



Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

October 2009

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

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Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

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tlees@slocoe.org
805-782-7265
www.creec.org/region8

EE Success Stories

Exemplary EE Programs – Students at Coastal Marine Biolabs in Ventura & Santa Barbara join the Barcode of Life Initiative (BOLI)

High school and undergraduate students participating in Coastal Marine Biolabs' Integrative Biosciences Program have joined scientists around the globe in the Barcode of Life Initiative (BOLI), a landmark scientific effort to genetically catalog all life on the planet using DNA barcodes (<http://www.dnabarcodes.org/>). These short DNA sequences uniquely identify species in much the same way that UPC barcodes identify grocery store products. The goal of the initiative is to better understand Earth's biodiversity and to develop powerful new tools to tackle applied problems such as protecting endangered species, controlling agricultural pests, monitoring environmental quality, and sustaining natural resources.

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

Coastal Clean Up Days

San Luis Obispo County - With 80% of the sites reporting in, we know that we had over 1300 volunteers remove almost 4000 pounds of marine debris from our local beaches! The cleanup effort stretched over 70 miles, including sites as far north as Pico Creek and as far south as Point Sal.

Santa Barbara County – Over 736 volunteers covered 44.75 miles and collected 3392.4 pounds of trash, 1302.6 pounds of recyclables for a total of 4695 pounds of debris. There were several other events associated with Coastal Cleanup Day this year too, including Creek Week (in the south coast, Sept. 19-26), Project Clean Waterways (Santa Maria, Sept. 26), and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians had a Community Cleanup Day the same day as Coastal Cleanup Day which brings the Santa Barbara totals up to 15,349 pounds of debris.

Ventura County – About 3,470 volunteers collected 19,101 lbs. of trash, 6,226 lbs of recyclables cleaned up along 58 miles of Ventura County beaches.

The state as a whole has also released preliminary results. Over 66,000 volunteers participated throughout the state and collected almost a million pounds of trash.

EE Provider Networking Meetings

We all play a vital role in connecting students to nature by providing various environmental education opportunities. To that affect we will be reinstating EE Provider Networking meetings to see who is doing what. Collaboration is the way of the future and the CREEC Network is the way to collaborate with fellow environmental educators. EE Provider Networking meetings will take place in each of the four counties in Region 8 soon.

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The first EE Provider Networking meeting will be in **San Luis Obispo area on October 28 from 4pm to 6pm at Rancho El Chorro Outdoor School Auditorium**, located behind the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education offices. This will be our chance to network with one another on some very exciting EE programs for our local schools as well as to check in with one another. Please RSVP me that you can make it by October 14th. – Teresa Lees, CREEC Coordinator tlees@slocoe.org.

Final Draft EEI Curriculum Units Posted for Review

The Final Draft EEI Curriculum is currently posted for public review and comment. There are 85 curriculum units spanning grades Kindergarten through 12th. A link to the EEI Curriculum and instructions for submitting public comment is available on the California Department of Education EEI website.

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/Curriculum/Default.htm#CurriculumUnits>

Written public comment received by September 1, 2009 will be forwarded to the Curriculum Commission for consideration prior to the September 24-25, 2009 meeting. Comments received after that date will be given to the Curriculum Commissioners the day of the meeting. Public comments and concerns may also be presented, orally or in writing, at the September meeting. For details on Curriculum Commission meetings, please see <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/cc/cd/>.

For more information on EEI, visit the Cal EPA website:
www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI

EE Resources

The Importance of Agriculture in Ventura County - 3rd Grade Education Program

This unique and exciting program brings a much needed agricultural conservation education curriculum to Ventura County Classrooms

LESSON HIGHLIGHTS: Agricultural literacy, Identify the six plant parts using actual vegetables and identify the top 10 crops in Ventura County, Answer the question of why agricultural is important and crucial to the community of Ventura County and the planet. Discuss why Ag lands and open space are vital, Teach the entire process of agriculture from seed planting, cultivation, pollination, harvesting, and transportation of crops to market and nutrition, Teach the importance of sustainability

CA Content Standards: Physical Science 1.a / Life Science 3.a, / History/SS 1.1, 1.2, 3.2, 5.1

CONTACT: Mary Maranville, Resource Conservation District Education and Outreach 805-746-0606 Mary.Maranville@vrcd.org

New Sally Ride Science curriculum: Climate Change

http://www.sallyridescience.com/for_educators/classroom_sets/climate

Teach today's hottest topic with engaging, research-based content aligned to state standards. These unique readers fuel a student's natural curiosity through cutting-edge science and real-world examples that demonstrate the many faces and backgrounds of today's renowned scientists. Students that enjoy the learning process are more likely to retain information and score higher on state assessments.

Climate Change Classroom Set — Blends the latest science and environmental concerns with current ideas and solutions for facing our climate challenge and creating a healthier planet. Earth's Precious Resources Classroom Set — Discover Earth's natural resources and the challenges we face protecting them. Science Careers Classroom Set — Bring science to life with inspiring personal stories of current day scientists and engineers.

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CHPS Releases High Performance Building Products Database

The Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) has a new tool available to identify building products that contribute to sustainable, healthy, built environments. The tool is an online, searchable database where users, such as architects, building owners and contractors can search for products that have met certain environmental or health standards ranging from recycled content to materials that contribute to improved indoor air quality. The database can be found at: <http://www.chpsregistry.com/live/public>.

EcoSchools – Sponsored by National Wildlife Federation

Through school-based action teams of students, administrators, educators and parents, Eco-Schools combines effective green management of school grounds and facilities with high-quality environmental education and community volunteerism. Schools that are certified in the program undergo a thorough application process; succeed in organizing a comprehensive assessment of energy and water usage, waste production, and school grounds; and adhere to an action plan that is developed, implemented and monitored by a student-faculty coalition. www.eco-schoolsusa.org

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

Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds Educator Workshop

Thursday, October 29, 4-6pm

Environmental Center of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa

Register by October 27.

When you attend this workshop, you will receive a FREE copy of the California Coastal Commission's science activity guide for teachers, *Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds*. You'll try out some of the activities in the guide and get an overview of the other free educational resources and programs the Coastal Commission has available. You will be eligible for professional growth credit from University of the Pacific upon completing additional work. REGISTER for the workshop by contacting Annie Kohut Frankel at afrankel@coastal.ca.gov (415) 597-5888, or (800) Coast4U. This workshop is open to both formal and informal educators.

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

More Trainings & Workshops can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "For Teachers" link at www.creec.org/region8/

Community Events

Coastweeks

Coastweeks continues through October 11th! The California Coastal Commission has created an online calendar of events which you can find linked from www.coastforyou.org. There are currently more than 200 events happening throughout the state, including such varied activities as kayak tours, speakers, hiking trips, festivals, restoration events, and much more. Check out the calendar and find an event in your area!

Central Coast Village Center

Central Coast Village Center and Outside Now! are excited to share with you our 2009-2010 program offerings: To enroll in any of our programs or for more information, call 541-9900. Also visit our website at www.theccvc.org

Full Circle Teen School:

Date/Time: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$6,050 full year tuition

Unique to the Central Coast, Full Circle Teen School provides a full-time alternative secondary education experience for 13-18 year olds. Our project-based, integrated curriculum centers on the theme of sustainability, which includes the study of food systems, natural building, and a sense of place. With nature connection at the core of the program, teens renew their sense of curiosity by engaging in meaningful experiential learning while they find their place among peers in our classroom without walls.

Nature School:

Wednesdays: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 23rd at Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School
Cost: \$50 per day

We invite 6-12 year olds to join us for Wild Wednesdays at Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School to explore the creek, tend the garden, tell stories, sing songs and connect with the natural world all around us. Bellevue is located in a beautiful natural setting on San Luis Bay Drive at the entrance to See Canyon on the way to Avila Beach.

Sandpipers:

Tuesdays and/or Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$350 for 1 day, \$700 for 2 days per 12 week session

Young ones aged 3-5 years old are invited to join Barb and her granddaughter Cricket at Hawk's Perch in Templeton. Sandpipers is a nurturing, safe place for children to wonder, wander and explore nature!

No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Day — Tuesday October 13, 2009 — will be the focal point of Earth Science Week.

On the first NCLI Day, held during Earth Science Week 2008, teachers and earth scientists led students outdoors to sample water, interact with earth systems, and observation the natural world in action. This day proved to be a popular event for schools, youth organizations, government agencies and others interested in promoting outdoor educational activities. To encourage even broader participation, AGI has developed an educator's guide for organizing NCLI Day in local schools and communities. This online resource provides 10 outdoor activities, information on how to plan your NCLI Day event, and classroom follow up activities. Download a copy of the NCLI Day educator's guide through the Earth Science Week website at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/ncli/>.

Earth Science Week is an annual celebration of the geosciences held the second week of October to promote an understanding and appreciation of the earth sciences. Since 1998 Earth Science Week has been organized by AGI with support from a number of other geoscience organizations, including the U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Energy, ExxonMobil and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation. To learn more, visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>.

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Conferences/Classes

NAAEE National Conference

Oct 7-10: North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Conference in Portland, Oregon. AEOE is the California Affiliate of NAAEE, and each year 2-4 AEOE Board Members attend in an official capacity. For full conference details, go to <http://www.naaee.org>

AEOE Southern California Conference

Oct 16-18: AEOE Southern Fall Conference at Blue Sky Meadow, near Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Cost: \$45 with a registration postmark deadline of 10/3/09. This includes four meals, lodging in dorms or camping, and workshops! Workshop presenters get in free. For full conference details, contact information, registration forms, workshop presenter forms, and volunteer information, go to <http://www.aeoe.org/sfall09.html>

AEOE Northern California Conference

Nov 6-8: AEOE Northern Fall Conference at Walden West Outdoor School in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains, near Saratoga.

Cost: \$45 when registered online or postmarked by 10/30/09. AEOE is piloting an online registration system, which will be up-and-running soon. Like the southern conference, the \$45 includes four meals, lodging in dorms or camping, and workshops! Presenters get in free. For the first time in many years, the conference is close to SF Bay Area programs. For full conference details, contact information, registration forms, workshop presenter forms, and volunteer information, go to <http://www.aeoe.org/nfall09.html>

Spring Statewide AEOE Conference

April 30 May 2: AEOE Statewide Conference at Camp Hess Kramer in the Santa Monica Mountains, walking distance to tide pools and beaches of Malibu. The conference committees and AEOE Board are working hard to coordinate another great conference. If you would like to be involved this year, please contact Coleen Ryan at ryancoleen@gmail.com The keynote speaker will be well known actor, environmentalist and educator Ed Begley Jr. For full conference details as they become available, go to <http://www.aeoe.org/statewide09.html>

Green Living Class at SBCC

Learn about green living at Santa Barbara Community College Adult Education class: "Fresh Greens" presented by The Sustainability Project at the Faulkner Gallery, SB. Every Tuesday in October, CEC is co-sponsoring an SBCC adult education series on living and working sustainably. Courses will cover business and jobs, food and clothing, home and garden, and community. To register go to: <http://sbcc.augusoft.net/>

Gold Coast CUE Educational Technology Conference CTAP Region 8

Saturday, October 31, 2009 8:00am – 3:00pm at the Ventura County Office of Education Conference Center in Camarillo. \$25 Registration until October 16 and \$20 at the door. Come fill your "technology goodie bag" with amazing treats. <http://ctap8.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=420&id=26591>

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EE Grants & Contests

WHALE TAIL Grants

The California Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL® Grants Program is now accepting proposals for coastal and marine education projects. This program funds projects encouraging people to value and take action to improve the health of California's coast, marine life, or watersheds that connect with the coast. Educational coastal habitat restoration and beach maintenance projects are also eligible. Emphasis is on reaching underserved students and members of the public. Nonprofits, schools, and government agencies may apply. Applicants may request up to \$50,000, and 25-50% of the funding will be allocated in small grants below \$10,000. A total of \$352,000 will be distributed. Postmark deadline is November 16, 2009. For full guidelines and an application, see the link at <http://www.coastforyou.org/> or call (800) Coast-4U.

Coastal Art & Poetry Contest

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. Entries must be postmarked by January 30, 2010 to be eligible for the upcoming contest. For rules and entry form, visit www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/poster.html (or follow the links from www.coastforyou.org), email coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or call (800) Coast-4U. Contest flyers (PDF or hard copy) are available upon request.

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

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 Environmentality 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. Deadline to apply is December 18.

This is the end of the March 2009 Region 8 CREEC Newsletter
Please submit items to Teresa "Tree" Lees for the next
CREEC E-Newsletter at tlees@slocoe.org

