



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

March 2008

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



## Greetings!

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is pleased to announce that over 950 partners from across the country have signed on for EE Week, April 13-19, 2008! We are nearly halfway to our goal of reaching 2,000 education partners by April! [Register Now](#)

This month, EE Week has added a new section to its Curricula Library on *Forests and Trees*. [Access the new Forests and Trees resources](#)

## What's on the horizon for EE Week 2008?

- An [EE Week Photo Blog and Contest](#) where educators can upload photos and share their own success stories of bringing environmental education into the classroom;
- An online [Student Carbon Calculator](#) for students to track their own carbon footprints during EE Week
- Information on how to apply for the second annual [Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award](#)

If you would like to share information about EE Week with your fellow educators, you can [access our promotional toolkit here](#).

Thanks for your support of EE Week!

Sincerely,

Karen Schultz  
National Environmental Education Week Coordinator

**National Partner Spotlight**  
National Gardening Association

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## Our Program

National Environmental Education (EE) Week, made possible by [Canon, USA](#), is the single largest organized environmental education event in the United States. It increases the educational impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of environmentally-themed lessons and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums.

## Quick Links

[Register Now](#)

[FAQs](#)

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Founded in 1973, the National Gardening Association is a national non-profit leader in plant-based education respected for its award-winning websites and e-newsletters, as well as in-kind grants and standards-based curricula for youth and school gardens. NGA's mission is to advance the personal, community, and educational benefits of gardening by supporting gardeners and teachers with information and resources. To learn more about gardening with children, please visit [www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org).

NGA has a Gardening with Kids Catalog filled with educational products at <http://www.kidsgardeningstore.com/>. Anyone who makes a purchase during EE Week and mentions that the purchase is in honor of EE Week will be given **10% off** their purchase.

## Local Partner Spotlight

Lichterman Nature Center, TN

**PINK PALACE FAMILY OF MUSEUMS**  
**LICHTERMAN NATURE CENTER**  
**LIVELY LEARNING FOR ALL!**

The Lichterman Nature Center will celebrate EE Week with EarthFest 2008. Highlights of this family-friendly festival include an "all species" parade in which participants decorate themselves and/or small non-motorized floats using environmental themes and recycled materials. EarthFest will also present Short Attention Span Theatre, a fast-paced series of film shorts that expose people to forward-thinking ideas and global awareness. Learn more about EarthFest at the [Lichterman Nature Center website](#).

*Do you have EE Week plans that you'd like to spotlight in this newsletter?  
[Email them to us!](#)*

## EE Programs and Resources

### EE Week Nature Journaling Blog

EE 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](#)

### Write On! Wetland Challenge - Deadline April 1, 2008

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 a Lifetime." Each year, animals of all kinds (not just birds!) depend on wetlands for food and protection as they prepare for and complete their seasonal migration routes. Students in grades 7-9 should select one of these animals and write a story about its journey. [Learn more](#)

### FREE Electronic Field Trip on Gray Whales

Electronic Field Trips (EFT) are interactive, multi-media educational resources produced by Ball State University. They focus on hard-to access places, national parks and species in their virtual field trips,

## Contact Us

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*FREE* for students and teachers to access via the web. The latest EFT called A Whale of a Story is about the fascinating migration of the eastern Pacific gray whale. This EFT is designed for 3rd-8th graders, and is geared specifically towards 5th & 6th graders. [Learn more](#)

### **Raptors in the City**

The online portion of Raptors in the City guides children through nesting season (roughly late February to June) as they watch the still rare peregrine falcons live via cameras mounted on a skyscraper. The Raptors in the City curriculum supports one semester of study, and students learn environmental, biological, and technological lessons, as well as research skills, tied to national science and technology standards. Curriculum materials and books for falcon study are available at low cost. It's easy - no software to install. [Learn more](#)

### **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](#)

### **"Whales of the Mediterranean Sea" Online Documentary**

This new five-part online documentary series about scientists exploring the Mediterranean and the cetaceans that inhabit this ancient sea is part of the "Cetacean Investigation" series, a collection of programs from earthOCEAN.tv uncovering the science of whales, dolphins and porpoises around the world. [Learn more](#)

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## **Funding Resources**

### **Brower Youth Awards - Deadline May 15, 2008**

The Brower Youth Awards is an annual national award program recognizing six young people for their outstanding activism and achievements in the field of environmental justice advocacy. The winners of the award receive a \$3,000 cash prize, a trip to California for the award ceremony and wilderness camping trip, and ongoing access to resources and opportunities to further their work at Earth Island Institute. Young activist leaders ages 13-22 living in North America are eligible to apply. [Learn more](#)

### **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](#)

### **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes - Deadline April 30, 2008**

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honors outstanding young

leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Each year, the Barron Prize selects ten winners nationwide.

Nominations for the Prize should be made by adults who have solid knowledge of the nominee and his/her work, but who are not related to the nominee (e.g. teachers, librarians, civic or religious leaders, etc.). [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](#)

#### **Youth Photography Competition - Deadline April 26, 2008**

The Nature's Best Photography competition is one of the most highly respected and visually compelling nature photography competitions in the world. An entry of up to 20 photographs may be submitted by photographers 18 years old or younger. More than \$10,000 in cash will be awarded, including \$2,500 to the Grand Prize winner. The winning photographs will be published in the Fall 2008 NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY and may be selected for the annual exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, and in other locations. [Learn more](#)

## Professional Development

#### **American Stars of Teaching - Nomination Deadline March 31, 2008**

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is accepting nominations for 2008 American Stars of Teaching until March 31. Parents, students, colleagues, school administrators and others can nominate an exemplary teacher who they believe has the qualities to be an American Star of Teaching. They are seeking nominations of teachers across the United States who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies in the classroom and making a difference in the lives of their students. Teachers across all grade levels and disciplines will be honored as 2008 American Stars of Teaching this fall. [Learn more](#)

#### **Fundamentals of Environmental Education Course**

The "Fundamentals of Environmental Education" online course was developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) in collaboration with national EE experts. It provides educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate quality environmental education into their instruction. Participants discuss the history, definition, and goals of environmental education; develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators; and interact with other educators from across the country. Past course participants have given the course excellent reviews. [Learn more](#)

#### **Approaching Walden Seminar - July 13-18, 2008**

The Walden Woods Project is currently accepting applications for *Approaching Walden*, a professional development summer seminar for high school educators and graduate students. This six-day workshop is professionally as well as personally enriching, and provides teachers with the skills needed to lead their students in a study of their home

community. This place-based, interdisciplinary workshop uses Henry David Thoreau's ethic and his experience at Walden Woods as a model.

[Learn more](#)

### **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](#)

### **Working Forum on Nature Education - July 21-23, 2008**

The Arbor Day Foundation and NAAEE are inviting conservation professionals, landscape architects, health care experts, and early childhood educators to the second Working Forum on Nature Education: New Tools for Connecting the World's Children with Nature. Join other delegates from a wide range of professions from six continents as they gather in Nebraska to share ideas on how to reconnect children around the world with nature. [Learn more](#)



At the National Environmental Education Foundation, we provide objective environmental information to help Americans live better every day. At a time of conflicting and challenging messages about the state of our environment, we provide trusted knowledge, resources and opportunities to improve our lives and the health of the planet.

The Canon logo is the word "Canon" in a bold, red, serif font.

National Environmental Education Week is made possible by [Canon, USA](#)