



A partnership to promote  
**THE VALUE OF PLAY**  
throughout life.

*"It is a happy talent to  
know how to PLAY"*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

April, 2011 Newsletter

<http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu>

### *From the Co-chairs*

As the spring is beginning to peak its head out from behind the shadow of winter, we are reminded of this perfect opportunity to get out and play – and we hope you do!

Within the past month the US Play Coalition has been laying the the groundwork for the 2012 Play Conference tentatively scheduled for **February 26-29, 2012**. This Conference will build upon the successes of last February's Conference held at Clemson University.



We are excited to announce all three of our major sponsors from last year's conference, Platinum Champion for Play, Landscape Structures ([www.playlsi.com](http://www.playlsi.com)), Platinum, Playcore/Gametime ([www.playcore.com](http://www.playcore.com)), and Platinum, Vortex ([www.vortex-intl.com](http://www.vortex-intl.com)), have agreed to continue their sponsorship of the 2012 conference at their previous levels. We are in the process of reaching out to the rest of our 2011 conference sponsors and encouraging new leaders in the world of play to consider sponsoring the 2012 Conference on Play.

Information on the 2012 conference will be continually posted on our website which is going through significant updates to ensure it is a more useful resource for the broad play movement. Additionally, we are now up and-running on social networking sites such as [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com).

Thank You,  
Fran Mainella & Brett Wright

### *Call for Newsletter Content*

You may recognize that our inaugural online newsletter is only one page long... **that is where you come in!** The goal of this newsletter is to inform our members of what is going on in the US Play Coalition and the play movement as a whole. We invite all of you to send us your news, events, and ideas concerning play. Decisions to include entries in our monthly newsletter will be based upon content and the co-chairs' discretion. If you would like to include information in our monthly newsletter, entries are due by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month, should not exceed 250 words and should be emailed directly to [fmainer@clemson.edu](mailto:fmainer@clemson.edu).

Although we may not be able to include all submissions in our newsletter, we are interested in growing the scope of our website. Please send us any news articles, events, or research that would be of value to other supporters of play. We will post these on the website for all to access (posting entries will be at the discretion of the co-chairs). With this new format, we are hoping to become a source of information for all of us interested in the play movement!

### *Recent News/Events*

April 4<sup>th</sup> – [US Forest Service announced \\$1 million in 2011 cost-share funding to Children's Forest and More Kids in the Woods proposals.](#)

March 19<sup>th</sup> – [Atlanta Museum Opens Doors on New Child-focused Nature exhibit](#)

### *Sponsors*

We welcome individuals, companies, organizations, non-profits etc. to be a sponsor of the 2012 Conference on Play. If you are interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities please visit our website:

<http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu>