



South Bay CREEC

www.creec.org/region5

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties

April 2008

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Contact South Bay

CREEC

Regional Coordinator

Sarah Ferguson

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creec@santacruz.k12.ca.us

www.creec.org/region5

Welcome to the South Bay
California Regional Environmental Education Community
Network's Newsletter
The CREEC Network is your best source for high quality Environmental
Education resources and providers in California!

Go to <http://www.creec.org/region5> to learn more.

Events

National Environmental Education Week

April 13-19, 2008

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States. It increases the educational impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums. By participating in EE Week, you encourage your students to make a difference in their schools, homes, and communities! As partners in EE Week, educators have access to:

- Standards-based environmental education lessons and activities
- Monthly electronic newsletters that highlight the latest EE curricula, programs, and funding opportunities
- Opportunities for online communication and knowledge-sharing with educators from across the country

For more information, log on to www.eeweek.org

Events, cont.

Monterey Bay Science Program Regional Conference: "Science Matters"



**Saturday, April 19th, 2008, 9:00am-3:30pm California State University,
Monterey Bay**

Science is the living laboratory that brings math equations alive. Scientific concepts and the laws of the natural world give students real reasons to master English words, grammar, and syntax. Students who master science will be addressing the world's problems and changing the way we live. Come to this conference to *learn, be inspired* and *connect*. For immediate questions, contact (831) 459-5395 or science@lifelab.org

Earth Day Santa Cruz 2008



Earth Day Santa Cruz 2008 is being held on Sunday, April 27, 2008, from 11 am to 4 pm, at Lincoln and Cedar Streets in downtown Santa Cruz.

The County of Santa Cruz, the City of Santa Cruz, Ecology Action of Santa Cruz, local non-profits, businesses, and concerned citizens are working together to make Earth Day 2008 a lively, mainstream environmental event.

At this family oriented event, we will have a wide variety of vendors including local government, non-profits, eco-businesses, food booths and many more. There will be live entertainment throughout the day with an environmental theme, kids' activities and a wide variety of environmental information and outreach materials.

For more information, call Suzanne Healy at: (831) 420-5131.

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Neary Lagoon Earth Day Bird Walk for Kids and Families

11am-12:30 pm on Sunday, April 27, 2008—FREE



Explore our urban wetland, learn about how it's changed over time, and introduce you to the plants and animals that call Neary Lagoon home. Meet promptly at the Neary Lagoon Entrance at Chestnut Street. Bike locks and metered parking nearby. Dress in layers, bring water and a hat. Space is limited to 30 participants and pre-registration is required.

Please contact Shauna Casey, Natural History Museum, at 420-6113 to reserve your spot(s).

21st Annual Santa Cruz County Bike Week



Go Green. Ride a Bike! Each mile you bike instead of drive reduces one lb. of CO₂ ! Mark your calendars! The 21st Annual Santa Cruz County Bike Week will be held from May 10 -17th. **WIN \$1000!** Enter the Clean Air Month drawing by filling out a Bike to Work Day breakfast site survey. For more information, go to: http://www.bike2work.com/s_cruz/index.html

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Student Contests

Students Write On! Wetlands Challenge
Call for Illustrators (Grades K-6) Begins May 1, 2008

May is American Wetlands Month!

Get your students involved and engaged with the 2008 Write On! Wetlands Challenge. Science, reading, and the arts collide in this annual competition. The theme for 2008 is "Marshy Migrations: Journey's of Lifetime." Each year, animals of all kinds (not just birds!) depend on wetlands for food and protection as they prepare for and complete their seasonal migration routes. Students should select one of these animals and write a story about their journey.

Contact: Carrie Fredland at intern-educate@wetland.org:
For more information, go to www.wetland.org/education_writeon.htm



**The Gloria Barron
Prize for Young Heroes**



Nominate a Young Environmental Leader for a \$2,000 Barron
Prize Nomination Deadline: April 30, 2008

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2008 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people (ages 8-18) who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Each year, 10 national winners each receive \$2,000 to support their service work or higher education. Half of each year's winners are chosen for their work to protect the environment.

The URL is: <http://www.barronprize.org/>

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Teacher Resources

The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. TPL helps agencies and communities both create a vision and raise funds for conservation.

For a free subscription to Land & People magazine, go to www.tpl.org/freemag.



The California Environmental Education Interagency Network

The California Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN) is a consortium of government departments and agencies. CEEIN is committed to providing teachers, students and the general public with quality environmental education materials and programs.

The website, www.ccein.org offers a "Resources for Educators" table that lists government departments and agencies and shows the different resources that are available.

Funding Opportunities

2008 Healthy Sprouts Awards

Supporting Awareness of Nutrition and Hunger



To be eligible for the 2008 Healthy Sprouts Awards, your school or organization must plan to garden in 2009 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. For more information, go to <http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>

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Professional Development



Garden Math

Watch math come to life for your students, as you learn to apply the concepts your students are learning in the classroom to garden activities, including worm composting, planting, harvesting, and preparing nutritious food. This workshop, created and hosted in collaboration with the Monterey Bay Area Math Project, is designed for 4th - 8th grade educators interested in reinforcing their math lessons with hands-on gardening activities. You will learn standards-based math lessons to do with kids in the garden, and the basic gardening skills to support these activities.

Inquiry in the Garden

This one-day workshop is for middle school teachers who want their students to take an active role in their science education, using the school garden as a living laboratory. Participants will learn how to effectively facilitate student-led math and science investigations in the garden.

Workshops in our Garden Classroom cost \$150 per person per day.

For more information on these workshops, call Life Lab Science Program at (831) 459-5476 or go to www.lifelab.org

Environmental Education News

Education and the Environment Initiative

California is currently poised to lead the nation in environmental literacy. The effort is termed the EEI. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL/EPA) and the California Integrated Waste Management Board ((CIWMB) are actively engaged in the implementation of the Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) pursuant to AB 1548 (Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003 – PDF) and AB 1721 (Pavley, Chapter 581, Statutes of 2005 – PDF). These landmark laws mandate the development of a unified education strategy to bring education about the environment into California's primary and secondary schools. Field testing of model curriculum is currently underway at schools throughout California. Check www.calepa.ca.gov/education/eei to review posted units.

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