



National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

July 2010

www.EEWeek.org



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Greetings!

School may be out, but we're still busy working to provide you with relevant resources and curricula at EEWeek.org and in these monthly e-newsletters throughout the summer. We have new information and resources every day. Join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to get all the latest from EE Week.

If you're looking for a place for an outdoor adventure this summer, input your zip code to EE Week's [Nature Center Map](#) and retrieve a list of parks, nature centers and other outdoor opportunities in your area. Consider partnering with a site in your area for a [National Public Lands Day](#) activity on September 25. More information about NPLD is provided below.

For a rainy day activity, check out EE Week's [Green Reading Lists](#) for educators and students. These books will keep you and your students engaged in learning about the environment during the summer and provide ideas for the coming school year.

And finally, congratulations to the 2010 [EE Week Photo Blog Contest](#) winners! Continue reading below to see photos and learn about the exciting environmental education activities these organizations engaged in for EE Week 2010.

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse
Program Manager

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Our Program

National Environmental Education (EE) Week is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States.

EE Week connects educators with environmental resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment.

Teacher Spotlight

Bartlett Award Merit Winner Jill Krysinski

Jill Krysinski, a teacher at Bloom High School in Chicago Heights, Ill., is one of this year's two Bartlett Award Merit Winners. Among her many accomplishments, Krysinski developed an environmental outreach program called "Kids Teaching Kids" in which she trains her Environmental Science Club students to teach elementary students about climate change, fossil fuels and renewable energy solutions. She also initiated additional green projects at her school, including prairie restoration, school-wide recycling, a greenhouse and a rooftop garden. With the help of her Environmental Science Club and school auto department, Krysinski retrofitted a small bus to run on biodiesel fuel. The bus was featured on Nickelodeon.



Krysinski in her biodiesel bus

According to fellow Bloom teacher Barry Latham, "Jill's green inspiration is contagious. She has started so many projects and inspired so many others. Her students and Science Club members are an integral part of the green work at Bloom."

The [Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award](#) is given annually by the National Environmental Education Foundation to an outstanding educator who has successfully integrated the environment into his or her daily education programs. The \$5,000 award is given to an educator who serves as an inspiration and model for others. Susy Ellison, of Glenwood Springs, Colo., was this year's overall winner. Krysinski, along with Jill Semlick, was recognized with a Merit Award of \$750 for her work.

Quick Links

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Congratulations to the 2010 Photo Blog Contest Winners!

First Place: Stephanie Kennelly, Seeing Water

Students at Garlough Environmental Magnet School in West Saint Paul, Minn. are experts at observing the influence of water on climate and weather. They make monthly phenological observations related to changes in water at the pond at Dodge Nature Center near their school. The winning photo captures a student examining the physical properties of ice. [View the blog](#)



Second Place: Maureen Foelkl, Salmon Stream Keepers

The Chapman Hill Kids Eco Earth Protectors in Salem, Ore. are a group of fourth and fifth graders who participate in after school environmental projects in their community. In this photo, Earth Protectors test the local creek's water quality. [View the blog](#)



Third Place: Miranda Kerr, Summer Camp Seining

The Florida Oceanographic Society's Coastal Discovery Summer camps offer students an opportunity to explore local habitats through hands-on, feet-wet experiences. In this photo, campers are seining over sea grass beds in a local estuary. The critters that are collected are identified and recorded in the campers' science journals. [View the blog](#)



Get Ready for National Public Lands Day

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September 25, 2010 is [National Public Lands Day](#) (NPLD), the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands. NPLD engages a diverse audience of adult and youth volunteers, whether at a national park, nature center or school garden. Visit www.publiclandsday.org to [find an existing project](#) or [register your own](#).



NPLD is also a great opportunity to educate youth about environmental stewardship and bring learning outdoors. For ideas, check out NPLD's [educational resource library](#), which includes lesson plans, project ideas, recreational opportunities and more.

NPLD and EE Week are programs of the [National Environmental Education Foundation](#).

Upcoming EE Events & Celebrations

World Water Monitoring Day - September 18

World Water Monitoring Day 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. Participants are encouraged to register their site and report their data before December 31 to be included in the Year in Review report. Test kits can be ordered online and resources are available as free downloads. [Learn more](#)



National Fossil Day - October 13

The National Park Service and the American Geological Institute are collaborating to kick off the first National Fossil Day during [Earth Science Week](#) 2010. Events and activities will be taking place nationwide at parks, museums, in classrooms and online. National Fossil Day promotes public awareness and stewardship of fossils, as well as fosters a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational value. The National Park Service (NPS) is also launching a new Junior Paleontologist program with a free activity book and other educational resources available online. [Learn more](#)

National Parks Fee-Free Weekends

More than 100 national parks across the country will be offering fee-free days during the summer and fall this year, including **August 14-15**, **September 25** ([National Public Lands Day](#)) and **November 11**. In addition, many national park concessioners are joining the NPS in welcoming visitors on fee-free weekends by offering their own special offers. Many national parks never charge an entrance fee. Visit the NPS website to find out which ones and start planning your visit. [Learn more](#)

EE Resources

Earth Gauge Kids

Earth Gauge Kids makes the connection between weather and the environment, and offers a quiz, activities, fun facts and tips and tools related to a monthly theme. This month's theme is lakes, and the website provides relevant information on many topics including watersheds, food chains, invasive species and pollution. [Learn more](#)



Edutopia Summer Rejuvenation Guide

Edutopia's Summer Rejuvenation Guide: 10 Tips to Help You Relax, Reflect, and Recharge for the Coming School Year is packed with resources and ideas to help teachers maximize their summer vacation. The guide includes information on digital storytelling, joining a club for bookworms and much more. [Learn more](#)



Science & Children: Clues to the Past

This journal article from the National Science Teachers Association offers an easy-to-do inquiry activity designed to engage students as they connect clues to solve the mystery of the decline of bald eagle populations in the 1960s in the lower 48 states. The activity is appropriate for elementary-level students. [Learn more](#)

For more resources and classroom materials, visit us [online](#).

Student Contests and Awards

Earth Science Week Contests - Submission deadline October 15

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Earth Science Week Contests - Submission deadline October 15

The Earth Science Week contests this year include photography, visual arts and essay contests. The photography contest challenges photographers of any age to use their camera to capture their community's use of energy. The visual arts contest asks elementary students to create a poster showing energy's place in the way the planet works. The essay contest, for students in grades 6-9, asks participants to write an essay on the ways energy interacts with the Earth system and how people can be efficient, responsible stewards of the planet's energy resources. Prizes include \$300 and a copy of the American Geological Institute's *Faces of Earth* DVD. [Learn more](#)

For more student contests and awards, visit us [online](#).

Grants

Classroom Earth Professional Development Grants - Application deadline EXTENDED to July 23



Interested in expanding environmental education in your classroom? Classroom Earth's 2010 Professional Development Grants enable high school teachers to take two online courses, creating a strong foundation in environmental education. These courses are offered by the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point through the Environmental Education and Training Partnership. These courses better equip teachers to bring the environment into the classroom and connect students with their natural surroundings. High school teachers from all subject areas are encouraged to apply. [Learn more](#)

Connect Grant for Culturally Diverse Communities - Application deadline August 1



Connect Grants, from the Leave no Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, provide direct support and training grants to organizations and people that serve culturally diverse communities. Grant awards range between \$500 and \$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](#)

Toshiba America Foundation Grants for Grades 6-12 - Application deadline August 2

Toshiba American Foundation is currently accepting applications from teachers of grades 6-12 who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students. Applications for grants up to \$5,000 are accepted on a rolling basis, throughout the calendar year. Grant requests of more than \$5,000 are reviewed twice a year and are due August 2, 2010. [Learn more](#)

Healthy Sprouts Award - Application deadline October 1

The Subaru Healthy Sprouts Award recognizes and supports youth gardening programs focused on teaching about the environment, nutrition and hunger issues in the United States. Schools planning to garden in 2011 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 are eligible to apply. Award package includes a \$500 gift certificate to the Gardening with Kids catalog and online store, gardening supplies and educational materials. [Learn more](#)

For more grants and awards, visit us [online](#).

Professional Development

Summer Institute for Climate Change Education - August 12, Minneapolis, Minn.

Will Steger Foundation's Institute for Climate Change Education will be held on August 12 at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education Center and available as an online webinar. The Institute will look back on the past five years of climate change education outreach and curriculum development and take time to "Go Back to the Basics." The Institute will also include a presentation from explorer Will Steger and an overview of the Foundation's newly updated Lesson Plans and Educator Resources for grades 3-12. Registration is open for 100 onsite participants for \$75/teacher or \$100/pair and an unlimited number for online participants for \$25/teacher. [Learn more](#)



Sustainability Education: Connecting Art, Science and Design - August 16, Berkeley, Calif.

This three-day seminar explores vital questions at the intersection of art, science and design. The seminar will include a range of approaches and techniques for improving science education by using art and for combining art and science to help students better understand their relationship with the natural world. The seminar will be held at the David Brower Center in Berkeley, Calif. The cost of the seminar is \$450, and includes breakfast, lunch, art supplies and materials. A limited number of \$400 scholarships are available to educators working in public schools located in low-income or underserved communities. [Learn more](#)

Wildlife Conservation Society Online Professional Development

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) offers online teacher training courses designed to enhance understanding and revitalize a love for nature and science. The six-week online courses provide opportunities to examine the life sciences of zoology, ecology and conservation through topics including predators, marine biology, habitat ecology and climate connections. Courses are \$300 and graduate credits are available for an additional cost of \$165. WCS also offers a series of free webinars. [Learn more](#)

For more opportunities, visit us [online](#).



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>.

