



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

June 2010

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## Greetings!

For most, the school year is drawing to a close. But as summer approaches, we hope the resources we provide at [EEWeek.org](http://EEWeek.org) and in this monthly e-newsletter will continue to be useful as you think ahead to next year.

The current crisis in the Gulf of Mexico has been on our minds as we hear the daily accounts of the impact of the oil spill. We have received feedback from many educators over the past few weeks asking for resources to help answer students' questions about the spill. This month we've compiled a list of websites, lesson plans, fact sheets and teaching tools to help you and your students understand the Gulf Oil Spill and consider the impact it will have on wildlife, ecosystems, people and the economy.

For even more timely information, join us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) to learn about educational resources and news stories as they become available.

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse  
Program Manager

Sarah Kozicki  
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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 Semlick

Jill Semlick, Biology, Ecology and Chemistry teacher at Pauling Academy of Integrated Sciences in Portland, Ore. is one of this year's [Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award](#) Merit Winners. Among her many achievements in environmental education, Semlick has engaged her students in hands-on experience in field work and natural resource management through her Northern Flying Squirrel Research Project, a collaboration that allows the students of Pauling Academy to provide valuable data to land managers. Semlick has also successfully integrated the concepts of Expeditionary Learning -- creating standards-based learning adventures and community-service activities -- into her own instructional methods.



Semlick and her students visit researchers at Wind River Experimental Forest

In addition to her efforts at Pauling Academy, Semlick has been involved in her community, helping to develop a vegetation management proposal for the city of Portland's Kelly Butte Natural Area as well as measuring the water quality of the Willamette River with the Portland Water Bureau. She has also engaged several local partners in environmental education, including Portland State University, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the Oregon Truffle Society.

"My passion is getting kids outdoors, doing real research with real scientists," Semlick said. As a result of her efforts, many of her students have gone on to pursue internships with the U.S. Forest Service.

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 award is given to an educator who can serve as an inspiration and model for others. A \$5,000 cash award is provided for the recipient to continue their work in environmental education. Additionally, as part of the prize, the winner travels to Washington, D.C. to meet with representatives from the environmental community to further his or her network. Susy Ellison, of Glenwood Springs, Colo., was this year's winner. Semlick, along with Jill Krysinski, was recognized with a Merit Award of \$750 for her work.

### Quick Links

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[FAQs](#)

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### Contact Us

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## Teaching About the Gulf Oil Spill

### The Bridge Ocean Science Education Blog

The Bridge Ocean Science Education Blog was created by the Bridge, a website providing free marine education resources, and the National Marine Educators Association. The blog provides a forum for educators to discuss topics related to ocean science and ocean science education. Included is a special section dedicated to the Gulf Oil Spill. [Learn more](#)

### American Bird Conservancy: Impacts of Oil Spill

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC), an organization dedicated to conserving native wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas, has created a page dedicated to providing the public with information on the impacts the Gulf Oil Spill will have on birds. In addition to general information, ABC provides the latest updates on how birds and bird habitat will be affected as well as suggestions for how the public can become involved in the clean-up and wildlife rescue operations. [Learn more](#)

### Eco-Schools USA Special Report: Oil Spill

Eco-Schools, a program of the National Wildlife Federation, created a special report on the Gulf Oil Spill designed to give teachers and students information and resources to help them better understand the spill and its ramifications. Included are questions that kids have been asking the experts as well as information on helping wildlife and the importance of wetlands. [Learn more](#)



### Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education Network

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education Network (GOMAEEN), an organization that provides resources for educators in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, is providing links to relevant news stories and updating their list as new developments related to the Gulf Oil Spill merit. GOMAEEN also provides links to several lesson plans regarding oil spills in their Educator Resources section. [Learn more](#)

### Encyclopedia of Earth: Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

The Encyclopedia of Earth (EoE) is a free, searchable collection of articles written by scholars, professionals, educators and experts on the Earth, its environments and their interaction with society. The EoE's extensive article on the Gulf Oil Spill includes information on the magnitude and extent of the spill, clean up efforts and ecological impacts as well as a review of past disasters. [Learn more](#)

### NOAA Office of Response and Restoration

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration provides scientific support for oil and chemical spill responses as well as damage assessments in coastal waters. In addition, NOAA is currently providing the latest news relating to the Gulf Oil Spill as well as fact sheets, publications and visuals. [Learn more](#)



### **Oil on the Water: The Physics of Oil Spills**

This interactive feature on MSNBC's website provides an overview of the physics behind an oil spill. The feature illustrates the physical and chemical processes, known as weathering, that change the oil's properties and behavior after it is spilled into the ocean. [Learn more](#)

### **Experiment to Clean Up an Oil Spill**

This experiment, created by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, is designed to give kids an idea of what it might be like to clean up an oil spill and why the task is so difficult. Using environmentally-friendly household materials, the experiment guides students through the steps of creating an oil spill and then trying to clean it. A series of observational questions are posed. [Learn more](#)

### **The Smithsonian Institution: The Ocean Portal**

The Ocean Portal, developed by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, is an interactive website that inspires awareness, understanding and stewardship of the world's oceans. Included in the myriad resources provided here is a blog that highlights the unseen impacts of the Gulf Oil Spill, as well as a Spotlight on Science Feature, ocean news and resources for educators. [Learn more](#)

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## **Upcoming EE Events & Celebrations**

### **National Pollinator Week - June 21-27**

National Pollinator Week is an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles and other pollinating animals. The website provides a list of 2010 Pollinator Week events organized by region. Also available are pollinator friendly planting guides and a variety of educational resources, including curricula, factsheets and how-tos. [Learn more](#)

### **Great American Backyard Campout - June 26**

The Great American Backyard Campout, part of the Be Out There program of the National Wildlife Federation, invites people across the country to gather in their backyards, neighborhoods, communities and parks to take part in a one-night event that will provide an opportunity for all ages to connect with nature. New this year is a tool that will allow participants to form "Campout Teams." Participants who register their campsites will have access to free activities, tips, songs, stories and recipes to enrich their Backyard Campout experience. [Learn more](#)

### **Park and Recreation Month - July**

Each July, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) encourages recreation facilities and parks across the country to promote physical education and bring in volunteers to help make their outdoor space a center of community activity. This year's theme is "Celebrate, Advocate, Recreate!" NRPA encourages participants to register their projects online and to download the Park and Recreation month toolkit, which includes materials, graphics, media templates and "how-to" guides. [Learn more](#)

### 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 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 National Park Service (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

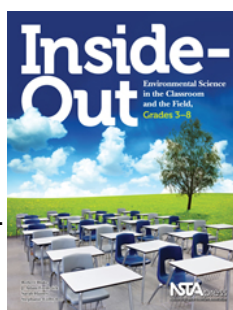
### Dig Art! Cultivating Creativity in the Garden

Dig Art! Cultivating Creativity in the Garden is a new project guide that integrates gardening with the arts. The arts activities in the guide aim to help teach ecological literacy and inspire new enthusiasm for garden-based learning. Dig Art! activities support youth to creatively express themselves and their garden experiences through gourd art, printmaking, time-lapse photography and other creative projects. The guide, along with resources and a free toolkit are available from Cornell Garden-Based Learning. [Learn more](#)



### Inside-Out Environmental Science in the Classroom and the Field

This press book from the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) uses both field and classroom-based lessons to convey important environmental science concepts. The lessons and activities presented in the book are appropriate for grades 3-8. A print and electronic version of the book can be purchased online. NSTA members receive a discounted price. [Learn more](#)



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

## Student Contests and Awards

### Kavli Science Video Contest - Entry deadline July 15

The USA Science & Engineering Festival Kavli Science Video Contest is looking for creative and surprising videos submitted by K-12 students that explain why science is cool. Videos might explore a scientific concept, showcase the wonders of nature or provide a glimpse into the future. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded, including cash and an electronics gift certificate. The first prize winner will also receive a travel stipend to visit Washington, D.C. for the USA Science & Engineering Expo on the National Mall. [Learn more](#)

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

## Grants

### **Classroom Earth Professional Development Grants** - Application deadline July 9



Classroom Earth's 2010 Professional Development Grants enable educators 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 (EETAP). With these courses, teachers are better equipped to bring the environment into the classroom and connect students with their natural surroundings. Teachers from all subject areas are eligible to apply. [Learn more](#)

### **Fruit Tree 101**

The Fruit Tree 101 program creates outdoor edible orchard classrooms at public schools of all levels across the country to provide generations of students with environmental education opportunities and a source of organic fruit for improved school lunch nutrition. Orchard donations involve, on average, 20-25 trees minimum, as well as materials, orchard installation design work and onsite environmental curriculum. [Learn more](#)

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

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## **Professional Development**

### **Environmental Education and Training Partnership Online Courses** - Registration deadline July 1

The National Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) and the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point offer four online courses for students and professionals in the field of environmental education. Some of the courses have been designed to address the competencies for professional environmental educators as identified by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). Summer courses are already in session and the registration deadline for fall courses is July 1. Scholarships are available for summer courses. [Learn more](#)

### **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 Foundation plans to look back the the past five years of climate change education outreach and curriculum development and take time to "Go Back to the Basics." The Institute will 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 at \$75/teacher or \$100/pair and an unlimited number for online participants at \$25/teacher. [Learn more](#)

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

This three-day seminar explores vital questions at the intersection of art, science and design. The seminar will explore 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 Berkley, Calif. The cost of the seminar is \$450, and breakfast, lunch, art supplies and materials will be provided. 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. These 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>.