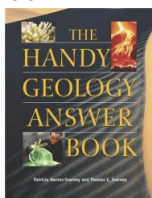


Hidden Question

The OC-CREEC newsletter has been on hiatus for the past several months, but we are now back!

As in the past, each newsletter contains a hidden question. The prize this month is the book *The Handy Geology Answer Book* by Patricia Barnes-Svarney and Thomas E. Svarney (©2004). This 470-page book contains information about such topics as: minerals, rock families, Earth's layers, building mountains, geology and the solar system, earthquakes, and much more. The book is written in a question and answer format, so it is easy to find the specific information you need.



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 714-838-8990 or HdelaMaza@ocde.us. People who respond but are not the first to do so will receive an appreciation gift. Good Luck! ☺



Inside This Issue

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For local events, go to "Calendar" at:
<http://www.creec.org/region9b/>

Coordinator Communications: New Year's Resolutions

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were relaxing and filled with joy!

During this time of year, many of us, and our students, make New Year's Resolutions to improve our lives.

As school begins again and students delve into their academic content, encourage them to consider how they interact with and influence not only people, but also the natural world, around them. There may be some New Year's Resolutions hiding in the academic content!

Second graders studying "the role and interdependence of buyers and sellers" can visit a local Farmer's Market to understand basic economic concepts they learn in History/Social Studies. In Grade 11 History, students learn about "environmental conservation, expansion of the national park system, and the development of environmental protection laws." Elementary students learn about interdependence, food and energy pyramids, and the importance of cycles in nature.

As they study their core subjects, challenge them to consider their role in these natural processes by thinking about how their actions influence their surroundings.
-Helen



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

January 16, 2007 ~ Frog and Toad Are Friends (Life Cycles)

Combine science, math, and literature by sharing Arnold Lobel's story of Frog and Toad are Friends. Hands-on activities increase the students' understanding of the life cycle, behaviors, and characteristics of amphibians while enhancing the students' math skills.

January 30, 2007 ~ How I Became a Pirate (Waves, Astronomy)

Involve your students in interactive activities on ship shapes and sails, observing the patterns of celestial bodies in the sky, and finding buried treasure. The storybook, How I Became a Pirate by Melinda Long, is incorporated into these science- and math-based lessons.

February 6, 2007 ~ Parts (Human Body and Body Systems)

In the book, Parts by Tedd Arnold, the narrator notices alarming aspects of his body, which turn out to be mostly the natural results of growth. A child's body can become an invaluable learning tool for studying mathematical and science concepts through investigation, role-playing, and physical activity.

February 8, 2007 ~ Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (Weather)

Become familiar with Judi Barrett's story, Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs. Your students will distinguish between fact and fantasy while reading the book, then begin an investigation of the water cycle and weather that includes presenting the data in graphic and pictorial form.



[continued on page 3](#)

Great Grants & Cool Contests

Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence

<http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/aaste.html>

Nomination Deadline: January 31, 2007

Amgen invites educators with a minimum of three years teaching science in grades K-12 to apply for this award. Each year, 19 science teachers are awarded an unrestricted cash award of up to \$5,000 for their creativity, effectiveness, motivation, and teaching ability. As winners, their schools also receive a restricted grant of up to \$5,000 to be used to expand or enhance the school's science program, purchase new science resources, or further the professional development of their science teachers.

California Coastal Art and Poetry Contest

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html>

For information, e-mail coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or call 800-Coast-4U.

Postmark Deadline: January 31, 2007

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme. Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. Students may have their work featured on Commission webpages and materials, and winning entries may be exhibited throughout the state.



Toshiba America Grants

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

Large Grant Applications for grades 7-12 are due February 1, 2007.

Toshiba America Foundation contributes to the quality of science and mathematics education in the U.S. with a variety of grants. The foundation focuses its grants on inquiry-based projects designed by individual teachers and small teams of teachers for use in their own classrooms. Teachers are encouraged to contact the Toshiba Foundation directly before applying.

[continued on page 4](#)

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

Orange County Wild Winter Workshop: Magnificent Mushrooms!

Date: January 26, 2007; 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location: Santiago Oaks Regional Park
(2145 N. Windes Drive in Orange)

Cost: \$15, includes lunch

To Register Contact: Lori Whalen at
949-645-8489, or lori@encenter.org

If you'd like to learn more about these mystifying organisms, attend this workshop with Biologist Gregg Miller, the "mushroom man"! The moist winter months are when you're most likely to find fruiting bodies of fungus. Gregg will tell us how to identify fungi and lead us on a mushroom walk.

FREE Water Education Course for 5th – 12th Grade Teachers at Discovery Science Center February 15 and 27, 2007; 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. OR March 7 and 14, 2007; 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Call 714-913-5012

During this fun, hands-on standards-based course, teachers will learn integrated science concepts, such as: 1) 5th grade Earth Science topics on water; 2) the chemistry of water; 3) water sources; 4) human impact on water and the environment; and 5) water conservation. Teachers receive kits (worth \$250) of resource materials to conduct experiments and activities in the classroom; they include chemical test kits for measuring nitrates, total hardness, pH, and dissolved oxygen, as well as other science-based materials and equipment.

***Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds* Educator Workshop – FREE!**

Date: March 3, 2007; 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: El Dorado Nature Center; Long Beach

Registration Deadline: February 28, 2007

Contact: Annie Kohut Frankel at
afrankel@coastal.ca.gov or 415-597-5888

Offered by the California Coastal Commission
cosponsored by El Dorado Nature Center.

Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds is a classroom activity guide for teachers that addresses critical coastal and marine issues such as endangered species, marine debris, coastal geology, water use, and more. It is aligned to the California State Science Content Standards for grades 3-8, and includes Community Action lessons adaptable for all ages up to and beyond grade 12. The connection between inland areas and the ocean is emphasized throughout. Professional growth credit offered through the University of the Pacific.

Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training

<http://www.plt.org> "calendar of events-
California"

Date: April 13 – 14, 2007 (begins 4:30 p.m. on
Friday and ends at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday)

Place: Mission Trails Regional Park; San Diego

Contact: Kay Antunez, PLT Coordinator,
Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov or 916-653-7958.

Upon completion of this 12-hour facilitator-training workshop, you can offer PLT as a professional development workshop for teachers, youth group leaders, natural resource managers, parents and others. The goal of PLT workshops is to demonstrate to educators how PLT materials can help integrate environmental education into curricula while helping to meet California's content standards. FREE!

Two University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Online Courses

For a registration form, go to

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

or contact Angela Lemar

(Angela.Lemar@uwsp.edu).

Participants may obtain three undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The course is also offered as a non-credit workshop for those who are not seeking college credit.

Fundamentals of Environmental Education Online Course

February 5 – April 20, 2007

This course 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; and develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators.

Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation Online Course

February 19 – May 4, 2007

Preference registration deadline: Jan. 19, 2007

The course is designed to assist environmental educators and natural resource professionals in evaluating their education programs.

Participants have the opportunity to develop and apply skills in designing evaluation tools such as surveys, observation forms, and interview and focus group guides.



Great Grants & Cool Contests

continued from page 2



River of Words Art and Poetry Contest

<http://www.riverofwords.org/contest/index.html>

Postmark Deadline: February 15, 2007

River of Words is an international environmental poetry and art contest on the theme of watersheds. The contest is open to youth ages 5-19. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live, and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover.

The American Forest & Paper Association Recycling Awards

<http://www.paperrecycles.org/recycling/index.html#awards>

Deadline: February 16, 2007

These awards encourage and recognize outstanding recycling programs that promote the recovery of high quality paper. The School Recycling Awards recognize schools that have implemented successful recycling programs. A monetary prize and framed original artwork are given to a classroom recycling program and a school-wide recycling program.

Igniting Creative Energy National Student Challenge

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

Deadline: February 17, 2007

The Igniting Creative Energy Challenge is an educational competition designed to encourage students to learn more about energy conservation and the environment. Entries must reflect the theme "Igniting Creative Energy" and demonstrate an understanding of what an individual, family or group can do to make a difference in their home or community. Students may express their ideas in the form of science projects, essays, stories, artwork, photographs, music, video, or website projects. They may also submit recent service projects or results from Energy Patrol activities.

National Association of Biology Teachers Awards

<http://www.nabt.org/sites/S1/index.php?p=290>

Nomination Deadline: March 15, 2007

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

Arbor Day Poster Contest

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

Deadline: March 1, 2007

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

Headlands Institute Community Action Award Email for nomination details:

HICommunityActionAward@yni.org

Nomination Deadline: April 6, 2007


This award recognizes the important role young people play in positively influencing and impacting their home communities and environment. We are currently seeking nominations of individual elementary or middle school classrooms (including students and teachers) who are working together to make a significant positive contribution to the environment of their home communities. The 2007 recipient classroom will receive a \$1,500 award to be used to further the goals of their community project.

In order to be nominated, projects must already be initiated and well underway. Preference will be given to those classrooms whose projects:

- were either student-generated or are student driven
- extend beyond the boundaries of their school grounds
- are contributing in tangible and significant ways to the local community

Grants Available for *Inside the Outdoors*

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

The Orange County Outdoor Science Foundation offers grants to sponsor students to attend *Inside the Outdoors* programs. Funding ranges from full to partial sponsorships. *Inside the Outdoors* K - 6 programs include Field Programs (field trips to natural sites in Orange County) and Traveling Scientist Programs (outreach programs held on-site at your school). Curricula are aligned with the California Science Content Standards. 



Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) Update

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/>

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) are implanting the **Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI)** pursuant to AB 1548 (Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003-PDF) and AB 1721 (Pavley, Chapter 581, Statutes of 2005-PDF). These laws mandate the development of a Unified Education Strategy to bring education about the environment into California's schools. Other key partners include: the Office of the Secretary for Education, Curriculum and Supplemental Materials Commission, State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and the California Resources Agency.

Key elements of EEI include:

- Development of California's Environmental Principles & Concepts, (EP&Cs) - *completed*
- Alignment of the EP&C's to California's Academic Content Standards - *completed*
- Development of a Model Curriculum to teach the EP&C's to California's K-12 students – *in process. Field testing of the EEI Curriculum will begin in February/March 2007 in districts throughout California, including Orange County. Pilot testing will take place 2007-2008.*
- Incorporation of the EP&C's into criteria for instructional materials adoption in science, history/social science, English/language arts and mathematics – *occurring*
- Alignment of the state's diverse environmental education programs and materials with the EP&C's – *to be completed in the future*

EEI Reviewers Wanted

EEI is seeking highly-qualified educators and technical experts to participate in the Education Working Group (EWG) and the Content Working Group (CWG) for EEI. Members of the EWG will participate in the review of education-related aspects, and CWG members will participate in the review of the technical accuracy, of the draft instructional materials being developed as part of the EEI Curriculum.

For detailed information and an application:
[http://www.creec.org/stories/storyReader\\$198](http://www.creec.org/stories/storyReader$198)



Rad Resources

CREEC's Online Resource Directory

This extremely valuable resource has been updated to make searches much easier!

1. Go to: <http://www.creec.org/region9b/>
2. Click on the navigation bar button that says "Region 9b Resource Directory."
3. You will be asked to enter some information.
4. You will now be presented with search options. You can do a "quick search" or an "advanced search" that allows you to specify criteria including county, grade level, and academic subject areas.
5. When your search results are produced, some of them can be made into a "PDF" for easy viewing, emailing, or printing.

If you can't find what you are looking for, or need assistance using this resource, please contact Helen at Hdelamaza@ocde.us or 714-838-8990.

Animal Diversity Web

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>

This website is University of Michigan Museum of Zoology's online virtual museum with a searchable encyclopedia of animal natural history, distribution, classification, and conservation biology.

McREL'S Lesson Plan Library

<http://www.mcrel.org/lesson-plans/science/index.asp>

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) maintains a free online lesson plan library for science educators organized by topic, including Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science and Scientific Inquiry. The library also links to external lesson plans from such groups as BSCS, PBS, American Chemical Society and NASA, among others.



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

Depending on your position, click on the navigation bar on "For Teachers" or "For Providers." Peruse the information and click on additional links to explore other resources. Find two items that are useful to you. 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 *The Handy Geology Answer Book*. Other participants will receive an appreciation prize.



Provider Perspectives

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

Rigs to Reefs Conference: March 30, 2007

Information: info@coastkeeper.org; 714-850-1965; <http://www.coastkeeper.org>

Coastkeeper Magazine is sponsoring an informative conference on converting rigs to reefs at the Waterfront Hilton in Huntington Beach.

Panelists will cover a few of the most innovative and cutting edge research on converting rigs to reefs including:

- Platform decommissioning
- Ecological roles of platforms
- Environmental issues of decommissioning
- Policy and economic issues
- Stakeholder interests



ORANGE COUNTY
COASTKEEPER

Adobe Software Donation Program

<http://www.adobe.com/aboutadobe/philanthropy/software.html>

Adobe supports primary and secondary schools and qualified nonprofit organizations/NGOs with donations of their latest version software; a maximum of four individually titled software products or one bundled software package may be requested per year.

Stewardship Council: \$2M Committed for '07 Youth Grants

http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org/youth_investment/index.htm

The 2007 Grantmaking Plan outlines a commitment of at least \$2 million in grant funds to continue to support efforts to connect California's youth to the outdoors. The Grantmaking Plan includes a mix of small and large grants for both parks and programs, but also includes specific new opportunities for smaller grassroots organizations to obtain funding. Guidelines and applications for 2007 funding is available at:

http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org/youth_investment/guidelines_and_application.php

Orange County CREEC Updates

- **Online Calendar:** Please go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> and click on "Calendar" to enter your upcoming events in the Orange County CREEC calendar. I have entered events for several programs in January and February. Please help me by adding yours!
- **Website:** Please let me know about funding opportunities you provide to schools so I can include them in the "Local Funding Opportunities" section of the website. Also, let me know about teacher workshops, student contests, and anything else going on with your programs!
- **E-Newsletter:** Email HdelaMaza@ocde.us with upcoming events, teacher training opportunities, grant funding, or other valuable information.
- **Online Resource Directory:** Please take a few minutes to go online and check if your entry in Orange County CREEC's Resource Directory is accurate. Please note that the user interface has been improved! Users can now search for Provider and Resources at the same time. Go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b> then click on "Region 9b Resource Directory." A tracking screen will be displayed; fill out the appropriate boxes. In the Search page, to find your Program or Resources, type a keyword into the "Quick Search" box. For instance, to find the Discovery Science Center, type "Discovery" in the search box. All California's Programs and Resources will be listed alphabetically that contain this word.
 - If you can not find the Provider for whom you work, please click on "Add Resources" and follow the instructions.
 - If you want to add a Resource to a Provider, please click on "updates/feedback" and follow the instructions.
 - To revise information for your Provider or Resources, please click the "updates/feedback" button on the corresponding file.
 - For assistance contact HdelaMaza@ocde.us or 714-838-8990

Thank you for your support!



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 and nature-oriented summer camps.*

Everything is Coming Up Green! at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (20101 Laguna Canyon Road; Laguna Beach 92651)
Date: January 13, 2007; 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Information: 949-923-2235
<http://www.ocparks.com/lagunacoast/>
Hike with a Naturalist to view the new sprouts of the winter rains.

Marine Mammals of Orange County at the Environmental Nature Center (1601 16th Street; Newport Beach)
Date: January 19, 2007; 6:00 p.m.
Call to RSVP: 949-645-8489
Cost: \$3/attendee
Join Crystal Cove State Park Interpreter Winter Bonnin for a fascinating tour of our local waters, in search of seals, dolphins and whales! Winter will share some fascinating facts and stories about our marine neighbors, and tell us about the best places to view them.

Family Nature Walk - Fossil Fun at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy (San Juan Capistrano)
Date: January 20, 2007; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Donation: \$10.00/adult; \$5.00/child
Call 949-489-9778 for reservations and directions; <http://www.theconservancy.org>
Find out what a paleontologist is and the kinds of animals that lived in Orange County thousands of years ago. How do they compare to the animals that live today on The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy?

Gray Whale Sunday at Crystal Cove State Park (8471 PCH between Corona del Mar and Laguna Beach)
Date: January 21, 2007; 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Information: Winter Bonnin;
wbonnin@parks.ca.gov; 949-497-7647
<http://www.crystalcovestatepark.com/>
Description: Attend an educational and exciting family event at the beach. Meet at Pelican Point Parking Lot #2 (from PCH turn coastward at "Newport Coast" then make a right at the kiosk to the first lot). Day use parking fee is \$10.

ROOTS Restoration Teamwork Days at Upper Newport Bay (Exotic Hut on Shellmaker Island)
Date: January 27, 2007; 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Information: Matt Yurko; 949-640-0286;
myurko@coastal.ca.gov
<http://www.newportbay.org/progrest.htm>
Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive non-native plants and plant coastal sage scrub in order to promote native wildlife. Training, tools, refreshments, camaraderie and beautiful scenery are provided. All ages welcome. Free.

Discovery Science Center: New Exhibit
Coming February 3, 2007: [Sesame Street Presents: The Body.](#)

Girls in Ocean Science Teen Conference
Date: February 10, 2007; 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: The Ocean Institute
Cost: \$20.00 per girl (includes lunch)
<http://www.ocean-institute.org/html/gios.htm>
The goal of the conference is to inspire young women (8th – 12th grade) to pursue degrees and careers in the sciences. Nine prominent female ocean scientists will interact with the girls on our research vessel, R/V Sea Explorer, and in the Ocean Institute's teaching labs. Girls will explore careers in areas such as engineering, ocean conservation, marine biology and education.

Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park: Teacher Tours (<http://www.santaanazoo.org/educatio.htm>)
Schedule a Free Tour: 714-647-6575
Are your students coming to the Zoo? We offer free guided tours for teachers. Get to know our animals before coming on your field trip. Prior reservations (arranged at least 4 weeks in advance) are required.

2007 Children's Water Education Festival
(held in Irvine)
Dates: May 1 & 2, 2007; 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Contact: Gina DePinto, 714-378-3228 to register your students for this event.
The Children's Water Education Festival is the largest event of its kind in the nation. Hosted by the Orange County Water District Groundwater Guardian Team and Disneyland Resort, the Festival offers more than 70 interactive and fun-filled activities that teach elementary school students about the environment and the important role they play in preserving one of our most precious natural resources – drinking water. 