

CREEC Orange County/Region 9B Newsletter

May 2004

Please pass this e-newsletter on to teachers and environmental/science educators in Orange County. Thanks for your support! Please visit <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> for more resources. Send feedback and submissions to Helen de la Maza at Hdelamaza@ocde.us

HIDDEN QUESTION: Embedded within the text of this newsletter, there is a hidden question. The first teacher who calls (949-548-1460) or e-mails Helen de la Maza (Hdelamaza@ocde.us) with the correct answer, will receive a free field trip for 70 students, any grade level, to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach. The one-hour fieldtrip includes a guided tour of the animal care facility, a slide show presentation of the typical animals and medical conditions that are treated, and an opportunity to visit the current patients being rehabilitated in the outdoor pools. Good Luck! ☺

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Noteworthy News

Sierra Club's Orange County Inner City Outings Field Trip Opportunity

Sierra Club's Orange County Inner City Outings won a California Coastal Commission grant to fund student transport and supplies for an outdoor environmental education program to occur Nov 2004 - May 2005.

They are currently exploring which youth group to select for this project. Their goal is to work with a group of 20 at-risk/low-income/urban students aged 12-17 that does not have transport to local wilderness areas. They need youth who will be able to participate in ALL of this program's activities from Nov 2004 through May 2005, including pre- and post-outing activities.

If you are interested in involving your students, or know of a teacher who may be interested in this activity during the 2004/2005 school year, contact Lisa Hellman at Sierra Club's Orange County Inner City Outings (714-964-4488) or at ico_in_oc@hotmail.com

The Great Earth Walk: May 1, 2004

This is the first ever statewide event designed to raise funds and awareness in support of dozens of organizations dedicated to preserving the environment. It is expected to draw from 25,000 to 50,000 people throughout California, all walking to raise money for participating non-profits. Several sites in Orange County are participating in the event, including Upper Newport Bay, 8 AM – 11 AM (<http://www.newportbay.org/walk04a.htm>) and Chino Hills State Park, 8 AM – 12 PM (<http://www.GreatEarthWalk.org/hillsforeveryone>). You can be part of something special, win great prizes and help make a difference through:

- Registering to walk, collecting pledges, and participating on May 1st
- Sponsoring a participant (pledge a donation to person or team)
- Making a general donation

Estuary Awareness Day: May 1, 2004; 11 AM – 4 PM

The goal of Estuary Awareness Day is to promote public awareness of the Bay as an estuary and to foster the link between the Bay and the upstream communities in the watershed. There will be environmental exhibits, arts and crafts activities for children and nature education stations where young and old alike can learn about the natural history of the Bay. Free boat tours will be given around the Bay. Entertainment will be provided throughout the day and a variety of foods will be available for purchase. Estuary Awareness Day is free and free parking will be available. For more information, go to <http://www.newportbay.org/ead04a.htm>

Walt Disney's Sacred Planet IMAX Movie

Regal Entertainment Group and your local Regal IMAX Theatre are excited to announce the opening of the new film, Sacred Planet. Narrated by Robert Redford, this exciting 45-minute journey takes you around the world to some of the most exotic and beautiful places that still exist - including the last remaining old growth forests of British Columbia, the snowy peaks and glaciers of Alaska, the red rocky canyons of Utah and Arizona, the tropical jungles and underwater mysteries of Borneo, the ancient ruins of Thailand, the remote deserts of Namibia and the white sand beaches of New Zealand. The stunning images that include the landscape, the people and the animals indigenous to the land serve as visceral reminders of this planet's infinite variety and biological diversity.

To schedule your class field trip and to receive a copy of the Educator Guide, contact Regal Entertainment Group at 800/792-8244. Enhance your field trip to Sacred Planet with a downloadable version of the Educator Guide available online at <http://www.sacredplanet.com/>.

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Education and the Environment Initiative (AB 1548)

If you are interested in receiving periodic updates regarding the implementation of the Education and the Environment Initiative (AB 1548) or would like to be notified of future opportunities to participate in the development and review of specific work products associated with this initiative, please subscribe to the AB 1548 Listserv available on The California Environmental Protection Agency's web site at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/ListServs/>. You may also visit the Education and the Environment: AB 1548 web site at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/AB1548/>.

In October 2003, Governor Davis signed into law Assembly Bill (AB) 1548 (Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003). In summary, AB 1548 calls upon the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Integrated Waste Management Board, in cooperation with the Resources Agency, State Department of Education, State Board of Education, and Secretary for Education to:

- Develop education principles and concepts for the environment for elementary and secondary schools.
- Ensure education principles and concepts for the environment are aligned to the academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education and do not duplicate or conflict with any academic content standards.
- Develop and implement a unified education strategy on the environment for the State's elementary and secondary schools.

Draft education principles and concepts are currently being developed through a series of technical working groups scheduled for May and June of this year. As draft documents are developed they will be posted to an on-line discussion forum to assure the broadest possible opportunity for comment and feedback.

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Cool Contests!

Organic School Garden Contest (<http://www.kidsregen.org/gardens/index.shtml>)

Do you use organic methods in your school garden? If so, you are eligible to enter this contest sponsored by The Rodale Institute. Teams of students and teachers are asked to submit an essay and poster that express how they use their school garden as a learning tool, and what impact it has for the students and community. Three winning schools will receive cash prizes of \$250, \$500 and \$1,000. For entry forms, guidelines and information on previous winners, visit the website. **Deadline: Saturday, October 30, 2004.**

Garden Poetry Contest

The National Gardening Association and Magnetic Poetry(R) have teamed up to sponsor their first online garden poetry contest. Each student in your class is invited to compose a verse or two of garden- or nature-inspired poetry using Magnetic Poetry's online Magnetic Poetry Kit. Use the age-appropriate classroom activities on the site to help kids prime their creative wellsprings. Winning poems will be featured in galleries on the National Gardening Association and Magnetic Poetry Web sites. Teachers (and other adults) can also participate! These poems should be entered via the Home Gardener category.

For complete rules, activities, and entry forms, please visit:

Kids & Classrooms Garden Poetry Contest <http://www.magneticpoetry.com/nga/class.html>
Home Gardeners Garden Poetry Contest <http://www.magneticpoetry.com/nga/home.html>

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Great Grants!

Toyota TAPESTRY Grant Program (<http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/program.htm>)

Over the past fourteen years, the Toyota TAPESTRY grant program, sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. and administered by the National Science Teachers Association (<http://www.nsta.org/>), has awarded 552 grants totaling more than \$5 million to teachers in the United States and U.S. territories. This year, fifty grants of up to \$10,000 each and a minimum of twenty “mini-grants” of \$2,500 each are available to K-12 teachers of science.

All middle and high school science teachers and elementary teachers who teach some science in the classroom are eligible to apply. “Science teacher” is defined as anyone who spends at least 50 percent of his/her classroom time teaching science or who teaches a minimum of two science classes per day. Elementary teachers who teach science in a self-contained classroom setting or as teaching specialists are also eligible.

Proposals must describe a project and its potential impact on students and include a budget of up to \$10,000 (up to \$2,500 for mini-grants). Grants will be awarded in three categories: Environmental Science Education, Physical Science Applications, and Literacy and Science Education. **Deadline: January 19, 2005**

See the NSTA Web site for complete program guidelines, application materials, and online Tip Sheet.

Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program

(<http://www.nike.com/nikebiz/nikebiz.jhtml?page=26&item=jordan>)

The initiative - which has awarded \$5 million in education grants to date - benefits, recognizes and rewards teachers in underprivileged schools who strive beyond challenges and limited resources to achieve excellence through instructional creativity, innovative teaching and high learning expectation for students. Teachers working in grades 1 – 12 are eligible. The grant amount is \$2,500. **Deadline: June 15, 2004.**

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Educational Events and Outstanding Opportunities

Professional Development/Seminars/Classes

Slopes, Slides & Tsunamis Teacher Workshop at Ocean Institute: May 8, 2004; 8 AM-2PM
Spend the day working with researchers from Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute using specialized oceanographic equipment to map the fault that runs along the cliffs of Dana Point under the harbor and out to sea. You’ll have the opportunity to interact with the guest speakers (Dr. Neal Driscoll from Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Dr. Charles Paul from Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute), hike the harbor to study local geological formations and map a fault at Dana Point, cruise on the *R/V Sea Explorer* to deploy CHIRP equipment to see into the seafloor, and experiment in the Lab with methane hydrates (the ice that burns!). You will also receive classroom activities. For reservations, call 949-496-2274, ext. 611. This workshop is appropriate for middle and high school teachers, but is open to all educators. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch.

Hidden Question: Go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> then click on “Funding Opportunities” on the left. Find two grants for which you could apply next year. When you find them, e-mail (HdelaMaza@ocde.us) or call (949-548-1460) Helen de la Maza and include the following information: the names of the two grants, briefly describe the project/activity for which you would request grant money, your name, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number. If you are the first to contact Helen, 70 students from your school will receive a free trip to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center.

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Solar Schoolhouse Summer Institute for Educators 2004

(http://www.solarschoolhouse.org/ssh/ssh_sie2004.html)

Educators attending this summer seminar will learn about the science and history of heating, cooling and powering homes with the Sun. Participants will build solar cookers, model passive solar homes, solar electric cars/fountains, and conduct energy audits and visit several local low-energy, solar buildings to see these designs in practice. In addition to learning the science of proper building design (e.g. thermodynamics, electricity, seasonal changes) and how to fit these exercises into their curriculum, participants will walk away with practical knowledge that they can apply in their own lives.

Earth Systems Online Summer Course for K-12 Teachers

How, exactly, has our Earth evolved? Think you really know all the fine points? Register now for "Earth: Inside and Out--Dynamic Earth Systems," an online summer course from the American Museum of Natural History, and you'll explore the geological events and systems that have shaped the planet and make it habitable. The six-week course is one of five life, Earth, and physical science courses being offered by the museum starting June 28. Each course is designed for K-12 educators, is fully Web-based, and can be taken for up to four graduate credits. Courses feature rich media elements and flexible online discussions that include a museum scientist, an experienced instructor, and a networked community of teachers. For course descriptions and to register, go to <http://learn.amnh.org/welcome.php?w=NSTAIS04> ,

Headlands Institute Teacher Training

Each year the Headlands Institute offers a unique 5-day residential Environmental Educators Training Program in conjunction with the National Park Service and a local college or university. The Program brings together classroom and informal educators, and will focus on new skill development, the sharing of successful teaching strategies and innovative ways to integrate environmental science curriculum across disciplines. Up to 8 *Continuing Education Units* are available. The session dates are July 26-30 and August 9-13. Scholarship assistance is provided for teachers who work with underserved populations, low-income communities, or who have financial need. Call the Headlands Institute at (415) 332-5771 ext. 25 or email dzucker@yni.org to register or for more information.

National Energy Conference for Educators in Long Beach

The National Energy Education Development Project (NEED) National Energy Conference for Educators will be held in Long Beach July 25 – 29, 2004. The five-day program will train teachers to incorporate energy programs into their classrooms and extracurricular activities. Three graduate credits are offered to participating educators. Each conference includes a one-day field experience, allowing educators to get an "up-close" view of a variety of energy topics. Thanks to support from BP, 80 registrations have been provided for California teachers to attend the NEED Conference in Long Beach. To request a registration packet, contact NEED at 1-800-875-5029 or at info@need.org. Preliminary agendas for the conferences are available.

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Local Event Calendar (go to www.creec.org/region9b/ for more details)

May, 2004: City of Irvine Open Space Preserve. Go to <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> for information on programs taking place at Bommer Canyon, the Turtle Rock Nature Center, Hicks Canyon, and Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

May, 2004: For information about Ocean Institute, go to <http://www.ocean-institute.org/>

May, 2004: For activities through the Sea and Sage Chapter of the Audubon Society, go to <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>

May, 2004: For activities at Chino Hills State Park, go to <http://www.hillsforeveryone.org/recreation.htm#may>

Every Saturday at 8:30 AM: Canoe the Back Bay! Meet at beautiful Shellmaker Island (600 Shellmaker, Newport Beach) for an incredible Naturalist-led tour by canoe. The fee is \$10 per person. Reservations are required; call 949-923-2269.

Every Sunday, 10:00 AM: Kayak Tours of Upper Newport Bay! Meet at the Newport Dunes Resort and embark on a kayak tour led by a Naturalist. The fee is \$20 for adults, \$15.00 for kids 12 and under, and \$10 for Newport Bay Naturalist and Friends members and California Wildlife Campaign members. Location: Newport Dunes. Reservations are required; call the Dunes at 949-729-1150 (weekends only) or 800-585-0747.

Every Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Restoration Steward Days at Upper Newport Bay. Green thumbs welcome! Encourage the Bay's unique genetics to move in at the restoration sites by collecting seeds and propagating plants. For information call (949) 640-0286. Meet at the Marine Studies Center on Shellmaker Island, 600 Shellmaker, Newport Beach.

May 1, 2004; 6:00 AM or 8 AM: Upper Chiquita Conservation Area.

This 1,182-acre conservation area located near Coto de Caza was set aside in association with construction of the Foothill (241) Toll Road. This hike gives participants a peek at an area rich with coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, grassland, and natural drainage habitats. Come celebrate National Wildflower Week and see the flowers that are native to the site during the easy/moderate four-mile restoration hike that begins at 8 AM. The Birdwatching Tour will begin at 6 AM. People will enjoy many different birds, including the gnatcatcher and other species. Space is limited. Call 949-754-3405 to reserve your spot.

May 1, 2004; 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Sea and Sage Audubon Society Huntington Central Park Fieldtrip. Join the leaders for a walk through the park looking for resident and migratory birds. This park attracts a wide variety of birds because of its well-watered vegetation, shrubbery, and location. For info and directions, call Lew & Claudia Bird at 714-840-9604.

May 1, 2004; 8:30 AM: Free Annual Rocket Launch Competition. This event is sponsored by the Future Scientists and Engineers of America (FSEA). There are four categories: elementary, middle school, high school, and open. RSVP to reserve your space to compete or direct questions to Elaine at 714-229-2223 or ehw@fsea.org. Directions and rules are also posted on the website at <http://www.fsea.org> Location: Tustin High School Athletic Field.

May 1, 2004; 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." For more information call 949-497-7647.

May 1, 2004; 9:00 AM: California Native Plant Society Chiquita Basin Fieldtrip.

Meet at 9:00 AM at the dirt lot at the entrance to Blue Jay Campground. Anyone who drives should have an Adventure Pass. There will probably be a variety of plants in bloom, from a green-flowered gentian to the rare San Miguel Savory. Bring lunch and, because of the drive time, expect to devote most of the day to this trip. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sarah Jayne at 949-552-0691 or sbjayne@cox.net. Water, sunscreen, hat, and sturdy shoes are recommended.

May 1, 2004; 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Water Awareness Family Day. The Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) is holding its annual "Water Awareness Family Day" at the SMWD Headquarters, 26111 Antonio Parkway, Las Flores. This year will continue with the theme of "Fiesta de Agua" in conjunction with Cinco de May.

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May 1, 2004; 10:30 AM: Bird Sound and Identification lecture offered through the Caspers Park Preservation Foundation. Have you ever wondered how and why birds make sounds? Learn how to identify the most common bird sounds of Caspers Wilderness Park.

Location: Caspers Wilderness Park Nature Center; adjacent to Ortega Highway, approximately 7 miles east of Interstate 5. Call 949-493-6840 or 949-888-0903 for additional information.

May 2, 2004; 7:00 AM Sea and Sage Audubon Big Morongo Preserve Field Trip.

This preserve is a mecca for migratory birds as well as resident desert species. This willow/cottonwood riparian area, with a year-round stream, surrounded by desert, attracts a wide variety of birds including the nesting Vermilion Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Verdin, and many more. For info and directions, call Bruce Aird at 949-458-1520.

May 2, 2004; 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." For more information call 949-497-7647.

May 3, 2004: Santa Ana Free Day at Discovery Science Center.

Residents of Santa Ana with a valid Santa Ana ID can receive free admission to the Center the first Monday of every month. Call for details: 714-542-CUBE.

May 3, 2004; 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM: 7th Grade Educators' Open House at Discovery Science Center. Educators teaching 7th Grade can attend a FREE Educators' Open House at Discovery Science Center. The Center offers workshops, lecture series and computer classes to assist teachers in developing curriculum for teaching science and math to meet California science and math standards. Call 714-913-5012.

May 6, 2004; 10:00 AM: Wildflower Hike at Crystal Cove State Park. Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park"). For information call 949-497-7647.

May 6, 2004; 4:00 PM: Future Scientists and Engineers of America (FSEA) Open House.

FSEA is a national non-profit organization which provides the structure, project material, documentation and workshop training necessary to establish after school technology clubs in K-12 schools. The FSEA program focuses on technology and can easily and readily be implemented in every school. If you are interested in learning more about this program, attend the Open House! RSVP to Elaine Warford at 714-229-2223. Other Open House dates are available: May 12 at 9 AM; May 15 at 10 AM; May 20 at 5:30 PM and May 27 at 8 AM. Location: FSEA; 8441 Monroe Avenue; Stanton, CA 90680; 714-229-2223.

May 7, 2004; 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM: Full Moon Walk at the Environmental Nature Center.

Guests will learn about the adaptations of nocturnal creatures and effects of the moon and stars on animals. Dress warmly. Hot cocoa and coffee will be provided. Cost: \$2/adult, \$1/child. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations (space is limited). Location: ENC; 1601 16th Street; Newport Beach, CA 92663.

May 8, 2004; 7:30 AM: Bird Walk at Crystal Cove State Park.

Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park." For more information call 949-497-7647.

May 8, 2004; 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM: Richard and Donna O'Neill Garden Tour offered through The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.

Support The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy and take advantage of this rare opportunity to tour the beautiful garden of Richard and Donna O'Neill. On a hillside overlooking the spectacular San Juan Creek Valley, magnificent large cacti and other succulents provide an unexpected palette of shape and pattern against the expansive Santa Ana Mountain backdrop. Mike Evans, owner of Tree of Life Nursery, will lead the walks through this garden that is a wonderful combination of drought tolerant plants from all over the world. Donation: \$50.00/person. Call 949-489-9778 to register and receive directions.

May 8, 2004; 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." For more information call 949-497-7647.

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May 8, 2004; 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.

May 8, 2004; 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Making Memories with Mom at the Environmental Nature Center. Children of all ages are invited to bring mom for a naturalist led hike through the Center. We'll discuss mothers in Nature, make a craft for mom to enjoy, and take family pictures in front of the waterfall or perched on a giant boulder in the desert. Cost: \$2/adult, \$1/child. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations (space is limited). Location: ENC; 1601 16th Street; Newport Beach 92663.

May 9; 8:30 AM: Tidepool Walk at Crystal Cove State Park.

Meet at Pelican Point Parking Lot #2 at the top of the boardwalk (PCH to Newport Coast, turn coastward and make a right at the kiosk to the first lot). For more information call 949-497-7647.

May 9, 2004; 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Mother's Day Nature Walk at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy. Wander with a naturalist guide through the hills and canyons of the Conservancy in search of spring wildflowers to see what is blooming in May. Share this experience with others on this special day of the year. Donation: \$5.00/adult, \$2.00/child. Call 949-489-9778 to register and receive directions.

May 12, 2004; 9:00 AM: Future Scientists and Engineers of America (FSEA) Open House.

See May 6th for description and RSVP information.

May 12, 2004; 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Southern California Nature Society meeting at Acorn Naturalists. Allan Schoenherr will present a talk on "Orange County's Natural Areas: Wild and Beautiful." For more information go to <http://www.acornnaturalists.com/store/>.

May 14, 2004; 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM: Orange County Geology with Professor Rick Behl at the Environmental Nature Center.

Come view samples of local Orange County geologic formations dating back 60 million years containing shells of ancient sea creatures. Rick Behl, geology professor from Cal State Long Beach, will share his knowledge of Orange County coastal and mountain geology. Donation is \$5. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations (space is limited). Location: ENC; 1601 16th Street; Newport Beach 92663.

May 15, 2004; 6:00 AM or 8 AM: Bonita Creek Wetlands. The 21-acre Bonita Channel is the main wildlife link from Upper Newport Bay to the San Joaquin Hills and was restored in association with construction of the San Joaquin Hills (73) Toll Road. Along Bonita Creek is a habitat you may not have realized was so close to populated Newport Beach and Irvine. Learn how The Toll Roads restored this creek from an underground culvert to a viable wetland habitat teeming with wildlife on this easy hike that will primarily take place on a paved path. The Birdwatching Tour will be at 6 AM and the Restoration Tour will begin at 8 AM. Space is limited. Call 949-754-3405 to reserve your spot.

May 15, 2004; 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Native Plant Sale at Tree of Life Nursery to benefit Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy. Take this opportunity to purchase water conserving, wildlife preserving native plants. Take a look at the website <http://www.TreeofLifeNursery.com> to find profiles and photographs for more than 120 California native plants. Driving Directions: 5 Fwy. towards south Orange County/San Juan Capistrano. Exit Ortega Highway (highway 74) east. Travel approximately 7 miles eastbound on Ortega Highway. Tree of Life Nursery is on the north (left) side of the highway just before Caspers Wilderness Park. Call 949-489-9778 for further information.

May 15, 2004; 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." For more information call 949-497-7647.

May 15, 2004; 10:00 AM: Future Scientists and Engineers of America (FSEA) Open House.

See May 6th for description and RSVP information.

May 16, 2004; 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." For more information call 949-497-7647.

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May 16, 2004; 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Geology Walk Tour at Crystal Cove State Park.

Meet at Los Trancos parking lot at the trailer (PCH turn inland at stoplight "Los Trancos"). For information call 949-497-7647.

May 15, 2004; 9:00 AM: Nature Walk at Upper Newport Bay.

Join a trained Naturalist at Shellmaker Island for an introduction to the Bay, then carpool to Big Canyon for a walk that takes you through several habitats and gives you an opportunity to experience the diversity of plants and wildlife at the Bay. Bring sun protection and binoculars if you have them. No reservations are required. This tour is free. Please call 949-923- 2269 for more information. Location: Shellmaker Island; 600 Shellmaker; Newport Beach.

May 16, 2004; 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Family Plein Air Painting.

Experience the joy of painting outdoors with family and friends. The front patio of the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center provides a comfortable setting and beautiful panoramic views of the Upper Newport Bay estuary. You will learn Plein Air techniques, develop your painting skills and take home your completed original oil painting. Event Fee: \$15.00/child aged 8-18; \$20.00/adult. Location: Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center; 2301 N. University Drive; Newport Beach, CA 92660; 949-923-2275.

May 16, 2004; 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Beginning Nature Journaling. This workshop covers basic journaling skills for the novice including fun tools and activities for parents and children (ages 7 and up) alike. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. Fee includes sample journal booklet. If it is raining, the program will be re-scheduled. Event Fee: \$5 per person. Space is limited; confirmation number required. Location: Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center; 2301 N. University Drive; Newport Beach, CA 92660; 949-923-2275.

May 16, 2004; 4:00 PM: Orange County Space Society Meeting at Discovery Science Center. Learn about the latest space news within our community and around the world. Learn about getting involved with space and science activism and education in your community. For more information, contact OCSS at ocspacesociety@hotmail.com

May 20, 2004; 5:30 PM: Future Scientists and Engineers of America (FSEA) Open House. See May 6th for description and RSVP information.

May 20, 2004; 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM: 1st Annual Green Education Project (GEP) Environmental Film Festival "The Power of One"

Attend this event to help fundraise for GEP which provides environmental education programs for Fullerton Elementary Schools. The event will be held at the Wilshire Theatre in Fullerton. Doors will open at 6:00 PM for pizza and refreshments. Donation: \$7/adult, \$5/students with ID, children age 8 - 12, and seniors. For ticket sales and more information, contact Miranda Miller at 714-595-8078 or e-mail info@gep.org or visit <http://www.gep.org>

May 20, 2004; 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM: California Native Plant Society - Orange County Chapter General Meeting. The meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District Headquarters (15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine). For more information, go to <http://www.ocnps.org>

May 21, 2004; 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Sea and Sage Audubon Chapter General Meeting. Adrian del Nevo will speak on "European Birds & Bird Observatories." The meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District Headquarters (15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine). For more information, go to <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org> .

May 21, 2004; 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Astronomy Night at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy. Witness a special alignment of the moon, Venus, Mars, and Saturn. Jupiter will also be visible. The planet Venus will appear as a crescent. Learn the spring constellations and marvel at the creativity of those who saw lions, bears, and hunters in the sky. Discover star clusters, nebulae, and/or other treats. Donation: \$8.00/adult, \$6.00/child 8 & up. Call 949-489-9778 to register and receive directions.

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May 22, 2004; 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM: South Coast Audubon Walk The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy. Join Gary Meredith and South Coast Audubon on a Conservancy Bird Walk. Enjoy the morning bird songs and learn about spring migrants and residents. Search for Lewis' Woodpecker, Blue Grosbeak, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Orioles, and many more. Bring your binoculars. Donation: \$5/person. Call 949-489-9778 for directions and reservations.

May 22, 2004; 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Trail Clearing at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy. How often do you get a chance to do important work in beautiful surroundings? You can help clear the Conservancy trails and receive a free lunch! Call 949-489-9778 for directions and reservations.

May 22, 2004; 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Water Awareness Tours at the Irvine Ranch Water District water plant. These tours are available to those who live or work within IRWD boundaries, and are an excellent opportunity to gain valuable information about the water system, wastewater treatment, and reclaimed water use. Lunch is provided. Register on the IRWD web site at <http://www.irwd.com> or call 949-453-5500.

May 22, 2004; 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Marine Life Inventory at Upper Newport Bay. Marine Life Inventory is a Community Service opportunity, organized in conjunction with the Boy Scout Sea Base, for students and their families to take an active part in marine life-monitoring and conservation at Shellmaker Island. You choose to participate in one of the following: Beach Seine, Bottom Trawl, Plankton/Water Quality Survey. You can earn community service hours, experience oceanography and environmental science firsthand, observe and interact with sea creatures and have fun at the same time. Fee is \$10 per person. Space fills up fast, so call the Boy Scout Sea Base at least 5 days in advance for reservations (949) 642-5031. Participants under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

May 22, 2004; 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." For more information call 949-497-7647.

May 22, 2004; 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: ROOTS Restoration Teamwork Days at Upper Newport Bay. Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive non-native plants and plant coastal sage scrub in order to promote native wildlife. All ages welcome. Free. Reservations are required for groups of five or more. For information call (949) 640-0286.

May 22, 2004; 9:00 AM: California Native Plant Society Field Trip to Holy Jim Canyon. Meet at 7:00 AM in the large parking area at Alder Spring, near the information sign. The group will be hiking up the Holy Jim Canyon Trail to Bear Springs (5 miles each way), searching for orchids, paintbrushes, and others along the way. An adventure pass is required. This will be a day-long trip, so bring lunch. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sarah Jayne at 949-552-0691 or sbjayne@cox.net. Water, sunscreen, hat, and sturdy shoes are recommended.

May 22, 2004; 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Monarch Butterfly Migration. Did you know birds aren't the only creatures that migrate? The Monarch Butterfly migrates over 1,000 miles to enjoy warm winter weather. Learn about this fascinating, beautiful insect and the journey it takes every year. Come and join in for a pollination relay, a migration activity, to plant butterfly plants and more. Event Fee: \$5 per person. Space is limited; confirmation number may be required. Location: Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center; 2301 N. University Drive; Newport Beach, CA 92660; 949-923-2275.

May 22, 2004; 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Native American Family Hike at the Environmental Nature Center. Families with children aged 5 and up are invited to learn all about local Native Americans through hands-on activities, games and crafts. Donation is \$5 per child. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations (space is limited). Location: ENC; 1601 16th Street; Newport Beach, CA 92663.

May 22, 2004; 11:30 AM: Electric Boat Tours of Upper Newport Bay! The boat leaves at 11:30 AM from the Shellmaker Island education dock for a 2-hour guided tour. A maximum of 8 people are accepted. Fee is \$10/person (must be 7 yrs. and up). Bring binoculars, sunscreen, and a brown bag lunch (optional). Call 949-923-2269 to make reservations or for information.

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May 23, 2004; 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." For more information call 949-497-7647.

May 23, 2004; 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: The Games People Played.

Join a Ranger to explore the games Native American children of the Back Bay might have played. You will learn how the Tongva (Gabrielino) taught their children important life skills through games and play and you will make authentic toys to take home. Event Fee: \$5 per person aged 5 and up. Call 949-923-2275 to register. Space is limited; confirmation number required. Location: Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center; 2301 N. University Drive; Newport Beach, CA 92660; 949-923-2275.

May 27, 2004; 8:00 AM: Future Scientists and Engineers of America (FSEA) Open House.

See May 6th for description and RSVP information.

May 28, 2004; 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM: "Nature at Night" Walk at The Donna O'Neill Land

Conservancy. Wander with biologist Stephanie Remington through the shadowy hills and canyons of The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy in search of night life. The group will stop in the Sycamore Woodland, where they will watch and listen for bats and barn owls. On the stroll through Shady Canyon, you'll listen for screech owls and look for spider eye shine. Bring a flashlight. Donation: \$5.00/adult and \$2.00/children aged 10 and older. Call 949-489-9778 to register and receive directions.

May 29, 2004; 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." For more information call 949-497-7647.

May 29, 2004; 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Family Nature Walk - Exploring Insects at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.

As the weather warms, insects become more plentiful. On the nature walk, you will search for the insects who live in wild Orange County, learn to use a net and see what insects you can find in the shrubs, find out what butterflies are flying in May, and design your own glow-in-the-dark insect. This leisurely, exploratory walk is for ages 4 and up. Donation: \$5.00/adult and \$2.00/child. Call 949-489-9778 to register (space is limited) and receive directions.

May 29 - 31, 2004: Sea and Sage Audubon Society Kern River Preserve Fieldtrip.

The trip will cover a variety of habitats: high desert, Great Basin, cottonwood/willow riparian, forest, redwood meadows, and mountains. Trip fee: all 3 days - \$50; 2 days - \$45; 1 day = \$35. To make trip reservations, make your check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail it to: Kern River FT, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln., Irvine, CA 92612. You will need to make your own overnight accommodations in the Kernville area. For more information, call Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160.

Local Toddler's and Children's Week Day and Weekend Programs

Irvine Regional Park Zoo.

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 reservation by contacting Marcy Crede-Booth, Education Coordinator, at 714-973-6846. 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, CA 92869.

May 9, 2004; 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Animal Art: Join in for an hour of fun and creativity, all with a theme of animals! Come ready to get a little messy. Event Fee: \$3.00. Age: 3 - 4 years old (parent must accompany child).

May 27, 2004; 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Feathery Friends: Learn all about birds! Make some fun crafts and have a great time learning about these amazing creatures! Event Fee: \$3.00. Ages: 3 - 4 years old (parent must accompany child).

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Environmental Nature Center

Space is limited so pre-registration is required; please call 949-645-8489.

Location: ENC; 1601 16th Street; Newport Beach, CA 92663.

May 25, 2004; 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Toddler Time - Feather Focus at the Environmental Nature Center. Join in for this parent and child playtime with a bird theme. Enjoy stories and hands-on fun for 2 - 4 year olds. Donation is \$5/child.

Fullerton Arboretum

Saturday Gardening Classes in the spring offer a variety of hands-on projects designed to introduce children to gardening and the natural environment. Classes are 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM in the Children's Garden. Reservations are not required except for groups of four or more.

Fee: \$3/child. Location: Fullerton Arboretum; 1900 Associated Rd. (at Yorba Linda Blvd.); Fullerton, CA 92831.

May 15, 2004; 9:30 - 10:30 AM: Young Gardeners: For ages 3 - 5. Children learn to garden through storytelling, planting, harvesting. Take home plant or seeds included. Parent participation required.

May 22, 2004; 9:30 - 10:30 AM: Junior Gardeners: For ages 6 - 9. Children explore the Children's Garden through storytelling, planting, and harvesting. Parent or grandparent participation welcome, but not required.

Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center

The Interpretive Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission is free, but there is a fee for scheduled school and family programs. Call Candice McIntyre at 949-923-2275 for more information on the family programs listed below and to register

Location: Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center; 2301 University Drive; Newport Beach.

May 12, 2004; 10:30 - 11:15 AM: Toddler Time "Animal Senses": Join in for story time and hands on fun all about the way that animals touch taste and feel. \$4.00 per child ages 3 & 4. Space is limited; confirmation number may be required.

May 19, 2004; 9:00 AM or 10:30 AM: Toddler Time "Wet Wetlands": Join a Park Ranger for this parent and child playtime with a wetlands theme. Enjoy stories, movement and hands-on fun for 2- to 4- year old junior naturalists. \$4.00 per child age 2-4. Space is limited; confirmation number may be required.

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Web Wanderings and Rad Resources

Clearing Magazine: Environmental Education Resources for Teachers

[\(http://www.clearingmagazine.org/\)](http://www.clearingmagazine.org/)

Clearing has published over 100 issues that contain the latest news, information, perspectives, teaching ideas, and resources available to teachers of all grade levels and all subject areas dealing with environmental and natural resources education.

4th/5th Grade Instructional Material Correlation with Science Content Standards

http://www.cabap.org/pub/cabap_docs/cabap/reshome.html

California Building a Presence for Science (CABAP) has posted a new web resource that correlates instructional materials with the California Grade 5 Science Standards. This online resource helps you:

- Find where your instructional materials cover each of the 5th grade science standards
- Access teacher-oriented science content and links to other resources; and
- Understand the intent of specific standards as described in the California Science Framework.

Correlations for 4th Grade science standards will be posted by April 30

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Science Lesson Plans Inspired by Legendary Naturalist John Muir

(http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/lessons/science/)

The Sierra Club announces new standards-aligned Science Lesson Plans inspired by and using John Muir's adventures and explorations. John Muir was the famed naturalist, explorer, writer, and conservationist, renowned for his exciting adventures in California's Sierra Nevada, Alaska's glaciers, and world-wide travels in search of nature's beauty. As a writer, he taught the people of his time and ours the importance of experiencing and protecting our natural heritage.

Learning about John Muir's life can serve as a launching pad to science-based environmental studies that include learning about plant and animal habitats, ecosystems, earthquakes, avalanches, glaciers, geology, weather, biodiversity, and forests.

The Science Lesson Plans are the latest installment in the John Muir Study Guide, a K-12 Curriculum Guide. They were written by Janet Wood, M.S. Geoscience Education, with the John Muir Education Committee of the Sierra Club. Other lesson plans focused on the Language Arts and Social Science standards are available as well.

EE/Science Ed. Professionals

Engaging Diverse Audiences - A Workshop for Environmental Education Professionals

Date: May 19, 2004; 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Cost: \$10 registration fee (covers cost of breakfast and lunch)

This workshop will feature presentations about reaching diverse audiences within the EE community and is provided by TEEM (Training Environmental Education Materials) funded by the EPA. To register, go to [http://www.creec.org/region9a/stories/storyReader\\$17](http://www.creec.org/region9a/stories/storyReader$17). For location information, e-mail Nicole Fernandes (Fernandes@nwf.org) or Adrienne Marriott (adrienne_marriott@hotmail.com).

Standards Alignment Workshop for Program Providers

June 16, 2004; 10 AM - 2 PM

Samueli Conference Center, Ocean Institute; 24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive; Dana Point 92629

Cost: \$20; lunch provided

This workshop, sponsored by Orange County CREEC Region 9B which is administered through the Orange County Department of Education, is specifically designed to help Providers make their materials and programs more relevant to California's academic content standards. Lori Mann, M.S., an Environmental Education Consultant who was the primary writer for the *California Plan for Environmental Education* and has worked with many organizations including the California State University Fresno Agricultural Literacy Project, Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Closing the Loop, and Child's Place in the Environment to correlate their curriculum to state content standards, will facilitate this hands-on workshop. Topics will include:

- the importance of aligning curriculum to state content standards
- correlating existing curriculum to the standards (indicating what standards are addressed by existing educational activities)
- revising existing activities to better address standards
- designing new curricula that aligns with the standards

The workshop will address Science, History - Social Science, English - Language Arts, and Mathematics standards.

Register by **May 28, 2004** by mailing a \$20 check made out to OCDE to: Helen de la Maza; CREEC/Inside the Outdoors; 200 Kalmus Drive; Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Include your name, phone number, e-mail address, mailing address, affiliation/program, job title, and your meal preference (omnivore or herbivore). For more information, e-mail Helen at

Hdelamaza@ocde.us, call 949-548-1460, or download the flyer from

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

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