



Orange County CREEC

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

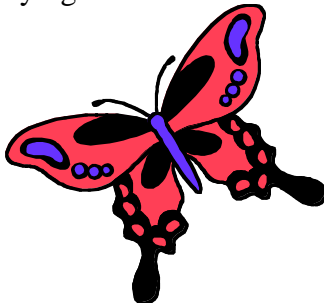
Volume 3, Issue 8

March 2006

Hidden Question

Congratulations to Lori Whalen, the Program Director at the Environmental Nature Center, who was the February CREEC newsletter hidden question winner. Thanks to all of you who participated including Crystal Farritor and Tran Quach.

Embedded within the text of this newsletter, there is a hidden question. The first educator (classroom or nonformal) who contacts Helen at 714-708-3889 or HdelaMaza@ocde.us with an answer to the hidden question **will receive the Butterfly Book: The Complete Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Identification and Behavior** by Donald & Lillian Stokes and Ernest Williams. It offers 95 pages of beautiful pictures and information. This reference book is appropriate for formal classroom teachers as well as environmental and outdoor educators. Thanks for playing! ❁



Coordinator Communications: CREEC Conference in San Diego

At the beginning of February, 18 CREEC Coordinators and staff from across California, and the Director of the CREEC Network, Celeste Royer, met in San Diego for our annual conference. (See page 7 for a photo!)

We discussed programmatic logistics, grants, new partnerships, our websites (you'll be seeing some changes soon!), and much more.

The highlights of the conference included:

- guest speaker, Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*.
- a special dinner in which statewide and regional partners were recognized
- a toast (and roast) of Bill Andrews for all his efforts on behalf of Environmental Education and the CREEC Network. Bill recently retired from the CA Department of Education and is now the National Director of Project WILD.
- a service project at Chet L. Harritt School in the Santee School District in which we removed invasive weeds from the riparian natural area that borders their school. We also learned about the nature studies in which upper grade students partake under the direction of teacher Dave Massey.

- Helen ❁

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

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** and OCDE'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, and others.

Training Time!

See the website for more opportunities!

Laboratory Safety Training for Secondary Science Teachers at Chapman University March 11, 2006; 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cost: \$10 per person; includes all materials, safety manual and certificate of training

Registration Deadline: March 3, 2006

<http://www.ocscience.org>

Did you know that in the case of a school laboratory accident, the science teacher can be held personally liable for any injury incurred and can have his/her personal assets attached to a settlement? Come learn the latest in California law and protect yourself and your students. If you have not been trained in the last three years or you are a department chairperson or administrator with science teacher oversight, this is an essential seminar for you to attend.

Teacher's Open House at Discovery Science Center; 4:30 - 6:30 PM

March 6, 2006: Electricity; circuits

April 3, 2006: Sun and weather; convection currents

<http://64.143.71.42/programs/profDevelopment.htm> or call 714-913-5012

This educational event includes a guided tour of the exhibits and a hands-on, science workshop.

American Museum of Natural History: Seminars on Science: March 20 - April 30, 2006

<http://learn.amnh.org>

Registration is now open for the Spring Semester. Graduate credit is available.

Courses Offered

- *Earth: Inside and Out: Dynamic Earth Systems*
- *Genetics, Genomics, Genethics: Molecular Biology*
- *Space, Time and Motion: Physical Science*
- *The Ocean System: Integrated Science*

Registration closes March 6. Sign up by February 20 and receive a \$50 discount off the price of each course. If you have additional questions, e-mail seminfo@amnh.org

NSTA's 54th National Conference on Science Education in Anaheim April 6 - 9, 2006

Register at: <http://www.nsta.org/conferences>

The theme of the conference is "Science, The Universal Language." Registrants can participate in a choice of hundreds of workshops, short courses, several professional development institutes, and have the opportunity to pay to attend the "Science Assessment Conference" or "Science for Young Learners Day" - two day long institutes.

(continued on page 5)

Great Grants & Cool Contests

Headlands Institute Community Action Award Nominees: Elementary or middle school students and/or teachers making a contribution to the environment of their home communities.

Information:

HICommunityActionAward@yni.org

Nomination Deadline: April 7, 2006

This award seeks to recognize the important role that 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 2006 recipient classroom will receive a \$1500 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

To nominate a classroom for the Headlands Institute Community Action Award, an external party must write a letter of support that describes:

- the students and teacher(s) who've undertaken the project
- the project itself - the name, why and when it was initiated
- explanation of how the teacher(s) and students work as a team on the project
- explanation of how the project makes a significant positive contribution to the community

Letters must be as specific as possible in detailing the number of students and teachers involved and must quantify, where possible, the project and its impact on the local community.

Nomination letters for the 2006 HI Community Action Award must be submitted on or before April 7, 2006, preferably by email, to HICommunityActionAward@yni.org or through regular mail, to HI Community Action Award, c/o Headlands Institute, Bldg. 1033, GGNRA, Sausalito, CA 94965.

(continued on page 4)

Rad Resources

The JASON Project

<http://www.jason.org>

Teachers and students can get involved with math and science experts from around the world in real time through the Web site of the JASON Project, founded in 1989 by Dr. Robert Ballard, discoverer of the wreck of the RMS Titanic, to supplement science curricula for middle grade students. In person or via satellite, students engage in project-based learning through Ballard's exploits.

Center for Environmental Education Online

<http://www.cceonline.org>

Teachers and students around the world can access reviews of EE curriculum, find reliable reference information on environmentally Hot Topics, read about current innovative EE projects and how to fund new initiatives (Grapevine), read profiles of schools going green and find resources for bringing sustainability to campus (Educating for Sustainability), and search through a large library of curriculum.

Battery Recycling!

<http://www.oilandfills.com/hhwcc.asp>

On February 9, 2006 it became illegal in the State of California to throw used batteries in the trash. They will now need to be taken to a hazardous waste recycling center. Orange County Integrated Waste Management runs four household hazardous waste disposal areas (Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Irvine, San Juan Capistrano). Consider developing a school-wide used battery collection box!

Secondary Science Teacher Reviewers Needed for New NSF Publications

http://science.nsta.org/nstaexpress/nstaexpress_2006_02_06_asu.htm

The National Science Foundation will be publishing three free books for secondary science teachers—Reform in the Secondary Science Classroom, Technology in the Secondary Science Classroom, and Science as Inquiry in the Secondary Science Classroom—and teacher reviewers are needed. Editors Julie Luft, Julie Gess-Newsome, and Randy Bell are seeking teachers to review one or two of the book chapters, which are 10-25 pages long, double-spaced. Chapters will be available for review in February and March and must be completed by April 1. Teachers who complete the reviews according to the time and review guidelines will be compensated at \$125 per review. for additional details.

STEM Educators with Disabilities Sought for National Workplace Survey

<http://www.catea.org/teachersurvey>

Researchers from Georgia Institute of Technology, in partnership with NSTA, are conducting a survey to learn about the employment experiences and workplace accommodations used by science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) K-16 educators who have a disability. The survey is anonymous and takes about 20-30 minutes to complete. The goal of the research is to provide information to help people with disabilities successfully become teachers and to help educators who acquire a disability to be able to continue in their career.

New Study: Environmental Literacy in America

<http://www.neetf.org/pubs/index.htm>

The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation publication, "Environmental Literacy in America: What Ten Years of NEETF/Roper Research and Related Studies Say About Environmental Literacy in the U.S." is available to download from the website and hard copies can be ordered for \$20 by calling 202-833-2933 x 0.

Advancing Education through Environmental Literacy

<http://www.eetap.org>

This publication, which includes a CD-ROM, is available at no cost from the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP). EETAP and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) collaborated to produce the booklet. The publication focuses on how education and the environment can be linked to advance student learning. Included are descriptions of schools successfully implementing environmental education programs and summaries of research documenting how schools have raised test scores of their students by using the environment to help teach content in subject areas such as social studies, science, reading, and mathematics. The CD-ROM (*Teaching Standards Naturally*) provides a sampler of 43 free EE activities. The activities are linked to different grade levels and subject areas, making it easy for teachers to choose the ones that are right for their classroom. Through the activities teachers will experience how environmental education helps meet academic standards, boost student learning, and promote environmental literacy. ❁

Great Grants and Cool Contests *(continued from page 2)*

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Applicants: School and community groups

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

Deadlines: March 31, 2006; June 30, 2006; September 30, 2006

Grants are provided 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. Grant rewards up to \$2,500 are available.

Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation

<http://www.mgaef.org>

Deadline: April 6, 2006

The mission of this organization is to support educators in developing environmental curricula that integrate field activities and classroom teaching and that incorporate basic ecological principles and problem solving. The maximum grant award is \$1,000.

BP's A+ For Energy Grant Program

Applicants: K-12 public and private teachers

<http://www.aplusforenergy.com>

Deadline: April 7, 2006

Apply for a grant of \$5,000 or \$10,000 to help you implement an innovative energy program in your classroom or school. Teachers may apply individually, in teams within a school or across multiple schools. Award recipients will also receive classroom materials and a scholarship to attend an energy training conference presented by the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project.

Nature of Learning Grant Program

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/tnol.cfm>

Eligibility: Schools or non-profit organizations.

Deadline: April 17, 2006

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's grant program seeks to use National Wildlife Refuges as outdoor classrooms to promote a greater understanding of local conservation issues and utilize field experiences and student-led stewardship projects to connect classroom lessons to real world issues, as well as build partnership among local schools, community groups, natural resource professionals and local businesses. Maximum Award: \$5,000.

Nominate a Young Eco-Hero for the Barron Prize

<http://www.barronprize.org>

Deadline: April 30, 2006

The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18 who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Each year, ten national winners each receive \$2,000 to support their service work or higher education. Half of each year's winners are chosen for their work to protect the environment.

2006 Young Naturalist Awards

<http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/>

Contact: Christine Economos at yna@amnh.org or 212-496-3498

Deadline: May 1, 2006

The American Museum of Natural History 2006 Young Naturalist Awards are for students in grades 7-12 to participate in a research-based essay contest to promote participation and communication in science. Two winners from each grade will be selected to receive cash scholarship awards and an expense-paid trip to New York City for the awards ceremony.

State Farm Grants

<http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/foundati.htm>

Deadlines: May 16, 2006; September 1, 2006

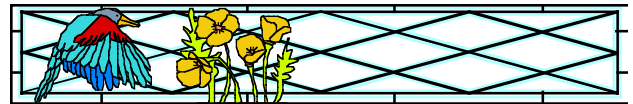
The State Farm Companies Foundation offers grants to K-12 public schools for projects focus on one of three areas: improving teacher quality, integrating service learning into classroom curriculum, and incorporating established criteria to improve the effectiveness of school systems.

VIVA! Garden for Schools Contest

<http://www.vivagarden.com/schools/contest.htm>

Deadline: May 31, 2006

VIVA! wants to recognize classrooms that are active in school gardening and have brought the excitement of gardening to children. Gardens will be awarded in the categories of: most creative garden design, best garden plan and best use of space. Winners will receive Home Depot gift cards.



Training Time! (continued from page 2)

Sierra Club "Inner City Outings" Training April 1, 2006; 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Application Deadline: March 20, 2006

Information: Lisa Hellman, 714-964-4488 (8-9 PM)

http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers/ltp_application.pdf

Do you want to take your kids on memorable nature outings but are limited by funding and other roadblocks? Consider becoming a "Certified Inner City Outings Leader." Once you become a Certified Leader, you can propose outings to the Orange County Inner City Outings Steering Committee to request funding for transportation and other outing expenses. You can also tap into their equipment resources such as mountain bikes, backpacks, boots and more! ICO can also assist in inviting expert docents to accompany your students and organize rewarding habitat restoration activities.

Adult Research Camps at Audubon California's Starr Ranch Sanctuary

<http://www.starr-ranch.org> and click on "Adult Research Camps"

Reservations: 949-858-0131

Questions: 949-858-0309

Join staff biologists for a peaceful weekend at beautiful 4000 acre Starr Ranch in southeast Orange County and experience nature hands-on as a wildlife researcher. Stay in our historic bunkhouse or camp.

Bird Research Camp

7 PM Friday, May 19 - 12:00 PM Sunday, May 21

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

The weekend will begin with a Friday night introduction to the birds of Starr Ranch. Then first thing Saturday morning, we'll conduct our own breeding bird survey. The afternoon will be spent learning how raptor biologists use radio telemetry to study hawks' movement patterns and will be followed by an evening "Owl Prowl." Sunday morning, you'll have a chance to see some of your favorite songbirds up-close and in the hand, as we participate in Starr Ranch's bird banding program.

Wildlife Research Camp

9 AM Saturday, June 3 - 12 PM Sunday, June 4

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 participate in a stream

biosurvey where they will sample aquatic invertebrates to assess stream water quality. That evening, campers will conduct a nocturnal wildlife survey during which we'll explore Bell Canyon at night from benches in the back of a flat-bed truck, making stops to call for owls and coyotes. Sunday morning the group will learn how biologists monitor reptiles and amphibians.

Environmental Educators Training Program at Headlands Institute in the Bay Area for Classroom Teachers and other Educators

Session 1: July 31 - August 4, 2006 OR

Session 2: August 14 - 18, 2006

Program is residential; instruction runs from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM daily with evening and optional early morning sessions

Information/registration:

Pei-Yee Woo; Community Programs Manager

Phone: 415.332.5771 x22; E-mail: pwoo@yni.org

<http://www.headlandsinstitute.org>

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for educators to retreat to the beautiful Marin Headlands and be immersed in Headlands Institute's style of hands-on environmental education-an award-winning style that has brought science alive for over 30 years. Run in partnership with the National Park Service, participants will spend five days exploring the natural history of the area as well as learn innovative teaching techniques that are easily transferable to your own classrooms. Scholarships are available. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) can be earned through UC Berkeley Extension.

Why should you attend?

- Gain tools to make science more exciting for your students and yourself
- Improve your understanding of ecology and environmental issues
- Develop teaching skills utilizing diverse approaches to learning
- Network with teachers who have the same passion for the environment and improving the education of today's youth
- Enhance your professional standing

Hidden Question: Visit the OC-CREEC website at

<http://www.creec.org/region9b/> and click on the "Calendar" link. The whole CREEC Network has

moved to this new format and we want to hear feedback from our website visitors. E-mail your comments and suggestions to HdelaMaza@ocde.us.

The first educator who do so will receive the **Butterfly** book (see p. 1 for a description). Other respondents will receive a thank you gift. ❁

Provider Perspectives

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

Service-Learning Workshop for Providers: March 10, 2006; 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at O.C. Dept. of Ed. Space is still available. Call Helen at 714-708-3889 if you are interested in attending.

Details and a downloadable registration form are available at <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> in the "Providers" section of the website.

**PLT Facilitator Workshop Training at the El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach
March 10, 2006; 4:00 - 9:00 PM and March 11, 2006, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

Contact Kay Antunez to register: Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov or 916-653-7958

Individuals who are already PLT Facilitators can attend the Friday evening portion (arrive by 6:00 PM) to get be updated on the new 2006 edition of the preK-8 PLT guide.



Recognize Outstanding Naturalists

Nominations accepted through the end of March

Orange County Wild will present "Environmental Educator of the Year" awards at the 2006 Earth Day celebration at Upper Newport Bay. These awards are for Naturalists who love teaching, lead by example, and have contributed to the success of Environmental Education in the County.

Nominations are being accepted for the following categories:

1. Interpretive Volunteer - may be someone who leads interpretive walks/rides or teaches in the classroom.
2. Interpretive Staff
3. Interpretive Group

Please send a short paragraph describing why you are nominating the individual or group, and a digital photo of them (if available) to Lori Whalen at lori@encenter.org. Questions: 949-645-8489

Mainstreaming Environmental Education

<http://naaee.org/>

The North American Association for Environmental Education is involved with efforts to make high-quality environmental education part of all education in the United States and has initiated the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education. Here are some of the products and initiatives:

- National EE Certification Initiative - NAAEE and EETAP are collaborating to explore development of a national certification program for environmental educators.
- NCATE/NAAEE Program Standards for the Initial Preparation of Environmental Educators – (in development) to be used by NCATE in their accreditation process of college/university teacher education programs across the country.
- Higher Education Faculty and Program Directory Development - electronic directory of EE programs and faculty in the college and university setting (with the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education) - on-line in 2006.
- Resource Review Program for educational resources
- Guidelines for Excellence series, including Environmental Education Materials, Nonformal Environmental Education Programs, Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators, and Excellence in EE-Guidelines for Learning (pre K - 12).

Service-Learning Marketplace

The National Service-Learning Partnership is excited to announce the opening of the Service-Learning Marketplace. This is the only professional services directory that offers information about the services that service-learning organizations provide. At present, the Marketplace features 35 service-learning providers of fee and non-fee services in such areas as policy and advocacy, training, partnerships, research and evaluation, teaching and practice, assessment and graduate certification. The Marketplace will be updated on a regular basis. Find the service providers you need to help you achieve your service-learning goals at

<http://www.service-learningpartnership.org/ps>.



**Exciting Environmental & Science
Education Events: Highlights**
Visit <http://www.creec.org/region9b> "Calendar"
for many more events!

**Upper Newport Bay: Tern Island Cleanup
March 4, 2006; 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Information: Matt Yurko, 949-640-0286;
myurko@coastal.ca.gov,

Tern Island is a fragile nesting habitat for the endangered California least tern. Our work will help clear vegetation and expose the sand that is the preferred nesting habitat for this rare bird. We hope to clear off the entire island for maximum nesting potential.

**Santa Ana Zoo's 52nd Birthday Celebration
March 3, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

<http://www.santaanazoo.org>

Join the birthday celebration with music, games, and fun. Free with zoo admission.

**OCSEA Presents a Free Star Party for Teachers
and Their Families at Santiago High School
March 24, 2006; 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

Location: 12342 Trask Avenue; Garden Grove
RSVP to Sandra Kaszynski

(teacher@kaszynski.com) and include your name, school district, and number of attendees

Questions: Gordon Owens, 714-663-6215

Teachers and their families are invited to a wonderful evening of learning astronomy. Attendees will use a telescope to explore the magic of the solar system, gaining first hand experience for standards-based curricula. This free event is brought to you by the Orange County Science Education Association and Santiago H.S.

**Environmental & Recycling Day, Santa Ana Zoo
March 25, 2006; 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

<http://www.santaanazoo.org>

As part of the Disneyland Resort's "Show Your Character" grant, students from Century High School will be sharing fun and exciting ways that your family can recycle and conserve our earth's natural resources. Special activity stations, animal shows, conservation organizations and more. Free with zoo admission.

**See Live Wild Animals at Pathfinder Park
April 15, 2006; 11:00 AM**

<http://www.SaveTheWildlifeCorridor.org>

Sierra club presents a morning of fun and learning, free to the entire family. Participants will see live wild animals in a safe environment, learn about their adaptations, and much more! ❁

**Environmental Education Highlight:
Education and the Environment Initiative**
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/>

In 2003, the State of California passed a law mandating the development of a unified strategy to bring education about the environment into California's K-12 schools. This law requires:

- development of education principles and concepts for the environment (*completed*)
- alignment of the environmental principles and concepts to California's academic content standards (*completed*)
- development of a model curriculum for K-12 schools (*in progress*)
- incorporation of the environmental principles and concepts into criteria for textbook adoption in science, history/social science, English/language arts, and mathematics (*in progress - will follow textbook adoption cycle*)

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) is the lead agency to coordinate the EEI effort, along with CalEPA. The CREEC Network will focus on the outreach to Curriculum and Instruction personnel in school districts.



CREEC Coordinators at the Mission Trails Regional Park near Santee during the CREEC Conference. Back row from left to right: Jennifer Futterman, Kimberly Staats, Patrick Kent, Leslie Smith, Kate Mahon, Tricia Dunlap, John Oliver. Middle row from left to right: Heather Fogg, Laura Powell, Susie Myrick, Teresa Lees, Linda Sorensen, Olga Clymire, Deborah Bruns, Craig Claver, Helen de la Maza, Adrienne Marriott, Celeste Royer. Down in front are Wendy Harrison and Margina Rhyne ❁