

E-blast # 2 May 2011

Congratulations are in order:

LA Space Grant is providing funding for Rose Hale from Berwick Junior High and Aimee' Perrodin who teaches at Northwestern Middle School in Denham Springs to attend this year's Liff Program in Houston, Texas. John Werfel, Director of LA Space Grant, is to be thanked for this annual support of Louisiana teachers and their chance to work with the summer program.

Tera Laprarie from Alexandria Middle School will attend the National Marine Educators Association annual conference in Boston this summer as the recipient of a travel scholarship from the Southern Association of Marine Educators. Tera's students have been treated to a visit from the traveling exhibit Marine Science exhibit from the Gulf Coast Research Center through her participation in the Informal Environmental Education grant program with Dr. Shelia Brown.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students of Heather Giordano at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Belle Chasse took first and second place at the State Level in the 2010-11 eCYBERMISSION Challenge. At the high school level Ursuline Academy students of Jay Jay Juan earned the first and second place awards. Each student on the first-place teams will receive a \$1000 US Savings Bond and students on second place teams will receive \$500 savings bonds. eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based science, technology, engineering and math competition for students in grades six through nine. Check out this electronic student competition sponsored by the US Army ([www.ecybermission.com](http://www.ecybermission.com)) and next year we know there will be state winners for all grades 6-9 and hope to see regional (\$2000) and national (\$5000) winners from Louisiana.

For information on the following educational offers and resources please visit the LSTA website at: [http://lsta.info/eblasts/2011/eblast\\_may\\_2011\\_2.pdf](http://lsta.info/eblasts/2011/eblast_may_2011_2.pdf)

1. Sustainability Grant Deadline: Wednesday, May 25
2. Don't Fry Day <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/dfd.html> May 27
3. 2011 EE Week Photo Blog Contest: Deadline May 31
4. World Oceans Day <http://worldoceansday.org> June 8
5. Aviation Green Giants deadline June 9
6. New Science Teachers Academy Application deadline July 1
7. Make Science Part of Daily Life at Home, Informal Science Makes a Difference
8. Great American Backyard Campout
9. Nature's Living Tape Recorders May Be Telling Us Secrets Lyrebirds
10. Chemistry Now
11. National oceanographic Data Center and Integrated Ocean Observatory
12. Teachers Domain Girls Explore IT Careers
13. Workshop Calendar

1. Sustainability Grant Deadline: Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and Keep Louisiana Beautiful are pleased to announce an extension of their pilot grants program designed to encourage a sustainability initiative in Louisiana K-12 schools. Projects to be considered are to address a litter/waste abatement issue within a particular school campus that will result in long-term impact. These projects can center on recycling, waste reduction, litter prevention, etc.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Award not to exceed: \$10,000

Questions: Contact Venise Ortego at [vortego@wlf.la.gov](mailto:vortego@wlf.la.gov)

2. May 27 is Don't Fry Day <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/dfd.html>

At the web site you can download free resources, including: background information on why we should protect our skin from the sun, skin cancer facts, a sun safety packing list for day trips, Don't Fry Day posters and stickers, and links to other skin cancer prevention organizations.

You can also join the Don't Fry Day group on Facebook, or follow DontFryDay on Twitter. :-)

3. 2011 EE Week Photo Blog Contest: Deadline May 31

Enter your photos and stories 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](#).

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](#)

4. World Oceans Day is June 8 <http://worldoceansday.org>

Please visit the online resource for World Oceans Day—a global celebration of the ocean held every June 8th. This year, you are encouraged to reach out to young people in your community and help inspire them. The future of ocean conservation is in their hands! Explore the site for some ideas, resources, and information about how you can get involved.

5. Aviation Green Grants

Persons working on innovative research and educational projects that focus on the balance between technology and the preservation of the natural and human environment can apply for grants up to \$10,580 from the Charles A. and Anne Morrow Foundation. The amount of this grant is symbolic since it represents the cost of the Spirit of St. Louis. Grants are made to people whose individual initiative and work are in a wide spectrum of disciplines that further the Lindbergh's vision of a balance between the advance of technology and the preservation of the natural/human environment. The application deadline is June 9, 2011. Please visit:

<http://www.lindberghfoundation.org/docs/index.php/our-grants>

6. Applications for the 2011-2012 New Science Teachers Academy are now available. All applications are due by July 1, 2011. The NSTA New Science Teacher Academy, cofounded by the Amgen Foundation, is a professional development initiative created to help promote quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence, and improve teacher content knowledge. According to a 2003 study by Richard Ingersoll, nearly 50% of beginning teachers leave their jobs in the first five years. The NSTA New Science Teacher Academy endeavors to use mentoring and other professional development resources to support science teachers during the often challenging, initial teaching years and to help them stay in the profession. To apply, please visit: <http://www.nsta.org/academy/>

7. Make Science Part of Daily Life at Home, Informal Science Makes a Difference

The Detroit Free Press runs a column that responds to questions from parents about their child's education. On May 4, 2011, the question was about science and how parents can help to keep their children's interest in science growing as cuts occur in schools. Thanks to the Free Press, for providing this article by Leanna Landsmann.

Don't assume that classroom teachers will drop the ball. The current emphasis on STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) subjects at all grade levels means that more elementary teachers get good training in these subjects. Ask if your daughters' school benefits from current STEM learning initiatives. Make sure your daughters take part in any special after-school programs designed to boost STEM achievement. Science experiences you provide outside of school are a major factor in developing their interest in science.

Nancy Bourne, an award winning math and science teacher at Beacon Cove Elementary, Jupiter, Fla., tells parents not to assume that good science learning has to include an experiment. "Observing, hypothesizing, asking questions and researching are at the heart of science. Every time you collect and identify shells on the beach, examine the bug life of a square foot of your lawn, grow bean seeds in paper cups on your windowsill, watch the night sky and identify constellations, hike in a park and note differences in trees, you're sharpening your daughters' science tools." Bourne encourages parents to watch current and vintage TV programs with their children. Some time tested favorites include "Bill Nye the Science Guy," "NOVA," "National Geographic Explorer," Discovery Channel's "MythBusters," "Planet Earth" and PBS's "Sid the Science Kid" for preschoolers. Consider magazines such as ODYSSEY, Kids Discover, Ranger Rick and National Geographic Kids.

#### 8. Great American Backyard Campout

Today's kids are more likely to tag a friend on Facebook than in a game of freeze tag. This indoor childhood hurts kids' bodies, minds and spirits. You can help change that by joining the National Wildlife Federation's Great American Backyard Campout on June 25th. As soon as you register, you'll receive a link to your personal online Participant Center so you can start planning your campout. Check out the Get Ready section for recipes, activities and crafts that will help you create family moments you'll treasure. Help make this summer the first of many that kids will spend outdoors while having a great time in the great outdoors with your friends and family! Register today at: <http://www.backyardcampout.org>

#### 9. [Nature's Living Tape Recorders May Be Telling Us Secrets](#)

From chainsaws to flute solos, the lyrebird can mimic almost any sound it hears. But eavesdrop on this magical bird, and what it is singing can sometimes be troubling.

#### 10. Chemistry Now

In this week's Chemistry Now video, learn about a chance discovery that makes what once were rare and expensive colors reserved for the well to do cheaper to obtain and more effective. Also access lesson plans to create natural dyes and to explore pH using household products. Check it out at: <http://nstacomunities.org/blog/2011/05/06/chemistry-now-week-13-chemistry-to-dye-for/> There are 13 videos available in the Chemistry Now blog, with lessons for middle school and high school students.

#### 11. Developed by NOAA, National Estuarine Sanctuaries, National oceanographic Data Center and Integrated Ocean Observatory. <http://dataintheclassroom.org>

Includes activities on El Nino, Sea Level, Water Quality and Ocean Acidity

This curriculum incorporates a scaled approach to learning. Each module offers activities at five different levels of student interaction, sometimes referred to as Entry, Adoption, Adaptation, Interactivity, and Invention.

The early levels are very directed and teacher driven. The levels of Adaptation through Invention are more student directed and open up opportunities to design lessons featuring student inquiry. The advanced levels use real data which is available on the website

## 12. Careers in Science

One of the hidden gems of Teachers' Domain is its career profiles, especially for science. The [Careers in Science Lesson Plan](#) features 7 professionals, including a conservationist, a science teacher, an environmental biologist, and a geologist. Students get a personal perspective on these fields and the paths that they might take. The profiles offer a compelling, first-hand experience with careers students might be hearing about for the first time.

For more resources like these check out:

[Careers in Biotechnology](#)

[Career Gates: Healthcare](#)

[Careers in Educational Technologies](#)

[Girls Explore IT Careers](#) <http://www.teachersdomain.org/resource/its08.buildit/>

## 13. Workshop Calendar

May 17 Louisiana Energy Resources Workshop presented by NEED at Northwestern State; <http://www.regonline.com/needencana-natchitoches2>

June 1-3 GIS/GPS workshop presented by the LA Geography Alliance at Nichols; Registration deadline May 13<sup>th</sup> [nagelp@nsula.edu](mailto:nagelp@nsula.edu), Travel stipend for LSTA members

June 13-16 LA Forestry Teachers Tour [wwallace@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:wwallace@ldaf.state.la.us)

July 10-15. WETSHOP 2011; Application deadline: May 20 [acapello@wlf.la.gov](mailto:acapello@wlf.la.gov)

July 20-21 NASA PD Workshop Stennis Space Center' Teachers of grades 3-5  
1-800-237-1821, Monday through Friday 8AM - 4PM

July 25, 26 Northshore District Elementary Teams Sally Ride Science workshop

July 28-29 McTech Workshop Marine Careers; [dwivedi@louisiana.edu](mailto:dwivedi@louisiana.edu)