

# Bay Area CREEC

*Serving ....Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa,  
San Francisco, San Mateo, and Solano Counties*

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## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010

Welcome to the Bay Area CREEC Spring Newsletter 2010. We hope you are enjoying the changes in weather that nature has to offer.

### News: Bay Area CREEC Website

#### Website Update

Now you can subscribe to the CREEC region 4 newsletter announcement feature at:

[http://www.creec.org/region4/stories/storyReader\\$25!](http://www.creec.org/region4/stories/storyReader$25!)

#### CREEC Network BLOG

A newly established BLOG is on the CREEC Network website. You can access the BLOG on any regional CREEC website or the State homepage at [www.creec.org](http://www.creec.org). The BLOG is one of the links on the left hand side. Each month one of the CREEC Coordinators will write a BLOG entry. <http://creecorg.blogspot.com/>. **The February Blog contains two entries – one of the California Redwoods and another on Nearby Nature in the San Diego area. Check it out.**

#### Resource Directory

Visit the CREEC directory of resources. We now have 254 providers and 442 of their programs serving the Bay Area. Please make sure your programs are listed in the resource directory.

#### Calendar of Events

Find out about Environmental Education events in the bay area. The calendar highlights trainings, special events, conferences, professional development workshops and more. Go to [www.creec.org/region4](http://www.creec.org/region4), click on “Calendar”. You can submit dates from your organization directly on the website by clicking “Add an Event” once you’re viewing the calendar.

#### Model School EE Programs

Are you looking for ideas on how to implement environmental education opportunities in your class or school? Go to [www.creec.org/region4](http://www.creec.org/region4), Alameda and Contra Costa Counties link or [http://www.creec.org/region4/stories/storyReader\\$73](http://www.creec.org/region4/stories/storyReader$73) to read about 5 East Bay schools. Franklin Elementary, St. Joseph’s Elementary, earles Elementary, Stanley Middle School, and Rock La Fleche Community School are highlighted.

#### Evaluation Resources for Providers

Providers go visit the Bay Area CREEC homepage “EE Evaluation Resources” and you will find a new program evaluation page. These resources complement the resource database created by the Bay Area Environmental Education Evaluation Learning Community (2004). Of special note, this site provides a directory of evaluation and research professionals interested in working with environmental education organizations. The page also includes the following resources:

- Directory of evaluation and research professionals
- Links to websites with EE-specific evaluation resources and research
- General program evaluation resources including how to guides and a sample of data collection tools

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### Calendar of Events

#### AEOE Statewide Conference

April 30th—May 2nd  
Camp Hess Kramer  
Malibu, CA  
[www.aeoe.org](http://www.aeoe.org)



#### CABE

#### Conference

March 10th -13th  
San Jose, CA  
[www.bilingualeducation.org](http://www.bilingualeducation.org)



#### Green CA

#### Summit & Exposition

March 13th—18th  
Sacramento, CA



#### National EE Week

April 11th—17th  
[www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)



## Workshops and Events

### Council of Math/Science Educators of San Mateo County 33rd Annual Spring Math/Science Conference

**Date:** 03/06/10

**Time:** 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Location:** Sequoia High School in Redwood City

**Contact Information:**

<http://cmsesmc.org/conferences-fairs/spring-conference>

This conference provides many sessions that foster excellence in math and science curricula, educational programs, and promotes professional excellence in teaching and strengthening leadership in these fields.



### The California Association for Bilingual Education Conference

**Date:** 03/10/2010 to 03/13/2010

**Time:** 8:00am

**Location:** San Jose McEnery Convention Center, San Jose, California

**Contact Information:**

[http://www.bilingualeducation.org/conferences\\_annual.php](http://www.bilingualeducation.org/conferences_annual.php)

California Association for Bilingual Education

16033 E. San Bernardino Road

Covina, CA 91722-3900

The California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1976 to promote bilingual education and quality educational experiences for all students in California. CABE is the premier organization for professional development on the education of English Learners in California. This year's theme is "Bilingual Education: Connecting Cultures, Reclaiming our Future."



### National Service Learning Conference, San Jose

**Date:** 03/24/2010 to 03/27/2010

**Time:** 4:00pm

**Location:** The 21st Annual National Service-Learning Conference, San Jose, California

**Contact Information:**

[nslc@nylc.org](mailto:nslc@nylc.org) or call (800) 366-6952

[info@bilingualeducation.org](mailto:info@bilingualeducation.org)

<http://nslc.nylc.org/>

Join us for the 21st Annual National Service-Learning Conference — Inspire. Imagine. Innovate! Held March 24-27, 2010 in San Jose, California, this event celebrates service-learning as a force that spans cultural and national boundaries, builds communities, and strengthens young people.

The conference is the largest gathering of youth and practitioners involved in service-learning, drawing approximately 2,500 attendees from across the United States and many other countries each year. Through three days of general sessions, thought leader series, service-learning projects, and networking, the conference engages participants in local, national, and global issues that service-learning addresses. Come explore more than 100 exhibits, and nearly 150 hands-on workshops and service-learning projects.

## Workshops and Events (continued)

### 2010 Bay Area Schools Environmental Conference

**Date:** 05/01/10

**Location:** Dolce Hayes Mansion, San Jose, CA

**Contact Information:**

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/gogreen/GoGreenSchoolConference.asp>

You are invited to attend the premier conference for creating, enhancing, and promoting green activities at your school. This year's conference aims to bring people, experts, and organizations from throughout the Bay Area, to share success stories, provide resources, and encourage networking among peers.

Do you know of an outstanding schools environmental program? Is there an individual who has gone above and beyond that you would like to recognize? Would you like to share your success story with others? We are currently looking for conference presenters throughout the Bay Area to present at the 2010 Bay Area Schools Environmental Conference (located at the Dolce Hayes Mansion in San Jose on Saturday, May 1, 2010), as well as, programs, or individuals to receive nominations for Green Star Awards for outstanding work supporting environmental action in schools.

Green Star Award categories include:

- Outstanding Teacher
- Outstanding Student
- Outstanding School
- Outstanding Community Member
- Outstanding Parent
- Outstanding Custodian
- Outstanding Administrator



Award winners will be publicly recognized and presented with their award at the 2010 Green Vision/Green Schools Conference on Saturday, May 1, 2010.

**The 4th Annual Bay Area Schools  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE**

### Solano County Environmental Education Symposium

**Date:** 05/05/10

**Location:** Rush Ranch Education Center on Suisun Marsh

**Contact Information:** Andrea Mummert (707) 678-1655 x. 121

[http://www.solanolandtrust.org/o\\_1\\_rushRanch.php](http://www.solanolandtrust.org/o_1_rushRanch.php)

The Symposium will convene participants from the 2008 – 2009 Solano County Environmental Educators meetings and additional stakeholders for a facilitated discussion of opportunities for sharing resources.

We are planning to offer morning presentations on:

- The California Environmental Protection Agency's new California Environmental Education Initiative and opportunities for environmental educators to extend this curriculum outside of the classroom
- Models for coordinating with the public school system
- Funding development
- And a panel discussion of the goals, successes and challenges of Environmental Educators' groups in neighboring counties

The afternoon will center around a facilitated group discussion designed to look toward the future of the Solano Environmental Educators group:

- How can we continue to work together and share resources?
- What are the priority areas or projects on which we should collaborate?

### East Bay EE Network Meeting

An East Bay EE Network meeting for providers is tentatively planned for early May (date TBD). Will include Collaborative Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers. Contact Laura Powell for more info

[bacreec@comcast.net](mailto:bacreec@comcast.net)

## Grants and Contests

### Stewardship Council Grants

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council is pleased to announce that the Youth Investment Programs 2010 Grant Requests for Proposals (RFP) are now available online! In 2010, as part of its Youth Investment Program, the Stewardship Council will grant between \$2 million and \$2.5 million in funding to improve the lives of underserved youth by providing greater access to outdoor experiences - from urban parks in the city to watersheds in the wilderness. There are four different grant funds, three rounds focused on outdoor and environmental education programs and one on building parks and playgrounds.

<http://youth.stewardshipcouncil.org/grants/C4/grantmaking-overview/>

### Arbor Day Poster Contest

**Deadline:** 03/01/10

You are invited to join over 63,000 fifth grade teachers across America in the 2010 Arbor Day National Poster Contest. This year's contest, "Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!" is designed to increase knowledge about the importance of trees in the production and conservation of energy. Students will learn how trees produce food energy for people and wildlife, how properly selected and planted trees conserve energy, and much more. The poster contest is open to all California fifth graders. The theme for 2008 is "Trees are Terrific...Inside and Out!" To request a free curriculum kit, visit the website or contact Kay Antunez at 916-653-7958 or [Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov) [www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/index.cfm](http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/index.cfm)



### PG&E Bright Ideas Grants

**Deadline:** 03/20/10

The PG&E Solar Schools Program will award up to \$250,000 in grants to schools with Bright Ideas. The program is designed to support the understanding of renewable energy in public schools throughout northern and central California. Qualifying schools may apply for grants of \$2,500 or \$5,000 to be used for innovative classroom and extracurricular programs that further the universe of solar.

[www.pge.com/about/environment/pge/solarschools/brightideasgrants.shtml](http://www.pge.com/about/environment/pge/solarschools/brightideasgrants.shtml)



### Captain Planet Foundation Grants

**Deadline:** 3/31/10

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants to support hands-on environmental projects. The objective of the Foundation is to encourage innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Grant rewards up to \$2,500 are available.

[www.captainplanetfdn.org](http://www.captainplanetfdn.org)



### NEA Foundation Green Grants

**Deadline:** 06/01/10

With \$150,000 in new grant funding designated for projects that integrate green-related topics and experiences into the classroom, the NEA Foundation is growing its Learning & Leadership and Student Achievement grants program for individuals and teams of educators. Public school educators are eligible to apply for individual grants worth up to \$5,000 for the development and implementation of ideas, techniques, and approaches for teaching "green" concepts.

<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grantprograms/nea-foundation-green-grants/>



## Updates

### National EE Week – April 11-17, 2010

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) promotes understanding and protection of the natural world by actively engaging K-12th grade students and educators of all subjects in an inspired week of environmental learning and service before Earth Day. The new year is in full swing, and we hope one of your resolutions is to engage students in more environmental learning activities in 2010. Be sure to check out our ever-growing resources, lesson plans and tools at [www.EEweek.org](http://www.EEweek.org).

Just three months remain until EE Week 2010! During the week of April 11-17, thousands of educators and millions of students across the country will participate in a week celebrating environmental learning - and you can join us! Register today at [www.eeweeek.org/register](http://www.eeweeek.org/register) to take advantage of EE Week's resources and benefits just for participants, including discounts and special offers, certificates of participation, free educator webinars and more. EE Week's 2010 theme is [Be Water and Energy Wise](#). While exploring the topics of water and energy conservation, we also encourage you and your students to reflect on the important connections between water and energy.



### NCLI Victory

#### Environmental Literacy included in Obama's new Education Budget: Historic First

We just logged a major victory for No Child Left Inside, perhaps our most significant. President Obama's budget that was released yesterday includes environmental literacy in the U.S. Department of Education budget for the very first time. We now have the Obama administration officially on our side, and better yet, in their budget. President Obama and Secretary Duncan have made innovation and student achievement a major platform of the Obama Administration. As a result, environmental literacy has been included in a new program. The proposed budget includes a new \$1.0 billion for **Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education** program designed to improve instruction to support college- and career readiness standards, in part through the use of technology to deliver high-quality content. The new program includes 3 components:

- Literacy: \$450 million, an increase of \$36.7 million, to consolidate 7 existing Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs into a new program that would help States and local education authorities improve literacy skills by supporting professional development and improved instructional materials.
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM): \$300 million, an increase of \$119.5 million, or 66 percent, to expand the Federal investment in improved teaching and learning of STEM disciplines, especially in high-need schools and school systems, and prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers.
- A Well-Rounded Education: \$265 million, an increase of \$38.9 million, or 17 percent, to consolidate 7 current authorities and expand support for the subjects important to a complete curriculum, including: history, the arts, foreign languages, environmental literacy, and economic and financial literacy.

### EEI Update

#### Education and the Environment Initiative Update

The California State Board of Education unanimously approved 76 of the 85 units of the Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) Curriculum on Wednesday, January 6. The goal of EEI is to increase environmental literacy for California K-12 students by teaching Science and History-Social Science academic content standards to mastery within an environmental context. EEI is a unique opportunity to formally include environment-based education into California's classrooms. PDFs of DRAFT VERSIONS of the 85 units are available to download at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/education/eei/curriculum/>

