

Environmental Education Update

March 2008

Professional Development



Bring the Ocean and Coral Reefs into Your Classroom at the NSTA Conference

Learn more about America's underwater treasures and the International Year of the Reef at the National Science Teachers Association conference, March 27-30, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts. Check out the various sessions, short courses, and symposiums being offered to bring oceans into your classroom.

Contact sanctuary.education@noaa.gov

Climate Discovery Courses ~ Online

April 4 - May 16, 2008

The National Center for Atmospheric Research online courses for middle and high school science teachers combine geoscience content, current research, hands-on activities, and group discussion. Two optional graduate-level continuing education credits are available through the Colorado School of Mines Teacher Enhancement Program. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938188>

The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame & Museum will be offering a teacher recertification workshop this summer called Positive Movement in the Classroom. It will teach teachers how to include movement in the classroom without extra planning and without losing control. Teachers will learn the scientific research that supports positive movement, engage in "energizers" that can be used in any classroom K-12. Then learn tips for how to handle stress and keep the most important asset in the classroom healthy...the teacher!!

For more information call 757-393-8031, ext. 14.

Habitable Planet Course ~ Online

Produced by the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in association with the Harvard University Center for the Environment, the course consists of 13 half-hour streaming video programs, online text, professional development guide, and a Web site. Graduate credit is available from participating institutions. All online materials are free of charge and hard copies of materials are available at nominal cost.

<http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3560194>

Wild Studies Summer Science Adventures

Dive, hike, and explore endangered environments in the Bahamas, Costa Rica, and Baja Mexico with Wild Studies. Learn about local environmental issues, earn graduate credit, and participate in data collection for conservation organizations. Teachers travel and participate free with just 7 or 8 students, travel with 4 students for just \$300. [Learn more](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Captain Planet Foundation - Deadline March 31, 2008

The Captain Planet Foundation accepts applications four times each year for funding projects that help students better grasp environmental issues. Grants range from \$250 to \$2,500. Projects must promote understanding of environmental issues, focus on hands-on activities, involve children and young adults ages 6 to 18, promote interaction and cooperation within a group, help young people develop planning and problem-

solving skills, include adult supervision, and commit to follow-up communication with the Foundation. [Learn More](#)

Greenworks Grants - Deadline April 30, 2008

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to help fund neighborhood environmental improvement projects that partner Project Learning Tree educators and their students with local businesses or community organizations. [Learn more](#)

Jordan Fundamentals Grants

Jordan Fundamentals offers Innovation Grants to individual teacher who offer approaches that attempt to engage students in school using either experimental or traditional strategies effectively, and Inspiration Grants to teams of teachers to support scaling-up the implementation of approaches, originally developed with Innovation Grants. The deadline for application is March 30, 2008.

<http://www.nike.com/jumpman23/features/fundamentals/guidelines.html#code>

Pay It Forward Mini-Grants - Three funding cycles in 2008!

Applications for the first round of Pay it Forward Mini-Grants are currently being accepted. The Pay It Forward Foundation provides these mini-grants to support one-time-only service-oriented projects identified by youth. In order to be considered, applicants must demonstrate that their projects contain a "pay it forward" focus, based on the concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others, with the results growing exponentially. Mini-grants of up to \$500 will be awarded. Applications are due April 15 and October 15. [Learn More](#)

Plum Grants - Awarded Weekly!

Did you recently create a sustainable community improvement project, program, or organization? Do you need \$500 to further the growth and success of your program? If you answered, "YES!", you are eligible to apply for a Plum Youth Grant. Plum grants are given out weekly by Do Something. [Learn more](#)

Project Slingshot

Project Slingshot, sponsored by Clif Mojo Bars and Focus the Nation, is offering summer scholarships for work on creative solutions that can propel global warming solutions into action. Applicants, 18-25 years old, may offer proposals in one of three categories: outdoor fanatics protecting the places we love to play; innovators challenging our expectations; and artists inspiring our communities. The deadline for application is March 15, 2008. <http://69.30.50.18/mojoslingshot.php>

Awards & Contests

American Stars of Teaching

Nomination Deadline: March 31, 2008

American Stars of Teaching recognizes and honors superior teachers with a track record of improving student achievement, using innovative instructional strategies, and making a difference in the lives of their students. These teachers will be highlighted as representatives of the thousands of teachers who are making a difference in the classroom. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938172>

Brower Youth Awards

The Brower Youth Awards is an annual national award recognizing six young people for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and social justice advocacy. Earth Island Institute established the Brower Youth Award to honor founder and legendary activist David R. Brower. Young activist leaders ages 13-22 living in North America are eligible to apply. The deadline for application is May 15, 2008. <http://www.broweryouthawards.org/article.php?id=113>

Butler-Cooley Excellence in Teaching Award

Deadline: May 1, 2008

The Turnaround Management Association (TMA) 2008 Butler-Cooley Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes teachers who have changed the lives of students and communities in which they live. The program, funded by the John Wm. Butler Foundation, provides \$5,000 cash stipends to three to five public or private school teachers and travel and lodging expenses to TMA's 2008 Annual Convention and 20th anniversary celebration in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 27-29. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938174>

Ecology/Environmental Science Teaching Award

Nomination Deadline: March 15, 2008

This National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) award will be given to a secondary school teacher who has successfully developed and demonstrated an innovative approach in the teaching of ecology/environmental science and has carried his/her commitment to the environment into the community. Sponsored by Vernier Software & Technology, the award includes \$1,000 toward travel expenses to the NABT Professional Development Conference, \$500 of Vernier equipment, and a one-year complimentary NABT membership. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938176>

Envision 2050 Poster Contest - Deadline May 15, 2008

EnVision 2050: Is the Future Nature? is looking for poster art works, designs and ideas created by students, in grades 6 through 12. Students will be encouraged to think about the future of tomorrow's cities, from how they will look to how people will move within them, with an eye towards nature and natural processes. Posters should address the issues of global warming and carbon emissions. [Learn more](#)

Facing the Change

Facing the Change seeks stories, essays, and poetry expressing grassroots, personal responses to global warming. This planned anthology will explore what everyday people from all walks of life and all ages are feeling, thinking, and doing in response to climate change. Educators and students are encouraged to submit their own work. The deadline for submission is May 1, 2008. <http://www.facingthechange.org/>

Film Contest for High School Students

Deadline: May 2, 2008

This People Speak contest is for U.S. high school students to create one- to two-minute video news stories showing a local angle to one of four global issues:

- Kick the Habit – De-carbonizing our lifestyles and economies
- World Heritage – Local sites and international interests
- Growing Up Girl – Challenges facing girls everywhere
- World Water – Access to clean water

The top three teams win an all-expenses-paid trip to New York to attend the United Nations Foundation Youth Leadership Summit, July 17-19, 2008. Video finalists will also be broadcast at the UN and seen by thousands of people from all over the world. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938178>

Nominate a Young Environmental Leader for a \$2000 Barron Prize

Nomination Deadline: April 30, 2008

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2008 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people (ages 8-18) who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Each year, ten national winners each receive \$2,000 to support their service work or higher education. Half of each year's winners are chosen for their work to protect the environment. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3560166>

Think Globally, Report Locally

The People Speak, an initiative of the United Nations Foundation, challenges U.S. high school students to create one to two minute video news stories showing a local angle to one of four global issues, including

access to clean water. The deadline for submissions is May 2, 2008.

<http://www.thepeoplespeak.org/contests/reportlocally.html>

Winter Writing & Drawing Contest for Kids

Deadline: March 1, 2008

Take A Walk® Books, publisher of children's nature books, announces this contest for children (ages 7-12). Children are asked to submit drawings of a plant, animal, or landscape of nature in winter, or to write a poem or essay (50 words or less) about winter. Winning entries from each age group (7-12) will be featured in fall 2008 publication of *Take A Winter Nature Walk* by award-winning nature book author Jane Kirkland.

<http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938180>

Write On! Wetlands Challenge

May is American Wetlands Month. Get your students involved and engaged with the 2008 Write On! Wetlands Challenge. Science, reading, and the arts collide in this annual competition that first asks middle schoolers to compose a children's book about wetlands and then asks elementary students to illustrate the winning manuscript. The theme for 2008 is *Marshy Migrations: Journey's of Lifetime*. Each year, animals of all kinds depend on wetlands for food and protection as they prepare for and complete their seasonal migration routes. Students should select one of these animals and write a story about their journey. The deadline for entries for authors in grades 7-9 is April 1, 2008. The Call for Illustrators in grades K-6 begins May 1, 2008.

http://www.wetland.org/education_writeon.htm

Wyland Foundation Art Contest - Deadline March 21, 2008

Use activities from the Wyland Clean Water Challenge and enter your school's best artists in the nationwide art and science contest. Enter individual works of art or a giant group mural of any aquatic habitat with above and below the water views and plants and animals that live in the habitat. Prizes for teachers and students include signed Wyland lithographs, invitations to a special awards ceremony to meet Wyland, and more! [Learn more](#)

Young Conservationist Award

The International Ranger Federation and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) call for nominations for the Young Conservationist Award. The award aims to recognize and raise awareness of the outstanding contributions made to the management of protected areas, and leadership shown, by young conservationists under the age of 35. It also seeks to encourage young professionals and help them develop networks by inviting winners to join WCPA. Applications are invited for/from people working in protected areas, including rangers, interpreters, people working with local communities, policy makers, scientists, and others. The deadline for application is April 28, 2008. <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/youth/youthaward.html>

Youth Award for Excellence and Leadership in Groundwater

The Groundwater Foundation established this award to recognize a student, age 12-17, for his/her outstanding leadership and creation of innovative groundwater protection projects. This award was endowed by W.C. Foxley and E.P. Taiganides and brought inspiration and recognition to deserving youth over the years. The deadline for nomination is July 14, 2008. <http://www.groundwater.org/aw/youthabout.html>

Events & Requests

Celebrate Endangered Species Day

May 16, 2008

The third annual national Endangered Species Day focus is on protecting imperiled species like polar bears, penguins, coral, migratory birds, salmon, and frogs from global warming. Visit the Web site for activity ideas for

in and out of the classroom, including discussions about threatened and endangered species, guest speakers, essay and art lessons, and field trips. Resource materials, including sample curricula, are also available.

<http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938186>

International Migratory Bird Day

May 10, 2008

Environment for the Americas invites you to participate in International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) 2008. IMBD focuses attention on one of the most spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird -- its journey between summer and winter homes. It is celebrated throughout the Western Hemisphere by festivals, bird walks, education programs, and Bird Day. This year, the bird conservation focus is "Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People." Visit the Web site for information, downloadable materials, activity ideas, and more. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3560172>

National Environmental Education Week

National Environmental Education Week, April 13-19, 2008, offers a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums; the week's theme is *Carbon Footprints*. The website includes a participant toolkit, teaching resources, nature journaling blog, and much more. Become a formal partner by registering on the home page. <http://www.eeweek.org/>

Stream Cleaner Environmental Forum ~ Online

March 31 – April 25, 2008 ~ Online

The Cacapon Institute 3rd Annual Stream Cleaner Environmental (SCE) Forum offers students the opportunity to explore nonpoint source pollution, role play as stakeholders to draft position papers, support or challenge their peers across the internet, and work together to build a consensus solution. The SCE Forum is open to up to 30 high school classes -- urban, suburban, or rural -- anywhere in the Chesapeake Bay watershed that has internet access. To see the lessons and format of the SCE Forum click on the phone on the Web site.

<http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938202>

Call for Papers and Book Reviews: Green Theory & Praxis - The Journal of Ecopedagogy

Green Theory & Praxis, a double-blind and peer-reviewed online journal, seeks essays and book reviews for its upcoming June and December 2008 issues that will situate themselves within the transformative nexus of sustainability education, critical pedagogy, ecocriticism*, *ecological politics and forms of permaculture. Please visit the journal's Web site to freely register, submit one's work online, and gain more information.

<http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938206>

Calling All Authors!

Accompany Publishing, an emerging leader in K-12 curriculum publishing, is currently expanding its product catalog and seeks proposals from teachers, teaching-artists, and other practitioners. We are looking for unique and successful activities that teach core curriculum in an active and innovative way. Our goal is to bring classroom curriculum to life through fun and engaging activities. Specifically, we are looking for concepts that make learning experiential, creative and engaging for an entire classroom. Prior publication credits are not necessary. Interested educators should send a proposal of no more than 300 words describing their work and specific activity/program/book ideas to: <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938208>

[Joey Madia](#), Director of Acquisitions and Development

Accompany Publishing

1170 15th Avenue SE STE 305

Minneapolis, MN 55414-2595

National Parks Seek Teacher Rangers

The Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) Program links National Park units with teachers from low income school districts. Under this program, selected teachers spend the summer working as park rangers, often living in the park. They perform various duties depending on their interests and the needs of the park, including developing and presenting interpretive programs for the general public,

staffing the visitor center desk, developing curriculum-based materials for the park, or taking on special projects. [Learn more](#)

Ocean Literacy Research Initiative

The Ocean Project is undertaking a national project to find out how the ocean community can connect more effectively with the American public in order to build ocean literacy and encourage conservation action. They are currently conducting a post-1999 literature review to inform their research initiative. Please let them know of any public opinion research, perception studies, or consumer behavior studies you know of on the ocean or the environment more generally.

Forward all leads to apenn@theoceanproject.org

Searching for Marine-Based Genetics Lesson Plans

High school marine biology teachers are looking for lesson plans for teaching genetics with a marine theme. They would prefer lesson plans about salmon, but would appreciate lesson plans about any marine organisms that could be used in high school biology courses.

Contact Peggy Hamner at phamner@ucla.edu

Seeking Air Quality Educators for National Study

Have you taught about air quality or incorporated air quality issues into your education programs or curriculum? Researchers from Antioch University New England and Massachusetts General Hospital are interviewing educators who have worked with air quality topics. Share your experiences and outcomes, and help contribute to this important national study of the impact of environmental education on environmental quality. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3560186>

Teachers Wanted to Pilot Curriculum Guide

The NOAA Ocean Data Education (NODE) Project is developing curriculum for grades 5-8 designed to help teachers and students use real scientific data to explore dynamic Earth processes and understand the impact of environmental events on a regional or global scale. The *Investigating El Niño Using Real Data* curriculum guide contains five activities designed for grades 6-8 that incorporate real data from NOAA. Teachers are wanted to help test and evaluate this curriculum guide.

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

Curriculum Tools

America Walks Webinars

For teachers and community organizers looking to encourage students to walk and bike to school, the Safe Routes Coaching Action Network is a way for you to learn from people who know how to make things happen. Attend FREE monthly presentations from experts across the country. Get FREE coaching from experienced America Walks organizer with experience in your safe routes to school issue or in your region. [Learn more](#)

Antarctic Quest Challenge

NASA Quest Challenges are free, web-based, interactive explorations designed to engage students in authentic scientific and engineering processes related to issues encountered daily by NASA personnel. Starting in March, students in grades 5-14 will develop a research question and debate the value of studying the chosen Antarctic feature. In this challenge for, students become scientists and propose Antarctic research using a new tool called LIMA, Landsat Image Mosaic of Antarctica. The LIMA web site is designed as part of the International Polar Year to familiarize people with Antarctica, to explore the richness of its features, to learn about why Antarctica matters to us all, and to explain and demonstrate how scientists use satellite imagery to study the continent. <http://quest.nasa.gov/challenges/lima/about.html>

Biodidac

Biodidac is a bank of digital images, video, and animations that can be used and adapted for teaching biology. They have black and white illustrations that are free for educators; registration is required. Illustrations are included from Eubacteria, Protista, Fungi, Plantae, Animalia, Human Biology, and Histology. The website is available in French and English. <http://biodidac.bio.uottawa.ca/>

"Cetacean Investigation" - New Online Documentary Series

earthOCEAN.tv announces a new series of online educational documentary programs. "Cetacean Investigation" uncovers the science of whales, dolphins and porpoises around the world. All video programs are 10-20 minutes in duration and are freely distributed online in a number of formats with teachers' guides and fact sheets via an internet channel and iTunes. [Learn more](#)

Digital Worlds GIS

Digital Worlds GIS 2 is built from the technology supplied by ESRI (the world's largest GIS company) and developed in partnership with ESRI(UK). The package is for the education market and gives pupils experience of GIS tools, bridging the gap between education and commercial applications of GIS. Though based in the U.K., the website can offer an introduction to GIS use in the classroom, along with examples of lesson plans. Users have also been able to integrate TerraLook imagery data with the layers using the software.

<http://www.digitalworlds.co.uk/>

EcoTipping Points Project

The EcoTipping Points website features environmental success stories collected from around the world by a team of scientists and journalists. The stories display a diversity of detail but have in common a community-based process switching environmental decline to a course of restoration and sustainability. Teachers interested in working with project staff to help incorporate the materials into their lessons should contact Gerry Marten through the website. <http://www.ecotippingpoints.org/>

EE Week Nature Journaling Blog

National Environmental Education Week and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History are pleased to announce a new resource blog on nature journaling for teachers. Each week a new tip on introducing nature journaling to students will be posted to the EE Week website. [Learn more](#)

Environmental Science Interactive

Environmental Science Interactive is a set of 14 online laboratories used to complement a traditional lecture course, turning it into a lecture plus lab course. Topics include water resources, atmosphere and climate, policy and decision-making, and much more. For a limited time, they offer free access for instructors.

<http://www.webschoolofscience.com/EnvScience.php>

Essentials of Geology

Designed to complement a geology textbook, this website includes animations, interactive crossword puzzles, and news articles; many of the materials can be used as stand-alone exercises. The animations cover the Earth's magnetic field, the spread of the sea floor, the formation of ocean crust, and more.

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/geo/egeo/welcome.htm>

Framework for Evaluating Impacts from Informal Science Education Projects

The report, *Framework for Evaluating Impacts from Informal Science Education Projects*, is available for downloading from the Center for Advancement of Informal Science Education. It provides the results from a National Science Foundation-sponsored workshop on evaluating informal education. <http://insci.org/>

A Global Map of Human Impacts to Marine Ecosystems

This analysis of human impacts to marine ecosystems, posted on the website for the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis and published in *Science*, February 15, 2008, shows that over 40% of the world's oceans are heavily affected by human activities and few if any areas remain untouched. The goal of the research was to estimate and visualize the global impact humans are having on the ocean's ecosystems.

The article is available for downloading from the website, which includes the world map along with the different data layers and additional information. While on the website, check out the link to ***Kids Do Ecology***, an educational, participatory, bilingual website, supporting an inquiry-based approach to science for 5th grade classes to design and conduct scientific experiments in ecology. <http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/GlobalMarine>

Global Warming 101 Expedition with Will Steger ~ Online

This Spring, National Geographic Explorer Will Steger and a team of young adventurers from Norway, Great Britain, Canada, and the U.S. will bring their High Arctic dogsled expedition to educators and learners through multimedia dispatches. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938194>

GLOBE at Night Campaign

GLOBE at Night, February 25-March 8, 2008, is designed to aid teaching about the impact of artificial lighting on local environments and the ongoing loss of a dark night sky as a natural resource for much of the world's population. The website will include instruction guides, one-page flyers, and more. <http://www.globe.gov/GaN/>

Green Careers Resource Guide

The Green Careers Resource Guide is designed to assist career development professionals, but is also of use to self-directed students, career explorers, job seekers, and career changers.

<http://www.cassio.com/FreeResourceGuides.htm>

Guide to Building Effective Education Initiatives

The SAI (STEM Accelerator Initiative) Guide to Building Effective STEM Education Programs has just been made available by the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions (NASSMC). Written by Brett Pawlowski of DeHavilland Associates, the SAI Guide is a complete resource for anyone designing a new education program or conducting a strategic review of an existing program. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3560190>

Horton Helps Kids Learn About Conservation

EPA is working with 20th Century Fox in connection with their new movie, Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hears a Who" to help Americans and their kids learn about energy efficiency and ENERGY STAR. Using the lyrical rhymes and colorful illustrations that are the hallmarks of Dr. Seuss, EPA has two new brochures to remind us that - with help from Horton and ENERGY STAR - we can all do our part to fight global warming, save energy, and protect the earth. Both brochures are downloadable from the Web site. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3560196>; <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3560200>

Ice Stories: Dispatches from Polar Scientists

The Exploratorium celebrates the International Polar Year 2007-2008 by giving cameras to a group of penguin biologists, glaciologists, cosmologists, geologists, and marine scientists working in Antarctica and the Arctic. Visitors can learn about the thoughts and experiences of the scientists working in these two regions. Check out the archived materials, upcoming webcasts, and more. <http://www.exploratorium.edu/poles/index.php>

International Migratory Bird Day

Environment for the Americas invites you to participate in International Migratory Bird Day 2008, May 10, 2008. The initiative focuses attention on migratory birds' journeys between summer and winter homes. This year, the bird conservation focus is *Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People*. The website includes downloadable materials, activity ideas, lists of bird festivals, and more. <http://www.birdday.org/>

Land of Curiosities

By Deanna S. Neil. *Land of Curiosities* is the first tale in a series of adventures with the Clifton family into Yellowstone, the year that it is declared the world's first national park. The collection is staged around defining events and themes in the history of the environmental movement as told through the experiences of these courageous young fictional characters, James and Alice, who learn to protect each other and the environment. The first book, for ages eight and up, includes a real history section, and was inspired by real events and places. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938218>

Lessons in Conservation

The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History has launched a new online journal, *Lessons in Conservation* (LinC), designed to provide educators and students with up-to-date resources in biodiversity conservation. *Lessons in Conservation* is the official journal of the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners (NCEP), a collaborative project of the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation and a number of institutions and individuals around the world. All materials in LinC are peer-reviewed, and are a part of NCEP teaching modules which include a synthesis document summarizing a conservation-related topic; a visual presentation with notes and discussion questions; a field or laboratory exercise with accompanying solutions; and a relevant short case study with teaching notes illustrating particular themes from across NCEP modules. Easily modifiable versions of the materials found in LinC, along with additional teaching modules, are available on the website.

<http://ncep.amnh.org/linc/>

Museum of Underwater Archaeology

The Museum of Underwater Archaeology introduces students to the work of underwater archaeologists and maritime historians. Explore shipwrecks, lost colonies, and underwater archaeological projects around the world. Follow the stories of the *CSS Alabama*, a Confederate ship sunk in battle, and the *Industry*, a sloop that went down in 1764 while delivering supplies to British troops in Florida. Learn about the six steps in conducting an underwater archaeology project. Resources include a teaching kit, a worldwide site map, and more. <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/his/mua/MUA.htm>

National Geographic Live! Student Programs

National Geographic Live! presentations bring exciting science, stunning photographs, and a world of adventure to your students. World-renowned scientists, explorers, and photographers--including David Doubilet, Robert Ballard, and Mark Moffett--will grace stages this spring in Chicago, Mesa, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. Apply to attend free student programs in your area. [Learn more](#)

New Environment and Ocean Literacy Website

The National Geographic Society is pleased to announce its expanded Environment and Ocean Literacy website. This site provides lesson plans, maps, photos, news articles, books, videos, and more to help teachers educate their students about the science of a healthy environment. [Learn more](#)

New Report: Cultural Competency: What It Is and Why It Matters

By Laurie Olsen, Jhumpa Bhattacharya, and Amy Scharf. *Cultural Competency: What It Is and Why It Matters* illustrates the need to adapt services to be more respectful, effective, and appropriate to culturally diverse populations, by building mechanisms into organizations' daily operations that foster continual learning.

Download the report: <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938220>

Ocean Currents Radio Show

Join host Jennifer Stock of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary on March 10, 2008 as she discusses sustainable seafood with Sheila Bowman of the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program on the Ocean Currents radio show from 1-2 pm on KWMR 90.5 FM Point Reyes Station, 89.7 Bolinas and live on the web at <http://www.kwmer.org>. Check out upcoming radio shows, listen to archived programs, and check out other upcoming National Marine Sanctuary events through these links.

<http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/newscalendar/welcome.html>

<http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/education/radiopodcast.html>

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/events/welcome.html>

Polar Sciences Special Collection

Teachers' Domain offers their Polar Sciences Special Collection, funded by the National Science Foundation, with 20 new resources about the Arctic and the Antarctic, plus resources from existing collections, a lesson plan, and more. <http://www.teachersdomain.org/exhibits/ipy07-ex/index.html>

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Information Module

The Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Information Module contains information on protected areas management effectiveness at three different levels – methodology, assessment, and site level. The module is linked to the World Database on Protected Areas, which allow users to obtain further information about the protected areas assessed. It also provides a space for users to submit information on management effectiveness methodologies and assessments as well as obtain further information on experts, publications, and links to related information. <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/me><http://www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/me>

Rx Effects

Rx Effects is the newsletter of the Fire Effects Monitoring Program in the National Park Service. It is an outlet for information on Fire Effects Monitoring, fire research, and other types of wildland fire monitoring. The newsletter is annually produced for the National Park Service but anyone with an interest in fire ecology is encouraged to submit information about their program or research. Examples of submissions include: contact information for your program; summaries of your program's goals, objectives, and achievements; monitoring successes and failures; modifications to plot protocols that work for your park; hints for streamlining collection of data, data entry, and analysis; event schedules; and abstracts of papers or posters resulting from your program. The goal of the newsletter is to let the fire effects monitoring community know about you and your program. You'll see from past editions that the newsletter is a mixture of science, entertainment, and the occasional haiku. Rx Effects is issued each year in the spring. The deadline for submissions is March 13, 2008. http://www.nps.gov/fire/fire/fir_eco_rxeffects.cfm

Science Fair Season

Help your students plan, carry out, and present a great science fair project this spring with help from the Bridge. In our *Guiding Students* section you will find teacher-reviewed resources to help students get a leg up on the competition with annotated links to information on preparing a great project and tips for presenting it to the judges. Presentation information covers oral presentations, reports, and posters, and discusses the most effective way to convey experiments to the public. Those with great websites providing more tips and tricks on preparing, running, or presenting science fair experiments are encouraged to submit their site for inclusion. The Bridge <http://www.marine-ed.org/bridge> Science Fair Resources http://www.marine-ed.org/bridge/index_student_res.html

Somewhere Between Yesterday and Just This Side of Tomorrow

This children's coloring/activity book is a story written from the wildlife perspective, with the focus on awareness of polluting our watershed and the damage of Eurasian water milfoil in waterways. It is geared for K-6 with watershed, watercycle, pollution, and identification activities. Vocabulary, word search, and more are included with the story. The book is self-published; you may ask for a sample or order directly from the author. Contact Sherry Cavanaugh at ewmbook@hotmail.com

Special Offer for Classroom Teachers

Special Offer for Classroom Teachers! Free 1-Year Subscription to YES! Magazine.

YES! magazine is an ad-free quarterly journal published by the Positive Futures Network, an independent, nonprofit organization supporting people's active engagement in creating a just, sustainable, and compassionate world. Our stories are about real people making positive change in the real world. They are stories of hope that are especially inspiring to young people. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938214>

Teach English, Teach about the Environment

The US Environmental Protection Agency has developed the "Teach English, Teach about the Environment" curriculum to assist teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to teach English to adult students while introducing basic concepts about the environment and individual environmental responsibility. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3560198>

Teacher-Friendly Online Encyclopedia

Encyclopedia of Earth is a new electronic reference about the Earth, its natural environments, and their interaction with society. The *Encyclopedia* is a free, fully searchable collection of articles written by scholars, professionals, educators, and experts who collaborate and review each other's work. The articles are written in non-technical language and will be useful to students, educators, scholars, professionals, and the general public. [Learn more](#)

Teens for Planet Earth

Teens for Planet Earth (TPE) is an international program developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society based at the Bronx Zoo. Visit TPE to learn more about the environment and conservation, develop a service-learning project that'll impact your own corner of the globe, and gain recognition with TPE annual Service Awards. TPE also supports educators and adult leaders. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/3938222>

Texas Education Agency Best Practices Clearinghouse

The Texas Education Agency has established an online clearinghouse of information related to best practices of high-performing and highly efficient campuses, school districts, and charter schools in instruction, dropout prevention, business/management practices, and public school finance and resource allocation. The goal of the clearinghouse is to provide information about best practices that is specific, actionable, and accessible to schools and interested members of the public. <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/bestprac/>

That's Life

Massive database of species goes online

An online [Encyclopedia of Life](#) that aims to eventually describe every living organism on the planet has unveiled its first detailed pages. Read up on the 24 species that have entries complete with text, pictures, and video, or sift through 30,000 others with preliminary information. Those involved with the encyclopedia, which got its start from a 2003 paper written by famed biologist [E.O. Wilson](#), hope it will help researchers assess climate-change impacts, endangered species, and the spread of invasive species, as well as simply raise awareness of biodiversity. If the project doesn't collapse under its own ambition, like similar endeavors that have gone before, compilers hope the remaining 1.77 million pages will be up by 2017. Of course, the work won't stop then: Scientists estimate that known organisms comprise only one-tenth of actual species on earth.

Touch the Invisible Sky

Touch the Invisible Sky is a 60-page book with color images of nebulae, stars, galaxies and some of the telescopes that captured the original pictures. Each image is embossed with lines, bumps, and other textures. These raised patterns translate colors, shapes, and other intricate details of the cosmic objects, allowing visually impaired people to experience them. Braille and large-print descriptions accompany each of the book's 28 photographs, making the book's design accessible to readers of all visual abilities.

<http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/releases/2008/05/full/>

Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau

"Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau" is an educational play that tells the story of the final two days Henry David Thoreau spent in his cabin before leaving Walden Pond. The complete script (in English, French, and Spanish), lesson plans, director and actor instructions and more are available for free to schools on the Walden website. [Learn more](#)

Water Science for Schools

The U.S. Geological Survey's *Water Science for Schools* website offers a broad range of information about water. Topics include basic background information, a breakdown of water use in the U.S., a glossary of terms, and much more. The website includes activities, graphics, data tables and more.

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/sitemap.html>

Watershed Wonders

The Algalita Marine Research Foundation is dedicated to the protection of the marine environment and its watersheds through research, education, and restoration. Their website offers educational materials available for downloading along with other initiatives. *Watershed Wonders* is an educational video series exploring

issues in marine conservation, watershed management, and plastic debris. The series includes standard-based activities and information about water and watersheds for middle and high school classrooms.

<http://www.algalita.org/education.html>

A Whale of a Story

Electronic Field Trips from Ball State University are interactive, multi-media educational resources, selecting hard-to access places, national parks, and species for their focus. *A Whale of a Story* is a collaboration between Ball State University, Aquatic Adventures, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, following the migration of the eastern Pacific gray whale. Designed for 3-8 graders, the website offers games, webisodes, and more. <http://www.bsu.edu/eft/home/00front.htm>

Year of the Frog Awareness and Action Project

One-third of amphibian species are currently endangered. Join the Amphibian Project and Amphibian Ark in celebrating 2008 as The Year of the Frog by educating your students about amphibians, their importance, and the current global crisis. You and your students can help protect amphibian species. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/eelink/newclick/3560192>