



**CREEC
NETWORK**
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION
COMMUNITY

Delta Sierra CREEC

www.creec.org/region6

AMADOR, CALAVERAS, SAN JOAQUIN, STANISLAUS AND TUOLUMNE COUNTIES

SPRING/SUMMER 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.

Region 6 Coordinators:

Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties

Wendy Harrison
Calaveras County
Office of Education
P.O. Box 760
Angels Camp, CA
95221

209-736-6009 (m)
[wharrison@
ccoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:wharrison@ccoe.k12.ca.us)

San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties

Conni Bock
San Joaquin County
Office of Education
P.O. Box 213030
Stockton, CA 95213
209-468-9119
cbock@sjcoe.org

Get Out!

One of my favorite tee-shirts sports just two words: Get Out. And that is what I'd like to encourage you to do this summer. We are fortunate to live in a region with close access to many beautiful natural areas. Many of these areas also host classes, guided hikes, and special events that can boost your knowledge, enthusiasm and inspiration for the natural world. Hopefully this will add to your personal well-being, as well as give you some new tools and ideas to bring to your students next year. This issue includes information about many of these resources in Region 6, as well as links to websites which can tell you more about special summer activities and events. So do yourself a favor - Get out and enjoy!



Stanislaus and San Joaquin County Science Fairs

Science projects with environmental subjects won special recognition in the San Joaquin and Stanislaus County Science Fairs this spring. Students doing activities involving alternative energy, pollution, use of fertilizers and pesticides, water quality, and other subjects related to the environment received awards for their investigations. In San Joaquin County, a private donor gave \$200 which went to the two top projects for use in their



classrooms for an environmental activity. The quality of the environmentally themed projects seems to get better each year as more students become aware of the environment and are interested in learning more about it.





Caswell State Park : Riparian ecosystem along the Stanislaus River. Camping, hiking trails, swimming beaches, fishing, and wildlife. http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=557

Lodi Lake Nature Area: Riparian ecosystem along the Mokelumne River. Hiking trails, wildlife, fishing, swimming beach and Interpretive displays.
http://creec.edgateway.net/cs/creecp/view/creec_org/1272

Brannon Island State Recreation Area: In the Delta on the Sacramento River. Marsh, wildlife, fishing, swimming, boating, windsurfing, and camping.
http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=487

Dos Rios Proposed State Park: At the confluence of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers. Camping, fishing and wildlife. http://www.spur.org/publications/library/article/future_bay_delta

Delta Loop: A 10 mile scenic drive along the Mokelumne and San Joaquin Rivers. Fishing, boating, camping, parks, views, restaurants and wildlife. <http://www.deltaloop.com/>

Windy Cove: In the Sacramento/SanJoaquin Delta, on the Sacramento River. Picnicking, fishing and wildlife. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sacramento_river_delta_p1080765.jpg

Oak Grove Regional Park: Oak Grove woodland habitat, wildlife, fishing, paddle boats, trails, and a good nature center with interpretive displays and hands-on activities.

<http://www.mgzoo.com/parks/oak-grove-park.htm>

Calaveras River: River, grassland habitat, monthly interpretive walks, walking and bike trail.
<http://www.flcr.savestockton.org/Welcome.html>

Children's Discovery Museum of Stockton: Some environmental displays, especially on water use and conservation, great hands-on activities for children.

<http://www.stocktongov.com/childrensmuseum/>

World of Wonders, Lodi: Great hands-on activities for children.
<http://www.wowsciencemuseum.org/>

Great Valley Museum of Natural History, Modesto: Five habitats with native plants and animals, Tuolumne river watershed exhibit, and a discovery room with hands-on exhibits. <http://www.mjc.edu/community/resources/gvm/index.html>

Calaveras Big Trees State Park: Home to some of the world's largest trees, this beautiful park offers many chances for outdoor recreation and learning. Jr. Rangers and Cub programs, guided walks in the North Grove, and evening campfire programs are among the free activities offered to visitors. Free educational public seminars and other events are also sponsored by the Calaveras Big Trees Association. John Muir Laws will be a featured presenter in August. For more details go to: www.bigtrees.org and www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=551



Caves and Caverns: The Sierra Nevada Foothills are riddled with underground limestone caverns, each one unique and beautiful. For tour information, visit the following: Sierra Nevada Recreation Corporation at www.caverntours.com. They operate California Caverns, Black Chasm, Gold Cliff Mine, Moaning Cavern, and the Sutter Gold Mine. Information for Mercer Cavern can be found at www.mercercaverns.com. The Kennedy Mine in Sutter Creek offers surface tours of this historic mine. Visit their site at www.kennedygoldmine.com.

Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills eight miles east of Jackson. The park nestles in a little valley 2,400 feet above sea level with open meadows and large valley oaks that once provided the native Americans of this area with an ample supply of acorns. The park was created in 1968 and preserves a great outcropping of marbleized limestone with some 1,185 mortar holes -- the largest collection of bedrock mortars in North America. This is also the location of the Regional Indian Museum with a beautiful display of baskets and other cultural objects. Visit their website for upcoming events: www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=553



New Melones Dam and Reservoir: There are many opportunities here for boating, hiking, fishing, camping, and biking. Ranger-led activities include guided hikes, evening programs, and Jr. Rangers at the campground, the Kids Day Fishing Faire in June, and a Speaker Series in spring and fall. For more info go to: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cca/newmelones/index.html>

The Stanislaus National Forest encompasses 898,099 acres of central Sierra Nevada forests in Alpine, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne Counties. A wide variety of outdoor activities are possible, from rafting to camping to skiing and more. For summer public educational programs including live animal programs, Native American cultural programs, astronomy programs and more, get a copy of [The Stanislaus Traveler](#) at your closest USFS office, or visit: fs.usda.gov/Stanislaus for more details.



Classes and more

www.creec.org/region6

Literacy on the Lake, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, June 9 - 12. Four-day institute designed to support rigorous science instruction through the strategic use of literacy tools. For more information go to http://imeet.sjcoe.net/dssp/Science_and_Literacy_Institute.html

High Sierra Institute at Baker Station: The historic Baker Station near Kennedy Meadows on Hwy. 108, is now being used for summer classes offered by Columbia College. Classes usually last several days, and range from natural history classes to yoga and creative writing. Check out their offerings at: <http://www.gocolumbia.edu/summer10/Highsierra.pdf>

The Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) is a multi-day residence workshop held at four northern California locations. (including Tuolumne County). The goal of FIT is to provide K-12 teachers with knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology and forest resource management practices. The program brings together natural resource specialists and teachers from rural and urban settings for one week, working side by side to gain a deeper understanding of the intricate interrelationship of forest ecosystems and human use of natural resources. Each institute can accommodate 30 to 45 participants. All meals and lodging are free. Teachers are provided with extensive classroom and curriculum materials, and a \$200 stipend on completion and implementation of a forest related curriculum unit or project conducted in their classrooms. Applications are still being accepted. Go to: <http://www.forestryinstitute.org/>

Passports in Time is a volunteer project for the United States Forest Service. Volunteers do a wide variety of tasks in National Forests throughout the United States. The projects all involve an historic aspect of the forest, from Native American Culture to archaeology to identifying early routes of travel. Volunteers are asked to commit to the duration of the project, which varies from a few days to several months. This is a great way to learn about natural resources and related history - as well as perhaps learn a new skill. Lodging is sometimes provided. To view current projects, visit: <http://www.passportintime.com/>

Save the Redwoods League Education Grants Program

Deadline: June 30, 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. Their 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. For more information go to: www.savetheredwoods.org/education/edgrants.shtml

Enter the **Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest Deadline: June 16, 2010.** Show how the beauty of nature inspires you through poetry, essays, photos or dance. Entries must be from a team of two or more persons, a young person and an older person. <http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm>

John Muir Laws is an environmental educator, nature illustrator, and very engaging speaker and teacher. He is offering several classes this summer in the Sierra Nevada (including one at Calaveras Big Trees). To see a schedule of classes, visit: <http://www.johnmuirlaws.com/classes.html>