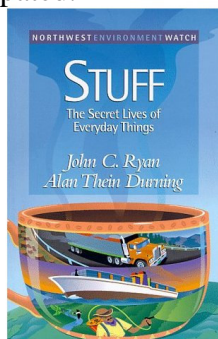


Hidden Question

Congratulations to Martha Burke who is substituting while finishing her Masters degree in teaching at Chapman University. She won the Hidden Question for the March issue. Thanks as well to Cheri Miller and Sue Stoffel who also participated.

The prize this month is the book Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things by John C. Ryan and Alan Thein Durning. This book follows a day in the life of a fictional, typical middle-class North American as they consume such things as coffee, use a computer, read the paper, and drink cola. It helps readers understand what happens around the world to support a day in the life of a North American. The information may be surprising, perhaps even depressing as it is not for the faint of mind, but the good news is each chapter includes recommendations to live more sustainably.



Embedded within the text of this newsletter is a hidden question. To win, follow the instructions in the question. Once you have an answer, be the first to contact Helen at HdelaMaza@ocde.us or 714-838-8990. People who respond but are not the first to do so will receive an appreciation gift.

Good Luck! ☺



Coordinator Communications: Reflections on Earth Day

This month marks the 37th anniversary of the celebration of Earth Day. The first one, on April 22, 1970, was started by then-Senator Gaylord Nelson.



For our students, 1970 may feel like ancient history, but for planet Earth, the past few decades have been merely a blip on the time scale. But this brief blip has included major changes in the human population including:

- a world population increase from 3.7 billion people to 6.5 billion
- a United States population increase from 203 million to 300 million people

With more of us on the planet using and relying on resources, our cumulative impact has increased. Earth Day is a wonderful opportunity for us to engage students in thinking about how we all can be empowered to make a difference in our homes, schools, and communities. If each of the 300 million people in the United States decided to conserve 5 gallons of water per week by taking shorter showers, that would be 5x52x300 million gallons!

The fundamental tenets of environmental education, from the Tbilisi Declaration (1978), are: Awareness, Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills, and Participation. This month, may we all realize that our individual active participation can create a ripple that changes the world.

-Helen



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For more local events, training opportunities:
<http://www.creec.org/region9b/>

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

Information is compiled from a variety of sources, including NSTA Express, EE-NEWS@NAAEE, CREEC, Information Exchange for Marine Educators, Energenius, Project Learning Tree, GLEF Edutopia News, CABAP, CFAITC, Volunteer Center OC, and others.

Training Time!

(Opportunities listed here may be appropriate for Teachers, EE Providers, or other Educators. Visit the OC-CREEC website and previous newsletters for other opportunities.)

Discovery Science Center: Free Teacher's Open Houses From 4:30 – 6:30 PM



April 2, 2007: *Sun & Weather, Convection Currents*
May 7, 2007: *Circulatory & Respiratory Systems*
This educational event includes a guided exhibit tour and a hands-on science workshop. This year, the workshops focus on science content that will facilitate an understanding of the concepts addressed on the 5th grade science test and most commonly misunderstood science concepts. Call 714-913-5012 for information.

O.C. Natural History Lecture Series at Santa Ana Zoo: "Dig Those Diving Dolphins" presented by Dennis Kelly

April 11, 2007; 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Dolphins have amazed and astounded humans at various aquariums and in their natural habitat, the ocean, for decades. Dennis Kelly will discuss the local population of dolphins. Dennis has been a Professor of Marine Science at Orange Coast College since 1974. He is also the director and founder of the Coastal Dolphin Survey Project, which he founded to give Orange Coast College students and the O.C.'s population insight into the dolphins we see swimming off the coast.

Family Nature Workshops at Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary

May 5, 2007; 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
You must register to attend. Call: 949-858-0131 or visit <http://www.starr-ranch.org>
Admission is free. Each person chooses two programs during the 9 a.m. sign-up which is on a first-come first-served basis.

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, guest biologists, and docents.

- Cougars, Bobcats, and Coyotes!
- Hawk Research
- Ghostwalker, Cougar in the Santa Ana Mtns.
- Starr Ranch Ecosystems (during a truck ride around the Ranch)
- Starr Ranch History walk
- Bat Biology
- Amazing Spiders
- Nature Walks

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Great Grants & Cool Contests

8th Annual Water Awareness Poster Contest Deadline: April 13, 2007

<http://www.farmwater.org>

In celebration of Water Awareness Month in May, fourth grade students are invited by the California Farm Water Coalition to create an 8 ½" x 11" poster that expresses their feelings about irrigated agriculture in California. Winners will receive savings bonds and have their artwork featured on the CFWC Web site and teachers will receive credit towards classroom supplies.

GreenWorks! Grants

Deadline: April 30, 2007

Eligibility: Anyone who has participated in a PLT workshop is eligible to apply.

http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_18.html

This service-learning grant program "GreenWorks!" from Project Learning Tree® (PLT) will help fund neighborhood environmental improvement projects that partner PLT educators and their students with local businesses or community organizations. Grants up to \$5,000 are available.

National EE Week Photo Contest

Deadline: May 4, 2007

http://www.eeweek.org/gallery_rules.htm

The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History and Canon U.S.A. Inc. offer this contest to celebrate National Environmental Education (EE) Week, April 15 - 22, 2007. The EE Week photo contest is open to students in grades K-12 in both formal classroom settings and nonformal outlets such as zoos, aquariums, nature centers, and parks. This year's photo contest will offer two categories for entry:

- The *Wildlife Explorations* category will be for photos of wildlife observed over the course of National EE Week. Photos in this category must not contain persons or non-natural objects.
- The *Hands on the Outdoors* category will be for photos of children engaged in outdoor environmental learning over the course of National EE Week.

An Elementary, Middle, and High School winner will be chosen for each of the two categories. The six winning photographers will receive a copy of a Peterson Field Guide to Natural History, and the six schools/organizations that are associated with the winners will receive a digital camera donated by Canon U.S.A., Inc.

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Training Time! [continued from page 2](#)

Seminars on Science

<http://learn.amnh.org>

Ph: 800-649-6715

Summer Session 1: June 11 - June 22, 2007

Registration Closes: May 29, 2007 (early registration ends May 14)

Summer Session 2: July 2 - August 12, 2007

Registration Closes: June 18, 2007 (early registration ends June 4)

The American Museum of Natural History's Seminars on Science professional development courses designed for K-12 educators include:

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

Fundamentals of Environmental Education ~ Online

June 4 - August 17, 2007 or

September 10 - November 23, 2007

<http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/rwilke/eetap/>

For a registration form contact: Angela Lemar at Angela.Lemar@uwsp.edu

This 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 educators across the country.

Earth Day Thoughts

<http://www.creec.org/region9b/>

For the hidden question, reflect on how you can empower your students, this Earth Day and every day, using the tenets of the Tbilisi Declaration: Awareness, Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills, and Participation. Then email (HdelaMaza@ocde.us) Helen and share your reflection. The first educator to do this will receive the book Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things. Other participants will receive an appreciation prize. Answers may be shared in future OC-CREEC newsletters or the website.

Department of Education: Best Practices Summer Workshop in Orange County

Dates: June 27 - June 28, 2007

Focus: Reading, Math, Art, Early Childhood, and History

Grade levels: K-12

Registration will open April 8, 2007

<http://www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative>

The U.S. Department of Education has named Orange County as a site for its annual summer regional workshops for teachers to learn best practices from fellow educators successful in raising student achievement. This year's co-hosts include two federal government agencies—the National Park Service (NPS) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); a number of TechNet partners, including Microsoft, EMC, AMD, Symantec, the University of Nevada, and Motorola; as well as Target, General Motors Corp., Siemens Foundation, and MATHCOUNTS.

The workshops are part of the Department's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative, which supports teachers in various ways, including keeping them informed about the latest strategies and research for closing the achievement gap and helping all students meet high standards. Each workshop will include breakout sessions featuring effective teachers and practitioners sharing strategies that have been successful in their classrooms, schools and districts.

National Teachers Enhancement Network: Online Courses

<http://scienceteacher.org/sum07.htm>

Extensive summer field and online courses are offered including:

- * Contemporary Issues in Science Education
- * Environmental Measurement: Sensors and Electronics for Environmental Research
- * The Fascinating Bug: Learning About Insects Through Observation and Inquiry
- * Landforms for Elementary Teachers
- * Plant Science: It Grows on You
- * Science Lab Safety and Risk Management
- * Streamside Science: Hands-on Approaches to Water Quality
- * Teaching and Learning About Ecosystems
- * Teaching and Learning in Science: Elementary Space Science
- * Teaching Electricity and Magnetism Using Research-Based Curriculum



Great Grants & Cool Contests

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Earth Day Photo Contest for Middle School Students

Deadline: May 9, 2007

Participants: 5 – 8th grade students

<http://www.strategies.org/EarthDayPhoto>

During the week of Earth Day, students in grades 5-8 can be part of a unique national effort to capture our changing world. Anytime from April 22 through April 29, take a photograph of something that is changing in your local environment. It could be a change occurring in your backyard, outside your school, in a local park, or off in the distance toward the horizon. Then, research and write a scientific explanation (400 words or less) that answers the following questions:

- What is the change taking place in your photograph?
- What may be causing the change?
- Was the change expected?
- How might the change impact surrounding areas, including people?
- How might this picture look different in the future?

Entries will be judged based on relevance to topic (depiction of change in the environment), uniqueness and overall appearance of the photo, and thoroughness of the written explanation.

The top three winners will receive cash prizes in the amount of \$100, \$75 and \$50, respectively. The top 10 winners will receive their photograph in a special frame commemorating Earth Day 2007. The top 50 photographs and accompanying descriptions will be published on the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies website:

<http://www.strategies.org>

2007 Brower Youth Awards

Deadline: May 15, 2007

<http://www.broweryouthawards.org>

A program of the Earth Island Institute, the annual Brower Youth Award recognizes six young people (ages of 13-22) for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and social justice advocacy. Each of six recipients will be awarded a \$3000 cash prize, a trip to California for the award ceremony and camping trip, and ongoing access to resources and opportunities to further their work at Earth Island.

NEA Grants Program

Deadline: June 1, 2007

<http://www.neafoundation.org/grants.htm>


The Learning & Leadership Grants for teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to engage in high-quality professional development and growth. The grant amount is \$2,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for groups engaged in collegial study.

The Student Achievement Grants provide \$5,000 to improve the academic achievement of students by engaging in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should also improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection.

California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers: Nursery Industry Fund for Innovation and Excellence

Proposal Deadline: June 1, 2007

For more information, contact Dr. Mark Shelton at mshelton@calpoly.edu

Funding requests of any amount will be considered, but will be generally limited to no more than \$20,000. Project topics include classroom materials to integrate horticulture, professional development programs for teachers or nursery industry employees, recruitment materials for students to study horticulture at high school or college level, outreach materials to educate consumers about horticultural services and products, and materials or programs that inform about the economic, social, and environmental benefits of the green industry. 

Volunteers Needed for Children's Water Education Festival

April 30, May 1 and May 2, 2007

Hidden Valley Park, Irvine

The Children's Water Education Festival is the largest event of its kind. More than 6,000 fourth and fifth grade students and their teachers participate in this nationally recognized festival each year. Seventy-plus water conservation activities are presented by local organizations. Volunteers are needed to help with various aspects of the festival. To download a registration form and to look at the volunteer opportunities, visit [http://www.creec.org/region9b/stories/storyReader\\$137](http://www.creec.org/region9b/stories/storyReader$137)





Rad Resources



Tips on Conserving Resources

Natural Resources Defense Council

<http://www.nrdc.org/air/energy/genenergy/easy.asp>

Tips on reducing energy use.

Water Use It Wisely

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100ways/sw.shtml>

Use Less Stuff: Middle School Curriculum

<http://cygnus-group.com/use-less-stuff/NSTA.html>

An Ounce of Prevention: This curriculum was developed for the National Science Teachers Association and is available for downloading in PDF format.

EPA's Recycle City

<http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/print/textonly.htm>

Celebrating Earth Week: It's Elemental

<http://www.greenteacher.com//articles/earthweek.html>

Inspiring ideas for engaging students in a week-long exploration of water, fire, earth, air, and life.

EPA's Climate Change Kids Site

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/kids/difference.html>

Rainforest Alliance Learning Site

<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/programs/education/teachers/index.html>

Because we believe that children are our biggest stakeholders, we created the Rainforest Alliance Learning Site filled with free, complete lesson plans, stories (available in English, Spanish and Portuguese), presentations, articles, posters and background descriptions of species and on-the-ground conservation projects for kindergarten through sixth grade. This program is unique in that it teaches science, math, language arts and social studies essentials while addressing the National Standards for Science. The multidisciplinary curriculum presents information on forests, wildlife and local communities, and provides a global perspective on the importance of protecting the world's natural resources.



Biodiversity Online Secondary Module

http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/36_124_120.html

Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity is a new addition to the Project Learning Tree (PLT) collection that uses biodiversity as a window through which secondary students investigate the environment. Educators and students get a broader view of concepts and larger connections - not just biological, but political, cultural, ethical, and economic as well. Educators are permitted to use any of the online materials on the PLT website.

California Grown Activity Poster

Grades K-2, 3-5

<http://www.californiagrown.org>

This poster created by California Grown, in partnership with the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC), features Shawn White and photos of California grown foods on the front and lesson ideas aligned to California State Content Standards on the back. Activities include "California-Everything You Need, Right in Your Own Backyard," "Interactive California Grown Map," "Who Makes Our Stuff?," "From Seed to You," "California Grown at Home" and "California Grown-More Than Just Food." The poster is available as a free download from the website.

Environmental Literacy Council

<http://www.enviroliteracy.org/teachers-index.php>

From the main Teaching Resources section you can access teaching modules and a variety of classroom materials ranging from links to all-around great sites for kids, to practice exams and programs connecting classrooms around the world.

North American Association for Environmental Education Conference Proceedings Online

<http://www.naaee.org/conference/conference-history/proceedings-2005-albuquerque-nm/2005-proceedings>

The 2005 NAAEE conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, had hundreds of presenters. Some of these presenters submitted formal presentation papers, and PDFs of those papers are available.



Provider Perspectives

This section of the newsletter is specifically for naturalists, docents, interpreters, and any other staff of Environmental Education and Science Education Providers.

Publicize Volunteer and Service-Learning Opportunities

Bette Weinberg, the Director of Volunteer Services at the Volunteer Center of Orange County (VCOC), would like to include your volunteer programs and service-learning projects on the VCOC website. VCOC constantly receives inquiries from people of all ages looking for places to volunteer, and teachers interested in service-learning projects. Providing your program and project information to Bette for posting on the VCOC website will increase your organization's visibility.

Please fill out the two following forms available at the OC-CREEC website at

<http://www.creec.org/region9b/> and email them to Bette at: bweinberg@volunteercenter.org

1. VCOC Partner Registration
2. VCOC Project Registration

If you have questions about this, please call Bette at 714-953-5757 ext. 135.

Coastkeeper Seeking Volunteer Panelists to Judge Student Presentations

April 18 or 19, 2007; 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Orange County Coastkeeper's Watershed Education Program is in need of your help! This year, OC Coastkeeper has provided outdoor field trips to several local high school classes in our education program, WHALES: Watershed Heroes-Actions Linking Education to Stewardship. The students will be giving multi-media presentations on current watershed issues. You are invited to participate in this event as a final presentation judge. Your role would consist of introducing yourself, judging the presentations and asking critical questions following each presentation.

If interested, please contact:

Justin Luedy: justin@coastkeeper.org or Briana Madden: briana@coastkeeper.org 714-850-1965

Please also let us know if you can't make these dates but are still interested in future events, as we also need a panel for Orange High School's presentation day at the end of May.

Stewardship Council Youth Grant Upcoming Deadlines

Infrastructure Fund

Applications may be submitted May 5, 2007 – June 1, 2007

Awards will be announced at the end of November.

http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org/youth_investment/guidelines_and_application.php?v=0

The RFP is currently available for downloading on the website.

The application will be available in early May 2007.

It is the intent of the Stewardship Council to invest in community parks and infrastructure in our underserved communities. Applicants may request up to \$200,000 as well as request the distribution of grant awards over a two-year period. Infrastructure projects may target all age groups. It is also important to note that the Stewardship Council will not support more than 50% of any Infrastructure project. Please note that a Letter of Inquiry is NOT required with this grant round.

Catalyst Fund (Round 2): Nurturing Small Grassroots Organizations

Applications may be submitted May 14, 2007 – June 15, 2007

http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org/youth_investment/guidelines_and_application.php?v=0

The Stewardship Council will target \$150,000 to support grassroots organizations. The Catalyst funds will be available for qualified applicants requesting less than \$10,000. A qualified grassroots organization is defined as one that is all or largely volunteer driven; has few full-time staff persons or equivalent; has an annual budget, including projects, of less than \$150,000; and has not received significant foundation support. Grassroots organizations must identify a significant community need, develop a clear plan for translating that need into action, and demonstrate an ability to account for the expenditure of funds.

Orange County CREEC Updates

- **Online Calendar:** Please post your events! Go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> and click on "Calendar" to enter your upcoming events in the Orange County CREEC calendar.



Earth Day Celebrations

For additional details on the events below and to download available flyers, visit <http://www.creec.org/region9b>

For Ongoing School Programs, visit the "Resource Directory" at <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> Visit the "Calendar" section of the website for other Public Program Opportunities.

* April 21: Time TBA: Coastwalk-L.A.'s "Long Beach Coast by Foot and by Boat". Cost: Free except for HarborLink boat (<\$10). Hike from Alamitos Bay to Shoreline Village. Contact: Don: 310-394-2799
<http://www.coastwalk.org/Events/dayhikes.htm#LA>

* April 21, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Huntington State Beach. Volunteers will repair and replace chick fence and nesting area in the Least Tern Preserve. There will also be a beach cleanup. Contact: Bill Burhans 714-536-1454 or bburhans@parks.ca.gov

* April 21, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: San Onofre State Beach. Volunteers will install markers and signs along biking and hiking trails. Contact: Doug Harding 949-366-8514 or dharding@parks.ca.gov

* April 21, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Chino Hills State Park Earth Day - Project: Develop the group and equestrian campsites; install fence posts/railings and pipes for water and irrigation; plant plants; and remove non-natives. Contact: 714-572-0182.

* April 21, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Earth Day at Bolsa Chica. Under the supervision of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust Stewards, volunteers will plant over 1500 native plants in the Bolsa Pocket. Contact: Flossie Horgan 714-846-1001 or Kim Kolpin 714-717-6304
<http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org>

* April 21, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Crystal Cove State Park beach restoration and planting native coastal sage scrub plants. Contact: Winter Bonnin 949-497-7647 or wbonnin@parks.ca.gov

* April 21, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Doheny State Beach. Volunteers will remove non-native shrubs from the banks of the San Juan Creek and replant with a variety of native riparian trees and shrubs. Contact: Vicki Wiker 949-496-2704 or vwiker@parks.ca.gov

* April 21, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Earth Resource Foundation "Hold on to Your Butt" Beach Clean-up at Newport Beach Pier.
<http://www.earthresource.org>

* April 21, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Earth Day in Bommer Canyon. Bring a picnic to enjoy in the cattle camp, take a self-guided hike on the trails, do a craft, or check out the various exhibits.
<https://www.irvineranchlandreserve.org/activities/>

* April 21 & 22, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Earth Day at Ocean Institute. Join us for beach clean-ups, music, crafts, and speakers celebrating our blue planet! World-renowned marine artist Wyland will be here April 22nd, 10 AM - 1 PM to paint a mural with our young visitors. Admission is \$6 for adults (13yrs+) and \$4 for children (3-12 yrs).
<http://www.ocean-institute.org>

* April 21 & 22, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Fullerton Arboretum "Green Scene Plant Sale and Garden Show." Admission: \$6/Adults; members free.
<http://arboretum.fullerton.edu/clndr/clndr.asp>

* April 21, 10:00 AM: "Saturday Morning Program: Animal Homes" at Oak Canyon Nature Center. Free. 714-998-8380. <http://www.ocnc.net>

* April 22, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center. Enjoy scavenger hunts for all ages, science discovery and craft booths, environmental exhibits, and more. Free! Information: 949-923-2296 or <http://www.newportbay.org>

* April 22, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: "Jane Goodall: Roots and Shoots." Non-native plant removal at Oak Canyon Nature Center. Free. 714-998-8380. <http://www.ocnc.net>

* April 28, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM: Shipley Nature Center's 2nd Annual Spring Festival. Activities include habitat walks, native plant sale, live music, and nature-friendly organizations.

* April 28 & 29, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM: 4th Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour. This tour is a self-guided journey through 30 of the most beautiful, beneficial and sustainable gardens in Los Angeles. Contact: Carmen Wolf at: 818-768-1802 or programs@theodorepayne.org Website: <http://www.theodorepayne.org>

