

E-Blast # 2 June 2010

Oil well blowout resources

The Louisiana Department of Education has prepared an OIL SPILL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES GUIDE:

[http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/misc/oil\\_spill\\_resources.aspx](http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/misc/oil_spill_resources.aspx)

A 10-min video by Dr Irv Mendelssohn, Louisiana State University School of the Coast and Environment describes oil impacts on salt marshes. He discusses factors that determine whether the marsh will die and factors to consider when deciding what action, if any, should be taken to decontaminate marshes. This is a must see for anyone who would like to know how to respond when asked what the oil spill will do to the marsh.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFc\\_PS9dd40](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFc_PS9dd40)

You can access web-based content and classroom activities that address the science of oil spills and their effects on ecosystems

[http://www.windows2universe.org/teacher\\_resources/main/teach\\_oil\\_spill.html&nl=6](http://www.windows2universe.org/teacher_resources/main/teach_oil_spill.html&nl=6)

Information on the following items can be accessed through the LSTA website E-Blast section. <http://lsta.info>

1. Limited Scholarships NOW Available for USEL Summer Academy! Apply by June 21
2. New teacher Academy Deadline to apply June 21
3. Journey to the Stars Free DVD from NASA
4. Participate in a survey for an LSU grad student
5. The Entomological Society Contest for Teachers using insects
6. New NSTA Award for a Middle School Girl
7. Gr 9-12 Louisiana Joins the Real World Design Challenge
8. Summer science projects for home
9. NASA Wants to Fly Your Face in Space
10. Disney Friends for Change Grants
11. Summer Solstice June 21 Astronomy Animations and Simulations

"Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out."  
John Wooden

1. Scholarships NOW Available for USEL Summer Academy!  
email [urbanscience@nsta.org](mailto:urbanscience@nsta.org) for an application and more information

NSTA is able to offer scholarships for teams to participate in a Summer Academy for the USEL community. In order to qualify for consideration of scholarship support, please note the following criteria:

Each team must have at least five members to participate in the Summer Academy, to be held August 2-5, 2010 in New Orleans, including: 1) a principal, 2) a District Science Coordinator (or someone similar in position), and 3) three teachers. [Additional team members may also attend at the District's expense.]

In order to apply for this unique opportunity, please complete an application no later than June 21 and follow the instructions included for submitting. Please email any questions or inquiries to [urbanscience@nsta.org](mailto:urbanscience@nsta.org).

## 2. New Science Teacher Academy

The NSTA New Science Teacher Academy Foundation is a professional development initiative created to promote quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence, and improve teacher content knowledge. Program expenses will be paid for qualified middle or high school science teachers entering their second or third year of teaching and working a schedule with more than 50 percent of their classes in science. The deadline to apply is June 21, 2010. For more information, please visit: <http://www.nsta.org/academy/>

## 3. Take a Journey to the Stars and Get a Free DVD

It's immersive, it's explosive, and best of all it's free. The American Museum of Natural History and NASA have joined forces to produce a planetarium show about the amazing variety of stars that dot our cosmos--exploding stars, giant stars, dwarf stars, neutron stars, even our own star. NASA will be sending complimentary DVDs of the planetarium show "Journey to the Stars" to teachers and students around the country.

FULL STORY at

[http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2010/07jun\\_journeytothestars/](http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2010/07jun_journeytothestars/)

Just fill out the form at: <http://journeytothestars.org/>

Tell them how many DVDs you would like. They have plenty of them. In fact, you can request a DVD for each and every one of your students to take home for family viewing.

4. Support the research of a graduate student at Louisiana State University, interested in measuring learning outcomes from science education field trips. The link below will take you to a short, 13 question survey that elicits information regarding informal science education field trips. The survey is applicable to both classroom teachers and informal educators, and should take no more than 10 minutes of your time. If you have a few free moments, please consider taking the time to share your experiences. All answers will remain confidential, but feel free to include an email address in the last answer field if you are interested in follow-up contact.

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dFBRNV9nNmhVWVFpdTEyZ2t5LVlhNkE6MQ>

5. Do you use insects to engage your students in the study of science?

<http://www.entsoc.org/awards/professional/educational.htm>

Here is an award you should apply for! The Entomological Society of America's Prizes for Outstanding Achievement in Primary and Secondary Education!

These awards (which are presented at the ESA Annual Meeting) recognize educators who have gone beyond the traditional teaching methods by using insects as educational tools. One winner will be chosen from among primary teachers (grades K-6) and one from among secondary teachers (grades 7-12).

The recipients will receive:

- \* A \$400 donation made payable to the winner's school to purchase teaching materials required to expand the use of insects in the teaching curriculum;
- \* A \$400 award paid directly to the winner for expenses associated with travel required to present a paper or poster on the use of insects in primary or secondary educational programs at a peer professional venue of their choosing;
- \* Free registration to attend ESA's Annual Meeting; and
- \* An \$800 award paid directly to the winner for expenses associated with travel, hotel arrangements, and all other costs associated with attending the ESA Annual Meeting, which will be in San Diego California, from December 12-15, 2010

#### 6. Gr 5-8: New NSTA Award for Middle School Girls

<http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx?lid=exp>

The "Angela Award" honors one young woman who is involved in or has a strong connection to science. The award has been established in honor of Gerry Wheeler (NSTA Executive Director Emeritus) and his outstanding dedication to NSTA, and his lifelong commitment to science education. In addition to receiving a \$1,000 U.S. EE Savings Bond or Canada Savings Bond, the awardee will be honored at the Teachers Awards Banquet at the NSTA National Conference. The award is open to female students in grades 5–8 who are residents of the United States, U.S. Territories, or Canada, and are enrolled full time in public, private, or home school.

#### 7. Gr 9-12: Wanted: Student Teams to Compete in the Real World Design Challenge

<http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org/>

Louisiana will join the RWDC program this year. High school teachers with an interest in engaging grades 9–12 students might consider an annual competition called the Real World Design Challenge. This is an opportunity for students to apply classroom lessons to real-life technical problems. In support of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), the Challenge asks student teams to develop solutions to address a leading industry problem. This year, the 2010–2011 Challenge focuses on fuel efficiency in aviation. Student teams compete on a state level and winning state teams will advance to compete nationally.

Sponsors will donate \$1 million in professional engineering software to teacher/coaches and provide training so they can better utilize and apply the tools to teach design and global engineering. Mentors provide guidance to students and support teachers with content knowledge and experiences that can supplement the teacher's expertise. Top national winners will receive outstanding prizes, awards, and recognition from leaders in government, industry, and higher education.

The link for online teacher training is [www.ptcacademy.com](http://www.ptcacademy.com) . Once trained teachers can download the software. Teachers may register teams now by going to [www.realworlddesignchallenge.org](http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org) and then clicking on the "Coaches/Teachers" button. That will take them to the registration page.

## 8. Summer Science Projects for the Home

Whether you are hiking, camping, visiting a lake or ocean, playing in your neighborhood park, touring a national park, or exploring your own backyard, there are tons of science activities you can do with things that are all around you! Take these opportunities to go bird watching, find unique plants, collect weird rocks, or discover new insects.

Try some of these projects to get outside, have fun, and enjoy science. Summer science ideas:

- Balloon Rocket Car
- Beach, River, and Lake Activities
- Build a Wormery
- Compass Activities
- Experimenting with Saltwater Density
- Flower Dissection
- Grow Stalactite Crystals
- Homemade Ice Cream in a Bag
- Make a Butterfly Feeder
- Make an Insect Collection
- Make a Model Roller Coaster
- Make Quicksand
- Make a Water Wheel
- Nature Scavenger Hunt
- Solar Oven from a Pizza Box
- Solar Water Purifier

Just visit: <http://www.hometrainingtools.com/summer-science-projects/a/1406/>

## 9. NASA Wants to Fly Your Face in Space

NASA wants to put a picture of you on one of the two remaining space shuttle missions and launch it into orbit. After registering at the Face in Space Web site, you'll be able to upload an image that will be put on a disc and flown aboard a shuttle on a future mission. You'll receive a confirmation number and information about which flight your "face" will be on. Then, after the launch, participants will be able to print a commemorative certificate signed by the mission commander. You can also check on mission status, view mission photographs, link to various NASA educational resources,

and follow the commander and crew on Twitter or Facebook. To learn more and upload your image for flight, visit: <http://faceinspace.nasa.gov>

#### 10. Disney Friends for Change Grants

Disney, together with Youth Service America (YSA), is proud to offer Disney's Friends for Change Grants to help kids that are making environmentally friendly changes in their communities. Disney's Friends for Change is a program from Disney that encourages kids everywhere to take steps together with their friends to help the planet. The Friends for Change Grants will fund kids' projects that help the environment and will look to engage children ages 5-18 as leaders in their communities. Disney, working with YSA, will award 150 \$500 grants throughout 2010.

"Over the past year, we've been inspired by the many kids who have taken steps to make their homes and communities a little greener as part of Friends for Change. From starting recycling programs to community gardens, their stories are truly inspiring and making a real difference," said Jennifer Anopolsky, senior vice president, Corporate Responsibility for The Walt Disney Company. "These new Disney Friends for Change Grants will provide seed money so kids can take their ideas even further."

Disney's Friends for Change Grants are open to schools, organizations and individuals planning service projects and will focus on projects implemented by children ages 5-18. The goal of each grant is to inspire children to work with their families, friends, schools and communities to address critical needs in their local, national and global communities.

To be eligible, projects will need to be done any time between September and November 2010 and mobilizes young people around the world to make a positive impact in their communities. The next round of grant applications will become available on June 7.

Learn more about Disney's Friends for Change - [www.Disney.com/projectgreen](http://www.Disney.com/projectgreen)

#### 11. Astronomy Animations and Simulations

A variety of animations and simulations, ranging from phases and seasons to redshift, the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram, and more. <http://astro.unl.edu/animationsLinks.html>