



## A note from the Executive Director

New Beginnings, New Growth...

Spring is a season of new beginnings, of new growth. During this 2018 spring season, MEarth is experiencing its fair share of both.

The organization has a new executive director. We are hiring three new staff to replace existing staff who are moving on. We have begun implementing a new Sustainable Business Plan, which includes more programming for adults. Finally, we are in the initial stages of planning a ten-year anniversary celebration next fall — MEarth secured its nonprofit status on December 16, 2008.

Another new beginning we will soon implement is to more regularly ask you to consider providing the financial nutrients MEarth needs to grow, so we can better meet our mission: to educate and inspire through environmental stewardship. Historically, we have formally and directly asked for your financial support at the end of the year. The financial and emotional support we have received during that time has been significant and inspirational.

MEarth's Board and staff would like to make the most of that strong community support, by offering you the opportunity to make a financial contribution more than once a year. We want to provide our supporters with timely and compelling requests four times a year, the norm for most nonprofits. Starting next month, we will begin sending out funding appeals to coincide with the four growing seasons of the year.

**The spring appeal will focus on something new, related to the time of year to plant seeds.** The goal might be a new program or some new equipment, such as a new Edible

Landscape workshop, or remote sensor cameras to track wildlife movement on The Hilton Bialek Habitat.

**The summer appeal would pertain to an organizational need that is in, or about to, bloom.**

For example, we want to bring more students from elsewhere in Monterey County to MEarth for environmental education.

**The fall appeal will address some aspect of MEarth that is ready for harvest.** As an example, we have a desire to bring a renowned speaker to our 10th anniversary celebration.

**Finally, the year-end appeal is our time to share with you MEarth's plan for the next growing season.** As has been MEarth's tradition, this is when we ask for your general support to help MEarth start the new year on a strong financial footing.

Our intention is to give you the opportunity to support MEarth in a way that best fits your interests. We want you to be the seed of MEarth's growth. Knowing how much fun it is to plant a seed and watch it grow, we want you to be the one who decides which MEarth seed you want to help plant, or which MEarth plant you want to help grow. And our gratitude for your support will be matched by our commitment to make the most of the financial nutrients you provide.

All the best,  
Tom Skeelee

## We're hiring!

MEarth is always looking for like-minded people to join our community. We have opportunities currently open to join our team! Women, people of color and LGBT candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. MEarth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

[\\*new\\* Office Manager](#)  
[Culinary Program Educator](#)  
[Environmental Sustainability Educator](#)

## CommunityConnect

We would like to thank everyone who came to our kickoff of the 2018 Sustainable Chef Dinner Series, May 10th with Chef James Anderson of The Poke Lab! The night was a fabulous success with community members sitting at the lovely communal table set for 30 in the LEED Certified Green Building at The Hilton Bialek Habitat. [Read More about the dinner by Chef James...](#)

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**DIY Summer Scents + Salves**

June 23, 2018

Join us as we host a DIY workshop  
with Valley Botanicals!

[More information HERE](#)

**Sustainable Chef Dinner Series**

June 7th | Chef Christophe Bony

August 10th | Chef Diego Felix

September 14th | More soon!

[Buy Tickets HERE](#)

## Habitat ArtCamp

July 9 - 13

Campers enrolling in 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, or 10th grade in Fall 2018

Join local artists and MEarth staff for a brand new creative adventure! Together we will explore the science of nature through art, observation, and gardening. Daily inspirational walks set the stage for nature journaling inspired by John Muir Laws and local Carmel High School graduate and naturalist Emilie Lygren. Camp days continue with experts who will help cultivate observational discovery of local birds, mammals, insects, and native plants to inspire a day of creativity. Your budding naturalists will explore the connections between art and nature at the 10-acre Hilton Bialek Habitat adjacent to the Carmel Middle School.

[More information HERE](#)





## ClassroomConnect

MEarth grew from the inspiration of Carmel Middle School Science teachers and has been in partnership with Carmel Unified School District for over 20 year. We are excited to be going into our 10th year, since incorporating in 2008, as a non profit and reflect on the history and changes that have transpired over the past 2 decades. [Read More about ClassroomConnect...](#)

## Supporter Spotlight | Revival Ice Cream

Welcome to the first Supporter Spotlight, a new monthly thank you to an individual or organization in our community who supports and helps grow MEarth.

Revival Ice Cream has become a prominent culinary partner—participating in CommunityConnect programs, buying MEarth produce weekly for their ingredients, and even featuring a MEarth ice cream flavor in their shop!

Revival Ice Cream aims to make their sweet treats with as many fresh, in-season, locally sourced, organic ingredients as possible. Like MEarth they value sustainability and community. We are excited to be able to continue this partnership and bring community members workshops and events!





## FoodConnect

Food is essential to our existence. Yet, in the hustle and bustle of our modern life, we often become disconnected from our food sources. Through MEarth's FoodConnect program, students of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds experience first hand the simple act harvesting, cooking, and connecting to their food. This takes place in our LEED-certified culinary classroom, wood-fired oven, organic edible garden, heirloom fruit orchard, off-grid solar greenhouse, and native plant nursery.

In partnership with the Monterey County Health Department and their program **Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention**, we have been able to provide FoodConnect field trips to underserved youth in our community. We offer out-of-school and school day programs that highlight healthy eating and sustainable living. These field trips provide students the opportunity to experiment and learn about F.L.O.S.S. Fresh, Local, Organic, Seasonal, and Sustainable food makes for healthy and thriving communities.

## Supporter Spotlight | Greenberg Foundation

A very special thank you to our newest foundation in our portfolio. The Greenberg Foundation works to promote wellness through effective, alternative, non-traditional healing methods. We are excited to use this grant as a catalyst in growing our FoodConnect Program.



## NatureConnect

MEarth's NatureConnect program invites students to explore, learn about, and restore local habitats. We awaken a sense of wonder and curiosity in the youth of Monterey County. Most recently we finished our restoration season in Carmel-by-the-Sea. On the last day, April 26th **Big Sur Charter School** helped to remove invasive plants threatening habitats and plant native species to restore our central coast. [Read more about the 2017/2018 Restoration Season...](#)

## Volunteer Spotlight | Service Learners

Our programs would not be possible without the dedication of those who give us their time. Through partnerships with California State University, Monterey Bay and Monterey Peninsula College, we host over 40 students every semester for service learning.

**We'd like to thank everyone who volunteered with us this spring!**

Diana Aguirre • Drew Andersen • Teresita Basulto • Walbert Bernardo • Katy Berry • Christopher Bertrand • Natalie Brown • Chris Coburn • Karyn Liensdorf Cole • Iridian Cortez • Aliana S Criado • Juan Cueto • Alexandre Desgrousilliers • Marisa DiMaria • Lucas Dolislager • Riley Dyer • Gilbert Macario Garcia • Valerie Hinojoza-Rood • Alexandra Howard • Maria Jimenez • Haley Kammeier



• Natalia Lazo • Adrien Melac • Missy Pina • Rebecca Pope • Beau Schuler • Anthony Teresa • Calvin Tran • Chantal Waite • Daniel Zamora

**There is new life in the soil for every man. There is healing in the trees for tired minds and for our overburdened spirits, there is strength in the hills, if only we will lift up our eyes. Remember that nature is your great restorer.**

**—Calvin Coolidge**



Educating + Inspiring through Environmental Stewardship

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