

Builders Commemorate First Anniversary of Wet Lab II at Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

Helping Preschoolers and Young Campers Learn About Nature

Bellevue - Commemorating the first anniversary of Wet Lab II, the Pond Lily classroom, that was donated to the City of Bellevue last year by the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, Dave and Barbara Main joined young campers at story time to read and present two books for the classroom library – one about animals and another about how to build a house.

“The Pond Lily classroom has allowed us to develop a popular nature-based 3-day-a-week ‘Polliwog Preschool’ during the school year where there are only three remaining openings for September enrollment,” said Karen Lennon, Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center Program Manager for the Pacific Science Center. Follow this link to learn more about the Polliwog Preschool and to register: <http://pacificsciencecenter.org/Mercer-Slough/polliwog-preschool>

Since its dedication last year, the builder donated Wet Lab classroom has served as an early learning nature laboratory of the Pacific Science Center. The classroom building fulfills a vision by the Pacific Science Center, City of Bellevue and Master Builders Association for a place where children can experience hands-on learning about nature and the environment. The Pond Lily classroom is serving a multi-purpose role allowing focused programming for ‘Polliwog’ preschoolers during the school year, and camps for K-2nd grade children during the summer months



Wet Lab II Now Provides Early Learning Nature Programs

Barbara and Dave Main of the Master Builders Association mark the first anniversary of Wet Lab II by leading story time for young campers in the Pond Lily classroom. Pond Lily was donated by the association last year and now serves as an environmental learning laboratory for preschoolers during the school year, and K-2nd grade camps during the summer months. Pacific Science Center instructors say the new classroom has allowed them to develop the year round early learning nature program.

Builder Dave Main Tells Campers How to Build a House
Master Builders Association past-president, Dave Main, explains how to build a house and describes the environmental features of the Pond Lily classroom including the green roof that filters pollutants and reduces storm water runoff.



The Pond Lily classroom is managed by the Pacific Science Center in an agreement with the City of Bellevue to provide a wide variety of programming at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center for adults and students from schools throughout the region.

The Wet Lab II, Pond Lily classroom building, was constructed by volunteers from the Master Builders Association and donated to the city of Bellevue, as a legacy project of the association's commitment to perform 100 community service projects during their centennial year.

Students in the Polliwog pre-school program participate in theme-focused hikes and activities where they discover colors, textures, shapes and carefully collect items/creatures for observation in the Pond Lily classroom - then return them to their natural environment. The program is play-based and student-driven with stations to choose from, discovery exploration times and specific activities that relate to a new theme each week. Activities are designed to address each child's developmental needs while encouraging curiosity, fostering love of nature and developing the whole child.

Master Builders Association past president, Dave Main of Creative Home Partners LLC, led volunteer efforts with Martha Rose of Martha Rose Construction, Grey Lundberg of Grey Lundberg Inc., and Joe Schwab of HCS Construction Services to construct Wet Lab II to a 5-Star Built Green certification. The building's environmental features include a high efficiency radiant heating system, heat recovery ventilator, and extra efforts to preserve the site's surrounding ecology and functions, such as re-planting displaced plants during construction.

Founded in 1909, the Master Builders Association is a trade association is a trade association comprised of nearly 3,000 companies involved in the residential and light commercial construction industry. It is the nation's oldest and largest local home building association affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

MSEEC is a collaboration between the City of Bellevue and the Pacific Science Center. This partnership brings year-round education and interpretation of freshwater ecosystems, wetland ecology, environmental stewardship and the effect of urban development to adults, youth and families. MSEEC is the keystone of interpretive facilities and programs for the City of Bellevue and serves as the Eastside focal point for the Pacific Science Center. MSEEC provides classrooms for environmental education, a visitor center for interpretation and a community building for rentals, community gatherings and environmental programs.

