

# STEEP – CREEC



Newsletter

Spring 2005

The Stanislaus Tuolumne Environmental Education Project of the California Regional Environmental Education Community Network

The California Regional Environmental Education Network (CREEC) is a statewide network sponsored by the California Department of Education, and is supported by the Stanislaus County Office of Education and the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office.



For more environmental education resources visit [www.creec.org](http://www.creec.org) Region 6B

Interested in being part of the STEEP-CREEC Network?  
Call Tricia Dunlap  
525-6604 or  
536-2015

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## Local Events Happening Soon!

**The Energenius® Program, for K-2 Teachers:** Saturday, April 30, 2005 UOP, Department of Physics To register contact Lisa McKee 209-525-6607 or email Melanie Cooksey, SJCOE, 209-468-9170. Enjoy a FREE hands-on workshop about how students can become "Energeniuses" and use energy more efficiently at school and home. K-2 teachers will receive a sample Energenius® Education Program teacher's kit, free PG&E class sets, and strategies for forming a classroom energy patrol. All lessons have been correlated to California Content Standards across the disciplines. Participants will receive a \$25 voucher to purchase educational materials. Lunch will be provided.

**Wildflower Series:** Join the Tuolumne River Trust for their Wildflower Series that will consist of a slideshow on May 11 and a hike May 14. Learn to identify Sierra wildflowers at the slideshow and then use your knowledge as you hike along the Tuolumne River to view the canyon's brilliant wildflower displays. Contact Monica at [Monica@tuolumne.org](mailto:Monica@tuolumne.org) or call (209) 588-8636.

**K-12 Teachers and Outdoor Educators Needed:** For input during the May 24<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Conservation Education workshop at U.C. Davis. The Wildlife Diversity Project is organizing a series of workshops to obtain input and comments on major issues related to the conservation and restoration of wildlife. This workshop will focus on Wildlife Conservation Education for California's K-12 students. Your expertise is needed. The workshop is free and there is a limited amount of funding available to support travel costs of participants. If you are interested in attending contact Tricia Dunlap, 209-352-1270 or email [tdunlap@bigvalley.net](mailto:tdunlap@bigvalley.net).

## May is Watershed Awareness Month

Join us to celebrate California's first Watershed Awareness Month. Throughout the month of May, volunteer community organizations, educators, and other groups are encouraged to promote the importance of watersheds by organizing and conducting watershed awareness activities. Go to <http://www.watershednetwork.org> for a list of statewide activities.

### **Modesto Irrigation District**

The Modesto Irrigation District has a learning center for kids, parents, and teachers. Teachers within the MID's service area are invited to contact the MID Public Affairs Department at 209-526-7390 to discover what materials are available to help you achieve your classroom goals in the areas of water, energy conservation, and electric safety and electric education. <http://www.mid.org/about/learning/default.htm>

Contact the **Turlock Irrigation District's** Public Education Specialist at 209-883-8213 or visit [www.tid.org/currentinfo/kids.htm](http://www.tid.org/currentinfo/kids.htm)

### **The Water Education Foundation**

The Water Education Foundation has information for students and teachers including the California Water Map and the Delta Map. It is the place to find facts about the water cycle, the earth's water supply, and water pollution.

<http://www.watereducation.org/kids.asp> They also have elementary and secondary school programs such as the *California Water Story* for grades 4-6 and *Project Water Science* for grades 7-11. <http://www.watereducation.org/schoolprograms.asp>

### **Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)**

Project WET is a nonprofit water education program and publisher for educators and young people ages 5 to 18. The program facilitates and promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through the dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids and the establishment of internationally sponsored Project WET programs. [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org). If you are interested in attending a local Project WET teacher training, please contact Tricia Dunlap 209-525-6604 or email [tdunlap@stancoe.org](mailto:tdunlap@stancoe.org)



### **U.S.G.S. Water Cycle**

This is "the most comprehensive website about 'the Water Cycle' anywhere." The site features a wonderful diagram of the water cycle and an in depth discussion of each of the topics on the diagram. The diagram is available in 36 languages!

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html>

### **Water Cycle**

Water Cycle explains why all the oceans on Earth are salty, while inland water is typically fresh. <http://www.earthsky.com/scienceqs/lqshow>



## Grants and Awards

### **Environmental Education Week Photo**

**Contest:** Deadline May 6, 2005

Did you take pictures during your National EE Week activities, April 10-16, 2005? If so, you can enter up to 5 of your best photos for the National EE Week Photo Contest, offered by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) and Project Learning Tree (PLT). The photo contest is open to classroom teachers and youth group leaders who reach children in grades PreK-12<sup>th</sup>. For further information please visit:

[http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/36\\_124\\_41.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/36_124_41.html).

**Garden Crusader Awards:** Deadline June 1, 2005

The Garden Crusader Awards were created by Gardener's Supply to honor individuals who are improving the world through gardening. These enthusiastic folks are planting trees and flowers, growing food, creating new green spaces, and teaching about the rewards of gardening. Complete program information and nomination forms are available at:

<http://gardeners.com>.

### **Toshiba America Foundation:**

Rolling Deadline

Toshiba America Foundation makes grants for projects in math and science designed by classroom teachers to improve instruction for students in grades K-12. Maximum awards are \$5,000. For more information visit:

<http://www.taf.toshiba.com>

**PG&E's Solar School Program:** Deadline May 15 and July 1, 2005

The PG&E Solar Schools Program focuses on public schools in underserved communities in Central and Northern California. Teachers and administrators may apply for grants to support their involvement in the following areas:

- J Solar curriculum and training for K-12 schools. More than 400 teachers will be selected to attend energy training conferences and workshops and will receive classroom kits and curriculum. (Deadline May 15)
- J "Bright Ideas" grants will award \$2,500 and \$5,000 to schools for innovative solar science projects. (Deadline May 15)
- J Installation of a solar generation system for the school's educational use. Twenty schools will be selected to receive a system at no cost. (Deadline July 1)

For more information and application procedures, visit the NEED web site: <http://need.org>.

### **Energy Calendar Contest:**

All California students in grades 3-8 are invited to create an award winning picture for the 2006 Energy Calendar. The prizes will include a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond for each of the 12 winning artists and a cash award for their teachers to purchase educational materials for use in their classrooms. Each student who enters will receive an Energy Quest Certificate. For complete contest details, visit Energy Quest, <http://www.energyquest.ca.gov>.



## Summer Professional Growth Opportunities

### Tulare County K-12 Alliance Summer

**Science Institute:** June 24-29

For grades 4-8. Join your colleagues to increase your science content understanding in Life, Earth, and Physical Science. Learn to enhance student achievement in science and literacy. \$500 cost per participant. University credit and professional growth hours are available. Contact Doris Waters, 714-438-3802, [dwaters@wested.org](mailto:dwaters@wested.org).

### Coastal Ecosystem Teacher Workshop

June 25-June 29

Join the Water Education Foundation for a five-day professional development workshop during the summer for middle and high school teachers on their Coastal Ecosystem Curriculum. You will learn about the oceanography and ecology of the Gulf of the Farallones. Students will experience, first-hand, the ecology of the rocky intertidal or sandy beach habitat as they monitor throughout the year. For more information, contact April Devitt, 415-561-6625 x304 or [adevett@farallones.org](mailto:adevett@farallones.org).

### Delta Sierra Science Project: Earth Science Summer Institute, July 11-16

For grades 6-12. This year's institute will be held at Columbia College, Sonora. \$475 fee includes residential accommodations and a FUN field trip to the high country. Teachers will receive a \$1000 stipend for completion of summer plus yearlong meetings. For a brochure and more information contact Judi Wilson, SJCOE, 209-468-4880 or [jwilson@sjcoe.net](mailto:jwilson@sjcoe.net).

### Environmental Educators Training Program

August 1-5 or August 8-12, 2005

Each year the Headlands Institute offers a unique 5-day residential program in conjunction with the National Park Service and a local college or university. The program brings together classroom and informal educators, and will focus on new skill development, the sharing of successful teaching strategies and innovative ways to integrate environmental science across all disciplines. Scholarships and continue education units are available. Call the Headlands Institute at 415-332-5771 x25 or email [dzucker@yni.org](mailto:dzucker@yni.org)

**Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT)** Get a crash course on the science of forestry and forestry management. You'll receive an array of natural resources curriculum including Project Learning Tree and Project Aquatic WILD plus a week of housing and meals FREE. Choose one of the three 2005 institute locations:

- June 12-18, University of California Forestry Camp, Plumas County
- June 19-25, Camp Latieze, Shasta County
- July 10-16, Humboldt State University, Humboldt County

For more information visit

<http://forestryinstitute.org> or call 1-800-738-8733.



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Go to [www.creec.org/region6b](http://www.creec.org/region6b) for an updated calendar of events.