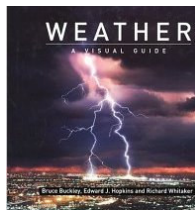


Hidden Question

Congratulations to Norma Karg, a home schooling mom, who won the Hidden Question for the January issue. Thanks as well to Jana Lenon, Sharon Larson, Pam Brusic, and Michelle Mainville who also participated and received appreciation gifts.

The prize this month is the book *Weather: A Visual Guide* by Bruce Buckley, Edward J. Hopkins and Richard Whitaker (©2004). This 300-page book is described on the front flap as follows: "This book provides a comprehensive visual guide to weather in all its manifestations. Clearly written and richly illustrated, it explains how the weather engine works including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires and droughts. Weather also explains the effect of climate on plants, animals and humans, and examines the latest research on changing climate, with particular reference to vital issues like global warming and ozone depletion.



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: Show Our Planet Some Love

This year I have a proposal for Valentine's Day. How about Showing Our Planet Some Love?



Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Rather than buying Valentine's Day cards, have your students/children/family members make their own cards by reusing materials such as scrap paper, milk cartons, junk mail (those enclosed return envelopes are handy)!
- Rather than exchanging cards, how about exchanging good deeds, favors, or spending time together? In your classroom, this could extend Valentine's Day all the way through the end of the year!
- Show someone you love him or her by taking him or her out on a nature walk.
- Show Our Planet Some Love by doing a "Dash for Trash" in the schoolyard, with your family at the beach or park, or in the neighborhood.
- On Valentine's Day, attend the O.C. Natural History Lecture Series at the Santa Ana Zoo. Raptor biologist Pete Bloom will be talking about Southern California Birds of Prey, or, attend the Night Hike at Bommer Canyon (for more info. go to the "Calendar" section at the website: <http://www.creec.org/region9b/>).

May you and those with whom you work, live, and play find a "natural" way to celebrate. - Helen



Inside This Issue

- 1 Hidden Question
- 1 Coordinator Communications: Show the Planet Some Love
- 2, 3 Training Time!
- 2, 4 Great Grants / Cool Contests
- 5 Rad Resources
- 6 Provider Perspectives
- 7 Exciting Environmental / Science Education Events: Highlights
- 7 Take the Lead 11th Annual Teen Summit

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, and others.

Training Time!

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

Discovery Science Center Professional Development for Teachers

- Programs align with the California Science, Math, and English/Language Arts Standards for K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grades
- Receive approximately \$60 worth of educational materials per session
- 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.; a light dinner is served.
- Reservations required: 714-913-5012

March 20, 2007 ~ The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Life Cycles)

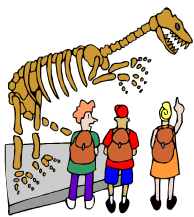
Combine science, math and literature by sharing Eric Carle's story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Hands-on activities increase the students' understanding of the butterfly life cycle, characteristics of insects, and variations & colorations. Wing patterns increase the students' math and problem-solving skills.



March 22, 2007 ~ How Dinosaurs Eat Their Food (Teeth, Predator/Prey)

Read a poetic book, *How Dinosaurs Eat Their Food*, by Jane Yolen, then participate in activities that enhance the students' understanding of food as stored energy, types of teeth, and the interdependence of predators and prey. Explore dinosaurs and other extinct animals and compare them with animals that are alive today.



American Museum of Natural History: Seminars on Science (online)

Registration Closes: March 5, 2007

Questions: seminfo@amnh.org
<http://www.learn.amnh.org>

Courses may meet your local professional development needs, including degree, certification, NCLB and salary gradation requirements.

Spring Courses II (March 19 - April 29, 2007)

- Earth: Inside and Out – Dynamic Earth Systems
- The Ocean System – Integrated Science
- Space, Time and Motion – Physical Science
- Evolution



[continued on page 3](#)

Great Grants & Cool Contests

Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union: Education Foundation Grants

Deadline: February 28, 2007

<http://www.octfcu.org/effocs/criteria.asp>

The Education Foundation, a joint venture between OCTFCU and the Orange County Department of Education, has awarded grants totaling more than \$135,000 to 95 local teachers in the past three years. Teachers use these grants to fund innovative programs that inspire students to excel in core subjects. Teachers of core curriculum at K-14 public or private schools in Orange County are invited to apply.

Arbor Day Poster Contest

Deadline: March 1, 2007

<http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/>

The poster contest is open to all California fifth graders. The theme for 2007 is "Trees are Terrific...and forests are too!"

To request a free curriculum kit, visit the website or contact Kay Antunez at 916-653-7958 or Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov

Junior Duck Stamp Program Art Contest

Deadline: March 15, 2007

Open to students grades K - 12

<http://www.caljrduckstamp.org>

The California Waterfowl Association teams with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to educate youth about wetlands and waterfowl through this program. Students are invited to participate in a free annual art competition that helps students tie together lessons on animal form and function, plant science, observation, wetland habitats, and more. The website has rules, entry forms, and free teaching materials.



Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Applicants: School and community groups

Deadlines: March 31, 2007; June 30, 2007;

September 30, 2007; December 31, 2007

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

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

[continued on page 4](#)

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

Bolsa Chica Conference

March 24 – 25, 2007

Waterfront Hilton in Huntington Beach

Cost: Tickets for the all-day event are \$150 and include three meals, reception, entertainment and all lectures, panels and exhibits. On day two, there will be several guided tours of Bolsa Chica that are an additional \$25.

Information: Western Alliance for Nature 310-456-0611 (<http://www.wanconservancy.org>), Amigos de Bolsa Chica 714- 840-1575 (<http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org>) or the Bolsa Chica Land Trust 714- 846-1001 (<http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org>)

The Western Alliance for Nature, the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust are hosting this conference. The proceeds from the conference will be used to kick off an endowment fundraising drive for the purpose of helping to restore and maintain the entire Bolsa Chica ecosystem. While the restoration of the wetlands has begun, there still remains much to do. The conference will feature Lt. Gov. elect John Garamendi, stage and screen actor Beau Bridges, State Senator Tom Harman, scientists and members of governmental agencies.

Forestry Institute for Teachers

Application Deadline: March 16, 2007

Date/Location Options:

June 17-23: Plumas County - University of California Forestry Camp

June 25-30: Tuolumne County - Camp Chinquapin, Pinecrest

July 8-14: Shasta County - Camp McCumber, Shingletown

July 15-21: Humboldt County - Humboldt State University

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

The Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) is a multi-day residence workshop. The goal of FIT is to provide K-12 teachers with knowledge, skills and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology and forest resource management practices. The program brings together natural resource specialists and teachers for one week, working side by side to gain a deeper understanding of the interrelationship of forest ecosystems and human use of natural resources. The environment becomes the basis for integrating the learning of many subject areas, including environmental science, physical science, social science, biology, forestry, and history.

Each institute can accommodate 30 to 45 participants. All meals and lodging are **free**. Teachers are provided with extensive classroom and curriculum materials, and a \$200 stipend on completion and implementation of a forest related curriculum unit or project conducted in their classrooms.

The FIT program is correlated with the California Department of Education's subject area standards, Frameworks for Science and Social Science, and goals for Environmental Education. The program empowers teachers to foster conceptual learning, critical thinking and decision-making skills in their classrooms.

3rd Annual Reaching “At-Promise” Students July 8 – 11, 2007

Location: Sheraton San Diego Hotel

For: Secondary Educators

Keynote: Harry Wong

<http://www.atpromiseconference.org>

Contact: 800-871-7482 or info@rapso.org

This conference provides educators with tools and motivation to better help at-promise (“at-risk”) students experience success and regain their academic confidence.

Educator Fellowships Available for Earthwatch Conservation Expeditions

<http://www.earthwatch.org/site/pp.asp?c=dsJSK6PFJnH&b=393763>

Investigate the impact of climate change on grey whale populations in Mexico, uncover the remains of the Roman Empire in Great Britain, record activities of lemurs in Madagascar. Each year more than 650 fellows participate on expeditions. Earthwatch is seeking adventurous, innovative educators who have an interest in conservation, sustainability, and life-long learning. Participating educators will work alongside field scientists to collect data on some of the most important environmental issues facing the planet today: including climate change, ocean ecosystems, sustainable resource management, and sustainable cultures. Educator Fellowships provide full and partial grants to teachers to sponsor their participation on expeditions, including the participants' on-site expedition costs, meals, accommodations, on-site travel, and fieldwork expenses (permits, equipment, etc.). Some fellowship awards offer reimbursement for travel expenses.



Great Grants & Cool Contests

continued from page 2



BP's A+ for Energy Grant Program

Deadline: March 23, 2007

<http://www.aplusforenergy.com>

BP will award up to \$5 million in grants to K-12 California teachers for innovative classroom, after-school, extra-curricular, or summer projects focused on energy and/or energy conservation aligned with the application criteria. Grants of \$5,000 or \$10,000 will be awarded directly to teachers, based on the application budget submitted.

Melinda Gray Ardia Foundation Grants

Deadline: April 9, 2007

<http://www.mgaef.org/grants.html>

K-12 teachers worldwide are invited to apply for grants of \$1,000 to develop or implement environmental curricula that integrates hands-on ecology exercises into the classroom. The Foundation supports curricula that empower and encourage students to become involved in solving environmental and social problems as informed decision makers through the application of basic ecological principles. The Foundation seeks to facilitate the development and implementation of holistic environmental curricula that incorporate basic ecological principles and field environmental activities within a primary or secondary school setting.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (2007 Awards for 7th – 12th Grade Teachers)

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

Application Due: May 1, 2007

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the nation's highest commendation for K-12 math and science teachers. The award recognizes a combination of sustained and exemplary work, both inside and outside the classroom. Each award includes a grant of \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation directly to the recipient. Awardees use the money at their discretion to promote math and science education. They also: receive an expense-paid trip to Washington D.C., attend seminars and engage in professional discussions with their peers and with national legislators and education policy-makers, and receive a selection of gifts from private-sector contributors to the program.

High School Essay Contest

Deadline: May 4, 2007

<http://www.awma.org/ACE2007/images/EssayPoster.pdf>

Contact: Pamela Heckel awmaessay@gmail.com

The Air & Waste Management Association is celebrating 100 years in 2007. The Education Council, Women's Professional Development Committee, is sponsoring an essay contest for high school students with cash prizes. The topic is "The Next 100 Years: Women's Contributions to Environmental Sustainability."

For the Hidden Question go to the CREEC website at <http://www.creec.org/region9b/>.

Click on "Region 9b Resource Directory." Fill out the demographic information requested. In the "Advanced Search" section, select the following:

- 1) Under County – select Orange County or wherever it is that you work/teach
- 2) Select your grade level(s) of interest
- 3) Select an academic focus of interest
- 4) Hit the "search" button.

Find two programs that you think would be interesting to your students or the teachers with whom you work, and that are actually located in Orange County (or the county in which you teach/work). Email (Hdelamaza@ocde.us) or call Helen at 714-838-8990 and identify the two useful items and why they are of interest to you. The first educator to do this will receive the book *Weather: A Visual Guide*. Other participants will receive an appreciation prize.

California Fertilizer Foundation School Garden Grant

Deadline: June 15, 2007

<http://www.calfertilizer.org/grant05.htm>

Teachers starting or expanding a school garden are invited to apply for one of the twenty-four grants of \$1,000 each plus educational materials. At the end of each year, one of the recipients will receive a free agricultural field trip and an additional grant of \$1,500.





Rad Resources



Weirdest Science Stories of 2006

http://www.livescience.com/bestimg/index.php?url=weirdest_2006_dolphins_03.jpg&cat=weirdest2006

From whales speaking in dialect to the Red Sea parting again, read Live Science's list of the Weirdest Science Stories of 2006.

The Promise of Place Web Site

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

This site offers program ideas, case studies, research, links, and other resources to support place-based education projects. The Promise of Place Web site is a project of the Center for Place-based Learning and Community Engagement and was supported by the USDA Forest Service as part of Electronic Commons grants program.

San Diego Natural History Museum Field Guides

<http://www.sdnhm.org/fieldguide/index.html>

The Museum works to understand and interpret the biodiversity of Southern California and the peninsula of Baja California. Online checklists and field guides are available for a variety of regional plants and animals.

North American Mammals

<http://www.mnh2.si.edu/education/mna/>

The Smithsonian Institution presents a searchable database of the approximately 400 living mammals of North America. The database may be searched by species, geographic location, conservation status and family tree. For each mammal, visitors can view several renderings and photographs and can also read a short scientific and narrative description. Many of the mammal monographs include a sound clip and links to additional information. Visitors can create their own printable field guides.

Garden Genetics: Teaching with Edible Plants

<http://store.nsta.org/showItem.asp?product=PB199XT>

Teaching genetic concepts with the same old pink petunias and Mendel's peas can get a little repetitious. With *Garden Genetics*, available from NSTA Press, teachers in grades 9-12 can present core content in ways that are fun for students and fresh for them. This two-part set—a teacher edition (which includes a full student edition) and separate student edition—is adaptable to biology students at all levels, including AP.

PLT's New Secondary Curriculum: *Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live*

http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/31_41_39.html

Project Learning Tree (PLT) has developed new secondary EE materials to give students an awareness of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of decisions connected to community growth and change. *Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live* gets students exploring their own neighborhoods, learning about their community's development through time, and involved in local community action projects.

Population Education's 300,000,000 in the USA Wall Chart and Lesson Plans: Free!

<http://www.populationeducation.org/staticpages/300million.jsp>

2006 marked an historic milestone for our nation – 300 million people. Over the past century, the population has tripled, making the United



States the fastest growing developed country in the world. Reaching this marker offers an opportunity to reflect on our past, examine current trends and articulate our hopes for the future of American society.

The wall chart provides a glimpse into our national population history, our diversity as a people, and the challenges we face in creating healthy, sustainable communities. The hands-on activities complement and expand upon the wall chart. The lessons are designed to broaden students' awareness of population issues and to encourage dialogue about our nation's future while addressing the thematic strands in the National Council for Social Studies' Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

(<http://www.ncss.org>). The lesson plans are appropriate for middle and secondary grades and can be downloaded at no cost. See the teachers' guide for more ideas about the activities!

For ongoing school programs, remember to check out CREEC's Online Resource Directory at <http://www.creec.org/region9b/>



Provider Perspectives

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

Call for Nominations: Orange County Wild 2007 Environmental Educator of the Year

Nomination Deadline: March 12, 2007 (go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> - "For Providers" to download the nomination form and for more detailed information.)

Every year Orange County Wild publicly recognizes deserving environmental educators for their valuable contributions to the Orange County community, and to the field of environmental education.

Quality environmental education begins with excellent environmental educators!

You may nominate an individual or organization for one of the following categories:

- Volunteer Environmental Educator of the Year
- Staff Environmental Educator of the Year
- Outstanding Newcomer Award
- Life Achievement Award
- Outstanding Partner Award
- Land steward Award

Rigs to Reefs Conference presented by Orange County Coastkeeper Magazine, California Artificial Reef Enhancement Program, and Coalition for Enhanced Marine Environments: March 30, 2007 Cost: \$25/person

Program Details: http://www.coastkeeper.org/news/events/2007-03_rigs-to-reefs.asp

Information: Melanie Schlotterbeck: Melanie@Schlotterbeck.net, or call: 909-606-0801

The Rigs to Reefs Conference will focus on the key environmental, economic and policy issues related to establishing a California Rigs to Reefs Program. The oil and gas platforms along California's coast will eventually run dry and be decommissioned. A debate has begun about whether or not these platforms should be left in place to preserve the marine life, which arguably thrives in this environment, or if the oil companies should follow the original mandate to remove the entire structure.

The Conference will draw a multi-disciplinary audience of scientists, educators, regional, state, and federal agencies, researchers, stakeholders, recreational and commercial fishers, students, environmentalists and policy-makers all interested in discussing the emerging information of Rigs to Reefs.

Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Events:

Full Moon Anza-Borrego Camp-Out and Desert Exploration!

March 30- April 1, 2007

<http://www.aeoe.org/outings/2007/anzaborrego.html>

This will be an insiders' tour of the Park and Visitor Center. Explore the back ways of the park, and come in through the back door of the visitor center to see what the public rarely experiences. Peak hawk migration is in March - the Borrego Valley Hawkwatch viewing site is the only registered spring site in California and has the highest count of Swainson's Hawks in North America. Wildflowers in this Colorado Desert park usually reach their peak in March, so there may be opportunities to botanize a bit as well.

Spring Conference: *Connecting with Community*

April 27-29, 2007, Sierra Outdoor School, Sonora

<http://www.aeoe.org/conference/spring/2007/index.html>

Apply to present a workshop (online at <http://www.aeoe.org>) and get 50% off the registration fee. The presenter application deadline is mid-February. Details about the conference will be available online and in the March OC-CREEC Newsletter once cost has been determined.



Planning and Conservation League's Annual Legislative, Environmental Symposium: "How To...Win the Environmental Battles That Test This Generation"

April 14, 2007

<http://www.pcl.org/projects/2007symposium/index.html>

Orange County CREEC Updates

- **Online Calendar:** Thanks to all of you who helped me out by entering your events! Please keep doing so. For those of you who haven't yet, please go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> and click on "Calendar" to enter your upcoming events in the Orange County CREEC calendar.



Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

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.

Discover Nature Saturday Hike: Ground Birds of the Canyon at Oak Canyon Nature Center – Free!

February 3, 2007; 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Information: 714-998-8380

<http://www.anaheim.net/ocnc>

Santa Ana Residents Get in Free at Discovery Science Center (Santa Ana) February 5, 2007; 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Information: 714-542-2823

<http://www.discoverycube.org>

Residents of Santa Ana with a valid Santa Ana ID (utility bills, etc.) can receive free admission to Discovery Science Center the first Monday of every month.

Hills for Everyone Presents a Family Evening: "See Live Wild Animals"

February 11, 2007; 2:00 p.m.

Location: Diamond Bar High School, 21400 Pathfinder Road, Diamond Bar

<http://www.HillsForEveryone.org>

Participants will hear and see the special qualities animals have in order to adapt to the urban fringe and learn how to ensure your family and pets are protected.

Note: Children under 5 are discouraged (safety reasons).

Mediterranean Climates Interpretive Walk at Bommer Canyon

February 17, 2007; 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Information: 714-508-4757 or email:

info@irlrtrust.org

All programs are free but pre-registration is required.

<https://www.irvineranchlandreserve.org/activities/index.asp>

Description: Were you drawn to our region, or don't want to leave, because of our wonderful weather? If your answer is yes, then join us for an interpretive hike exploring our climate, its uniqueness in the world and the interesting plants that are adapted to its specific patterns.



President's Week "Art in Nature" Camp for Kids (Grades K - 3) at the Environmental Nature Center (Newport Beach)

Feb. 19 - 23, 2007; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$195/student (10% discount for members)

Information: 949-645-8489

Join ENC Naturalist, Dan Green, for a week of fun and creativity. Campers will explore the Nature Center for a week of Nature inspired art, games, and hands-on activities.

"Meet the Conservancy" Presentation and Walk at Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy

Date: Feb. 23, 2007; 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Donation: Free

Call 949-489-9778 for reservations and

directions; <http://www.theconservancy.org>

What is Conservancy? How did it come to be?

What animals live there? Why is it special? How

exactly does it function? Do you have questions

you'd like to have answered - or friends you'd like

to introduce to The Conservancy? If so, this event

is for you! We will offer a free 45-minute slide

presentation and a brief tour of the reserve.

Open Space 101, Backyard Photography at Turtle Rock Nature Center

February 23, 2007; 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Information: 949-724-6738

<http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org>

Butterflies, Birds, Spiders - there's wildlife all around us and in this program, we'll give you tips on how to start getting great images to enjoy or use for school, your computer, or to share with other Backyard Wildlife enthusiasts! Techniques to attract wildlife to your yard will ensure that you'll want to keep your camera handy!

Take the Lead 11th Annual Teen Summit 9th – 12th Grade Teachers Bring Your Students! at Cal State Fullerton: Titan Student Union

<http://www.taketheleadoc.org>

Friday, March 23, 2007; 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The 2007 summit will feature keynote speaker and revolutionary educator **Erin Gruwell**, author and subject of the film *Freedom Writers* and Kent Healy, author of *Cool Stuff They Should Teach in School*. This summit is to promote volunteerism, develop leadership skills, and increase awareness of social trends at local, state and national levels. Students will be able to attend two workshops they select. Boxed lunches are provided to students.

