




# North Coast CREEC Network

## Focus on Sonoma County

Region 1 Newsletter

October 2006

 This section of the newsletter provides information about environmental education (EE) and environment-based opportunities for teachers teaching in **Sonoma County**. To locate other local programs and resources, go to the **Online Resource Directory** at [www.creec.org](http://www.creec.org), click on "Resource Directory," and search by topic or EE providers in your county.



**Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods** provides environmental education programs for youth at the State Parks in the Russian River area. Programs focus on tide pools, watershed, or Redwood ecology. A new 2-day Environmental Living Program with camping in the Willow Creek watershed will be piloted in spring 2007. Classroom visits are offered to schools in Sonoma County. Teacher's guides, other resource materials, and Service Learning opportunities are available. Programs are free for school groups, although donations are appreciated. Reservations are required. Earth Day projects take place annually in April. Contact: 707-869-9177; [stewards@mcn.org](mailto:stewards@mcn.org); or [www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org](http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org).



**The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) Water Education Program** provides classroom instruction in water science and conservation for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades participate in classroom and field study (busses are provided) of watersheds and the source of their drinking water. A program for High School students provides an introduction to Russian River Watershed ecology, local watershed management, and water quality issues. SCWA also provides in-service workshops for teachers on various water-related topics. These programs are available to teachers and students within the service area which includes Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sonoma, Windsor, and Valley of the Moon Water District. For information go to [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org); or call 707-521-6209 or 521-6211.




**Russian River Watershed Directory.** The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (SRCD) provides information and project support for natural resource issues and has just completed a directory of information, services, and organizations for the Russian River Watershed. Go to [www.sotoyomercd.org](http://www.sotoyomercd.org) and scroll down the main page to the link to download your free copy.



**Santa Rosa's Creek Education Project.** Would your students like to do hands-on, educational activities or restoration projects at your local creek? We are here to help 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers in the City of Santa Rosa with a variety of resources for creek-based studies and projects. We have site-specific activity guides and related equipment to support your creek stewarding efforts. The Creek Stewardship Program is a partner-ship of the City of Santa Rosa and the Sonoma County Water Agency which support community efforts of caring for Santa Rosa's 70 miles of creeks. Contact Alistair Bleifuss: [ableifuss@srcity.org](mailto:ableifuss@srcity.org); 707- 543-3845.

**Learning Laguna: A two part wetlands education program** is offered by the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and covers grade-level specific CA State Science Standards. Bring the Laguna to your classroom and bring your classroom to the Laguna. Some transportation scholarships available. Go to: [www.lagunadesantarosa.org](http://www.lagunadesantarosa.org), click on "Learning Laguna" for detailed information and application. For more information contact Mary Abbott at 707-527-9277 x 2; or [mary@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:mary@lagunafoundation.org).



 **Fairfield Osborn Preserve** is in Sonoma County's interior coast range on the northwestern slope of Sonoma Mountain. Originally a Nature Conservancy project, the 411-acre preserve belongs to Sonoma State University and is managed as a research and education site. It harbors many natural communities, including oak woodland, evergreen forest, chaparral, native bunch grassland, vernal pool, pond, and marsh. Environmental education programs are offered in fall and spring for local third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade classes. Selection is determined by lottery. For more information or to request a lottery application go to [www.sonoma.edu/org/preserve](http://www.sonoma.edu/org/preserve); 707-795-5069.