

## APRIL 2016 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

April is a month to enjoy and embrace the re-awakening of the Earth in our local communities following the long, dark and cold Winter season. Did you know April 22, 2016 marks the annual celebration of Earth Day? What started as a grassroots movement in the late 1960s generated public support for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and contributed to the passage of the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act and several other environmental laws. Today, the Earth Day Network claims to collaborate with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. According to EDN, more than 1 billion people are involved in Earth Day activities, making it "the largest secular civic event in the world." Learn more about Earth Day at <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/earth-day>. Taking care of our Earth to insure that future generations will inherit a sustainable and livable planet is paramount. Teaching our children the finite reality of our natural resources does not need to be a daunting or formidable task. Start by switching off electric lights, televisions, computers and other appliances when leaving a room. Identify and sort household recyclable items from general trash for curbside pickup. Carry recyclable bags in your car to use when shopping. Your little ones will pick up on your cues and soon remind you of these Earth-friendly practices as well other ways to be kind to our planet every day of the year.

Making the most of our existing resources naturally turns our thoughts to the Maker Movement which is a currently growing trend in which individuals or groups of individuals employ do-it-yourself (DIY) and do-it-with-others (DIWO) techniques to create and market products that are recreated and assembled using unused, discarded or broken electronic, plastic, silicon or virtually any raw material and/or product from a computer-related device. A short article about the Maker Movement and children can be found at <http://makezine.com/2015/05/08/rise-kids-maker-movement/>. More detailed information is found at <http://www.weareteachers.com/blogs/post/2015/04/03/how-the-maker-movement-is-transforming-education>. If you are the curious, collaborative type, why not investigate Barrel of Makers, Wilmington's own makerspace? Learn more at <http://barrelofmakers.org/About/WhatIs>.

With more daylight time and warmer weather, many families are eager to enjoy the outdoors again. At **TechStars** we value "un-plugged" activities that encourage family fun and build lasting memories. Consider the following suggestions for your family:

- **Green By Nature Preschool: April Fools!** Friday, April 1, 9:30 am-11 am, Coverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Road Greenville, DE. Challenge your child to fool the Coverdale animals into thinking he/she is one of them. Cluck like a chicken, baa with the sheep, moo to the cows and oink at the pigs. Anyone who talks back is an April Fool! End the morning with a foolishly fantastic story. Ages 2-5, registration required. \$6/members. \$10/non-members.  
[https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/DNS/Events/Registration/Event\\_Display.aspx?EventKey=W16131CF#.VvwEmC7mqM8](https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/DNS/Events/Registration/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=W16131CF#.VvwEmC7mqM8)

- **Parents Night Off Science Camp: Foolish Science Theme** Friday, April 1, 5:30 pm-10:00 pm, Delaware Museum of Natural History, 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE. This may be called Parents' Night Off, but let's be honest...it's really for the kids! Campers ages 5-10 are entertained with experiments, movies, games, arts and crafts and more. Pre-registration required with dinner included for campers. \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members <http://www.delmnh.org/event/parents-night-off-science-camp-foolish-science-theme/>
- **Wilmington Blue Rocks Opening Day** Thursday, April 7, 6:35 pm, 801 Shipyard Drive, Wilmington, DE. Nothing says Spring like a trip to the ballpark! The Blue Rocks, Delaware's Minor League baseball team will take the field for another season at Frawley Stadium. [https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/Buy.asp?EventID=163066#.VuL\\_jC7SmM8](https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/Buy.asp?EventID=163066#.VuL_jC7SmM8)
- **Science Saturday – What's In Your Dirt?** Saturday, April 9, 1 pm – 4 pm, Hagley Museum, 201 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilmington, DE. Get your hands dirty and learn what soil needs to be healthy. Families will work together to solve science mysteries and engineering challenges. Included in regular admission and free for members. [http://northdelaware.happeningmag.com/event/science-saturday-whats-dirt?instance\\_id=1997030](http://northdelaware.happeningmag.com/event/science-saturday-whats-dirt?instance_id=1997030)
- **Country Spring Festival at Carousel Park** Saturday, April 16, 12 noon-4 pm, Carousel Park & Equestrian Center, 3700 Limestone Rd, Wilmington, DE. This year's event will have a fun cowboy/cowgirl theme! Enjoy country line dancing, rodeo games and activities, crafts, hayrides and more. Stop by the Kids Corral and visit the barn babies. Special costumed guests will be on hand for photos. Free. Rain date, April 17. <http://nccde.org/849/Country-Spring-Festival-at-Carousel-Park>
- **Birding for Everyone** Saturday, April 16, 9:30 am-11 am. Song bird migration is in full force so there will be plenty to see! Look, listen and identify many birds and plenty of nature as your family strolls through the refuge. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to visit. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair from us. \$5/members, \$10/others. <http://www.riverfrontwilm.com/calendar/89/3976-Birding-For-Everyone-April-16th-Session/>
- **Wilmington Earth Day Celebration** Friday, April 22, 11 am – 2 pm, Rodney Square, 10<sup>th</sup> & Market Streets, Wilmington, DE. Visitors to Rodney Square will enjoy giveaways, free raffles and take home a free plant, while supplies last. Exhibitors will offer green products, services and travel tips. 99.5 WJBR will broadcast live on FM radio. Kids will enjoy tree-themed fun at the nearby Wilmington Public Library. This rain-or-shine festival is sponsored by the City of Wilmington, DelDOT, and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. <http://www.delawareestuary.org/earth-day>
- **Spring into Nature!** Saturday, April 23, DuPont Environmental Education Center, 1400 Delmarva Ln, Wilmington, DE. Celebrate Earth Day by meeting live animals, taking guided nature walks, making a craft and trying your hand at netting minnows and little critters in the pond. Bring your family and learn about how our daily decisions impact the environment and wildlife. Free. <http://www.metrokids.com/MetroKids/Attractions-and-Events/Calendar/index.php/name/Spring-Into-Nature/event/38001/>
- **Bug & Bud Festival** Saturday, April 23, 9 am – 4 pm, Mispillion Riverwalk, Milford, DE. Highlights of this annual outdoor festival are the traditional Ladybug and Tree, costumed parade for kids and pets, local entertainment, 100+ arts & crafts vendors, Kid's Korner, children's art show and "green-themed" nature related hands-on activities including seedling tree giveaways. Popular attractions include "ladybug decorated" paddle boat rides, children's games, Chalk Art contest and more. Rain-or-shine. Free. <http://downtownmilford.org/events/2015-annual-bug-bud-festival/>
- **Naturepalooza! Family Earth Day Festival**, Saturday, April 23, 10 am – 2 pm, The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, 8480 Hagy's Mill Rd, Philadelphia, PA. Stop

by for science activities, crafts, nature walks and live animal shows. Visit the pirate radio station for games, prizes and other fun. Families can also grab lunch at a food truck, explore environmental art on the trails and join in a fort-building competition. In partnership with the Philadelphia Science Festival. Free.

<http://www.schuylkillcenter.org/blog/event/naturepalooza-family-earth-day-festival-2/>

- **Green By Nature Preschool: Turtle Time** Friday, April 29, 9:30 am-11 am, Ashland Nature Center, 3511 Barley Mill Road Hockessin, DE. As the weather warms, turtles start to get active. The Painted Turtle basks in the pond while the box turtle feeds in the forest. Meet 4 live turtles and see them swim, hide in their shell, and make a special "turtle" snack to feed them. Hike with our tortoise and see where he goes. Ages 2-5, registration required. \$6/members. \$10/non-members.  
[https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/DNS/Events/Registration/Event\\_Display.aspx?EventKey=W16033AS#.VvwFGS7mqM8](https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/DNS/Events/Registration/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=W16033AS#.VvwFGS7mqM8)
- **YMCA Healthy Kids Day** *in conjunction with* **Wilmington Wellness Day**, Saturday, April 30, 11 am – 3 pm, Rodney Square, 10<sup>th</sup> & Market Streets, Wilmington, DE. Rain location/same date – Walnut Street YMCA, 1000 North Walnut Street, Wilmington, DE. Health resources, free screenings, entertainment, moon bounce, kids activities, free lunch, health insurance information and more. Online details not yet available.

Best wishes to your family for a healthy, active and happy month. When the weather sends you indoors this month, just remember the familiar saying, "April showers bring May flowers."

Sincerely,

**Roni Deely**

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



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