



Orange County CREEC

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Hidden Question

Congratulations to Alicia Cordova, a pre-service teacher, who won (again) and was the first (of only two) to respond to the Hidden Question. She won the Delta Education DSM II "From Seed to Plant" kit (valued at \$200). (See her response in the next column). Please participate! ☺ It's fun! ☺

The **first fifth grade teacher** to respond to this month's Hidden Question will receive a **free field trip for up to 78 fifth grade students** to the Newport Sea Base for *Inside the Outdoors'* new "What's in Your H₂O?" Field Program. Fifth grade Science Content Standards addressed are: Earth Sciences 3 a, b, c, d, and e and Invest. & Exp. 6 a, b, f, g, and h. The 3.5-hour field trip includes a trip on a pontoon boat, water quality testing, bird watching, a bottom dredge/mud grab station, data collection, and activities that teach about aquifers, run off/pollution, and more! (Transportation to be provided by your school).

For non-fifth grade teachers: The first five responders will receive "The Worm Guide: A Vermicomposting Guide for Teachers." This booklet is a useful tool for any educator who wants to integrate worm composting into school, nature centers, boy/girl scout programs, at home...

Embedded within the text of this newsletter, there is a hidden question. To answer, call Helen at 949-548-0772 or via e-mail at (HdelaMaza@ocde.us). Good Luck! ☺ ✨

Coordinator Communications: Cool Curricula Continued

Julie Ann Ernst, Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota in Duluth, is in the beginning phase of a research project investigating what makes teachers able and motivated to use the environment as a theme or context for their teaching and what impact this methodology has on teachers. She is looking for teachers that are using environment-based or EIC-like approaches (the environment is used as a context for integrating subject areas and as the source of real world projects and learning experiences) who would be willing to participate in her research. Contact her at jernst@d.umn.edu

Alicia Cordova, a pre-service teacher and the February Hidden Question winner, wrote: "The way I would like to engage my students in science and environmental education is to immerse them in the environment and allow them to discover for themselves answers to questions they have and solutions to problems they observe. I believe that children learn best when they are allowed to use hands-on/minds-on methods of self discovery. When I teach I will do my best to promote self-ownership of the knowledge my students will gain."

Are you an in-service teacher that has successfully created the learning environment Alicia describes above? Share with me (HdelaMaza@ocde.us) your ideas and lesson plans so we can begin a forum for sharing the successful integration of environmental education into standards-based teaching. As an example, I have posted a lesson that I wrote called "Decomposition Detectives" ([http://www.creec.org/region9b/stories/storyReader\\$186](http://www.creec.org/region9b/stories/storyReader$186)) The Language Arts, Science, Math, and English Language Development standards alignment for this lesson are also posted. ✨

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Training Time!

Opportunities listed here may be appropriate for **Teachers, Providers,** or other **Educators.**

13th Annual Educator Enrichment Day at California Polytechnic University, Pomona on March 19, 2005 for K-9 Teachers - FREE

Educator Enrichment Day workshops, presented by Boeing and Cal Poly Pomona, provide participants with engaging, student-based curriculum using creative instructional strategies designed to engage students in science, math, technology and engineering concepts.

Participant strategies and activities modeled throughout the day are correlated to the National Science and Math Assessment Standard objectives. Questions can be directed to 562-797-1493 or exploreengineering@boeing.com
Register at <http://www.exploreengineering.org>

Summer Professional Development Events for Middle and High School Science Educators Application Deadline is March 18, 2005

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (<http://www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/teach.html>) and the National Science Teachers Association will present a professional development program in Food Science in Washington, D.C. this summer in two separate, week-long sessions for middle school (July 10-16) and high school (July 24-30) science teachers. Consistent with the National Science Education Standards, the programs will offer multidimensional, sustained professional development, including content updates by food science specialists; visits to government/industry facilities; presentations by government and industry leaders; hands-on practice with new curriculum materials; and exchange of teaching and learning strategies. Travel, lodging, and meal expenses will be paid for science educators selected to participate in the two programs. For additional information and to apply, go to <http://www.nsta.org/fda>, or e-mail cneville@nsta.org

For the Hidden Question, send an e-mail to Helen (HdelaMaza@ocde.us) or call 949-548-0772 with the answer to the following question(s): What can OC CREEC do for you? What resources can CREEC provide for you that will help you in the classroom or in your non-formal educational setting?

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Great Grants & Cool Contests

Healthy Sprouts Award Deadline: March 31, 2005

The National Gardening Association and Gardener's Supply Company grant 25 awards annually to schools and community organizations that use gardens to teach about nutrition and explore the issue of hunger in the United States. For more information, go to <http://www.kidsgardening.com>

Captain Planet Foundation Deadline: March 31, 2005

Committed to supporting hands-on environmental projects for young people, the foundation provides grants from \$250 to \$2,500 to school and community groups. Visit the Web site for guidelines and a proposal form: http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/aboutUs.html#policies_grant_guidelines

Radical Renovation: School Edition Contest Postmark Deadline: April 7, 2005

For: K - 6 Teachers

This contest is sponsored by Ford Motor Company and National Geographic Foundation. K-6 teachers are invited to submit their students' vision of a sustainable, eco-friendly school. The winning class will receive \$100,000 to implement their plan. For rules and additional information, go to <http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/gogreen/ford/>

Name the Shark Contest Deadline: April 9, 2005

Baby Gray Smoothhound Sharks were born at the Back Bay Science Center. To help celebrate these births, you're invited to view these pups at 9 AM – 11 AM on Saturday April 9, 2005. Your students can also enter a contest to name the sharks! Download the form at <http://www.creec.org/region9b>

CAPCO Science Class Challenge Deadline: May 13, 2005

Participate in the CAPCO Science Class Challenge and win \$500 to \$5,000 for your school. The competition is to encourage 4 – 9 grade students and teachers to learn about the Earth's protective upper ozone layer, CFCs, and the environment by using provided activities or their own creative methods. Go to <http://www.nocfcs.org/scc/scchome.htm>

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Rad Resources

New NSTA Standards-Based Service Will Assess School's Science Instruction Program; Provide Recommendations

The NSTA Science Program Improvement Review (SPIR) is designed to assess a school's complete science instructional program across all grade levels. NSTA-trained SPIR facilitators will work with the school's teachers and administrators to align the science instruction more closely to the standards for teaching, professional development, assessment, content, and program. Schools interested in learning more about SPIR are invited to fill out the inquiry form at http://science.nsta.org/survey_spir or contact Amy Bluestein at Amy_b@nsta.org or by calling 703-312-9227. For additional information, go to http://science.nsta.org/nstaexpress/nstaexpress_2005_02_22_spir.htm

National Environmental Education Week April 10 – 16, 2005

For: Grades K - 12

Educators can participate by conducting environmental education programming during the week of April 10 - 16. Check out the "To-Do List" and "Tools and Links" sections on the website for suggested activities, ideas and resources to involve, educate and inspire. EE Week is coordinated by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation in cooperation with many other EE organizations, including CREEC. Sign-up to participate at <http://www.eeweek.org>

School Waste Reduction Information and Teaching Materials

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/WasteReduce/default.htm> and <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/WasteReduce/Survey/2003/Results.htm>

The California Integrated Waste Management Board has posted useful information on school waste reduction for teachers and school administrators interested in reducing their schools' waste streams. Statewide surveys, waste reduction strategies, model programs, school profiles and other information can be found on the website.

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California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (<http://www.cfaitc.org>)

Gardening Workbook Available Online

(<http://www.cfaitc.org/GardenGuide/GardenGuide.php>)

Are you involved in developing or revamping a school garden? The California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom offers "Farming is Food, Fiber, Flowers... and Fun!" Originally developed by The Agricultural Network, it is a 72-page workbook that helps get gardens growing. Its coverage spans from writing a mission statement and designing the garden to available resources, working with volunteers, and fundraising. You can download the workbook on the website.

The 2005 Teacher Resource Guide

(<http://www.cfaitc.org/TRG/TRG.php>)

This is a must-have tool for educators and volunteers working toward agricultural literacy. The free guide lists an array of materials available to support such an endeavor. This edition may be downloaded in its entirety or in sections, and is also available in paperback or CD format. This year's CD contains both PDF files and a new interactive, searchable format.

This Land is Your Land

<http://web4.msue.msu.edu/msuewc/kent/yourland/>

This is an activity-based youth curriculum about land use issues developed by Michigan State University Extension's United Growth for Kent County project. *This Land Is Your Land* was developed to provide teaching materials almost anyone can use to reach youth. It was designed so young people can contribute solutions to current land use issues as well as participate in making sound decisions now and in the future.



Training Time!

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Genomics: From Mendel to Microchips at UC Davis; July 10 - 15, 2005

Application deadline: April 1, 2005

UC Davis is offering a genomics workshop in which participants will receive exciting genetics and genomics laboratory protocols and resource material for the classroom. Hands-on laboratories are supplemented with lectures from researchers and tours of campus facilities. This program is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Partnership for Plant Genomics Education, University of California, Davis. Institute attendance, room, and board are free, but participants need to cover travel costs. Three units of academic credit are available.

For more information, contact Barbara Soots at 530-752-6552 or visit <http://ppge.ucdavis.edu> to apply online.

The Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (AEOE) Statewide Conference; April 15 – 17, 2005 at Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County.

Registration is now available for this excellent conference that includes a solid lineup of workshops, keynote speakers and entertainment. The theme this year is: *California's People and Places: How California's diverse ecosystems shape our population and how its people shape the landscape, past, present and future.* All conference information, fliers, and registration forms are available at <http://www.aeo.org>. The conference cost of \$140 includes five meals, housing (private rooms available for an additional cost), 70+ workshops, entertainment, keynote speeches, and more. Scholarships and professional development credit are available.

Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds Educator Workshop at Acorn Naturalists (Tustin) April 21, 2005; 4:00 - 6:00 PM; FREE Registration Deadline: April 15

At this workshop, participants will receive a FREE copy of the California Coastal Commission's science activity guide, *Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds*, try out some of the activities in the guide, and get an overview of the other free educational resources and programs the Coastal Commission offers.

Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds is a classroom activity guide that addresses California's coastal and marine issues such as endangered species, marine debris, coastal geology, water use, and much more. It is aligned to the California State Science Content Standards for grades three through eight, and includes Community Action lessons adaptable for all ages up to and beyond grade 12. Visit <http://www.coastforyou.org> for more information. To register, contact: Annie Kohut Frankel at afrankel@coastal.ca.gov or call 415-597-5888; toll free 800-Coast-4U.

Bill Nye the Science Guy at Beckman Auditorium at Caltech

April 24, 2005 at 2:00 PM

Tickets are \$8 at the door

Germs, germs, everywhere! We live with them all day, every day. Did you know that: There are more germs inside you than there are people on Earth? Your body is constantly fighting germs, even when you aren't sick? Come hear Bill speak, and you'll learn about these things and more. Find out about germs and how to stay healthy in this delightful presentation based on his new book, as well as a few new things from Nye Labs. Bring the kids, and their friends, for an afternoon of science and a blast of fun. Click on "events" at <http://www.skeptic.com/> for more information.

Water 101: FREE Water Education Classes offered by Orange County Water District; April 27, 2005; 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Learn about a looming global water crisis, how water affects health, California's unique water situation, what the future holds for water supplies in Orange County and what water agencies are doing to help conserve available water resources. The class will also include discussions on high-tech solutions to help alleviate water shortages today and in the future. Classes will be held at the OC Water District (10500 Ellis Ave., Fountain Valley). Register by calling 714-378-3217. ✨



Great Grants & Cool Contests

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Presidential Excellence Awards for Teachers

Deadline: May 2, 2005

Nominations for 7-12 Mathematics or Science Teachers

This program, established by the White House and sponsored by the National Science Foundation, identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers.

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

Provider Highlight

Ocean Institute is a proud Member of the Orange County CREEC Provider Network. Sue Winterhoff, a Department Manager, is a member of the CREEC Advisory Committee.

You can find out more about Ocean Institute programs, including the *Chaparral to Ocean Science School* and the *Living Systems Lab and Cruise* at the CREEC Resource Directory (http://www.creec.edgateway.net/cs/creec9bp/view/creec_org/338) Ocean Institute offers many other educational programs including a "Life in the Abyss" overnight program for 5th grade students who explore ocean nightlife with 1000-watt squid lights. A high school program called "SeaTech" provides workplace and career training with Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Bioacoustics Laboratory. To view Ocean Institute's Course Catalog, visit http://www.ocean-institute.org/html/educator_info.html

On Saturday May 14, 2005, the Ocean Institute will offer "Shifting Sands" for Teachers. Participants will spend a day exploring the exciting world of sand. Keynote speaker Dr. Tom Garrison, professor of oceanography at Orange Coast College and Science Advisor for a couple PBS programs will explore the mineralogy of sand and its role in coastal processes.

The Ocean Institute (<http://www.ocean-institute.org>) is open to the general public.

Other Opportunities

Get Involved in the K-8 Science Textbook Adoption (<http://www.cascience.org/IM.html>)

The State Board of Education has approved the timeline for adopting K-8 science instructional materials. Recruitment of members for the Instructional Materials Advisory Panel (IMAP) and Content Review Panel (CRP) is supposed to begin next month. This will happen after the curriculum commission finalizes the applications that people submit to join the IMAP and CRP. Once the applications are ready, the California Science Teachers Association (CSTA) will post them on the web site for easy access. CSTA encourages teachers and other science educators to apply for one (or both!) of the panels, as appropriate. For more information about the adoption process, go to <http://www.cascience.org/IM.html>

Orange County High School Teachers and Students Wanted for Earth Resource Foundation's Working at the Watershed Level: Urban Refuse Project (<http://www.earthresource.org>)

The Urban Refuse Project is designed to introduce students to their local watershed and the environmental issues affecting it, specifically urban refuse (trash). Students will be engaged in data collection, data entry, analysis, hypotheses formation, and the development of solution-based results. While working in their local watershed, high school students collect Urban Refuse from pre-established sites and enter their findings into an online database for the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). Through this project, students provide SCCWRP with valuable information regarding watershed health and sustainability. Upon completion of the project, students are urged to disseminate their findings through school presentations, community events, and press releases in an effort to bring positive environmental changes to the watersheds in which they are working. **ERF is looking for classes to be involved this spring, summer, or next school year.** If you are interested, contact Chris Sanderl at chris.sanderl@earthresource.org or Stephanie Pacheco, Santa Ana River Watershed Coordinator, 949-645-5163 or at stephanie.pacheco@earthresource.org *

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair (LAEEF) at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden (301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, 91007)

March 12, 2005; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Cost: \$7/adults, \$5/seniors and students, \$2.50/children (ages 5-12), free (under 5)

Over 60 organizations that teach and promote environmental education will present hands-on activities, ready-to-use lesson plans, field trip and assembly ideas and other useful resources for school and home environmental projects. For more information, contact Tim Williamson at 562-922-6682.

World Water Day, March 22, 2005

(<http://www.worldwaterday.org/>)

The United Nations General Assembly at its 58th session in December 2003 agreed to proclaim the years 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life." The Water for Life decade sets the world's goals on "a greater focus on water-related issues, while striving to ensure the participation of women in water-related development efforts..."

Canyon Spring Fling at Oak Canyon Nature Center on March 26, 2005; 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Fee: \$8.50 per participant (no charge for adult helpers). Pre-registration required.

The self-paced activities are geared for children aged 2 - 10 years. At the "Spring Fling" everyone will enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with an "egg"cellent hunt, "flutter"-by springtime crafts, storytelling, special animals to touch and cuddle, and cookie decorating! Start at a time best for you and buzz around at your own pace. The Oak Canyon Nature Center is located at 6700 East Walnut Canyon Road in Anaheim. For more information on the "Canyon Spring Fling" or to register, call 714-998-8380.

Butterfly House Docent Training at the Environmental Nature Center (ENC) (1601 16th Street; Newport Beach 92663)

March 26, 2005; 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The only Butterfly House in Orange County is home to native butterflies and their corresponding native host and nectar plants. During the 2-hour training session butterfly expert Liz Cooper will share information about the butterflies of Orange County. Liz will

show slides of the larvae, chrysalis and adult butterflies common to the area. Participants will explore the new Butterfly House to learn about the plants butterflies use as host and nectar sources. To register, call 949-645-8489.

Predators and Prey Spring Break Workshop for Kids at the ENC

April 4 – 8, 2005; 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Cost: \$195 per student (10% member discount)

Students in grades K - 3 are invited to investigate the relationships between predators and their prey and the adaptations each have. Science concepts will be introduced in a fun learning environment, and reinforced with crafts, games and hands-on activities. For instance, the students will become silent stalkers on a hike through the Center in search of "deer," and become bats using "echolocation." The young ecologists will get up close and personal with the ENC's snakes and learn about their adaptations for catching prey. Students will explore ways that prey animals avoid predators, such as using camouflage, signaling to others, flight, posturing in a fighting position, scrambling for cover and "freezing" on the spot. To check availability, please call the ENC at 949-645-8489.

Starr Ranch Junior Biologists Spring

2005: *Wildlife of Oak Woodlands*

Cost: \$80 for four 4-hour sessions

Offered Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays in March/April (see dates below)

Audubon's 4000 acre Starr Ranch Sanctuary in southeast Orange County invites kids ages 8-12 to join staff wildlife biologists in research on the animals of oak woodlands during the four-day program. Junior Biologists will have the opportunity to observe animals as they assist scientists with the live-capture, identification, and release of small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and insects. They will also observe and identify woodland birds. Three different sessions are offered from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM:
Wednesdays: March 30, April 6, 13, 20;
Thursdays: March 31, April 7, 14, 21; or
Saturdays: April 2, 9, 16, 23.

Group size is limited to 15 children per session. For more information call 949-858-0309 or for reservations call 949-858-0131. ❁



Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary (<http://www.starr-ranch.org>)

100 Bell Canyon Road; Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

Reservations: 949-858-0131; Questions: 949-858-0309

Go to the website for information on public programs and Ecology Programs for Schools

Adult Research Camps Join staff biologists for a weekend at the beautiful 4000 acre Audubon California's Starr Ranch in southeast Orange County to experience nature hands-on as a wildlife researcher. Stay in the historic bunkhouse or camp. For both programs described below, Starr Ranch will provide breakfast and dinner. Bring your own lunch and snacks; a refrigerator, stove, and sink will be available.

Bird Research Camp (Group Size: 15)

Dates and Times: 7:00 PM Friday, April 29 – 12:00 PM, Sunday, May 1

Cost: \$100/bunkhouse; \$90/camping (breakfasts and Saturday dinner provided)

Staff will kick off the weekend with a spring-time evening owl survey after an optional refresher course on identifying the birds of Starr Ranch. A Saturday morning bird walk will be followed by an afternoon drive down Bell Canyon to survey and map hawk nests. In the evening, after a barbeque, you'll join biologists who will trap and band owls. Microscopes will also be available to examine owl diet by dissecting their pellets. Sunday morning you'll assist with a new study that examines effects of coastal sage scrub restoration on birds.

Wildlife Research Camp (Group Size: 15)

Dates and Times: 9:00 AM, Saturday, June 4 – 12:00 PM, Sunday, June 5

Cost: \$80/bunkhouse; \$75/camping (Sat. dinner and Sun. breakfast provided)

On Saturday morning adult campers will use scent-baited stations (scent stations) placed in the wild and learn how to identify tracks and scat of large mammals that visit the scent stations. In the afternoon, campers will help staff with new research on effects of restoration on invertebrates and small mammals in coastal sage scrub and a site undergoing non-chemical treatment for the exotic artichoke thistle. The evening program will introduce campers to how biologists study nocturnal wildlife. We'll explore Bell Canyon at night from benches in the back of a flat-bed truck and make stops to call for owls and coyotes; observe Common Poorwills, small mammals, and tarantulas; and use a black light to survey for invertebrates. Sunday morning the group will learn how biologists monitor the reptiles and amphibians (herps) of southern California and then go outdoors to compare the herps of coastal sage scrub and oak woodland.

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, 20101 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach; 949-923-2235;

<http://www.ocparks.com> Orange County rangers and a groundskeeper staff the park daily. Open weekends, 7 AM to sunset. Parking lot hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Willow Canyon** on Laguna Canyon Road, just south of the El Toro Road intersection: Open to hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers on specified trails without guides; parking, \$3. **Dilley Preserve** on Laguna Canyon Road: Temporarily closed due to road construction. **Laguna Heights**, the trailhead for West Ridge trail and other routes into Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park: Open daily all year, 7 AM to sunset. **Docent-led Tours by Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. Volunteers:** 8 AM every second and fourth Saturday of the month. Call for reservations and meeting points. Weekday and special group tours are also available. **Become a Wilderness Access Volunteer:** Monthly training offered from 9 AM to 11 AM every third weekend, including March 20. **Stewardship Days:** Offered 8 AM to 11 AM every third Saturday from October through May, including March 19.

Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, 28373 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Niguel ; 949-923-2200;

<http://www.ocparks.com> Open daily all year, 7 AM to sunset, for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians; parking, \$3. Orange County rangers and a groundskeeper staff the park daily. Free, 30-minute ranger-led Discovery Hike offered the second and fourth Saturday at noon. **Orange County Natural History Museum; 949-831-3287.** At the park entrance; call to confirm museum is open.

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Local Event Calendar

- **Every Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM or 2:00 PM: Steward Days at Upper Newport Bay's Shellmaker Island.** Collect seeds, propagate plants and support the Bay's unique genetics. Meet at the Exotic Hut on Shellmaker Island. Call 949-640-0286 for more information.
- **Every Saturday, 8:30 AM: Canoe the Back Bay.** Take a 2-hour, naturalist-guided tour of the Back Bay. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 949-923-2269 to make reservations.
- **Every Saturday, 10:00 AM: Kayak Tours at Upper Newport Bay.** Meet at the Newport Aquatic Center on Northstar Beach for a 2-hour, naturalist-guided kayak tour of Back Bay. The fee is \$15 per person. Call 949-923-2269 for reservations.
- **Every First Saturday of the Month, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Restoration at Shipley Nature Center.** Everyone is invited to participate in planting, weeding, and other restoration activities. Bring a pair of gardening gloves and any gardening tools you have available such as shovel, hoe, or rake. *Please label tools clearly with your name.* Wear sturdy closed toe shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Call 714-842-4772 or visit <http://www.fsnc.org> for information.
- **Every First Saturday of the Month, 11:00 AM: Tour of Shipley Nature Center.** Hear descriptions of the Center's planned restoration to its historical native plant habitat with the addition of water conservation gardens. Meet at the front gate to the Shipley Nature Center. Large groups should call ahead of time. Call 714-842-4772 or visit <http://www.fsnc.org> for information.
- **Wednesdays March 5, April 2, and May 14, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Plein Air Oil Painting at Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center.** Appropriate for all levels. Enjoy a wonderful morning painting the Back Bay. Jean Marie will demonstrate and present traditional Plein Air techniques. All materials are provided. \$15/child (8 – 18 yrs.) and \$20/adult. Call 949-923-2295 to register.
- **Saturdays March 9, April 13, and May 11, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Plein Air Oil Painting at Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center.** Appropriate for all levels. Enjoy a wonderful morning painting the Back Bay. Jean Marie will demonstrate and present traditional Plein Air techniques. All materials are provided. \$15/child (8 – 18 yrs.) and \$20/adult. Call 949-923-2295 to register.
- **Sundays March 20, April 17, and May 15, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Plein Air Oil Painting at Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center.** Appropriate for all levels. Enjoy a wonderful afternoon painting the Back Bay. Jean Marie will demonstrate and present traditional Plein Air techniques. All materials are provided. \$15/child (8 – 18 yrs.) and \$20/adult. Call 949-923-2295 to register.
- **March 9, 1:45 PM: Low Tide Tour of the Bay.** Join a Naturalist on a 2-hour guided tour of the bay at low tide on an electric pontoon boat. Meet at the Shellmaker Island education dock. The fee is \$10 per person. RSVP to 949-923-2269.
- **March 9, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Southern California Nature Society Meeting at Acorn Naturalists.** Rick Behl will talk about "Geology of Orange County" Meetings are held at Acorn Naturalists, 155 El Camino Real; Tustin 92780. Go to <http://www.acornnaturalists.com/store/>
- **March 11, 7:00 PM: Polar Bears at the Environmental Nature Center.** Join Executive Director, Bo Glover, as he describes his up close experiences with the polar bears of Canada. View slides of the bears and other Canadian critters. Call 949-645-849 for reservations.
- **March 12, 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Trail Clearing at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.** Help make the Conservancy trail beautiful for visitors. Lunch is provided. Free. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778.
- **March 12, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Get Into It: Bommer Canyon.** Join the Irvine Open Space staff for a docent-led mountain bike ride, guided hike, and crafts for kids at Bommer Canyon. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy. Free. To register sign up for #21779 at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> Call 949-724-6738 for information.
- **March 12, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM: Friends of Newport Bay Walking Tour.** Walk along the Back Bay listening to Naturalists and visit interpretive stations featuring specialists addressing different natural history topics. Meet at the corner of Eastbluff and Back Bay Drive. Tours leave every 15 minutes. Free. No reservations required. Call 949-923-2269 for more information.

- **March 12, 9:00 AM: Steelhead Equestrian Ride at Irvine Regional Park.** Enjoy a sampling of the equestrian trail network in the Santiago Creek watershed. Saddle up your own steed or make reservations for rental horses from Peacock Hill Equestrian Center at (714) 997-7720. Meet at Peacock Hill in Irvine Regional Park, 1 Irvine Park Road in Orange. Event hosted by Orange Park Association. For more information, e-mail Tom Davidson at tdcdnd@aol.com
- **March 12, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Herbarium: Preparing and Mounting Botanical Specimens at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** (Claremont, CA). This class will teach participants techniques for making herbarium specimens, from collecting the live material to mounting the dry plants on paper sheets. The class will cover permits and conservation ethics, demonstrate field techniques and label preparation. Students will press and mount specimens themselves. A tour of the RSA Herbarium to look at specimens and their use in the botanical record is included. Instructor: Scott White, Biological Consultant. Cost: \$66 (nonmember). Code: 052BOT100. To register, call Rachel Kau-Taylor at 909-625-8767, ext. 224 or e-mail Rachel.Kau-Taylor@cgu.edu
- **March 12, 10:00 AM: Fremont Watershed Walk.** This two-hour walk will explore 1-2 miles at the mouth of Fremont Canyon, a narrow gorge between sheer rock walls. Lush ferns and cottonwoods line the creek through the canyon, which is known for 11 bat species. Rubber boots are suggested if substantial water is flowing in the creek. Event hosted by The Nature Conservancy as part of the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve. For reservations or more information, call 714-832-7478 or e-mail irvineranch@tnc.org
- **March 12, 10:00 AM: Nature Hike at Chino Hills State Park.** Meet at the Rolling M Ranch (Chino Hills) entrance. For location information go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=648
- **March 12, 10:00 AM: Historic District Walk at Crystal Cove State Park.** Take a tour through the historic beach homes. Meet at Los Trancos parking lot at the trailer (PCH turn inland at stoplight “Los Trancos.”) For information call 949-497-7647.
- **March 12, 1:00 PM: Headwaters Tour of Santiago Creek in Modjeska Canyon.** Staff naturalists from Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary will lead a walking tour of Modjeska Canyon, the headwaters of Santiago Creek, and share highlights about this special part of our watershed. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for weather. Event hosted by Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary/Cal State Fullerton. Meet at Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary, 29322 Modjeska Canyon Road in Modjeska Canyon. Map and directions are available at <http://www.tuckerwildlife.org> For more information, contact Birkin Newell at 714-649-2760 or e-mail him at bnewell@fullerton.edu
- **March 12, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Weed Warriors Thistle Battle at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** Mother Oak is a spectacular tree and she is being threatened by an army of milk thistle, a non-native, invasive plant that grows in dense stands to a height of five feet. Help free Mother Oak and then celebrate with drinks, snacks, and good company. Free. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778.
- **March 12, 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM: Astronomy Night at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** Learn the winter constellations and look through a telescope to discover star clusters, nebulae, the moon, and more. \$8/adult, \$6/child 8 yrs. and up. Call to RSVP and for directions: 949-489-9778.
- **March 13, 8:00 AM: Fremont Canyon Hike.** Hike six miles to the weather station on Windy Ridge, named for wind speeds up to 120 mph, for excellent views of Orange County, the San Gabriel Mountains, and the Los Angeles basin. This 3-4 hour hike through chaparral plant community passes the site of a former coal mine where the vein of coal is still visible in the rock. Rubber boots are suggested if substantial water is flowing in the creek. Event hosted by The Nature Conservancy as part of the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve. For reservations or more information, call 714-832-7478 or e-mail irvineranch@tnc.org Information on meeting location will be provided when reservations are made.
- **March 13, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Wildflower Walk in Baker Canyon.** See the wildflowers of Santiago Creek watershed in all their glory on this 3-mile walk through Baker Canyon. This winter’s rains have produced a banner year for blossoms. Event hosted by The Nature Conservancy as part of the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve. For reservations or more information, call 714-832-7478 or e-mail irvineranch@tnc.org Information on meeting location will be provided when reservations are made.

- **March 13, 9:00 AM: Backcountry Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight “School-State Park.”) PH: 949-497-7647.
- **March 13, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Crafty Camouflage at Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center.** See “Dr. Sue, The Bug Lady’s” wonderful walking sticks show their camouflage talent. Participants will learn how stick insects live and make their own edible stick model. \$10/child, ages 5 and up. Call 949-923-2295 to make reservations.
- **March 13, 10:00 AM: Junior Rangers (ages 7 – 12) at Chino Hills State Park.** Meet at the Rolling M Ranch (Chino Hills) entrance. For location information go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=648
- **March 13, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Ceanothus (California Wild Lilac) Garden Walk at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.** Join the RSABG staff for a walking tour of the Garden’s *Ceanothus* collection and learn about this horticulturally magnificent plant. There are 40 species of *Ceanothus* and over 150 named garden varieties, ranging in size from low ground covers to small trees. Cost: \$15 (nonmembers). Code: 052HRT100. To register, call Rachel Kau-Taylor at 909-625-8767, ext. 224 or e-mail Rachel.Kau-Taylor@cgu.edu
- **March 13, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM: History Bus Tour of Sites Along the Santiago Creek Watershed.** Local historian Doug Westfall narrates this 3-hour tour of significant historical sites in the Santiago Creek watershed. This year’s tour will highlight the area from Irvine Lake up-stream to the headwaters. Transportation and commemorative booklet are provided. Meet at: Santiago Park, 510 East Memory Lane, Santa Ana at 1:00 PM. The bus will leave Santiago Park at 1:15 PM. Event hosted by the City of Orange. For reservations or more information, call 714-744-5597. Advance reservations and payment are required. A check for \$20 should be payable to SCGA; and mailed to Creek Week History Tour, c/o Pamela Galera, City of Orange, 230 East Chapman Avenue, Orange, CA 92866.
- **March 15, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Living on the Edge: The Urban Geology of the Los Angeles Basin and Palos Verdes Peninsula (Lecture) at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** (Claremont, CA). (See March 19, 8 AM – 5 PM for follow-up field trip.) Come find out why Angelinos live on the edge! Topics include earthquake and seismic hazards, oil fields of Los Angeles, flood and landslide hazards, groundwater basins and groundwater management. Instructor: D. Trent, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Citrus College. Cost: \$7 (nonmembers). Code: 052NAT100. To register, call Rachel Kau-Taylor at 909-625-8767, ext. 224 or e-mail Rachel.Kau-Taylor@cgu.edu
- **March 17, 9:00 AM: Weir Watershed Wander through Weir Canyon.** Enjoy this easy 3-hour walk through Weir Canyon through extensive oak woodland and native grasslands. Weir Canyon is significant to our cultural history and dotted with archeological sites of Native Americans. Rubber boots are suggested if substantial water is flowing in the creek. Event hosted by The Nature Conservancy as part of the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve. For reservations or more information, call 714-832-7478 or e-mail irvineranch@tnc.org Information on meeting location will be provided when reservations are made.
- **March 17, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM: Walk with Founder, Robert House, at the Environmental Nature Center.** Take a walk with Robert House and learn about the history of the ENC and the plant communities of California while enjoying the beauty of the Center. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations.
- **March 17, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM: California Native Plant Society - Orange County Chapter General Meeting.** Dan Songster, co-director of the Golden West College Native Garden, will speak on “The Right Native in the Right Place: California native plants for landscape situations.” The meeting will be held at the Irvine Ranch Water District Headquarters (15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine). For more information, go to <http://www.occnps.org>
- **March 18, 4:30 PM: Sundown Walk in Hangman’s Tree Canyon Area.** Catch the sunset on this 2 – 3 mile hike among oak woodland and coastal sage scrub plant communities. A highlight includes a view of The Sinks, a geological formation described as a “mini Grand Canyon” interrupted by a visible earthquake fault. Rubber boots are suggested if substantial water is flowing in the creek. Event hosted by The Nature Conservancy as part of the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve. For reservations or more information, call 714-832-7478 or e-mail irvineranch@tnc.org

- **March 19, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Living on the Edge: The Urban Geology of the Los Angeles Basin and Palos Verdes Peninsula (field trip).** Follow up on the March 15th lecture on urban Geology with an excursion that will take you to oil fields, marine terraces, landslide sights and fault zones in the LA Basin and Palos Verdes Peninsula. Transportation is provided and included in the class fee. Instructor: D. Trent, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Citrus College. Cost: \$79 (nonmembers). Code: 052NAT101. To register, call Rachel Kau-Taylor at 909-625-8767, ext 224 or e-mail Rachel.Kau-Taylor@cgu.edu
- **March 19, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Cardio Conditioning Hike at Nature Center.** Get your blood pumping and enjoy the outdoors on this ~ 8 mile hike. It does include some steep areas. Free. To register sign up for #21777 at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> Call 949-724-6738 for information.
- **March 19, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Botanical Survey Reports for Botanists, Planners and Citizens at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (Claremont, CA).** Learn how professional field botanists do their work. Participants will take a critical look at botany in the realm of environmental legislation, and will review agency policies, describe planning for rare plant surveys, discuss field techniques, look briefly at statistical analysis, and outline report contents. Participants will learn field methods for rare plant surveys and collecting vegetation data. Instructor: Scott White, Biological Consultant. Cost: \$150 (nonmembers). Code: 052BOT101. To register, call Rachel Kau-Taylor at 909-625-8767, ext. 224 or e-mail Rachel.Kau-Taylor@cgu.edu
- **March 19, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Family Nature Walk – Plants You Can Eat at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** Visit The Conservancy to learn about (and taste!) the edible plants found in Orange County wildlands. Donation: \$5/adult and \$2/child. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778.
- **March 19, 9:00 AM: Nature Walk at Upper Newport Bay.** Join a trained Naturalist for a 2-hour walk along the bay. Bring binoculars and sun protection. Free. No reservations needed. Meet at Shellmaker Island, then drive to Big Canyon. Call 949-923-2269 for more information.
- **March 19, 9:00 AM: Spring Wildflower Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight “School-State Park.”) PH: 949-497-7647.
- **March 19, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Santiago Creek Watershed Festival at Hart Park (701 S. Glassell Street, Orange).** Join in for a day of celebrating Santiago Creek with food, music, kid’s activities, and more. Browse numerous booths from organizations working in the watershed, on everything from trails to water quality and from wildlife to recycling. Nature walks and a short history tour will be offered throughout the day.
- **March 19, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Wildflower Hunt and Butterfly Count at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** The wildflowers started blooming early this year and on warm days, butterflies have been active. Come see what’s blooming and who’s flying. Donation: \$9/adult and \$3/child. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778.
- **March 19, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Sundown Watershed Walk to the Red Rocks Area.** Enjoy this 2-mile walk along Santiago Creek and view the Sespi Formation, deep red rock formed 20-40 million years ago. This area is heavily used by nesting raptors and includes the old nest of a golden eagle. Rubber boots are suggested if substantial water is flowing in the creek. Event hosted by The Nature Conservancy as part of the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve. For reservations or more information, call 714-832-7478 or e-mail irvineranch@tnc.org Information on meeting location will be provided when reservations are made.
- **March 19, 5:00 PM: “Ranger Baron’s Woodland Adventure” Puppet Show and Campfire Program at Chino Hills State Park.** Meet at the Rolling M Ranch (Chino Hills) entrance. For location information go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=648
- **March 19, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM: Night Hike at the Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center.** When the sun goes down another world of wildlife becomes active. Join in for a night hike in the nature preserve. Dress warmly. The cost is \$5/person, ages 5 and up. Call 949-923-2295 for reservations.

- **March 20, 9:00 AM: Horse Ride at Chino Hills State Park.** Bring your own horse and meet at the Equestrian Staging Area at the Chino Hills entrance. For location information go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=648
- **March 20, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Gray Whale Sunday at Crystal Cove State Park.** Go to the kiosk at the Pelican Point parking for meeting location. For information, call 949-497-7647.
- **March 20, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: South Ridge Spring Equinox Hike at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** Hike and enjoy the reserve on the first day of spring. You will learn about the precious wilderness of Orange County. The hike will be 3- to 4- miles. Donation: \$5/adult. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778.
- **March 20, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Landsteward Sunday at the Environmental Nature Center.** After the recent rains, the ENC has been inundated with weeds. The good news is that since the ground is still moist, they come out easily. Come help keep the Center healthy. For directions and more information call Lori at 949-645-8489.
- **March 20, 10:00 AM: Junior Rangers at Chino Hills State Park.** Meet at the Rolling M Ranch (Chino Hills) entrance. For location information go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=648
- **March 20, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Advanced Techniques in Pine Needle Basketry at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** (Claremont, CA). Participants will construct traditional coiled baskets using pine needles as the foundation material. Basic techniques will be reviewed, but the emphasis of the class will be on acquiring advanced skills to incorporate detailed starts, patterns, ornate closings, handles and lids. Instructor: Alice Kotzen. Cost: \$48 (nonmembers). Code: 052ART100. To register, call Rachel Kau-Taylor at 909-625-8767, ext. 224 or e-mail Rachel.Kau-Taylor@cgu.edu
- **March 20, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM: Nature’s Nectar at Bommer Canyon.** Identify wildflowers and learn about native plants and the creatures that rely on them during this two-mile hike. For ages six and up. Free. To register sign up for #21799 at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> Call 949-724-6738 for information.
- **March 20, 5:00 PM: Spring Equinox Sunset Walk at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at the Pelican Point parking lot #2 at the top of the boardwalk (from PCH turn coastward at the stoplight “Newport Coast,” turn right at the kiosk into the first parking lot). For more information call 949-497-7647.
- **March 23, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunchtime Meditation Walk at the Environmental Nature Center.** Guests will spend their lunchtime with artist and meditation teacher Cynthia Niermann in the peaceful atmosphere of the ENC, practicing guided walking and sitting meditation. Donation is \$5/person. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations.
- **March 25, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Full Moon Hike at Bommer Canyon.** Explore Bommer Canyon in the beauty of a full moon. Discover the habitat needs of bats, owls, raccoons, coyotes, and other nocturnal creatures while in search of their sights and sounds. Hike distance is two miles. For ages 10 and up. Free. Call 949-724-6738 for information. To register sign up for #21778 at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org>
- **March 26, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Biology Research Day at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** Join The Conservancy Biological Research Team to help with real research projects on The Conservancy. This group meets the last Saturday of every month. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778.
- **March 26, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Marine Discovery at Upper Newport Bay.** Marine biology students ages 8 and up are invited to participate in a variety of marine life monitoring programs including a beach seine, bottom trawl, and plankton/water quality survey. Anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The fee is \$10 per person. Call the Newport Sea Base 949-642-5031 for reservations.
- **March 26, 9:00 AM: Plant Identification Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight “School-State Park.”) PH: 949-497-7647.
- **March 26, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Annual Wildflower Show at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** (Claremont, CA). Join native plant enthusiasts for a spectacular display of California native wildflowers collected from near and far and brought back to the Garden to be appreciated by all. Event fee: \$3/person.

- **March 26, 11:30 AM: Electric Boat Tour of Upper Newport Bay.** Join a Naturalist on a 2-hour guided tour of the bay on a comfortable electric pontoon boat. The fee is \$10 per person. Meet at the Shellmaker Island education dock. Call 949-923-2269 to make reservations.
- **March 26, 2:00 PM: Nature Hike “Tracks and Other Signs” at Chino Hills State Park.** Learn about the stories tracks tell you. Meet at the Rim Crest Entrance (Yorba Linda). For location information go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=648
- **March 26, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM: Spring Full Moon Walk & Campfire at the Environmental Nature Center.** Come experience the first full moon of Spring. Participants will walk through the Center by the light of the moon and discuss the nocturnal activities of nature. Afterward, enjoy s’mores and the camaraderie of friends around the campfire. Dress warmly. Cost is \$5/person. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations.
- **March 27, 9:00 AM: Backcountry Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight “School-State Park.”) PH: 949-497-7647.
- **March 27, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM: Hicks Canyon View Hike.** Participate in an interpretive hike in Irvine’s northern wilderness of Hicks Canyon. Hike the paved road and learn about the area’s history and native habitats. Hike distance is 6 miles and includes a long, steep hill. For ages 10 and up. Free. To register sign up for #21780 at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> For information call 949-724-6738.
- **March 27, 10:00 AM: Junior Rangers at Chino Hills State Park.** Meet at the Rolling M Ranch (Chino Hills entrance). For location information go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=648
- **March 27, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Annual Wildflower Show at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** (Claremont, CA). Join native plant enthusiasts for a spectacular display of California native wildflowers collected from near and far and brought back to the Garden to be appreciated by all. Event fee: \$3/person.
- **March 29, 7:30 PM: How Could Brain Science Transform Our Lives in the 21st Century at UCI’s Barclay Theater.** Brain science has reached a level of maturity where our understanding of how the brain works is poised to have a growing impact on our lives. Drawing on examples from research on memory, Dr. Morris (from the University of Edinburgh), will illustrate where neuroscientists are today, where they think they are going, and how a balance of basic science and needs-driven research will impact education, the development of new medical treatments and brain-style computing. Free. For information, go to <http://www.cnlm.uci.edu/publicnow.htm>
- **March 31, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Planting Natives: A Preview of the Spring Plant Sale at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** (Claremont, CA). Not only can you use this opportunity to learn which plants will be available at the sale, but more importantly you can learn about some of the biology which governs why there are limitations to what you can plant in spring in southern California. Barbara Eisenstein Horticultural Outreach Coordinator at RSABG, will provide you with a plant list and display and discuss the season’s best choices for planting. Cost: \$9 (nonmembers). Code: 052HRT101. To register, call Rachel Kau-Taylor at 909-625-8767, ext. 224 or e-mail Rachel.Kau-Taylor@cgu.edu
- **April 2, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Spring Plant Sale at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** (Claremont, CA). Native annuals and perennials ideal for spring planting.

Weekday Toddler/Children’s Programs

Environmental Nature Center

1601 16th Street; Newport Beach, CA 92663. Call for reservations: 949-645-8489.

- **March 15, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Toddler Time “Feather Focus”** Join in for this parent and child playtime with a bird theme! Participants will make their own binoculars, learn about owls, read *Fly by Night*, and practice singing like birds. Enjoy hands-on fun for 3-5 year olds. The cost is \$5 per child. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations.
- **March 30 23, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Toddler Time “Butterfly Bonanza.”** Join in for this parent and child playtime with a butterfly theme! Participants will search the Center for native, wild butterflies, make a metamorphosis craft and read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Enjoy hands-on fun for 3-5 year olds. \$5/child.

Oak Canyon Nature Center (<http://www.anaheim.net/ocnc>)

6700 E. Walnut Canyon Road in the Anaheim Hills, CA 92807

Hours of Operation:

April – October: Open Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

November – March: Open 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The Oak Canyon Nature Center offers a wide variety of programs and activities.

Family Events & Programs: Heritage Day, Environmental Faire, Discover Nature Saturday, Summer Nature Nights, and Seasonal Evening Programs

Programs for Youth ages 2-7: Hikes for Tykes, Tykes on the Go and Junior Trailblazers

Program for Youth ages 7-8: Canyon Explorers, Junior Trailblazers

Programs for Youth ages 9-12: Afternoon Adventures, *Art a la Naturale*, and Twilight Travels, Junior Naturalists

Programs for Young Adults ages 12 & up: Roots & Shoots and VolunTeen Community Service Programs

Summer O.A.K.S. Day Camp Program for youth ages 5 -10

Orange County Zoo in Irvine Regional Park

Event fees include admission for the enrolled child and one parent (only one parent can accompany the child). Parking Fee: Irvine Park gate entry is \$2 on weekdays and \$4 on weekends and holidays. Class registration can only be made by phone by contacting Marcy Crede-Booth, Education Coordinator, at 714-973-6846. The cost is \$5 per child. All fee payments are to be made the day of the scheduled class when you arrive at the zoo. Location: Orange County Zoo; 1 Irvine Park Road; Orange 92862.

These classes are for toddlers 3-4 years old:

- **March 4, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Wild North America.** Find out what amazing animals are on this continent and make some wild crafts!
- **March 25, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Bonkers for Bunnies.** Learn all about bunnies and make fun bunny crafts!
- **March 31, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Magnificent Mammals.** From tiny furry creatures to big furry ones, you'll learn all about mammals and make fun crafts!
- **Story Time at the Zoo:** March dates and times can be found on the zoo's website at <http://www.ocparks.com/oczoo>

NOTE: For school/scout/church groups and other organizations, educational guided tours of the Orange County Zoo can be booked by calling Marcy Crede-Booth, Education Coordinator, at 714-973-6846.

Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center

- **March 16, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Toddler Time “Bird Watching Hike.”** Join a Park Ranger for this parent and child bird watching nature hike. One child/adult is recommended. The cost is \$5 per child ages 3-5. Call 949-923-2295 to register.
- **March 29, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Watch Us Grow** (Grade K). During this program, participants will learn about seeds, how they travel and how they grow. They will also learn about the habitats and inhabitants of the bay and take a short nature hike. The program meets kindergarten science standards. The cost is \$5 per child (5 yrs. and older). Call 949-923-2295 to register.