



**CREEC  
NETWORK**

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY

# Orange County CREEC

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

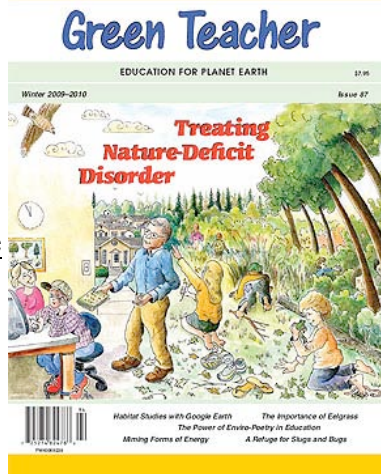
Volume 7, Issue 3

February – March, 2010

## Hidden Question

Embedded within the text of this newsletter is a hidden question. To be entered into the contest, follow the instructions in the hidden question then contact me with your answer by **February 23 by 5 p.m.** at [HdelaMaza@ocde.us](mailto:HdelaMaza@ocde.us) or 714-838-8990. All participants will be entered into an “opportunity drawing.” Two winners of the drawing will receive the prize described below, and the rest of the participants will receive an appreciation gift.

The prize this month is the Winter 09/10 issue of *Green Teacher Magazine: Education for Planet Earth*. This issue is titled Treating Nature Deficit-Disorder. Articles include: “Last Child in the Woods, First Book in the Field,” “Analyzing Wildlife Habitat with Google Earth,” and “Acting Out Energy Forms.”



Check out <http://www.greenteacher.com> for more information about this fantastic quarterly magazine.

Good Luck! ☺

## Coordinator Communications: Bridging the Divide

The organic sugar snap peas I planted in my small vegetable garden have germinated and the lupines, clarkia, poppies, and baby blue eyes are starting to spring up through the gravel in my ‘wildflower patch.’ I love walking around my little backyard discovering new natural treasures every day!

I’ve been subbing in several high schools around O.C. and have been floored by the number of electronic gadgets hanging off of students, tucked away in their backpacks and pockets, or plugged into their ears.

What a divide! Me romping around in my backyard delighting in germinating seeds and our teens plugged in and turned on to an e-world.

As teachers, parents, naturalists, homeschool educators, and docents we can have a significant influence on our students when we help them connect their e-world to the natural world. Can we use those fancy electronic gadgets to create a time-lapse video of a seed germinating? How about creating a Wiki or a podcast of our community to teach others about the plants in our neighborhood? Ask the students how they want to use their e-tools to explore the non-e-world.

Bridge the Divide!

-Helen



### Inside This Issue

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**For more local events, training opportunities, and a searchable database of EE Providers and resources:**

<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 several sources, including NSTA Express, NSTA, CSTA, 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 <http://www.creec.org/region9b> for other opportunities.)

### Generation Earth: Water Pollution Prevention Workshop

**February 20, 2010; 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Location:** TreePeople, Beverly Hills 90210

**Contact:** Loyda Ramos at [lramos@treepeople.org](mailto:lramos@treepeople.org) or 818-623-4856.

<http://www.generationearth.org>

Do you know what a watershed is? ....Or that you currently live in one? Have you ever felt like watershed issues are complex and difficult to grasp? Does the size of your watershed inhibit you from taking action to improve it? When working to improve the health of your watershed, a combination of small modifications can add up to make a big difference. Come roll up your sleeves and participate in two specific watershed restoration projects you can do on your campus or the surrounding community.

At this Water Pollution Prevention Workshop you will learn how to:

- Understand the dynamics of urban watersheds in Los Angeles County
- Utilize watershed management techniques to restore your watershed
- Survey water flow across your campus
- Learn how to install a 55-gallon rainwater harvesting barrel

### Microsurf Science at Crystal Cove State Park

**February 20, 2010; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Contact Information:** Winter Bonnin at

949-497-7647 or [wbonnin@parks.ca.gov](mailto:wbonnin@parks.ca.gov)

<http://www.crystalcovestatepark.com/febdetails.html>

Open house in the Park & Marine Research Facility with UCI and Chapman University researchers studying the tiny organisms that live in the surfzone at Crystal Cove State Park. \$15 day-use parking fee.

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## Great Grants & Cool Contests

### Environmental Literacy Grants for Nonformal Science Education

**Letters of Intent Due: February 16, 2010**

**Full Applications Due: April 6, 2010**

<http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/elg/index.html>

The NOAA's Office of Education (OEd) has issued a request for applications for informal/nonformal science education projects that engage the public in activities that utilize emerging and/or advanced technologies and leverage NOAA assets to improve understanding and stewardship of the local and global environment. There is specific interest in projects that use emerging and/or advanced technologies to (1) facilitate outdoor experiences involving scientific inquiry and exploration of the natural world apart from formal K-12 curricula and (2) visualize, display, and interpret data to improve understanding and provide a systems perspective of Earth's dynamic processes.

### Fiskars: 2010 Project Orange Thumb

**Deadline: February 19, 2010**

<http://www.projectorangethumb.com/pot/Index.do?locale=US>

Sponsored by Fiskars Garden and Outdoor Living Gardens, Project Orange Thumb grants support gardening projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture, or horticultural education. Eligible applicants include community garden groups, schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, and treatment facilities. Grant winners will receive up to \$1,000 in Fiskars gardening tools and up to \$1,000 in gardening-related materials. Garden members and volunteers will also receive Project Orange Thumb T-shirts.

### Hidden Question

[HdelaMaza@ocde.us](mailto:HdelaMaza@ocde.us)

Email Helen with the answer to this question: What is your favorite place to visit in Orange County with children (students or other) and why?

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

### **Free Teacher Workshop: Population Connection Education Training**

**February 26, 2010; 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Information/RSVP:** [Lori Whalen](mailto:Lori.Whalen@encenter.org), 949-645-8489; <http://www.encenter.org>

**Location:** Environmental Nature Center (1601 16th Street; Newport Beach, CA 92663)  
Population Connection's Education Program is the only national, population education program with a strong emphasis on teacher training for educators of grades pre-K through 12. Since 1975, the program has developed age-appropriate curricula to complement students' instruction about human population trends and their impacts on natural resources, environmental quality and human well-being.

All of Population Connection curriculum materials are classroom-tested, rigorously evaluated and frequently updated to be leaders in their content and approach. All lessons are interdisciplinary and well suited for a cooperative learning environment. Population Connection has correlated their lessons with California's standards which can be found on their website at <http://www.populationeducation.org> under "Content Standards by State."

### **WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands Training with Inside the Outdoors**

**February 27, 2010; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Advanced registration is required.

**Location:** Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Orange

**Contact:** Inside the Outdoors 714-708-3885 or

[insidetheoutdoors@ocde.us](mailto:insidetheoutdoors@ocde.us)

<http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org>

WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands workshop provides a resourceful and creative collection of wetland activities, information, and ideas. WOW! includes over 50 hands-on multidisciplinary activities in lesson plan format, extensive background information on wetlands, ideas for student action projects, and a wetlands resource guide.

### **Forestry Institute for Teachers**

**Application Deadline: March 12, 2010**

Information: 1-888-348-7765

*Date/Location Options:*

June 13-19: Plumas County-UC Forestry Camp

June 27-July 2: Tuolumne County-Sierra Outdoor School

July 11-17: Humboldt County-Humboldt State

July 18-24: Shasta County-Camp McCumber, Shingletown

<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, working side by side to gain a deeper understanding of the interrelationship of forest ecosystems and human use of natural resources. 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.

### **OCSEA Presents Teacher/Family Day at Newport Beach Tidepools**

**March 7, 2010; 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

Advanced registration is required.

**Location:** Corona del Mar Main Beach

**Contact:** [Helen de la Maza](mailto:Helen.de.la.Maza@ocscience.org) at 714-838-8990

<http://www.ocscience.org>

Join the Orange County Science Education Association for an educational and fun-filled day at the Newport Beach Tidepools. Staff from Newport Beach City will guide us.

### **Project WILD Educator Training with Inside the Outdoors**

**March 20, 2010; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Advanced registration is required.

**Location:** Rancho Soñado, Silverado

**Contact:** Inside the Outdoors 714-708-3885 or

[insidetheoutdoors@ocde.us](mailto:insidetheoutdoors@ocde.us)

<http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org>

The Project WILD and Project WILD Aquatic workshop provides participants with interactive instructional strategies to make learning science fun! Activities have an emphasis on wildlife (terrestrial and aquatic) and natural resources, and are taught using innovative techniques for teaching basic skills. The curriculum meets the accepted criteria for environmental education and provides educators with materials that support national, state, and district standards in science, mathematics, language arts, social studies, and expressive arts.



## Great Grants & Cool Contests *continued from page 2*



### **The CSUF Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Scholars Program** **Application Deadline: March 1, 2010**

<http://hhmi.fullerton.edu/>

Applications for the HHMI supported Summer Research Programs are available now.

Programs include:

*Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates* from Cal State Fullerton and the four participating Community Colleges (Fullerton, Santa Ana, Mount San Antonio, and Saddleback): Ten Week Program at California State University, Fullerton from June 1 (or 7) to August 8 (or 15), 2010.

*High School Science and Math Teachers Paid Summer Research Experience:* Intensive Five Week Program at California State University, Fullerton from July 14 – August 15, 2010.

*High School Student Summer Research Program:* Intensive Five Week Program at California State University, Fullerton from July 14 – August 15, 2010.

### **Arbor Day Poster Contest**

**Deadline: March 1, 2010**

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

The poster contest is open to all California fifth graders. The theme for 2010 is “Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!”

For additional information: Kay Antunez at 916-653-7958 or [Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov)

### **Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)**

**Deadline: March 9, 2010**

<http://www.epa.gov/care/>

This competitive grant program offers an innovative way for a community to organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in its local environment. Through CARE, a community creates a partnership that implements solutions to reduce releases of toxic pollutants and minimize people's exposure to them. By providing financial and technical assistance, EPA helps CARE communities get on the path to a renewed environment.

### **Junior Duck Stamp Program Art Contest** **Deadline: March 15, 2010**

**Open to students grades K - 12**

<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>

The California Waterfowl Association teams with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to educate youth (K-12) about wetlands and waterfowl through this program. Youth are invited to participate in a free annual art competition that helps 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.

### **Imagine Life Without Water: Student Contest**

Presented by Orange County Department of Education

<http://win.ocde.us>

**Deadline: March 15, 2010**

Open to Orange County students grades K - 12.

Students in grades K – 12 attending school in Orange County, CA can enter this contest to create innovative water conservation solutions. Prizes for teachers and students. Entries can be an individual or team of up to 4 individuals.

### **National Association of Biology Teachers Awards**

<http://www.nabt.org/websites/institution/index.php?p=20>

**Nomination Deadline: March 15, 2010**

The National Association of Biology Teachers recognizes excellence in teaching with a variety of awards, including the Ecology/ Environmental Science Teaching Award.

### **Captain Planet Foundation Grants**

**Deadlines: March 31, 2010; June 30, 2010**

<http://captainplanetfoundation.org/>

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants to support hands-on environmental projects. The objective of the Foundation is to encourage innovative activities that empower children around the world to work individually and collectively as environmental stewards. Grant rewards up to \$2,500 are available.

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# Great Grants & Cool Contests

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## State-Fish Art Project

**Deadline: March 31, 2010**

<http://www.statefishart.com/index.htm>

The State-Fish Art Project provides valuable lessons about fish and the need for conservation of aquatic resources. Entering its 11th year, the State-Fish Art program has two primary components: **1)** the comprehensive State-Fish Art Lesson Plan, *Fish ON!* for students in grades 4-12, available **free of charge** at [www.statefishart.com](http://www.statefishart.com), and **2)** a national art contest which serves as an outreach initiative and showcase for youth in the arts. Upon completion of the lesson plan students will have gained an understanding of a fish's anatomy, behavior, and habitat needs, as well as increases appreciation of the arts.

## Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (2010 Awards for K-6 Teachers)

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

**Nomination Deadline: April 1, 2010**

**Application Due: May 3, 2010**

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.



## Toshiba America Foundation Grant

**Deadline: Year-round** (7-12 grade grants under \$5,000)

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

The Toshiba America Foundation is currently accepting applications for grants to support innovative projects designed by math and science teachers to make their own classrooms more exciting and successful for students.

## California State Parks Foundation Competitive Grants Program

<http://www.calparks.org/programs/competitive-grant/>

Information: Alisha: 916-442-2119 or

[alisha@calparks.org](mailto:alisha@calparks.org)

**Deadlines: May 1, 2010; July 1, 2010**

CSPF offers competitive grants (usually ranging from \$200-\$6,000) to benefit our State Parks System and to support the Department's mission. Qualified non-profit groups, as well as California state park units and park agencies, are encouraged to apply. In general (and as funds permit), CSPF grants are targeted in four main areas: Volunteer Efforts and Recognition; Education and Interpretation; Natural and Cultural Resource Protection; and Capacity Building for cooperating associations. The Foundation also makes a number of discretionary grants each year that may fall outside the main target areas.

## NEA Foundation Green Grants

**Deadlines: June 1, 2010**

<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/nea-foundation-green-grants/>

With \$150,000 in new grant funding designated for projects that integrate green-related topics and experiences into the classroom, the NEA Foundation is growing its Learning & Leadership and Student Achievement grants program for individuals and teams of educators.

Public school educators are eligible to apply for individual grants worth up to \$5,000 for the development and implementation of ideas, techniques, and approaches for teaching "green" concepts.





## Rad Resources



### **National Wildlife Week – March 15-21, 2010**

<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Events/National-Wildlife-Week/At-School.aspx>

Studies show that children who spend time outside are more creative, have less stress and perform better in school. Help your students appreciate wildlife, and unlock their learning and imaginative potential during National Wildlife Week.

### **Easy-to-Use Climate Change Action Projects for K-12 Students**

<http://www.facingthefuture.org/ServiceLearning/ClimateChangeActionProjects/tabid/350/Default.aspx>

Facing the Future has released a comprehensive service-learning resource for climate change. The Climate Change Action Project Database includes more than 25 ready-to-use action projects that will prepare students to understand and take action on climate change.

### **Climate Kids**

<http://climate.nasa.gov/kids/>

NASA offers the Climate Kids: NASA's Eyes on the Earth website, targeted at kids in grades 4-6. It offers online interactives, images, video, and content, along with links to websites with educator resources.

### **Climate Change Education Program**

<http://willstegerfoundation.org/index.php/programs/k-12-education-program>

Will Steger Foundation's K-12 interdisciplinary climate change education program includes lesson plans that are experiential in nature, tied to national standards, and available free for download. The curricula and online adventure learning program is proud to have the support of the National Education Association with over 3.2 million members. Will Steger Foundation also provides exciting expedition footage from Will Steger and partner polar expeditions and a variety of other resources.

### **K-12 Science Curriculum**

<http://msnucleus.org/curriculum/curriculum.html>

Access to the K-12 Integrating Science, Math, and Technology Reference Curriculum is FREE. Educators or parents may use the copyrighted material in their classroom.

### **Drinking Water and Groundwater Kids' Stuff**

<http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/kids/>

### **Environmental Protection Agency Data Finder**

<http://www.epa.gov/datafinder/>

Data Finder is a single place to find EPA's data sources so people can access and understand environmental information. All of the data sources are available on the Internet and have been organized by topics such as air, water, and chemicals.

### **NOAA Research**

<http://www.oar.noaa.gov/k12/index.html>

This site is a joint effort of the NOAA Research and the College of Education at the University of South Alabama. The goal of the site is to provide middle school science students and teachers with research and investigation experiences using online resources.

### **NAAEE Online Higher Education Directory**

<http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/higher-education-directory/>

The online higher education directory is a comprehensive resource to undergraduate and graduate environmental programs at higher education institutions in North America. The directory provides details about institutions, programs, departments, and faculty. Updates are continually being made. The directory will help faculty network with each other, as well as provide direction to students seeking an institution that matches their interests in environmental courses and degree plans. The directory also supports NAAEE's work with the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

### **Bring MIT to Your Classroom**

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/hs/home/home/index.htm>

High school teachers looking to reinforce their curriculum and knowledge base can tap into the course materials faculty use at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. An online program called "Highlights for High School" — part of the interdisciplinary OpenCourseWare system MIT launched several years ago — gives educators and students free Web access to the esteemed university's introductory courses and related tools, such as Advanced Placement test preparation, video demonstrations, and lab experiments. High school teachers at any level may use these resources to supplement their lesson plans, in-class activities, homework assignments, and reading lists.



## Provider Perspectives

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

### Education and the Environment Initiative Update

The California State Board of Education unanimously approved 76 of the 85 units of the Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) Curriculum on Wednesday, January 6. The goal of EEI is to increase environmental literacy for California K-12 students by teaching Science and History-Social Science academic content standards to mastery within an environmental context. EEI is a unique opportunity to formally include environment-based education into California's classrooms. PDFs of DRAFT VERSIONS of the 85 units are available to download at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/education/eei/curriculum/>

### Mickey's Attic - Property Donation Program

<http://publicaffairs.disneyland.com/community/mickeys-attic/default.asp>

At times, the Disneyland® Resort has items for donation that can no longer be used in our regular operation. Items range from slightly imperfect retail merchandise to retired sound/lighting equipment to surplus paint and building materials. To facilitate the donation of these items, we have created Mickey's Attic, a program that funnels our retired physical property to nonprofit organizations in an effort to support worthy organizations in our community. Any charitable not-for-profit organization headquartered in Orange, Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside or San Bernardino County may be eligible to participate in the program. Our hope is that by sharing our resources we will strengthen your efforts to positively impact our community.

### EETAP: Diversity and Environmental Justice Article

Article Link: <http://eetap.org/media/pdf/StillDevelopingToolbox.pdf>

Demographic changes and the emergence of a more global society have challenged the field of environmental education to be more inclusive and to offer programming that is relevant to culturally diverse groups. But what do we mean by diversity, and where is the EE field going with it?

Still Developing the Toolbox: Making EE Relevant for Culturally Diverse Groups, by Joanne M. Lozar Glenn, addresses this question and profiles five organizations working to connect their programming to the communities they serve. From creating learning groups to reaching urban, immigrant, and native audiences, these organizations address what it means to work with diverse audiences, and how connecting with these communities changes what they're doing and how that work gets done.

The article includes 10 "learnings" that have emerged from environmental educators who are on the ground and at the forefront of efforts to make EE more inclusive. The article also provides a list of resources (books, articles, Web sites, programs, and organizations and individuals) designed to inspire readers who want to learn more about this topic and to get ideas they can apply to their own work.

### Help Me Help You Publicize Your Information!

Email me at [HdelaMaza@ocde.us](mailto:HdelaMaza@ocde.us) with upcoming events, teacher training opportunities, grants, or other valuable information so I can include it on the website and in the newsletter.

Please submit your calendar events to OC-CREEC's online calendar, accessible at <http://www.creec.org/region9b> Simply click on "Calendar" to the left in the navigation bar. Underneath the mini calendar on the top right of the page, you will see a link that reads, "add an event." Click on that and then fill out the form. Thank you for your support! Many hands make light work.

