



Hidden Question

Congratulations to Jenny Alghrim, the winner of OC-CREEC's April Newsletter "Hidden Question." Jenny is a Life Science Teacher at Artesia High School. For Earth Day, her students cleared the weeds from the school garden so they could start a new garden of their own. Jenny reported that the *Environmental Science* textbook she won has been extremely useful for her students working on a biomes project.

Rose Calderon, a teacher from Crystal Cathedral High School, wrote that her 9 - 12 grade students participated in a beach clean-up and heard a guest speaker talk about global issues. Lori Whalen, Program Director for the Environmental Nature Center, and Matt Yurko, Project Coordinator for the Upper Newport Bay Restoration Education Program answered the hidden question and wrote about several April programs offered through their organizations.

The prize this month is Nell Newman's book *The Newman's Own Organics Guide to a Good Life: Simple Measures That Benefit You and the Place You Live*. Topics include: food, transportation, energy and water, shopping, pet care, pests, gardening and money, credit, and investing.

Embedded within the text of this newsletter, there is a hidden question. To win, be the first to contact Helen at 949-548-0772 or HdelaMaza@ocde.us. Good Luck! ☺ ✨

Coordinator Communications: Standardized Tests

This month is best known in most schools as "testing month" because students from all grade levels will be participating in statewide standardized testing. The CAT/6 and the California Standards Test have tremendous impact on teachers, administrators, and students alike since it affects everything from the assessment of schools' progress to the classroom curricula.

Programs offered by the Environmental Education Providers (Providers) in Orange County can help teachers bring the standards (and the students!) alive. Using the Resource Directory available online at <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> teachers and other educators can find field trips, outreach programs, teacher workshops, and other resources that align and/or correlate with California's content standards. Although the online directory does not explicitly state the standards addressed by each program, the Education Specialists from the Providers will explain how they can help your students learn the Standards "naturally." Approximately 85 Providers are in the online database and all have been carefully screened to ensure that they provide high quality environmental education programs.

Environmental education by definition provides interdisciplinary instruction so science, social science/history, math, and English standards are often addressed in one program. In addition, because of the cooperative and experiential pedagogy employed by many Providers, student participants who are learning English benefit by working on their listening and speaking skills.

For more information about how Orange County Environmental Education Providers can provide you with a unique way to teach the California Standards, go online to the Resource Directory at <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> and talk with a Provider whose programs peak your interest. ✨

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Hidden Question
1	Coordinator Communications: Standardized Testing
2	Training Time!
2	Great Grants & Cool Contests
3	Rad Resources
5	Provider Highlight: Santa Ana Zoo
5	Interesting Information
6	Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events
7	Local Event Calendar



Training Time!

(Opportunities listed here may be appropriate for Teachers, EE Providers, or other Educators.)

“Shifting Sands” Teacher Workshop

May 14, 2005; 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Ocean Institute

<http://www.ocean-institute.org/html/teacherworkshop.html>

To register call 949-496-2274, ext. 611

Fee: \$15 (includes lunch and materials)

Spend a day exploring the exciting world of sand! Keynote speaker Dr. Tom Garrison, professor of oceanography at Orange Coast College and PBS Science Advisor for “Oceanus” and “The Endless Voyage” will explore the mineralogy of sand and its role in coastal processes.

School Garden Teacher Training and Support Project

July 11 - 15, 2005 or August 1 - 5, 2005

Location: Occidental

Application deadline: May 27, 2005

<http://www.oaec.org/schoolgarden.htm>

The intensive residential program offers hands-on skills and theoretical approaches for promoting and supporting the creation of school gardens. Training is offered in such areas as organic gardening, art in the garden, recycling, nutrition, state standards, and garden-based curriculum. The cost is \$350 for teachers, \$250 for parents and volunteers. Extended education units are available. For more information, contact Tina Poles at 707-874-1557, ext. 202.

The Art of Interpretive Writing Workshop

June 9 and 10, 2005; Fee: \$195

Location: Acorn Naturalists' Center for Science and Environmental Education

155 El Camino Real; Tustin, CA

Register by contacting: Alan Leftridge; P.O.

Box 76; Swan Valley, Montana 59826;

406-754-290; leftridge@blackfoot.net

Alan Leftridge, the executive editor of *The Interpreter* magazine, will guide you through an engaging and informative workshop that will sharpen your skills for connecting with your audiences. The purpose of this workshop is to introduce you to the strategies promoted by the National Association for Interpretation and the National Park Service for written interpretation. These strategies apply to your brochures, exhibits, public service announcements, books, magazine articles and more.

continued on p. 4

Great Grants & Cool Contests

2005 Awards - Call for Nominations

Deadline: June 1, 2005

<http://naaee.org/members/profiles.php>

The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Awards Committee announces its call for nominations for the prestigious annual awards that will be presented at this year's conference in late October. This is your opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations that excel in EE by nominating those who deserve wider recognition for their accomplishments. For complete details about the nomination process and awards, visit the website or contact either of the NAAEE Awards Committee co-chairs Tim Grant at tim@greenteacher.com or Jennifer Tucker Visitation at jenv@usee.org

Garden Crusader Award Program

Deadline: June 1, 2005

http://www.gardeners.com/gardening/content.asp?copy_id=5549

Gardener's Supply is offering \$18,000 in cash and products to 30 gardeners across the country who are making a difference. Categories include Education, Feeding the Hungry, Beautification, Urban Renewal and Restoration. To nominate or for information go to the website, e-mail crusader@gardeners.com or call 888-239-1553.

2005 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards

Deadline: June 1, 2005

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA>

The award program recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable, voluntary contributions in conserving California's precious resources, protecting and enhancing California's environment and building public-private partnerships. For more information, call 916-322-7649.

The Hidden Question is: Find at least two resources or programs (not just Providers) available in Orange County that you can use in your formal or nonformal educational programming. Go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> then click on “Resource Directory.” Use the search form to find something in which you are interested.

continued on p. 4

Rad Resources

National Science Teachers Association's SciGuides: The Science Teachers' Guide to Internet Content, Resources, and Much More <http://sciguides.nsta.org/>

This online "science toolbox" allows teachers to forego an exhaustive and often unproductive internet search for instructional resources and instead use specially developed SciGuides tools to quickly and easily locate targeted science content information and teaching resources from NSTA-reviewed science websites. Teachers can also use the unique capabilities of SciGuides to transform the science content into effective classroom resources by locating and incorporating online lesson plans, tips for teaching the content, and effective student assessments.

Web Resources for Environmental Educators <http://training.fws.gov/library/>

This U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website is a link from the National Conservation Training Center's Conservation Library home page. It has links to a variety of sites that are helpful for educators, including general environmental education links, education standards and terms, resources and electronic field trips.

Estuaries Discovery Kit

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/estuaries>

Grade level: 9-12

NOAA's National Ocean Service Communications and Education Division offers the Estuaries Discovery Kit. The kit explores how estuaries are classified, the various ecosystem services estuaries perform, how organisms have adapted to estuarine environments, human impacts and the work that the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and its partners conduct to monitor, preserve and restore estuarine ecosystems throughout the United States.

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Orange County California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network. The CREEC Network is administered by the **California Department of Education**, Environmental Education Program, in partnership with numerous agencies and organizations, including the **Orange County Department of Education** (OCDE) and OCDE's *Inside the Outdoors* (<http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org>)

A Child's Garden of Standards: Linking School Gardens to California Education Standards. Cost: \$17.50

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/rc/ap/pubdisplay.aspx?ID=001579>

This guide is designed to show how garden-based education strongly supports the state's academic content standards, and is based on the premise that a garden in every school can help make the standards come alive. The guide also links specific activities to standards in science, history-social science, mathematics, and English-language arts for grades two through six.

Funding for California Science Education Conference

October 27 - 30, 2005 in Palm Springs

Don't wait until the 05-06 school year begins to request funding to attend the California Science Education Conference

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

Registration fees and information are available now so you can request funding and begin the authorization process. Visit

<http://www.cascience.org/earlyinfo.html> for more information.

California Building a Presence (CABAP): Science Point of Contact

<http://www.cabap.org>

CABAP is a collaboration of the California Department of Education, the California Science Teachers Association, the California Science Project, the K-12 Alliance, WestEd and County Offices of Education, with funding from the National Science Teachers Association. By registering with CABAP and becoming a Point of Contact for your school/program, you will receive two free books: the beautifully illustrated award-winning book *Dr. Art's Guide to Planet Earth* and *Strategic Science Teaching*, a K-12 sampler of science lessons connecting literature with the California science standards. At the website you can look at resources for California science educators, including correlations between the 4th and 5th grade science standards and the state adopted texts. For questions, contact Libby Rognier at LRognier@wested.org



Training Time!

continued from page 2

Coast Alive! Teacher Training Workshop and Field Study

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

Who: Grade 5-9 teachers and students

When and where: (Choose one)

1) Friday, May 13 from 4:30 to 9:30 PM at the Audubon Center at Deb's Park and Saturday, May 14 from 9 AM to 4 PM for field study at the Ballona Wetlands

2) Friday, May 20 from 4:30 to 9:30 PM at Topanga State Park Visitor Center and Saturday, May 21 from 9 AM to 4 PM for field study at Topanga State Park

3) Friday, June 3 from 4:30 to 9:30 PM at Audubon Center at Deb's Park and Saturday, June 4 from 9 AM to 4 PM for field study at Ballona Wetlands

Cost: \$10 includes a \$100 stipend, resource materials, classroom activities, field study experiences, Friday night dinner and Saturday refreshments and lunch.

Register: Rachel Kau-Taylor, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 909-625-8767 ext. 224. Coast Alive! is a new project created by the California Institute for Biodiversity, California State Parks Foundation, and California State Parks for 5th-9th grade teachers and their students. The project is a novel approach designed to put California's content standards in a context that is meaningful to you and your students. Coast Alive! is delivered to students through teacher professional development and incorporates computer technology and lessons in literacy, science, math and social science.

Exploring the Mid-Ocean Ridge Environment with Student Experiments at Sea (SEAS): Teacher Institute

Location: Ocean Institute

June 27 - July 1, 2005

Call 949-496-2274, ext. 611 to register

This institute includes web-based assignments designed to help you bring inquiry-based deep-sea research into your classroom. During the course, mid-ocean ridge scientists will lead discussions on plate tectonics, seafloor spreading, mid-ocean ridge volcanoes, hydrothermal vent systems, and chemosynthetic-based ecosystems. You will receive posters, curricular materials, and other resources, focusing on the SEAS program and other web-based offerings. ✨

Great Grants & Cool Contests

continued from page 2



Presidential Freedom Scholarships

Deadline: July 1, 2005

Applicants: Juniors or seniors in high school

<http://www.cns.gov/scholarships>

The President has called upon citizens to serve their communities and the nation. Many students have answered that call to service. You can reward those students for their services with Presidential recognition and a college scholarship by nominating them. The Presidential Freedom Scholarships allow each high school in the county to select up to two students to receive a \$1,000 college scholarship. With funds appropriated by Congress, the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency, provides \$500 for each scholarship which must be matched with at least \$500 secured by the high school from the community.

President's Environmental Youth Awards

Deadline: July 31, 2005

Applicants: K-12 students

<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html>

The President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) promote awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourage positive community involvement. Since 1971, the President of the United States has joined with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to recognize young Americans for protecting our nation's air, water, land and ecology. Each year the PEYA program honors a wide variety of environmental projects developed by young individuals, school classes, summer camps, public interest groups and youth organizations to promote environmental awareness. ✨

2005 Vision for Excellence Awards

Congratulations to Nona Reimer, Sandra Kaszyski, Naomi Jue, Susan Marie Kolberg Pritchard, Jon David Jonson, and Margaret Sepulveda, all teachers in Orange County, for being awarded Project Tomorrow's 2005 Vision for Excellence Awards! Recipients were selected based on leadership, innovative learning environments and ability to expand the classroom and/or school into the community. Project Tomorrow is a business and education collaborative dedicated to enhancing K-12 science education in Orange County schools. ✨

Provider Highlight: Santa Ana Zoo

The Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park is committed to providing recreation and education while bringing the message of conservation to the zoo's many visitors. It is a place to have fun, a place to learn, and a place that can be enjoyed by people of all ages every day of the year.

The Santa Ana Zoo was founded in 1952 by Joseph Prentice. His request was that there be "fifty monkeys at all times." Santa Ana Zoo occupies 20 acres, and is home to at least 50 monkeys, a rain forest, an aviary, endangered species and a children's zoo.

At the new Crean Family Farm, you can learn about life on an Orange County farm while you touch and feed the animals and watch zookeepers care for them.

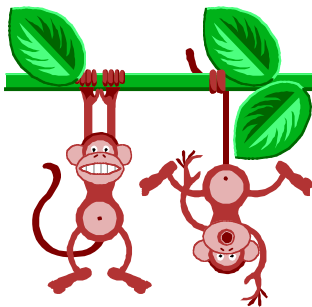
Educational programs include: teacher tours, Zoo Safari for grades K - 1; Rainforest Tour for grades 2 - 6; Bone Lab for grades 2 - 3; Bird Lab for grades 3 - 6; and custom tours for grades 7 - 12. Family and scout programs are also available.

The Zoomobile is an outreach program in which live animals are brought to the school for a one-hour program. Presentation topics are geared to follow the California State Science Standards for each grade level.

During the summer, Zoo Camp provides children with the opportunity to learn about the zoo animals, zookeeping, animal behavior, and much more.

The zoo is located at 1801 East Chestnut Avenue; Santa Ana, CA 92701. Santa Ana residents can get into the zoo for free!

For more information call 714-835-7484. For information about the educational programs, call 714-836-4000. ✨



Interesting Information

Excellence in Science Month

The Orange County Board of Supervisors accepted a request by Project Tomorrow to honor and recognize the many achievements in science education that take place in our community. On May 3, a proclamation was made recognizing May as "Excellence in Science" month. Project Tomorrow, along with other partners including CREEC, have launched a year-long effort to highlight excellent science education. Look for the new website <http://www.celebratescience.org>

Jiminy Cricket's Environmental Challenge Winners Announced

The Walt Disney Company, in collaboration with the California Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN), congratulates El Verano Elementary School in Sonoma as this year's grand prize winner.

Stay tuned for the new Environmental Challenge for fifth grade classes! Information packets will be available in the fall.

California Coastal Commission's 2005 Coastal Art & Poetry Contest for K - 12 students

This annual contest drew nearly 2,600 incredible entries from throughout California. The winning students from Orange County are:

- Dami Lee, 6th grade, winner in art for 4th - 6th
- Honorable mentions in art:*
- Esther Baek, 6th grade
- Chris Chien, 11th grade
- Noelle Perez, 12th grade

Please take a moment to view the winning art and poetry and the honorable mentions online:

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/mm5/gallery-2005.html>

Hike with Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez

On April 30 the Saddleback Canyons Taskforce and Orange County Inner City Outings (ICO) program combined for a hike in O'Neill Regional Park with Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and 18 students from the Orange County Phoenix House. During the hike, the Taskforce volunteers discussed the need to preserve the Santa Ana Mountains. The ICO leaders pointed out the dangers of poison oak, rattlesnakes and ticks as well as invasive species such as artichoke thistle. The Congresswoman talked to the students about the opportunities available to them and said that with effort, they could achieve their goals. ✨

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

“Remembering Trauma” lecture by Dr. Richard J. McNally (Lecture Series on Brain, Learning and Memory)

May 10, 2005 at 7:30 PM

Irvine Barclay Theatre at UCI

Are traumatic experiences engraved on the mind, never to be forgotten? Or does the mind protect itself by banishing them from awareness? In this lecture, Dr. McNally will debunk myths about traumatic memory, and describe his own research on people who report having recovered memories of either abuse during childhood or abduction by space aliens. For information, go to

<http://www.cnlm.uci.edu/publicnow.htm>

“Southern California Wildflowers” lecture by Steve Boyd

May 11, 2005 at 7:00 PM

Acorn Naturalists (155 El Camino Real, Tustin 92780)

<http://www.acornnaturalists.com/store/>

“Reptiles and Amphibians of the Crystal Cove State Park” lecture by Allan Schoenherr

May 18, 2005 at 7:00 PM

Meet at Los Trancos Trailer at Crystal Cove State Park (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight “Los Trancos”). For information, call 949-497-7647.

“Youth Can Conserve” Student Project

Natural science teachers and school administrators are cordially invited to attend the Santiago High School student presentations - the culmination of a Sierra Club Orange County Inner City Outings coastal conservation nature outing series.

Projects include: videos, PowerPoint presentations to be posted on the City of Garden Grove website, elementary school lesson plans, and local library displays, which educate the community about a coastal conservation topic. Presentations will be held on both Tuesday, May 24, 9:00 - 10:00 AM and Wednesday, May 25, 9:00 - 10:00 AM.

RSVP by May 18 to Lisa Hellman, Sierra Club Orange County Inner City Outings, work: 714-965-3394; home: 714-964-4488.

Butterfly House Docent Training

May 27, 2005; 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Become a Butterfly House Docent at the Environmental Nature Center and share your love of butterflies with the public. During the 2-hour training session, butterfly expert Liz Cooper will share information about the butterflies of Orange County. For more information and to reserve a space, call 949-645-8489.

City of Irvine Summer Programs

Head Start on Summer: Leaders in Training

June 27 - August 26, 2005 (no class 7/5)

Cost: \$65

This summer work experience program provides an enrichment opportunity for youth ages 13-18 to contribute to their community while developing life skills through teamwork, social interaction, time management, and goal setting. Class #25756. Call 949-724-6738 or register online at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org>

Eco-Explorers Summer Camp at Bommer Canyon. Fee: \$80.

Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Looking for an adventure this summer? Join these outdoor adventure camps in Irvine’s Southern Open Space Preserve. Campers will investigate local habitats, plants and animals, and learn ways to protect the environment. Experience the wonders of nature through daily discovery walks and hands-on activities. Call 949-724-6738 or visit <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> for more detailed course descriptions.

For ages 5 - 8

Creepy Crawlers, 7/18 - 7/22

Soaring Over Bommer, 7/25 - 7/29

Life on the Ranch, 8/1 - 8/5

Extreme Pollinators, 8/8 - 8/12

Rockin’ Reptiles, 8/15 - 8/19

Beneath the Sea, 8/22 - 8/26

For ages 9 - 12

Jr. Naturalist, 7/25 - 7/29

Surviving Nature, 8/1 - 8/5

Science Wizards II, 8/8 - 8/12

Unlocking Bommer’s Puzzles

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.
- **May 11, 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.
- **May 13, 8:30 PM: Telescope Night at the Environmental Nature Center.** Astronomer Andres Dandler will take participants on a magical tour of the night sky through the lens of his telescope. This program is appropriate for the whole family. The cost is \$2/person. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations.
- **May 14, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Nature Photography with Steve Francis at the Environmental Nature Center.** Local nature photographer Stephen Francis will share his techniques with amateur photographers of all levels. Steve's photographs have been instrumental in bringing about significant changes in preservation policies within the southland. To learn more about Steve and view some of his photographs, visit <http://www.sfrancis.com> Participants are invited to bring either digital or film cameras, and a tripod if they have one. The fee is \$20 per participant. Space is very limited. Please call 949-645-8489 for a registration form.
- **May 14, 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 or visit <http://www.TheConservancy.org>
- **May 14, 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 #24821 at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> Call 949-724-6738 for information.
- **May 14, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Plants of Oak Canyon at Oak Canyon Nature Center.** Discover the plants of the center on a guided nature walk with a professional naturalist. Free. Call 714-998-8380 for information and directions.
- **May 14, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Weed Warriors at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.** Help rid The Conservancy of pesky, invasive weeds. This will help the native wildlife and protect the native plants. Drinks and snacks are provided. Free. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778. For information visit <http://www.TheConservancy.org>
- **May 14, 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."). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.

- **May 15, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Batiquitos Lagoon with Sea & Sage Audubon.** This birdwatching fieldtrip to Batiquitos Lagoon in northern San Diego County will be led by Steve Brad. For information call Nancy Kenyon, 949-786-3160 or e-mail her at kenyon@exo.com
- **May 15, 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."). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.
- **May 15, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Landsteward Sunday at the Environmental Nature Center.** Help keep the Center healthy for the animals and beautiful for humans to enjoy! There may be opportunities to plant after weeding is complete in some areas. To register, call 949-645-8489.
- **May 19, 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. Free. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations.
- **May 19, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM: "What's Happening to the Scrophs? A Plant ID Workshop."** California Native Plant Society - Orange County Chapter General Meeting. This will be an informal meeting in which you will have the opportunity to learn about the structure, classification, pollination, and predatory habits of this fascinating family. The meeting will be held at the Irvine Ranch Water District Headquarters (15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine). For more information, go to <http://www.ocnps.org>
- **May 20, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Bats of Orange County with Stephanie Remington at the Environmental Nature Center.** Meet a live bat at a very special presentation by locally renowned bat biologist Stephanie Remington. She will dispel myths about bats and tell participants what to do if they find one. Learn about the local bats in Orange County, where they live, and where they can be found. After the presentation participants will go into the Center and search for bats using an echolocator. Donation is \$5. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations.
- **May 20, 9:00 PM - 11:00 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 #24809 at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org>
- **May 20, 7:30 PM: "Creating a New Species of Field Guide" presented by Jack Laws.** This is the speaker for the general meeting of the Sea & Sage Audubon chapter. The program will be about birds and natural history of the Sierra Nevada. The meeting will be held at the Irvine Ranch Water District Headquarters (15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine). For more information, go to <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>
- **May 21, 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.
- **May 21, 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."). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.
- **May 21, 9:00 - 11:00 AM: Family Nature Walk - Smells of Wild Orange County at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.** Walk around The Conservancy and enjoy the scent of the native plants. You will learn how Native Americans and animals use these native scents. This leisurely, exploratory walk is for ages 4 and up. The cost is \$5/adult and \$2/child. Visit the website at <http://www.TheConservancy.org> for more information and call 949-489-9778 for reservations.
- **May 21, 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.
- **May 21, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Reptiles of Oak Canyon at Oak Canyon Nature Center.** Discover the reptiles of the center on a guided nature walk with a professional naturalist. Free.

Call 714-998-8380 for information and directions.

- **May 21, 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.
- **May 21, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Spider Walk with Lenny Vincent at the Environmental Nature Center.** Lenny Vincent, biology teacher at Fullerton College, will lead a spider and insect hike through the Center for arachnid fans of all ages. Lenny, sometimes called Spiderman due to his keen interest in spiders, has been studying spiders for over 30 years. The cost is \$2. For reservations, call 949-645-8489.
- **May 21, 7:30 PM: Evening Marsh Prowl Electric Boat Tour of Upper Newport Bay.** Join a Naturalist on a 2-hour guided tour of the bay at dusk. You will use spotlights and binoculars to search for owls and other night creates. The fee is \$10 per person. Meet at the Shellmaker Island education dock. Call 949-923-2269 to make reservations.
- **May 22, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Bommer Rocks.** Join the resident geologist on a “rocky” hike through beautiful Bommer Canyon. Participants will decipher clues to the origins and history of the area and solve the mystery about the ocean fossils in the Open Space. Maximum distance is two miles. Recommended for ages 7+. Call 949-724-6738 for information. To register sign up for #24843 at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org>
- **May 25, 6:00 - 7:30 PM: Science Fest and Technology Fair at Chaparral Elementary School in Ladera Ranch.** Call 949-234-5349 for information.
- **May 27, 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM: Bat Walks at San Joaquin Marsh.** The evening begins with an indoor presentation by a bat expert. The highlight is a short walk to locate Mexican Free-tailed Bats and Yuma Myotis Bats that roost in nearby buildings and bridges and come in small numbers to the marsh to feed. The cost is \$12/adult and \$6 for children ages 6 - 12. To register call 949-261-7963. Future dates are: June 3, June 10, July 8 and August 19.
- **May 28, 8:00 AM: Morning Bird Walk at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** Join Gary Meredith and Brian Mallabon from South Coast Audubon for a Conservancy Bird Walk. You will learn about The Conservancy’s spring migrants and residents, and search for Lewis’ Woodpecker, Blue Grosbeak, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Orioles, and many more. Bring your binoculars if you have them. Please wear muted colors (browns, greens, and dark colors). Bright colors make it more difficult to see birds. Call 949-489-9778 for reservations and directions.
- **May 28, 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.”). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.
- **May 28, 9:00 AM: 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. Training, tools, and refreshments are provided. All ages are welcome. Free. Meet at the Exotic Hut on Shellmaker Island. For information call 949-640-0286.
- **May 28, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Habitats of Oak Canyon at Oak Canyon Nature Center.** Discover the habitats of the center on a guided nature walk with a professional naturalist. Free. Call 714-998-8380 for information and directions.
- **May 29, 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.”). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.

Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park/Orange County Natural History Museum

Call 949-831-2790 for information.

Thomas Riley Regional Park

Call 949-728-3420 for information

Laguna Coast Wilderness

Open on Saturday and Sunday from 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Parking is \$2. Call 949-494-9352 for information. <http://www.lagunacanyon.org>

Weekday Toddler/Children's Programs

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

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

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

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

Call 714-998-8380 for information.

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:

- **May 12, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Animal Art.** Join in for an hour of fun and creativity with an animal theme! Come ready to get a little messy and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty.
- **May 26, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Feathery Friends.** Learn all about the world of birds and make fun bird crafts!

Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center

2301 University Drive; Newport Beach

Call 949-923-2295 to register. The cost is \$5 per child.

- **May 18, 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (2-3 yrs.) or 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM (3-4 yrs.): Toddler Time "Wet Wet Wetlands."** Join a Park Ranger for this parent and child playtime with a wetlands theme. Enjoy stories, movement and hands on fun.
- **May 31, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: "Mud Meals and Soil Stories!"** Perform hands-on explorations of wetland and upland soil, learn about bay animals and mud flat habitat and use microscopes to observe the mud. Meets 2nd grade standards.

City of Irvine

Call 949-724-6738 for information. Register at <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org>

- **May 24 - June 14; 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Cool Creatures** (Course #24846). Children will learn about the life cycles and habitats of reptiles and amphibians. Craft projects will showcase what your children have learned. Parent participation is required. Class fee: \$40 and \$5 materials fee due at first class. Instructor: Rhonda Felton. Ages 3-6.
- **May 24 - June 14; 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Rompin' Through The Rainforest** (Course #24844). Through stories and crafts, children will discover the wonders of the rainforest, its creatures, and how to help protect and conserve these fragile ecosystems. Parent participation is required. Class fee: \$40 and \$5 materials fee due at first class. Ages 3-6. Instructor: Rhonda Felton. ✪