

## ~ Teacher Resource Guide ~

### **Furthering your education: *additional trainings***

#### **Peaks & Valleys Institute**

Two of the leading outdoor education institutions in Tulare County, Sequoia Riverlands Trust and WildPlaces, are leading a training in the fall of 2011 focusing on service learning. It is designed for high school educators who want to their students involved in outdoor volunteerism. This training is hands-on: you will learn how to do water quality tests, plantings, invasive species removal, and resource monitoring at Blue Oak Ranch Preserve. Blue Oak Ranch is next door to SCICON. To sign up, please email Laura Childers at [laura@sequoiariverlands.org](mailto:laura@sequoiariverlands.org). The training is free! And lots of fun.

#### **Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators (AEOE)**

AEOE hosts several trainings each year for outdoor educators. The trainings take place at outdoor schools around California. There are dozens of different workshops that cover everything from starting an organic garden at your school site to activities that teach your kids about wildlife. Plus, the trainings are lots of fun: there is a skit night, live band night, and great food.

Website: <http://aeoe.org/>

#### **Project WILD**

Project WILD is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs among educators of students in kindergarten through high school. Emphasizing wildlife because of its intrinsic value, Project WILD addresses the need for human beings to develop as responsible citizens of our planet.

Teacher trainings through CA Dept. of Fish & Game: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/projectwild/>  
Project WILD website: <http://www.projectwild.org/index.htm>

#### **Project WET**

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is an award-winning, nonprofit water education program and publisher. The program facilitates and promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through the dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids and the establishment of internationally sponsored Project WET programs. The Water Education Foundation is the California Coordinator for Project WET.

Website: <http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=1008>

### **Environmental education websites**

**Sequoia Riverlands Trust: Lesson Plans & Education Information**



Our website is chock-full of lesson plans and information about our education program. There is an entire section dedicated to educators. Check it out and download some lesson plans, Power Points on wildlife, and more.

Website: <http://www.sequoiariverlands.org/education-teachers.html>

### **Nature Rocks**

This website is full of lesson plans for nature activities. If you need any inspiration, this is a quick and user-friendly way to find some new activities for your students.

Website: <http://www.naturerocks.org/>

### **Kids Gardening**

This is a good resource if you want to start a garden at your school site. If you already have a garden, Kids Gardening has some good deals on gardening equipment, along with lesson plans.

Website: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/>

### **Education.com**

Looking for kids activities to show your child the fun side of learning? From science experiments and math games to writing projects and more, we've got you covered! Use the selector on the right to browse our kids activities, or narrow your search by grade and subject area.

Website: <http://www.education.com/activity/all-grades/outdoor/>

### **Children & Nature Network**

The Children & Nature Network (C&NN) was created to encourage and support the people and organizations working worldwide to reconnect children with nature. C&NN provides access to the latest news and research in the field and a peer-to-peer network of researchers and individuals, educators and organizations dedicated to children's health and well-being.

Website: <http://www.childrenandnature.org/>

## **Recommended reading**

Child psychology, as it relates to nature:

- *Last Child in the Woods*, by Richard Louv

Lesson plan resources:

- *Sharing Nature with Children*, by Joseph Cornell
- *EcoArt*, by Laurie Carlson
- *Bags, Boxes, Buttons, & Beyond*, by Cindy Guinn and Karen Simmons: make a million art projects out of recycled paper bags and other common materials

In-class reading with your students:



- *Indian Summer*, by Thomas Jefferson Mayfield: fascinating and kid-friendly book about a man who was raised by Yokuts Indians near the Kings River. Grades 3 and up.
- *Lion Singer*, by Sylvia Ross: cute story about a Yokuts Indian boy. Grades 1 and up.
- *One Day on Beetle Rock*, by Sally Carrighar: spend a day in the life of several different wild animals up in Sequoia National Park. Grades 3 and up.

Nature guides: Available at The Book Garden in Exeter

- *Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*: beautiful and accurate water color guide of almost every living thing in the mountains, from bugs to fungi to flower and birds.
- *Wildflowers of California's Central Valley and Neighboring Sierra*: the only wildflower guide dedicated to the valley and foothills. Covers blooming grasses, trees, and, of course, flowers.
- *Sibley's Field Guide to the Birds of Western North America*: the best guide to birds that's available. This is a birder's best friend.

## **Grants to help you teach kids about nature**

Target – grants cover transportation costs for field trips

REI – donates outdoor gear, such as tents, compasses, and first aid kits

StepUp – support after-school activities

## **Getting students involved:**

### **Kaweah Oaks Preserve Field Trips**

Sign your class up for a fun-filled day at Kaweah Oaks Preserve. Students get to experience the wilderness in their own backyards by going on nature hikes, catching bugs, and learning about wildlife. Contact Laura Childers, Education Director of Sequoia Riverlands Trust, to learn more at [laura@sequoiariverlands.org](mailto:laura@sequoiariverlands.org) or (559) 738-0211 x103.

Website: [www.sequoiariverlands.org](http://www.sequoiariverlands.org)

### **Dry Creek Preserve Field Trips**

Explore the foothills with your students, learn about wild rivers, and see some beautiful landscapes. This brand-new field trip program will be a delightful outdoor excursion. To book a trip, contact Laura Childers at [laura@sequoiariverlands.org](mailto:laura@sequoiariverlands.org) or (559) 378-0211 x103.

### **Rio Limpio: July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Volunteer to clean up the scenic Tule River with WildPlaces, a nonprofit focuses on youth education and environmental restoration. These fun events include hiking, picking up trash, removing graffiti, and enjoying a BBQ. More details are available on their website.

Website: [www.wildplaces.net](http://www.wildplaces.net)

**National Public Lands Day: Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011**



This special holiday focuses on volunteering to maintain our public lands. Visit their website to find volunteer opportunities in your area. Lake Kaweah usually has an event.

National Public Lands Day website: <http://www.publiclandsday.org/>

### **Watch the Wild**

Nature Abounds announces Watch the Wild™, a new program where you report on the "wild" in your community.

As a Watch the Wild™ volunteer, you observe and report what is taking place in your community, from trees and plants to weather and wildlife activity. In as little as ten minutes, your observations help us to understand how our eco-systems are changing and helps us to adapt for the future.

Website: <http://www.natureabounds.org/watchthewild/index.htm>