

# STEEP – CREEC



Newsletter

Summer 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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## Professional Development Opportunities

**Service Learning: Educating the Whole Child:** June 23 & 24, San Joaquin County Office of Education. This workshop is an introduction to designing and implementing service learning for K-12 classes using the Seven Elements of High Quality Service Learning. Participants will receive materials and tools to get started. For more information and registration, contact Veray Wickham, San Joaquin COE, 209-468-9021 or Danielle Jones, Stanislaus COE, 209-525-6641.

**Delta Studies Institute 2005-2006:** Join more than 100 teachers already using this CA State Science Standards based curriculum that focuses on one of California's most important resources, water. Beginning June 20 & 21, teachers will be trained in their grade level's curriculum module that include hands-on activities and integrated lessons with literacy links. For an application go to [www.edserv.sjcoe.net/DELTAStudies](http://www.edserv.sjcoe.net/DELTAStudies) or contact Heather Fogg, [hfogg@sjcoe.net](mailto:hfogg@sjcoe.net), 209-468-9096.

**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).

**Earth Science for Teachers of Grades 4, 5, & 6:** The Science Teaching Academy and Network (STAN) is offering Concepts of Earth Science 201 through Modesto Junior College, Fall 2005. Classes meet on Monday Evenings from August 22 - October 17, 2005. For enrollment and registration information contact Michele Monlux at 209-575-6803 or [monluxm@yosemite.cc.ca.us](mailto:monluxm@yosemite.cc.ca.us).



**Energy Across the Curriculum for K-6 Teachers:** June 28-30, Calistoga

This residential three-day program focuses on teaching energy, energy efficiency, and conservation. It will include active learning sessions, one field study trip, and an opportunity to obtain numerous classroom materials that relate to the California Content Standards. Cost is only \$110 and includes educational materials, two nights housing, seven meals at the Mountain Home Ranch Conference Center and use of all the recreational facilities at the conference center. Contact Olga Clymire 707-263-7249 or email [olganc@pacific.net](mailto:olganc@pacific.net).

**Discover the Treasures of Tuolumne County's Natural Resources:** June 14-15, 2005

Learn of the science field trip possibilities available through guided visits to sites with the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment (TuCARE). Transportation and lunch will be provided during this FREE 2-day course. For more information and registration contact Ginger Armstrong, 209-586-7816 or [tucare@mlode.com](mailto:tucare@mlode.com)

**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.

**Pacific Forest Institute: Forest Stewardship Education:** July 17-22, 2005, William Jessup University, Quincy. The dynamics of the forest are not well known by the public. That is why a large portion of the week will be dedicated to studying sustainable forest stewardship. Curriculum activities will be modeled and tied to the California State Science Framework. Educational consultants, graded breakout sessions, and personal curriculum development time will help you translate the expert's lingo into curriculum activities appropriate for your grade level. All housing, meals and instructional materials for the week are provided FREE. For more information visit [www.jessup.edu/academics/pacificforestinstitute](http://www.jessup.edu/academics/pacificforestinstitute) or call 916-577-2200.

**The Environmental Volunteers' Environmental Education Certificate Summer Institutes**

June 20-24 or August 1-5, Palo Alto. For more information on the EE Certificate program, and for detailed course descriptions, see [http://evols.org/EEC\\_institutes.htm](http://evols.org/EEC_institutes.htm). Register through UCSC Extension ([www.ucsc-extension.edu](http://www.ucsc-extension.edu)); the cost for the four classes is \$480.

The summer institutes are the best way to complete the core courses required to earn your Environmental Education Certificate. You earn four credits in one week's time, and the great camaraderie and intensive format add a tremendous amount to the experience. (Those not pursuing an EE Certificate are also welcome to enroll in courses.)



### **California Science Education Conference:**

Registration is now open for the 14th Annual California Science Education Conference, October 27-30, 2005, in Palm Springs. The early-bird registration fee (\$98 for CSTA members, \$148 for non-members) expires on June 30th. <http://www.cascience.org/conference.html>. You may also request a printed registration brochure by sending your name and address to [registration@cascience.org](mailto:registration@cascience.org).

### **California Ag In The Classroom Conference** Oct. 20-22, 2005 Sacramento

This two-day conference is a great way to learn how California educators incorporate agriculture into their classrooms. This year's theme, "Imagine Your Day Without Agriculture," will take each participant on a journey to discover the extent to which agriculture affects our daily lives. Attend in-depth workshops, gain hands-on experience in make 'n' take sessions, find new friends at *A Taste of California* luncheon, and head home with a tote bag full of ideas and resources. To register go to:

<https://www.cartserver.com/sc/securepage.cgi?www.cfaitc.org/Conference/ConfRegistration.html>.

**Education Programs at EarthWatch Institute** Find out how to join a team of conservation researchers around the world on expeditions from 1-3 weeks long. Also discover lesson plans and web sites developed by past teacher volunteers while they were in the field. Funding is available for students (16+) and educators. [www.earthwatch.org/education](http://www.earthwatch.org/education).

## **Grants and Awards**

### **PG&E's Solar School Program Grant:** Deadline 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 the installation of a solar generation system for the school's educational use. Twenty schools will be selected to receive a system at no cost. For more information and application procedures, visit the NEED web site: <http://need.org>.

### **Growing With Children Grant:** Deadline September 1, 2005

Western Growers invites educational facilities to apply for this \$1,500 grant to fund a school garden. Funds must be used for gardening supplies, gardening curriculum, and materials related to starting or maintaining a garden.

<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/2100/wga>

### **The 2005 Organic School Garden Awards:**

Deadline Oct. 31, 2005

Presented by The Rodale Institute, any school in the 50 states with an organic garden is eligible to enter. First prize includes \$1000 and a certificate. For more information, visit [www.kidsregen.org/gardens](http://www.kidsregen.org/gardens)



## Teacher and Classroom Resources

### Ecological & Environmental Learning

**Services** Ecological & Environmental Learning Services provides K-12 education consulting for teacher professional development, curriculum development and education programs in science education, environmental education, and ecology. Site also offers newsletter articles with ecology and environmental education themes.

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

### The Electronic Naturalist

This site provides new teaching materials each week for 30 weeks during the school year covering a wide variety of information on animals and plants, interdisciplinary activities, various reading levels, and access to a professional naturalist via email.

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

**KNPB PBS TeacherLine** provides quality professional development online. Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education/No Child Left Behind, KNPB Channel 5 and PBS have teamed up to bring you affordable online professional development that fits your busy schedule. With a number of courses available in science you are sure to find one that matches your interests. All courses are approved for thirty clock hours and graduate credit is also available through Adams State College and Indiana State University. These six-week courses can be completed anytime and anywhere at your convenience. View the website at [www.knpb.org/teacherline](http://www.knpb.org/teacherline)



**Science Class** This issue of the elementary edition of *Science Class* features the theme **Free for All** and provides more than 60 free online opportunities teachers can use to get ready for next year.

[http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2005-06/member\\_high.htm](http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2005-06/member_high.htm).

**2005 Agriculture Curricula** Educators have the constant challenge of linking classroom curricula to the lives of their students. Since agriculture touches everyone's lives and can be a valuable tool in helping students connect what they learn in the classroom to their daily lives. This brand new Instructional Materials CD, containing CFAITC's current lesson plans, teacher guides, and fact sheets, can make agriculture come alive in your classroom or after-school program. [One complimentary copy](#) is available to the first 250 California educators who request it. All resources on the CD also can be downloaded from

<http://www.cfaitc.org/>

### Watch Estuary Live, September 22-23,

**2005** Celebrate National Estuaries Day by participating in Estuary Live- a free, interactive field trip over the Internet. It is a great way to teach your students about estuarine ecology, compare ecosystems from all three of our coasts. One of the five highlighted estuaries will be the San Francisco Bay! For more registration and more information go to <http://www.sfbaynerr.org/Educators.html>

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



## Service Learning and Environmental Education

### THE RED HILLS KIOSK

Thanks to the Californian Native Plant Society (CNPS), Sierra Foothill Chapter, and Twain Harte Elementary's sixth grade classes, the information kiosk at Red Hills has a new look. The plexiglas window is renewed and new pictures and posters have been put up.

CNPS education chair, Steve Stocking and Twain Harte Elementary teacher, Tom Dunlap helped to coordinate this effort. During a field trip to the Red Hills site, the sixth graders not only learned about the unique flora of the Red Hills area, they helped to plan and create new signs and pictures for the display. The kiosk looks wonderful. If your Tuolumne County class is interested in an environmental service-learning project for the next school year, contact Tricia Dunlap, CREEC Coordinator, 536-2015 or [tdunlap@stancoe.org](mailto:tdunlap@stancoe.org).



### THE TUOLUMNE RIVER

Fourth grade classes from several Stanislaus County Schools used the Tuolumne River and the Cesar Chavez character traits as the basis for their environmental service-learning projects. Along the river's edge the students learned about water testing and river dynamics, took a riparian trail hike, observed aquatic organisms, learned about Native Americans, and planned their service project. Some classes then created a brochure that related character education traits to stewardship of the Tuolumne River while others participated in native plant restoration projects along the river or organized a park and river clean up. If your Stanislaus County class is interested in an environmental service-learning project for the 2005-2006 school year, contact Danielle Jones, Special Projects Coordinator, 525-6641 or [djones@stancoe.org](mailto:djones@stancoe.org).

*"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. – Benjamin Franklin"*