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## From the Editor

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# From the Editor

Welcome to this special issue of *Taproot* devoted to art and outdoor education. We begin with the second part of Marie Bernardy's article on "A Case for the Place of Music in the Outdoor Education Program." Part I appeared in the Fall/Winter 2000 issue of *Taproot* (Volume 12, Number 3).

Danish composer Karl Aage Rasmussen (reflecting on the work of contemporary composer Dane Vagn Holmboe) tells us that "The voice of nature is heard... both as an inner impulse and as a spokesman for a higher order. Certainty of this order is the stimulus of music, and to recreate it and mirror it is the highest goal." Holmboe wrote that music, in its purest form, "can be regarded as the expression of a perfect unity and conjures up a feeling of cosmic cohesion." While much discourse could follow these quotes, one point seems very evident if these masters are correct. Music holds great potential to help people bond with the natural world in emotional and spiritual ways! If emotional involvement is indeed a crucial motivational element in the learning process, then all educators might want to reconsider the value of music in their teaching. The opportunity to do this is very thoughtfully provided in Marie Bernardy's article. We are indebted to her.



Your *Taproot* editors are also pleased to share (thanks to the generosity of the Orion Society) the work of Clare Walker Leslie on the art of nature journaling and observation. Like music, journaling can help students "connect" with nature in very personal ways. Whether the tool is pen, pencil, brush or camera, nature journaling directly involves the participant in their experience and opens the door for a great deal more reflection than listening to the words of another human. As Leslie astutely points out, "The heart of nature journaling is the learning of observational skills, not drawing skills." By practicing observational skills, "that which was once perceived as in a glass darkly, we shall see face to face." And if we include music in our learning, we shall not only see more clearly, but also perhaps hear a New Song to help us live harmoniously with all beings.

Be sure to check out our book review section. Both selections are good bets for enjoyable and thought-provoking reading. Alex Gerber's work on Wholeness... has important messages for educators. Namely, there are more than The Three R's. "Reading, Riting and Rithmetic" only go so far in helping to create responsible adults. Gerber advocates the fourth R—"Relatedness." Actually, one might argue that six R's are necessary and add "Respect" and "Responsibility."

We trust readers will find the Resources Section with its focus on art and environmental and outdoor education helpful. Speaking of being helpful, be sure to check out the Coalition's new website ([www.outdoored-coalition.org](http://www.outdoored-coalition.org)). Using it will provide easier access to all Coalition publications and services. Let us know what you think of our newest endeavor.

- Charles