



## Winter Appeal 2018

Help us meet a private foundation's \$8000 match and deliver science and natural education to children and adults in 2019. Double your donation until December 31<sup>st</sup> by giving online at <https://www.thesfi.org> or use the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

### Winter Holidays 2018

The most challenging point of last summer's wildfire season happened in August when Selma experienced weeks of hazardous air quality and Oak Flat was once again evacuated. "SFI" was spray painted on our vehicle windshields for easy identification by the National Guard.

Now that the Klondike East fire has abated, I've decided not to remove the SFI from my windshield. It has become part of my identity, reminding me I'm proud to work where I do. Some fellow commuters recognize our name and smile and wave. Others look startled; they wonder what SFI is, exactly. An adult student in last summer's Marine Biology Field Adventure course gave me fresh perspective on that when she explained, "SFI isn't just about enrolling in classes, it's about supporting a community, a group of people who believe in the importance of learning our place's natural history." Thank you, Lisa.

SFI is an experiential learning community that recognizes we live in a special place deserving of our stewardship and protection. It's the sound of water trickling through the Deer Creek darlingtonia fen. It's school children laughing, screaming, squealing as they encounter nature in the field. It's adults in lively conversation in a lab or sharing dinner after a learning adventure on a mountain peak or river. SFI is a single student kneeling in a meadow intent on a butterfly. It's the sound of a vacuum cleaner as we prepare for lodging guests.



And yes, sometimes it's the smell of smoke and rumble of heavy fire equipment. But then there are smoke-sweetened blackberries to taste and the resinous smell of conifers that have survived this fiery summer. There are scientific explanations for these phenomena; you will see fire ecology courses in the 2019 catalog!

Next year, we'll celebrate new outbursts of bloom in open places where trees have burnt or been cut down along the fireline. Our 21<sup>st</sup> year will be one of restoration and renewal as we repair our watershed's fire damage, expand our Youth Education Outdoor School programs and venture into new Adult Education territories and partnerships.

We hope you will generously donate to help us grow into this new season. We count on your support to continue providing unique learning opportunities in the Klamath-Siskiyou. **Please help us meet and exceed the match pledged by a private foundation. Our goal is to raise \$16,000. Donations will count toward the match until December 31, 2018. You can donate online or use the enclosed envelope and mail it in.**

Thank you so much for being part of our community!

**We'd like to thank you in person. Please join us at our Annual Winter Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and enjoy holiday treats, live music, a "Winter Ecology" program by Kristi Mergenthaler and other nature-based activities, plus a gingerbread cabin auction.**

Kathleen Pyle  
SFI Program and Marketing Coordinator

*On behalf of the SFI staff and board*



### Landmarks of SFI's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

\*In 2018, we instructed over 800 youth in spring outdoor programs.

\* 330 adult students participated in our Adult Ed field courses in Klamath, Jackson, Josephine, Curry and Coos Counties in Oregon and in Del Norte, Siskiyou and Modoc Counties in California.

\* SFI sponsored or co-sponsored 11 Free Learning programs (including 5 offsite in Ashland, Curry County, Grants Pass, Prospect and Mt. Shasta) in partnership with Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Mount Shasta Wildflowers, Oregon Humanities, and Unitarian Universalists of Grants Pass.

\*SFI Volunteer Power! 35 volunteers actively pitched in to help SFI clean up, repair and beautify Deer Creek Center, work at our BeerFest Fundraiser and assist with Youth Education Programs. An additional 8 hosted or assisted with Adult Education courses.

\*A two-year irrigation project in our pasture undertaken by several volunteers resulted in active irrigation on the east end of our land. Thanks to hundreds of hours volunteered by Jim Gurley, and especially Gordon Lyford, we proved two water rights on our property!

\*SFI hosted two conferences at Deer Creek Center: California Native Plant Society Bryophytes Chapter SOBeFree and a David Abram workshop.

Your donations help SFI deliver science and natural history education to children and adults. You can donate online at [www.thesfi.org/donate](http://www.thesfi.org/donate) or use the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

## LOOKING BACK ON 2018...

From the Warner Wilderness to Mt. Shasta to our own backyard on the Illinois River, SFI field courses delivered natural history adventures to over 300 students.



Siskiyou Serpentine Adds to a Biodiversity Hotspot



Educating young naturalists through Outdoor School for All programs and SFI summer camps.



## FORWARD TO 2019: Sneak Preview!

**Teachers, we're now taking reservations for SnowSchool Day Programs on Mt. Ashland.** SnowSchool is a nationwide science curriculum for middle- and high-school students offering them a chance to strap on snowshoes and explore the sources of our watersheds. SFI will offer 4-hr. programs January - March.

**"Solace of Nature" field course in March.** A one-day early spring retreat for educators and those challenged by stress, grief or life changes. This field course includes a guided forest bathing session, meditation, creative coping strategies plus inspiration from nature-based arts.

**Career- and confidence-building for young women.** SFI's Youth Education Programs will offer an August "Exploring Arts and Wellness Young Women Residential Camp."

**Further adventures in Basin and Range country.** Our expanded 2019 adult education field course offerings include birding, botany and butterfly explorations in the Great Basin.

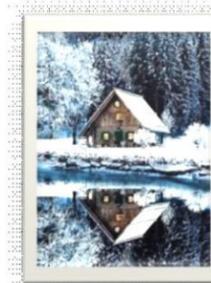
**SFI returns to Sandy Bar Ranch for Klamath River weekends!** We are renewing our partnership with the Sandy Bar Ranch, offering scenic lodging on the middle fork of the Klamath, for two natural history weekends in late spring, 2019.

Current resident or ...  
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City, State 98765-4321

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YOU ARE INVITED TO SFI'S ANNUAL WINTER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



**"A BACKCOUNTRY HOLIDAY"**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018  
DEER CREEK CENTER,  
1241 ILLINOIS RIVER RD.,  
1-4 P.M.

HOLIDAY TREATS AND BEVERAGES  
"WINTER TRACKING" ECOLOGY PROGRAM  
LIVE MUSIC  
GINGERBREAD CABIN SILENT AUCTION  
NATURE CRAFTS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

