

E-Blast # 2 March 2010

There is still time to submit your grant proposal to the Office of Environmental Education

### **Educator Grants**

Must be based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus and be designed to directly impact students. Amount not to exceed \$1,000 for 1 educator, \$2,000 for 2 or more educators jointly

### **Formal/Non-Formal Educator/Professional Development Proposals**

Must be based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus and be designed to directly impact Pre-Service and/or In-Service Educators. Amount not to exceed \$2,500

### **University Research Proposals**

Targets post-graduate research with a focus on environmental issues. Amount not to exceed \$1,000

For more information on these grants, visit: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/eec>

Or contact: Venise Ortego, [vortego@wlf.la.gov](mailto:vortego@wlf.la.gov)

For information on the following science news items visit the LSTA website:

<http://www.lsta.info/labap%20ebblast.shtml>

1. National Wildlife Week March 15-21, 2010
2. First Day of Spring - Spring Equinox March 20, 2010
3. Earth-Sun Day Celebration march 20, 2010
4. LSU EcoExploration summer program for high school students
5. Educator Fellows for NASA MESSENGER Mission Application Deadline April 10, 2010
6. 'NO BOUNDARIES PROJECT' for 7-12TH Grade Students Deadline April 15, 2010
7. EE Week Educator Webinar: [Teaching the Water-Energy Connection](#)
8. Louisiana Young Ag Producers Program (LaYAPP) Applications due April 15, 2010
9. 2010 IGES Earth Day Photo & Essay Contest for Grades 5-8 Postmark deadline May 12, 2010
10. Toyota International Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands Application deadline May 26, 2010
11. 137 years of Popular Science archived issues:
12. American Honda Foundation Education Grants Deadline August 1

### **1. March 15 – March 21 is National Wildlife Week**

Celebrate National Wildlife Week by doing what comes naturally. Whatever you do--at home, school or play--do it outdoors and have fun! Climb trees, chase butterflies, dig in the dirt and celebrate nature. You'll become healthier, happier and more connected to the world around you. Receive a custom Educator Activity Guide featuring a week's worth of local animals and plants to watch for, tree planting ideas, and ideas to make your school environmentally friendly. Learn how outdoor time enhances student readiness and performance, download nature-themed activities and lessons, and green your school (including its curriculum) with Eco-Schools USA. Just visit: <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Events/National-Wildlife-Week/At-School.aspx>

### **2. First Day of Spring is March 20, 2010**

March 20, 2010, is a date that most of us recognize as symbolic of changing seasons. As we welcome spring, people south of the equator are actually gearing up for the cooler temperatures of autumn. What Happens at the Equinox?

Far from being an arbitrary indicator of the changing seasons, March 20 (March 21 in some years) is significant for astronomical reasons. On March 20, 2010, at precisely 1:32 P.M. EDT (March 20, about 09:00 Universal Time), the Sun will cross directly over the Earth's equator. This moment is known as the

vernal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere. For the Southern Hemisphere, this is the moment of the autumnal equinox.

Equinox Means "Equal Night" Translated literally, equinox means "equal night." Because the sun is positioned above the equator, day and night are about equal in length all over the world during the equinoxes. A second equinox occurs each year on September 22 or 23; in 2009, it will be on September 22 at 17:18 P.M. EDT (21:18 UT). This date will mark the autumnal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere and the vernal equinox in the Southern (vernal denotes "spring"). <http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/march-equinox.html>

### **3. SUN-EARTH DAY CELEBRATION (March 20)**

Sun-Earth Day is comprised of a series of programs and events that occur throughout the year culminating with a celebration on or near the spring equinox. For Sun-Earth Day 2010, take a journey into the heart of the electromagnetic force and learn how magnetism, an everyday force that makes motors work, sticks notes to our refrigerators and keeps electricity flowing to our houses, plays a key role in understanding the sun and is responsible for the most violent explosions in the solar system -- magnetic storms.

On March 20, 2010, join the Sun-Earth Day team for a live Sun-Earth Day webcast from the exhibit floor of the National Science Teachers Association conference in Philadelphia. For this webcast, the team will combine forces with the award winning NASA EDGE team known for their offbeat, funny and informative look behind the NASA curtain. Webcast guests will include scientists, educators and students who will demonstrate the power of magnetism and why we care about magnetic storms.

For more information and educational resources, including posters, fliers, postcards and an educator kit, visit the Sun-Earth Day Web site at <http://sunearthday.nasa.gov/2010/about/index.php>

**4. LSU EcoExploration:** The School of Renewable Natural Resources and the School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences have partnered with LSU Continuing Education Youth Programs to present *EcoExploration*, a one-week residential program for students entering grades 9-12. **EcoExploration** is designed to provide young scientists with hands-on learning experiences in the fields of environmental and ecological sciences (and, of course, introduce high school students to related majors in our Schools). Web registration has just opened: <http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Pre-College/EcoExploration.asp?Home=1>

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### **5. Educator Fellows for NASA MESSENGER Mission**

The MESSENGER Educator Fellowship Program seeks 30 educators to become the next MESSENGER Educator Fellows. The Fellows are volunteers who bring the excitement of the MESSENGER mission to classrooms nationwide by conducting teacher training workshops. These workshops introduce educators to materials related to the MESSENGER mission to Mercury.

Fellows will attend an all-expense-paid, five-day workshop in Washington, D.C., in July 2010. Fellows will also receive materials needed to conduct workshops and an annual allowance to cover workshop expenses.

For more information about the MESSENGER Educator Fellowship Program and how to apply, visit <http://messenger-education.org/teachers/ao.php>.

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to Harri Vanhala at [HarriVanhala@ncesse.org](mailto:HarriVanhala@ncesse.org). Applications are due **April 10, 2010**.

#### **6. NASA/USA TODAY 'NO BOUNDARIES PROJECT' FOR 7-12TH GRADE STUDENTS**

This free project is designed to help 7th-12th grade students explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. The project is team-centered, cross-curricular, aligned to national standards and structured to require minimal teacher preparation. This project will introduce students to the limitless opportunities at NASA and encourage them to work toward STEM careers through stimulating project-based learning and team competition. First-place winners will receive a VIP experience at a NASA center and a \$1,000 cash award. Second and third place will receive \$500 and \$250 respectively.

For more information on the competition including entry details, visit:

<http://www.usatoday.com/educate/NASA/Contest.html#over>

(Contest deadline April 15, 2010)

#### **7. EE Week Educator Webinar: [Teaching the Water-Energy Connection](#)**

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time

Have you ever wondered how far your water travels to get to your kitchen faucet? Or thought about how much energy is used for a hot shower? Did you know that water is a key ingredient in the process of producing electricity from coal and other thermoelectric energy sources?

Generating power consumes 3 percent of our nation's water annually and 13 percent of the energy produced in this country each year is used to treat, transport and heat our water (source: [River Network](#)). Conserving water saves energy, and vice versa. Our nation's water and energy resources are increasingly important topics of discussion not just in the news, but in classrooms and homes as well. The water-energy connection is complex, but it provides an excellent opportunity to engage students in learning about the interrelatedness of ecological and environmental concerns.

Registered [National Environmental Education Week](#) (EE Week) 2010 participants are invited to join us for EE Week's first ever webinar – [Teaching the Water-Energy Connection](#) – to be held on **Wednesday, March 31**, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time. During the webinar, educators will hear from representatives of [River Network's Saving Water, Saving Energy program](#) about the water requirements of electricity production, as well as the energy needed to treat, transport and heat the water we use every day. Participants will also learn about water and energy conservation projects taking place in schools across the country as well as lesson plans developed by [Earth Day Network](#) on the water-energy connection.

#### **8. Louisiana Young Ag Producers Program (LaYAPP)**

We are all aware that the average age of agricultural producers in the United States is slowly rising and fewer young people are entering the profession. With Louisiana demographics closely mirroring this

national trend, there are growing concerns that our state and nation could lose its ability to remain competitive in national and global agricultural markets unless specific action is taken to deal with this critical workforce issue. The LSU AgCenter wishes to address this challenge by directly engaging Louisiana youth in the exploration of the various career options available to them in production agriculture and to lead them to the knowledge and resources to enter this profession.

Thus, Dr. Paul Coreil is therefore pleased to announce the implementation of a new pilot program, Louisiana Young Ag Producers Program (LaYAPP), which will be initiated in the summer of 2010. It will be open for students who will be juniors or seniors for the 2010-2011 school term. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their application and an interview process. This program is being sponsored by the LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

Please help us to identify quality applicants who you know would have a serious interest in pursuing a career in production agriculture. No prior experience is necessary and this program seeks applicants from a diverse audience. Applicants can come from within the ranks of 4-H, FFA, or any interested high school student (public, private, or home school). They may be nominated by any AgCenter employee or volunteer, FFA Advisor, science teacher, school counselor, or home school teacher. The application and other pertinent information can be found at [www.lsuagcenter.com/laYapp](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/laYapp). Applications are due April 15.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact: Dr. Bradley Leger at [bleger@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:bleger@agcenter.lsu.edu) or 225/578-8144

**9. 2010 IGES Earth Day Photo & Essay Contest for Grades 5-8** Win a Digital Camera or Other Prizes; Photos must be snapped April 19-30 and postmarked by May 12,2010

Springtime is here again. And that means changes are taking place in the air, land, water and wildlife all around us. Celebrate Earth Day with middle school students across the country by taking a photograph of something that is changing in your local environment.



If you are in grades 5-8, you can be part of this unique national effort to capture our changing world by taking a photograph anytime from Monday April 19 through Friday April 30, 2010 (Earth Day itself is April 22). The picture could show a change taking place in your backyard or neighborhood, near your school or in a local park, or off in the distance toward the horizon.

Then, research and write an essay about the photograph (400 words or less) that answers the following questions:

- What is the change taking place in your photograph?
- What may be causing the change?
- Was the change expected?
- How might the change impact surrounding areas, including people?
- How might this picture look different in the future?

Entries will be judged by Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) staff based on relevance to the contest theme (depiction of change in the environment), uniqueness and overall appearance of the photo, and quality of the essay.

The top three winners will receive a digital camera, digital photo frame and digital photo keychain, respectively. The top 10 winners will receive their photograph in a special frame commemorating Earth

Day 2010, and their photographs and accompanying descriptions will be featured on the IGES Web site.

For submission instructions, entry form, and suggestions for using this activity in the classroom, please visit: [www.strategies.org/EarthDayPhoto](http://www.strategies.org/EarthDayPhoto)

### **10. Apply Now Toyota Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands**

The application for the 2010 Toyota International Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands is now available online.

Fully funded by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., and administered by the Institute of International Education, this professional development opportunity for educators aims to advance environmental stewardship and global connectedness in U.S. schools and communities.

The program will take place **November 20 – December 4, 2010** and the deadline to apply is **May 26, 2010**. Full-time classroom teachers and librarians of all subjects for grades 6 – 12 are eligible to apply.

Please encourage your teachers to visit our website at [www.toyota4education.com](http://www.toyota4education.com) for application instructions, FAQs, and to apply online.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [toyotateach@iie.org](mailto:toyotateach@iie.org) or by phone at (toll-free) 877-832-2457.

### **11. K-12: 137 years of Popular Science archived issues: online <http://PopSci.com/archives>**

Popular Science has partnered with Google to offer their entire 137-year archive for free browsing. Each issue appears just as it did at its original time of publication, complete with period advertisements. And today we're excited to announce you can browse the full archive right here on.

Aside from bringing back memories for longtime readers, as a whole the archive beautifully encapsulates over a century of Popular Science's fascination with the future, and science and technology's incredible potential to improve our lives. Tracing our dreams and visions of the future back through time, you'll see that not a lot has changed. Some things we projected with startling accuracy, and others remain today what they were then--dreams.

### **12. American Honda Foundation Education Grants:**

The American Honda Foundation is making available one-year grants from \$20,000 to \$60,000 for youth education and scientific education. Educational institutions, including K-12, colleges and universities, community colleges and trade schools are eligible, as well as nonprofit organizations and other foundations. "Scientific education" encompasses physical and life sciences, mathematics and the environmental sciences.

The American Honda Foundation was founded to make grants to worthy national nonprofit causes, programs and organizations that directly benefit the people of the United States. Since its inception, the American Honda Foundation has provided more than 401 grants for more than \$18.1 million.

To be considered for possible funding, programs related to youth and scientific education should:

- Be dedicated to improving the human condition of all mankind;
- Be soundly managed and administered by enthusiastic and dedicated individuals;

- Look to the future;
- Offer innovative and creative programs that propose untried methods which ultimately may result in providing solutions to complex cultural, educational, scientific and social concerns;
- Ensure a broad scope, intent, impact and outreach;
- Possess a high potential for success with a relatively low incidence of duplication of effort;
- Operate from a position of financial soundness;
- Be in urgent need of funding from a priority basis (not necessarily financial need); and
- Represent a minimal risk in terms of venture capital investment.

**INSIDER'S TIP :** Organizations may submit only one request during a 12-month period. This includes colleges and universities with several departments/outreach programs The grant range is from \$20,000 to \$60,000 over a one-year period. **DEADLINE:** Aug 1.