



## ***Spring 2013 Newsletter***

### **Shedd Aquarium – not once, but twice!**

On September 29th, 50 high school students from the Shedd Aquarium after school program came to the Skokie Lagoons to have some fun and participate in restoration work. Students canoed at Skokie Lagoons, and later went to work cutting and burning the invasive species – buckthorn. By the end of the day, they couldn't decide which of the two activities was more work and which one was more fun. It was such a wonderful experience that another Shedd Aquarium group of 7th and 8th grade students came to the Lagoons for a repeat performance. The north side of Tower Rd. in the Lagoons is not only looking better and better, but it's a lot healthier. We're hoping to see some new native growth this spring.



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**BYNC's Science Curricula in Nature Program (SCN) – a dazzling presentation**

Representatives from BYNC, New Trier H.S. and Glencoe School District gave a [spectacular presentation](#) of the SCN program at the Chicago Wilderness 8th Biennial Congress held at UIC in November. It received rave reviews! Presenters of the SCN model and practice were: Daniel Kielson, BYNC; Robyn Ward, NTHS; and Catherine Wang, Neil Couturier, and Kiim Dwan-Collins, from Glencoe School District #35. Katie DeVogelaere (BYNC)



produced the magnificent presentation for the presenters. Click on the photo to view the Q&A session!

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### **Erika Robers joins the BYNC Board**

A former High School Social Studies teacher, Erika most recently worked for a non-profit, buildOn, helping teens connect to their communities through volunteer service. Erika loves getting youth excited about the environment through removing invasive species in the Forest Preserves and working in urban farms and gardens.

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### **Kat Kocisky hired to the BYNC Administrative Staff Position**

BackYard Nature Center is pleased to announce the hiring of Kat Kocisky as its new Administrative Staff member. Kat has invaluable skills in grant writing and has done a fantastic job of keeping our calendar and database updated. She will be helping to write and submit a grant application for our upcoming Nature as Teacher Program, which has been a key focus for BYNC.

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### **New Program Planning with Winnetka Park District is Underway**

#### ***Camping for Families***

BYNC and the Winnetka Park District are offering a nature-related educational and recreational program that promotes and enables individual families to engage in a camping experience. The program has two components: (1) instructional – the basics of tent camping, and (2) an actual camping experience. The goals of this Program are to strengthen the bond that children and adults have with nature, and to enhance the enrichment and discovery of this family experience.

#### ***Nature as Teacher program (NaT)***

Plans are underway to expand the Science Curricula in Nature (SCN ) program to also include such school subjects as: math, social studies, art, writing and poetry, foreign languages, and more!



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## Fundraising

The BackYard Nature Board wants to personally thank all of our supporters this past year who have supported us with "in kind" and "kind" donations. Our annual fundraising campaign brought in over \$3,000 dollars which will be used to promote our new programs and increase our connections with individuals, families and children enjoying and appreciating the wonders of nature.



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