

STEEP – CREEC



Newsletter

Winter 2006

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 Region 6B

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

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Recommended Reading

☉ Be inspired and motivated by Richard Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. The book jacket reads, "Nature-deficit disorder is not a medical condition; it is a description of the human costs of alienation from nature. This alienation damages children and shapes adults, families, and communities. *Last Child in the Woods* is the first book to bring together cutting-edge research showing that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development - physical, emotional, and spiritual. What's more, nature is a potent therapy for depression, obesity, and ADD." You can also borrow a copy of *Last Child in the Woods* from the STEEP-CREEC Network by contacting Tricia Dunlap, tdunlap@stancoe.org.

☉ Three middle-schoolers take on greedy land developers and corrupt politicians in the mystery adventure, and Newberry Honor book, *HOOT* by Carl Hiaasen. *HOOT* revolves around a Montana boy, Roy Eberhardt, who moves to Florida and unearths a disturbing threat to a local population of endangered owls. A great read for yourself as well as your Jr. High students. The National Wildlife Federation and Walden Media have also teamed up to produce the film version of *HOOT* scheduled to open April 21, 2006. To learn more about the movie and to download resources especially for educators go to <http://www.nwf.org>, <http://www.hootmovie.com>, or <http://walden.com/hoot>.

☉ The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation has recently published the document "Environmental Literacy in America". The document is data-rich and compiles hundreds of studies into a comprehensive look at the state of knowledge of the environment, nature and energy and what impact increased knowledge/skill behavior. For a free download go to <http://www.neetf.org/pubs/index.htm>.

Environmental Education Highlights

Water Education Resources



Project WET: Water Education for Teachers

Join us at the Stanislaus County Office of Education on Saturday, April 1st, 2006 for a Project WET Facilitator's Training Day, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Become a facilitator and be able to offer Project WET workshops to your students and staff. To register for this FREE training, contact Brian Brown at 916-444-6240 or projectwet@watereducation.org. The registration fee is just \$15 and will be refunded at the door. The workshop was made possible thanks to the Water Education Foundation, the Modesto Irrigation District, and STEEP-CREEC. To download a flyer go to www.creec.org/region6b.

Water Science for Schools <http://www.usgs.gov/droplet>

Drop on in for water information and activities including: water basics, water use, earth's water, special topics, picture gallery, and water Q&A. The USGS Water Resources of California also has real-time stream flow data/current & archived water data at <http://ca.water.usgs.gov>

Water Facts & Fun <http://www.publicaffairs.water.ca.gov/education/catalog.cfm>

The California Department of Water Resources has a new color poster illustrating how water travels from mountain to ocean and how it is used for many purposes along the way. This 26"x26" poster is available through the online catalog. All of the materials are available at no cost to teachers.

Water Videos <http://www.publicaffairs.water.ca.gov/education/videos>



The California Department of Water Resources has a newly revised Video catalog. Videos include the 3 in 1 Children's Video (including the Water Cycle), Water Management in California, Issues & the Environment, and Flood Management. Many of the videos also come with Video Activity Packets. All are available to rent for free through the Water Facts & Fun catalog. The cost to purchase videos and DVDs has been reduced to only \$5.

Water Education Foundation <http://watereducation.org>

Go to the Water Kids and School Programs links to find information and activities covering important water topics like: the water cycle, the earth's water supply, the water "no-knows" game, and Ollie saves the planet. Videos are also available for elementary, secondary, and college students. You can also find more information about the California Project WET trainings and curriculum.

Salmon and Steelhead: A Multi-disciplinary Instructional Unit for Grade 6

<http://sns.ucdavis.edu> Adopt-A-Watershed has a new on-line curriculum unit titled "Salmon and Steelhead". Through the activities, students can explore relationships between the people and the salmon and steelhead that live, or once lived, within their community's watershed. For more information about Adopt-A- Watershed visit <http://www.adopt-a-watershed.org>.

Modesto Irrigation District <http://www.mid.org/about/learning/default.htm>

MID has over 40 videos available at no charge to schools within the MID service area. Topics include electricity, energy resources, electric safety, water cycle, water conservation, rivers, water safety, and the California water story.

City of Modesto <http://www.modestogov.com>

The City Of Modesto, Water Conservation Department, provides free educational Water Conservation Presentations to elementary schools, grades K thru 6. They also have several publications available to teachers and schools within the city, on a first-come basis. E-mail your requests to Jose Cavazos, jcavazos@modestogov.com or call (209) 342-2212. You may arrange to pick up the videos or have them delivered.

Salmonids in the Classroom <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

The Department of Fish and Game's Salmonids in the Classroom, part of the Classroom Aquarium Education Program, is a project-based program for students in grades K-12. With help from teachers and community volunteers, students raise trout or salmon from eggs to small fish in their classrooms. The students then release the fish into a local river. For more information contact Gail Hickman-Davis at gdavis@dfg.ca.gov or call 209-853-2533 ext. 8#.

Water-Our Precious Gift free slideshow presentation

<http://www.cserc.org/main/educational/index.html> Offered by the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, students not only learn about the many ways that humans use and rely on fresh water, but they also learn about the water cycle, plus how to conserve and enjoy this critical resource. If your group or school would like to arrange for one of the Center's environmental slide show programs, contact CSERC by e-mail at info@cserc.org or call (209) 586-7440.

Erase the Waste: Water Quality Service Learning Program

<http://www.waterlessons.org/> The California Water Boards have developed water quality lessons, using Service Learning and hands-on experiences, for 4th through 6th grade students. The website has a downloadable version of the lessons as well as the web cast training video and online teacher support. You can also obtain a hard copy of the lessons from your CREEC Coordinator, Tricia Dunlap, 209-525-6604 or tdunlap@stancoe.org.

**More Water Education Resources**

For more than 450 other water education resources go to the CREEC online Resource Directory at www.creec.org and type in "water" as the Key Word Search.

Environmental Service Opportunities

Mend the Bend, April 1, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Join the Tuolumne River Trust in a volunteer tree planting day at the Big Bend Habitat Restoration Site, Modesto. This will be a great local restoration activity for your family or students. Participants are needed to help plant acorns and other species. For more information about Mend the Bend or other environmental service activities contact Patrick Koepele, Patrick@tuolumne.org or call 209-236-0330.

National Environmental Education Week, April 16-22, 2006, will involve thousands of educators and millions of students. It will enhance the educational impact of **Earth Day, April 22, 2006**, and will create a full week of environmental education preparation, learning and activities in K-12 classrooms. <http://www.EEWeek.org>.



National Youth Service Day, April 21-23, 2006 Order or download free planning toolkits and Service-Learning Curriculum. National & Global Youth Service Day supports youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement, and educates the public, the media, and elected officials about the role of youth as community leaders. <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/>

National Wildlife Week, April 22-30, 2006 Get outside and explore your community! Participate in a fun volunteer service project, read about wildlife with books geared toward ages 3-12 years, or spend the weekend watching wildlife. To find out more go to the National Wildlife Federation's website at <http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek>.

Please do not dispose of batteries or fluorescent lamps in your garbage containers. Assembly Bill 1699 requires disposal of both of these items in a safe and environmentally sound manner effective February 9, 2006. Contact your district or County Office of Education regarding details for proper disposal.



Share this newsletter with your colleagues and visit <http://www.creec.org/region6b> for regular updates. **The CREEC on line calendar has a new look!** Be sure to check it out for local and state-wide environmental education activities.

