



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

May 2011

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



## Greetings!

Last month we wrapped up the seventh annual celebration of National Environmental Education Week, April 10-16, when thousands of educators and millions of students across the United States joined us to celebrate our *Ocean Connections*. Now we want to hear from you! Here's how you can share your EE Week experiences with us and the rest of this community:

- **Share photos and stories** from your school or organization's EE Week and Earth Day activities in the 2011 [EE Week Photo Blog Contest](#) for a chance to win some great prizes;
- **Tell us what you think** of EE Week and share your ideas for next year's program by responding to our participant evaluation survey; and
- **Submit an environmental education success story** by emailing us at [eeweek@neefusa.org](mailto:eeweek@neefusa.org), and your school or organization may be featured online or in an upcoming e-newsletter.

Lastly, take a moment to learn about this year's [Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award](#) winner, John Schmied, and our two merit award winners. All three are outstanding educators whose innovative work is helping to advance environmental education. We hope their stories will inspire and inform your own efforts.

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse  
Program Manager

Sarah Kozicki  
Program Associate

### In This Issue

[Photo Blog Contest](#)

[Survey](#)

[Bartlett Award Winners](#)

[EE Resources](#)

[Student Opportunities](#)

[Grants and Awards](#)

[Professional Development](#)

### 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.

### Quick Links

[Register for EE Week 2011](#)

[FAQs](#)

## 2011 EE Week Photo Blog Contest

Enter your photos and stories by May 31 for a chance to win great prizes!

Do you have an inspiring story and photo of how you and your school or organization are engaging students in environmental education? National Environmental Education Week wants to hear about it! Simply upload your photos and stories to the [EE Week Photo Blog](#).



*Seeing Water*, 2010 EE Week Photo Blog Contest Winner

The 2011 EE Week Photo Blog Contest -- which runs from April 1 through May 31 -- is open to individuals affiliated with a school or organization providing K-12 educational programs. Photo Blog Contest applicants must be 18 years of age or older, have a valid email address and be residents of the United States. [Read the complete rules](#).

Each photo blog entry must include a photograph and accompanying blog text no longer than 1,500 characters that clearly describes the environmental education activity shown in the photo. [Release forms](#) are required for each identifiable person in a photo. Entries will be judged on the quality of the photo and blog text, visual appeal and the student learning that took place as a result of the environmental education efforts depicted in the blog.

First, second and third place prizes include a shopping spree for educational media at the Video Project, a Canon PowerShot A490 digital camera and a Get Outdoors! Field Pack from Acorn Naturalists. [Learn more](#)

No purchase necessary. All contest participants must be at least 18 years old, residents of the U.S., affiliated with an organization which provides K-12 educational programs, and meet all eligibility requirements. Void where prohibited. [Click here for complete rules](#)

## EE Week 2011 Participant Evaluation Survey

Take our 2011 survey to help us improve EE Week

Each year following National Environmental Education Week, the EE Week team solicits your input to gauge how well we are meeting our goal of providing educators with the resources they need to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment.

Please take a few minutes to respond to our 2011 EE Week Participant Evaluation Survey. Your responses provide valuable feedback to help better support educators.

Thank you!

[Success Stories](#)

[More On Us](#)

### Contact Us

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Join Our  
Mailing List

### Call for Stories!

Don't forget to submit your stories of successful environmental education projects and programs to help inspire your peers and share ideas! Contact [EEWeek@neefusa.org](mailto:EEWeek@neefusa.org) to get started.

## [Click here for the 2011 EE Week Participant Evaluation Survey](#)

### 2011 Bartlett Award Winners

#### John Schmied of Bothell, Wash. wins the 2011 Bartlett Award

John Schmied, 7th grade science teacher at Skyview Junior High School in Bothell, Washington, is this year's Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award winner. Schmied employs a cross-disciplinary, systems approach to environmental education, frequently collaborating with teachers of math, art, literacy, social studies and history to integrate these disciplines into environmental learning. He has pioneered cross grade lessons and developed a model of students teaching students that has been replicated district-wide, including at the elementary school level. He has helped raise over one million dollars to add green features to a regional environmental education center at a local wastewater treatment plant that will be used to teach thousands of students and community members about the science and significance of clean water. Schmied won \$5,000 to further his environmental education efforts and will travel to Washington, D.C. this summer to meet with national leaders in environmental education.



John Schmied, 2011 Richard C. Bartlett Award winner.

Frank McKay, 8th grade math and science teacher at Exporis Middle School in Raleigh, N.C. and Alan Fiero, 7th grade science teacher at Farnsworth Middle School in Guilderland, N.Y., won merit awards of \$750 each.

[Learn more](#)

### EE Resources

#### Endangered Species Day - May 20

Endangered Species Day is an opportunity to learn about endangered species and everyday actions that we can take to help protect our disappearing wildlife. Every year, thousands of people throughout the country celebrate Endangered Species Day in parks, zoos, aquariums, schools and community centers. Download the Endangered Species Day Toolkit to plan an event or the Endangered Species Day Educational Materials for lesson plans, handouts and fact sheets. [Learn more](#)

#### National Kids to Parks Day - May 21

National Kids to Parks Day, an initiative of the National Park Trust, encourages families to visit a local, state or national park, play outdoors

and learn why preserving our parks is so important. Teachers and parents can register to take a group of kids to a park on May 21. A Teacher Toolkit is provided online to give educators lesson ideas and fun facts about our parks. [Learn more](#)

#### **World Oceans Day 2011: Youth: the Next Wave for Change - June 8**

June 8th of every year marks the official, United Nations-recognized celebration of World Oceans Day, and hundreds of aquariums, zoos, museums, conservation organizations and thousands of individuals around the world will participate in educational events. This year, celebrations will draw attention to the importance of getting young people inspired to protect the ocean as part of the 2011 theme: Youth: the Next Wave for Change. [Learn more](#)

#### **America's WILD READ**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife recently launched a new virtual book club to engage and inspire readers to connect with the outdoors and nature. The book club features *Anthill: A Novel* by E.O. Wilson and two essays, from Aldo Leopold and Curt Meine. High school classes that get involved may receive free books, webcams and more. [Learn more](#)

#### **The Digital Library for Earth System Education**

The Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE) provides access to high quality digital collections of education resources for both educators and learners consisting of visualizations, interactive computer models, virtual field trips, lesson plans, scientific data, assessment activities, curriculum, online courses and more. It serves to assist educators and learners to effectively create, use and share educational resources as well as developing communication networks to facilitate interactions and collaborations across all dimensions of Earth system education. DLESE is managed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research Library. [Learn more](#)

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

## **Student Opportunities**

#### **Robert Bateman Get to Know Contest - Entry deadline May 23**

The theme for this year's Get to Know Contest is "This is My Forest." The contest encourages young people to visit a national forest, local park or green space and create a video celebrating the forest. The contest is open to all U.S. residents of age 18 or younger. Prizes include \$100 in cash and a digital video camera from Panasonic. [Learn more](#)

#### **Giving the Land a Voice - Submission deadline May 27**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge Association are asking young people ages 15-24 to help conservation leaders determine the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Youth should answer the question "What kind of future do you want for America's wildlife and wildlands?" via visual art, audio or writing. Prizes include a trip to the "Conserving the Future" conference in Madison, gift cards to outdoor recreation stores and National Wildlife Refuge items. [Learn more](#)

### Water Planet Challenge

EarthEcho's Water Planet Challenge encourages students to improve the health of the environment in their community and around the world through a service-learning project. The Challenge provides teachers with service-learning action guides and resources to provide their students with on subjects including water, energy efficiency and the Gulf oil spill. [Learn more](#)

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

## Grants and Awards

### AAAS Leadership in Science Education Prize for High School Teachers - Application deadline May 27

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Leadership in Science Education Prize for High School Teachers recognizes high school science teachers for the development and implementation of innovative methods for teaching and encouraging the next generation of scientists. The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize to support the development and continuation of the strategy, activity or program. Additionally, an announcement will be published in the AAAS website and in *Science* magazine and the winner will receive a one-year institutional subscription to *Science* magazine. [Learn more](#)

### NEA Foundation-Nickelodean Big Help Grants - Application deadline June 1

The NEA Foundation-Nickelodean Big Help Grants provide \$5,000 Student Achievement grants to K-8 public school educators. The grants aim to help develop a sense of global awareness in 21st century students that will encourage and enable them to make a difference in their world. The grants target the areas of environmentalism, health, wellness, students' right to quality education and community involvement. [Learn more](#)

### Green Thumb Challenge - Application deadline September 30

The Green Thumb Challenge from the Green Education Foundation (GEF) aims to connect children with nature and the healthy benefits of gardening. GEF provides schools and youth groups with beginner-friendly resources to plant gardens of any size, in addition to fun activities and standards-based lessons linking the classroom to the garden. All participants have the opportunity to be awarded a \$5,000 grant in recognition of their garden project. [Learn more](#)

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

## Professional Development

### Green Teacher Webinar: Do a Little or Do a Lot: Sustainability Education" - May 19, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. EDT

In this webinar from Green Teacher, participants will see examples of how to integrate education for sustainability into their classrooms, schools or districts. The webinar will illuminate interconnections between existing

classroom themes and capitalize upon the opportunities for critical thinking that arise from examining these interconnections. Participants will also learn about free curriculum resources that examine interconnections between economy, environment and society. [Learn more](#)

### BioEd Online

Developed by Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Education Outreach, BioEd Online offers K-12 educators professional development courses and content workshops to help build their background knowledge of genetics and life sciences. Teachers can complete the online learning at their own pace, and participants who pass a post-test receive a certificate for professional development hours completed. [Learn more](#)

### Beyond Weather and the Water Cycle

This online professional development magazine focuses on preparing elementary teachers to teach climate science concepts while also integrating inquiry-based science and literary instruction. The current issue, "The Sun and Earth's Climate," provides lessons that demonstrates the link between reading comprehension strategy and science process skills. In addition, the magazine offers professional learning resources to help teachers increase their understanding of essential climate science principles. [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>.