

E-Blast # 2 September 2010

The August issue of the LSTA newsletter the LASER can be accessed at:

http://www.lsta.info/newsletter/2010/LASER_Aug_2010.pdf

The LSTA Pre-conference FOCUS with information on registration, hotels, and institute schedule can be found at:

http://www.lsta.info/2010conference/focus_aug_2010.pdf

Interested in presenting? Complete the form at: <http://www.cain.lsu.edu/LSTA2010>

Attending NCTM in New Orleans?? Please volunteer to help:

<http://www.nctm.org/conferences/forms.aspx?ekfrm=25455>

For information on the following items please visit the LSTA website at: <http://lsta.info>

1. A Bright Future Grant from Clorox Deadline: September 27th
2. Target Field Trip Grants Deadline: September 30th
3. Toshiba America Foundation's Grant for Elementary classrooms Deadline: October 1
4. Celebrate World Space Week October 4-10, 2010
5. Earth Science Week October 10-16, 2010
6. USA Science & Engineering Festival October 10-24, 2010
7. No Child Left Indoors October 12, 2010
8. National Fossil Day, October 13, 2010
9. National Geographic Bee - Registration Deadline: October 15
10. UnitedHealth HEROES Deadline: October 22
11. Find Your Footprint for K-6 Schools Deadline December 22, 2010
12. Fall's Journey South is about to Begin!
13. Welcome to the 2010-2011 Adelie Penguin Outreach
14. Disney Planet Challenge Grades 4-6th
15. The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!TM PBS Science Series
16. NSF, NBC News and the NFL Kick Off "Science of NFL Football"

1. A Bright Future Grant from Clorox \$20,000 to \$50,000

CloroxPower a Bright Future grants provide necessary resources to help support school programs that enrich children's lives. There are three grant categories: "Learn," which includes education-focused programs, such as establishing a school recycling program; "Play," which includes sports and exercise-focused programs, such as building a playground; and "Create," which includes arts-focused programs, such as establishing an after-school music program. Anyone at least 18 years old at time of entry can nominate an accredited K-12, public or private school program for a chance to win a \$50,000 grant or one of three \$20,000 grants. The deadline to nominate is September 27, 2010. For more information, please visit:

http://clorox.promo.eprize.com/brightfuture/?affiliate_id=Inbound5

2. Target Field Trip Grants (Deadline: September 30)

Registration is open for the Target Field Trip Grants program. Target will award 5,000 grants of \$700 each to schools for the upcoming school year. Teachers can use a grant to fund a school field trip that connects their curriculum to out-of-school experiences. Education professionals who are at least 18 years old and employed by an accredited K-12 public, private or charter school in the United States that maintains a 501(c)(3) or 509(a)(1) tax-exempt status are eligible to apply. Educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals or classified staff of these institutions must be willing to plan and execute a field trip that will provide a demonstrable learning experience for students. You can apply any time before September 30, 2010. Learn more at: <https://targetfieldtripgrants.target.com>

3. Consider a Toshiba grant to fund your elementary education project

<http://www.toshiba.com/taf/k5.jsp>

Do you have an idea for improving math or science instruction in your classroom? What do you need to make learning math and science fun for your students? What instructional items or project materials are on your wish list?

K-5 grade teachers are invited to use Toshiba America Foundation's short application form to describe a set of lessons or a hands-on project they would like to introduce in their own classrooms.

With the Toshiba America Foundation grant, elementary teachers bring their best new teaching ideas to life. Be sure to study examples of successful projects to get ideas and fine tune your proposal. Grant applications are due on October 1st each year.

4. Celebrate World Space Week (OCT. 4-10)

Join educators and space enthusiasts around the world to celebrate World Space Week, Oct. 4-10, 2010. This international event commemorates the beginning of the Space Age with the launch of Sputnik 1 on Oct. 4, 1957. To find NASA educational resources that can be used during World Space Week, visit the Educational Materials Finder: <http://search.nasa.gov/search/edFilterSearch.jsp?empty=true>.

To learn more about World Space Week, search for events in your area and find educational materials related to the event, visit: <http://www.worldspaceweek.org/index.html>.

5. October 10-16 is Earth Science Week <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>

Plan ahead to bring earth science alive in your classroom. The 2010 special theme is "Exploring Energy", and you can order your own copy of the Earth Science Week Toolkit at this site, and find other resources to help you and your students explore the natural world and learn about the geosciences.

Earth Science week encourages people everywhere to explore the natural world and learn more about Earth sciences. Visit the very useful website to obtain ideas for celebrating this international event.

6. Organizers of the first USA Science & Engineering Festival (www.usasciencefestival.org) are calling on universities, museums, science centers, businesses, schools and other community-based organizations across the country, to join in a national celebration of science from October 10-24, 2010. The Festival will feature science open houses, student lunches with Nobel Laureates, more than 50 scientists visiting local schools, and a variety of other science and engineering related events. A grand finale two-day Expo on the National Mall and surrounding areas involves more than 500 leading science and engineering organizations, 750 hands-on activities, 40 stage shows, and much more.

The mission of the Festival, which is hosted by Lockheed Martin, is to re-invigorate the interest of our nation's youth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) by producing and presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational, and entertaining science gatherings in the United States. Visit www.usasciencefestival.org for more details including student competitions, schedules of events, and lists of partners.

7. A highlight of past years' Earth Science Week celebrations has been "No Child Left Inside" Day, an event that has engaged many students in outdoor learning activities and received coverage by news media from NBC to NPR. This year, you're invited to take part!

AGI's NCLI Day Guide provides everything you need to start planning your own NCLI Day event. The free guide provides 10 outdoor activities you can organize to help students discover Earth science in their own neighborhoods. Also included are recommendations for creating partnerships, planning logistics, reaching out to the local media, and following up in the classroom.

Plan your NCLI Day event for Tuesday, October 12, during Earth Science Week 2010, when educators and young people across the country will be wading into creeks, climbing hills, and searching the skies to learn Earth science. You can find the NCLI Day Guide online (<http://www.earthsciweek.org/ncli/index.html>). Have a great NCLI Day!

8. National Fossil Day, October 13, 2010

Time travel is in your future! The National Park Service and AGI are collaborating to kick off the first annual National Fossil Day during Earth Science Week 2010. On Wednesday, October 13, you and your students can participate in events and activities taking place across the country at parks, in classrooms, and online. Look for fossil-themed activities in the Earth Science Week 2010 Toolkit.

***Coming soon Louisiana information for Fossil Day prepared by Dr. Gary Stringer.

9. National Geographic Bee - Registration deadline October 15

The National Geographic Bee is a national contest and educational outreach program of the National Geographic Society designed to encourage the teaching and study of geography. Students in grades 4-8 are eligible to participate.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/>

10. UnitedHealth HEROES (Deadline: October 22)

UnitedHealth HEROES is a service-learning, health literacy initiative designed to encourage young people, partnering with schools and nonprofits, to create and implement local hands-on programs to fight childhood obesity. Educators, nonprofit leaders, and students are encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$1,000 to engage youth in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Youth participants raise awareness around their work by culminating their service projects on Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), April 15-17, 2011, an international day of service that occurs in all 50 states and in more than 100 countries. Applications must be submitted online before midnight October 22, 2010. Grant recipients will be notified in December and January. To obtain an application, visit www.YSA.org/HEROES.

11. Find Your Footprint for K-6 Schools

Here's an opportunity to introduce environmental education into your elementary school. The *Find Your Footprint* national classroom conservation contest is offering the classroom with the best idea approximately \$36,600 in in-kind donations to involve their whole school. A lesson plan is provided that has questions to guide applicants in the creation of a proposal and identify their school's "footprint". The process has several steps. Here are several steps.

Pick a theme - *Save Water, Reduce Waste, or Save Energy* - that your class would like to address. Choose the theme upon which your class can have the greatest impact.

Write a short description of your proposal.

Illustrate your proposal, using one of the following formats: a *photograph*, a *poster*, a *video*, OR an *essay*.

Complete an online entry form

Entries must be received by December 3, 2010. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/findyourfootprint/enter/>

12. Fall's Journey South! Free Project Tracks Migrations, Plants, and Seasons

Teachers and students in K-12 classrooms are invited to sign up now for Journey North's 17th annual global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change. A *free* Internet-based citizen science project, Journey North enables students in more than 23,000 schools to watch the seasons unfold. Students monitor migration patterns of monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, whooping cranes, and other animals; the blooming of plants; and changing sunlight, temperatures, and other signs of the seasons.

*Plant a Journey North Tulip Test Garden This Fall
<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tulip/index.html>

It's time to dig in! This fall, plant a Journey North Tulip Test Garden so you can proclaim the official arrival of Spring 2011 in your community.

*Track the Monarch Migration to Mexico
<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/index.html>

Join Us! Please Report Your Monarch Sightings! Report your own observations and track the monarch's trip to Mexico. Watch for weekly migration updates every Thursday, beginning August 26th. Students across the United States and Canada send symbolic butterflies to Mexico each fall. Children in the sanctuary area protect the butterflies all winter and send them north in the spring. United by the monarch butterfly, children across North America learn lessons of conservation and ambassadorship

*Follow Whooping Cranes Led by Ultralights on Their First Journey South
<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/crane/index.htm> |

Year TEN in the historic conservation project to reintroduce Whooping cranes to eastern North America is nearing takeoff. Will all the chicks make the journey safely? What highlights and lowlights wait as they migrate through seven states in a journey over 1,000 miles?

13. Welcome to the 2010-2011 Adelie Penguin breeding season. Follow along as Adelie Penguin families raise their chicks (http://www.penguinscience.com/education/royds_nestcheck.php) in the harshest environment on Earth. Students keep a field journal based on daily photos from Antarctica during the breeding season starting Nov 7 – Jan 28, 2011. Other activities for your classroom include: receive a postcard from Antarctica (<http://www.penguinscience.com/education/postcards.php>), design a flag to fly over the colony (http://www.penguinscience.com/education/design_flag.php), ask a researcher a question, discover how penguins are coping with global climate change, gallery of adaptation photos, field notes, and many other classroom ready activities. Have your class watch for the first penguins of the season to arrive at Cape Royds, and let us know when you see them. Our Penguin cam takes a picture of the colony at Cape Royds every day. Go to our home page: www.penguinscience.com and click on the webcam.

14. This marks the second year that the Disney Planet Challenge (DPC) has gone national. The competition for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students is Web-based and interested individuals can register and learn more about DPC at <http://disney.go.com/planetchallenge>

Promotional materials are available from DPC by contacting:
Corrine A. Martinez-illingworth, Environmental Affairs Representative
Corporate Environmental Affairs
e-mail: Corrine.Martinez@disney.com

Just let her know the following and she will send the materials to you:

- Shipping address
- Quantity
- Shipping date

15. Help interest children in science - watch the new series, The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!™ The Cat in the Hat leads Sally and Nick on rhyming adventures through the natural world to make such discoveries as how bees make honey, why birds migrate, and how whales communicate. Each episode includes two outdoor excursions with the Cat in the Hat that revolve around specific science concepts such as bird migration or animal camouflage. Related classroom resources are available at <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/catinthehat>. Airs 7:30 a.m. daily and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6:30 a.m. Sundays on LPB1.

16. NSF, NBC News and the NFL Kick Off "Science of NFL Football"

In America, the autumn season means two things -- back to school and back to football. To celebrate both events, NBC News' educational arm, NBC Learn, is teaming up with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Football League (NFL) to release the "Science of NFL Football"- an informative 10-part video series that explores the science behind America's most beloved sport. More at http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=117654&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click