

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 by the Calaveras, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus County Offices of Education.

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## Every Student Learns Outside

The best-selling book *Last Child in the Woods* by author and San Diego Union Tribune journalist Richard Louv presents evidence that American children are losing a vital aspect of healthy development as they spend increasingly less time riding bikes, climbing trees, fishing, or doing much of anything outdoors. Louv coined the term “nature deficit disorder” and this got a national conservation started about children’s disconnect with the outdoors.

In response to the growing interest in encouraging children to get outside, Project Learning Tree (PLT) has launched a national initiative *Every Student Learns Outside* and website [www.learnoutside.org](http://www.learnoutside.org) to help educators make outdoor experiences part of their everyday lesson plans.



PLT is also collecting success stories about the impact PLT has had on educators and their students who use PLT in the outdoors. If you have a story to share, contact Vanessa Bullwinkle at 202.463.S2472 or email [vbullwinkle@plt.org](mailto:vbullwinkle@plt.org).

**“PLT activities provide enjoyable and educational opportunities for educators and parents to help children connect with nature”** Kathy McGaflin, Director of Project Learning Tree.

### CA Education and the Environment Initiative Update

SCHOOL DISTRICTS CURRENTLY BEING SELECTED FOR FIELD & PILOT TESTING

California’s Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) is a landmark law concerning education about the environment in CA’s public schools. CREEC Coordinators throughout the state have been busy meeting with School Districts and selecting the 20 districts that will be field and pilot testing the EEI Model Curriculum. Field testing is slated to begin in April 2007, with pilot testing occurring during the 2007-2008 school year. By the fall of 2008, the curriculum should be ready to take to the State Board of Education for approval to use throughout CA. CREEC Coordinators will provide direct support to the teachers in the school districts selected for field and pilot testing. If your district is interested in being one of the field & pilot testing districts, contact your local CREEC coordinator at [www.creec.org/region6](http://www.creec.org/region6) or for more information about EEI go to [www.seer.org/EEI/toolkit/EEI\\_District\\_Toolkit.html](http://www.seer.org/EEI/toolkit/EEI_District_Toolkit.html)



# Meet Your CREEC Coordinator

**30th Annual BAEER Fair, Saturday, January 27th**, Marin Civic Center San Rafael, [www.baerfair.org](http://www.baerfair.org)

**Teach the River January—June, 2007**

- Eagle Canoe Trip
- Weekend Nature Walks
- River Workdays
- Wetlands tour in Los Banos
- Junior Duck Stamp Contest

[www.teachtheriver.org](http://www.teachtheriver.org)

**National Ag Week, March 18-24, 2007**  
[www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org)

**AEOE Spring Conference, April 27-29**, Sierra Outdoor School, Sonora  
[www.aeoe.org](http://www.aeoe.org)

**Forestry Institute for Teachers, June 25-30, 2007** Pinecrest Lake, near Sonora  
[www.forestryinstitute.org](http://www.forestryinstitute.org)

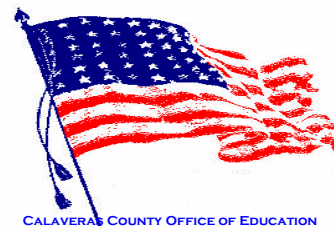
**Great Valley Museum "Tuolumne River Watershed" Exhibit opens Feb. 13th**  
[www.gomjc.org/greatvalley/event.htm](http://www.gomjc.org/greatvalley/event.htm)

## Calaveras and Amador

Wendy Harrison's goal for Calaveras and Amador Counties is to support educators to access the wonderful and numerous environmental education resources in the area. She has been involved in environmental education for many years—as a Naturalist with the Marin County Outdoor School, Exploring New Horizons and the Oceanic Society, as an Interpreter at Calaveras Big Trees State

Park, and currently as a teacher at Mountain Oaks Charter School, CREEC Coordinator, and partner in Stewardship Through Education. She loves to see the growth and learning that happens when children are immersed in hands-on outdoor experiences. Studies show that these types of experiences benefit the students academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Her goal for environmental

education is that teachers use these experiences as a springboard to help their students develop into adults who are caring, informed, and intelligent decision makers. To contact Wendy email [wandw1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wandw1@sbcglobal.net) or call 209.736.6009.



## San Joaquin County

Conni Bock is the newest member of our CREEC Region 6 family. She has a long history of working with environmental education, starting in outdoor education for the Oakland Public Schools in the 1960's and working since that time with many different agencies and causes. She taught in the classroom for 36 years and has

recently retired to work on projects closer to her heart, which includes anything to do with the environment and sharing hands-on experiences with students. She looks forward to offering and participating in many different workshops in our area including: Project WET, The

Clean Air Challenge, Delta Science Project, and Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE). To contact Conni email [connibock@gmail.com](mailto:connibock@gmail.com) or call 209.468.9096



## Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties

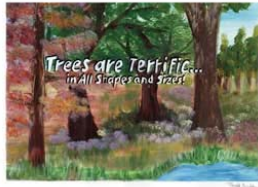
Tricia Dunlap is in her 6th year as the CREEC Coordinator for Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. She uses her background in environmental sciences and education to help connect teachers and students to the natural world around them. She began her outdoor education experiences as an Intern and Naturalist at Foot-hill Horizons Outdoor School. She then graduated from Stanislaus State University

with a major in Biology and a minor in Environmental Science. After a few years as a Wildlife Biologist with the Forest Service she went back to school and got her Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential and taught in the classroom for 10 years. She looks forward to offering many different workshops in our area including Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and GEMS. She is also coor-

dinating the first ever Tuolumne County Forestry Institute for Teachers. To contact Tricia email [tdunlap@stancoe.org](mailto:tdunlap@stancoe.org) or call 209.525.6604.



## Grants and Awards



**Celebrate Arbor Day!** This contest activity is open to all California **5th grade** children assisted by their teachers, parents, youth or club leaders. The 2007 theme is **“Trees are Terrific...and Forests are Too!”** The contest deadline is March 1st. To obtain more information go to [www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/](http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/) or to request a kit contact Kay Antunez, California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection at 916.653.7958 or [Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov).

**California School Gardens (AB1535)** The Instructional School Garden Program allocates, this school year, \$15 million for the promotion, creation and support of California instructional school gardens. Grants are available for school garden equipment and supplies and/or professional development grants. Go to the California School Garden Network website for more information [www.csgn.org](http://www.csgn.org).

**River of Words** River of Words is a free international poetry and art contest for youth ages 5-19 years, on the theme of watersheds. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live, and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover. Students may enter on their own, or as part of a group. For more information go to: [www.riverofwords.org/index.html](http://www.riverofwords.org/index.html).



**Young Naturalist Award** This program from the American Museum of Natural History and sponsored by Alcoa Foundation, is a research based essay contest for students in grades 7-12 to promote participation and communication in science. Contest winners win cash scholarship awards from \$500 to \$2,500, an expense-paid trip to New York City to attend an award ceremony, and their essays are published on the Museum's Web site. Deadline: April 1, 2007 [www.amnh.org/youngnaturalistawards](http://www.amnh.org/youngnaturalistawards).

**Community Action Award** The Headlands Institute is pleased to announce the 2nd annual Community Action Award. Nominations are being sought of individual elementary or middle school classrooms who are working together to make a significant positive contribution to the environment of their home communities. The 2007 recipient classroom will receive a \$1500 award to be used to further the goals of their community project. Nominations are due April 2007. For details visit: [www.yni.org/hi/communityActionAward.html](http://www.yni.org/hi/communityActionAward.html).

**Toshiba America Foundation Grants** Applications for grants under \$5,000 are accepted year-round. Deadline for grants over \$5,000 will be on February 1st and August 1st. The Foundation encourages teacher-led, K-12 classroom-based programs, projects, and activities that have the potential to improve classroom experiences in science, mathematics, and technology. For more information go to [www.toshiba.com/taf/apply.html](http://www.toshiba.com/taf/apply.html).

**Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence** The annual Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence (AASTE) program is looking for extraordinary science teachers from across the United States. This year, 30 science teachers nationally (six from California) will be awarded an unrestricted cash grant of \$5,000, and their schools will receive a restricted grant of \$5,000 to be used to expand or enhance the school's science program, purchase new science resources, or further the professional development of their science teachers. Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2007. You can find more details at [www.amgen.com](http://www.amgen.com).

**“Seeing the possibility rather than the impossibility has allowed me to extend the walls of my classroom, connecting students to the real world.”**

Anne Marie Bergen, Oakdale District Science Teacher and California 2006 Amgen Science Teaching Excellence Award Winner



# Workshops and Resources

**CASEL Annual Science Conference “Uncovering Student Thinking to Increase Student Understanding”** January 23, 2007 at the San Joaquin County Office of Education. The Capitol Area Science Education Leaders 8th Annual Conference will be featuring guest speaker Page Keeley, Senior Program Director for Science at the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance. She is nationally recognized as a leader in science education, developing materials and tools to support science teaching and learning. To download a flyer go to <http://www.sjcoe.org/attachments/681CASELFlyerTriFold.pdf>. For questions contact Deawn Weiher at 209.468.9096 or [dweiher@sjcoe.net](mailto:dweiher@sjcoe.net).

**GEMS: Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect** February 22, 4pm-7pm at the Calaveras County Office of Education, Angels Camp. According to the scientific community, global warming will certainly affect the lives of our students. This GEMS guide presents the scientific evidence behind global warming, and helps students see environmental problems from different points of view. Although designed for middle school students, there are many correlations to standards at other grade levels. To register download a flyer at [http://www.creec.org/region6/stories/storyReader\\$81](http://www.creec.org/region6/stories/storyReader$81) or call Wendy Harrison, 209.736.6009.

**Science Workshops for 4th, 5th and 6th Grade Teachers** The Stanislaus County Office of Education will be hosting six different science mini-sessions for teachers of grades 4, 5, and 6. Get ready for hands-on activities that are directly correlated to the California State Science Standards. All workshops will be held at the Stanislaus County Office of Education from 4pm-6pm.

- **Fourth Grade:** February 13th, GEMS Electric Circuits and Magnetism and March 8th GEMS Terrarium Habitats
- **Fifth Grade:** February 22nd, GEMS Chemical Reactions and March 15th Wonders of Water and other activities from Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)
- **Sixth Grade:** February 27th, GEMS River Cutters and March 22nd GEMS Convection Currents

For more information and to make reservations contact Ann Tognetti, 209.525.6602 or email [atognetti@stancoe.org](mailto:atognetti@stancoe.org)

## Project WET -- Water Education for Teachers

**January 17 Project WET Facilitator’s Training, Stockton.** The Water Education Foundation invites you to attend this workshop which will train you to become a WET facilitator. If you want to offer WET workshops to local educators, this is the training for you. To register contact Brian Brown at 916.444.6240 or email [projectwet@watereducation.org](mailto:projectwet@watereducation.org).

**January 23rd & 30th, 4pm-7pm, Project WET “Make & Take” Workshop, Salida Regional Library.** For 4th and 5th grade teachers. You will leave each session with materials to immediately put Project WET activities to use in your classroom and will have your own Project WET guide upon completion. To register contact Meg Gonzalez, Great Valley Museum, 209.575.6196 or email [gonzalezm@yosemite.cc.ca.us](mailto:gonzalezm@yosemite.cc.ca.us)

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