthcoming book, Toxins in the Sandbox: Environmental Toxins and Our Children's Health.

Organized by the *Rachel Carson in the Adirondacks Centennial Celebration* project (www.esf.edu/rachelcarson) with the generous sponsorship of The Wild Center/Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks, **Children & Nature** panelists will explore the absence of nature-based connections in children's lives and help area parents, teachers and policy-makers find common ground around the issue.

Children nationwide are paying dearly from less time spent simply playing and exploring the outdoors. Hyperactivity, childhood obesity, alarming rates of depression, and a fear of the outdoors are some of the signs of *nature-deficit disorder*, a non-medical term coined by Richard Louv, award-winning columnist and author of Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-

Deficit Disorder, and co-founder with Cheryl Charles of the *Children and Nature Network* (www.cnaturenet.org)

“While it may seem unlikely children living in the six-million-acre Adirondack Park are suffering from a lack of nature in their lives,” explained Stephanie Ratcliffe, new Managing Director of The Wild Center, “our children, increasingly wired to computers, iPods and videogames, are not immune to the harmful effects of *nature-deficit disorder*.”

Immediately after the panel discussion, Charles will be available to sign copies of her book, Coming Home: Community Creativity and Consciousness. Louv’s groundbreaking book, Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, will also be available for purchase.

All are invited to join the panelists for a “Toast to Rachel Carson,” 6:00-7:15 p.m at *Nicola’s on Main*, across the street from the High School. Appetizers and a cash bar will be provided.

A Celebration for Everyone

The *Rachel Carson in the Adirondacks Centennial Celebration* was launched in January by Paul B. Hai, Program Coordinator of SUNY-ESF’s Adirondack Ecological Center and teacher Martha Swan to highlight the legacy of the naturalist, marine biologist and writer whose 1962 book, Silent Spring, awakened the nation to the dangers of the indiscriminant use of pesticides.

Carson’s poetic and scientific writings have also inspired awe in generations of readers, and her advice on how parents, teachers and other adults can help children keep alive their natural sense of wonder seems prescient today. She wrote that every child “needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share [a sense of wonder], rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.”

“We especially wanted children to learn about Carson,” explains Hai, “so her work, and role as the point of origin for the modern environmental movement has been central to the *Rachel Carson Leads the Way!* artist residencies in 6 Adirondack schools, a *Women & Girls in Science Day* bringing women scientists working in the region together with Girl Scouts, and guided outings, nature journaling and clean-up projects involving nearly 200 students from the High Peaks to the Capital District.

“Though Carson died in 1964, she’s a great role model for kids today. Learning about her, they discover that they, too, can make a difference in shaping events that may seem beyond their control. This is critical because these students are tomorrow’s citizens and we want to create a next generation with a greater understanding of, and hopefully admiration for, the natural world around us.”

At 7:30 p.m., also at the Lake Placid High School Auditorium, the celebration will come to an exhilarating close with a family concert by the folk duo, **MAGPIE**. Acclaimed for their luscious harmonies, virtuosity on various instruments and their inspired commitment to social and environmental causes, the newest CD of Magpie’s illustrious three-decades-long career is “Songs for the Earth: A Tribute to Rachel Carson”. Pete Seeger, Tish Hinojosa,

Tom Paxton, and Walkin' Jim Stoltz are featured along with Magpie's Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino. CDs will be available for sale at the concert.

Women from several Adirondack communities will recite *A Speak Chorus of Wonder*. Created by actor and director Lindsay Pontius of Westport, the Chorus weaves together Carson's writings and words of Adirondack school children working with Pontius in the *Rachel Carson Leads the Way!* artist residency program.

There is no admission charge to the concert or the panel discussion but donations will be greatly appreciated. Free parking is available at the school.

For more information, contact Martha Swan at 518-963-4618, mshwan@capital.net; or Paul B. Hai at 518-582-4551 ext. 104, pbhai@esf.edu. We also encourage you to visit <http://www.esf.edu/rachelcarson>.

