



Orange County CREEC

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


Volume 3, Issue 11

June 2006


Hidden Question

Congratulations to Erlinda Cortez, OC-CREEC's Hidden Question winner for the month of May. Erlinda is an all-around educator! She is in a career transition to becoming a credentialed teacher and is currently substitute teaching for the Bellflower School District. She is also a Sierra Club Leader for the Long Beach and Inner City Outings Group for both Orange County and Los Angeles. They take groups (normally students) on field trips who are not normally exposed to the outdoors. She is also a volunteer whale watch naturalist for the Cabrillo Aquarium/American Cetacean Society. Thanks as well to Meg Jones, the Education Director at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, who also participated in May's Hidden Question game.

The prize this month is a beautifully illustrated children's book, great for reading aloud, called *A Salamander's Life*, written and illustrated by John Himmelman. 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 714-708-3889 or HdelaMaza@ocde.us. Good Luck! ☺

OC-CREEC will not publish an e-newsletter for July or August. We will return with the September 2006 newsletter. The website, however, will be updated periodically with new opportunities and events, so please stay tuned. Thanks for your support this year! 

Coordinator Communications: School Yard Nature Investigation

Congratulations to you and your students on completing May testing! I suspect your students are especially wiggly at this time of the year, with thoughts of summer around the corner. Wouldn't it be fun to use the students' energy to investigate the school grounds checking out new plant and animal life? The late rains this year have caused a delay in some plants' life cycles. Students can document, through digital photography, sketching, and scientific note taking, which plants are doing what (are they flowering? are they drying out? do they have new leaves?) and which animals are out and what they are doing. Students can create a notebook to document their findings. Next year, your new class can use the same methods to document the school grounds, and compare their findings to their predecessors'. How did the timing and amount of rainfall affect plant and animal life? Throughout the year, students can document the weather, learn about how some plants and animals survive better than others, use the scientific method to create testable questions, make observations, inferences, predictions, and hypotheses. They can also use math to figure out changes in the plants, and write or give oral reports about their findings. (So many standards in one interdisciplinary year-long activity!) Students will also love the opportunity to spend some time investigating the world around them. 

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For local events, go to "Calendar" at:
<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 website for other opportunities.)

UCI Professional Development for Teachers

A "lecture" presentation is followed by a lab activity. Lunch and parking are provided. If you are part of the FOCUS partnership, you will also receive a \$100 stipend upon completion of the workshop. Workshops are Saturdays from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Contact Dr. Debra Mauzy-Melitz at 949-824-6499 for an application.

June 17, 2006: Evolution of Viruses

CSTA's California Science Education Conference, October 19 – 22, 2006 Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, San Francisco

<http://www.cascience.org/conference.html>

Early Bird Reg. Deadline: June 30, 2006

This is the largest statewide professional development event in California designed specifically for science teachers. The conference provides science educators from all grade levels and in all science disciplines with content knowledge and pedagogy through hundreds of workshops, many short courses and field courses, focus speakers, and exhibits. Featured speakers include Richard Louv (author of *Last Child in the Woods*), Animal Planet's Jeff Corwin and Discovery Channel's MythBusters!-Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman. (Qualified for HOUSSE credit and for NCLB Title II funding.)

Solar Living Institute: Summer Courses Offered at Cal State Polytechnic U. in Pomona To read more information, see additional classes, and register, go to:

<http://www.solarliving.org>

Ecological Urban Gardening, August 2

Fee: \$120

Learn to design and maintain your own ecological garden space in the city! We will explore sustainable urban gardening options, such as planters, rooftop boxes, community/school gardens, and more.

Water Recycling, August 4

Fee: \$120

This workshop will provide a comprehensive introduction to the subject of water recycling, including an overview of aquatic sciences, a survey of conventional and alternative approaches to wastewater treatment, integrated natural living systems, stormwater capture and storage, and water quality analysis kits.

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Great Grants & Cool Contests

Orange County Outdoor Science Foundation Grants for *Inside the Outdoors*® programs.

<http://www.creec.org/region9b/itogrants0607>
<http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org>

Apply for a mini-grant to subsidize your 2006-2007 Traveling Scientist or Field Trip program.

California Fertilizer Foundation School Garden Grant

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

Deadline: June 15, 2006

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.

Toshiba America Foundation Grant

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafstage/jsp/about/HoWApply.jsp>

Deadline: August 1, 2006

The Toshiba America Foundation encourages programs, projects and activities that have the potential to improve classroom teaching and learning of science, mathematics and the science and mathematics of technology. Deadlines are October 1 for K-6 programs, ongoing for grade 7-12 projects under \$5,000, and February 1 and August 1 for grade 7-12 projects over \$5,000.

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

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

Deadlines: June 30, Sept. 30, Dec. 31, 2006

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 awards are between \$500 and \$2,500 for schools and nonprofit organizations.

Road Scholar Teacher Awards

<http://www.road scholar.org/why/teacher.asp>

Deadline: June 30, 2006

Road Scholar is an initiative of Elderhostel and is offering awards of \$7,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 to winners. Educators eligible for the awards include active superintendents, principals, teachers, school nurses, school librarians, and guidance counselors with a minimum of 20 years experience in K-12 education. *[cont'd. on p. 4](#)*

Rad Resources

Science Instructional Materials Center in Orange County– Coming Soon

The Science Teaching and Research (STAR) Institute, directed by Professor Roxanne Miller in Chapman's School of Education, received a \$150,000 grant from the Edison International Foundation to establish the first Science Instructional Materials Center (SIMC) dedicated to durable science teaching equipment and technology clearinghouse in Orange County. Through this award, teachers in OC public schools will be provided with training in various hands-on science equipment such as probeware, videomicroscopes, and electronic balances, and then be able to check-out this equipment from the SIMC and use it in their classrooms. For more information, contact rgmiller@chapman.edu

Literature in the Garden

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/Dig/digdetail taf?Type=Art&ID=2088>

To help educators use the garden as a way to get kids excited about reading, the Junior Master Gardener Program has developed a new curriculum, *Literature in the Garden*. The main goal is to cultivate connections between children's gardening experiences and great books. The curriculum is designed for third through fifth grade youth and can be used in both formal and nonformal education settings. It includes garden basics, teacher background information and 34 related activities developed around six award-winning children's gardening books. The sample lesson available on the website engages the students in making a "plant pet" – a seed planted in a film canister they wear as a "necklace."

Nutrition Tool Kit

<http://www.harvestofthemonth.com/>

The Harvest of the Month Program provides teachers with an educational tool kit of materials designed to motivate and empower students to increase consumption and enjoyment of a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables and to engage in physical activity every day. The program spotlights a different California-grown fruit or vegetable each month and introduces students to the cycle of the growing season. The kit includes educator newsletters with background information, lesson and activity ideas, family newsletters to send home with the students, and press release templates.

Wildfinder

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildfinder/>

The World Wildlife Fund has created the WildFinder database, which allows users to find out where various species live around the world. The information in the database is based on the Fund's 825 ecoregions and currently includes information for four large taxa or groups of species: birds, reptiles, mammals and amphibians. Visitors can search by country, U.S. zip code or city, or species name; and also view a map gallery that contains some pre-selected themes, such as the richness of mammal species or reptile species as distributed across the world. The database also includes images and information about threatened status.

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 also read a short scientific and narrative description. Many of the mammal monographs include a sound clip and links to additional information.

Great for student research: Visitors can create their own printable field guides by merely clicking a box next to each mammal's scientific name, and then print these materials.

Environmental Ethics: Examining Your Connection to the Environment and Your Community (middle/high school curriculum)

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

The curriculum has been endorsed by educational and environmental organizations including the National Wildlife Federation, and the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation. It includes teacher and student guides aligned to national education standards and is organized by major topics: environmental ethics, air, water, forests, wildlife and minerals. The curriculum guides and companion video may be purchased.



Training Time!

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National Park Service: Teacher Workshops <http://www.nps.gov/samo/educate/workshop.htm>

- June 29-30, 2006: National Park Service and NASA Teacher Workshop: Making the Sun-Earth Connection (K-8th)
- July 5-7 & 10-11, 2006: Mountains of Science! (6th – 12th)
- July 18-20, 2006: Cultural Resources of the Santa Monica Mountains and Southern California: American Indian, Mission and Rancho History (3rd-5th)

Master of Science in Science Education Cal State Long Beach

<http://www.scienceteaching.org>
562-985-4801; acolburn@csulb.edu

This program is designed for experienced teachers and science educators. There are three options:

- Elementary: intended for elementary and middle school classroom teachers who are teaching some science and wish to become more knowledgeable
- Secondary: for middle and high school teachers credentialed in science who are interested in a graduate program featuring both advanced education coursework and graduate level science courses
- Informal Education: allows experienced science educators from non-school settings to extend their science knowledge and better understand science teaching and learning in formal and informal environments

Master's Degree Program in Environmental Education at Cal State San Bernardino

<http://nest.csusb.edu>
909-537-5640; dstoner@csusb.edu

Your personal development as an environmental educator will include:

- Up-to-date knowledge of the environmental education field
- Grant writing skills
- Networking expertise for partnerships to promote change
- Ability design and implement effective educational programs
- Knowledge of program assessment to improve programs

For credentialed teachers and nonformal educators.



Great Grants & Cool Contests

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National Weather Association (NWA) Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants

<http://www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html>
NatWeaAsoc@aol.com; 434-296-9966

Deadline: August 1, 2006

\$500 grants are available annually from the NWA for teachers in grades K-12 to improve the education of their students in Meteorology. The teachers selected will be able to use the funds to take an accredited course in atmospheric sciences, attend a relevant workshop or conference, or purchase scientific materials or equipment for the classroom.

Teaching Tolerance Grant Program

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/grants/guide.jsp>
Deadline: Ongoing

The Teaching Tolerance project of the Southern Poverty Law Center offers grants of up to \$2,000 to K-12 classroom teachers for implementing tolerance and youth activism projects in their schools and communities.

Types of Grants Funded

Projects funded by Teaching Tolerance tend to be:

- small-scale, resourceful and student-focused, promoting acceptance of diversity, peacemaking, community service or any other aspect of tolerance education
- clearly defined, well-integrated and tailored to the specified needs and interests of particular learners and their communities
- economically responsible, involving staff participation, community volunteers and in-kind contributions wherever possible
- sustainable in some way, rather than *one-time-only* events or activities.

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

On the home page you will find instructions for the "Hidden Question." Be ready to go on a fun and informative scavenger hunt through the website! Once you have an answer, e-mail or call Helen at HdelaMaza@ocde.us or 714-708-3889 with your answer. The first educator to do this will receive the book *A Salamander's Life*. Other participants will receive an appreciation prize.



Nature and Science Oriented Summer Camps for Children

This is not a complete list! Check with your local City Community Services and Community Colleges for more opportunities as well as other EE Providers. The OC-CREEC website will be updated occasionally with new information and links.

Audubon Starr Ranch's "Junior Biologists" in Trabuco Canyon

<http://www.starranch.org/PDF/SRJBSummer06.pdf>
Phone: 949-858-0309

City of Irvine Community Services "Eco-Explorers Summer Camp" in Bommer Canyon, Irvine

<http://www.IrvineCamps.org>

Phone: 949-724-6738

"iCamp * Science":

<http://www.cityofirvine.org/depts/cs/comm Parks/camps/icamps.asp>

Discovery Science Center's "Camp Discovery" in Santa Ana

<http://64.143.71.42/programs/summerCamp.htm>

Phone: 714-913-5012

Environmental Nature Center's "Nature Camp" in Newport Beach

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

Phone: 949-645-8489

Oak Canyon Nature Center's "O.A.K.S. Summer Day Camp" in Anaheim Hills

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

Phone: 714-998-8380

Ocean Institute "Summer Camps" in Dana Point

http://www.ocean-institute.org/html/summer_camp.html

Phone: 949-496-2274

Orange County Wild's "Camp WILD"

<http://www.orangecountywild.com/> or http://www.orangecountywild.com/Files/Camp_Wild.pdf

Different O.C. location each day for five days

Phone: 949-497-7647; crystalcv@fea.net

Pacific Marine Mammal Center's "Camp Pinniped" in Laguna Beach

<http://www.pacificmmc.org/education/index.php>

Phone: 949-494-3050

education@pacificmmc.org

Santa Ana Zoo's "Zoo Camp" in Santa Ana

<http://www.santaanazoo.org> or <http://www.santaanazoo.org/zoocamp.pdf>

Phone: 714-953-8555 ext. 13

Sea and Sage Audubon's "Summer Day Camps" in Irvine

<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Education/SUMMER/SummerCamps06.htm>

Phone: 949-261-7963



Nature News and Revolutionary Research

"Take a Hike" by Susan Brenna

http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=Art_1477&issue=mar_06

Summary: As gaming devices supplant games of catch, schools counter nature-deficit disorder with outdoor experiences.

"The Nature-Child Reunion" by Richard Louv

<http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlife/article.cfm?issueID=1-7&articleID=1338>

Summary: Americans must address the growing need for bonds between nature and children to improve the health and well-being of both.

"New Skills for a New Century" by Bob Pearlman

http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=Art_1546&issue=jun_06

Summary: Project-based learning teaches kids the collaborative and critical thinking abilities they'll need to compete.

Results of a European Study on the Effects of Field Trips on Students

http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-schools-guardianships-changing_minds.pdf

Submitted Science Instruction Materials on Display Now

The State Board of Education and Curriculum Commission are in the first stages of adopting the K-8 science instructional materials districts will be allowed to purchase using state funds for the next six years.

One of the most crucial steps teachers can take in the three-year process (which began with the adoption of the criteria by which materials will be evaluated) is to review and evaluate the submitted publishers' materials. Materials are currently on display at more than 20 Learning Resource Display Centers around the state. You can access address and phone contacts for these Resource Display Centers at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/lr/dc.asp>

The California Science Teachers Association (CSTA) urges all teachers of science to become involved in the adoption process. The CSTA website has a section explaining the adoption process and suggesting ways for educators to help make sure the state adopts the most effective K-8 science materials available:

<http://www.cascience.org/IM.html>



Provider Perspectives

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

Crystal Cove Historic District Volunteer Training, June 6, 6 – 9 PM and June 10, 1 PM.

In order to accommodate the renewed interest in the cottages, we are seeking volunteers to help staff the temporary Historic District Visitor Center. On **Tuesday, June 6 from 6-9 PM** we will be hosting a training session at the Los Trancos trailer, followed by a tour of the cottages on **Saturday, June 10 at 1 PM**. If you are interested please RSVP to 949-497-7647.

Stewardship Council: Youth Investment Program – Grant Applications Online

Applications will be accepted electronically only, and only from May 26 - June 9, 2006. The deadline to submit your Small grant application is **Friday, June 9**. We will accept electronic submissions until midnight. For materials, please visit our website: <http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org>

EARTH SKILLS, 1113 Cougar Court, Frazier Park, CA 93225, 661-245-0318; jim@earthskills.com

July 10-16. Outdoor Skills Intensive (No prerequisite), \$535

For students who want to cover a lot of course material in a short time, we have scheduled four classes in seven days. Locations are in or near Los Padres National Forest, about 1-1/2 hours north of Los Angeles, and are conducted under a Special Use Permit with the forest. Classes may also be taken individually, or by subject (Basic Tracking & Advanced Tracking; Plant Uses & Wilderness Skills).

Monday: Basic Tracking one-day

Tuesday - Wednesday: Advanced Tracking

Thursday: Plant Uses one-day

Friday - Sunday: Wilderness Skills

Camping will be provided from Monday night to Sunday. Most breakfasts and dinners are provided for the week; students bring their own lunches. Details will be sent upon enrollment.

Coastweeks: September 16 – October 8, 2006

Each fall, people all over the country participate in *COASTWEEKS*, a celebration of our coastal and water resources. This year the event takes place from September 16 to October 8, kicked off by International Coastal Cleanup Day. In California, *COASTWEEKS* is coordinated by the California Coastal Commission. The Commission will feature the events of participating organizations in a special section of our website, and we'll be conducting outreach to publicize it. Special events created for *COASTWEEKS* and preexisting coast- and water-related events are eligible. This celebration is a great way to expand your outreach and to participate in a nation-wide effort to encourage appreciation and preservation of our coast and our inland waterways.

If you have any questions or would like the event submission form mailed or faxed to you, contact: Annie Kohut Frankel; California Coastal Commission; Public Education Program; 45 Fremont St., Ste 2000; San Francisco, CA 94105; Phone: (415) 597-5888; Fax: (415) 904-5216; <http://www.coastforyou.org>

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.
- **E-Newsletter:** Email HdelaMaza@ocde.us with upcoming events, teacher training opportunities, grant funding, or other valuable information. The next issue will be for September.
- **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. Go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b> then click on "Resource Directory," then "Search Providers." Enter the name of your organization. Select your organization and read through the information. Please also check your "Resources" by scrolling down the page and clicking on the titles of the programs you offer. Any corrections can be submitted through "Updates" and following the instructions. If your program is not currently in the Resource Directory, please read through the filter, make sure your program meets the criteria, and if it does, submit your Provider and Resource information. Thanks for your help in keeping this database updated for the teachers of Orange County!



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.

Attention High School Students - Become a Junior Naturalist!

Training: Sat. June 17, 10 AM -12 PM

The Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach is seeking a few dependable, responsible high school students to assist during our Summer Nature Camp for children. Each session is 2 weeks, Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM -12:30 PM beginning July 3 and ending August 14. Work just one session or all four! Contact Lori at 949-645-8489 to get an application and arrange a brief interview.

Camino Interpretativo en Español; O'Neill Regional Park (Spanish Interpretive Trail) June 3, 10, 17, and 24; 2:30 PM- 3:30 PM

Información: 949-923-2258, 714-357-7857
\$5 por vehiculo

<http://www.ocparks.com/events/default.asp>

El camino esta cubierto en especies de plantas y animales muy únicos y distintos. Todas las edades son bienvenidas. Traigan agua y zapatos de tennis.

25th Annual Heritage Day at Oak Canyon Nature Center; June 4, 2006; 11 AM – 4 PM

<http://www.anaheim.net/ocnc/special.html>
Exhibitors provide demonstrations from the life of early California settlers and regional Native Americans; there are many free activities, ongoing live entertainment, and refreshments for sale. Free. Information: 714-998-8380

Native Plant Hike with Nadine Nordstrom and Penny Lewis at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park; June 10, 8 AM

<http://www.lagunagreenbelt.org>

949-923-2235

Meet at Willow Canyon.

Wildflower Photography Hike at Bommer Canyon

June 11, 2006; 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Dust off your old camera and meet us in Bommer Canyon for a quick lesson in the basics of photographing wildflowers. Hike

distance 2 miles, decent lead, lots of interpretation/instruction, ages 8+, easy. FREE but requires pre-registration. 949-724-6738 or visit:

<http://www.irvineopenspace.org>

Getting to the Root of It at Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy; June 17; 9 AM – 12 PM

<http://www.theconservancy.org>

RSVP: 949-489-9778

Donation: \$25/person

Join us to learn to perform a few simple soil tests and delve deeper into the secret world under oaks (and other plants). You will learn about Sudden Oak Death, soil food webs, soil pH, roots and mycorrhizal fungi, plant nutrition and weed ecology, and how to improve the soil in your garden, basic tips to detect nutrient deficiencies and plant disease, and how to manage and utilize weeds to make your garden thrive. Join Russell Ackerman, an ecological garden designer, and a former gourmet market gardener for various Bay Area restaurants, including Alice Waters' Chez Panisse.

Plant ID Hike at Crystal Cove State Park

June 24, 2006; 9 AM

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

crystalcv@fea.net; 949-497-7647

Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park."). Day use parking fee is \$10.

Grand Opening of "Dinosaurs!" at Discovery Science Center: Summer 2006

<http://www.discoverycube.org/exhibits/dinosaurs.htm>

Enter a prehistoric world of life-size dinosaurs in the biggest exhibit ever to arrive at the Center. See these incredible giants up-close-and-personal as you learn about life sciences. Exhibit includes life-size dinosaurs including an Argentinosaurus to walk through, a T-Rex, and more.

Sunset at the Zoo/Grand Re-Opening of the Colors of the Amazon Aviary; August 6, 2006; 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

<http://www.santaanazoo.org>

Bring a picnic and join us for an evening of Jazz music, coffee, dessert, train rides and animals.

Members: \$7/adult, \$3/child

Non-members: \$15/adult, \$7/child

