



**CREEC  
NETWORK**  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY

# Delta Sierra CREEC

[www.creec.org/region6](http://www.creec.org/region6)

AMADOR, CALAVERAS, SAN JOAQUIN, STANISLAUS AND TUOLUMNE COUNTIES

SPRING 2010

This newsletter is a publication of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network. CREEC is administered by the California Department of Education, Environmental Education Program, in partnership with numerous agencies.



Although times are very difficult for many schools right now, teachers and community members are continuing to provide environmental education services, programs, celebrations, and events throughout our counties. The focus on providing connections to nature for our children is taking place through new preschool programs, community Earth Day and other celebrations, parent groups, and a large number of new and continuing school gardens. This focus and collaboration can only be of benefit to our students and children, as well as to the place we all call home. Please take a few moments to read about upcoming events, contests, grants, and resources in these few pages, and pass them along to your colleagues. Even better, visit the CREEC Region 6 homepage and subscribe to the newsletter so you won't miss an issue. Keep in touch, Wendy Harrison CREEC Co-coordinator, Region 6

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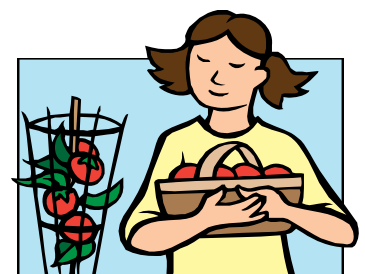
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## Focus on Tuolumne County School Gardens

School Gardens are popping up everywhere! Here's a sampling of what's happening in Tuolumne County. If you would like to start a garden at your school, contact Wendy Harrison for ideas, contacts, and support.

- Chinese Camp students planted a vegetable garden mid-February, with the direction and support of Master Gardener, Bob Behee.
- The Sonora Elementary third grade garden is a stellar project, incorporated into the curriculum by teacher Mike Miller. The project - designed, constructed and planted by Miller and Master Gardeners Ulysses Verceles and Katy Wheeler - has expanded to involve parents and community agency volunteers and donations to teach students about healthy diets and growing their own fresh food.
- The Waldorf School also has an active school garden with the leadership and support of Molly Ragland, teacher and Master Gardener.
- Jamestown Elementary also has an established school garden that has been in use for several years. Master Gardener volunteers work with primary after-school-program students twice monthly.
- Shaw's Flat School has an active school garden and nutrition program directed by teacher Joane Job and supported by Master Gardener volunteer Alexis Halstead, with initial contact by Master Gardener Julie Segerstrom.

Master Gardeners can work with schools to set up a garden space and provide support. For more information (for Tuolumne County), call 209-533-5696.



## Delta Sierra Region 6 Workshops & Events

**For all the following workshops, visit [www.creec.org/region6](http://www.creec.org/region6) to find the registration forms, or contact Wendy Harrison for details at [wharrison@ccoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:wharrison@ccoe.k12.ca.us) or (209) 736-6009.**

Kennedy Gold Mine      Monday, April 12 from 4 – 7 P.M. at the Kennedy Mine near Jackson    \$15.00

The Historic Kennedy Gold Mine, located just outside Jackson, provides a wonderful first-hand experience of the history of gold-mining in the Sierra Nevada foothills. With a vertical shaft of 5,912 feet, the “Kennedy” was the deepest gold mine in North America when it was closed in 1942 due to the war effort. Now operated entirely by enthusiastic volunteers, students are offered tours of the buildings and head frame, a video, and hands-on activities, including panning for and taking home their own sample of gold. For more information visit: [www.kennedygoldmine.com](http://www.kennedygoldmine.com).

Geocaching      Monday, May 3 from 4 – 7 P.M. at the Tuolumne County Schools Office Room 217    \$15.00

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers - called geocaches - outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment. During this workshop you will experience the basics of geocaching first-hand and learn about the many ways to use this hands-on, engaging activity with your students. Curriculum and standards connections will be provided.

Stewardship Through Education

Thursday, April 29 from 4 – 7 P.M. at the historic Wildemuth House near Valley Springs.    \$15.00

Stewardship Through Education, LLC, is a group of educators whose mission it is to promote youth stewardship of local watersheds through closely coordinated programs and activities with a variety of community partners, participating schools, agencies, organizations, cities, and counties. This workshop highlights the many free environmental education resources and field trips available to teachers from Amador and Calaveras Counties. These include free field trips with Rangers, kits to borrow, the Circles and Cycles Curriculum, grants for field trip transportation costs, and the Watershed Awareness Project. Visit [www.steonline.org](http://www.steonline.org) for more information.



“Be a Breath of Fresh Air in Your Community” is the theme of this year’s 22th annual **Earth Day Festival** on Sunday, April 18th, from 11 am to 4 pm at Victory Park, behind the Haggin Museum in Stockton. The focus of the day long festival is to provide education about taking care of our natural resources – the earth, air and water. The Festival will have dozens of informative, interactive booths, displays and exhibits, plus there will be plenty of great food, music, dancing, crafts and more.

The official start of the Festival is 11 A.M. and best of all, admission is free. For more information on how to be an exhibitor, vendor or volunteer, email [stocktonearthday@gmail.com](mailto:stocktonearthday@gmail.com) or call (209) 937-8389. Event Homepage is: <http://www.livegreensanjoaquin.org>

**Toshiba America Foundation Grant**

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

**Deadline: Year-round** (7-12 grade grants under \$5,000)

The Toshiba America Foundation is currently accepting applications for grants to support innovative projects designed by math and science teachers to make their own classrooms more exciting and successful for students.

**California State Parks Foundation Competitive Grants Program**

<http://www.calparks.org/programs/competitive-grant/>

Information: Alisha: 916-442-2119 or [alisha@calparks.org](mailto:alisha@calparks.org)

**Deadlines: May 1, 2010; July 1, 2010**

CSPF offers competitive grants (usually ranging from \$200-\$6,000) to benefit our State Parks System and to support the Department's mission. Qualified non-profit groups, as well as California state park units and park agencies, are encouraged to apply. In general (and as funds permit), CSPF grants are targeted in four main areas: Volunteer Efforts and Recognition; Education and Interpretation; Natural and Cultural Resource Protection; and Capacity Building for cooperating associations. The Foundation also makes a number of discretionary grants each year that may fall outside the main target areas.

**NEA Foundation Green Grants**

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

**Deadlines: June 1, 2010**

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.

**Save the Redwoods League Education Grants Program**

[www.savetheredwoods.org/education/edgrants.shtml](http://www.savetheredwoods.org/education/edgrants.shtml)

**Deadline: Available in April 2010**

**Save the Redwoods League** is pleased to announce the availability of education grant funds to schools, park cooperating associations, and other qualified nonprofits engaged in quality redwood education. Our grant program aims to foster a deeper understanding of redwood forests through personal visits and educational experiences among a broad, diverse audience. Since 2000, Save the Redwoods League has awarded more than **230 grants** to dedicated educators who provide high-quality redwood forest education both in and out of the classroom.

**New Redwoods Art Contest for Kids:** Visit [www.savetheredwoods.org/ArtContest](http://www.savetheredwoods.org/ArtContest) after March 18, 2010 for more information.

## Resources

[www.creec.org/region6](http://www.creec.org/region6)

### **Easy-to-Use Climate Change Action Projects for K-12 Students**

<http://www.facingthefuture.org/ServiceLearning/ClimateChangeActionProjects/tabid/350/Default.aspx>

Facing the Future has released a comprehensive service-learning resource for climate change. The Climate Change Action Project Database includes more than 25 ready-to-use action projects that will prepare students to understand and take action on climate change.

### **Climate Kids**

<http://climate.nasa.gov/kids/>

NASA offers the Climate Kids: NASA's Eyes on the Earth website, targeted at kids in grades 4-6. It offers online interactives, images, video, and content, along with links to websites with educator resources.

### **Climate Change Education Program**

<http://willstegerfoundation.org/index.php/programs/k-12-education-program>

Will Steger Foundation's K-12 interdisciplinary climate change education program includes lesson plans that are experiential in nature, tied to national standards, and available free for download. The curricula and online adventure learning program is proud to have the support of the National Education Association with over 3.2 million members. Will Steger Foundation also provides exciting expedition footage from Will Steger and partner polar expeditions and a variety of other resources.

### **Education and the Environment Initiative Update**

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/education/eei/curriculum/>

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 the website above.

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

President Obama and Secretary Duncan have made innovation and student achievement a major platform of the Obama Administration and as a result have included environmental literacy 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.