



**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 2008

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. CREEC Region 6 Coordinators are housed at the Calaveras, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus County Offices of Education.

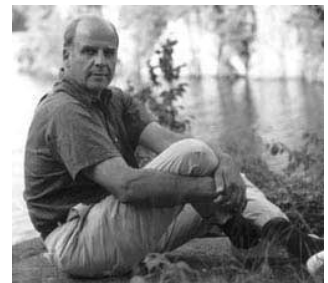
**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**EARTH DAY RESOURCES AND EVENTS  
TEACHER WORKSHOPS  
AND MORE...**

## History of Earth Day

Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest “to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda.” “It was a gamble,” he recalls, “but it worked.” On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. Senator Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the highest honor given to civilians in the United States — for his role as Earth Day founder.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental issues on the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Senator Nelson died on July 3, 2005. On his last Earth day, although frail and in declining health, he joined his grandson at a school tree-planting ceremony to mark the day.



FORMER U.S. SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON, D-WISC., THE FOUNDER OF EARTH DAY.



## California Environmental Education Foundation Educator Survey

A survey developed by the California Environmental Education Foundation (CEEF) has been developed in order to support the CREEC Network in disseminating high quality Environmental Education resources and services to California’s K-12 educators. It is only a ten minute survey designed to reveal your current needs and constraints to teaching environmental education inside the classroom and outdoors. The survey results will be made available at the 2008 CSTA Conference, and will also be posted on the CREEC website at [www.creec.org](http://www.creec.org).

The survey data will be used by CEEF to determine its programmatic and funding priorities as it strives to implement the six strategic initiatives identified in the California’s state plan for environmental education entitled: *Education and the Environment: Strategic Initiatives for Enhancing Education in California*. To participate in the survey, just access the following web link: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=StHCb35n5k04m2RmE8RIQw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=StHCb35n5k04m2RmE8RIQw_3d_3d)

# Earth Day Resources and Events

## Region 6

### Coordinators:

#### Amador & Calaveras Counties

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### EE Week 2008: Carbon Footprints

Carbon Footprints is the theme for this year's National EE Week, April 13-19, 2008. Information including a Curricula Library for Teachers, Green Reading for Kids, and a Carbon Calculator are available at <http://www.eeweek.org/>.

**Living in a Global Forest** from the *If Trees Could Talk* middle school curriculum is an excellent module to use during EE Week or anytime to celebrate EE. Students compare the ecological footprint of an average home built in 2000 with that of an average home constructed in 1950. Students learn where our wood comes from now and analyze global efforts to manage the world's forests. For more information, visit <http://www.foresthistory.org>.

### Earth Day Events Near You

#### Calaveras County: April 20th, 11am-6pm, Utica Park, Angels Camp

The free event will feature crafts, children's activities, speakers, and information booths. For more information visit <http://www.earthday.envirolink.org>.

#### San Joaquin County: April 20th, 11am-5pm, Victory Park in Stockton.

This year's theme is Live Green, San Joaquin, and the festival will feature live entertainment, terrific food, information booths and educational displays from community schools, environmental groups and businesses, and activities coordinated by local teachers and students. Grants up to \$250 will be awarded to teachers for environmental activities in the classroom. Email Conni Bock, [cbock@sjcoe.net](mailto:cbock@sjcoe.net), for information and an application. For more information about the event go to <http://www.livegreensanjoaquin.com>.



#### Modesto: April 19th, 10am-5pm, Graceada Park, Modesto

Come to Graceada park to enjoy vendor booths, environmental education, tree planting, a petting zoo, and live entertainment. Special Earth Day collections include eye glasses, cell phones, and blankets. In conjunction with the event there will be also be free recycling of Electronic and Hazardous Waste at Modesto Jr. College, 8am-3pm. For more information go to <http://www.ci.modesto.ca.us/prnd/recycling/>

### Earth Day 2008: Snapshots of Spring



Earth Day Photo Contest for Middle School is open to all U.S. students in grades 5-8. During the week of Earth Day a part of a unique national effort to capture our changing world. Anytime from Tuesday, April 22 through Tuesday, April 29, take a photograph of something that is changing in your local environment. Then write an essay (400 words or less) that explains the change in your photograph. For more information go to <http://www.strategies.org/>.

## Educator Workshops



**A School Garden Workshop: Wednesday, April 23rd 3:45pm-8:00pm, Modesto Jr. College** During this workshop participants will learn about the School Garden Network, how to find grants, organic gardening, composting, and crafts in the garden. The \$25 registration fee covers educational materials, raffle prizes, dinner and refreshments. Contact Don Borges, 209-575-6449. **Participants must pre-register.**

### **River of Words Saturday, May 3rd, 9am-3pm SCOE**

#### **Participants must pre-register by April 25th**

River of Words (ROW) is a nature-based science, art and poetry program created to promote watershed awareness, literacy and the arts. Through their annual youth art and poetry contest and educator's tools, River of Words helps young people explore the natural and cultural history of their own communities. This workshop will provide K-12 educators with ideas and inspiration for integrating nature exploration and the arts into core subject areas like science, math, social studies, and language arts. Register online:

**<http://www.stancoe.org/SCOE/workshops/ISS/MathScience/science/>**



### **Water Quality Monitoring: Monday, May 12th: with Teacher and Biologist Gwen Starrett: CCOE**



This class will give you hands-on experience in the techniques of both physical and biological monitoring of waterways. Learn how to implement this real-world experience with your students, as well as how to gain access to the tools and equipment needed. Be ready to wade in the water!

For a registration form go to the calendar page at **[www.creec.org/region6](http://www.creec.org/region6)** or contact Wendy Harrison 209-736-6009. wandw1@comcast.net. Just \$25 for each workshop and participants must register two weeks prior to the event.

**Clean Air Challenge Workshops:** These workshops are hands-on training sessions for teachers, by teachers. Most workshops are sponsored by the local Air District in partnership with a local private sector sponsor or an environmental organization. Participants will receive: breakfast and lunch, \$100 stipend, supplies and materials valued at over \$700.



- **Modesto, Saturday, May 3rd, 8am-3:30pm, Holiday Inn Express**
- **Stockton, Saturday, May 17th, 8am-3:30pm. San Joaquin County Office of Education**

**For more information and to register online go to <http://www.clean-air-challenge.com/>**

**Integrating Environmental Education into Teacher Education Programs: May 28-30, Tahoe, CA.** The California and Nevada Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree programs invite you to join them for a combined facilitator's training program designed specifically for professors of pre-service educators. You'll leave this training with copies of all three curricula, thought on how to incorporate the materials into your courses and the ability to offer the materials to your students. Contact Brian Brown, California Project WET Coordinator at: [projectwet@watereducation.org](mailto:projectwet@watereducation.org) or (916)444-6240 to register.

**VISIT [WWW.CREEC.ORG/REGION6](http://WWW.CREEC.ORG/REGION6) FOR A COMPLETE CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS**



## And More...



The Banana Slug String Band Announces the Birth of its Latest CD... ***We All Live Downstream***

Join in the musical fun as Doug Dirt, Airy Larry, Solar Steve, and Marine Mark bring out their latest collection of earth-loving songs about understanding and caring for our precious watersheds. Song titles include:

“Thankful for the Watershed”, “One Little River”, and “The Storm Drain Blues”.

<http://www.bananaslugstringband.com>

**Congratulations! Ms. Raquel’s 5th grade class, John Muir Elementary, Stockton, is a 2008 Disney Environmental Challenge State Finalist:**



**for their project titled “Wood Duck Nesting Boxes at Lodi Lake”. For more information about how to be involved in the challenge during the 2008-2009 go to [www.dec.org](http://www.dec.org).**



Education and the Environment Initiative

### EEI Curriculum Writers and

### Reviewers Wanted:

To ensure the historical, technical, factual, and cultural accuracy of the California EEI Curriculum, they are looking for curriculum writers and content reviewers. Reviewers must have a Ph.D. or master’s degree in history and/or social science, or related fields. Writers and reviewers are paid per EEI Curriculum unit and receive full credit in the acknowledgements. Application and more details are available online at [www.calepa.ca.gov/education/eei](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/education/eei) or contact Jill Simons at (916) 341-6765 or [jsimmons@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:jsimmons@ciwmb.ca.gov) at the Office of Education and the Environment.

### Conferences and Events

- **National EE Week:** April 13-19, 2008, [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)
- **Earth Day:** April 22, 2008
- **AEOE Statewide Spring Conference:** April 25-27, 2008 Malibu, [www.aeoe.org](http://www.aeoe.org)
- **Forestry Institute for Teachers:** June and July 2008, Four different sessions in Shasta, Plumas, Humbolt, or Tuolumne Counties. Go to [www.forestryinstitute.org](http://www.forestryinstitute.org) or call 1-800-738-8733.
- **Region 6 Service Learning Institute:** June 12-13,
- **National Ag in the Classroom Conference:** June 15-18, Costa Mesa CA. [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org)
- **NEED’s Summer Energy Conferences:** July 13-17, Galveston, TX and July 20-24, Las Vegas, NV. [www.need.org/summertraining](http://www.need.org/summertraining)
- **National Take a Child Outside Week:** September 24-30, 2008, [www.naturalsciences.org](http://www.naturalsciences.org).
- **CSTA Annual Conference: October 30-November 2, 2008,** “Natural Systems and Cycles”, San Jose, [www.cascience.org](http://www.cascience.org).
- **EE Online Courses offered in Summer and Fall 2008:** Choose from Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation, Fundamentals of Environmental Education, and Leadership Development in Natural Resources: Strategic Planning and Implementation. To learn more go to [www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetab/index.aspx](http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetab/index.aspx).