



Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

February 2008

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

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EE Success Stories

CREEC Social Networking – Gatherings for Environmental Educators

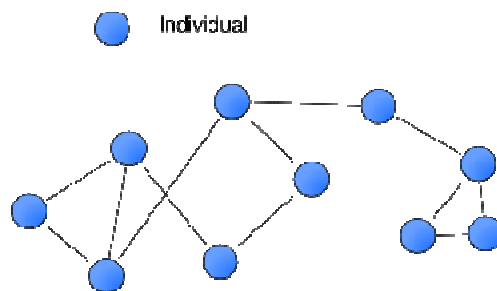
(Note: Not to be confused with Social Networking Services, such as “My Space.”)

For more information go to the EE Provider Highlight section at the end of this newsletter.

The CREEC Network can be viewed as a social network, composed of individuals all interested in the common goal of environmental education. To facilitate the social aspect of the CREEC Network, a series of networking opportunities is beginning. The location will vary throughout the year, whereby each hosting organization can highlight their program, but the main purpose is to network with one another in order to strengthen the network. These will be held at 5pm at the following locations:

Ventura County CREEC Network Gathering – held on January 16 at Falkner Farms
Kern County CREEC Network Gathering – February 22 at Kern COG in Bakersfield
Santa Barbara County CREEC Network Gathering – March 21 at Santa Barbara Zoo
San Luis Obispo County CREEC Network Gathering – April 18 at San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

A social network is a social structure made of nodes (which are generally individuals or organizations) that are tied by one or more specific types of interdependency, such as values, visions, ideas, friendships, kinship, web links or other associations. The resulting structures are often very complex. An example of a social network diagram:



Social network analysis views social relationships in terms of nodes and ties. Nodes are the individual actors within the networks, and ties are the relationships between the actors. There can be many kinds of ties between the nodes. Research in a number of academic fields has shown that social networks operate on many levels, from families up to the level of nations, and play a critical role in determining the way problems are solved, organizations are run, and the degree to which individuals succeed in achieving their goals. In its simplest form, a social network is a map of all of the relevant ties between the nodes being studied. The network can also be used to determine the social capital of individual actors. These concepts are often displayed in a social network diagram, where nodes (agents) are the blue points and ties (relationships) are the lines. “Six Degrees of Separation” is another coined phrase for this phenomenon.

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

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www.creec.org/region8

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EE Resources

The Greatest Good K-12 Teacher Guide



The Greatest Good K-12 Teacher Guide on our website received over 9000 visitors in 2007. *The Greatest Good* film was produced by the U.S. Forest Service in honor of its Centennial celebration in 2005. The use of this film or book in a classroom offers an ideal way for students to study many natural resource issues facing society today.

The Teacher Guide (www.foresthistory.org/Education/TGG/Index.html) offers K-12 educators suggestions for incorporating age-appropriate portions of the film and its bonus materials into the social studies, science, math, and civics classroom. There are also links to complementary activities and lessons from many different organizations. We hope you continue to find this to be a great resource to add to your favorites. The DVD's and books may be purchased through FHS, <http://foresthistory.org/Publications/USFS%20centennial.html>.

FREE COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (called CFLs) to volunteers who talk to friends, school, or club on benefits of using energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs. Receive free Light Leader Guide to help you. For details or to make this your class or group project, contact bulbatatime@yahoo.com

Compact fluorescents (CFLs) reduce electric bills, using 75% less energy than standard bulbs. Replacing ONE standard bulb with ONE CFL will keep a half-ton of CO₂ out of the air over the life of the bulb. If every house in America replaced ONE light bulb with an energy-saving bulb, we could save enough energy to light 2 1/2 million homes for one year, or prevent pollution equal to 1 million cars on the road.

Bulbs Across America will offer a demo-class April 9, 2008 through Cal Poly's Osher Lifelong Learning Program. Expect a variety light show with information fliers and free CFLs. A special feature will be a meter lamp for wattage comparison between a standard light bulb and an energy-saving compact fluorescent one. Contact bulbatatime@yahoo.com to schedule a future event. (805) 459-9588

Story of Stuff Video online <http://storyofstuff.com/>

Check out this video available online and show to others. Clever cartoon presentation on where our stuff comes from, what goes into manufacturing our stuff, how stuff is sold, and where our stuff ends up at.

National Recycling Coalition Curriculum

According to the National Recycling Coalition, recycling saves enough energy each year to provide electricity for the homes of over 17.8 million Americans. It is one of the easiest ways to conserve natural resources and slow climate change.

National Environmental Education Week has just added dozens of standards-based recycling curricula to their growing online curricula library. [Click here to access the EE Week Library:](http://www.eeweek.org/resources/recycle_curricula.htm)
http://www.eeweek.org/resources/recycle_curricula.htm



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

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Solar Schools Workshops sponsored by PG&E and The NEED Project

March 1, 2008 Solar Schools Workshop in San Luis Obispo

March 8, 208 Solar Schools Workshop in Bakersfield

This workshop, designed to provide hands-on materials and training for K-12 teachers, shows you how to incorporate solar energy education activities into your science lessons. All participating teachers will receive a Schools Going Solar kit for their grade level and additional materials created by the NEED Project. The curriculum and training is correlated to California state content standards and will help energize your classroom! Thanks to the support of PG&E there is no cost to attend the workshop. Breakfast and lunch are provided and substitute reimbursement is too! For Saturday workshops, teachers will receive a \$100 stipend to attend!

Registration for workshops is due 10 days prior to the workshop and can be obtained by contacting Barry Scott, PG&E Solar Schools Coordinator.

Workshop location will be confirmed in registration confirmation emails.

If you have questions or need further information about the PG&E Solar Schools Workshop contact NEED at 800-875-5029 or e-mail Barry Scott, PG&E Solar Schools Coordinator at bscott@need.org. Fax registration forms to 800-847-1820.

Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds Teacher's Workshop

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 4-6pm

South Coast Watershed Resource Center, SANTA BARBARA

Register by March 25.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 4-6pm

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, SAN LUIS OBISPO

Register by March 25.

The California Coastal Commission is offering a free workshop, which will introduce formal and informal educators to the Commission's science activity guide for teachers, *Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds*. Participants will receive a free copy of the book, try out some of the activities, and get an overview of the other free educational resources and programs the Coastal Commission has available. *Waves, Wetlands, and Watershed* is aligned for grades 3 through 8, but also includes community action activities appropriate for all ages.

Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds is a classroom activity guide for teachers that addresses California's critical coastal and marine issues such as endangered species, marine debris, coastal geology, water use, and much more. It is aligned to the California State Science Content Standards for grades 3 through 8, and includes Community Action lessons adaptable for all ages up to and beyond grade 12. The connection between inland areas and the ocean is emphasized throughout, so the lessons are relevant for students living in all regions of California. For more information, visit www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/waves/waves1.html

Professional growth credit is offered through the University of the Pacific when additional work is performed.

Contact Information:

Annie Kohut Frankel

afrankel@coastal.ca.gov

(415) 497-5888 or

(800) COAST4U

45 Fremont Street, STE 2000

San Francisco, CA 94105

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**Delicious Education – Garden, Kitchen & Community as Classroom Seminar
Monday through Wednesday, February 4-6, 2008**

Fee: \$300 for tuition, breakfasts, and lunches

Seminar runs from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm each day.

Website: <http://www.ecoliteracy.org/seminars/index.html>

Location: Center for Ecoliteracy, 2528 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, California



The Chez Panisse Foundation and the Center for Ecoliteracy have designed a three-day seminar to support teachers who want to embed hands-on instruction into the academic classroom, using the kitchen, garden, and community as the context for learning. The seminar is designed to help teachers balance the tensions between teaching to standards and creating robust experiential learning opportunities for students.

The first day will be facilitated by the Center for Ecoliteracy with a focus on the links between food, health, culture and environment - on both personal and classroom levels. Participants will explore and discuss core ecological principles, then investigate how the principles come to life in the classroom and community.

Second and third days will be led by the Chez Panisse Foundation and will expand the focus on classroom instruction, curriculum development and design. We will build on day one and lead participants through the process of designing hands-on lessons that take into account academic standards and experiential learning. Day two will include a site visit to the Edible Schoolyard at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School.

**April 2 & 3 - Garden Based Learning Workshop # Three at
San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden in El Chorro Regional
Park from 8am - 1pm**

April 2 is for South County & SLCUSD Teachers

April 3 is for North County & North Coast Teachers

UCCE Master Gardeners are offering a series of three workshops in support of school gardens. Creating and Sustaining Your Garden Based Learning School Garden workshops will give a comprehensive overview of how to start, use and sustain your GBL School Garden Program. All three workshops will address California Content Standards, lessons plans and hands on demonstrations. The cost for all three workshops combined is \$50.



Workshop Three: Plants, Seeds, Transplanting, Harvesting, Weed Control, Maintaining and Sustaining Your Garden, Classroom Management, Lesson Plans and Hands on Demonstrations

Interested teachers and volunteers can access the flyer, online registration, or a downloadable registration form on the Cooperative Extension website at [http://cesanluisobispo.ucdavis.edu/Master%5FGardener/Garden Based Learning.htm](http://cesanluisobispo.ucdavis.edu/Master%5FGardener/Garden_Based_Learning.htm)

Or call Cindy Muther, Master Gardener at 466-9018 to see if there is still time to register.

Population Connection Training Institute – August 2-3, 2008

Population Connection is hosting a two-day training institute this summer for educators (formal and nonformal) around the state who would like to be trained to facilitate workshops using Population Connection curricula. Our program presents over 500 workshops each year for pre-service groups, professional development and conference audiences. Most are presented by volunteer facilitators who have gone through this training and want to share the hands-on materials with peers and future teachers.

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For this event, we have funding from a few major donors/family foundations in San Francisco. It will be held at the Fort Mason Conference Center on August 2-3, 2008. We will be able to provide travel stipends and lodging for those traveling from other parts of the state. It will be a great event and I'm hoping you can help me get the word out to anyone you think might be interested. All of the information and an application form can be found at our program website: www.populationeducation.org.

More Trainings & Workshops can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "For Teachers" link.

Community Events

Marine Science Seminars in Cambria, February 08

Camp Ocean Pines is hosting 5 leading marine science researchers who will present Friday and Saturday night lectures. The Central Coast is an unspoiled place to study the incredible Pacific Ocean. Each winter we have front row seats for the elephant seal breeding and birthing spectacle! I invite teachers to bring a school group to Camp Ocean Pines or individuals to take a personal weekend retreat at Cambria Pines Lodge to learn the latest ocean research from the experts.

February 8-10 2008 "Leatherback Turtles, Sharks, Tuna"

George Shillinger is a Stanford University researcher applying his discoveries to improve the conservation and management of leatherback sea turtles, sharks, tuna, and billfish. George is a doctoral candidate at Stanford University. He holds an MBA from Yale, an MS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Stanford. The leatherback sea turtle has seen over 90% decline in the Pacific within the last 20 years. George's satellite tagging data provides an improved understanding about the influence of environmental conditions on animal behavior. Students learn scientific processes and follow his research subjects through the "GreatTurtleRace.com."

- Friday Lecture Feb 8 at the Cambria Vets Hall 7 pm
- Saturday Lecture Feb 9 at Avila Beach Marine Institute 7 pm

For more information, contact Chris Cameron, Director, Camp Ocean Pines 805-927-0254 (805-927-0254) or check out the Camp Ocean Pines website at www.campoceanpines.org

Earth Day is Coming!!!

April 12, 2008 – Earth Day Festivities at Oxnard City Park in Oxnard

April 19, 2008 – Earth Day Festivities at Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo

April 20, 2008 – Earth Day Festivities at Sunken Gardens in Santa Barbara

April 20, 2008 – Earth Day Street Faire at Natural History Museum in Santa Maria

National Environmental Education Week – April 13-19, 2008

Over 100 educational institutions have already registered to participate in National Environmental Education Week, April 13- 19, 2008. In conjunction with the start of the school



National Environmental Education Week

year in September, EE Week will launch a redesigned website featuring standards-based K-12th grade activities and lesson plans, professional development opportunities, and a Promotional Toolkit with printable flyers, sample announcements, and template press releases. The 2008 theme will also be announced, so stay tuned for further details! If you work with children in a school, nature center, zoo, museum, aquarium, or other educational institution, you can join EE Week's efforts and gain national exposure for your work. To register for EE Week (it only takes 5 minutes and is free) go to www.EEWeek.org/register.htm . All inquiries about EE Week can be directed to EEWeek@neefusa.org or 202-261-6484.

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April 26, 2008 - Arbor Day Festivities at Laguna Lake from 10am - 12pm

San Luis Obispo is celebrating its 25th Anniversary as a Tree City USA on April 26th, 2008. We are sponsoring a large gathering of students and interested citizens to celebrate the day at Laguna Lake Park Commemorative Tree Grove. We will plant trees, showcase the art and prose contest and announce our new Heritage Trees for the City! An art and poetry student contest is part of the festivities. For more information contact Keith Pellemeier at the City of San Luis at 781-7022 or kpelleme@slocity.org

The National Arbor Day Foundation also sponsors a "Trees are Terrific" poster contest for Fifth Graders. Here is the website to find out more:

<http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/index.cfm>

May 3, 2008 - WaterFest at the Sunken Gardens in Atascadero from 10am - 2pm

Come celebrate with us and learn how you can help protect and conserve water while you play!

<http://www.slowaterfest.org>

Goals of Water Fest are:

Continue local efforts to increase water awareness and to provide a coordinated educational message for the region; Celebrate the high quality waters of the Central Coast, in order to encourage citizens to protect the resource; Host a festival that celebrates water as a valuable natural resource; Provide a venue for organizations & businesses to demonstrate their water protection efforts and promote water friendly products; and Attract an audience that represents a mainstream cross-section of local residents.



Grades 3 - 5 - Water Invention Challenge - Challenge your students to come up with an invention that shows how they can conserve water resources or prevent pollution. Entries are to be brought onsite the day of the event. There will be prizes for the top three inventions in each grade level. To register your school for the Water Invention Challenge contact Teresa Lees at tlees@slocoe.org or 805-782-7265.

Here are some water invention examples and water conservation tips websites:

<http://www.backyardnature.com/cgi-bin/qt/tpl.h.content=629> (John Schommer)

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/newinventors/txt/s1296093.htm> (Sally Dominquez)

Water Conservation Tips: <http://www.monolake.org/socalwater/wctips.htm>

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

Contests & Grants

Toshiba America Grants

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

Large Grant Applications for grades 7-12 are due February 1, 2008.

Toshiba America Foundation contributes to the quality of science and mathematics education in the U.S. with a variety of grants. The foundation focuses its grants on inquiry-based projects designed by individual teachers and small teams of teachers for use in their own classrooms.

California Climate Champions 2008!

In partnership with the British Council, the California Air Resources Board is sponsoring a competition to identify California Climate Champions. This program will engage young people as communicators who will help to influence and educate their peers, as well as the general public, on the urgency of climate change.

Entries are due Feb. 11, 2008, via the program website at

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/climatechampions/climatechampions.htm>.

A poster with competition information can be found at

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/climatechampions/resources.htm>.

Competition Details:

Through an audio, video or written entry, young people aged 16-18 can apply to become California Climate Champions. Their entries will explain their interest in addressing climate change and detail how they might make a difference in their schools, neighborhoods, communities or other organizations to which they might belong.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to show leadership and commitment for one of the most pressing issues of our time. We hope you will encourage your students to participate. For more information, please contact Annalisa Schilla of the California Air Resources Board at aschilla@arb.ca.gov or (916) 322-8514.

River of Words Art and Poetry Contest

<http://www.riverofwords.org/contest/index.html>

Postmark Deadline: February 15, 2008

River of Words is an international environmental poetry and art contest on the theme of watersheds. The contest is open to youth ages 5 – 19. 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.

Intel Schools of Distinction Program to Honor Excellence in Math and Science Ed.

<http://www.intel.com/community/index.htm>

Deadline: February 14, 2008

Every year, Intel honors U.S. schools that have demonstrated excellence in math and science education as Intel Schools of Distinction. One elementary, one middle, and one high school in each of two categories -- math and science -- receive \$10,000 cash grants and more than \$100,000 in products and services from sponsors. One of the six winning schools is chosen as the Star Innovator and receives an additional \$15,000 grant from the Intel Foundation.

In order to be considered as an Intel School of Distinction, schools must develop an environment and curricula that meet or exceed benchmarks, including national mathematics and science content standards. Visit the program's Web site for complete program information and application instructions. RFP

Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10010363/schoolsdistinct>

Arbor Day Poster Contest

<http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/>

Deadline: March 3, 2008

The poster contest is open to all California fifth graders. The theme for 2008 is "Trees are Terrific...Inside and Out!" To request a free curriculum kit, visit the website or contact Kay Antunez at 916-653-7958 or Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov

Energy Calendar Contest

This is announcing the 2009 Energy Calendar Contest sponsored by the California Energy Commission. The contest runs from now until Friday, April 25, 2008 when all artwork must be received. Winners will be notified by May 9, 2008. For more in-depth information, please go to our award winning website at: www.energyquest.ca.gov .

National Association of Biology Teachers Awards

<http://www.nabt.org/sites/S1/index.php?p=290>

Nomination Deadline: March 15, 2008

The National Association of Biology Teachers recognizes excellence in teaching with a variety of awards, including the Ecology/ Environmental Science Teaching Award, and Award for Excellence in Encouraging Equity.

Christopher Columbus Awards

<http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/>

Postmark Deadline: March 17, 2008

The Christopher Columbus Awards is a national, community-based science and technology program for middle school students. The program challenges the students to work in teams of three to four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply the scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem. Our finalist teams and their coaches will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World® to attend National Championship Week and compete for valuable U.S. Savings Bonds plus a \$200 development grant to further refine their idea. One team will receive a \$2,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a plaque for each team member.

May 17, 2008 – Central Coast Regional High School Envirothon Competition to take place in El Chorro Regional Park from 8am - 4pm

The California Envirothon (www.caenvirothon.com) is a statewide, outdoor natural resource education program for high school students, Grades 9-12 sponsored by area Resource Conservation Districts. In the field, students are challenged to work as a team to answer written questions and conduct hands-on projects focusing on environmental knowledge. The regional competition event will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Students from all over Central Coast of California join together to explore the environment in five disciplines: Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics, Soils and a Current Environmental Issue. This year the theme for the environmental topic is "Recreational Impacts of Natural Resources."

In order to participate in the May 17, 2008 Central Coast Regional Envirothon email Teresa Lees at the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (tlees@slocoe.org) your school's team information. Teams consist of five high school students and one adult advisor. All participating high school teams will be treated to lunch, ice cream social and prizes.

Local information is also available on the local RCD website at <http://www.coastalrcd.org/envirothon.html>. You can also view a video of the Canon Envirothon on the ETC Portal by going to Professional Resources in the CREEC box.

More Contest & Grant Opportunities can be found on the CREEC 8 website in the "Funding Opportunities" and Student Contests" links.

Conferences/Classes

NATURAL WONDERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST, Cuesta College The program presents the geologic foundation and natural features from the ocean to the San Andreas Fault on the eastern boundary of San Luis Obispo County. Learn to identify the rocks, minerals, fossils and ecosystems of the Central Coast. Hands-on examination of specimens along with field trips will enhance the understanding of these unique natural features. The program is conducted on Saturdays for 7 consecutive weeks beginning February 2nd thru March 15th. The learning experience is through Cuesta College Community Programs. Cost is \$140 for all seven sessions. The four classes and three individual field trips can be purchased separately. Contact Cuesta College at <http://www.communityprograms.net> or call the instructor John McCabe, at 805-464-0528.

2008 AEOE Statewide Conference – April 25-27, 2008

Save the date: AEOE goes back to Malibu and Camp Hess Kramer on April 25-27 for its 2008 Statewide Conference, "UNLESS We Care." We love this site for its beauty, great facilities, and convenient location (even when driving from northern California). If you are interested in volunteering for the conference committee or presenting a workshop, contact Tara at tmurgatroyd@ymca.org or www.aeoe.org



Go to <http://www.aeoe.org/conference/spring/2008/index.html> for the latest conference updates, including keynotes and entertainment.

Calling all conference workshop presenters: the application deadline is Feb 15th!

Go to

http://www.aeoe.org/conference/spring/2008/workshops/call_for_presenters.html for guidelines, a list of the conference strands and presenter application forms (online or printed). One presenter per workshop will receive half off the conference cost of around \$140. If you have questions, contact the Workshop Coordinator, Steve Morris, at stevomm@hotmail.com

Three University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Online Courses

For a registration form, go to <http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/rwilke/eetap/> or contact Angela Lemar (Angela.Lemar@uwsp.edu).

Participants may obtain three undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The courses are also offered as non-credit workshops for those who are not seeking college credit.

Fundamentals of Environmental Education Online Course

February 4 – April 18, 2008

This course provides educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate quality environmental education into their instruction. Participants discuss the history, definition, and goals of environmental education; and develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators.

Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation Online Course

February 18 – May 9, 2008

The course is designed to assist environmental educators and natural resource professionals in evaluating their education programs. Participants have the opportunity to develop and apply skills in designing evaluation tools such as surveys, observation forms, and interview and focus group guides.

Leadership Development in Natural Resources: Strategic Planning and Implementation

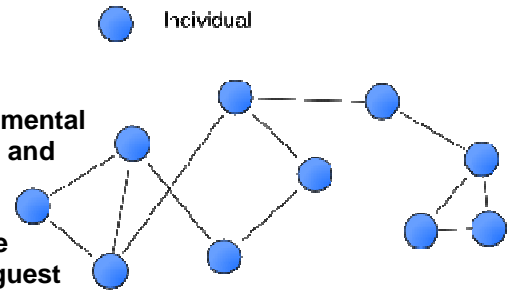
Learn how to develop successful strategic planning and implementation models, processes and techniques. Emphasis will be placed on managing the strategic planning process to build the capacity of organizations to provide effective environmental education programs. Course participants will also have an opportunity for individual consultation time with the course instructor to discuss specific issues/questions they might have regarding strategic planning. This new course has been designed for environmental educators, natural resource professionals and graduate students who are currently involved in a strategic planning process or may become involved in one in the future.

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

EE Provider Highlights

Region 8 CREEC Network Gatherings

Come network and gather with fellow environmental educators in your area. Share resources and program information. A literature table will be available for all agencies and the host agency will have a portion of the evening to showcase their EE opportunities. At future gatherings, guest speakers and EE experts will be featured.



Ventura County CREEC Network Gathering – January 16 at Falkner Farms, Ventura

There was a great gathering of about three dozen people in January for Ventura County. To find out when the next gathering is in Ventura County, contact Mary Maranville at the Ventura County Resource Conservation District at 805-386-4685 or mary.maranville@vcrd.org

Kern County CREEC Network Gathering – February 22, 5pm – 7pm at Kern COG

Kern Council of Governments located at 1401 19th Street, Suite 300 Bakersfield (phone: 661-861-2191) will host the Kern County networking. RSVP: Teresa Lees at trees@slocoe.org or 805-782-7265

Santa Barbara County CREEC Network Gathering – March 21, 5pm – 7pm at the Santa Barbara Zoo

Tiffnay Musgrove and her staff of educators at the zoo will host an evening of networking and socializing. RSVP: Teresa Lees at trees@slocoe.org or 805-782-7265

San Luis Obispo County CREEC Network Gathering – April 18, 5pm – 7pm at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden in El Chorro Regional Park

Come see the new Sustainable Education Center at the SLO Botanical Garden and network with area environmental educators. RSVP: Teresa Lees at trees@slocoe.org



Teresa "Tree" Lees, Region 8 Coordinator

End of February 2008 Newsletter
