E-Blast # 2 May 2010

EnviroFlash and Air Quality Awareness month

May 1 marks the beginning of Ozone season and May is also Air Quality Awareness month. While the air quality in Louisiana has continued to improve, with the tightening of the ozone standards and those of other air pollutants, there is still much to be done.

Being aware of air quality can be an important tool in planning your daily activities. On a day when the air quality is forecast to be problematic, minimize driving, avoid outdoor exertion, avoid lawn work, refuel after 6 p.m. and conserving energy will help keep ozone levels down. We can all be the solution to improving our air quality.

One sure way to know the air quality in your area is to register for EnviroFlash, DEQ's and EPA's automatic air quality notification system. You can receive daily notification or be notified only when the air is poor. It is your choice. You can receive these notifications by email, text or mobile phone. Another advantage of the system is that you will receive air quality alerts and information about how events, such as fires, affect the air in your area.

Please sign up for EnviroFlash today at www.enviroflash.info or sign up for a certain area at the addresses below If you have any questions, please call Jean Kelly at 225-219-3966 or email jean.kelly@la.gov.

http://batonrougearea.enviroflash.info – BATON Rouge area
http://shreveportarea.enviroflash.info – Shreveport area
http://lafayettearea.enviroflash.info – Lafayette Area
http://lakecharlesarea.enviroflash.info – Lake Charles Area
http://monroearea.enviroflash.info – Monroe Area
http://thibodauxarea.enviroflash.info – Lafourche, Terrebonne area
Http://neworleansarea.enviroflash.info – New Orleans area

Information on the following items can be found on the LSTA website www.lsta.info

1. The NEED Project: Energy Workshop for Teachers; Register today for October 7th
2. USA Today Education Website
3. I-STEM Resource Network
4. PBS Teachers STEM Educational Resource Center
5. Teach Engineering Digital Library
6. STEM Education and Educational Technology Gateways and Resources
7. Educators' workshop at UNO's Education and Research Facility June 5th
8. National Geographic's Traveler's Guide to the Planets
9. FREE Online Summer Course with stipend from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology!

1. NEED Project: Energy Workshop for Teachers!
ConocoPhillips and NEED have partnered for the third year to provide teachers in 26 cities across 20 states with curriculum and training opportunities, and are pleased to announce the upcoming one-day energy classroom workshop to be held October 7, 2010 in New Orleans at the Audubon Aquarium from 8:00 – 3:30.

Why participate in this workshop? This workshop provides valuable resources and training to teach energy in the classroom while meeting state and national education standards. NEED materials are designed to provide educators with the background and hands-on lessons needed to educate and energize students, encouraging an understanding of energy that is shared with their peers and their families.
What do you receive at the workshop? Participation provides educators with:
•NEED Science of Energy Kit hands-on lessons about energy transformations
•A class-set of Energy Infobooks for student research
•A set of basic NEED curriculum materials to get you started
The following items are provided:
•Breakfast and Lunch
•Parking
•Substitute Reimbursement
•Classroom Curriculum materials

The NEED Project provides teacher-tested educational materials, evaluation techniques and tools, recognition of student achievement, and professional development for educators. NEED materials and training programs provide comprehensive, objective information about the scientific concepts of energy and the sources of energy, their use and their impact on the environment, the economy and society.

Click on the registration link to register, https://www.regonline.com/conocophillips10-neworleansoctober.
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Questions? Contact us at 1-800-875-5029 or 1-800-847-1820, or by e-mail at info@need.org.

2. USA Today Education Website
USA Today Education has a website with resources, a newsletter, videos, activities, grant information, and more.

3. I-STEM Resource Network http://www.istemnetwork.org/index.cfm

The I-STEM Resource Network supports K-12 teachers and leaders working to implement high academic standards towards STEM literacy for all students. Their resources include lesson plans, curriculum units, professional development opportunities and more.

4. PBS Teachers STEM Education Resource Center http://www.pbs.org/teachers/stem/
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Resources for Grades PreK-12

PBS offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning through television and online content. On-line broadband access and digital media are dramatically changing the opportunities available to the nation's educators improving STEM education. Our recent national educator survey (Grunwald, 2009) indicates that more teachers than ever before are turning to digital media resources to help their students understand concepts, practice new skills and engage in exciting, authentic learning experiences.

The PBS Teachers STEM Education Resource Center offers television and online content to help students explore new ideas and new worlds related to STEM. The site provides nearly 4,000 science, technology, engineering and math resources as well as access to STEM education news, video collections, professional development opportunities and additional STEM resource providers.

5. The TeachEngineering digital library provides teacher-tested, standards-based engineering content for K-12 teachers to use in science and math classrooms. Their library is organized by subject areas, curricular units, lessons and activities.

The curriculum in this collection is organized by:
Subject Areas (each with numerous units from which to choose)
Curricular units (multi-week groupings of lessons)
Lessons (include associated activities)
Activities (stand-alone or part of lessons or units)

Activity: This is what the students "do," which helps them achieve the lesson and activity's learning objective(s). An activity document includes a materials list and procedures (among many other curricular components). An activity may be stand-alone or part of a lesson.
Lesson: A lesson provides learning instruction and includes background, introduction and assessment information for teachers (among many other curricular components). A lesson's one or more associated activities are provided in separate linked activity documents.
Unit: A unit is a longer-term, theme-based learning experience composed of multiple lessons and/or activities.
Some of these items are stand-alone, and others are organized hierarchically with activities comprising lessons, which in turn comprise units, which fall under one or more broad subject areas.
Use the links at the left to browse the entire collection, sorted by the hierarchical levels.
OR, **use the Search option** to find curricula that meet your needs. Search by educational standards, keywords, grade level, time required or expendable cost per group.

6. STEM Education and Educational Technology Gateways and Resources
http://nsdl.org/collection/stem-education/
The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Gateways and Resources collection is comprised of web portals, web sites, and individual digital

resources identified by National Science Digital Library staff as appropriate for inclusion in the Library. Many of the materials to be found here were suggested by NSDL users. The collection includes portals, sites, and resources devoted to educational theory and practice, particularly ideas and practices in the teaching of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as resources and gateways that focus on the uses of technology in the classroom. Here may be found materials for those who teach in formal settings (prekindergarten through graduate school) and informal settings, as well as materials for educational researchers, educational-technology researchers, and educational-technology developers.
Details about NSDL selection criteria are provided in the NSDL Collection Development Policy. To recommend an addition or additions to this collection, please complete NSDL's Recommend a Resource form.
The collection provides access to third-party resources; individual items must be consulted for terms of use.

7. A second Educators' workshop at UNO's coastal Education and Research Facility at Chef Pass on Highway 90 in eastern New Orleans will be held on June 5th from 9 am - 1:00 pm and a short canoe trip (weather permitting) for those who wish to canoe from 1:00 - 4:00 pm.

Below is a sampling of what we will be offering, although weather and other circumstances will determine how many of these we will actually do. Many are sample activities from our field trips for students.

- Water quality sampling, including salinity, clarity, temperature.
- Biological sampling and identification of organisms living in the estuary.
- Plankton sampling with Murt Conover from LUMCON.
- Demonstration of LSU's Coastal Roots Can Yard operation
- Coastal land loss assessment using aerial imagery of the marsh around our facility
- Discussion of impacts of oil spill on coastal wetland habitats

To sign up, please contact Diane Frances Maygarden [dmaygard@uno.edu and provide your name, a contact phone number, your school, grades you teach, subjects you teach, particular interests in environmental science education or other relevant topic areas.

8. Gr 5-12: National Geographic's Traveler's Guide to the Planets
http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/travelers-guide-to-the-planets-interactive#/G/1

This is a wonderful, fun, visually spectacular resource for students learning about our solar system and the planets. The main page has two panels. The left side panel allows you to select which planet you want to learn about (Pluto is still listed, Earth is not since we live

there) and what you want to know about each planet.

The site is set up as a true traveler's guide and includes info such as history, trivia, sites, advice, climate, and luggage. This is a great way to get students to learn about the planets in a new way.

9. FREE Online Summer Course with stipend from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology!
http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/

If you are planning to teach 7-8th grade in the coming school year, and have an interest in bolstering your inquiry teaching skills, please consider taking our five week online course (July 12-August 15, 2010). Participation is free and fun! Participants receive a stipend and a unique opportunity to learn about birds and inquiry while working virtually with teachers throughout the country!

If you haven't already, download the free Investigating Evidence module. Are you planning to do bird investigations with your students this year? Keep in mind that we're currently accepting research report submissions for our student publications--we'd love to include yours! Please send any materials your students have been working on by June 1, 2010.

BirdSleuth Program, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (607)254-2489 or BirdSleuth@cornell.edu