



Orange County CREEC

Volume 2, Issue 7

April 2005

Hidden Question

Congratulations to Crystal Farritor, a teacher from Rosemary Kennedy Elementary in Riverside, who was the first teacher to respond to the Hidden Question. Her 5th grade students will attend a free *Inside the Outdoors* field trip at the Newport Sea Base called "What's in Your H₂O?" .

Cecilia Schreyer (whose teaching is highlighted on page 5) and Anita Thompson also responded to the Hidden Question. They received "The Worm Guide: A Vermicomposting Guide for Teachers" as well as "Closing the Loop," an activity guide developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board with many activities to engage students in understanding resource consumption.

The prize this month is the student textbook Environmental Science (Holt Rinehart and Winston, 2000). This textbook is an excellent reference/resource for any educator involved in teaching students or the general public about topics such as: Ecosystems, Water, Air, Atmosphere and Climate, Biodiversity, Land Use, Energy, Waste, and Population Growth. The textbook highlights several environmental careers and "EcoSkills" (e.g., building a bat house).

Embedded within the text of this newsletter, there is a hidden question. To win, be the first to contact Helen at 949-548-0772 or HdelaMaza@ocde.us. Good Luck! ☺ ✨

Coordinator Communications: Earth Day

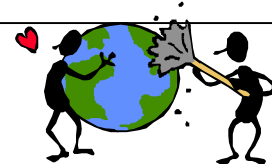
This year we will celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day, started on April 22, 1970 by then-Senator Gaylord Nelson

(http://www.wilderness.org/AboutUs/Nelson_Bio.cfm?TopLevel=About). The Senator was inspired by the "teach-ins" about the Vietnam War. He wanted to organize a huge grassroots protest over what was happening to the environment. "I was satisfied that if we could tap into the environmental concerns of the general public and infuse the student anti-war energy into the environmental cause, we could generate a demonstration that would force this issue onto the political agenda. At a conference in Seattle in September 1969, I announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment and invited everyone to participate." (Nelson, <http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>) The first Earth Day celebration had 20 million participants throughout the nation.

This year's theme is "Protect our Children and our Future." See page 6 of this newsletter for Earth Day Celebrations occurring in Orange and surrounding counties. You can also stay tuned to the Orange County CREEC website (<http://www.creec.org/region9b>) for updated listings of Earth Day events in Orange County and other resources you can use with your students and the public.

I hope you and your students and families had the opportunity to admire the hundreds of Painted Lady butterflies that flew through Orange County these past couple weeks. Here are some informative websites on them:

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~mariposa/elnino.htm> and <http://mamba.bio.uci.edu/~pjbryant/biodiv/lepidopt/nymph/plady.htm> ✨



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Hidden Question
1	Coordinator Communications: Earth Day
2	Training Time!
2	Great Grants & Cool Contests
3	Rad Resources
5	Educator Highlight
5	Other Opportunities
6	Earth Day Celebrations
7	Local Event Calendar

Training Time!

(Opportunities listed here may be appropriate for **Teachers, EE Providers, or other Educators.**)

Los Angeles Service-Learning Partnership Training Event at UCLA's Hershey Hall April 9, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. FREE!

The day will consist of small group work and discussion about service learning, innovative ideas to help you create new projects, community partners to bring your projects to life and time for planning. For more information and to register, contact Katie Moore at 213-316-2104 or katie@crf-usa.org

Global Green's 7th Annual Sustainability Symposium: "Green Schools: Creating High Quality Learning Environments with Innovative Design and Policy"

April 15, 2005; 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM at the California Science Center (Wallis Annenberg Building, Muses Room; 700 State Drive, Los Angeles CA 90037). **Cost: \$25**

A panel discussion will be held in the morning, Assembly Member Loni Hancock will speak during lunchtime, and workshops will be held in the afternoon. For more information, go to <http://www.globalgreen.org/events/GSsignup.cfm>

KOCE's Orange County Teacher Training Institute; May 13 - 14, 2005; Free

Location: Rancho Santa Margarita Int. School
This workshop is for teachers to learn how to integrate technology into their classroom lesson plans including: downloading video, creating multimedia presentations to enhance curricula, integrating digital still and video camera, creating classroom websites, and more. For information go to <http://www.octi.org>

Connecting Californians to the Outdoors Symposium at The Hyatt Regency Los Angeles (711 South Hope Street, LA 90017) **May 25 from 1:00 - 6:00 PM and May 26 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Cost: \$125**

This Symposium will examine the need to serve California's diverse and growing population with outdoor experiences. Public, private and non-profit recreation professionals will hear keynote speakers who have hands-on experience, learn about successful programs and participate in solution-based workshops analyzing issues that affect today's outdoor recreation profession. To register call 916-653-9901 or e-mail symposium@parks.ca.gov

continued on page 4

Great Grants & Cool Contests

Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Program Deadline: April 15, 2005

The program, to be held **July 30 - August 6, 2005 at California State University, Sacramento**, is open to 140 participants in 10th and 11th grades who will participate in activities such as hands-on Legislative Day at the State Capitol, campaign development workshops, and College Day. The conference also provides information on Chicano Latino culture and history. Applications are available at Senator Campbell's office or can be downloaded from the Internet at

<http://www.clylp.com/s/107/index.aspx?sid=107&gid=1&pgid=2000>

AlphaSmart 2005 Grants for K-12 Schools Deadline: April 29, 2005

<http://www3.alphasmart.com/k12/solutions/alphagrants.html>

The AlphaGrants Program is designed to help K-12 schools implement classroom technology solutions that improve the teaching and learning environment in math, science, and language arts.

American Honda Foundation Grants Deadline: May 1, 2005

<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

The American Honda Foundation provides grants to K-12 and higher education programs in the fields of youth education and scientific education. For more information go to

Horace Mann Scholarship Program for Educators

Deadline: Saturday, May 14, 2005
Applicants: Public and private school educators

<https://www.horacemann.com/edscholarship/>

The Horace Mann Companies is offering \$30,000 in scholarships for public and private school educators to take college courses. Awards range from \$500 to \$5,000. To be eligible, educators must be employed by a U.S. public or private school district or U.S. public or private college/university at the time of application and at the time the scholarship is awarded, and must have at least two years teaching experience.



Rad Resources

Earth Day Network (<http://www.earthday.net>)

This is the website of the founders of Earth Day. Visit this website to connect to the half billion people celebrating Earth Day.

National Environmental Education Week

(April 10 - 16; <http://www.EEweek.org>)

This year, the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation is enhancing the educational impact of Earth Day through the creation of a full week of educational preparation in K-12 classrooms, university campuses, and informal settings. Go to the website above to link to lesson plans and other resources for your students.

EE-Link Earth Day Resources

<http://eelink.net/eactivities-earthday.html>

Check out the EE-Link Earth Day Activities page with over 40 links to help you plan activities for the day, week, or to celebrate all month! (from NAAEE EE-News excerpts)

National Science Teacher Association Website Earth Day Resources

http://science.nsta.org/nstaexpress/nstaexpress_2005_02_28_esteme.htm

This website lists a number of Earth Day teaching materials and activities for students of all ages (from NAAEE EE-News excerpts)

PLT's Energy & Society Program

http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_46_19.html

Grade level: PreK - 8

Cost: Refer to Web site

PLT's Energy and Society program kit provides educators with tools and activities to help students learn about their relationship with energy and investigate the environmental issues related to energy's role in society. Energy & Society helps students develop critical thinking skills to make decisions about their personal energy use. In addition to hands-on activities, Energy & Society integrates music and dance to enhance the study of energy issues.

For the Hidden Question, send an e-mail to Helen (HdelaMaza@ocde.us) or call 949-548-0772 with the answer to the following question: What are you doing with your students in honor of Earth Day? If you are an EE Provider, what special events/programming will you have in the month of April to celebrate Earth Day?

New Report from the Green Schools Initiative (<http://www.greenschools.net/>)

The San Francisco-based Green Schools Initiative has released the report: *The Little Green Schoolhouse: Thinking Big About Ecological Sustainability, Children's Environmental Health and K-12 Education in the USA*.

The report establishes a framework that brings together a variety of school-related environmental health and sustainability issues under one conceptual and strategic roof. Drawing from a diversity of inspiring efforts going on around the country, the report presents a broad vision of what green and healthy schools could look like (the vision embraces school gardens and composting, of course!), and articulates a series of pragmatic policy recommendations.

Ducks Unlimited: Wetland Education

http://www.greenwing.org/dueducator/lesson_plans.html

The Ducks Unlimited Web site provides a variety of resources on wetland education. New units developed for grade levels 4-6, 7-8 and 9-12 consist of an educator's guide and student journal, experiments and activities.

Biodiversity Facts and Figures

<http://www.scidev.net/ms/biofacts/>

The Science and Development Network Biodiversity pages have an updated Biodiversity Facts and Figures Section. Here you will find the latest data on the extent and the distribution of the world's biodiversity. It also includes the most recent estimates of extinction threats for groups of species, as well as facts on the value of biodiversity and conservation efforts.

National Atlas of the United States

<http://www.nationalatlas.gov/>

The online National Atlas of the United States is designed to make it easy to find, get and use geographic information about our nation. Natural phenomena and human activities, such as water quality, tropical cyclone data, toxics release inventory and eco-regions are just some of the data layers from which you can select. The maps can be displayed on-line or printed. An additional section hosts subject matter articles.



Training Time!

continued from page 2

American Museum of Natural History Seminars on Science Online Summer

Courses (<http://learn.amnh.org/courses/courses.php>) Courses are June 27-August 6, 2005. Each course costs \$445, and graduate credit and continuing education units are available for an additional cost. If you enroll by May 6 you will receive a \$50 early registration discount. Registration closes June 13.

Eight courses are offered:

- The Ocean System
- Diversity of Fishes
- Earth: Inside and Out
- Genetic, Genomics, Genethics
- Space, Time and Motion
- The Link Between Dinosaurs and Birds
- Sharks and Rays
- In the Field with Spiders

In each Seminars on Science course you will:

- Deepen your knowledge of life, Earth or physical sciences
- Discuss scientific ideas and classroom applications with Museum scientists and educators as well as colleagues from across the nation
- Take away lesson plans and resources to use in your classroom

E-mail seminfo@amnh.org or call 800-649-6715 for more information.

Coral Reef Ecology of Hawai'i: Teachers Workshop at the Ke'ei site near Kealakekua Bay, South Kona, on the island of Hawai'i; July 10 - 16 or July 17 - 23

Cost: \$850 for tuition, lodging, food, transportation from airport and equipment. Airfare to Kona, Hawaii is not included.

Information: Laney Heath: 970-254-6430 or laneyh@mesa.k12.co.us

<http://www.aote.org/menu/prog/haw/index.htm>

Participants will learn how humans are impacting the life of the organisms on the coral reef of Hawaii and what the state is doing about it, go on daily snorkel excursions along the shore, explore the coastline, and visit Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park (Place of Refuge). Graduate or professional development credit for this course may be available at an additional cost.

National Teachers Enhancement Network Online Summer Courses

(<http://www.scienceteacher.org/courses.htm>)

Biology: 7 - 12 Grade Teachers

- Terrestrial Ecology of Plains and Prairies
- Biology of Riparian Zones and Wetlands

Earth Science

- Hydrology of Streams and Lakes (7-12 Grade Teachers)

- Landforms for Elementary (K-8) Teachers

Education, Curriculum and Instruction

- Environmental Science Education: Summer Ecological Field Studies (K-14 Grade Teachers)
- Teaching and Learning About Ecosystems (K-8 Teachers)

- Teaching Inquiry in the Science Classroom (7-12 Grade Teachers) [online and in-person format]

Entomology

- The Fascinating Bug: Learning About Insects Through Observation and Inquiry (K-6 Teachers)

Land Resources and Environmental Sciences

- Streamside Science: Hands-on Approaches to Water Quality Education (8-12 Grade Teachers)

Microbiology

- Microbial Genetics (7-12 Grade Teachers)

Physics

- Studying the Universe with Space Observatories (9-12 Grade Teachers)

- Electricity (K-8 Grade Teachers)

Headland Institute's Environmental Educators' Training Program at the Headlands Institute (Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Bldg.103; Sausalito 94110)

August 1-5 or August 8-12, 2005

Cost: \$575/person (scholarships available)

Principals, teachers and educators are invited to attend this unique five-day residential Environmental Educators Training Program in conjunction with the National Park Service and a local college or university. The program brings together classroom and informal educators, and will focus on new skill development, the sharing of successful teaching strategies and innovative ways to integrate environmental science curriculum across disciplines. Four continuing education units are available for participation in the five-day training for a fee of \$320 through U.C. Berkeley Extension. For more information, call the Headlands Institute at 415-332-5771 ext. 25 or dzucker@yni.org



Educator Highlight: Cecilia Schreyer

Cecilia is a "Hidden Question" winner. Her most recent response, abstracted below, to a question included how CREEC is helpful to her and how EE is incorporated into her unique program:

Irvine Home School is a K-8 public school in the Irvine School District. IHS students are issued curriculum and are schooled at home by parents or tutors. IHS holds optional on-site workshops once a week in a classroom including subjects such as science, PE, current events, and writing. OC CREEC is especially valuable to us as a school because one to two local field trips are organized each month, and, in addition, two 3-5 days field trips are held each year for 4-8 graders.

I am a parent volunteer and have coached the school's Science Olympiad teams for 10 years and am presently teaching 7-8th grade science lab for the third year. I have discovered your newsletter to be a great source of information because I am always searching for local information, and of course, field trip opportunities to support my classes. From the CREEC newsletter, I have listened to Marty Rigby at Acorn Naturalists teach us about tidepool life, and then visited it at Crystal Cove with my students. I have taken excellent teacher training at the Discovery Science Center in water quality and insects, and then, with my Science Olympiad team, tested the water in San Diego Creek. In class, we viewed our collected insects online, controlling a scanning electron microscope, with the BUGScope project. I have found numerous mentors (and friends!) in my searches for information on local worms, bugs, bats, birds, animal tracks...

Your super newsletter has so much information, and it always seems to be right on time. For instance, my 7-8th grade class is just studying evolution of living things, and we're presently focusing on worms. And there in the OC CREEC newsletter is current information on school gardens, land use, recycling, water quality, and urban refuse - all topics relevant to the average earthworm! Plus, we were looking for a new field trip opportunity, and LA Arboretum looks great...and so does Audubon Starr Ranch. ✨

Other Opportunities

**Environmental Educator's Open House
April 7, 2005; 6:00 - 9:00 PM at Division 9
Galleries Life Arts Building** (3485 University Ave.; Riverside, CA 92501). Come to see student environmental art and local artists' work, a special theater presentation, and meet Environmental Education Providers and Educators. For more information, contact Micah Justice, Coordinator CREEC Region 10, at 909-386-2797 or visit <http://www.creec.org/region10>

Green Teacher Discount Through April 8
<http://www.greenteacher.com>

Green Teacher magazine is offering a discount on a new book: Teaching Green - The Elementary Years: Hands-on Learning in Grades K-5. It contains over 50 of the best teaching strategies and activities contributed to the magazine during the past decade. Teaching Green - The Middle Years: Hands-on Learning in Grades 6-8 is also available. (From NAAEE EE-News excerpts).

**2005 Future Scientists and Engineers of
America (FSEA) Rocket Competition
May 14, 2005 at the Tustin High School field
starting at 9:00 AM** (<http://www.fsea.org>)

Bring your own rocket or a 2-liter bottle and FSEA will provide the supplies to build a rocket at the event. Register by clicking on the "RSVP for the Rocket Launch" on the website. For helpful hints on building a rocket, go to Rocket Project Plans at <http://www.fsea.org/frprojct/#RK1>

**Four Youths (12-18) and One Adult Wanted
for Sierra Club Inner City Outings Bicycle
Outing on June 4, 2005; 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

This environmental and educational bike ride will be along a flat, graded trail in the Talbert Nature Preserve along the Santa Ana River. Bicycles and helmets for four students and one adult chaperone will be provided. The itinerary will include a brief discussion on bicycle safety, etiquette, riding tips, and environmental impact on trails, a nature walk, and a bring-your-own lunch picnic at a park. For more information contact Lisa Hellman at 714-965-3394 (w) or 714-964-4488 (home).

Volunteers: Sierra Club Inner City Outings

If you are interested in taking youth on nature outings, contact Lisa Hellman at 714-965-3394.



Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Earth Day Celebrations

Celebrate UCI and Earth Day: Free April 16; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

This event features games and rides for children, an Earth Day celebration, Wayzgoose Medieval Faire with food booths, demonstrations, and much more. For information call UCI at 949-824-5182 or visit <http://www.uci.edu/celebrate>

Butterfly House Grand Opening at the Environmental Nature Center: Free April 17; 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: 1601 16th Street; Newport Beach 92663

Join in for the official grand opening of the ENC's new native butterfly house - the only one of its kind in Orange County. Come see the butterflies enjoy their new habitat complete with native Orange County plants and a "puddling pond." You can talk with experts from the North American Butterfly Association and make butterfly crafts with your children to take home. Call 949-645-8489 for information.

Earth Day at Crystal Cove State Park: Free April 23; 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Join park staff, the California State Parks Foundation, and the Irvine Company to celebrate. Meet at Pelican Point parking area #4 located off of Pacific Coast Highway at the stoplight "Newport Coast." At the entrance kiosk turn left and drive to the last parking lot. The parking fee will be waived for volunteers. Projects will include removing non-native plants, sowing native plant seeds, cleaning the beach, and removing fencing. Wear boots and long pants, and bring gloves, sunscreen, and a hat. For more information contact Winter Bonnin at 949-497-7647 or crystalcv@fea.net

Earth Day at Upper Newport Bay: Free April 24; 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center, 2301 University Drive, Newport Beach
Festivities include: interpretive programs, activities for all ages, tanks with sharks, rays and other marine life; science discovery and craft booths, environmental exhibits, live music and much more. Refreshments will be available. For information, call 949-923-2269.

Aquarium of the Pacific Earth Day Celebration (<http://www.aquariumofpacific.org>)

April 23 & 24, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost: General admission - \$18.95 adult (12+), \$16.95 senior (60+), \$10.95 child (3-11) and free to children under age three & Aquarium members
Location: Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach CA 90802

Join the Aquarium for a weekend of family fun celebrating Earth Day while learning simple, everyday tips to protect our environment. Visit booths from various earth-friendly organizations and participate in hands-on learning demonstrations for people of all ages. For more information or tickets, call 562-590-3100.

Honor the Earth at El Dorado Nature Center (http://www.longbeach.gov/park/facilities/parks/el_dorado_nature_center.asp)

April 23, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: Free or donation

Location: El Dorado Nature Center, 7550 E. Spring St., Long Beach CA 90815

Celebrate Earth Day with a walk at the Nature Center. Naturalists and volunteers will share their favorite flowers, birds and animals with you. Enjoy hands-on exploration and activities out on the trails. For information, call 562-570-1745.

Children's Earth Day at STAR ECO Station:

Free (<http://www.ecostation.org/>)

April 24, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: STAR ECO Station, 10101 W. Jefferson Blvd, Culver City 90232

Rescued exotic wildlife, environmental experts and a jungle princess will welcome thousands of visitors to this Earth Day celebration! Santa Monica BayKeeper, Surfrider Foundation, Heal the Bay and TreePeople are some of the environmental partners who will offer booths and interactive environmental education activities to keep kids engaged all day long. Vendor booths offer unique eco-shopping opportunities for people with an eye for Earth friendly, worldly wares. On the STAR Stage, spectacular live entertainment includes dance, music and theatrical performances from STAR Education students, plus local artists, special celebrity guest Tom Kenny (Voice of SpongeBob SquarePants) and STAR's annual education and environmental awards ceremony. For more information, call 310-842-8040 x 133.



Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Local Event Calendar

Crystal Cove State Park

8471 Pacific Coast Highway (PCH)
Laguna Beach CA 92651
949-497-7647

Backcountry Hike

April 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30; 9:00 AM

Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park").

25th Anniversary Celebration

April 9; 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Events include:

8:00 AM: Mountain Bike Ride

9:00 AM: Wildflower Hike

10:00 AM: historic District Walk

12:00 PM: Native American Presentation

1:00 PM: Dolphin Birthing Talk

4:00 PM: Tidepool Walk

7:00 PM: Sunset Walk

Call Winter Bonnin at 949-497-7647 or e-mail crystalcv@fea.net for event locations and information.

Environmental Nature Center

1601 16th Street

Newport Beach, CA 92663

<http://www.ENCcenter.org>

All programs listed below require reservations, call 949-645-8489

Summer Science Nature Camp Registration has begun

Nature Camp is a natural science enrichment program offered to elementary students who are entering Kindergarten through 6th grade. Camp is offered in three 2-week sessions from June 27 through August 4. For information/to register call the number above.

Toddler Time - Incredible Insects

Thursday, April 14, 10 - 11 AM

Join us for this parent and child (3-5 yrs.) playtime with an insect theme. We'll search the Center for native, wild insects, make a "bug house" craft and read "The Very Quiet

Environmental Nature Center *(continued)*

Cricket." The program will culminate in a tour through the ENC's new butterfly house - but butterfly sightings are not guaranteed. Cost is \$5/child.

Walk with a Founder, Robert House Thursday, April 21, 12-1:30 PM

Take a walk with ENC founder, Robert House and learn about the history of the ENC and the plant communities of California while enjoying the beauty of the Center. Admission is free. Bring a sack lunch.

Natural Disasters and People Friday, April 22, 7-8:00 PM

Join us for a unique presentation by anthropologist Maria Carrillo, to learn how natural disasters have affected humans throughout history. Maria, a graduate student at California State University, Fullerton, is studying the effects of natural disasters like volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis on people. This presentation is appropriate for the whole family. Cost is \$2/guest.

Toddler Time - Butterfly Bonanza!

Tuesday, April 26, 10 - 11:00 AM

Join us for this parent and child (3-5 yrs.) playtime with a butterfly theme! We'll search the Center for native, wild butterflies, make a caterpillar craft and read "Waiting for Wings." The program will culminate in a tour through the ENC's new butterfly house - Cost is \$5/child.

The Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy

28672 Ortega Highway (office)

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

laura@theconservancy.org

RSVP to 949-489-9778

Trail Clearing

April 9; 8:00 AM -11:30 AM

Help clear the Conservancy's trails. Drinks and sandwiches provided. Free.

continued on page 8

The Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy
(continued)

Weed Warriors

April 9; 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Help rid The Conservancy of pesky, invasive weeds. Help out the native wildlife by maintaining the food supply for our animals. A few hours of your time each month can make a big difference! It's easy work in the midst of beautiful scenery. Enjoy the songs of birds and frogs. Snacks and drinks are provided. Free.

Shady Canyon Nature Walk

April 10; 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Visit DOLC for a spring morning nature walk. You will visit different habitats, including a grassland and an oak woodland, smell the aromatic plants of the Coastal Sage Scrub, and look at tracks to find out which animals have been there before you. Donation: \$5/adult, \$2/child.

Richard and Donna O'Neill Garden Tour
(Spring Benefit)

April 16; 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Visit the private, world-class San Juan Capistrano garden designed by Donna O'Neill with assistance from Gary Lyons, curator of the desert gardens at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. You will enjoy a spectacular view of the San Juan Creek Valley and the Santa Ana Mountains and learn about the art of designing with cacti, succulents, and drought-tolerant plants from our local area - and around the world. Bring your camera and enjoy! Refreshments will be served. Donation: \$50/person.

Family Nature Walk Wildflowers and Butterflies

April 23, 2005; 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wander with a naturalist guide through the hills and canyons of DOLC in search of wildflowers and butterflies. We will look for the spring wildflowers: shooting stars and wild hyacinth, California buttercups, popcorn flower, paintbrush, deerweed, and more. Cameras and binoculars are welcome. Donation: \$5/adult, \$2/child.

The Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy *(cont'd.)*

North Ridge Hike (3 miles)

April 23; 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hike the North Ridge Trail DOLC and see the reserve on a beautiful April afternoon. You will learn about the precious wilderness and animals in Orange County, and see the beautiful spring wildflowers. Donation: \$5.00/adult, \$2/child

Yoga in Nature

April 30; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Enjoy a relaxing morning at The Conservancy learning yoga and meditation in nature. Join Janet Rice, who has been practicing yoga for 15 years and teaching for 8 years. Ms. Rice has training in Iyengar, Viniyoga, and foundations of Svaropa yoga. Donation: \$5.00/person.

Biology Research Day

April 30; 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Join The Conservancy Biological Research team and help with real research projects on The Conservancy. This group meets the last Saturday of every month. Everyone is welcome. Free.

Astronomy Night

April 30; 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Learn the spring constellations and marvel at the creativity of those who saw lions, bears, and hunters in the sky. You may discover star clusters, nebulae, and look at the craters of the moon. Donation: \$8.00/adult, \$6.00/child 8 & up (not recommended for younger children).

Acorn Naturalists

155 El Camino Road

Tustin, CA 92780

Open Monday - Saturday; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

<http://www.acornnaturalists.com>

"Orange County Vectors in Perspective: A Brief History of West Nile, Hanta Virus and Lyme Disease" presented by Larry Shaw and Michael Hearst

April 13; 7:00 PM

This is part of the Natural History Lecture Series.

Writing Workshop for Interpreters, Park Naturalists, Docents, etc.

June 9 and 10

Go to the website above for more information.

continued on page 9

Oak Canyon Nature Center

6700 E. Walnut Canyon Road, Anaheim
92807
Call 714-998-8380 for fees and reservations
Open 7 days a week, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Go to <http://www.anaheim.net/ocnc> for details about Special Programs, Outreach School programs and Naturalist-Led Tours of the Center.

O.A.K.S. (Outdoor Awareness, Knowledge, & Skills) Summer Day Camp
Early Registration Fee: \$80.00 per participant per session. Registration Fee Increases by \$10 beginning June 1, 2005. Camp sessions are each one week long and begin June 20. For More Information, Please Call (714) 998-8380.

Hikes for Tykes

For ages 2-4 from 10-11 AM;
\$3.00/participant
A Walk on the Wild Side: April 13
Earth Day Birthday: April 23
April Showers Bring May Flowers: April 28

Tykes on the Go

For ages 4-6 on specified days, from 2-3 PM,
\$3.00/participant.
Earth Day Every Day!: April 20
Picture the Moon: May 2

Canyon Explorers

For ages 7-8 on Tuesdays, from 3:30-5:00 PM, \$4.50 per participant.
A Tale of Tails: April 12
Forest in a Jar: April 26

Art a la Naturale

For ages 9-12 on Wednesdays, from 3:30 - 5:00 PM, \$4.50 per participant.
Painting Upside Down! April 13
Sprout Some Sunshine April 27

Afternoon Adventures

For ages 9-12 on Thursdays, from 3:30-5:00 PM, \$4.50 per participant.
Wonderful Wildflowers; April 7
Think Green; April 21
Beautiful Buteos and Awesome Accipiters; May 5

Oak Canyon Nature Center (continued)

Roots & Shoots

Young adults ages 12 & up on Mondays, 3:30 - 5 PM. Free.

Oak Canyon Dry Brush Removal / Trail Maintenance; April 10

Quail Trail Non-Native Plant Removal; April 17

Tranquility Trail Trash Clean Up / Trail Maintenance; April 24

Discover Nature Saturday Program

For families and individuals, Saturdays; 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Free.

Plants of the Canyon: April 9

Insects of the Canyon: April 16

Trackin' in the Canyon: April 23

Homes of the Canyon: April 30

City of Irvine Open Space Programs

To register or for information, go to http://www.cityofirvine.org/depts/cs/openspace/vent_calendar.asp or call 949-724-6738. Programs are FREE unless otherwise indicated.

April 9; 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Bommer Canyon

Help make a difference in the Open Space Preserve. Bring the family to get fresh air and exercise when you join us for our monthly land steward day. Projects include: trail maintenance, non-native plant removal and general conservation. Bring your own gloves and tools (labeled), water, hat, and wear closed toed shoes. Parents must accompany children under 18. Ages 16+. Sign ups not required.

Sunset Picnic Hike (Course #24811)

April 15; 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Bring your family and a picnic dinner to rustic Bommer Canyon to enjoy a canyon sunset. Begin with a guided nature walk and conclude with dinner in the picnic area. Hike distance is one mile. Recommended for ages 6+.

Spring Migration Hike (Course #24819)

April 23; 8:00 - 10:30 AM

Stroll through Bommer Canyon in search of migratory birds heading north for spring! A trained docent will assist in identification and will offer background. Bring binoculars or a scope. Maximum distance is 2.5miles; recommended for ages 9+.

continued on page 10

City of Irvine Open Space Programs (cont.)

Full Moon Hike (Course #24807)

April 23; 8:30 - 10:30 PM

Come explore Bommer Canyon in the beauty of a full moon. Discover the habitat needs of bats, owls, raccoons, coyotes, and other nocturnal creatures while in search of their sights and sounds. Hike is 2 miles; ages 10+.

Hicks Canyon View Hike (Course #24822)

April 24; 4:00 - 8:00 PM

Join us on an interpretive hike in Irvine's northern wilderness of Hicks Canyon. Hike the paved road and learn about the area's history and native habitats. Bring your binoculars. Hike distance is 6 miles and includes a long, steep hill.

Starry Night (Course #24870)

April 29; 8:00 - 10:00 PM

Location: Bommer Canyon

Explore the night sky in Bommer Canyon. Telescopes will bring the planets and star clusters closer to you, as the Orange County Astronomers host this stellar evening. All ages.

Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary

100 Bell Canyon

Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

<http://www.starr-ranch.org>

Reservations: 949-858-0131

Information: 949-858-0309

Family Nature Workshops

May 7, 2005; 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

You and your family are invited to experience first-hand the beauty of wilderness and to learn together during workshops and walks offered by our staff and docents that will include:

- Cougars, Bobcats, and Coyotes!
- Hawk Research
- Starr Ranch Ecosystems (during a truck ride around the Ranch)
- Starr Ranch History walk
- Bat Biology

Admission is free, but by RESERVATION ONLY. Space is limited; make reservations by phone or at the website. Tables will be available for picnic lunches. Toilets are available. No pets are allowed. Rain cancels.

Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary (cont'd.)

Starr Ranch Junior Biologists Summer

Program: Registration Open

Children ages 8 – 13 are invited to join the Starr Ranch scientific team as Starr Ranch Junior Biologists to learn how scientists study wild animals and their habitats.

Starr Ranch Junior Biologists I

June 13 – 17 or July 11 - 15

Kids ages 8 – 12 explore and observe native ecosystems and have fun with some of the techniques scientists use to study wildlife.

Starr Ranch Junior Biologists II

June 20 – 24 or July 18 - 22

Children ages 8 – 12 participate in ecological research as they identify simple research questions, learn techniques for answering questions, and collect data. *SRJB I required.*

Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM;

Friday 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Cost: \$100 for 1 week; \$175 for SRJB I & II.

Starr Ranch Junior Biologists III

June 27 – July 1: Wildlife Research, Night and Day or July 25 – July 29: Ecology of Bell Creek

For the advanced kids ages 10 – 13, this session provides intensive studies of the animals and ecosystems introduced in SRJB I and II. New topics are added each summer. *SRJB I & II required.*

Monday – Wednesday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

(except June 29); Thursday 1:00 PM – Friday

12:00 PM (overnight stay)

Cost: \$100 for 1 week; \$275 for SRJB I, II, & III

Starr Ranch Junior Biologists IV

New for ages 14 – 16. SRJB I, II & III required. Call Sandy for details: 949-858-0309.

Chino Hills State Park

Living History

April 20; 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Take a journey through time to learn about the history of Chino Hills State Park. Activities about: Native American period, ranching years and the dairy industry will be available. For information http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=648

continued on page 11

Ralph B. Clark Regional Park

8800 Rosecrans Avenue
Buena Park, CA 90621
1714-973-3170
clarkpark@ocpark.com
<http://www.ocparks.com/clarkpark>

Arch in the Park

April 30; 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Parking Fee: \$7

Pacific Coast Archaeological Society and the Orange County Natural History Museum are co-sponsoring this educational day of archaeology and fun. Activities include: throwing a "rabbit stick" and learning how to use a bow for hunting, making a sand painting, hearing Indian history and stories told by Native American tribal members, seeing basket weavers demonstrate ancient technology, and joining archaeologists in a "dig." For information contact Sandy Schneeberger at schneeberg@earthlink.net or go to <http://www.pcas.org>

California Native Plant Society

<http://www.occnps.org>
Questions: Sarah Jayne 949-552-0691

Native Plant Sale at Tree of Life Nursery

33201 Ortega Highway (SR 74)
<http://www.treeoflifenyursery.com>

April 9; 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Everyone is welcome to purchase native plants for their gardens. You will have the chance to speak with knowledgeable folks who can help you identify which native plants will work in your garden.

Inidan Wells Canyon: Fieldtrip

April 16; 9:00 AM

Contact Naomi Fraga for details at naomi.fraga@cgu.edu 909-625-8767, x.231

Rare Plants of Southern California: Mark Elvin (Speaker), General Meeting

April 21; 7:30 PM

Meeting is held at the Irvine Ranch Water District headquarters at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine.

Joshua Tree National Park: Fieldtrip

April 22 - 24

Contact Steve Hartman at 818-881-3706 or naturebase@aol.com for information.

California Native Plant Society (continued)

Spring Wildflowers in the Tehachapis:

Fieldtrip

April 23; 10:00 AM

Contact Sarah Jayne (ph. Above) for details.

Search for Rare Plants in Morrell Canyon:

Fieldtrip

April 30; 9:00 AM

Contact Sarah Jayne for information.

Lichen Hunting in the Santa Ana Mountains:

Fieldtrip

May 7; 9:00 AM

Contact Sarah Jayne for information.

Sierra Spring Sojourn: Fieldtrip

May 13 - 15

Contact Sherryl Taylor at staylor@pgcable.com or call 760-924-8742.

Upper Newport Bay Activities

All events below require reservations. Call 949-923-2269 for information or reservations.

Canoe Tours: Saturdays at 8:30 AM.

Kayak Tours: Saturdays at 10:00 AM.

Electric Boat Tours: Saturdays April 23 and May 21; 11:30 AM. Evening Marsh Prowl on May 21 at 7:30 PM.

Nature Walks: April 16, May 7 & 21; 9:00 AM.

Call 949-923-2269 for information. No reservation required.

Marine Discovery: April 23, May 21; 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM. Participate in a beach seine, bottom trawl, or plankton/water quality survey. Fee is \$10/person. Call 949-642-5031 for reservations.

Restoration Teamwork Days: April 16, May 28; 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Help restore the native plants of the Bay. Call 949-640-0286.

Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center

2301 University Drive; Newport Beach
Call Candice McIntyre at 949-923-2295 for information on these and other programs, and to register.

Astronomy Night: April 16; 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Toddler Time "Crazy Coyotes": April 20

Critter Connections: April 26; 1:00 - 3:00 PM

continued on page 12

Other Local Parks

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, 20101 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach; reservations/information: 949-923-2235;

<http://www.ocparks.com>

Orange County rangers and a groundskeeper staff the park daily. Parking lot hours: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Willow Canyon on Laguna Canyon Road, just south of the El Toro Road intersection: Open to hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers on specified trails without guides; parking, \$3. Volunteers available for assistance.

Dilley Preserve on Laguna Canyon Road, just north of the 73 Tollroad: This area is closed for at least six months due to road construction.

Laguna Heights, the trailhead for West Ridge trail and other routes into Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park: Open daily all year, 7 a.m. to sunset.

Docent-led Tours by Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. Volunteers: 8:00 AM every second and fourth Saturday of the month. Call for reservations and meeting points. Weekday and special group tours are also available.

Become a Wilderness Access Volunteer: Monthly training offered from 9:00 - 11:00 AM every third weekend, including April 16.

Stewardship Days: Help with restoration projects from 8:00 - 11:00 AM on April 16 and every third Saturday of the month through May. All volunteers receive free "Keep It Wild" t-shirts provided by the Laguna Canyon Foundation.

Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, 28373 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Niguel ; 949-923-2200;

<http://www.ocparks.com>

Open daily all year, 7:00 AM - sunset, for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians; parking, \$3. Orange County rangers and a groundskeeper staff the park daily; free, 30-minute ranger-led Discovery Hike offered each second and fourth Saturday at noon.

Orange County Natural History Museum; 949-831-3287. Located at the park entrance; call before visiting to confirm museum is open.

The Irvine Ranch Land Reserve, Nature Conservancy, 714-832-7478;

<http://www.irvineranchlandreserve.com>

e-mail: irvineranch@tnc.org

Bike Rides: Meet at the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park's Willow Canyon Staging Area for mountain bike rides on April 9 & 16 at 8:30 AM; April 21 at 9:00 AM; and April 23 at 7:30 AM.

Hikes: Meet for a 3-mile hike through Laurel Canyon on April 9 at 8:00 AM. Get in shape with an 8-mile, 4- to 5-hour, fast-paced hike in Emerald Canyon on April 16 at 8:00 AM.

Geology: Learn about Laurel Canyon's geology on a hike on April 30; 8:30 AM.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

1500 N. College Avenue

Claremont, CA 91711

909-625-8767

<http://www.rsabg.org>

To register, contact Rachel Kau-Taylor at 909-625-8767, ext. 224 or e-mail at

Rachel.Kau-Taylor@cgu.edu

Advanced Plant Identification for Field Biologists (Code: 052BOT102)

April 9; 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Cost: \$86 (non-member)

This class will arm the field biologist with the know-how to distinguish and define plant characteristics and use a taxonomic key to identify the plant family, genus, and species.

Lichens in LA-LA-land! (Code: 052NAT102)

April 16; 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Cost: \$79 (non-member); transportation provided and included in class fee.

Lichens are fascinating and occur in some of the most extreme environments on Earth. Many of these environments are also among the most sensitive to destruction and pollution. Participants will hike along easy trails in Griffith Park (L.A.) and Topanga Canyon to identify some lichen species.

continued on page 13

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (cont'd)

Geology of the Santa Monica Mountains
(Code: 052NAT103)

April 17, 2005; 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Cost: \$79 (nonmember); transportation provided and included in class fee.

Join geologist D. Trent for a look into the geologic past of the small, but complex Santa Monica Mountain range. Discover how the Santa Monica Mountains differ from the other mountain ranges in the Transverse Range complex. Learn about the great firestorm 25,000 years ago and how that event resulted in a landscape of spectacular craggy volcanic rocks interspersed with fossil-bearing marine sediments.

Propagation of Native Plants from Cuttings
(Code: 052HRT102)

April 30; 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Cost: \$61 (non-member); materials included. This workshop will teach participants the techniques and practical applications of plant propagation from cuttings. Discussions will cover how cuttings take root, types of cuttings to harvest, preparing the cuttings, and maintaining proper environmental conditions for growth. Participants will get hands-on experience in the nursery and take home a number of plant cuttings.

Close-Up Flower Photography
(Code :052ART101)

April 30 and May 7; 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cost: \$94 (non-member)

On day one, students will be introduced to the methodology of close-up photography, compare and contrast film, and discuss digital photography techniques. Students, using their own camera, will apply their newly learned photography techniques in the garden. On day two, students will learn the technical skills used in downloading, scanning, photo enhancing and printing. There will also be a discussion about the various types of print papers available. Students can work with either standard film or digital.

El Dorado Nature Center

7550 E. Spring Street
Long Beach, CA 90815
562-570-1745.

Butterfly Rearing in the Classroom

May 7; 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Cost: \$10

Learn techniques for successfully rearing butterflies from egg through larval stages to pupa and adult. Find out which plants and flowers sustain caterpillars and butterflies so your classroom and gardens can come alive with color and beauty. For more information,

International Migratory Bird Day

May 14; 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us as we celebrate one of the most spectacular events in nature - the migration of birds from their winter to summer homes. Many of these spring migrants make stops at the Nature Center and this is your opportunity to see them!

Orange County Harbors, Beaches, and Parks

For information about events at the County-owned and operated parks, go to <http://www.ocparks.com/events/default.asp> and choose the event month.

Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center at Upper Newport Bay

Go to <http://www.newportbay.org/progic.htm> for event information.

Santa Ana Zoo

<http://www.santaanazoo.org/>

Discovery Science Center

<http://www.discoverycube.org/>

Ocean Institute

<http://www.ocean-institute.org/>

Sea and Sage Audubon Society

<http://seaandsageaudubon.org>



This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Orange County California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network. The CREEC Network is administered by the **California Department of Education**, Environmental Education Program, in partnership with numerous agencies and organizations, including the **Orange County Department of Education** (OCDE) and OCDE's *Inside the Outdoors* (<http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org>)