



## the Natural State

Quarterly Publication of the Arkansas Environmental Education Association

Summer / Fall 2009

Vol. 11 - No. 3

### In This Issue

[EE Calendar](#)

[EExtras](#)

[The Money Tree](#)

[Meet Your Board](#)

[AEEA Mini-Grants Available](#)

[Free Water Quality Test Kits](#)

[Arkansas Community  
Foundation's SIMS Program](#)

[No Child Left Inside](#)

[The Future of Climate Change](#)

[Mammoth Spring NFH to Build  
Visitor and EE Center](#)

[ANHC Sends Teachers Back to  
School](#)

[AEEA to Host LEP Workshop](#)

[Free Online Course about  
Weather and the Environment](#)

[STARLAB Training Scheduled](#)

[Like Facebook for the  
Environmentally-Conscious  
Teens](#)

[World of the Pharaohs  
Teacher Academy](#)

[Free Nationwide Competition  
for 3rd - 6th Graders](#)

Greetings AEEA Members!

School is back in session so that means two things: the formal educators are once again busy and the non-formal educators are getting a short break. One thing is for sure - it has been a busy summer!

Some members of AEEA and its Board met in June to camp and canoe the Buffalo River. The weather didn't cooperate bringing storms and high water during the weekend trip. Only those courageous (or crazy) few weathered the storms in their tents - you know who you are. The water levels rose on the river to dangerous levels preventing us from floating. It was still a good networking opportunity and good food, fun, and relaxation. Hopefully the weather will be better next year and more of you will join us for this annual event!

AEEA held the first EE Fest event for 2009 on June 18th with a Food, Land, and People workshop. This professional development workshop promotes approaches to learning that help people better understand the interrelationships among agriculture, the environment, and people of the world. Twenty educators attended the one-day workshop held on the Arkansas Tech Campus. It was a great workshop and I hope those in attendance gleaned valuable information from the presenters. AEEA will be hosting a second EE Fest event this fall with a Leopold Education Project workshop. Please be watching your email for more details and registration information soon.

AEEA is in the process of hiring a new executive director. The hiring committee has been evaluating resumes, contacting references, and conducting interviews. Hopefully we will have a new executive director soon. Until then, rest assured that the Board is conducting the everyday business of the organization as we continue to "**Grow AEEA**".

Good luck with the new school year and remember to get those kids outside!

Rob Beadel  
2009 AEEA Board President

*Mission Statement: To promote environmental education and the work of environmental educators.*

AEEA is a networking and information based organization that works with educators, students, business, government, and the general public to increase the awareness and knowledge about the environment.

**Board of Directors**

Executive Director  
Vacant

President  
Rob Beadel, Little Rock  
Arkansas Forestry Association

Vice President  
Sarah DeVries, Little Rock  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Past President  
Michelle Viney, Fayetteville  
Arkansas Audubon Society

Secretary  
Susan Bolyard, Fayetteville  
US Geological Survey

Treasurer  
Patricia Ouei, Lowell  
UA Cooperative Extension Service

**Members at Large**

Suzanne Hirrel, Little Rock  
UA Cooperative Extension Service

Betsy Spetich, Little Rock  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Keith Harris, Little Rock  
UALR

John Kutko, Clarksville  
Clarksville Primary School

Gloria Stephens, Little Rock  
Arkansas Department of Education

Jeff Belk, Rogers  
Rogers High School

Michelle Steele, Fayetteville

Jane Jones-Shulz, Little Rock  
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

# Meet Your Board

Let's introduce you to one of our Board members.

**Keith Harris**  
University of Arkansas - Little Rock

Good day!!! My name is Keith Harris. I am the Science Instructional Specialist at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Math & Science Education Partnership. A native New Yorker, I earned a B.A. in Environmental Science from Plattsburgh (NY) State University College and a M.A.T. (Master of Arts in Teaching) in K-12 Science Education from the University of South Carolina. I have nearly 20 years experience in developing, coordinating, and presenting environmental science education programs and curriculum to Pre-K through College Level students and teachers and the general public while working at museums, nature centers, state parks, wildlife sanctuaries and zoos. I have taught in the public and private schools, as well as public universities, in South Carolina and Arkansas, and served on numerous district and state science education committees including the Lexington (SC) School District One Science Lab Safety Committee, Arkansas Science Frameworks Revision Committee (2005), Arkansas Technology Task Force (2006-2008), and the Arkansas Curriculum Conference Technology Committee (2005- Present). My interests include gardening, road and mountain biking, fly fishing, and the outdoors in general. I also enjoy spending time with family and working on our 90 year old home. I live in Benton with my wife and son. I am honored to be serving on the Board of AEEA and look forward to serving its members and the people of Arkansas.



Sincerely,  
Keith R. Harris

# AEEA Mini-Grants Available

The Arkansas Environmental Education Association (AEEA) is soliciting proposals for up to \$150 for the AEEA mini-grant program. The mini-grant program is designed to support, enhance and expand the implementation of environmental education throughout the state of Arkansas. This program is open to all current members of AEEA.



Click the following link for more information and an application.  
<http://www.arkansasee.org/files/AEEA%20Mini%20Grant%20program%20Fall%202009.pdf>

Applications are due September 30, 2009.

This is another example of how we are "Growing AEEA"!!!

# Free Water Quality Test Kits

World Water Monitoring Day and National Public Lands Day



2nd Annual Living It Green Expo  
Pinnacle Hills Promenade  
Rogers  
Click [here](#) for more information.

## September 12

Conway Eco Fest  
Conway  
Click [here](#) for more information.

## September 15

WET & WOW workshop  
UA Fort Smith campus  
Fort Smith  
To register, contact Barbara  
Miller (501) 683-5407 or  
[millerb@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:millerb@adeq.state.ar.us)

## September 19

Get Down and Dirty with Citezen  
Science workshop  
Center for Math & Science  
Education  
Fayetteville  
To register, contact Sophia  
Stephenson (479) 444-1725 or  
[sstephenson@co.washington.ar.us](mailto:sstephenson@co.washington.ar.us)

## September 22-23

Advanced WET-WILD-PLT Crooked  
Creek Ecosystem Workshop  
Fred Berry Conservation Education  
Center on Crooked Creek  
Yellville  
To register, contact  
[ljgentry@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:ljgentry@agfc.state.ar.us)  
(870) 449-3484

## September 30

WET & WOW workshop  
Heifer International  
Little Rock  
To register, contact Barbara Miller  
(501) 683-5407 or  
[millerb@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:millerb@adeq.state.ar.us)

## October 7-10

North American Association for  
Environmental Education (NAAEE)  
38th Annual Conference  
Portland, Oregon  
Click [here](#)  
for more information

## October 8

WET-WILD-PLT workshop  
Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge  
Nature Center  
Jonesboro  
To register, contact: Sarah Baxter  
(870) 933-6787 or  
[sabaxter@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:sabaxter@agfc.state.ar.us)

## October 9

WET-WILD-PLT workshop  
Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge  
Nature Center  
Jonesboro  
To register, contact: Sarah Baxter  
(870) 933-6787 or  
[sabaxter@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:sabaxter@agfc.state.ar.us)

## October 16

WET-WILD-PLT workshop  
Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge

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 (<http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>) 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.

# Arkansas Community Foundation's Science Initiative for Middle Schools Program



Middle school science teachers (grades 5-8) in 39 counties served by Arkansas Community Foundation's 27 local offices can go to [www.arcf.org](http://www.arcf.org) to apply for grants through the Foundation's Science Initiative for Middle Schools (SIMS) program. Online applications are due September 15, 2009.

The SIMS program encourages hands-on science instruction by making grants for the purchase of materials for science experiments. Proposed projects must meet the State Science Curriculum Framework, and the cost of project materials must not exceed \$500. Up to 300 SIMS grants will be selected from the proposals submitted in counties served by one of Arkansas Community Foundation's 27 local offices across the state and central office in Pulaski County.

This year, ARCF will introduce a streamlined online application process through a partnership with DonorsChoose.org, Inc., an organization that helps public school teachers find funding for classroom projects. Applicants simply complete an online profile at [www.DonorsChoose.org/SIMS](http://www.DonorsChoose.org/SIMS), write a description of the project for which they are requesting materials and select the materials they need. DonorsChoose.org will ship all requested materials directly to the teachers whose proposals are selected. "Hands-on experiments help students understand the concepts they learn in textbooks, but these activities can be costly to execute," said ARCF President and CEO Heather Larkin Eason. "The SIMS program ensures that teachers have the materials they need to make science real for their students."

Annual funding for this program is made possible by an endowed gift to ARCF from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. For more information about the SIMS program, visit [www.arcf.org](http://www.arcf.org).

Arkansas Community Foundation has the capacity to engage communities in a thoughtful exploration of critical issues and can help assemble the resources to implement solutions. Arkansas' statewide community foundation has more than \$105 million in assets and has provided more than \$70 million in grants since it began operation in 1976. Contributions to

Nature Center  
Jonesboro  
To register, contact: Sarah Baxter  
(870) 933-6787 or  
[sabaxter@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:sabaxter@agfc.state.ar.us)

## October 24

WET-WILD-PLT workshop  
Hobbs State Park  
Rogers

To register, contact:  
James Gately at  
[jamesgately@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesgately@hotmail.com)

## EEExtras

### Earth Science Week Toolkits Now Available

Earth Science Week is October 11-17, 2009. The 2009 Earth Science Week Toolkit is now available. The kit includes an activity calendar, posters, resources, activities, a field notebook and student handouts. The materials cover a range of earth science topics including National Parks, GIS technology, volcanoes and the ecological impacts of climate change. [Click here for ordering information.](#)

---

### Global Water Supply Curriculum

Water.org provides curriculum materials on the global water supply. Aligned with national standards, lesson plans and mini-units are available for elementary, middle and high school levels. Stand-alone lesson plans are part of larger units that cover a broad scope of subjects including English, science and technology and social sciences including geography, civics and economics. Classroom activities include poetry, seminars, vocabulary-building worksheets and science and math lessons about potable water availability. [Click here](#) to download materials.

ARCF, its funds and any of its 27 local affiliate offices are fully tax deductible.

## No Child Left Inside

By Bill Schneider

When I was a kid, about all I ever did inside was sleep, eat, and torment my grade school teachers. Every other waking moment was spent outside - not just fishing, hunting, and camping, but doing all the little things I thought up myself, like catching nightcrawlers, investigating anthills, watching toads come out on a rainy night, or making my first backpack from wood scraps, wire and burlap (that was before they invented duct tape), never even thought about what was happening, nor did my parents. But during those critical, formative years, I was becoming an outdoor person, a conservationist, a person who'd never enjoy inside toys like TV, computers, or game stations as much as fly rods, bicycles or binoculars, still among my favorite toys.



Kids today aren't so lucky. Most are under a societal, parental, or self-imposed form of house arrest, with access to a wild world shrunk down to the size of a computer screen. Little wonder they've been called the Screen Generation.

Which is largely why one of every three U.S. kids are overweight and headed toward an adulthood likely dogged by diabetes, heart disease and other health problems. And things are getting worse, says the Institute of Medicine, which blames the problem on a junk food diet, too much TV/computer use, urban and suburban environments that discourage walking, and decreased opportunities for exercise in or out of school.

But for once, there is good news out of Washington: a bill meant to reverse this dire state of affairs. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD) have introduced Senate and House versions of the historic No Child Left Inside Act of 2009 (S. 866 and H.R. 2054). If passed, it would mark the first environmental education legislation to pass Congress in more than 25 years, and would begin to get kids back outside.

The bill (currently referred to the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education) authorizes \$500 million over five years for states to offer higher-quality environmental education and to support outdoor learning activities. Similar bills died a silent death during the Bush Administration.

Now, though, this bill might have enough political tailwind behind it to advance through the new, blue Congress. The legislation's primary promoter is the No Child Left Inside Coalition (NCLIC), a massive combine of 1,300 conservation and education nonprofits representing over 50 million people. Adding to that support is a long list of congressional co-sponsors, 16 senators and 72 representatives.

NCLIC describes the Act as a "non-partisan effort," but that is, regrettably, a push. Out of 88 sponsors, 83 are Democrat. Republicans have, in fact, already panned it as wasteful spending and as a way to spread environmental propaganda through the public school system, setting up another partisan fight in Congress.

But truly, the Act is an outgrowth of a movement started by Richard Louv, author of a best-selling book called *Last Child in the Woods*, where he describes the dramatic decline in our children's ability to connect with nature because of what he describes as Nature Deficit Syndrome.

This disorder, he says, "describes the human costs of alienation from nature, among them: diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, and higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses. The disorder can be detected in individuals, families, and communities." Though research is still scanty, Louv argues that less nature in our children's lives can



lead to higher crime rates, depression, and other urban maladies.

Louv points to still another serious likely result of Nature Deficit Disorder. The long-term impact is fewer grown-up children connected to nature and willing to work to protect it. With the problems we now face, ranging from climate change to disappearing natural resources and wildlife, the No Child Left Inside Act is an important step toward protecting our nation's future.

"Environmental education must be a part of the formal pre-K-12 education system if we are to fully prepare students to become lifelong stewards of our natural resources and compete in a green economy," says bill sponsor Congressman Sarbanes.

So take a moment and contact your senator or representative and urge him or her to support the bill's passage. Yes, it's extra tax dollars, but a \$100 million per year seems like pocket change compared to the billions Congress has devoted to Wall Street bailouts.

As someone put it to me: This is not a conservationist's issue, or a left-leaning environmentalist's issue. This is everyone's issue. It's a small investment in the health of our children and our planet.

And one last thought. After you send that email to Congress, shut down the computer, and go take the kids for a walk in the park. It's good medicine!

© 2009 [www.blueridgepress.com](http://www.blueridgepress.com)

## The Future of Climate Change: How to Teach Children to Conserve

By Diane Cole  
U.S. News and World Report  
Posted March 27, 2009

Sadie Louise Bernier of Seattle is 7 months old, but her parents are already showing her little things everyone can do to protect the environment. "We're leaving your room now, darling, and we're turning off the lights," says her mother, Kim Rakow Bernier. Then she'll point out the window and say, "There's Daddy getting on his bicycle to go to the office."

As outreach director for Facing the Future, a sustainability education organization, Kim says that modeling caring-about-the-planet behavior for her daughter is "almost unconscious," since "this is what we do as a family anyway." But it's indicative of the fact that, while high schools and colleges have included ecology and the environment in their curricula for years, conversations about environmental consciousness in general and global warming in particular are trickling down to students in kindergarten, and sometimes even younger. The children's section at Barnes and Noble, for instance, offers new books from Nickelodeon's Big Green Help series (published on recycled paper), with titles like *SpongeBob Goes Green!* and *Save the Tree!* And for the 2-year-old-and-up set, there's *Choose to Reuse!* (a green touch-and-feel book).

"There is no question there is a much bigger demand for climate change education materials than there was, say, five years ago," says Jim Elder, director of the Campaign for

### Earth Matters: Studies for Our Global Future

Earth Matters is a Windows/Mac compatible CD-ROM that includes 32 readings and 42 activities that teach secondary students about the complexities of and relationships between population pressures, climate change, natural resource use, wildlife endangerment, distribution of wealth and food, urbanization, public health, gender equity and economic progress. Each unit also contains a glossary and lists of suggested books and websites for further research. The CD-ROM can be purchased [here](#).

### Ecological Impacts of Climate Change

This 28-page booklet is based on *Ecological Impacts of Climate Change (2009)*, a report by an independent panel of experts convened by the National Research Council. It explains general themes about the ecological consequences of climate change and identifies examples of ecological changes across the United States. Download the booklet from [here](#).

### The Money Tree

*Oh, if it was just that easy. This section*



provides information and

resources for grants and funding available for environmental education projects, programs and classrooms. Good Luck!



Environmental Literacy. Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 prediction that global temperatures could rise 8 degrees by the end of the century, and extreme weather events such as Hurricane Katrina have spurred wider recognition of the validity of the idea that climate change is induced by humans. A dozen or

so states require environmental education to be taught in grades K-12, and that number is growing, says Elder, with Maryland, California, and Oregon among those most recently developing major environmental initiatives.

For environmental educators, the trend is more than welcome. In a 2006 Hamilton College Climate Change and Environment Issues Youth Poll, 50 percent of the 900 high school students surveyed flunked a nine-question quiz on the causes and consequences of climate change. But the survey also found that students who discuss environmental issues with their friends and family are more likely to engage in environmentally conscious behavior.

To help jump-start educational efforts at all levels, in and out of school, Eban Goodstein, codirector of National Teach-In on Global Warming Solutions, recruited 804 institutions and about 250,000 people, including students of all ages, to participate in a nationwide "day of engagement" on February 5. As part of the day's events, students across the country were able to participate in live videoconferences with about a dozen members of Congress. Goodstein's target audience is specifically young people because he views them as "the decisive human generation." Young people "have a truly heroic task that they have no choice but to fulfill in their lifetimes," says Goodstein, who is an economics professor at Lewis and Clark College. "[The task is] saving the planet as we know it, so that their children can also inherit a beautiful and rich planet."

Such calls to action may help energize older students. But educators warn that very young children may be frightened if global warming is described in terms too dire. With them, it's better to focus on small, practical actions, like turning off lights or not wasting water, so they don't feel overwhelmed and overburdened, says Kevin Coyle, vice president for education at the National Wildlife Federation.

"Starting in fifth and sixth grades, I see kids beginning to grasp issues at a level closer to adults and asking serious questions and having serious concerns about what this means for their own future," says Tim Bombaci, a sixth-grade science and math teacher at Manson Elementary School in Manson, Wash. Bombaci just received a grant to further develop a community garden, a project that helps students learn about the full cycle of food, from planting to composting scraps. While fourth through sixth graders will do most of the digging and planting, he envisions earlier grades observing or helping out.

And it could be these fourth through sixth graders, armed with their new knowledge of conservation, who end up battling climate change in a decade or two.

## Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery Slated to Build Visitor and EE Center

by Jan Thompson  
Staff Writer

MAMMOTH SPRING -- The Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery will soon be the site of a \$3 million Visitor and Environmental Education Center. The hatchery currently welcomes around 100,000 visitors each year. The center will be only the second such facility in the entire southeastern United States. The other one is located in Jamestown, Kentucky.

### Captain Planet

Deadlines 3/31; 6/30; 9/30; 12/31. Schools and 501 (c) (3)s. Range \$250 to \$2500. Hands-on, environmental understanding, interaction and group cooperation, planning and problem solving, 6-18 years. Reporting requirements.

The [Target Corporation](#) has announced that it will award 5,000 field trip grants of up to \$800 each for the coming K-12 school year.

Managed by Scholarship America, the program is open to education professionals who are at least 18 years old and employed by an accredited K-12 public, private, or charter school in the United States that maintains 501(c)(3) or 509(a)(1) tax-exempt status. Educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff of these institutions must be willing to plan and execute a field trip that will provide a demonstrable learning experience for students.

Grant funds may be used for visits to art, science, and cultural museums; community service or civics projects; career enrichment opportunities; and other events or

activities away from the school facility. Funds may also be used to cover field trip-related costs such as transportation, ticket fees, resource materials, and supplies.

Grants will be awarded in February 2010. Applications can be completed online anytime between August 5 and November 3, 2009.

Complete program information is available at the [Target Web site](#).

---

### 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

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) received \$1.2 million dollars for the Mammoth Spring project through an appropriation sponsored by Sen. Blanche Lincoln in 2005. These funds were to be used for the design of the entire center and construction of phase one of the project. Additional funding from Congress in the amount of \$1.75 million was just granted, and will be combined to construct phase two of the project, which includes an environmental education classroom, retail sales space, additional office space, aquariums and interpretive exhibits, and outdoor features such as a display pond, boardwalks and viewing areas. The buildings alone will be over 7,300 square feet.



"We will have something here that the community will be very proud of," said Richard Shelton who serves as the hatchery manager. "And we're really striving to make it a place where people, especially children, can connect with nature," he said.

USFWS will break ground for the center at Mammoth Spring this spring, and expects to open the doors in 2010.

"We are excited," said Shelton, who has been promoting the idea of an environmental education center at Mammoth Spring for more than 15 years. "I'm thrilled that we are this close to making it a reality," he said.

"Selecting a design for the center has been a ground breaking effort. USFWS sponsored its first ever design-build competition for this project. The design-build concept, which awards contracts to firms that design a project that they will also build, can save both time and money. It also eliminates the problem of design bids that can't actually be built within budget," he said

"The project here at Mammoth Spring was an ideal one to use for this competition," said Joey Eldridge, an architect with USFWS who helped coordinate the competition. "We saw a lot of creative designs. And the competing firms had a huge incentive to give us the most for taxpayer money," he said.

Because of this, Shelton said he did not mind being the "guinea pig."

The competition resulted in the selection of a unique design by the Linc Group. The building will incorporate green features such as a vegetable roof, geo-thermal heat source, low VOC interior finishings and solar power, along with an exhibit featuring a large wall aquarium and a wall of windows overlooking the Spring River.

The Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery has produced fish for fishing and for population restoration for over a century. Shelton said the hatchery was built in 1903, set where it is by a nearby railroad needed at that time to move the fish, but more so for the reliable, high-quality, gravity flow water from the world's 10th largest spring.

"With our unique pond and raceway rearing system, the hatchery has the capability to produce a wide variety of fish and other aquatic species," he said.

Shelton said the hatchery maintains the largest captive spawning population of Gulf Coast striped bass in the world. "Biologists here are developing spawning and rearing techniques for paddlefish and lake sturgeon. The endangered alligator gar and Ozark Hellbender salamander, and the alligator snapping turtle," Shelton said.

Cooperating with Arkansas State University, the hatchery assists in nationwide efforts to protect and restore both endangered and non-endangered mussel populations. They accomplish this by developing culture techniques, investigating life histories and providing a refuge for endangered populations.

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](#)

## ANHC Sends Teachers Back to School

As teachers and students prepare to go back to the classroom, more than 200 teachers will start the new school year with ANHC educational materials from summer workshops. As an agency of the [Department of Arkansas Heritage](#) (DAH) we participate in some of the workshops DAH conducts each summer around the state. In a session at Lake Frierson State Park, we focused on the natural features of Crowley's Ridge as well as details about the endemic species on this year's [Heritage Month poster](#).

In late July, we got the chance to showcase the connections between DAH agencies with a workshop in the newly-renovated "great hall" of Camp Ouachita in Perry County (see photo at right). After we examined why many of Arkansas's endemic species occur in the Ouachita Mountains, education staff from DAH's [Arkansas Historic Preservation Program](#) pointed out the architectural features of the nation's only surviving WPA-constructed Girl Scout complex, which is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



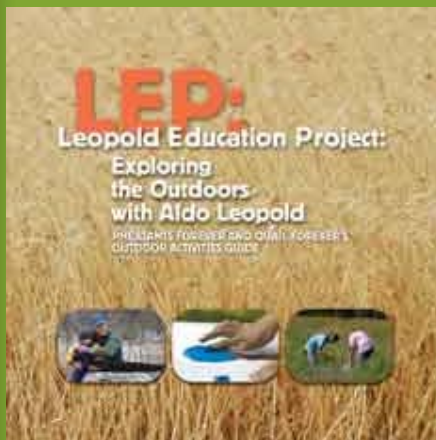
Each participant received a copy of [The Natural Division of Arkansas](#) along with posters, activity sheets and resource guides. In addition to hands-on ANHC instruction with these two workshops, an additional 150 copies of the book were distributed at DAH workshops in Rogers, Lake Village, Altus and Little Rock.

The Arkansas Department of Education's Mathematics and Science centers around the state are also important partners for workshops. In June, I taught a session on the natural divisions of Arkansas at the [South Arkansas Mathematics and Science Center](#) in Arkadelphia. We finished up the summer with a workshop for the Social Studies and Science Conference at Henderson State University. All ANHC teacher workshops include continuing education credits for professional development.

If you would like more information about our educational programming, please visit the "[Outreach](#)" section of our website.

-Jane Jones-Schulz

## AEEA to Host Leopold Education Project Workshop



As AEEA's second EE Fest event this year, AEEA will be hosting a Leopold Education Project workshop this fall. For those of you unfamiliar with LEP, it is an innovative, interdisciplinary, critical thinking, conservation and environmental education curriculum based on the classic writings of the renowned conservationist, Aldo Leopold. The Leopold Education Project teaches the public about humanity's ties to the natural environment in the effort to conserve and protect the earth's natural resources. For more information about LEP, visit their website at <http://www.lep.org/>.

This workshop will be approved for ADE professional development hours. Please watch for email announcements about this workshop soon. Information will also be available on the AEEA

## 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](#)

## The Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science

**Teachers** program, sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., and administered by NSTA, is now accepting entries for the 2009-2010 competition. Now in its 20th year, the program offers grants up to \$10,000 to K-12 science teachers for innovative projects that enhance science education in their school and/or school district over a one-year period.

Fifty large grants and a minimum of 20 mini-grants totaling \$550,000 will be awarded this year. Individual science teachers or a team of up to five teachers can submit proposals in one of three categories: physical science application; environmental science education; and integrating literacy and science. A

website at [www.arkansasee.org](http://www.arkansasee.org).

## Free Online Course About Weather and the Environment

Do you think you can do a better job than your favorite weather forecaster? Do you ever question how rain and bees are connected? What makes a hurricane change its course?



In the wake of several devastating weather events, it may be rewarding to take advantage of a series of free (yes, free) online courses and training materials that raise awareness about weather and our environment. Earth Gauge, partnering with the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education & Training (COMET), offers these courses as an attempt to enable broadcast meteorologists to "expertly cover and relate basic environmental information to their viewers". But don't be intimidated. These online courses are well-organized, user friendly and easy to understand. A new course entitled Climate Change- Fitting the Pieces Together includes sections such as:

- What Changes Climate?
- How Do We Know?
- Why Should We Care?
- How Sure are Scientists?
- and Frequently Asked Questions about the above.

The course has tabs and links that contain video and audio, charts, graphs and detailed explanations to complicated issues explained in simple language.

Registration is simple, and free; all you have to do is provide your email address and a password to gain access. The site is organized by geographic locations, and includes fun facts, tips and information such as how weather impacts bee behavior, how many years it takes to create one inch of soil, and who is more vulnerable to heat-related health issues-- children or adults?

As the climate changes, it might be wise to learn to understand the messages our planet is sending, especially because our islands and oceans are affected by what is happening around the world. If you aren't convinced, consider the Pacific Trash Vortex, an island of floating trash that is estimated to be twice as large as the state of Texas.

Earth Gauge is a collaboration of National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and the American Meteorological Society (AMS).

For more info: <http://www.earthgauge.net/courses>

## STARLAB Teacher Training Workshop Scheduled

Steve Zimmer, Director of the Math and Science Institute at Arkansas Tech University, will be offering the basic STARLAB Teacher Training workshop for teachers interested in arranging to use the STARLAB Portable Planetarium in their school with their students (<http://www.atu.edu/msi/STARLAB/starlab%20index.htm>). The training will cover the basic setup, operation of the projector, investigating a few projection cylinders, and how to pack up the equipment for transport. The 6 hour session will start at 8:30 on Saturday September 12th and will be finished by 3:30. Lunch will be provided. Registration cost is \$50 per person. Zimmer strongly recommends two teachers attend from a school so they will be able to support each other in presenting it. Participants will receive ADE approved

judging panel convened by the NSTA will select the award-winning projects based on several criteria, including their innovative approach in teaching science and ability to create a stimulating and hands-on learning environment.

Since the program's inception in 1990, Toyota TAPESTRY grants totaling more than \$8.6 million have been awarded to science teachers across the country. More than 2,000 teachers have used those funds to develop and execute extraordinary programs that helped hundreds of thousands of students nationwide make a passionate connection with science.

For more information about the Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program or to learn how to apply [click here](#). Applications deadline is Jan. 18, 2010 to be considered.

#### AEEA Mini-Grants

Application deadline is Sept. 30, 2009  
The Arkansas Environmental Education Association (AEEA) is soliciting proposals for up to \$150 for the AEEA mini-grant program. The mini-grant program is designed to support, enhance and expand the implementation of environmental education throughout the state of Arkansas. This program is open to all current members of AEEA. [Click here](#) for more information and an application.

#### NOAA's Bay Watershed

Professional Development credit in technology upon completion of the workshop.

On October 3rd, an advanced STARLAB workshop will be conducted to more closely examine the curriculum associated with various projection cylinders. Activities can be developed that are supportive of the Arkansas Frameworks in various content areas while you are developing a unique method to present the material to your students. This workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will finish by 12:00 noon. Registration cost is \$25 and three (3) hours of ADE approved Professional Development credit will be awarded to participants at the end of the workshop.



You can obtain a registration form by clicking on this link

([http://www.atu.edu/msi/workshops/Workshop\\_Reg\\_Choice.htm](http://www.atu.edu/msi/workshops/Workshop_Reg_Choice.htm)).

You can download the form in either a PDF format or as a Word document. Complete the form, fax the form and mail your registration fee or mail both together to the address listed on the form. If you have questions, please contact Steve at (479) 964-0825 or [szimmer@atu.edu](mailto:szimmer@atu.edu).

## Like a Facebook for Environmentally-Conscious Teens

*Grandson of legendary sea-explorer Capt. Jacques-Yves Cousteau visits Northwood High to promote new Web site*

by Amber Parcher, Staff Writer - The Gazette Net - Maryland Community Newspapers Online

Students at Northwood High School got a taste of celebrity last week as Philippe Cousteau, the grandson of legendary sea-explorer Capt. Jacques-Yves Cousteau and an Animal Planet and Discovery Channel TV star, visited a science class to promote the launch of a new environmentally-friendly teen social networking site.

The Web site, [www.planet-connect.org](http://www.planet-connect.org), was designed by teens for teens as a resource to communicate and learn about the environment, said Karen Heys, the senior director of education for the nonprofit D.C.-based National Environmental Education Foundation.



NEEF partnered with The Weather Channel and Cousteau to sponsor the site. On it, youth can create profiles, "friend" each other, post articles of interest and create groups—all under a theme of environmental stewardship and education, Heys said.

It's a lot like Facebook or MySpace, two other popular social networking sites, said Northwood senior Zaida Dana as she browsed through the site on its opening day last week.

"You can talk to people and see what they're interested in," she said.

Cousteau said he's hoping teens start talking about ways to take care of and improve the environment. It's imperative to raise their interest level in preserving it because the earth will one day depend on their stewardship, the ocean explorer and environmental activist said.

"It's this generation that's going to decide what to do with our oceans," he said.

Cousteau and Heys said they think the site will be successful in engaging teens because it communicates with them in their language—by networking over the Internet.

"Direct-mail campaigns don't work anymore," Cousteau said. "We need to be using this technology."

Erol Miller, a science teacher at Northwood who worked with NEEF to bring Cousteau to the school, said the strength of the site is its networking capabilities.

## Education and Training (B-WET) Program

Application deadline is Fall 2009

NOAA B-WET is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). B-WET applicants are encouraged to partner with local NOAA entities. Application deadlines vary by region.

[Learn more](#)

---

## Foundation for Rural Education and Development

### Technology Grants

Application deadline Sept. 14, 2009

The Technology Grants for Rural Schools program was created to help meet the growing need for innovative technology in the classroom. The program strives to help public schools in rural areas bring modern computers to every classroom, connect schools to the information superhighway and make sure that effective and engaging software and online resources are an integral part of the school curriculum. Public K-12 schools in the service area of an OPASTCO telephone company are eligible to apply. In 2008, \$50,000 in Technology Grants was awarded to public schools.

[Learn more](#)

---

## Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program

Application deadline is Sept. 18, 2009

It gets students interacting and talking about the environment—an idea that's picking up steam in today's classes, he said.

"Ten years ago, environmental science was not in the forefront, it wasn't part of the mainstream consciousness," Miller said. "But now it really is."

The content on the site will be user-driven, Heys said. For example, a student can post an article about an environmental issue, tag it under the appropriate subject lines (such as biodiversity, ecology or fisheries) and then start a comment period on it.

But Heys said the site goes beyond the everyday discussion of environmental issues. There's also information about careers and higher education opportunities in the "green" field, which she said is expanding rapidly.

"If students don't know what green jobs are or how to get them, they may miss out on these opportunities," she said.

Next to her, junior Delmy Gutierrez and her classmate were already creating their profiles on the site, posting thumbnail size photos and listing their interests.

"It's cool, it's like MySpace," Gutierrez said.

---

## World of the Pharaohs Teacher Academy

Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 & 17 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Stele of Sheditel  
Photograph ©April 2009 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

This one-day teacher academy will inform and inspire educators with hands-on, immersive lesson plans utilizing frameworks in Social Studies, Visual Arts, World History, Math, Science and Language Arts. These lesson plans were designed using Arkansas Department of Education Frameworks, as well as the expertise of internationally acclaimed Egyptologist, William Peck. Teachers will receive the World of the Pharaohs Curriculum guide for the Classroom and can earn CEU credits for attending this Academy. Cost for the Academy is \$60 and includes lunch. To register, go to [www.arkarts.com](http://www.arkarts.com) and click on *Art Classes* (on the left side of the page). On the class registration form, enter "World of the Pharaohs Teacher Academy - [date of academy]" in the Class Code box. Off-site teacher academies are available October 24, 2009.

For more information and to book a Teacher Academy at your school, call 501-396-0367 or email [lpalermo@arkarts.com](mailto:lpalermo@arkarts.com).

<http://pharaoh.arkarts.com/>

---

## A Free Nationwide Competition for 3rd through 6th Graders

FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



In the Kids' Science Challenge (KSC) students have fun learning the principals of science

Through the State Giving Program, the Wal-Mart Foundation seeks to support programs that align with their mission to create opportunities so people can live better. The State Giving Program strives to award grants that have a long-lasting, positive impact within a state or region. The Foundation has four areas of focus: Education, Workforce Development/Economic Opportunity, Health & Wellness and Environmental Sustainability. The minimum amount for State Giving Program grants is \$25,000. There is no maximum amount. [Learn more](#)

-----

### Earth Day Network Grant Program

Application deadline is Sept. 18, 2009  
Earth Day Network (EDN) is looking for projects that characterize the range and diversity of the environmental movement and are representative of the myriad of ways to green a school -- from bricks-and-mortar and schoolyard improvements to implementing environmental education, performing civic action and achieving policy reform. Members of EDN's Educators' Network are eligible to receive from \$500 to \$3,500 in support and funding. [Learn more](#)

-----

### State Farm Service-Learning Grants

Application deadline is Oct. 2, 2009  
The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is currently funding service-learning projects between \$25,000 and \$100,000 that address the root cause of the following issue areas:

and engineering while seeing their ideas come alive. Along with an exciting competition we offer a suite of online projects, activities and curricula aligned to National Science Education standards; as well as fun and educational videos, games, interactive learning opportunities and an extraordinary group of kid-friendly scientists and engineers.

### How the KSC works

Students learn about the work of a select group of scientists and engineers on our Website: [www.kidsciencechallenge.com](http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com). Kids submit their own problems and experiments to these scientists and then winning ideas are chosen on the basis of originality, do-ability and grasp of scientific principles. Competition winners visit and collaborate with the scientists to see their ideas turned into realities. All kids, parents and teachers can follow this process through our website.

The first thousand entrants receive a free Science Activity Kit. 771 kids from all over the country entered last year's KSC competition. Please visit our Press Room to see some of the great media coverage the project and our participants have received.

### Your Schools

We'll be working directly with a limited number of school districts next year, and we hope that yours will be one of them. We provide online training of mentors and a local media campaign to encourage your students to participate. We would love to speak with you and your science teachers to bring the KSC into your classrooms. Please let us know when is the best time to contact you.

Sincerely,  
Jim Metzner, Producer  
The Kids Science Challenge  
[jim@kidsciencechallenge.com](mailto:jim@kidsciencechallenge.com)  
345 Dug Road  
Accord, NY 12404  
845-626-2253

Read more about the Kids' Science Challenge and our recent winners by visiting our website: [www.kidsciencechallenge.com](http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com).

Follow KSC on Twitter: KidScience

"This was an excellent contest for the kids - easy to explain, discuss and enter... It also prompted an interest in science in a fun way. For my group, it got them excited about science and talking about the various ways science impacts our lives." Kim Stankiewicz, Mahtomedi, MN - Girl Scout Troop Leader

*DISCLAIMER: Websites referenced in this publication are solely for information and as a resource to the reader, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the AEEA, its Board of Directors or its membership.*

Driver's Safety, Access to Higher Education/Closing the Achievement Gap, Financial Literacy, Natural & Societal Disaster Preparedness and Environmental Responsibility. All nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations are eligible to apply, as well as Canadian charitable organizations, educational institutions and governmental entities. [Learn more](#)

Visit Our Sponsors



**Green Teacher**



Do You Know  
Someone Who Should  
Be a Member of  
AEEA???

Help us recruit new members and grow our network of Environmental Educators in Arkansas. Share this email and encourage colleagues to join AEEA.

Click [here](#) for membership information and to download a membership form.

Purchase your AEEA  
merchandise online!

[www.cafepress.com/arkansasee](http://www.cafepress.com/arkansasee)

Mugs, shirts, t-shirts, bags,  
buttons, stickers, and more!!!

*Proceeds benefit projects and  
programs offered by AEEA*