

Orange County CREEC

Volume 2, Issue 1

October 2004

Welcome to a New School Year!

With the advent of a new school year comes the opportunity to reflect on last year's trials, tribulations, and triumphs, and then to develop new goals.

Last year CREEC Region 9B made tremendous progress by adding to and updating the website (<http://www.creec.org/region9b/>) and Resource Directory (http://creec.edgateway.net/cs/creec9bp/search/creec_res), implementing an e-newsletter, and offering a Standards Alignment Workshop to Program Providers. We also initiated a "Hidden Question" in the e-newsletters which met with great success (see "Winners" article).

This year we will continue to provide a monthly newsletter and maintain the website and Resource Directory. New goals for this year include:

- publicizing more effectively the existence of CREEC Region 9B to classroom teachers
- creating a newsletter specifically for Providers (every 2 months)
- publicizing CREEC Region 9B at various events throughout the county

If you are interested in helping us meet these goals, please contact Helen de la Maza at HdelaMaza@ocde.us

Winners!

The "Hidden Question" Awardees



CREEC Region 9B implemented an exciting new feature in the monthly e-newsletter. The reader is told a "hidden question" has been embedded within the text. The first person who contacts the Coordinator with the correct answer to the question wins the award. Thanks to the generosity of Providers on the Advisory Committee, teachers and students have benefited tremendously.

In the spring, Sandy Kaszynski and 100 students from the Newport-Mesa Unified School District went on a field trip to Crystal Cove State Park courtesy of a generous donation facilitated by Winter Bonnin, Interpretive Ranger and member of the Advisory Committee. After the field trip, Sandy wrote to the Coordinator: "The teachers said it was the best field trip they have ever been on. Winter complimented us on how well our students were prepared. Kids know that the Pacific Ocean is off the coast of California on a map but do not equate the ocean they are standing in and the blue on the map. It is so wonderful an experience! It is especially important for kids that do not know that the ocean is salty. I don't think any of them had ever seen a tide pool before. Our final comment to the students was that now, 'they are the teachers.'"

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Who is Orange County CREEC?

In Orange County (Region 9B), CREEC is administered by the Orange County Department of Education's *Inside the Outdoors* program.

Helen de la Maza is the Coordinator and **Pam Johnson** is the Authorized Agent. This academic year, the Region 9B budget, which is based on state and local funding, will enable Helen to work for 50 days on CREEC. We are lucky to have **Paul Ciccoianni**, a graduate student in the Environmental Studies program at CSU Fullerton, joining the team as a volunteer.

The CREEC Advisory Committee consists of the following dedicated individuals:

Maureen Allen - Orange County Department of Education

Donna Bennett - CSU Fullerton

Winter Bonnin - California State Parks

Pam Brigandi - Municipal Water District of O.C.

Laura Cohen - The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy

Beverly Crowe - Municipal Water District of O.C.

Frank Dela Vara - Disneyland Resort

Cathy Glasgow - City of Anaheim Community Services

Bo Glover - Environmental Nature Center

Beate Litz - Pacific Marine Mammal Center

Patrick Mitchell - Santa Ana Parks, Recreation and Community Services Agency

Nona Reimer - John Malcom School

Jennifer Rigby - The Acorn Group, Inc.

Melanie Schlotterbeck - Trust for Public Land

Valorie Shatynski - CA Integrated Waste Management Board

Janice Sindoni - The Walt Disney Company

Sue Winterhoff - Ocean Institute

Janet Yamaguchi - Discovery Science Center

Kent Yamaguchi - Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park

Rainbow Yeung - South Coast Air Quality Management District

We are looking for more Teachers and Providers to join the team! If you are interested, contact Helen de la Maza at HdelaMaza@ocde.us.



Winners!

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In June, Crystal Fountain Farritor, a teacher at Rosemary Kennedy Elementary School, and fourth grade students went to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center when she received the prize donated by Beate Litz, the Education Director from the Pacific Marine Mammal Center (a rehabilitation facility for marine mammals). The students clearly enjoyed their trip!



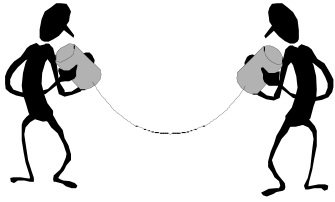
Hidden Question

Embedded within the text of this newsletter, there is a hidden question. The first educator who calls (949-548-0772) or e-mails Helen (HdelaMaza@ocde.us) with the correct answer will receive a **free field trip for 60 students to the Discovery Science Center with bus transportation included!** The field trip must be taken between October and December.

Good Luck! ☺



Website Highlights



You may have noticed that all of the CREEC websites have a different look to them! CREEC statewide management has been hard at work updating the background templates for a more modern and dynamic look. As a result of this, some reformatting is necessary, so please have patience while the sites are under construction.

Information on <http://www.creec.org/region9b/>
From Orange County's home page, you can access the following using the navigation bar on the left of the screen:

Region 9b Resource Directory - Looking for a program for a specific grade level or on a specific topic? Click here and use the search engine to find high quality environmental education resources in Orange County.

Calendar - Find out what's going on in O.C.! These programs may be suitable for your students, your own professional growth, or your families and the general public.

Newsletters - Archived newsletters.

Workshops and Classes and Conferences and Symposia - Both of these web pages have information on local, national, and on-line programs that may be valuable to Educators.

Funding Opportunities - Need some money to create a garden at your school? Want to help the students raise money to attend a field trip? Look here for a variety of options. Grants for Providers are also listed.

Student Contests - Involve your students in contests in which they learn in a fun and competitive atmosphere.

Volunteers Wanted - Looking for something to do in your off-time? Maybe your students need to fulfill community service hours... check this link frequently for updates and new projects.

FAQ - Confused by the Resource Directory? Come here for help.

Providers - This page contains information that is especially relevant to EE Providers in O.C.

Feedback - Have a comment, suggestion, or question? Use this link to e-mail Helen at HdelaMaza@ocde.us

Student Contests and Grants

Jiminy Cricket's Environmental Challenge 5th Grade; Registration Deadline: Oct. 31.

This is an environmental education program sponsored by The Walt Disney Company, the State of California's Environmental Education Interagency Network, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It encourages California fifth-graders to practice environmental stewardship in a fun and educational way while incorporating California content standards.

The teacher and students determine their degree of participation; students may take a pledge to do something that will help the environment and, if they choose, may enter the Class Project Competition, where they target a real-world environmental problem, then develop and implement an action plan to address it.

Each class submits a summary of their activities for judging by a panel of environmental educators. The Grand Prize Winning class and teacher are treated to an all expense paid trip where they are recognized during a special ceremony at the Disneyland Resort and given an opportunity to present their accomplishments to Disney and State dignitaries.

For more information or to apply, visit the Jiminy Cricket's Environmental Challenge Web site (<http://www.jceckids.org>) or call 800-290-0299.

Imagine This...Writing Contest Brochure Grades 3-8; Postmark by November 1

Create a positive learning experience that promotes reading, writing and the arts, and furthers the understanding of agriculture in our lives by using this content-standards based contest in your classroom.

<http://www.cfaitc.org/Imagethis/>

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Student Contests and Grants

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California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest Grades K - 12; Deadline: January 31, 2005

California students are invited to submit their work to the California Coastal Commission's annual coastal art and poetry contest. Winners will be selected from each of four grade-level categories in both art and poetry to receive \$100 gift certificate to an art supply or book store. Each winner's teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational materials. For more information, contact (800) Coast-4U or visit <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html>

"Trees are Terrific....and Energy Wise!" Arbor Day Contest and Curriculum 5th Grade Students, Deadline: March 1, 2005

Educators receive a free contest activity guide that includes background information and activities related to the theme "Trees are Terrific... and Energy Wise!" These activities correlate with national science and social studies standards. The guide also includes all information needed for fifth graders to participate in the Arbor Day National Poster Contest.

The first place winner, his or her parents, and teacher will receive an expense-paid trip to Nebraska City, Nebraska, birthplace of Arbor Day. They will stay at Lied Lodge and Conference Center and participate in the April 29-May 1, 2005, National Awards Weekend. The winner also receives a \$1,000 savings bond and a lifetime membership to The National Arbor Day Foundation. The winning student's teacher will receive \$200 for classroom materials. The second place winner receives a \$500 savings bond, and third place a \$250 savings bond. The teachers receive \$100 and \$50 respectively. The top three national winners will also each have a tree planted in their honor.

For more information about the contest and to request a kit, contact Kay Antunez, contest coordinator, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection at (916) 653-7958 or Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov

To find out more, go to <http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/>

Student Contests and Grants

continued

Leaf-It-To-Us: Tree Planting Grant Opportunity for Schools and School Districts Application Deadline: December 1, 2004

The California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection is pleased to announce the availability of a new tree planting grant program designed for school kids to improve their school environments. Project should range from \$500 - \$3,000. For an application, go to: <http://www.ufe.org/files/grantinfo/LITUGrants.html> or contact Herb Bunt, CDF Urban Forestry Program Administrator; 916-651-6423; herb.bunt@fire.ca.gov

Whale Tail Grants Program - California Application Deadline: December 10, 2004

The California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail Grants Program invites schools and nonprofits to apply for funding to support programs that encourage people to value and take action to improve the health of California's coast, marine life, or inland watersheds, with an emphasis on reaching underserved students and members of the public. Educational beach maintenance and coastal habitat restoration programs are also eligible. Applicants may request any amount up to \$50,000, and 25-50% of the funding will be allocated in small grants under \$10,000. A total of \$413,500 will be distributed. Visit <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html> for details.

US-EPA Environmental Education Grants Deadline: November 15, 2004

The Grant Program sponsored by EPA's Office of Environmental Education supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. Annual funding for the program ranges between \$2 and \$3 million, with most grantees receiving less than \$15,000. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html> for information and the application.

Local Workshops and Opportunities

The Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education's (AEOE) Fall Conference will be held at the Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary near Rancho Santa Margarita in Orange County on Oct. 22 - 24. For a registration fee of \$20 (plus \$15 to become an AEOE member) you will have the opportunity to attend workshops, develop interpretive skills, learn about local ecology, camp for two nights at beautiful Starr Ranch, and enjoy a delicious Saturday dinner. Go to <http://www.aeoe.org> for details and to download a registration form.

Project WET is an international, water science and education program for formal and non-formal educators of K-12 students. The activity guide is offered at all workshops. It contains over 90 activities that have been correlated to the state standards. All the activities are innovative, interdisciplinary, hands-on, easy to use, and fun. Go to <http://www.watereducation.org> for more information.

October 30, 2004

Location: Irvine Duck Club
Sponsored By: Municipal Water District of Orange County, Irvine Ranch Water District & The Discovery Science Center
Contact: Beverly Crowe (714) 593-5017

Chris' Fund for Nature

In 1998, just a few weeks before Chris Paul's 10th birthday, he decided to donate his birthday money to help save Orange County wildlife. Trust for Public Land (<http://www.tpl.org>) and Chris' Fund for Nature have partnered to raise \$9,000 to preserve the "Elfin Forest," 15 acres of land in the Cleveland National Forest. They hope to engage 100 Orange County schools in this project. For more information, contact Melanie Schlotterbeck at TPL at 949-494-8034 or Melanie.Schlotterbeck@tpl.org

To win the free field trip (including transportation) to the Discovery Science Center for 60 of your students, be the first to call Helen at 949-548-0772 or e-mail HdelaMaza@ocde.us with the answer to the following hidden question: Name one of the student contests not mentioned in this newsletter that can be found on the CREEC Region 9B website.

Free Resources

Investigating the Climate System Grades 5 - 12

This curricula offers problem-based modules for studying clouds, energy, precipitation, weather and wind. Learning activities, assessment rubrics and prerequisite knowledge are included in these downloadable booklets, correlated to national academic standards for grades 5-12. To download the units, go to:

<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/products/Investigating.the.Climate.System/>

Meeting Standards Naturally

This free CD-ROM for K-12 educators promotes academic excellence and environmental literacy. It was developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership, which is funded by the U.S. EPA's Office of Environmental Education. The CD explores how teaching about the environment can be used to achieve national education standards for core disciplines such as math, science and social studies. It also discusses what environmental literacy means and how it helps prepare students to effectively make environmental decisions that impact their daily lives. Order a copy of the CD: http://www.eetap.org/html/new_products.php#CDROM.

Environmental Education Works (<http://www.theeworks.org/>)

Data, studies and case examples of how environmental education has a measurable impact on environmental protection and improved student learning include better results on standard tests. The EE-works is a service of the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation.

Sea Turtle Restoration Project

Scientists predict that the giant Pacific leatherback sea turtle, which has survived unchanged for over 100 million years, could vanish in the next 5 to 30 years, if current threats from wasteful industrial fishing are not curtailed. The leatherback is the largest sea turtle, measuring nine feet from head to tail with the largest ever recorded tipping the scales at 2,000 lbs. A teacher's kit is available on-line at: <http://www.seaturtles.org/teachers.cfm>

Exciting Environmental Education Events!

Environmental Nature Center

1601 16th Street; Newport Beach
Call 949-645-849 to RSVP or for more info.

Fall Fair & Pumpkin Patch

Sunday, October 17, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Enjoy live music, food, crafts, games, a silent auction and an opportunity drawing. Pick out your favorite pumpkin, buy native plants, explore the Center on a scavenger hunt, and see the new butterfly house!

California's Colorado Desert with Allan Schoenherr

Friday, October 22, 6:00 -7:00 PM
Learn about California's portion of the Sonoran Desert - the Colorado Desert - in a presentation by Allan Schoenherr, author of A Natural History of California. Schoenherr will take guests into the ENC's new Sonoran Desert Oasis plant community. Cost is \$3. RSVP required.

Oak Canyon Nature Center

6700 E. Walnut Canyon Road; Anaheim Hills.
Call 714-998-8380 to RSVP or for more information on: Family Events & Programs, Programs for Youth ages 2-12, Programs for Young Adults ages 12 & up and School Programs.

Discover Nature Saturday Programs, 10-11AM.
Free. For families and individuals.

10/2 - Family Bird Walk
10/9 - Shimmering Streams
10/16 - Trailblazin'
10/23 - Who's Scat is That?
10/30 - Bats, Tarantulas & other Creepy Crawlers

Mysterious Merriment & Harvest Celebration
Saturday, October 30, 2004; Check-in: 1 - 3 p.m.
Pre-registration required. Fee: \$8.50 per participant (no charge for adults)

Activities include Harvest Folk Art Crafts, Un-Scary Storytelling, Ghastly Games, Photo Station at the "Spooky" Oak Canyon Mine, Jack-O-Lantern Decorating and more! Activities geared for ages 2-10 years. Adult helpers recommended for younger participants.

Crystal Cove State Park "Docent Days"

October 9, 2004. \$10 registration fee (incl. lunch)
Contact Winter Bonnin today to reserve your spot!
949-497-7647 or crystalcv@fea.net

This event is for docents, trail guides, naturalists, and interpreters who want to hone their skills. Attend up to three, 1.5 hr. sessions. Meet at the Upper Newport Bay's Muth Interpretive Center at 8 AM to sign up for workshops. The day will end at 2:30 PM.

Irvine Open Space Preserve

Go to <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> for information and to register for programs in the Irvine Open Space Preserve.

Make a difference in the Open Space Preserve.
Saturday, October 9, 9 AM -12 PM.

Projects include: trail maintenance, non-native plant removal and general conservation. Bring your own gloves and tools (labeled), water, hat and closed toed shoes. Parents must accompany children under 18. Meet at the Nature Center. Call for information: 949-724-6738. Ages 16+.

Our Incredible Oaks

Wednesday, October 20, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, #18873.
Oak woodlands have some of the richest biodiversity in town. Hike into the oaks and enjoy a narrated slide show. Fee: \$5. Ages 5+.

Bommer Rocks

Saturday, October 30, 10 AM - 12 PM, #18332.
Join a geologist on a 'rocky' hike through beautiful Bommer Canyon. Maximum distance is two miles. Recommended for ages 7+.

Fall Migration Hike

Sunday, October 31, 8 - 10:30 AM, #18348.
Stroll through Bommer Canyon in search of migratory birds heading south for the winter. A trained docent will assist in identification and offer background information about our most common species. Maximum distance is 2.5 miles. Recommended for ages 12+.

Get Into It: Bommer Canyon

Saturday, Nov. 6, 8 AM - 1 PM, #18338.
Join the Open Space staff for a day of guided hikes, a docent-led Mountain Bike ride and crafts for kids. Bring along a picnic and enjoy the day outdoors! For a schedule of the guided programs, call 949-724-6738.

Local Event Calendar

- **Every Tuesday: Restoration Tuesdays.** Hosted by the Shipley Nature Center; open to small groups by appointment for wild gardens, scout projects, weeding and watering; call 714-842-4772 for more information.
- **Every Wednesday; 9am - 11am; Steward Days.** Located at Shellmaker Island; collect seeds, propagate plants and support the bay's unique genetics; call 949-923-2269 for more information.
- **Every Saturday; 8:30am: Canoe the Back Bay.** Located at Shellmaker Island; take a 2-hour, naturalist-guided tour of the Back Bay; \$10 fee per person; reservations can be made at 949-923-2269.
- **Every Saturday; 10am - Noon: NEW!! Kayak Tours.** Meet at the Newport Aquatic Center on Northstar Beach for a naturalist-guided kayak tour of Back Bay. Fee is \$15. Be prepared to get wet. For reservations call 949-923-2269.
- **October 1, 2004; 6pm - 9pm: Free Fall Residential Landscape Workshop.** Informational talks by gardening and landscape specialists at the Irvine Ranch Water District Headquarters; receive "Southern California Heritage and Gardening Guide" CD. Email benzick@irwd.com or call 949-453-5327 to reserve seats.
- **October 2, 2004; 9am; Walking Tour.** Located at Shellmaker Island; naturalist-led, 2 hour walk along Upper Newport Bay; bring your own binoculars and sun protection. Free. No reservations needed. For more details call 949-923-2269.
- **October 2, 2004; 9am - Noon: Restoration as Recreation.** At Shipley Nature Center and held every 1st Saturday of the month; participate in weeding, trail maintenance and watering; bring your own gloves, tools, drinking water and shoes; visit <http://www.fsnc.org> for more information.
- **October 2, 2004; 8am: Clapper Rails at Upper Newport Bay.** Hosted by the Clapper Rail Study Team. Meet at San Joaquin Hills Rd. and Backbay Dr. Dick Zembal leads participants on a unique study of this delicate bird. Email Nancy Kenyon at Kenyon@exo.com or call 949-786-3160.
- **October 2, 2004; 10am - 11am: Toddler Time- Fabulous Frogs.** Located at the Environmental Nature Center, 1601 16th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663. Participate in a parent and child playtime with an amphibian theme, stories and hands-on fun for 3 and 4 year olds. Fee is \$5/child. Call for reservations call 949-645-8489.
- **October 3, 2004; 8am: Birding San Diego.** Hosted by the Sea and Sage Audubon Society, Orange County Chapter. Witness Southern California's best beach birds on this field trip. Contact Nancy Kenyon at Kenyon@exo.com or call 949-786-3160 for more details.
- **October 4 - 5, 2004; California Native Plant Society Vegetation Workshop.** Hosted by the CNPS. Located at Griffith Park. Learn the CNPS Rapid Assessment methodology. Register at <http://www.cnps.org/vegetation/vegindex.htm>
- **October 6, 2004; 9am - Noon: Beginning Plein Art Oil Painting.** Located at the Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center. Learn about the technique of plein air art in a unique natural setting, take home your own painting. Materials provided. Cost is \$15 per child ages 8 - 18 and \$20 per adult. Call 949-923-2275 to register.
- **October 6, 2004; 10:30am - 11:15am: Toddler Time "Hungry Animals".** Join the Upper Newport Bay crew for a hands-on, fun exploration of the food chain for parents and children. Cost \$5/child. Call 949-923-2275 to register.
- **October 7, 2004; 8:30am - 1pm: El Dorado Regional Park.** Hosted by the Sea and Sage Audubon Society, Orange County Chapter; join the SSAS for a weekday fieldtrip of El Dorado Park in Long Beach. Parking fee. Bring your own picnic lunch. Contact Nancy Kenyon (Kenyon@exo.com) for questions regarding this outing.
- **October 7, 2004; 6:30pm - 8:30pm: Monthly Naturalist Meeting.** Located at Shellmaker Island; presentation on Upper Newport Bay by the Naturalists. Refreshments at 6:30 and presentation at 7pm. Free. For more information call 949-923-2269.
- **October 8, 2004; 8am - 2pm: Free Water Awareness Tours.** Tour the Water Quality Laboratory, Michelson Water Reclamation Plant and the San Joaquin Wildlife Refuge. Open to those who live or work within the Irvine Ranch Water District boundaries. For ages 16 years and older. Lunch provided. Call 949-453-5500 or visit <http://www.irwd.com> to sign up.

- **October 9, 2004; 2pm - 3:30pm: Our Feathered Friends.** Hosted by the crew of the Upper Newport Bay at the Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center. Meet some of the birds from the Santa Ana Zoo. Cost is \$10 for children ages 5 and up. RSVP at 949-923-2275.
- **October 9, 2004; 9am - Noon; Intermediate Plein Air Oil Painting.** Located at the Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center; put your plein air painting skills to the test and take home your own painting; materials provided; bring a sun hat and drinking water; cost is \$20 per person; call 949-923-2275 to register; space is limited and a confirmation number may be required.
- **October 9, 2004; 9am - 10:15am: Friends of Newport Bay Walking Tour.** Located at Shellmaker Island; walk along the Back Bay with a Naturalist and visit interpretive stations; tours leave every 15 minutes and are FREE; no reservations required; more details call 949-923-2269.
- **October 10, 2004; 8am: Monthly Bird Walk.** Hosted by Chris Obaditch at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary; this event is held every 2nd Sunday of each month; birders of all ages welcome yet children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult; call the Audubon House (949-261-7963) for more details.
- **October 10, 2004; "The Big Sit!"** Hosted by Chris Obaditch. Compete with birders from all over the state or even country to identify as many species as possible; contact Chris at 949-640-7234 and for more information on "The Big Sit!" go to www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bigsit1.html.
- **October 10, 2004; 9am - Noon: Family Plein Air Oil Painting.** Located at the Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center; family and friends welcome to explore the art of plein air painting; materials provided; take home your own painting; bring sun hat and drinking water; cost is \$15 per child ages 8 - 18 and \$20 per adult; call 949-923-2275 to register; space is limited and a confirmation number may be required.
- **October 13, 2004; 6:30pm - 9pm; Owl Ecology, Behavior and Calling** By Trude Hurd. Located at the Acorn Naturalists' Center for Science and Environmental Education, 155 El Camino Real in Old Town Tustin
- **October 15, 2004; 7:30 PM: "Kill Your Lawn."** Hosted by the Sea & Sage Audubon. General meetings held at the Irvine Ranch Water District. See <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org> for info.
- **October 16, 2004: Building Green Corridors.** Hosted by the California Native Plant Society, co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and other organizations; located at Griffith Park; register for this event at <http://www.gmrnet.com/ESTFSignup.html>
- **October 16, 2004; 11:30am: Electric Boat Tour of the Bay.** Located at Shellmaker Island; naturalist-led 2 hour guided tour of UNB on an electric pontoon boat; \$10 per person; reservations can be made at 949-923-2269.
- **October 16, 2004; 8:30am - 11:30am: Marine Discovery.** Located at Shellmaker Island; students interested in marine biology invited to participate in marine life monitoring programs in UNB; students ages 8 and above welcome, students ages 8 - 16 must be accompanied by an adult; \$10 per person; reservations at 949-640-9956.
- **October 16, 2004; 7:30pm: Evening Marsh Prowl.** Located at Shellmaker Island; join a naturalist for a tour of the back bay in the Back Bay Science Boat at dusk; search for night creatures using spotlights and binoculars; \$15 per person. RSVP to 949-923-2269.
- **October 16, 2004; 9am; Walking Tour.** Located at Shellmaker Island; naturalist-led, 2 hour walk along Upper Newport Bay; bring your own binoculars and sun protection; FREE; no reservations needed; more details call 949-923-2269.
- **October 16, 2004; 10am - 3pm: Open Day.** At Shipley Nature Center; visit and take an enjoyable "walk through"; go to <http://www.fsnc.org> for more information.
- **October 17, 2004; 10a - 3pm: Fall fair & Pumpkin Patch.** Located at the Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach; enjoy music, food, crafts, games and a silent auction; pick out your favorite pumpkin; buy native plants and explore the center on a scavenger hunt and see the new butterfly house. Call 949-645-8489 for more information.
- **October 20, 2004; 9am - 9:45am (2 - 3 yr olds) and 10:30am - 11:15am (3 - 4 yr olds): Toddler Time "Batty Bats".** Join a Park Ranger at the Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center for a parent and child, bat-themed playtime; activities include stories, movement and hands-on activities; cost is \$5 per child ages 2 - 4. RSVP required at 949-923-2275.

- **October 21, 2004; 7:30pm: Contending with the Weeds: the War on Arundo and Artichoke** by Bill Tidwell. Hosted by the California Native Plants Society Orange County Chapter at Irvine Ranch Water District. Wildflower posters and books available at all CNPS OC meetings; go to <http://www.ocnps.org> for more information.
- **October 22 - 24, 2004; beginning at 8am: Southern California Birding Optics Field Days.** Hosted by the Sea and Sage Audubon Society at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary; free birdwalks, demonstrations and fee or non-fee workshops; visit <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org> for a list of presenters.
- **October 23, 2004; 9am - 3pm: Annual Fall Plant Sale.** Hosted by the California Native Plant Society Orange County Chapter at the UCI Arboretum; members from 9am to 10am, general public from 10am to 3pm; visit <http://www.ocnps.org> for more information.
- **October 23, 2004; 9am - Noon: Roots Restoration Program.** Located at Shellmaker Island; help restore Back Bay by planting natives; learn about wetland ecology; reservations required for groups over 5, call 949-640-0286; refreshments and tools provided.
- **October 23, 2004; 9am - 5pm: Ecological Islands and Processes.** Hosted by the Southern California Botanists Symposium; topics include Vernal Pools, Pebble Plains and more; see <http://www.socalbot.org> for more information.
- **October 23, 2004; 1pm - 2:30pm; Spectacular Spiders and Awesome Arachnids.** Located at the Upper Newport Bay Interpretive Center; join UNB staff for a fun, hands-on and delicious view of these creepy critters; cost is \$10 per child ages 5 and up; RSVP to 949-923-2275.
- **October 23, 2004; 7pm - 8:30pm: Night Hike.** Take a Night Hike at Upper Newport Bay and see the wonders of the Bay at night; see what animals become active, the lunar effects on the bay and much more; cost is \$5 per person ages 5 and up; RSVP to 949-923-2295.
- **October 27, 2004; 6pm - 8pm: O.C. Water 101.** Located at the Orange County Water District in Fountain Valley; learn all there is to know about the state of Orange County's water situation and the future of water in the county, too; to sign up for the class, email rwilke@ocwd.com or call 714-378-3206; visit the OCWD website at <http://www.ocwd.com>
- **October 30, 2004; beginning at 1pm: "Howlin' Canyon".** Located at Oak Canyon Nature Center; Halloween activities for children ages 2 - 10; meet "creepy crawly" critters up-close, create crafts, decorate jack-o-lanterns and enjoy storytelling; children are welcome to come in costume; cost is \$8.50 per child (adults free); call 714-998-8380 to register and see <http://www.anaheim.net> for more information.

Would you like to see an event listed in the “Local Events Calendar?”

E-mail Helen de la Maza (Hdelamaza@ocde.us) with the even'ts date, time, location, cost, brief description, and contact information by the 15th of the month prior to the event occurrence.

