

December 2009

Region 8 Serves San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Kern Counties

## In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter  
submission?

Contact Teresa Lees  
for submission  
guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8  
Teresa "Tree" Lees  
CREEC 8 Coordinator  
tlees@slocoe.org  
805-782-7265  
www.creec.org/region8

## EE Success Stories

### Exemplary EE Programs –Students at Coastal Marine Biolabs Apply Biotechnology to Monitor Microbial Water Quality in Ventura

Coastal Marine Biolabs has teamed up with UCLA, USC, Central Coast City Corps, the California Applied Biotechnology Centers Initiative, the Central Coast Biotechnology Center, and the Ventura County Office of Education to monitor levels of fecal indicator bacteria in our local waters. Bacteria that live in the intestinal tracts of animals are passed into coastal waters through fecal waste. Fecal contamination impairs environmental water quality and presents potential health risks to humans who use the water for recreation.

Over the last six months, Oxnard and Ventura City Corps leaders and volunteers, along with other Ventura County students, received training in the use of EPA-approved field and laboratory techniques to monitor fecal coliforms, E. coli, and enterococci in Ventura Harbor, the Ventura Keys, and the Arundell Barranca. Efforts are now underway to expand the scope of this exciting environmental education project to other California coastal regions.

For more information contact Ralph Imondi [imondi@coastalmarinebiolabs.org](mailto:imondi@coastalmarinebiolabs.org)



Laurie Anderson (Ventura City Corps) and Ameer Atrash (Oxnard City Corps) processing sediment samples for testing.

*Each month, a school in Region 8 will be highlighted in this section of the newsletter telling a story of what makes the school an Exemplary EE Program. If you know of schools to showcase, including your own, please e-mail me their/your story. – Teresa "Tree" Lees*

### Special Note: EE Provider Networking Reception for Ventura County – Jan. 27, 2010

Environmental Education Providers in the CREEC Network will get together at the Patagonia Offices on Wednesday, January 27 from 4pm to 6pm to network. Paul Jenkins from Surfrider will be the guest speaker. Please put this date on your calendar.

## In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter  
submission?

Contact Teresa Lees  
for submission  
guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8  
Teresa "Tree" Lees  
CREEC 8 Coordinator  
tlees@slocoe.org  
806-782-7265  
www.creec.org/region8

## EE Resources

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day in 2010 – April 22, 2010

#### Arts for the Earth™ Initiative Underway

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, Earth Day Network has launched an *Arts for the Earth™* initiative to spotlight environmental artistic achievements from photographers, painters, dancers, sculptors and musicians. Earth Day Network is teaming up with Americans for the Arts, the national arts organization, to take this initiative to a grassroots level across the US, to encourage museum greenings and promote more environmental programming and exhibits for Earth Day 2010. Arts for the Earth™ will extend globally as we partner with international arts associations, museums and individual artists.



To become involved, please contact Anjali Hansen, Arts for the Earth™ Coordinator, at [hansen@earthday.net](mailto:hansen@earthday.net). Website: [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)

#### Greening Your Schools

On the Earth Day Network website is a useful guide to greening schools: <http://earthday.net/greenyourschool> It includes resources for Facilities, Food, Recreation, Transportation and Curricula & Classroom.

### National Environmental Education Week, April 11-17, 2010 Theme is.....

#### Be Water *and* Energy Wise: The Water-Energy Connection

Our nation's water and energy resources are increasingly important topics of discussion not just in the news, but in classrooms and homes as well. Recognizing the importance of conserving both water and energy to protect the planet and reduce costs -- and acknowledging the connection between water and energy -- EE Week's 2010 theme is *Be Water and Energy Wise*. [http://eeweek.org/water\\_and\\_energy\\_wise](http://eeweek.org/water_and_energy_wise)

Register today to participate in EE Week 2010. <http://www.eeweek.org/register>

In addition to EE Week's library of resources and curricula on water and energy, we have developed a new resource page for educators on *The Water-Energy Connection*. [http://eeweek.org/water\\_and\\_energy\\_wise/connection](http://eeweek.org/water_and_energy_wise/connection)

In the United States, generating power consumes 3 percent of our nation's water annually and 13 percent of the energy produced in this country each year is used to treat, transport and heat our water. Conserving water saves energy, and vice versa. The water-energy connection is complex, but it provides an excellent opportunity to get students thinking about the interrelatedness of ecological and environmental concerns.

### Nature School – 3 Day Winter Adventures in SLO – December 21 – 23, 2009

Outside NOW! Offers three days of nature adventures this December. Come join the Central Coast Village Center for one or more days of this Winter Adventure to get re-connected to some of the best wild places of SLO County. Call 805-541-9900 to register today. Space is limited to 14 students, ages 7 – 17. Meet at Santa Rosa Park. \$55 per day.

#### In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8  
Teresa "Tree" Lees  
CREEC 8 Coordinator  
tlees@slocoe.org  
805-782-7265  
www.creec.org/region8

## Green Teacher Magazine

For the past 19 years, Green Teacher magazine has provided parents, teachers, and other youth educators from nature centers, parks, etc, with the ideas, activities and inspiration for promoting environmental learning amongst young people aged 6-19. Each quarterly issue is packed with innovative activities covering a wide variety of enviro-topics, along with reviews of the newest green learning resources. To get a better idea of what the magazine has to offer, check out the digital version of a recent issue that is posted for anyone to view for free at [www.greenteacher.com](http://www.greenteacher.com).

From now until Christmas, all those who purchase a digital or print subscription to Green Teacher magazine will be financially supporting environmental education in California. The editors of this award-winning magazine will provide a rebate to the Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education (AEOE) of 20% for each subscription from our state that they receive from now until December 25th.

*More EE Resources can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "Resource Directory" as well as the "For Teachers" or "For Providers" link.*

---

## Trainings & Workshops

### Water Leaders Training 2010

**Deadline: December 7, 2009**

The Water Education Foundation of California offers a program that educates young professional from diverse backgrounds about water issues. Each class member is assigned a top level policy-maker as a mentor as the class researches and analyzes a specific water topic. Class members are expected to attend a January orientation, the Bay-Delta Tour, one other Foundation tour, and the March 25-26 Executive Briefing. Class members also spend time shadowing their mentor and work on a class research report. Tuition is \$2,500 and there is a \$25 application fee. Scholarship funding is available. The class begins January 2010. To apply, visit: <http://www.watereducation.org/userfiles/2010WaterLeaders.pdf>

### NOAA Teacher at Sea Program

**Deadline: December 31, 2009**

This program sends teachers to sea aboard NOAA research and survey ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew. Participants can expect to be at sea anywhere from one week to one month, with the average cruise lasting 12-14 days. The mission is a clearer insight into our ocean planet and to increase environmental literacy for teachers. To apply, visit: <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/apply/index.html>.

**More Trainings & Workshops can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "For Teachers" link at [www.creec.org/region8/](http://www.creec.org/region8/)**

---

## Community Events

### *Morro Coast Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count – Dec. 19, 2009 in Los Osos*

Saturday, December 19th, Dawn to Dusk count area is a circle 15 miles in diameter, centered at Turri Road and Los Osos Valley Road.

Please join in and support this annual event. Audubon membership is not required, but national rules will not permit us to accept a count from an unregistered observer. There is a \$5.00 registration fee (required by National Audubon). The \$5.00 fee goes toward the compilation and publication costs of the data in the American Birds Magazine.

## In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8  
Teresa "Tree" Lees  
CREEC 8 Coordinator  
tlees@slocoe.org  
805-782-7265  
www.creec.org/region8

To register and for more information contact Bert and Elaine Townsend, CBC Coordinators (805) 543-1373, [betownsend@sbcglobal.net](mailto:betownsend@sbcglobal.net)

Potluck dinner after count, 6pm, Rancho El Chorro Outdoor School behind the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education offices.

*More Community Events can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "EE Calendar" link.*

---

## Conferences/Classes

### **Green Schools Conference – Bringing Sustainability to a New Generation December 9 – 11, 2009, Pasadena, CA**

Come to the nation's largest green schools event for information, education and resources that will help you discover how to take schools buildings into the green economy. Find out how you can save on energy costs and other green building technology. To register or for more information, visit: <http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/>

### **Pathways to the Future Teacher Institute – December 10-11, 2009**

Part of Green Schools Conference – Pasadena, CA

The Green Technology Teacher Training Institutes produces professional development events for teachers with the purpose of familiarizing them with standards-based curriculum resources that are related to the green economy. We do this through an event called "Pathways to the Future" a two-day conference for teachers in grades 5-12. It's an extremely informative and fun event that gives teachers opportunities to hear from green industry professionals in order to find out what's really happening in the green economy sector, and then helps them to plan how to integrate that information into their curriculum.

The Early Bird registration is only \$265 for the full two-day program, but you must register by December 1<sup>st</sup>! We also have scholarship opportunities for this event (and the sooner we get in applications, the better, as they are limited).

<http://www.green-technology.org/TI-new/>

*More Conferences/Classes can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "EE Calendar" or "For Providers" links.*

---

## EE Grants & Contests

**Ten Garden Grants: (In time for Christmas)** Seek local sources of funding and in-kind support for your school garden project. Many projects work by creatively using school budgets and partnering with community members and businesses for donations and grant support. Please note that some of these are national and highly competitive:

### **1. Mantis Awards**

Sponsor: Mantis

Award package: Mantis tiller/cultivators

Number of awards: 25

Who qualifies: community, school, and youth garden programs

Annual application deadline: March 1

Full details, criteria, and application: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis-criteria.asp>

## In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8  
Teresa "Tree" Lees  
CREEC 8 Coordinator  
tlees@slocoe.org  
805-782-7265  
www.creec.org/region8

### 2. Healthy Sprouts Awards

Sponsor: Gardener's Supply Company

Award package: Gift certificates to Gardener's Supply. Five programs will each receive a certificate valued at \$500; 15 more will each receive a \$200 gift certificate

Number of awards: 20

Who qualifies: School and youth garden programs

Annual application deadline: October 15

Full details, criteria, and application: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>

### 3. Hooked on Hydroponics Awards

Sponsor: The Grow Store in conjunction with the Progressive Gardening Trade Association

Award package: Hydroponics systems valued between \$360 to \$1,100

Number of awards: 36

Who qualifies: School garden programs

Annual application deadline: September 18, 2009

Full details, criteria, and application: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/HOH.asp>

### 4. Public School Teachers Request

Sponsor: DonorsChoose.org

Award package:

Who qualifies: Teacher defined projects in schools Annual application deadline: Rolling

Full details, criteria, and application: <http://www.donorschoose.org/teacher/index.html>

### 5. Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program

Sponsor: USDA – CSREES

Award package: \$10,000 - \$300,000

Number of awards: not specified

Who qualifies: private, nonprofit entities meeting specific requirements

Annual application deadline: May

Full details, criteria, and application:

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/communityfoodprojects.cfm>

### 6. Garden Crusader Awards

Sponsor: Gardener's Supply

Award package: Cash and gift certificates

Number of awards: 21

Who qualifies: individuals across the United States who are improving their communities through gardening.

Annual application deadline: June 15th

Full details, criteria, and application: <http://www.gardeners.com/>

### 7. 2010 Youth Garden Grants

Sponsor: National Gardening Assoc and Home Depot

Award package: \$500 -\$1000 gift cards

Number of awards: 100

Who qualifies: community, school, and youth garden programs

Annual application deadline: November 2nd

Full details, criteria, and application: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/ygg.asp>

### 8. Champions for Healthy Kids

Sponsor: General Mills

Award package: \$10,000

Number of awards: 50

Who qualifies: community-based groups that develop creative ways to help youth adopt a balanced diet and physically active lifestyle.

Annual application deadline: March 1

Full details, criteria, and application: [www.generalmills.com](http://www.generalmills.com)

In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8  
Teresa "Tree" Lees  
CREEC 8 Coordinator  
tlees@slocoe.org  
805-782-7265  
www.creec.org/region8

## 9. America the Beautiful Fund

<http://www.america-the-beautiful.org/>

Non-profit group receives seed donations from major seed companies. Sets of 50 packets of vegetables, flowers and herbs are available for the cost of postage and handling.

## 10. Outdoor Classroom Grant Program

The goal is to provide schools with additional resources to improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. All K-12 public schools in the United States are welcome to apply.

[www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com)

## Increase Your Green Competition

**Deadline: December 8, 2009**

DoSomething.org is calling on students to green their schools. Students who make the biggest effort to reduce their school's carbon footprint could win up to \$1,500 to further their efforts. Schools are eligible for a first-place prize of a \$1,500 grant, a banner, a plaque, an eco-friendly gift bag and a chance to be visited by the biotour bus. Three \$500 second place prizes will also be awarded. For more information, visit:

[http://sss.dosomething.org/increase\\_your\\_green](http://sss.dosomething.org/increase_your_green).

## DISNEY LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COMPETITION FOR THE CLASSROOM, DISNEY'S PLANET CHALLENGE

**Deadline to apply is December 18, 2009**

Disney announced the nationwide launch of Disney's Planet Challenge, a project-based environmental competition for 4th – 6th grade classrooms that will empower students to make a difference in school, at home and in their local communities. With more than 15 years experience running highly-acclaimed classroom environmental competitions in regional markets including California and Florida (as "Disney's Environmental Challenge®"), Disney developed the new Disney's Planet Challenge in response to growing demand across all 50 states. Program collaborations with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the K-12 Alliance and state and federal government agencies ensure academic and environmental excellence. Participation in the program is free, and enrollment is open today at [www.disney.com/planetchallenge](http://www.disney.com/planetchallenge).

## President's Environmental Youth Awards

**Deadline: December 31, 2009**

Since 1971, the US EPA has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The program recognizes young people across America in grades K-12 for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. To be eligible to compete submit to your local EOA regional office evidence of your completed project along with your application. To apply, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/envired/peya/index.html>

## Nominations open for the 2010 Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award

**Deadline: January 15, 2010**

The Richard C. Bartlett Award is presented annually by the National Environmental Education Foundation to an outstanding teacher who has successfully integrated environmental education into his or her daily curriculum. The 2010 prize will be given to a *high school* teacher who can serve as an inspiration and model for both students and colleagues. **The winner receives a \$5,000 award and a trip to Washington D.C.** where he or she meets with representatives from the environmental education community to further his or her education network. Do you know a teacher who stands out among the rest? If so, please nominate him/her for the 2010 Richard C. Bartlett Award. Nominations will be accepted through **January 15, 2010**. To learn more or submit your nomination visit <http://www.neefusa.org/bartlettaward.htm>

### Coastal Art & Poetry Contest

**Deadline: January 30, 2010**

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art & Poetry Contest. Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. All winners and honorable mentions will receive tickets for their families to visit the Aquarium of the Pacific, courtesy of the Aquarium. Students may have their work featured on Commission web pages and materials, and winning entries will be exhibited throughout the state. For rules and entry form, visit [www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/poster.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/poster.html) (or follow the links from [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org) ), email [coast4u@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:coast4u@coastal.ca.gov) , or call (800) Coast-4U. Contest flyers (PDF or hard copy) are available upon request.

### Siemens "We Can Change the World" Challenge

**Deadlines: January 31, 2010 for elementary groups and March 15, 2010 for middle school groups**

The Siemens "We Can Change the World" challenge offers students the opportunity to make a sustainable change, matched to academic concepts and skills. Teams of students find an adult mentor who will play an active role in guiding student development of the project and submission of materials. Visit: <http://wecanchange.com/>

### Applications Invited for Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence

Amgen has announced that it is accepting applications for its 19th annual Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence. The award is designed to recognize and honor extraordinary science teachers at the K-12 level who significantly impact their students through exemplary science teaching and who achieve demonstrated results in student learning in communities where Amgen operates. Grant of up to \$5,000 will be awarded.

Amgen will honor a total of thirty-four teachers in states where Amgen has operating sites: California, Colorado, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Washington, and Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec).

**Deadline:** February 5, 2010

**Posted:** November 13, 2009

<http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/aaste.html>

This is the end of the December 2009 Region 8 CREEC Newsletter  
Please submit items to Teresa "Tree" Lees for the next  
CREEC E-Newsletter at [tlees@slocoe.org](mailto:tlees@slocoe.org)

