

WONDERS of Education

Winter 2012

SPECIAL DAYS OF WINTER...

Check out these events to get your students involved in the world around us:

2012 is the **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL**

<http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org> and part of the

International 'Water for Life' Decade (2005-2015)

<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/>

JANUARY

National Mentoring Month * National Hobby Month

- Jan. 5 National Bird Day: <http://www.nationalbirdday.com/>
Jan. 14-23 Globe at Night <http://www.globeatnight.org/>
Jan. 20 Penguin Awareness Day: <http://penguineek.wordpress.com/2008/01/20/>
Jan. 28 National Compliment Day: <http://www.complimentday.com/>

FEBRUARY

Black History Month * National Bird Feeding Month * Science Literacy Month

- Feb. 1 National Freedom Day: http://www.ehow.com/how_2106955_celebrate-national-freedom-day.html
Feb. 2 World Wetlands Day: <http://www.ramsar.org/>
Feb. 3 Cordova Ice Worm Day: <http://www.alaskacenters.gov/ice-worms.cfm>
Feb. 11 National Inventor's Day: <http://www.allholidaycafe.com/national-inventors-day/>
Feb. 7-13 Random Acts of Kindness Week: <http://www.actsofkindness.org/>
Feb. 12-21 Globe at Night: <http://www.globeatnight.org/>
Feb. 15 Galileo's Birthday: <http://www.mmdtkw.org/VGalileo.html>
Feb. 17-20 Great Backyard Bird Count: <http://www.birdsource.org/>
Feb. 27 International Polar Bear Day: <http://www.polarbearsinternational.org/>

MARCH

Women's History Month * Youth Art Month * Music in Our Schools Month

- March 2 Dr. Seuss's Birthday: <http://www.seussville.com/>
March 9 Ig Nobel Awards <http://www.improbable.com/>
March 11-17 Groundwater Awareness Week <http://www.ngwa.org/>
March 13-22 Globe at Night: <http://www.globeatnight.org/>
March 14 National Pi Day: <http://www.piday.org/>
March 14 Learn About Butterflies Day <http://butterflywebsite.com/>
March 14 Einstein's Birthday http://web.visionlearning.com/events/Einstein_Mar14_2004.htm
March 15 Tau Day (2 Pi Day) <http://tauday.com/>
March 19 Sun-Earth Day <http://sunearthday.nasa.gov/2012/index.php>
March 22 World Day for Water <http://www.worldwaterday.org/>
March 30 Take a Walk in the Park Day <http://www.nps.gov>
March 31 National Bunsen Burner Day: <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-bunsen-burner.htm>

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LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Ask Voyager

Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego invites questions from K-12 students on ocean and earth science topics for the magazine, *explorations now*.

<http://explorations.ucsd.edu/ask-voyager/>

Mark My Bird

To help identify birds online, Cornell Lab's web team is building a new tool called Merlin, which will use artificial intelligence to ask questions and provide suggestions to help identify what bird was seen. First, though, Merlin needs to know how people observe and describe birds. Help populate Merlin's "brain" by trying Mark My Bird, an online activity that asks 18 questions about a species. Play as often as you like to help build Merlin faster.

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/labs/applications/mmb/ACIntro.aspx?psessionid=9661>

Virtual Pond Dip

The Virtual Pond Dip introduces some common types of pond life organisms and encourages an exploration of a real pond. Students click on each organism to learn more; the Pond Life Identification Kit offers more detail.

<http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/index.html?http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/ponddip/>

Circumnavigating the Globe

Follow Erden Eruc as he travels around the world using only human powered transportation. His current location is in the Atlantic Ocean. Read his dispatches, track his progress, and more.

<http://whale.wheelock.edu/whalenet-stuff/Erden/>

International Student Carbon Footprint Challenge

Teachers and others who work with high school students can participate in the International Student Carbon Footprint Challenge. The program helps students measure their own carbon footprint using a calculator designed specifically for students.

<http://footprint.stanford.edu/>



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Braitmayer Foundation Education Grants

The Braitmayer Foundation offers grants to fund a broad range of K-12 education programs with curricular reform initiatives and professional development opportunities for teachers, particularly those which encourage people of high ability and diverse background to enter and remain in K-12 teaching. The next deadline for application is March 15, 2012.

<http://www.braitmayerfoundation.org/guid.cfm>

Disney Friends for Change Grants

Disney's Friends for Change Grants offers students, ages 5-18, an opportunity to help make a lasting, positive change in the world. Projects should highlight the creativity and commitment of young people working to meet the needs of others and show how even small actions can add up to big changes. The deadline for application is February 29, 2012.

<http://www.ysa.org/grants/disney-friends-change-grants>

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CONTESTS AND AWARDS

Do Something Awards

The Do Something Awards celebrate young people age 25 and under who are tackling a problem and changing the world. The deadline for application is March 1, 2012.

<http://www.dosomething.org/programs/awards>

Environmental Cartoon Competition

Volvo's Bob the Bunny competition is aimed at youth ages 10-12. Team members identify a local environmental issue and create a cartoon illustrating the issue and actions one might take to solve it. The deadline for entry is February 29, 2012.

<http://www.volvoadventure.org/home.aspx>

National Youth Science Camp

Two students are selected to represent each state in the free National Youth Science Camp. The deadline for application for most states is February 17, 2012. See the website for complete details.

<http://2012.nysc.org/delegates/apply/>

Norm Strung Youth Writing Award

The Outdoor Writers Association of America offers the annual Norm Strung Youth Writing Contest to students in grades 6-12 for published poetry and prose with an outdoor focus. The deadline for submission is March 16, 2012.

<http://owaa.org/programs/contests/norm-strung-youth-writing-awards/>

We Can Change the World Challenge

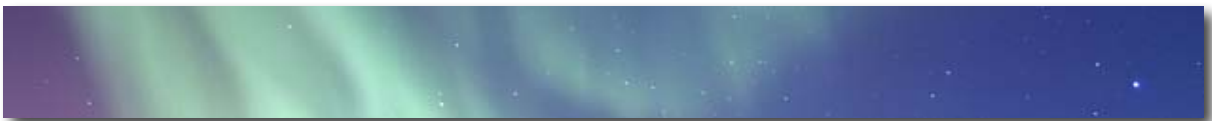
The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge encourages student teams to identify an environmental issue that has local, national, and global implications and to provide a viable, replicable solution. As a reminder, the deadline for application is March 15, 2012.

<http://www.wecanchange.com/>

Washington Youth Summit on the Environment – Washington, D.C.

George Mason University hosts the annual Washington Youth Summit on the Environment, June 24-29, 2012 in Washington, D.C., a leadership opportunity for promising youth in the areas of environmental science, conservation, and sustainability. Teachers nominate current sophomores and juniors who get special access to the Smithsonian National Zoo, National Geographic Society, and George Mason facility and researchers.

<http://wyse.gmu.edu/>



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS

Ocean X Factor: Life Beneath the Deep – Online

Join COSEE West and the College of Exploration as ocean scientists discuss exploring extreme environments during this FREE, online workshop, February 27-March 16, 2012. Keynotes include *Some Like it Hot – and Toxic!*, *Meet the Intraterrestrials!*, and *Chemistry, hydrology, and life below the seafloor*.

http://www.coexploration.org/cosee_west/spring2012/



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS (cont'd)

Online Teacher Academy

The Wildlife Conservation Society offers professional development courses through their Online Teacher Academy, April 6-May 27, 2012. Habitat Ecology for Educators is currently being offered at a special reduced rate of only \$50. Spring also brings Conservation Biology for Educators. Summer courses will include Nature's Thread: Weaving Environmental Education into Your Classroom, Marine Biology for Elementary Educators, and Predators: Biology and Conservation. <http://www.wcs.org/teachers/teacherpd/online-teacher-academy.aspx>

Ocean Exploration Workshops - Various

NOAA's Ocean Exploration Program and partners offer the Okeanos Explorer Education Materials Collection, Volume 1: Why Do We Explore? Professional Development Workshop for Educators. Participants will receive curriculum with CD-ROM's, certificates of participation, and more. Contact the noted educator or check out the website for registration and more information.

- April 21, 2012 with John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Illinois. The deadline for registration is April 6, 2012. Contact Jackie Formoso at jformoso@sheddaquarium.org
- April 21, 2012 with Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon. The deadline for registration is April 6, 2012. Contact Tracy Crews at tracy.crews@oregonstate.edu
- April 21, 2012 with Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans, Louisiana. The deadline for registration is April 6, 2012. Contact Tricia LeBlanc at tleblanc@AudubonInstitute.org
- April 28, 2012 with New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts. The deadline for registration is April 13, 2012. Contact Gina Cerrito at gcerrito@neaq.org
- May 5, 2012 with Birch Aquarium at Scripps in San Diego, California. The deadline for registration is April 20, 2012. Contact Adrienne Marriott at Creec9a@hotmail.com
- May 5, 2012 with the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland. The deadline for registration is April 20, 2012. Contact Joe Harber at Jharber@aqua.org
<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/edu/development/development.html>



RESOURCES

Coastal Ocean Science Blog

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) hosts the Coastal Ocean Science Blog, offering a 360-perspective of research and how that science is being used by natural resource managers and partners around the U.S. and its Territories. <http://noaaoceanscience.wordpress.com/>

Ocean Acidification

NOAA's Coral Program offers this updated website for Ocean Acidification education. While the materials are aimed at high school educators, they include information and activities that will interest a wider audience, including informal educators. The website offers presentations, curricula, interactives, and background materials. <http://coralreef.noaa.gov/education/oa/>

Wishing you a WONDER-FILLED winter!

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