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Welcome to the CREEC Network



Welcome **Sarah Ferguson** to the CREEC Network in Region 5. Sarah joins us as a second Coordinator in the region and is covering CREEC duties while Pat Kent is on leave of absence. Sarah has lived in Santa Cruz for the past 12 years. She grew up overseas primarily in developing countries. Her MA degree is in public policy from the Leon Panetta Institute and CSU, Monterey Bay and her undergraduate degree is in sociology from UC Santa Cruz. Sarah has been an employee of the Santa Cruz COE for the past six years. During that time she has coordinated a variety of programs ranging from Juvenile Diversion to School Wellness and currently Environmental Education.

AEOE Conference



Are you looking for an opportunity to share your environmental education knowledge with colleagues? This year's conference theme is **UNLESS.....**so be creative and share a lesson. The Call for Presenters deadline is **February 15, 2008**. The conference will be held at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu on **April 25-27, 2008**. To obtain the presenter proposal, visit <http://www.aeoe.org>.

Our Places Tell Stories Conference

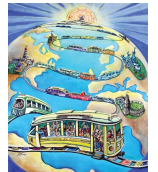


Our Places Tell Stories is an innovative conference for educators and others working at public lands, nature centers, museums, zoos, aquariums, and other nature and heritage rich places. By providing participants with successful educational strategies and techniques, this conference will meet the needs of those interested in learning how to effectively connect with audiences to create motivated stewards of the environment. The conference will be held **March 4-7, 2008** at the Springs Preserve in Las Vegas, NV. For information, visit <http://www.enviroedexchange.org/conference.htm>.



Year of the Rat

CABE Conference



Connecting Cultures, Reclaiming our Future is the theme for this year's California Association for Bilingual Education Conference which will be held at the San Jose McEnergy Convention Center on **March 6-8, 2008**. There will be workshops offered in the Multicultural Environmental Education strand and CEEIN members will collectively staff a booth in the exhibit hall. A CREEC Network workshop is scheduled for **Thursday, March 6th at 2:15-3:30 pm** in the Hilton Hotel, Room San Carlos II. To register for the conference, visit <http://www.bilingualeducation.org/>.

Green California Summit and Exposition



The **Green California Summit & Exposition** is the only conference dedicated to state and local government efforts to green the Golden state. Don't miss your only chance all year to get up to date on the policies that are making California the world leader in sustainability and the tools that are helping these policies succeed. The conference will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center, **April 7-9, 2008**. For more information, visit <http://www.green-technology.org/gcsummit.htm>.

California Climate Champions

The State of California, in partnership with the British Council, announces the first ever competition to find 20 **Climate Champions**, three of whom will represent California and the United States at international gatherings in the United Kingdom and in Japan this spring. Climate Champions are passionate about global warming and committed to sharing ideas with others in their schools, neighborhoods, and communities about how to take action to address climate change. Students ages 16-18 are eligible to apply. The deadline to apply is **February 11, 2008**. For more information, visit <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/climatechampions/climatechampions.htm>.

Year of the Frog



The Association of Zoos and Aquariums will highlight 2008 as the **Year of the Frog** to mark a major conservation effort to address the amphibian extinction crisis and engage the public in amphibian conservation.

More Kids in the Woods



The Forest Service has opened a call for proposals for **"More Kids in the Woods"** projects as a part of a continuing effort to improve children's health by reconnecting them to nature. Projects need to engage non-federal partners with at least a 1:1 match of in-kind or cash contributions.

Educators and others who work with children are encouraged to apply by **February 15, 2008**. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/>.

Great Backyard Bird Count



The **Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15-18, 2008**, is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. To find out how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html>.

America in Bloom



America In Bloom is an organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and both personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements, and to providing educational programs and resources. For more information on how to enroll your group and for resources on plantings and greening your community, visit <http://www.americainbloom.org>. The entry deadline is **February 28, 2008**.

NOAA Environmental Literacy Project



NOAA's Office of Education is requesting applications for **Environmental Literacy Projects** in support of K-12 education. Funded projects will be between one and five years in duration and will promote changes in K-12 education to expand the amount of earth system science taught in the classroom and improve student learning and application of that subject. Successful projects will catalyze change in K-12 education through development of new programs and materials and/or revision of existing programs and materials and/or by supporting transformative methods that expand or lead to the expansion of the use of earth system science in K-12 classrooms. Pre-proposals are required and due **February 20, 2008**. For more information, visit http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/funding_opps.html.

Action for Nature Eco-Hero Award



Action for Nature, a non-profit organization that encourages young people around the world to carry out environmental action projects, presents the **International Young Eco-Hero Awards** to recognize the individual accomplishments of young people ages 8-16 whose personal actions have significantly improved the environment. Cash prizes of up to \$500 each will be awarded. To read the guidelines and view the award application, visit <http://www.actionfornature.org/eco-hero/ecoheroawards.html>. Deadline is **February 28, 2008**.

Flex Your Power Outreach Campaign



Flex Your Power has announced a statewide community outreach campaign to promote energy efficiency in rural communities. Funding is available for non-profit agencies to provide customers in rural utility areas with information about ways they can help the environment and save money by reducing energy consumption and purchasing energy efficient appliances and materials. Agencies selected through a competitive grant process will receive \$12,000 to implement local outreach strategies. Contact Suzanne Henderson at shenderson@rs-e.com or (916) 446-9900 for more information. Deadline to apply is **March 7, 2008**.

BP A+ for Energy Grant Program



Teachers can apply for \$5K or \$10K **BP A+ For Energy** grants for teaching energy or energy conservation in their classrooms. To learn about the program and for application information, visit <http://www.bp.com/subsection.do?categoryId=9020242&contentId=7037056>. Deadline is **March 7, 2008**. Teachers receiving funding are invited to an awards ceremony and an educator training in the summer.

BioBlitz



BioBlitz is a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, volunteers, and community members join forces to find, identify, and learn about as many local plant and animal species as possible. National Geographic and the U.S. National Park Service are planning a series of ten annual BioBlitzes around the country. A BioBlitz will take place in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area this year. Educators are encouraged to have their students participate. The deadline for teachers to register is **March 31, 2008**. Visit <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/bioblitz.html> for more information.

[Captain Planet](#)



The **Captain Planet Foundation** accepts applications for funding projects that help students better grasp environmental issues. Grants range from \$250 to \$2,500. Projects must promote understanding of environmental issues, focus on hands-on activities, involve children and young adults ages 6 to 18, promote interaction and cooperation within a group, help young people develop planning and problem-solving skills, include adult supervision, and commit to follow-up communication with the Foundation. The next application deadline is **March 31, 2008**. For more information, visit <http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html>.

[Pay It Forward Mini-Grants](#)

The **Pay It Forward Foundation** provides mini-grants to support one-time-only service-oriented projects identified by youth. In order to be considered, applicants must demonstrate that their projects contain a "pay it forward" focus, based on the concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others, with the results growing exponentially. Mini-grants of up to \$500 will be awarded. Applications for the second round are due **April 15, 2008**. To view the application, visit <http://payitforwardfoundation.org/home.html>.

[National Gardening Association Grants](#)

The **National Gardening Association**



works with sponsoring companies and organizations to provide in-kind grants to projects that actively engage kids in the garden and improve the quality of life for their communities. To be eligible for these awards your school or organization must plan to garden with at least 15 kids between the ages of 3 and 18. For more information on gardening and the grants programs, visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>.

[National EE Week](#)



National EE Week has added a new section on **Birds** to its Curricula Library that you can use to supplement your classroom activities. Checkout the great collection of lesson plans on birds for grades K-12 that include studying bird beaks, nests, migration, habitats, food chains, birding, and more. The Curricula Library includes resources on climate change, environmental health, energy, recycling, gardens, and professional development opportunities. Find additional resources at http://www.eeweek.org/resources/bird_curricula.htm.

[Land & People Magazine](#)



The Trust for Public Land's Fall 2007 issue of **Land & People** magazine highlights several great programs connecting children with nature and includes an interview with Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*. A free copy of the magazine is available by visiting <http://www.tpl.org>.

[NSTA's Science Teacher Magazine](#)



Our society is surrounded by technology. At the very least, the lack of direct contact with nature has serious implications for conservation efforts. We need to consider the importance of studying nature in our nation's schools. Articles in the February

2008 issue of **The Science Teacher**, published by NSTA, describe creative ways to engage students with the natural world. For more information, visit <http://www.nsta.org/highschool>.

[Teach English, Teach about the Environment](#)

The EPA developed the **Teach English, Teach About the Environment** curriculum to help teach English to adult students while introducing basic concepts about the environment and individual environmental responsibility.



The concepts will help English learners be part of a cleaner and healthier community by understanding and practicing the 3R's. To download the curriculum, visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/pdfs/tesol.pdf>.

[NOAA Discovery Kits](#)

Discovery Kits describe the basic scientific principles underlying the applied science and activities of NOAA's National Ocean Service. Designed for educators and students at the high school level, they are written in non-technical language, and focus on the themes of oceans, coasts, and charting and navigation. Each Discovery Kit contains a tutorial, a roadmap to resources, and lesson plans on corals, estuaries, currents, tides, non-point source pollution, and more. For more information or to download the materials, visit <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/welcome.html>.

[Gardens for Learning](#)



This comprehensive guidebook from the California School Garden Network offers advice about how to create and sustain a school garden. To download the **Gardens for Learning Guidebook**, visit <http://www.csgn.org/page.php?id=34>.

Watershed Wonders



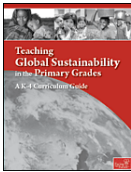
The Algalita Marine Research Foundation developed **Watershed Wonders**, an educational video series exploring issues in marine conservation, watershed management, and the plaque of plastic debris. The series includes standard-based activities and information about water and watersheds for middle and high school classrooms. Host Dr. Marcus Eriksen takes the audience on an adventure whether it's crawling through wetlands or sailing the California Coast on a boat made from plastic bottles. For more information or to download the curriculum materials, visit <http://www.algalita.org/education.html>.

Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity

The secondary Project Learning Tree module, **Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity**, uses biodiversity as a window through which secondary students investigate the environment. It permits educators and students to step back from specific issues and species and to examine broader concepts and larger connections—not just biological, but political, cultural, ethical, and economic as well. Students will learn that decisions about growth and development, about energy use and water quality, even about health, all rest to some extent on perspectives about biodiversity. The PLT curriculum is available online at http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_16.html.



Teaching Global Sustainability



This resource provides educators with a unique, age-appropriate curriculum that addresses core concepts related to sustainability. This curriculum features hands-on activities, teacher background reading, vocabulary, service learning projects, and assessment rubrics. **Teaching Global Sustainability in the Primary Grades** is aligned with national science and social studies standards for grades K-4. In keeping with the North American Association for Environmental Education's Excellence in Environmental Education: Guidelines for Learning, the lessons examine issues through a learning experience that is simple, local, and personal. For more information, visit <http://www.facingthefuture.org>.

News & Views is a monthly publication of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network.

Celeste Royer, Director

Linda Sorensen, Administrative Assistant

Please direct all inquiries to croyer@slococoe.org or 805-782-7224.

Upcoming Conferences, Events & Activities

CA Service-Learning Leadership Institute

March 3-5, 2008, San Jose
www.yscal.org

Annual CBE Conference

March 6 - 8, 2008, San Jose
www.bilingualeducation.org

Los Angeles EE Fair

March 8-9, 2008, Arcadia
www.laeef.org

Arbor Day

March 7-14, 2008
www.arborday.org

Green California Summit & Exposition

April 7-9, 2008
www.green-technology.org

National EE Week

April 13-19, 2008
www.eeweek.org

National Park Week

April 19, 27-, 2008

National Sky Awareness Week

April 20-26, 2008

Earth Day

April 22, 2008

AEOE Statewide Spring Conference

April 25 - 27, 2008, Malibu
www.aeoe.org

American Wetlands Month

May 1-31, 2008

Disney Environmental Challenge Celebration

May 1-2, 2008, Disneyland
www.deckids.org

Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT)

June and July 2008, Four different locations in northern CA
www.forestryinstitute.org

NAAEE Annual Conference

October 15-18, 2008, Wichita, KS
www.naaee.org

CSTA Annual Conference

October 30 - November 2, 2008, San Jose
www.cascience.org

National Association for Interpretation Annual Conference

November 11-15, 2008, Portland, OR
www.interpret.com

Check the CREEC Network Calendar at www.creec.org for additional events.