



Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

March 2010

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

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- 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@slococoe.org
805-782-7265
www.creec.org/region8

EE Success Stories

CREEC Network EE Provider & Educator Reception – Kern County March 31, 2010 3pm to 5pm at KCSOS Learning Center in Bakersfield

Come gather with fellow EE Providers and Educators in Kern County for the annual CREEC Network reception. It will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 3pm to 5pm at the Computer Training Lab at the KCSOS Learning Center, 2020 "K" Street in Bakersfield. We will have an update on the EEI curriculum as well as the CREEC Resource Directory. EE Providers are invited to share what your upcoming programs are with the group.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on March 31st. Please RSVP to tlees@slococoe.org by March 29th if you plan on attending.

Let us come together and network in Kern County on behalf of environmental education.

CREEC Network BLOG – <http://creecorg.blogspot.com/> A newly established BLOG is on the CREEC Network website. You can access the BLOG on any regional CREEC website or the State homepage at www.creec.org. The BLOG is one of the links on the left hand side. Each month one of the CREEC Coordinators will write a BLOG entry.

The March Blog contains two entries – one on Service Learning and the other on the Green Schools Initiative. Check it out.

CREEC Network is now on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/creecnetwork>

The Facebook page will include postings such as:

- Links to, or summaries of, EE research / educational research
- Updates on the Children and Nature Network
- Links to upcoming conferences for AEOE, NAI, NAAEE, CFAITC, etc.
- Information on efforts to build capacity at the state-wide level
- CA Content Standards / Frameworks / Textbook Adoption updates; CDE Updates; and other environmental education updates
- EEI updates
- Model schools - descriptions/examples/photographs, etc.

CREEC News & Views – www.creec.org Celeste Royer, State Director of the CREEC Network also publishes a monthly E-Newsletter that can be viewed at the CREEC Home website www.creec.org. You can also subscribe to her monthly newsletter.

Note that all CREEC Newsletters must now be subscribed to online for all new people.

EE Resources

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CEEF Survey

On behalf of the California Environmental Education Foundation (CEEF) and the CREEC Network, we would like to ask for your assistance in filling out the CEEF 2010 Self Reflection Tool, via a survey monkey at: (copy & paste into your browser)

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=NkMH1ZofhS8_2bFbcU6giqpg_3d_3d

The Self Reflection Tool is intended for non-profit Environmental Education organizations serving K-12 California students to enhance the use of best practices. CEEF hopes this voluntary self-reflection will help EE providers determine where their program is along a continuum of programmatic development and efficacy, and thereby identify program practices that could be improved. Please fill out the survey by April 1, 2010.

If any questions arise about the survey monkey, please call Kathy Machado, CEEF President, at (408) 265-2607 x 2331.

The Survey results will be made available at the 2010 CSTA Conference, and will be used by CEEF to confidentially combine data from hundreds of Self Reflection Tool responders to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the level of output by California's formal and non-formal EE providers on the use of best-practices in EE.

Bill Andrews
CEEF Director of Planning and Outreach

National EE Week – April 11-17, 2010 <http://www.eeweek.org/>

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) promotes understanding and protection of the natural world by actively engaging K-12th grade students and educators of all subjects in an inspired week of environmental learning and service before Earth Day. The new year is in full swing, and we hope one of your resolutions is to engage students in more environmental learning activities in 2010. Be sure to check out our ever-growing resources, lesson plans and tools at www.EEweek.org.

Just one month remains until EE Week 2010! During the week of April 11-17, thousands of educators and millions of students across the country will participate in a week celebrating environmental learning - and you can join us! Register today at www.eeweek.org/register to take advantage of EE Week's resources and benefits just for participants, including discounts and special offers, certificates of participation, free educator webinars and more.

EE Week's 2010 theme is **Be Water and Energy Wise**. While exploring the topics of water and energy conservation, we also encourage you and your students to reflect on the important connections between water and energy.

National Wildlife Week – March 15-21, 2010

<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Events/National-Wildlife-Week/At-School.aspx>

Studies show that children who spend time outside are more creative, have less stress and perform better in school. Help your students appreciate wildlife, and unlock their learning and imaginative potential during National Wildlife Week.

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.

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Trainings & Workshops

Upcoming Workshops in the Life Lab Garden Classroom

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- **Saturday, March 27, 2010: Sowing the Seeds of Wonder: Discovering the Garden in Early Childhood Education** - Cost: \$150/person. 1 semester unit of graduate education credit available for an additional \$60. Registration deadline, March 12.
- **Thursday and Friday, April 29-30, 2010: The Growing Classroom: Intro to Garden-Based Learning** - Cost: \$300/person. 1 semester unit of graduate education credit available for an additional \$60 fee. Registration deadline, March 16.
- **Friday, May 14, 2010: Plant It, Grow It, Eat It: Garden-Enhanced Nutrition Education** - Cost: \$150/person. 1 semester unit of graduate education credit available for an additional \$60. Registration deadline, April 30.

- **To register for an upcoming workshop, visit our secure form.**
- If you would like to be notified when we add new workshop dates, please join our [email list](#).
- To view and print the information above, click on our [Upcoming Workshop Flyer](#).
- Click here for an [application for Financial Assistance](#). Applications received one month prior to each workshop date will be considered, based on need. For questions, please contact John Fisher at (831)459-4035 or gardendirector@lifelab.org.
- Life Lab and collaborators offer more training opportunities through the Garden-Based Learning Regional Resource Center. [Learn more.](#)

<http://www.lifelab.org/workshops.php>

Occidental Arts & Ecology Center's School Garden Teacher Training, Summer 2010 Dates <http://www.oaec.org/school-garden>

The core of OAEC's School Garden Program is the five-day residential summer training which offers an array of skills and techniques focused on the instructional school garden, and its integration into multiple subject areas using experiential learning. Through a combination of lecture, resource materials and hands-on sessions we teach participants organic gardening, permaculture, nutrition, garden design, team building, fundraising, art in the garden, and more.

HOW TO APPLY: Please note that acceptance to the School Garden Program, unlike most workshops at OAEC, is by application only. If your school applied previously and would like to reapply, please contact us so we may retrieve your application from the waiting list and update as needed.

2010 Summer Session Dates:

- [June 14th - 18th](#)
- [July 12th - 16th](#)
- [August 2nd - 6th](#)

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Workshops: The Edible Schoolyard Academy, Creating Garden and Kitchen Classrooms in Every Community - Berkeley

When: July 8th & 9th; July 13th & 14th; July 16th & 17th

Where: The Edible Schoolyard garden and kitchen classroom · Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School · 1781 Rose Street · Berkeley, CA 94703

Description: The Chez Panisse Foundation presents the second annual Edible Schoolyard Academy: Creating Garden and Kitchen Classrooms in Every Community. The academies are designed to support emerging garden and kitchen programs nationwide, and to strengthen resource and information sharing among them. Led by Edible Schoolyard staff and guest presenters, the academies provide a two-day Edible Education immersion. Through hands-on activities, presentations, guided discussion, breakout sessions, and student-led tours, participants will learn to use tools for teaching Edible Education—an integrated approach to education in the garden, kitchen, and classroom.

Specific topics covered include curriculum integration, class scheduling, managing volunteers, program administration, and funding strategies. Participants will receive Chez Panisse Foundation publications, *The Garden and Kitchen Companions*, and will leave the academy with tools for developing programs in their own communities.

Who Should Attend: The academy is intended for garden, kitchen, and classroom educators and/or program administrators who are interested in modeling their program on the Edible Schoolyard. Candidates should have direct involvement in a garden- and kitchen-based educational program, or have a development structure for such a program in place. Participants may attend as individuals, or in small teams. Preference will be given to middle school educators and school districts that support team-teacher collaboration.

Fee: \$400 includes tuition, and breakfast and lunch each day

<http://www.edibleschoolyard.org/esy-academy>

How to Apply: Fill out and submit the electronic [application](#) by April 15th. Applicants will be confirmed, and additional registration materials will be sent, by April 28th. To ensure enrollment, candidates must complete the registration process and upon acceptance must pay half the tuition fee (\$200) as a non-refundable deposit by May 15th. The remaining fee of \$200 must be paid by July 1st, 2010.

Cousteau's Summer Teachers' Workshop

Join Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures for an exciting 5-day, 4-night teacher workshop. The program will be taught by senior marine biologist, Dr. Richard Murphy, in beautiful El Capitan Canyon at the ocean in Santa Barbara, California. The workshop will focus on inquiry-based learning with classroom materials, videos and lessons on marine ecology and sustainable living with an emphasis on ecological roles and connections between species. Teacher learning process will include experiential learning via hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, creek walks and more.

Location: El Capitan Campground www.elcapitancañon.com
Cost \$850.00 (includes meals, materials and lodging)

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3 Hours Graduate Credit: Mesa State College

Deadline to register: March 1, 2010

Contacts:

Laney Heath laneyh@mesa.k12.co.us ph. (970) 261-6422 OR

Laura Brands: lbrands@oceanfutures.org ph. (805) 899-8899 ext 104

More information at <http://www.oceanfutures.org> OR go to

<http://www.oceanfutures.org/learning/ambassadors-environment/additional-opportunities>

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

Community Events

Join us at Windows into Wildlife – March 28, 2010 - SLO

<http://www.pacificwildlifecare.org/wiw.html>

What: Windows into Wildlife, an afternoon of wine, food and wildlife appreciation ambassadors and their human companions will be available for photos and questi

When: Sunday March 28, 2010 at 2:00 PM

Where: Edna Valley Winery, 2585 Biddle Ranch Road, SLO

Details: Join us at Edna Valley Winery where you will enjoy outstanding wines, d appetizers prepared by top local chefs, including a silent and live auction, in an el in the company of wildlife ambassadors.

Cost is \$85 per person.

Pacific Wildlife Care is a nonprofit organization of individuals who rescue and reha orphaned wildlife. Your participation in this special afternoon ensures continued li services for local wildlife.

16th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival

Weldon - Wofford Heights - Kern County - California

Exhibits: Saturday, May 1, 2010

Come celebrate Spring in the Kern River Valley

The 16th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival exhibits and activities will take plac May 1, 2010.

Audubon Kern River Preserve in Weldon, hosts numerous free events including bird walks led KERNCREST AUDUBON SOCIETY volunteers, workshops and exhibits, in the large, shaded frc Preserve Headquarters.

Keynote Speaker: David Lukas - Naturalist and Author

There is no registration for or any fees for the May 1st exhibits, workshops, entertainment or Audubon's Kern River Preserve, please do not use the online registration form unless you are trips or the program.

<http://kern.audubon.org/KRVSNF.htm>

Earth Day 2010 – Santa Barbara April 17 & 18, 2010

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This year marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, and we hope you'll join us to celebrate. CEC is excited to host an expanded two-day festival featuring more music, food, and large-scale green activities than ever before. For more on festival highlights, our partners, and why we're expanding the event this year, visit www.SBEarthDay.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



LEARN MORE ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED



EXHIBITORS - Online registration opens at noon **Monday, February 1, 2010**. Review the festival map and other important information Monday morning at www.SBEarthDay.org. Exhibitors choose their own locations so register early!

SPONSORS - Festival partnership opportunities are now available at www.SBEarthDay.org. Packages can be customized to fit your needs and include such perks as logo placement on the poster and festival guide, free booth spaces, rental packages, and VIP passes.

GREEN SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL - The Green Shorts Film Festival is an annual online film festival about saving our planet, helping our environment and being green. A public screening at the Lobero will kick off Earth Day weekend on Friday, April 16.

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Earth Day in San Luis Obispo County

March 20th - Kick Off Event at Meadow Park - SLO

March 28th – Pacific Breeze Concert at Dinosaur Park – Shell Beach

April 5th – 9th – Earth “Day Camp” at Rancho El Chorro Outdoor School in San Luis Obispo In celebration of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, the Rancho El Chorro Outdoor School presents [Spring Break Earth Day Camp](http://www.ranchoelchorro.org/earth_day.htm) for children in grades 1-8. The camp will run from Monday, April 5th to Friday, April 9th from 7:30 am till 5:30 pm. http://www.ranchoelchorro.org/earth_day.htm 805-782-7336

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Rancho El Chorro Outdoor School provides a beautiful outdoor setting for children to learn about nature. Children will participate in daily activities that are fun and engaging such as:

- Study organic gardening and composting
- Learn about local birds, native plants, and marine life
- Hike along the creek, forest, or to the pond
- Build solar ovens and learn about alternative sources of energy
- Learn about Native Americans
- Games, arts and crafts
- And more!!!

April 17th – Wine & Food Earth Day in Santa Margarita

April 18 – North County Earth at Atascadero Lake

April 22 – Earth Day at Cuesta College

North County Earth Day 2010
Celebrating 40 Years of Earth Day



Sunday April 18 – 11am-4pm
Atascadero Lake Park, Atascadero, CA

North County Earth Day is Back!

Join in Making the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day Happen!

**Sunday April 18, from 11am – 4pm
Atascadero Lake Park**

- Workshops • Exhibits & Booths
- Music & Entertainment • Speakers
 - Guided Nature Walks
- Activities for Children & Teens
 - Raffles

We invite you to Get Involved!

SPONSOR/DONATE! Monetary or In-Kind: Special Recognition before and during the Festival. For more information or to obtain a Sponsor Packet: Call Steve Ela at 226-8806.

EXHIBIT! Products, Information, Awareness Raising: businesses, services, artists, food providers, community groups, government agencies, schools, and churches welcome. Exhibitor fees: \$50.00 for a business or food booth and FREE for non-profit or student booths.

HOLD A WORKSHOP! Share your skills and knowledge: organic gardening, greywater systems, solar power, composting, etc.

RAFFLE! Donate store products, business products, artwork, or gift certificates.

VOLUNTEER! Network with people who care about the Earth! Influence others to take action! Be a part of a fun community event! We need your energy, skills and talents in order to make **North County Earth Day 2010** a rockin' event!

To get involved, complete and mail-in the attached application form!

Questions about how you can get involved? Call Ben Lovejoy 461-1893, Mike Swettenam at 239-4597, Molly Johnson 467-2431 (after 5pm or weekends) or e-mail ncearthday@gmail.com.

April 24 – Earth Day San Luis 2010 at Mission Plaza

Date: April 24th

Time: 11:00am to 5:00pm

Event Home Page: www.earthdayalliance.com

Phone: 805-544-8529

Location: Mission Plaza
San Luis Obispo, California

This is a free event for all ages. Features "green" choices for home, health, work, transportation, products, building goods, food, etc. to reduce climate change.

Visit the kid's Zone, view the recycled art exhibit, listen to music and enjoy food by some of our favorite local kitchens. Accepting sponsors and exhibitors.

Contact Information:

Earth Day Alliance
3436 Sacramento Drive Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Phone: 544-8529

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

Conferences/Classes

Gold Coast Science Network conference "Growing with Science"

A conference for K-12 Science Educators
Qualifies for NCLB Professional Development

**Saturday, April 24, 2010
Oxnard College
4000 S. Rose Ave
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM**

Two	Steven Kutcher
Keynote	<i>Entertaining with Insects: Making Bugs Stars in the Movies</i>
Speakers!	Dave Hanley and Ron Hughes <i>Cultivating Lively Science</i>

See our web page for more information: <http://www.goldcoastscience.org>

Register Now!

Please send this form with a check payable to Gold Coast Science Network:

Gold Coast Science Network

Debbie Bereki
P. O. Box 390
Fillmore, CA 93016

\$30.00* until April 1, 2010
\$35.00 after April 1, register at the conference

AEOE Conference – April 30-May 2, 2010 Malibu, CA

The Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education statewide spring conference will be held at the Camp Hess Kramer campground in Malibu, CA. The theme for this year is "Building Foundations." Workshop thematic strands include: Diversity, Natural History, Teaching, Professional Development, Sustainability, and Recreation/Team Building. For more information and application go to: www.aeoe.org

Permaculture Design Course at Cuesta College

in Collaboration with Quail Springs Permaculture Farm

Starts March 13 thru April 24; Completion at Quail Springs May 15-16, 2010

Permaculture is the art and science of designing human beings place in the environment. It is a conscious integrated design system base on ecology and sustainability principles to create resource efficient and productive human environments and reduce our footprint on the earth. Permaculture provides a framework for consciously designed landscapes that mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature.

Cuesta College Instructor: **Josh Carmichael**

Six Saturdays , Mar 13 - Apr 24; 9am-1pm Class Lecture

1-4pm - Class will be held in the field(**No Class Mar 27**)

Course# 626OD.110; Fee: \$700

<http://www.communityprograms.net/comed/od.htm> - Intro to Permaculture

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

EE Grants & Contests

PG&E Bright Ideas Grants are due March 20th!

Credentialed teachers, professors, instructors, principals, deans, department heads, district administrators and facilities managers may apply to receive a \$1000, \$2,500, \$5000, or \$10,000 grant to promote environmental stewardship in any of the five following categories:

- Educational Solar Projects: Successful submissions will include innovative classroom and extracurricular programs/projects that explore the science of solar energy and the generation of electricity from solar
- Youth Energy and Environmental Programs: Successful submissions will include energy efficiency, recycling, composting, water reclamation and/or gardening programs and clubs that serve as learning and leadership opportunities for students, the faculty, and the community at large.
- Renewable Energy or Science Related Field Trips: Successful submissions will include transportation, admission, or expenses associated with field trips that excite students about science, energy, careers in energy and the environment.
- Green Your School Projects: Successful submissions will include energy efficiency upgrades, energy monitoring systems, and communication tools that will promote energy education and smart energy use at the school and in the community.
- Professional Development/Service Learning Projects/ Workforce Development Programs: Successful submissions will include projects that expand the teacher’s knowledge about renewable energy, energy resources and/or the future of the energy industry. High Schools and Community colleges may consider using the funding to create programs and curriculum to address workforce development in the growing renewable and efficiency industry and service learning opportunities in the local community.

Online grant application: <http://www.need.org/pgesolarschools/big.htm>

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Deadlines: March 31, 2010

<http://captainplanetfoundation.org/>

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants to support hands-on environmental projects. The objective of the Foundation is to encourage innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Grant rewards up to \$2,500 are available.

NEA Foundation Green Grants

Deadline: June 1, 2010

<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/nea-foundation-green-grants/>

With \$150,000 in new grant funding designated for projects that integrate green-related topics and experiences into the classroom, the NEA Foundation is growing its Learning & Leadership and Student Achievement grants program for individuals and teams of educators. Public school educators are eligible to apply for individual grants worth up to \$5,000 for the development and implementation of ideas, techniques, and approaches for teaching "green" concepts.

Student Contests

International Children's Painting Competition

Deadline: April 15, 2010

The United Nations Environment Programme's International Children's Painting Competition invites young people (ages 6-14) to submit their paintings on the theme to the relevant UNEP Regional Office. This year's theme is **Biodiversity: Connecting with Nature**. The competition encourages children from all parts of the world to focus on particular environmental issues and how these issues affect their communities. Regional winners will be announced on World Environment Day, June 5, 2010. The regional first prize winners will each receive a cash prize and a trip for themselves and an accompanying adult to the Tunza International Children's Conference in Aichi, Japan, August 2010. For more information, visit <http://www.unep.org/tunza/children/inner.asp?ct=co>

Song for the Earth Contest

Sponsored by Earth Day Network

<http://earthday.net/artsfortheearth/songfortheearth.html>

Earth Day Network is seeking original songs about the environment that are composed and performed by youths, ages 18 and under, who have not yet graduated from high school. Submissions may be of any genre, including pop, country, rock, rap and R & B.

Winners will have the opportunity to perform on the National Mall at the flagship event of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day during the week of April 17-25, 2010. Earth Day Network will provide transportation and lodging for the winner to come to Washington, D.C. to perform at this event.

Songs will be judged by a panel of professional musicians. Winners will be flown to Washington, D.C. and provided with accommodations courtesy of Earth Day Network.

Songs should be no longer than three minutes and must be submitted to Earth Day Network by Friday, April 2, 2010. Appropriate themes include Earth Day, conservation, climate change, recycling, energy efficiency and pollution. For more from the Earth Day Network go to: <http://earthday.net/earthday2010>

This is the end of the March 2010 Region 8 CREEC Newsletter