

Dear Homeschoolers,

We hope you enjoy this April 2010 newsletter. It always seems there is lots to put in and it seems to keep growing as well! With spring in the air, we couldn't help adding in the article at the end of the newsletter entitled: Seven Special Reasons to Get Up and Get Out. We hope you enjoy that and it motivates you to enjoy our wonderful outdoors! When our first baby was born 28 years ago I soon determined that I would make a point of going outside everyday if at all possible with myself and our child/children. Throughout the years, I did do that and am so grateful for those many times and benefits. So there you go..... enjoy that article.

Yesterday we learned that our group that participated in the Oilers Reading Contest was selected to win tickets for an upcoming Oilers game! So congratulations to those that are off to enjoy that game and also be encouraged to keep reading great books!

Many of you will be attending the upcoming AHEA homeschool conference. Please also read in the sharing bulleting about an Online Home School Conference in May that is quite unique and should be very interesting. Any of you that participate in that , please tell us about your experiences with it.

Starting in April now, we facilitators will be on our motorbikes and out coming to visit you. (Well actually, maybe not all on motorbikes as some haven't converted to this mode of transportation yet but we are working on them ☺). Visits take place as usual through April, May and June but with what feels like an early spring, don't be surprised for some visits to be a little earlier than usual. However whatever month it is, we are looking forward to seeing you all. We are excited as well that Rhonda Snider , our daughter, will be joining the list of facilitators as she is just done her Education degree and will be back in Red Deer in April. She will be our first facilitator who has had the experience of being homeschooled for all of her school age years, so we think that's a marvellous thing too (although I'm perhaps a little biased). Blessings on you all and enjoy this spring with your family. Happy Easter too! From the Sniders ☺

Activities:

FLT Senior Band Concert with CUC

Our Senior band is excited to invite you to their concert this **Saturday, March 27th at 7:30 p.m.** in the Canadian Union College High School Gymnasium (this is located just east - across the road from the large church on the hill at the College north of Lacombe). It has been a very good experience practising with the Canadian Union College concert band and we are looking forward to performing with them. There will be juice and cookies afterwards and a chance to get autographs!
☺

The Emperor's New Clothes – Drama Production

The Emperor's New Clothes tour group is performing their final show on a very fitting April Fool's Day, **April 1, 5:00 pm.** Performed by Christian Youth Theater, this production is filled with fun! Only 55 minutes long, it's perfect to bring the whole family too. Tickets are \$5 and available at 53rd Street Music and Scott's Parable. If you know a child in the production, you may help them win a ticket contest if you purchase directly from them. Tickets also available at the door. Location at First Baptist Church, 4310 39 St., Red Deer

Band Open House Day

Wednesday, April 7th, at 1:30 p.m. you have the opportunity to check out the FLT homeschool band, learn about the different instruments and be inspired to play next year starting in the fall. It really is a great opportunity to learn an instrument and become equipped to enjoy a lifetime skill that you will have years to put to use in many different settings. It's also a good chance for our children to enjoy one another's company with a joint purpose of making music together. As well it is a very economical opportunity to be involved in home school band. We will once again have recorder band in the fall for ages approx. 6 – 8 yrs and beginner, intermediate and senior concert band for children 9 years and up. We have a very good system that encourages people to advance at their own rate and desire. Some of our teens who want to

play in senior band have learned their instrument in a very short time with extra coaching or even summer day band camp at RDC. Also parents you are welcome to learn and play as well at no cost – just some smiles! Hope to see you there (at Balmoral Bible chapel and please use the east door)! You are welcome to let Kathy know if you are coming as well.

BASICS fitness Youth A.R.M.Y. Camp

Youth ages 8-12 are invited to join our new ARMY Fitness Camp. This is led by Craig Douthwaite who is not only a home school Dad but has a lot of great experience with these type of activities!

A – ll R – ecruits M - ust be Y - ouths! Join us Monday afternoons in April for a one hour fitness boot camp specifically designed for kids ages 8-12. This fun, team based boot camp will have your kids exercising with out them even realizing it! Teamwork, discipline, leadership and FUN are emphasized in this fitness camp for youth. A minimum of 5 registrants are required for boot camp to run. ARMY camp is limited to 15 participants, register early to avoid disappointment! ARMY cadets must be prepared to train in all weather conditions as the boot camp is held outdoors.

Location: Clearview Community Hall Mo **Apr 12-May 18 1:30-2:30pm** \$40.00 To register go to **www.basicsfitness.ca** and click on the join now icon or call 403.550.0023

Band News

Band members please note that there are 3 more weeks of band left. We will be practising at Balmoral for the next two Wednesdays (March 31 and April 7). Also on April 7th, we have invited those thinking about playing in band next year to come to an ‘open house’ time at 1:30 to get more information about choosing an instrument etc. Then on Wednesday, April 14th we will be having our final concerts. Senior band will be playing at the AHEA convention on Friday, April 16th in the morning and we are also looking for volunteers to work at the coat check there.

Band members also have an opportunity to play for the Red Deer College convocation in June and more information will be following soon.

We are also considering having a 6 week band session for those interested in playing with the senior band next year. This would take place on Wednesdays starting in May. Our beginner band this year is doing so well, that this would just be perfect for getting them ready for that as well as any intermediate players or any players that know how to play an instrument but haven’t played in band. Please let Kathy know if you are interested.

Alberta Home Education Association Convention

This year’s convention at the Westerner in Red Deer will be held on Friday, **April 16th** and Saturday, **April 17th, 2010**. We have brochures available if you would like one or you can check their website for more information www.aheaonline.com. There is also a children’s convention again this year as well as teen sessions. Friday night’s concert will be a highlight with our own FLT family – the Larsgards being the guests as they play their Blue Grass music. It will inspire and entertain all ages!

New Home School Parent Meeting

We are once again planning a meeting for parents interested in starting home schooling in the fall of 2010 or those just recently started. This is an opportunity to invite those that are interested and have some questions that maybe they have been asking you! We will go over some information about Families Learning Together, getting started with homeschooling, as well as talking about choosing materials to use for your children. This meeting will take place on **Tuesday, April 20th** at 7 p.m. at the Snider’s house. Please call Kathy at 348-0723 if you have questions or you are planning to come.

Girls ‘Beauty Day’ ☺

Girls from ages 5 - 12, you have been invited to come to have your hair done (washed, curled, styled) and nails painted on **Thursday, April 22nd** at the Lindsay Thurber Comp. High School here in Red Deer. The teacher of the Grade 12 Beauty Culture class has invited our girls to enjoy this day out. Moms are welcome to stay with the girls and tea will be available there for them. You need to arrive at 9 a.m. and time it will take will vary depending on the length of hair and and what you get done. You should park in the Visitor parking on the west side of the school and go in the main doors and then go into the first room on your left. Also be sure to know your license plate number as a list will be made to register with the office. If you would make a donation of \$3 per child that would be appreciated to cover some costs. Please call or email

the Sniders if your daughter would like to participate. (k.d.sider@shaw.ca or 348-0723) Call early as I have a feeling this will be popular with the girls and fill up quickly. This is also Collicutt day in the afternoon and so you will all be looking beautiful for it! ☺

Last Collicut Activity Day

Thursday, April 22nd is our last activity day at the Collicutt. (The last Thursday in May, our activity day will be the annual bike ride that you can read about on the calendar.)

On this day we will have another old fashioned "Field Day" at the Collicutt! So from 1 – 1:45 the plan is for everyone to meet in the West Soccer Pitch. There we will have field day games mixing up all ages. For example there will be wheelbarrow races with one young and one older person. There will be gunny sack races, relays, three legged races and tug-o-wars. There may even be a 'candy scramble'. Then from 1:45 – 2:45 there will be regular gym times. Don't miss the fun! Also on this activity day, we are hoping the Painted Lady caterpillars will be there to be picked up by those who have ordered them.

Lazer Tag

Here's your chance to play lazer tag on **Friday, April 23rd at 2:00 p.m.** Due to the storm in December, many of you didn't make it to our annual Dec. game and so we are planning to have great driving weather so you can all make it to this one!! Lazer Force is located at #3 – 5239 – 53 Ave (next to A & B Sound just to the north of Superstore) and is a great spot to play. This is suitable for ages approx. 8 years old and up and Moms and Dads you'll have a great time playing as well. The cost is \$17 for three games which takes approx. 1 hour to play. 20 –22 players play at once and they divide into two teams. We can also bring snacks and teams can take turns playing and if we have about 40 people we will be done at about 4 p.m. There is also a viewing area upstairs where those waiting to play can watch. Contact Jolene Hall to book your spot – email wjhall@xplornet.com or call 403.742.1669.

Walk Through the Bible – Old Testament

Sunday, April 25 Balmoral Bible Chapel, Red Deer is hosting a 5 hour Walk Thru the Old Testament Seminar. This seminar is suitable for families. First hour of Seminar is during Sunday Morning Service starting at 10:30 and is free. For those who register there will be a lunch together and then the remainder of the seminar in the afternoon. It is designed to make the Old Testament come alive, using hand motions, catch phrases, and group review. Cost is Adults \$20.00, Child up to grade 5 \$15.00 which includes work books. Call the church to register, 403 347-5450.

Doctors Eye Care

Come in and see what goes on in the Optometrists' office at the bottom of the North Hill in the OcuDent Building. #102, 5920 - 50 Ave. We will meet there on **Thursday, April 29th at 10am.** This field trip would be best suited for children ages 8 and up. Due to the size of the office, only some parents will have to stay to chaperone. Please contact Lori Dunbar at 403-343-0463 or fldunbar@telus.net so we can notify the office of how many will be attending.

Pattern Dance in Lacombe

On **Friday, April 30th** at the Lacombe Memorial Centre, the Blackfalds Pattern Dancers are organizing a dance that families are welcome to attend. The organizer David, has also agree to meet with any families from our group, at 5 p.m. to teach and go over some of the dances that will take place during the evening. This is a great opportunity and will be lots of fun (just ask others who have gone in the past). For example they do the 'Cotton Eyed Joe' and will practice it with us. The dance includes a supper which starts at 6 p.m. and then the dance is after that. Tickets are \$25/each and ½ price for those under 17 years of age, free for children under 6. For more information contact Kathy (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723).

Mother & Daughter Tea

Friday, May 7th at 1:30 pm and Ladies Tea.....Saturday, May 8th at 10:30 am

We are planning to hold these Tea's as a fundraiser towards helping to support a needy family that Faith and Lorraine met on their missions trip to Costa Rica. Therefore we are not giving a set cost, just asking for a money gift for them, so that we can be families helping a family. Both of these Teas will be held at the Haynes Community Church.(Please note: on the day of the Mothers/Daughter Tea, there will also be a time set aside as a craft time- where the daughters can make cards together for their Moms and the Moms can have a little more visiting time.)

We would love to have you! Please RSVP by May 1st so that we can prepare ahead and know numbers. To RSVP and for directions to the church, please call or e-mail: Dawn Rainforth @ 403-782-5417 (mobenac@hotmail.com) OR Lorraine Parker @ 403-784-3078 (mlparker@xplomet.com) ALL Ladies and Daughters are welcome, including grandmas...so invite anyone you know, for either tea- or both! This could be a good way to celebrate Mother's Day....and at the same time support another mom in a different part of our world!

Park Days in Red Deer

With spring in the air, we want to remind you about our 'park days' coming up on each **Tuesday in May** and the first **two Tuesdays in June**. These will once again take place in Rosedale in the green area by the Rosedale Community Shelter. The time is from 2 – 3:30 p.m. and once again it is for all ages. Moms visit and little ones play on the playground equipment and there are activities like softball and soccer for two ages groups – younger children and the older ones. Sometimes the older group also play flag football. You can just show up and you don't need to call ahead. Also we appreciate those who volunteer to bring water melon to share when we are all thirsty from running!

Dutch Blitz Tournament

Tuesday, May 18th, will be your chance to come and play Dutch Blitz (card game) with fellow addicts! ☺ This will take place at the Rosedale Community Shelter just before park day. Bring your cards if you have some or just come and we'll play. Our goal is to beat Victoria this year! ☺ It is a great game that your family can enjoy if you want to find out more about it as well. This will take place between 1 and 2 p.m.

Homeschooling Through High School – Parent and Teen Meeting

Tuesday, May 25th at 7 p.m., we invite you to come to an evening where we will be discussing homeschooling through the high school years. We are planning to have some homeschool grads there to share with you and even some young men! (In the past it seems all our guests have been females and so this time we want you to be able to hear from a former teen boy's perspective). There are many choices for the highschool years but this evening we will be talking about homeschooling through high school from a traditional home school perspective without getting 100 high school credits but still preparing for options which includes apprenticeships and post secondary options. This meeting is for parents and either their teens or pre-teens. Please call the Sniders if you would like to attend. Location will be announced as it will depend on the numbers wishing to be there. It will be a great evening and so do sign up to come!

Annual Bike Ride/Picnic

Thursday, May 27 from 12 noon – 3:30 we have the picnic shelter booked at the Little Great Chief Park which is just past Bower Ponds. We will have a contest to see which Dad can build us a fire and then start eating around noon. We generally leave for the bike ride at 1 p.m. or just before and some of the group usually rides to Heritage Ranch (shorter ride) and the older ones generally ride to 3 Mile Bend or Discovery Canyon or a variety of other places! Bring your own hot dogs and buns and perhaps a snack to share. This is always a fun event so pump up those tires with air and come along! You can also get your June – August newsletter on this day. We have had this event for years and it is always a fun one!

Trap Shooting

Have you ever tried trap shooting? Well here's your chance to do that! **On Friday, May 28th**, we have booked trap shooting with the Olds Trap Shooting group. (If that gets rained out or bad weather the substitute date will be Friday, June 11.) This activity is for those who are approx. 12 years old and up to and including adults. Everyone should arrive at 10 a.m. and bring a picnic lunch.

One-on-one instruction will be given to be sure that all is kept very safe as likely many will be new at this. Turns will be taken for the shooting but it is also very entertaining to watch others do it too.

One round is \$15.50 for 25 targets and shells (family members can split the shots if each don't want to shoot 25 – though individual liability insurance for their group is \$3 each). That price is for 12 or 20 ga however if a child is smaller, they are better off to shoot a 28 ga shotgun which has less recoil and is lighter. The price for 28 ga. will be \$17.50/round of 25.

To register for this activity and to get directions, you need to contact Debbie Sawatzky. Please use her email if possible: garden4@look.ca or call – ph. 403.782.7910. Thanks to Debbie for organizing this!

Alberta Steam Train Ride – Stettler to Big Valley

Thursday, June 3rd - Come and join other homeschoolers to ride the diesel train from Stettler to Big Valley. We are excited to present this field trip to you again this year. It was so popular the last few years that we decided to book it again. So if you weren't able to go yet, call Grandma and Grandpa and plan it for this year. There are only two days a year that they offer this trip to school aged children at this discounted price for them and accompanying adults. This is what they say about it: See and experience pioneer railway travel and learn about how the West was settled by the railways. Includes hamburger and hot dog lunch, and guided tours of historic sights in Big Valley. For more information check out this website: <http://www.absteamtrain.com/index.htm>

The train leaves Stettler at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 3:55 p.m. We would need to meet at 10 a.m. to load. The cost of all tickets is \$28 including gst. Children ages 3 and under are free. Normally an adult ticket is \$81 so it is a good deal.

Please contact Anna Maria Blair asap to book a spot as these tickets usually go quickly. If you are able, please book by email but you can also phone if emailing isn't an option (annamaria.blair@gmail.com or 403. 346.5033) We currently have two coaches booked for our group. Also we need to arrange payment when you book.

'Do Hard Things' Conference for Teens

Info from the Caves: Some of you may have read the book **Do Hard Things** by the Harris brothers, Alex and Brett. On **Monday, June 7th**, they are coming to Edmonton (Strathcona Christian School in Sherwood Park) to do a conference on the same topic. A couple friends of mine went to a conference in Chicago, learned a lot, had lots of fun, and highly recommended it to us. If their conference is as good as their book, it will be well worth going to. My family and I are planning to go, and we'd like to fill up our van. If you or your parents are interested in going, let's see if we can fill up more vans. Let us know if you're interested (or if you or your parents could drive). For more information you can go to their website: www.therebelution.com Contact the Cave Family: carton@nucleus.com or 403.782.7365. This is a great opportunity!

Horse Day Camp at Camp Little Red

Do you love horses? Then why not try the horse camps at Camp Little Red located just west of Bowden. This year the day camps for homeschoolers will be on: **Wednesday, June 9th or Thursday, June 10th** -arrive at 9 a.m. and leave at 5:30 p.m. Cost for the day is \$40 and includes lunch and supper too. This is for children ages 9 to 16 years of age. If you have any questions call 403.224.3700 or register online on their website:

www.camplittlered.com/homeschoolershorsecamp.html .

Rosebud Theatre – 'Oliver'

Saturday, June 19th we have booked tickets for those of you wishing to enjoy the drama production of 'Oliver' at 1:30 p.m. Also we are booked for the 12 noon seating for the meal prior to the show. The group ticket price is \$44.50 for adults (ages 13 year old and up) and \$29.50 for children ages 4-12 years old. Children under 4 are not allowed. Many of you are familiar with Rosebud Theatre but for those of you who aren't, it is located in the town of Rosebud near

Drumheller. Check out their website for a map and further information. If you would like to attend, please contact the Sniders (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723) as soon as you decide. This is the weekend of Father's Day and so it might be a good way to celebrate with Dad! They do have a very lovely meal along with entertainment there and they

Sharing Bulletin

Christian Youth Theater is dedicated to developing character in children and adults through training in the arts and by producing wholesome family entertainment, all of which reflect Judeo-Christian values.

Christian Youth Theater's Summer Drama Day Camps are booking for the first three weeks in August.

Teen Camp Disney Villains ! Aug. 3-7

Junior Camp Disney Rock! Aug. 9-13 or August 16-20

Bitty Campers Aug. 9-13 or August 16-20

Bitty Camps - FOR AGES 5 AND 6

Mornings only, these half day camps run in conjunction with the Junior camps and Bitty Campers perform alongside their older friends in Friday's Showcase.

Junior (7-13) and Teen Camps (13-18) - With a full day camp, you'll need to bring a lunch and get ready for a ton of fun! No matter what camp you choose to join you will enjoy it!

Private Music Lessons/Theory

Spring is the PERFECT time to try out piano lessons, practice your band instrument to prepare for the fall, or to simply enjoy playing music! I am back in the city of Red Deer and am now offering private lessons for piano and/or band instruments. I am also offering private theory lessons to prepare for the Preparatory Rudiments, Basic Rudiments, Intermediate Rudiments and Advanced Rudiments RCM examinations offered this summer. Half an hour lessons are \$15. Please contact Rhonda Snider for more information! (403) 348-0723 or rhondasnider20@gmail.com

Usborne Books: "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." *Emilie Buchwald* Why not build your home library and explore learning opportunities with Usborne's award-winning books? Give **Julie Honecker** a call at (403)896-1310 or e-mail her at julie.honecker@gmail.com to see the newest titles or place an order. You can view the on-line catalogue at www.usborne.ca/catalogue.

The Sicilian Sisters Soap Company: Rachel and Sophia Contenti are excited to introduce you to their new home-based business. With help from their mom Stacey, they have been creating and selling all-natural handmade soaps, all-natural bath and body products, gifts for the kitchen, and Rice Bag Heating Pads since the fall of 2009. The girls' have purposed to offer the best handmade product possible using the finest, all-natural ingredients available. Please visit their website at www.siciliansisterssoapco.com.

Wanted: Looking for a youth guitar. Bruce (my almost 9 year old) is going to take lessons. Please contact Julie at 403-391-7898.

For Sale: TI83 Graphing Calculator One year old \$50.00; Saxon math 8/7 \$30.00 ; Saxon Algebra 1/2 \$30.00; Saxon Algebra 1 \$30.00; Math U See Algebra 1 \$30.00 (all math books complete with test booklet and all answer manuals); Excellent Writing Intensive Continuation Course \$25.00; Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde Novel Study (with workbook) \$10.00 Contact 403-746-3607 Dana Kreil Eckville

FOR SALE: Sonlight American History Core 3 & 4 - used, good condition, instructor's guide and select books to accompany curriculum, \$100.

Sonlight Core 2 History Instructor's Guide - \$45. Call Bonnie for details at 405-343-9563 or email olsenkb@gmail.com.

Wanted: Jay Wiley Biology text, The Story of the World volume 4: The Modern Age Activity Guide, Wordly Wise Book 9 or 10. Contact Loretta Cote 403.346.9406.

To Give Away: One computer that was received from the 'computers for schools program'. Contact Loretta Cote 403.346.9406.

On-line Tutor – submitted by FLT homeschool Mom – Amanda Christiansen: Who else needs help teaching high school math to their kids? Or *any* subject in *any* grade for that matter? Check out "Mr. Bear's Online School For Kids" at www.helptolearn.net Mr. Bear is a retired school teacher and he's very good. He tutored my daughter for grade 9 math this year (his grand daughter F.Y.I.) and it was a life saver. How it works is the student sends him a request for a tutoring session via e-mail and he promptly replies with a link. Click on the link to get into the virtual classroom and there he is ready to help. You actually see him on the screen and talk to him real time. My kids were his guinea pigs for setting up his school and they thought it was fun, easy & very helpful. I'm not good with the computer at all and it was even easy for me to do. I recommend it to anyone who can't figure out those high school courses.

5th Annual Community Safety Day in Rocky Mountain House - This will take place on Thursday, May 27th from noon to 7 p.m. at the Rocky Mountain House Arena. For more information please check our website at www.safetyday.ca or call (403) 846-6611. Some highlights are that it is free to attend, free BBQ, giveaways from participants, door prizes. Check the website in May for schedule of activities by participants and more information about their booths this year.

Young Farm Workers Safety Training Workshop - Thursday, April 29th at Olds College. There are many sessions to pick from so check their website for more information and to register: www.centralalberta.safecommunities.ca or call 346.8101. This is open to ages 14 and up and the cost is \$35.

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. William Butler Yeat

On-line HomeSchool Conference – May 12 -14 – Check out this website: <http://www.schoolhouseexpo.com/> to learn more about participating in this conference with a variety of very good speakers. It will be a very interesting experience and so check it out! It is put on by 'The Old Schoolhouse' magazine and here is some of what they have to say and you'll have to check their website to find out much more information:

As one of the leading, Christian homeschool magazines, *The Old Schoolhouse* has been connecting homeschoolers with their favorite authors for years. As we approach our **10-year anniversary**, we are thrilled to be able to connect homeschoolers to their favorite speakers in this new, dynamic, online event. No need to drive or find a sitter for the kids. We'll bring the speakers right to you!

Whether you live internationally, rurally, or attend a local convention offered to your community, you will benefit from *The Schoolhouse Expo* as you enjoy three days of interactive Internet experience with dynamic speakers, a virtual vendor hall, physical door prizes, and a goodie bag filled with downloads for every attendee!

Seven Special Reasons to Get Up and Get Out!

by Jane Claire Lambert

Even in our homeschooling we are hesitant these days to get outside and find safe places to examine what has been made. We just don't take the time, because we've forgotten how vitally important this activity really is! Many of us don't live on acreage with ponds and meadows to scout out, and it is more difficult for some to find safe parks and places to explore. Yet, if we truly believed that taking time to get out into nature was critically important, wouldn't we have a new desire to pray for and seek out special spots to view the natural wonders that are close at hand? Even in the heart of city life, one can find so many great examples of natural phenomena, and nature is always as close as our own backyard. We even know one family who strolled through cemeteries, enjoying lovely trees of all kinds, ponds, flowers, birds, insects, and more with their children.

If you believe in the need, you will find a way, so here are seven extra-special reasons to get up and get out!

1. Nature walks will teach your child to watch everything around him. These outings will greatly increase his observational skills and his outdoor life skills. Take your children walking often, and watch your lessons become more relevant year after year as your students are able to apply experientially, through this time outside, the concepts you have presented. You see, it is one thing to teach the life cycle of a frog and quite another to find egg masses and tadpoles in a nearby pond! Children are filled with wonder as they use a net to collect specimens or turn over rocks on a lakeshore and find crawdads escaping every which way! This is life! This is the making of memories! This is real learning, not book learning!

2. Take your children out often, and they will find that one thing in nature always leads to another. If they are interested in a frog they see one day, the next day they will wonder and want to find out about the crickets and worms that the frogs eat. Then they may get interested in the condition of the pond water, and so it goes. This is experience-directed learning that is so exciting to your children. By walking outdoors with them on a regular basis, you will set off a chain reaction of learning experiences for your children that will continue for a lifetime, as they find that each discovery is connected to many other parts of nature.

3. Camaraderie--that special intimacy that comes from adventuring and making discoveries together--is another benefit of a good nature walk. Whether a mother or father walks with all the children or they take their journeys with just one child at a time or they use different combinations over the months, the time spent will reap intimacy as well as nature knowledge. Yes, you all will see and learn together, and that is wonderful. The times of quiet togetherness and the times of deep conversations along the way are special features of nature outings. It is as if the Lord has provided a miraculous setting for you to "be" with your children. Planned nature walks will provide years of the type of environment that enhances rich family ties.

4. At certain times when viewing nature, some quietness, solitude, and patience are necessary. Of course, a small child doesn't understand this at first, and the lessons that a parent uses to teach a little one to walk more quietly, sit for a bit, and watch what is around him must be gentle and full of patience. If you model (especially fun when acted out over-dramatically) walking softly and being as quiet as possible for part of your walks, your child will begin to see that it is often in times of quietness that the greatest marvels are seen. Then you will have done your job well. The desire to be quiet in order to see something special will be catching, and in time your child will begin to value quietness and solitude. Nature walks, begun simply and continued over the years--time spent watching and thinking--will develop a "deepness of heart" in a student who learns to quiet himself in these journeys together. Couldn't our world use a few more inhabitants with "deepness of heart"?

5. As your child grows in his awareness of the magnificence of creation, he will grow to love it. What he grows to love, he will want to take care of. Nature walks, begun early and continued throughout your teaching days, will lead your child to an awareness of the necessity of stewardship of our natural resources. We are all called to be the "gentle tenders" of our world. But if we don't even know anything about it, it is difficult to want to preserve it and use our resources wisely.

6. Taking time to walk outdoors will create a lifetime appreciation for what the Lord has made, and that deep love of nature will become a rich field for worship. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and those who spend time in the out of doors discovering the wonders and learning that it comes from Him will have a vast and limitless resource for worshiping the One who created it all! Modeling a grateful heart for the beauty of nature all around us will flow out onto our children. Every leaf, each bug, every cell under a microscope is a marvel worthy of all our praise. If we display a heart of praise and worship for such a magnificent Creator, then wonder and worship will come to our children as well.

7. Something else will grow from enjoyable nature walks and seeing the magnificence of nature on a regular basis. A new understanding in the heart of your student will develop: nothing in nature is "common." In the book *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, we read that the people in Bentley's day thought snowflakes were "as common as dirt." But Mr. Bentley knew, because he had seen them under a microscope, that each snowflake was utterly and beautifully unique. All of nature is like that! Each stone has its own loveliness; each drop of water has an entire world of creatures swimming in it; each bit of moss or lichen--extraordinary! Everything that the Lord has made is amazing--nothing is common! How wonderful to begin at a young age to teach our children about the amazing natural world around them and the One who made it all.

