



Bay Area CREEC

*ServingAlameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa,
San Francisco, San Mateo, and Solano Counties*

FALL NEWSLETTER 2009

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Disney Planet Challenge

Deadline to enroll: December 18, 2009

Launching nationwide this year to address growing demand, Disney's Planet Challenge (DPC) is a highly acclaimed project-based environmental competition for the classroom, which empowers students to make a difference in their school, at home and in their local communities. Among Disney's most significant inspirational initiatives, the program has been available in a growing number of regional markets (California, Florida, Cayman Islands and Hong Kong) since 1994 (as "Disney's Environmentality Challenge®). The national grand prizewinner will receive an expenses-paid trip the Disneyland® Resort and a chance to have their project featured on Disney Channel. Up to four regional winners will receive a \$2500.00 grant for the teacher, an environmentally conscious Disney prize pack for each student and more. Up to 50 state finalists (1 per state) will receive up to a \$1000.00 grant; each student will receive a prize pack and more. For more information, please visit www.disney.com/planetchallenge

Education and the Environment Initiative

The EEI curriculum has undergone a rigorous review by Content Review Experts and Instructional Materials Reviewers approved by the State Board of Education. The Curriculum Development & Supplemental Materials Commission will review the Report of Findings this month. The Curriculum Commission will submit its recommendations to the Secretaries of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency. The Secretaries will then submit the materials to the State Board of Education for approval in January 2010.

To review any of the units, visit the EEI website at

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/default.htm>.

Senator Bernie Sanders' amendment to the Agriculture Bill would provide \$2 million to fund a school community gardens pilot program. As a provision in the Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill the Sanders amendment would provide the Secretary of Agriculture with \$2 million to carry out the school community gardens pilot program. The school community gardens pilot is an exciting new program that would allow low-income schools to use gardening to teach students about making

Contact
Laura Powell
Bay Area
CREEC
Coordinator
bacreec@
Comcast.net
707-338-0675

good food choices, environmental stewardship, cooperation and leadership, and to help them develop strong academic skills.

The Senate unanimously approved the Sanders amendment funding the program, and it will now go through the conference committee process with the House of Representatives.

The National Gardening Association has drafted a letter to be sent to appropriate legislators. E-mail or mail a letter indicating your support this amendment to your local representative. See the letter and contact information here: http://assoc.garden.org/agriculture_bill

Workshops and Events

Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds Educator Workshop

October 29, 4:00pm to 6:00pm

When you attend this workshop, you will receive a FREE copy of the California Coastal Commission's science activity guide for teachers, Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds. You will try out some of the activities in the guide and get an overview of the other free educational resources and programs the Coastal Commission has available. You will be eligible for professional growth credit from University of the Pacific upon completing additional work. This workshop is open to both formal and informal educators.

Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds is a classroom activity guide for teachers that addresses California's critical coastal and marine issues such as endangered species, marine debris, coastal geology, water use, and much more.

Environmental Center of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa, California
Contact Information: Annie Kohut Frankel at afrankel@coastal.ca.gov, (415) 597-5888, or (800) Coast4U
<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/waves/waves1.html>

David Brower Awards

October 20, 5:30-7:15 reception; 7:30-9:00 Awards Ceremony at the historic Herbst Theatre San Francisco, CA

Join Earth Island Institute in celebrating the achievements of the boldest young environmental leaders from across North America. If you have attended the Brower Youth Awards recently, you know that this is a truly inspirational evening ... if you have never been to a BYA ceremony in the past, you are in for a real treat! Expect rousing performances by Youth Speaks, lively, top-notch video profiles of our awardees, and a fun and exciting ceremony honoring their environmental leadership.

Opening Reception 5:30-7:15 p.m.

Meet our honorees before the show and mingle with the Earth Island community. \$100 ticket price includes organic fare and wine, and preferred seating for the Awards Ceremony.

Awards Ceremony 7:30-9:00 p.m. Tickets are free, but RSVP required.

MORE WORKSHOPS

Ca Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

October 23-24, Rohnert Park, CA

The 2009 CFAITC Conference will provide garden and nutrition-based lesson plan ideas, hands-on gardening activities that can be easily adapted for multiple grade levels and abilities, exciting field trips to some of the North Bay's most innovative school garden sites, tremendous networking opportunities, and introduce you to inspirational individuals who have truly transformed their gardens into a living outdoor laboratory. Step into the kitchens of this region's booming culinary culture, and out into the fields that make this fertile valley and its surrounding environs a productive and progressive agricultural hotspot.

<http://www.cfaitc.org/conference/>

Project Wet Workshop

November 7, 2009

SOLANO COUNTY EDUCATORS! The Solano Water Education Program (SWEP) and Cities of Vallejo & Benicia invite you to a FREE Project WET workshop! This informative, fun, hands-on workshop is action packed. In addition, it is designed with concurrent training and activities to facilitate K-6th grade educators and 7-12th grade educators separately. Educational materials, breakfast, and lunch will be provided FREE to all Solano County participants. Limited to the first 25 educators that register! Please contact Ursula Heffernon at: (707) 661-7030 -OR- uheffernon@pacbell.net.

AEOE Northern Fall Conference November 6-8, 2009

Just a heads up the AEOE (Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education) will be holding their Northern region Fall conference at the Walden West Outdoor School in Saratoga from November 6th-8th. More info at <http://aeoe.org/nfall09.html>

Tweens, Teens, and Trees-Engaging Diverse Students in Environmental Service Learning

November 17, 4:30-7:30, February 2, 4:30 -7:30 in Sonoma

For middle school teachers, high school teachers, youth group and scout advisors, and non-formal educators. Located at Adele Harrison Middle School, 1150 Broadway, Sonoma. Workshop is free.

The workshop will include:

- An introduction to Project Learning Tree's Pre K-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide, Project Learning Tree's highly acclaimed environmental education curriculum (a free copy is included with attendance)
 - An Introduction to Project Learning Tree's Exploring Environmental Issue: Places We Live secondary module (a free copy is included with attendance)
 - Get tips from local experts on implementing an effective service learning project
 - Receive support to implement lessons or plan service learning projects
 - Visit the creek restoration project at Nathanson Creek located behind Adele Harrison Middle School
 - An introduction to PLT's GreenWorks! Service learning grants program
- Participants will receive a free copy of the GreenWorks! Information
- Additional resources and refreshments!

For more information, directions to the workshop site and to register contact: sandi@sonomaecologycenter.org or call (707) 996-0712 ext. 110.

Project Wet Workshop January 30, 2010

For more information, directions to the workshop site and to register contact: sandi@sonomaecologycenter.org or call (707) 996-0712 ext. 110.

East Bay Municipal Utilities District invites you to a Project WET workshop in the beautiful setting of Los Vaqueros Reservoir. All participants will receive lunch, a wonderful hand-on educational experience and walk away at the end of the day with a Project WET curriculum guide. To register, please contact Marianne Hook, Contra Costa Water District Education Coordinator at: mhook@ccwater.com -OR- (925) 688-8307

Grants and Contests

Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Grants - Oct. 31, 2009 GreenWorks! grants engage PLT educators and their students with their local community in "learning-by-doing" environmental projects. Student leadership, service-learning, and community participation are the cornerstones to GreenWorks! projects. These grassroots action projects enable schools and youth organizations across the country to make a positive impact on their communities. Grants are awarded in two funding categories: \$250 - \$1,000 grants and \$1,001 - \$5,000 grants. Proposal requirements are different for each category. http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_21.html

The **California Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL® Grants Program** is now accepting proposals for coastal and marine education projects. This program funds projects encouraging people to value and take action to improve the health of California's coast, marine life, or watersheds that connect with the coast. Educational coastal habitat restoration and beach maintenance projects are also eligible. Emphasis is on reaching underserved students and members of the public.

Nonprofits, schools, and government agencies may apply. Applicants may request up to \$50,000, and 25-50% of the funding will be allocated in small grants below \$10,000. A total of \$352,000 will be distributed. Postmark deadline is November 16, 2009. For full guidelines and an application, see the link at www.coastforyou.org or call (800) Coast-4U.

Bay Area CREEC Newsletter is a publication of the Bay Area hub of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network. The CREEC Network is funded by the California Department of Education and the fiscal sponsor for the Bay Area hub is the San Mateo County Office of Education.

Email winter submissions to Laura Powell bacreec@comcast.net or 707-338-0675