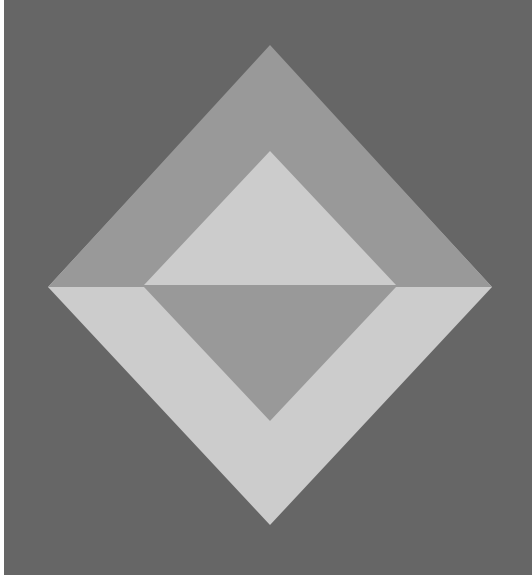


September 2004 issue



North Carolina Unschoolers Living Is Learning

www.ncunschoolers.com

A Real Life Example

(reprinted with permission from an unschooling yahoo list)

When Rachel was 16, I started hearing from relatives and friends, "What is she going to do with her life?" "Has she decided where to go to college?" etc. For the most part I blew them off. But it did start to take it's toll and I did start to wonder if she would ever develop any 'true' interests.

When she was 18, it clicked. She announced that she wanted to go to OSU's ATI branch and study gardening. She spent the next four months getting enrolled, passing the GED and figuring out how to pay for the first quarter.

She's been there a year now. Her profs love her, the other students are starting to ask her questions because they consider her 'the smart one' and she is having a ball. She is in Hort Club and Greenhouse Club. Oh and she is doing a dual major, Greenhouse Production and Management and Nursery Management.

But what you really need to know about this kid is that from the time I pulled her from school after 4th grade until she studied for the GED she did NOTHING that resembled schoolwork in any way, shape or form. She read lots of books, she dabbled in writing a poem or two, she played games, she lived life. And she went in and took the GED with about 2 weeks of study and passed it. So all of that 'nothing' wasn't really nothing.

Bridget

Favorites

-I have found an unschooling magazine that looks promising, Live Free Learn Free. Lots of good meaty articles. For more info go to <http://www.livefreelearnfree.com> and check it out for yourself.

-And another book I am almost finished with that I would highly recommend is Nonviolent Communication, A Language of Life, by Marshall B. Rosenberg, Ph.D. You can read about this book and others by this author at <http://www.CNVC.org>

www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids NASA's Kids site has cool games, activities and information, like Virtual Astronaut School, Build a Straw Rocket, and Living in Space. There are photos you won't see anywhere else! This site makes science fun!

- Lauren Eevi, age 6

www.enchantedlearning.com This is a great resource for the younger set. For instance, if your child decides that today she wants to know more about dinosaurs, you'll find an illustrated dinosaur dictionary, craft ideas, coloring pages, in-depth information and jokes. Besides science, the site covers explorers, inventors, geography, artists, math, music and more!

- Eevi S.

A new web site that looks promising is <http://www.metrolinahomeschooling.com> it is a site of all things homeschooling in the metrolina area. The owner and I have been working on an unschooling page, YAY!!!! If you click under groups you will see the unschooling link. We have gathered unschooling sites and yahoo lists. Things people looking for other unschoolers or unschooling information might find helpful, and of course our list <http://www.ncunschoolers.com>

The Center for Unschooling Information, as its very first project, has opened new message boards at: <http://www.unschooling.info/forum>

We are excited to announce the creation of these new boards, which are devoted to discussion of anything and everything related to unschooling.

Discussions will include such topics as: Getting Started Unschooling, Deschooling, Supporting Kids' Endeavors, Finding Support, and much, much more. These boards are easy to search and are conveniently organized to allow on-topic, in-depth discussion.

FREE day for Homeschoolers

Everything is settled and ready to go! We will be meeting at the Tuckaseegee Recreation Center in Charlotte on Fridays from 10-2:30pm. Our first meeting will be Sept. 3rd. I will TRY to be there at 10, but driving close to an hour, we may be a little later. The cost to join the program is \$10 per child per year. The year will end in May, following the Char-Meck school system. You can visit two times before you are required to pay the membership fee. Registration forms will be available at the Rec center, no need to pre register. The Rec center offers a gym, multi purpose rooms, a kitchen, a fitness center and a game room. In addition, they have a playground, baseball field, tennis courts and football field. The game room has a pool table, foos ball, table hockey and some arcade games. (maybe more.. can't remember??) We will also be rotating on bringing craft projects and we will have board games and other activities available. PLEASE check out their website for more information about the Rec Center and for directions.

<http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Park+and+Rec/Places+To+Go/Recreation+Centers/Tuckaseegee.htm>

We are planning on having a big Open House on Oct 1st with information, refreshments, and opportunity to visit the Rec center and see what the program is all about. We will be heavily promoting our Open House, so, be spreading the word to all of your homeschool friends. Get an early start on the fun by joining us in Sept. and plan on helping us kick off with our Open House on Oct 1st.

For specific questions about FREE Day, please email me teresabnnc@aol.com. ANY homeschooling family is welcomed to join us. There are activities for all ages. If you have financial concerns, please do not hesitate to let the staff at the Rec center know of your situation. We have made provisions for scholarships. This endeavor has the potential to be a GREAT success for homeschoolers in NC. It will be worth the effort to drive in occasionally if you are not local to Charlotte. Looking forward to seeing you there Fridays!..

Teresa

Tiffany's Place Homeschool Day

North Wilkesboro, 1st Thursday of every month from 7pm-10pm. Teen night, middle and highschool age kids. Come and enjoy the fun. For more information about Tiffany's Place go to: www.tiffanysplace.net

A furnished music room with a stereo and an awesome keyboards. Kids can listen to music, bring instruments and play music, or just kick back and relax.

A computer room with (looked like at least 10) computers that have Internet Access (safe browsing enabled)

A furnished reading room with lots of magazines. Great for chatting, reading, card or board games.

An awesome snack bar with very reasonable priced snacks and finger foods.
(nothing costs more than \$1.50) Tables, chairs and booths provided

A pool table, 2 foos ball tables, Air hockey (\$.50 a game) Several arcade
games (\$.50 per game)

A theater room with a big screen TV, DVD player, XBOX, PS2, games and mov-
ies.. Surround sound stereo in a sound proof room with comfy seating. Kids
can also bring their own movies and/or games

Karaoke Machine, Dance Machine..(the kids LOVED the dance machine

Jokes:

Q: "Who did cows listen to on the radio in 1934?"

A: "President Moo-sevelt!"

- an original joke by Lauren Eevi (*after reading about the Great Depression*), age 6

Q: Knock-knock.

A: Who's there?

Q: Cows go.

A. Cows go who?

Q. No, cows go *moo*!

- a favorite of James Michael, age 4

North Carolina Families Learning Together

NC-FLT is a statewide homeschooling group. Members receive a membership directory, the FLT newsletter. FLT also put on at least 2 Gathering a year. These gathering offer an opportunity for homeschooling families to get to know one another and have weekend full of fun and friendship.

If you are interested in joining or wanting more information about this group please go to <http://www.fltnc.com>

North Carolina Unschoolers

Living is Learning Conference <http://www.ncunschoolers.com>

Saturday 13 November 2004
Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel
Charlotte, NC

Featured Speaker is Valerie Fitzenreiter, author of The Unprocessed Child. Other speakers with sessions on Fear and Unschooling, From School to Unschool, Consensual Living, and a session on Tappas Acupressure Technique. Also the Charlotte Community Drummers will be drumming for and with us, and we will be viewing the documentary Grown Without Schooling.

This is an age-inclusive event and there will be a separate room provided where anyone can take a break, it will have some toys, paper and crayons etc. It will not, have a "baby-sitter". There will be someone in the room but you will be responsible for your family.

Conference registration will begin at 8:30, snacks will be provided for this all day event.

Go to: <http://www.ncunschoolers.com> for more details and to register.

If you have any questions that are not answered on the web site please feel free to contact me at genant2@aol.com

Calendar

October

A great family event for homeschoolers is the Falling Leaves Rendezvous Oct 5-10 outsidess of Cashiers. Many interesting earthskills classes are taught

www.earthskills.net

CHEROKEE HERITAGE PROGRAMS AT THE SMITH-MCDOWELL HOUSE MUSEUM
Slots for these field trips are limited, so please sign up ASAP by calling Grace @ 828-232-0036 or emailing her @ grace@heartofmotherearth.org Also, let her know if you would like to get together for an opportunity to explore the Woodland Indian Trunk as a group before these field trips as well. This is tentatively being arranged. More info is available about the field trips and the trunk by visiting: <http://www.wnchistory.org/schoolprograms.htm> and scrolling down to "Special Programs".

-Cherokee Living History Day

Date: Tuesday, October 12 2004

Time: 11:15am - 1:15am

Grade Level: 2-8

Cost: \$2.50 for each person

We will meet at the museum at 11am. The presentations will be geared toward certain age groups, so they will divide us into elementary and middle school age groups for the rotating presentations. We will be in groups with other student groups as well. Feel free to bring lunch and picnic on campus afterward! This field trip DOES include a special tour of the exhibit "Moving the Fire: The Removal of Indian Nations to Oklahoma".

-Stories and Dance of the Cherokee with Freeman Owle and Bo Taylor

Date: Tuesday, October 19 2004

Time: 9am - 11am (This is subject to change...would you prefer a later time?)

Grade Level: 4-12

Cost: \$2 for each person

We will meet at the museum bright and early by 8:45 am and walk to adjacent Ferguson Auditorium together. This will be one big, fun and entertaining show with all of us together!

Wednesday, October 13: Lazy 5 Ranch in Mooresville, e-mail ambdkf@earthlink.net to get on the list. Go to www.lazy5ranch for more information. Cost is \$6.50 per person ages 1 and up. Arrive at 1:30, wagons ride to leave at 2:00.

Wednesday October 20, Friday October 22 and Wednesday October 27 2004: Home School Days at Tryon Palace in New Bern, NC Web site: <http://www.tryonpalace.org/>. Here is the link for the Homeschool Days info: http://www.tryonpalace.org/pages/eventspgs/c1_frame.html

November

Saturday 13 November 2004. The First Annual Living is Learning Conference. Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel, Charlotte, NC <http://www.ncunschoolers.com>

Coral Reef, by Lauren Eevi age 6



R-E-A-L - L-I-F-E

Luz Shosie

"Children do not need to be made to learn, or shown how. They want to and they know how." - John Holt, author of *How Children Learn* and many other inspiring books. Holt spent many years teaching, observing, and learning from children, but any parent can see that children are born wanting to grow up to be part of the adult world. They are so curious and eager that it seems almost impossible to keep up with their drive to do and learn everything. Then at some point learning gets separated from the rest of life and turned into schooling. We are taught that learning means sitting still, doing as you're told. Insatiable, passionate learners are turned into bored, rebellious, frightened or passive students. Loving parents become frustrated and burned out teachers. There must be a better way!

The good news is there are lots of parents and children who are growing without schooling -- living/learning in their own way, at their own pace, without text books, lessons, tests or coercion. And there are more and more stories of unschooled children who grow up to be happy, confident, competent adults doing meaningful and satisfying work. Ready to give unschooling a try?

Here's my handy list of reminders for letting go of schooling and enjoying a REAL LIFE:

R - Relax. It sounds easy, but it takes practice. Being a parent may just be the most difficult challenge of our lives. When you start to feel stress coming on, take a breath, take a hike, take up knitting or square dancing or scuba diving. Take it one day (or one moment) at a time.

E - Enjoy. The challenges of parenting are great and the rewards are even greater. The years go by so quickly -- embrace each stage and welcome the changes. If you take pictures, write a journal or make a scrapbook, you can enjoy it again when the children are grown and the house is quiet and orderly.

A - Accept and acknowledge the absolutely amazing, awesome and authentic individual who's sharing your life. Allow him to "be how he grows".

L - Love is the greatest gift. Giving is receiving.

L - Learn from and learn with your children. Learn to play, learn a new skill, learn about yourself. Watch how your children learn. Living is learning. Teaching is unnecessary.

I - Investigate intriguing ideas. Help your children follow their interests. One thing leads to another and the infinite universe is interconnected -- you can start anywhere. It's impossible to predict exactly which skills or knowledge will be needed in ten or twenty years.

F - Fearlessly forgive and forget. Schooling taught us to be fearful; unschooling encourages us to be brave. We all make mistakes. Forgive yourself and forge ahead. "Forget everything you learned in school." Did your first boss tell you that? It's still good advice. Have fun. Have faith.

E - Expect miracles. Encourage and enable exploration. Eschew ersatz educational edicts. Embody the traits you wish to pass on. Empower your children (and yourself) to experiment, to engage in a life worth living and work worth doing.

If you like this essay please visit their web site at <http://www.borntoexplore.org/unschool/>

Firetrucks, Ambulances, Police Car, and Planes by James Michael age 4



The Homeschool Alliance of North Carolina

Established in 2003, HA-NC is a grassroots network of homeschooling families. We believe that all homeschoolers' interests are served when we are seen by the government, the news media and the general public as a diverse people united by our choice to homeschool our children. HA-NC has a strong online presence, offering a main member e-mail list for networking, a bi-monthly e-mail newsletter and an informative website.

Vision

We envision a state in which families who choose to homeschool will legally be able to continue to make the choices that respect the rights, needs and aspirations of their children.

Mission

We are committed to promoting our homeschooling community in all its diversity and protecting our homeschooling freedoms.

We are...

"Homeschoolers Supporting Homeschoolers"

JOIN OTHER HOMESCHOOLERS, AND SUPPORT THE HOMESCHOOL ALLIANCE OF NORTH CAROLINA. HERE IS SOME OF WHAT YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO AS A MEMBER!

- ***An alliance that takes no position on religion, partisan politics and non-homeschooling issues***
- ***A network of homeschoolers all working together to promote an accurate portrayal of homeschoolers' diversity***
- ***An email discussion list for networking among members***
- ***A bi-monthly email newsletter***
- ***A legislative committee that will help you to stay informed of legislative issues concerning NC homeschoolers***
- ***HA-NC events and activities***
- ***Regional directors to help you find other homeschoolers in your area***
- ***New homeschooler support***

The Homeschool Alliance of North Carolina is open to all homeschooling families who reside in North Carolina. Please join us and support our mission.

To join, send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to our membership coordinator, membership@ha-nc.org.

Once your information has been received, you will be added to our database and subscribed to the main member e-mail forum for all HA-NC members

Hello All!

Robyn Coburn and I would like to announce the formation of a new yahoo group--Always Unschooled--for the discussion of Radical Unschooling in the Early Years. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AlwaysUnschooled/> to join. This is a place to talk about all those toddler issues and unschooling your pre-school aged children whether you have older unschooled children or are just starting your unschooling journey.

Below is the list description:

<<<Are you Unschooling small children? Do you find yourself ducking questions about when your kids will start preschool, kindergarten or telling people that you've already made the commitment to homeschool? Come join us for a discussion of Unschooling in the early years!

As Unschooling becomes more widespread, the deliberate choice to Unschool comes early as a way to fend off pressure for Head-Start, Preschool and Pre-K programs. Many mothers are emphatically resisting the push toward early academics and choosing, instead to nurture freedom, joy, childhood and natural learning, trusting that their children will learn all they genuinely need to know-- the very foundations of Unschooling!

List owners are working to create a space in which Radical Unschooling can be seriously discussed as it applies to young children. Although secular in nature, we welcome unschoolers from all walks of life. Our discussions focus on exploring topics like natural learning, respectful parenting, joyful living, freedom and autonomy, living by principles, single parent unschooling, convincing family, surviving panic and criticism, living without fear, resisting enrollment, non-coercive parenting, deschooling ourselves, and letting go of controls.

This is an on-topic list specifically dedicated to achieving a deeper understanding of a Radical Unschooling lifestyle as it applies to young children--topics that fall outside this description belong, please, on more appropriate lists. This list is geared towards thoughtful discussion and exploration of what Radical Unschooling looks like in the early years, from toddlerhood to around age 8 or so. Experienced and new Unschoolers can discuss how they made the transition from peaceful parenting to Unschooling in daily practice, when that transition occurred and what benefits children gain by Unschooling from the beginning. >>>

We're very excited about creating a space where we can seriously discuss Unschooling small children and the many, many benefits children gain from being Always Unschooled. We hope you'll join us!

--Danielle

This Unschooling Newsletter is put out by NCUnschoolers, a yahoo list for all Unschoolers in North Carolina and surrounding states. A place for unschoolers to find support, share ideas and field trips and general chit chat. It is not a place for anyone looking for curriculum advice. If you would like to join this list go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NCUnschoolers/>

If you have anything you or your child would like to contribute to the North Carolina Unschoolers' Newsletter, please send submissions to genant2@aol.com. Send submissions for the next issue by September 15, 2004. Contributions can include but are not limited to; short stories, poems, articles, essays, favorites, field trips, conferences, or get togethers.



Sea Turtle by Lauren Eevi age 6