



Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

May 2008

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

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Have a newsletter submission?

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

EE Success Stories

EEI Workshops for Providers in Region 8

EE Providers.....This workshop is for YOU! It is for folks who did (or did not) attend the fall workshops. This will be a "working workshop" where you will bring your curriculum materials and we will work together at mapping and matching your programs to the Learning Objectives in the EEI Model Curriculum Plan and filling out the EEI Audit Tool.

May 9 – CALM Museum in Bakersfield – 2pm to 4pm (Social to follow at 4pm to 6pm)

May 19 – San Luis Obispo County Office of Education – 1pm to 5pm

To RSVP for May 9 or May 19 workshop contact Teresa Lees tlees@slocoe.org

June 2 – Ventura County Office of Education – 1pm to 5pm

To RSVP for the Ventura County workshop contact Mary Maranville from the Ventura County RCD at mary.maranville@vcrcd.org

The **Education & the Environment Initiative (EEI)** curriculum units continue to be developed, field tested and piloted in eighteen school districts throughout California. To meet the goal of having EE Providers align their educational programs with this new EEI Model Curriculum Plan, the CREEC Network is providing workshops to assist providers in seeing how their programs can "support EEI." The following is a list of EEI Workshops coming up this spring that are a follow up to the ones presented this fall. At this workshop the EEI Audit Tool will be completed and submitted to the Office of Education and the Environment as well as a status report will be given.

(Note: If you have already filled out any audit tool forms, please make a copy and mail them to me. I am gathering as many audit tools filled out as possible.)

More Good News!!.....Region 8 Teacher & Teens win Environmental Awards

Mark DiMaggio of Paso Robles High School was awarded the Sustained Environmental Contribution Award from the San Luis Obispo Community Foundation on May 2, 2008 for his work in promoting environmental education and awareness for his students. Mark teaches the GEO course at Paso Robles High School and takes his students for wilderness backpacking trips out to Zion National Park and Santa Cruz Island. He has vigilantly taught environmental education and promoted low carbon footprint awareness for several years. Mark DiMaggio was also Teacher of the Year in SLO County in 2007.

Teens at Work /Community Link of Atascadero won the Environmental Initiative Award for their recycling business that the teens started. They have redeemed over 5 tons of recycled goods and earned over \$7,000 this past year.

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EE Resources

May is Water Awareness Month

May is Water Awareness Month. Here are a couple of websites that have some great water conservation information, videos, and resources to share with others this month.

<http://www.wateraware.org/awaremonth.html>

(includes links for teachers and students and a great video to watch)

<http://www.usewaterwisely.com/totm0504.cfm>

(includes a resource directory and grant competition for teachers)

www.water.ca.gov/education (California Water Resources Control Board)

www.stormwaterinfo.org (SLO School Insurance Program for Employees, SIPE)



The Bike Month tradition continues. This local and national celebration of bicycling encourages people of all ages and abilities to ride bicycles to their destinations instead of driving. Bike Month 2008's theme is "**Wheel Experience**". Have a Wheel Experience this May and leave your car at home: arrive by bike! You will also be experiencing a healthy lifestyle and helping everyone in San Luis Obispo County experience cleaner air and reduced traffic. <http://rideshare.org/cm/bike/bikemonth08home.html>

Exploring Aquatic Ecosystems Curriculum Packet

A collaboration of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Blue Star Education and the Wyland Foundation have created a Grades 5 – 8 curriculum packet exploring watersheds.....including the ecosystems of lakes, wetlands, rivers, estuaries and oceans. The complete program costs \$400. To inquire further contact Blue Star Education at www.BlueStarEducation.com at 6412 Maple Avenue, Westminster, CA 92683-3609.

Thank You Ocean Podcasts Available

The Thank You Ocean Report podcasts discuss how the public can protect the ocean and highlight issues important in ocean and coastal management. We invite you to listen to the podcasts by going to <http://www.thankyouocean.org/podcast>

The first podcast focuses on the Thank You Ocean campaign itself, followed by podcasts on marine debris, marine protected areas, and the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health. A new podcast will be posted approximately every 2 weeks.

You can subscribe to the podcast by visiting <http://www.thankyouocean.org/podcast> and clicking on the podcast feed of your choice (i-Tunes, Yahoo, Google, etc)

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

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Energy Workshop (NEED Project) – May 12, 2008 Cal Poly University Union Building 8:0am to 3:00pm

ConocoPhillips and NEED have partnered to provide K-12 teachers with a one-day energy workshop. The seminars create awareness of today's energy challenges and the importance of using energy wisely. Participation in this workshop provides educators more than \$500 of curriculum and hands-on science kits that teach about energy resources and energy transformations. Register by faxing your school contact information and teacher name, phone, email etc. by faxing 1-800-847-1820. Questions are directed to ConocoPhillips@need.org or 1-800-875-5029. (Note: This is the same workshop that PG&E has sponsored in the past.)

Integrating Environmental Education into Teacher Education Programs: May 28-30, Tahoe, CA. The California and Nevada Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree programs invite you to join them for a combined facilitator's training program designed specifically for professors of pre-service educators. You'll leave this training with copies of all three curricula, thought on how to incorporate the materials into your courses and the ability to offer the materials to your students. Contact Brian Brown, California Project WET Coordinator at: projectwet@watereducation.org or (916)444-6240 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 non-formal) 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.

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.

Environmental Educator Training Program – Marin Headlands

Our residential Environmental Educators Training Program provides teachers and non-traditional educators with skills to create hands-on science standard relevant curriculum for students. The program has been presented in partnership with the National Park Service since 1997. It includes 5 days of instruction, field trips, seaside lodging and all meals. Cost is \$575; scholarships are available.

When: Session 1: July 28 – August 1; Session 2: August 11 – August 15, 2008

Where: Marin Headlands, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Who: Headlands Institute in partnership with National Park Service. For over 30 years, Headlands Institute has been providing educational adventures in nature's classroom to inspire a personal connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it.

Link and registration: <http://yni.org/hi/adulted/index.php>

Contact: Sofia Qureshi squreshi@yni.org 415 332 5771 ext. 22

Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) – June and July 2008

Forestry Institute for Teachers

FIT provides K-12 educators with an increased understanding and appreciation of California's forest ecosystems and the complex issues involved in managing them. FIT offers four sessions in different Northern California locations. Application Information is due on March 14, 2008. Meals, lodging, and curriculum materials are all free. Apply online at www.forestryinstitute.org

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Coast Alive! Teacher Institutes – Summer 2008

Coast Alive! In partnership with the California Institute for Biodiversity offer this field experience to strengthen teacher's skills in science pedagogy, and leadership.

Coast Alive! Earth, Wind, Fire, Water Institute – June 2008
Southern California

Coast Alive! Land-Sea Interface Institute – August 3 – 8th
East Bay Regional Park District – San Francisco Bay Area

For more information contact Roger Renn at 888-325-3288 or email roger@calalive.org

Explorations in Marine Science Teacher Institute – June 23-27, 2008 Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and Field Site

Join this continuing program for middle and high school teachers that provides techniques for incorporating meaningful watershed and marine-related concepts into core curricula and demonstrates how research data is collected and used in resource management for protecting the marine environment.

To register or for more information visit <http://teach.mlml.calstate.edu> or contact Traci Conlin at 831-771-4431 or tconlin@mlml.calstate.edu

Eureka Series: Sierra Classroom Teacher Institute

Two weekends: July 11-13, July 18-19, 2008

Join us as we explore the Sierra Nevada landscape while learning to incorporate scientific field journaling, stimulating inquiry-based activities, and multimedia curricula in your intermediate science classroom.

This summer our in-depth Sierra Nevada Classroom Teacher Institute will explore the varied habitats of the Sierra Nevada focusing on biodiversity and climate change. As a participating teacher, you will explore the Yosemite region and learn about the geology and ecology of the landscape. Join California State Park naturalist and our team of scientists and educators, including naturalist and artist John Muir Laws to explore the natural world and learn field sketching, as you create your own scientific journal.

This intensive course will integrate California science content standards for 4th through 8th grade. Teachers will conduct local field investigations, receive the Habitats Alive! teacher manual, an interactive CD-ROM, and The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are also available.

Registration has begun! Spaces are expected to fill quickly.
For upper elementary and middle school educators
Fee without credit: \$75 [includes meals and lodging]

FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION visit www.EurekaSeries.org

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

Community Events

Chumash Indian Center Nature Hike – May 10 in Thousand Oaks

Nature hike scheduled for Saturday, May 10, starting at 10 a.m. This is also a great idea for a Mother's Day gift - you'll impress her by showing that you're expanding

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your horizons, getting some education, exercising and enjoying nature all at once - everything that a Mom wants for her children.

RSVP - let us know to reserve a spot for you for next weekend's hike. Remember that the price of the hike includes admission to the museum that day also. \$10 per adult (16+) and \$5 per child (6-14). We have some fantastic new displays in the museum - most notably an extensive Native American basket collection and our new California golden eagle display.

Also, be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming 2-day Pow Wow, scheduled for May 17 and 18. Check the website for more details - we hope you can make it.

Dawn Mena
Museum Administrator
www.chumashcenter.org

Eco Summit – May 18, 2008 9am to 6pm presented by EcoSlo – Camp Ocean Pines
Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County provides an opportunity to collaborate, share and strategize with other environmentalists. Visit www.ecoslo.org for more info.

Visions & Vistas Garden Tour, Arroyo Grande – May 18, 2008

Tickets for the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden Annual Garden Tour are available online at www.slobg.org. This fundraiser event allows you to view private home gardens in the San Luis Obispo County. This year you will tour gardens in the Arroyo Grande area.

National Get Outdoors Day – June 14, 2008

Participants from dozens of federal agencies and non-profit organizations and the recreation industry gathered in Washington to launch National Get Outdoors Day, a new annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun. On June 14, 2008, and each June thereafter, these partners will offer sites for American families to experience traditional and non-traditional types of outdoor activities. Prime goals of the day are reaching first-time visitors to public lands and reconnecting our youth to the great outdoors. For more information go to <http://www.getoutdoorsusa.org/>

Sierra Student Coalition's Summer Program (SPROG) – June 22-29, 2008 Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles

The national student chapter of the Sierra Club offers a free Student Environmental Leadership Training Program this summer called "Be A Force For Change." Students can download a color brochure, view the videos and slide montage and register for the training at www.ssc.org/sprog

Summer Camps at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

YMCA Green Gardens Camp – June 17-19, 2008

YMCA Green Buildings Camp – July 8-10, 2008

Oak Family Camp – August 4-8, 2008

For more information visit the Activities & Events link at their website www.slobg.org

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



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Contests & Grants

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 e-mail 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>.

Employees of schools in San Luis Obispo County can also view a video of the Canon Envirothon on the SLOCOE ETC Portal by going to Professional Resources in the CREEC box and clicking on the CA Envirothon Competition link.

Education Grants Program

Save-the-Redwoods League is pleased to announce the availability of education grant funds to schools, park cooperating associations, and other qualified nonprofits engaged in quality redwood education.

Our grant program aims to foster a deeper understanding of redwood forests through personal visits and educational experiences among a broad, diverse audience. Since 2000, Save-the-Redwoods League has awarded more than 150 grants to dedicated educators who provide high-quality redwood forest education both in and out of the classroom.

www.savetheredwoods.org/education/edgrants.shtml

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



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Conferences/Classes

2008 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference – June 25-28, 2008 Costa Mesa Hilton, Orange County

Join the CFAITC (California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom) at the national conference this summer for workshops, tour, guest speakers and more about California agriculture. Agriculture is an ideal way to demonstrate theories in any teaching subject and complements the growing emphasis on nutrition education and school gardens. Registration details are available at www.cfaitc.org

Summer and Fall EETAP Online Courses: Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation

This 12-week on-line 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. This course was developed as a cooperative effort between the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Conservation Training Center. Participants may obtain three undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. All participants, regardless of location, are eligible for the in-state tuition rate. The course is also offered as a non-credit workshop for those who are not seeking college credit.

Summer 2008 course dates: June 2 – August 22 (Registration deadline May 2)

Fall 2008 course dates: September 8 – December 5 (Registration deadline August 8)

To learn more, visit the course web site: <http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/index.aspx> or contact Angela Lemar (Angela.Lemar@uwsp.edu) for a registration form.

To learn more about EETAP visit the EETAP website at <http://www.eetap.org/>

Fundamentals of Environmental Education

An 11-week online course about the fundamentals of environmental education is appropriate for both classroom teachers and for non-formal educators who work with students and/or teachers. Participants may obtain three undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. All students, regardless of location, are eligible for the in-state tuition rate. The course is also offered at a reduced cost for those who are not interested in obtaining college credit.

The "Fundamentals of Environmental Education" online course was developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) in collaboration with national EE experts. It 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; develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators; and interact with other educators from across the country. Past course participants have given the course excellent reviews.

Summer 2008 Dates: June 2 – August 15 (Registration deadline May 2)

Fall 2008 Dates: September 8 – November 28 (Registration deadline August 8)

To learn more, visit the course web site: <http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/index.aspx> or contact Angela Lemar (Angela.Lemar@uwsp.edu) for a registration form.

To learn more about EETAP visit the EETAP website at <http://www.eetap.org/>

Leadership Development in Natural Resources: Strategic Planning and Implementation

This **9-week online course** entitled "Leadership Development in Natural Resources: Strategic Planning and Implementation," will be offered this fall through the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.

The course is designed to assist environmental educators and natural resource professionals in learning and applying key elements of successful strategic planning. A variety of strategic planning models will be examined using case studies, simulation, and small group activity. Emphasis will be placed on managing the strategic planning process to build the capacity of organizations to provide effective environmental education programs. The course was developed as a cooperative effort between the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UW-SP), the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) and Treehaven Environmental Learning Center.

Participants may obtain two graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. All participants, regardless of location, are eligible for the in-state tuition rate. The course is also offered as a non-credit workshop for those who are not seeking college credit.

Fall 2008 course dates: September 22 – November 21, 2008 (Registration Deadline August 22)

To learn more, please visit www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/index.aspx or contact Michelle Schiltz at mschiltz@uwsp.edu.

To register for the course please contact Angela Lemar in the UW-SP Continuing Education office at (715) 346-3854 (Angela.Lemar@uwsp.edu).

Making EE Relevant for Culturally Diverse Audiences – NEW!

This 10-week on-line course is designed to provide participants with the basic knowledge and skills needed to make EE relevant to culturally diverse audiences. Through this course participants will broaden their perspective of EE to encompass interests and issues of concern to culturally diverse audiences, assess barriers to participation among these audiences, and apply cultural competency skills in building relationships and partnerships with members of an audience they intend to work with in the future. Environmental educators must understand how to work with and involve diverse populations to ensure that their perspectives are heard and that they participate fully in environmental decisions being made at the local, regional, and national levels. This online course has been developed in collaboration with national EE experts who represent diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Although there are no prerequisites for this course, a working understanding of environmental education is essential for success in this course. Participants may obtain one undergraduate or graduate credit from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. It is also available as a non-credit workshop for those that are not seeking college credit. All participants, regardless of location, are eligible for the in-state tuition rate.

Fall 2008 course dates: September 2 – November 6, 2008
(Registration Deadline August 2)

To learn more, contact Ali Cordie (acordie@uwsp.edu).

To register for the course please contact Angela Lemar in the UW-SP Continuing Education office at (715) 346-3854 (Angela.Lemar@uwsp.edu).

To learn more about EETAP visit the EETAP website at <http://www.eetap.org/>

BLUE HORIZONS UC Santa Barbara Summer Program for Environmental Media Using Media to Communicate Vital Stories of the Global Ocean June 21 – August 22, 2008

This 9-week summer program brings together students interested in digital media production and environmental studies to learn about important issues of the global ocean from a local, California perspective. A coordinated series of interdisciplinary courses and related activities

introduces students to scriptwriting; media portrayals of the environment; the biological, socio-economic, and political aspects of marine conservation; and the latest innovations in environmental filmmaking.

Students will gain the skills necessary to communicate effectively with their peers, scientists, policymakers, and the general public by producing short, compelling videos. Issues such as marine protected areas, sustainable fishing, watershed ecosystems, beach erosion, aquaculture, and others will be closely studied, providing a foundation for the research necessary to produce an informative film. Techniques of digital video camera operations, sound gathering, lighting, and editing with industry standard Final Cut Pro will also be covered.

This Program is open to undergraduate and graduate students in all disciplines, but the criteria for acceptance include a demonstrated preparation in media or biological sciences. Questions can be addressed to Professor Constance Penley at

penley@filmandmedia.ucsb.edu. Application forms are available at www.summer.ucsb.edu/specialprograms.html. Screening will begin April 11, 2008; applications received after that date will be considered on a space-available basis. Submit applications to fawcett@cftnm.ucsb.edu, or mail to Blue Horizons, Carsey-Wolf Center for Film, Television, and New Media, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-7100. Additional program information can be found at www.cftnm.ucsb.edu.

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

EE Provider Highlights - No Child Left Inside and NEEA

Why we need both the No Child Left Inside Act and the National Environmental Education Act.

While the need for environmental education is well documented and continues to grow, the overall level of federal support for Environmental Education in both policy and funding is considerably short of an even minimal level. Although complementary, the No Child Left Inside Act and the National EE Act provide fundamentally different things for the field. Here is a short characterization of each and why they are both so critical.

The proposed No Child Left Inside Act will put environmental education back into the classroom, having been an inadvertent victim of the NCLB Act. It will provide three important elements, all within the formal education structure of the US:

- Federal funding to states to train teachers in environmental education and to operate model environmental education programs, which includes outdoor learning.
- Funding to states that create environmental literacy plans to ensure that high school graduates are environmentally literate.
- Funding through an environmental education grant program to build state and national capacity.

Given that NCLB is actually the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – to date there has not been any provision for environmental education within the largest federally funded education program. This bill would provide for environmental education to be integrated across the curriculum in keeping with each state’s wishes with no mandatory requirements.

The National Environmental Education Act, passed originally in 1990, and technically expired in 1996, has provided the only consistent federal funding for environmental education. Envisioned to achieve an environmentally literate citizenry, it operates from a small office for environmental education in US EPA. With limited funding it: is providing a multi-partnered training program which has provided professional development annually for tens of thousands of non-formal educators and has impacted formal education primarily from outside the formal education structure; created the National Environmental Education Foundation; and offered a small but strategic grants program. NEEA has directed its efforts at enhancing environmental literacy across the entire age spectrum for lifelong learning – to the entire population with limited direct emphasis on the formal K-12 education structure. This is partially due to the fact that it is administered by EPA. The NEEA has provided critical support and has helped to keep environmental education alive while formal education has not had either policy or funding support for environmental education from the US Department of Education.

National surveys have repeatedly shown extremely broad support for environmental education both within the school curriculum and for the public, and yet at the same time these surveys show glaring ignorance of basic environmental knowledge. To address our nation's growing needs for environmentally literate citizens, we need both the NEEA and NCLI. NCLI focuses on strengthening environmental education within formal education. The NEEA is broader in scope and addresses lifelong learning. Both programs are essential strategic responses to Americans' growing desire for their children to understand and enjoy the natural environment and for all citizens to have access to the knowledge they need to be able to make intelligent decisions about their lifestyles and about public policy regarding the environment. Comprehensive environmental education in schools and throughout life will make for a more competitive international business climate, better civic involvement, and better education. Consistently research has shown that when environment is used as an integrating context in education, performance on standardized tests goes up. Please support both NCLI and the NEEA to make environmental education effective in the US!

This is the end of the May 2008 Region 8 CREEC Newsletter
Please submit items to Teresa "Tree" Lees for the next
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