



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

July 2009

[www.EEWeek.org](http://www.EEWeek.org)



## In This Issue

[2009 Photo Blog Contest Winners](#)

[Teacher Spotlight](#)

[Free Water Test Kits](#)

[EE Programs and Resources](#)

[Funding Resources](#)

[Professional Development](#)

## Our Program

National Environmental Education (EE) Week is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States. EE Week promotes understanding and protection of the natural world by actively engaging K-12th grade students and educators in an inspired week of environmental learning before Earth Day.

## Quick Links

[Register for EE Week 2010](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Success Stories](#)

[More On Us](#)

## Contact Us

Jessica Culverhouse  
EE Week Coordinator  
(202) 261-6484

## Greetings!

This month we are excited to announce the winners of the 2009 EE Week Photo Blog Contest. See below for more information about the contest and the winners, and check out the entire [Photo Blog](#) on our Web site to see all of the excellent entries we received this year. Congratulations to the winners!

Are you beginning to think about your environmental education plans for the 2009-2010 school year? It's not too early to [register for EE Week 2010!](#) You must submit a new registration form each year you wish to participate in EE Week, so register your school or organization today! National EE Week will be April 11-17, 2010. Further details will be released at [EEWeek.org](http://EEWeek.org) and in upcoming e-newsletters.

Many of you will notice that this month's newsletter appears in a different format than those sent over the past few months. We hope that this format will be more convenient for you. If you have been unable to view our previous e-newsletters, take a look at our online [Newsletter Archive](#).

Sincerely,

Jessica Stelzner Culverhouse  
National EE Week Coordinator

## Announcing the 2009 EE Week Photo Blog Contest Winners

The National Environmental Education Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the [2009 EE Week Photo Blog Contest](#).

First place went to Girl Scout Brownie Troop 2022 from Indio, Calif. for the photo blog titled "Recycle Bicycle."

P/NW BOCES Center for Environmental Education in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. took second place with the photo blog titled "Connection."

And Fairview Elementary School Garden in Demorest, Ga. won third place with the photo blog titled "Building a Pathway to Discovery."

Each winning organization received a gift certificate to purchase educational materials at Acorn Naturalists. [View all three winning blogs and photos on our Web site](#). Thank you to all who submitted photo blogs! The contest will be offered again in spring 2010.



[EEWeek@neefusa.org](mailto:EEWeek@neefusa.org)

 [Join Our Mailing List](#)

## Teacher Spotlight: Kathy Miller, Oakview Elementary School

**Simpsonville, S.C.**

Kathy Miller helps students connect with nature through the development of schoolyard habitats at Oakview Elementary School in Simpsonville, S.C. She and her third through fifth graders have created several schoolyard habitats, including a butterfly garden, an apple orchard, a blueberry patch, a nature trail, a cotton patch and a rain garden. Ms. Miller involves students, teachers, parents and the community as a whole in planning, earth-moving, building, planting and funding these projects that enable kids to learn outdoors. Ms. Miller also assists other schools in starting their environmental education programs by sharing ideas and resources, donating plants, writing curricula and training teachers in staff development workshops. EE Week commends Kathy for her dedication to environmental education!

Has Kathy's story inspired you to get involved with schoolyard gardening? Check out these resources to get started:

- [School Gardening Curricula at EEWeek.org](#)
- [Grants and Resources from KidsGardening.org](#)

## Free Water Quality Test Kits

**World Water Monitoring Day and National Public Lands Day**

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) and World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) are teaming up to provide volunteers with free water quality test kits. The WWMD test kit includes everything necessary to test for temperature, pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen, and is ideal for use with elementary and middle school students.

National Public Lands Day on September 26 is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. This year, many NPLD sites will monitor and clean-up bodies of water on public lands. For more information about NPLD or to register or search

for a site, visit [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org).

[World Water Monitoring Day](#) on September 18 is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

To receive your free test kit you must be one of the first 100 groups to register to participate in WWMD and indicate your participation in National Public Lands Day.

## EE Programs and Resources

### Drop of Hope Water Photography Contest - Entry deadline late Fall 2009

The Roots & Shoots New England Water Photography Contest encourages young people take photos and write brief descriptions about bodies of water they have visited, projects they have done with water or water issues that are of concern to them. Photos will be exhibited in an online photo gallery. A selected number of photos from Roots & Shoots members will be exhibited at the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester, Mass. [Learn more](#)

### Nature Clubs for Families

Spending time outdoors improves the physical and mental well-being of children and adults alike. This toolkit, developed by Children & Nature Network, was designed for families interested in spending more time outdoors and starting a local Nature Club. It includes a Quick Start Guide with simple instructions on how to start a Nature Club, as well as activity ideas, tips and checklists for getting started. The kit is available in both English and Spanish.

[Download the toolkit](#)



### Climate Change, Wildlife and Wildlands Toolkit

This new and improved kit is designed for classroom teachers and informal educators in parks, refuges, forest lands, nature centers, zoos, aquariums, science centers, etc. and is aimed at the middle school grade level. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with six other federal agencies, developed the kit to aid educators in teaching how climate change is affecting our nation's wildlife and public lands and how everyone can become "climate stewards." [Learn more](#)

### Firefly Watch

Firefly Watch is a citizen science project that combines an annual summer evening ritual with scientific research. The Museum of Science in Boston has teamed up with researchers from Tufts University and Fitchburg State College to track the fate of fireflies. With the help of a network of volunteers observing fireflies in their own backyard, scientists hope to learn about the geographic distribution of fireflies, their activity during the summer season and how they are affected by human-made light and lawn pesticides. [Learn more](#)

### Meeting Standards Naturally

Meeting Standards Naturally was developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership to assist K-12 educators in promoting academic excellence and environmental literacy. The program 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 includes 43 sample K-12 classroom activities that demonstrate how environmental lessons can support specific grade level education standards. [Learn more](#)

For more classroom resources, visit the [Curricula Library](#) and [General EE Resources](#) pages on our Web site.

## Funding Resources

### **Toshiba America Foundation Grants - Application deadline Aug. 3, 2009**

Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) grants support innovative projects designed by math and science teachers to make their classrooms more exciting and successful for students. Any K-12 teacher in a public or private school in the United States is eligible. Proposed projects must advance the teacher's science and math teaching units. Grants are awarded in two categories: K-6 grants and 7-12 grants. K-6 teachers can receive up to \$1,000 in grant money for their project. Funding is available for 7-12 teachers or teams of teachers that plan and lead projects in their own classrooms. Projects in the past have included biofuels research and water quality testing at a local lake. [Learn more](#)

### **Connect Grants for Culturally Diverse Communities - Application deadline Aug. 15, 2009**

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is an educational, non-profit organization dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors by all people worldwide. Connect Grants provide direct support and training grants for organizations and people that serve culturally diverse communities. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$2,500 and can be used for Leave No Trace educational materials and/or to cover the tuition of a Master Educator Course. [Learn more](#)

### **Hooked on Hydroponics - Application deadline Sept. 18, 2009**

When children and teens explore how to grow plants hydroponically, fruitful questions bloom and these questions can lead to active investigations and problem solving. To be eligible for Hooked on Hydroponics, schools and youth organizations must plan to engage in a hydroponics project with at least 15 children between the ages of 6 and 18 during the 2010 school year. Award packages include grade-appropriate kits and curricula on hydroponics. [Learn more](#)

### **Bright Green Dream Challenge - Entry deadline Sept. 25, 2009**

The Bright Green Dream Challenge encourages teachers and students to evaluate their classroom environment and propose creative solutions for increasing energy efficiency, enhancing the learning environment and reducing their carbon footprint. The winning entry will receive a \$15,000 sustainable classroom upgrade to be installed in their school later this year. [Learn more](#)

### **Lowe's Toolbox for Education - Application deadline Oct. 16, 2009**

Any individual nonprofit public K-12 public school or associated parent group is eligible for the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program. Grant requests should emphasize indoor and outdoor facility enhancement or landscaping and clean-up type projects. Winning projects in the past have ranged from a reading garden to a school nature trail to a peer tutoring center. Each school or parent group can win up to \$5,000 for their improvement project. [Learn more](#)

### **Healthy Sprouts Awards - Application deadline Oct. 17, 2009**

To encourage the growth of health-focused youth gardens, the National Gardening Association (NGA) recognizes outstanding programs through the Healthy Sprouts Awards. Awards support school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. To be eligible for the 2009 Healthy Sprouts Awards, your school or organization must plan to garden in 2010 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. A Gardener's Supply Company gift certificate, NGA's Eat A Rainbow Kit, 25 packets of seeds and a literature package from NGA will be awarded to 20 schools. [Learn more](#)

### **Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Grants - Application deadline Oct. 31, 2009**

GreenWorks! grants engage PLT educators and their students with their local community in "learning-by-doing" environmental projects. Student leadership, service-learning and community participation are the cornerstones to GreenWorks! projects. These grassroots action projects enable schools and youth organizations across the country to make a positive impact on their communities. Grants are awarded in two funding categories: \$250 - \$1,000 grants and \$1,001 - \$5,000 grants. Proposal requirements are different for each category. [Learn more](#)

For more grants and awards, visit the [Funding Resources](#) page on our Web site.

## Professional Development

### Online Professional Development from the Wildlife Conservation Society

Wildlife Conservation Society's Online Teacher Training Courses are designed for K-12 educators of every discipline who are interested in adding a new dimension to their lessons. Upcoming courses include Fundamentals of Environmental Education, Conservation Biology for Educators and Energy, Climate and Wildlife Connections. Scholarships are available. [Learn more](#)

### GLOBE Teacher Training Workshops

Around the world, students are making scientific observations and reporting environmental data to GLOBE for use in research. For a school to participate in GLOBE, at least one teacher must be trained in the GLOBE protocols and education activities by attending a GLOBE Teacher Workshop. Upcoming workshops are scheduled around the country. [Learn more](#)

### Project Learning Tree Educator Workshops

Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is an award winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education program for educators and students, pre-K through grade 12. PLT is one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States and abroad, and it continues to set the standard for environmental education excellence. Educator workshops are planned around the country. [Search for a workshop near you.](#)

### Wetlands Educator Workshops

Environmental Concern works to increase understanding of, foster appreciation for and encourage the stewardship of wetland systems. WOW! the Wonders of Wetlands and POW! the Planning of Wetlands workshops are designed for formal and non-formal educators who are interested in learning more about wetlands and who would like to bring the excitement of wetland education into their classroom. Upcoming workshops will be held around the country. [Learn more](#)

For more opportunities, visit the [Professional Development](#) page on our Web site.



The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs - Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge(r) and Health & Environment - we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit <http://www.neefusa.org>.

National Sponsor



Contributing Sponsor

