



# SCIENCE BYTES

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## In this Issue:

1. Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards
2. NASA Engineering Design Challenge
3. Research Experience for Teachers
4. AGI to carry HUBBLE: The Mirror..
5. Miller Levine Tropical Biology Scholarship
6. Fire in Alaska
7. Eyewitness to Global Warming
8. Campbell Creek Science Center Programs

## Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards Program

The Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards Program is calling young scientists to enter its 2008 challenge. Now in its 16th season, ExploraVision will award up to \$240,000 in Savings Bonds this year, along with a host of other prizes, to student team members for the most innovative ideas that project technology 20 years into the future. The program is open to all K-12 public, private, and home-school students of all ability and skill levels who enter under the direction of their teacher. Many teachers now include it as part of their overall science curriculum, citing ExploraVision's propensity toward enhancing student learning and interest in science and cross-curricular activities. Entries are being accepted now through January 29, 2008. Visit <http://www.exploravision.org/bap> to download your Awards entry kit and competition rules and gain access to participation tips, sample projects, and other resources! Or contact NSTA for information and an application at 1-800-EXPLOR-9 or [exploravision@nsta.org](mailto:exploravision@nsta.org).

ExploraVision can be the beginning of a lifelong adventure in science. Engage your students in ExploraVision now!

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## NASA Engineering Design Challenge - Bring Space Into Your Classroom!

As NASA plans to return to the moon, plant growth will be an important part of space exploration. NASA scientists anticipate that astronauts may be able to grow plants on the moon in specialized plant growth chambers. Come participate and build your own lunar growth chamber in the NASA Engineering Design Challenge!

Through the NASA Engineering Design Challenge, elementary, middle and high school students will: Design, build, and evaluate lunar plant growth chambers Receive cinnamon basil seeds flown on STS-118 Test lunar growth chambers by growing and comparing both space-flown and earth-based control seeds

Visit <http://www.nasa.gov/education/plantchallenge> <<http://www.nasa.gov/education/plantchallenge>> to register and to receive more information about the NASA Engineering Design Challenge. You can also sign up for the NASA Express listserv to receive e-mail updates about the challenge and other NASA education activities.

Join the NASA Engineering Design Challenge and be part of space exploration by growing seeds flown in space!

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## RESEARCH Experience for Teachers - Summer 2008

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing on behalf of one of the faculty members at the Institute for Systems Biology, Dr. Nitin Baliga. For several years, Dr. Baliga's lab has been working with high school teachers and students in an effort to bring aspects of systems biology to classroom science.

Dr. Baliga's lab is working to submit a "Research Experience for Teachers" proposal to the National Science Foundation and is seeking some teachers who would be interested in such an opportunity. Attached, please find more information about the opportunity. If you are interested, please contact Claudia Ludwig by November 30, 2007, [cludwig@systemsbiology.org](mailto:cludwig@systemsbiology.org)  
Best,

Dana Riley Black, PhD, Director

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[http://www.systemsbiology.org/Center\\_for\\_Inquiry\\_Science](http://www.systemsbiology.org/Center_for_Inquiry_Science)

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**AGI to carry “HUBBLE: THE MIRROR ON THE UNIVERSE” as part of its publications catalog.**

For Immediate Release

Contact: John Rasanen [jr@agiweb.org](mailto:jr@agiweb.org)

Alexandria, VA – The American Geological Institute (AGI) is pleased to offer “Hubble: The Mirror on the Universe” (ISBN: 1-55407-316-2) by astronomers Robin Kerrod and Carole Stott for \$35.00 plus shipping and handling.

Published in October of 2007 by Firefly Books, “Hubble” explores the nearly twenty years the telescope has been in operation. This edition features over 80 new full-color photographs taken by Hubble. It highlights the most recent discoveries that have been made and how these discoveries are revising our understanding of the Universe, including the information behind Pluto losing its planetary status.

This stunning 192 page book contains 300 detailed photographs that delve into the birth of stars, galaxies colliding, the Eagle Nebula and other dramatic images that are millions, even billions of light years away.

To learn more about “Hubble” or to order this or other AGI publications online please visit <http://www.agiweb.org/pubs/>. You may also order by phone by calling 703-379-2480.

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**The Second Annual Miller Levine Tropical Biology Scholarship is now underway!**

**What is this?**

Ken Miller and Joe Levine are sponsoring two Biology teachers to attend a 2-week Tropical Biology seminar in Costa Rica from July 14, 2008 until July 29, 2008. For two weeks, the selected teachers (accompanied by Joe Levine) will be able to observe and analyze rainforests and animals at two field stations in Costa Rica – all expenses paid!

**Who can enter?**

Any Biology teacher that teaches at an accredited High School. Sorry folks, teachers only!

**How do teachers enter?**

Simply have them visit the website

[www.phschool.com/tropicalbiology](http://www.phschool.com/tropicalbiology)

<<http://www.phschool.com/tropicalbiology>> .

Once there, they have to write a 500 word essay describing why this trip would help them teach Biology.

Ken and Joe will personally select the winners, who will be announced in March and asked to attend NSTA in Boston – all expenses paid again!

Are there any flyers?

Flyers can be found by clicking on the following link.

[http://intranet.pearsoned.com/phnet/eleLibrary/electLibrary\\_files/NSTA\\_TropicalBio\\_flyer\\_HI.pdf](http://intranet.pearsoned.com/phnet/eleLibrary/electLibrary_files/NSTA_TropicalBio_flyer_HI.pdf)  
<[http://intranet.pearsoned.com/phnet/eleLibrary/electLibrary\\_files/NSTA\\_TropicalBio\\_flyer\\_HI.pdf](http://intranet.pearsoned.com/phnet/eleLibrary/electLibrary_files/NSTA_TropicalBio_flyer_HI.pdf)>

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**The class you have been hearing about !**

**Fire in Alaska**

Ed 580 R (1 Graded credit) Feb 22 4:30-8:30

Feb 23 8:00-4:00

TBA 4:30-6:30

West High School-sci rm 3

Tuition- Free – sponsored by AK Division of Forestry /BLM  
Materials fee- \$ 20.00

Audience- Teachers (especially, but not limited to gr 4-10)

Aides

Home schooling parents

Scout leaders

Anyone interested in Wildland Fire Ecology  
Wildland Fire Behavior  
Wildland Fire Safety

**Fire in Alaska** is a hands on, interactive, lab based course designed to help young people learn about fire ecology, fire behavior, and about living safely along the wildland urban interface. The lessons, which **use role playing, games, and laboratory and computer simulations**, can be taught individually or combined into units. Participants have access to a trunk filled with posters, videos, and equipment to perform experiments. This exciting fire curriculum is being used all over Alaska.

**Join us !**

Limit 20 participants-First come/first served

**To register or for more info: Contact Matt Weaver**

[Matt.Weaver@alaska.gov](mailto:Matt.Weaver@alaska.gov) 269-8481

([matt.weaver@alaska.gov](mailto:matt.weaver@alaska.gov))

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Monday, December 3, 2007

**John Stetson**

**EYE WITNESS TO GLOBAL WARMING**

University of Alaska Anchorage Rasmuson Hall 101

7pm – 8:30pm

The “Eyewitness to Global Warming” presentation is John Stetson's fascinating personal account of the ever changing arctic regions. He shares photos and first hand experiences from his 80,000 miles of dog sled travel. Stetson has great insight and stories gleaned from traveling with the Inuit on the recent Global Warming 101 Expedition on Baffin Island. John will speak about global warming solutions for individuals, educators, businesses and communities. Stetson's dramatic presentation of a very serious issue delivers a message of hope and empowerment to all. Click Here for PDF of event.

<<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/cafe/events/upload/Stetson-In-vite.pdf>>

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### **Campbell Creek Science Center Programs**

#### **December 12: Discovering the Torrent**

In 1868—less than a year after the Alaska Purchase—the three-masted sailing bark *Torrent* carried a battery of US Army soldiers north to build a military garrison on the shores of Cook Inlet. Sailing along the unfamiliar coast, the ship struck an offshore reef and quickly went to the bottom where it lay forgotten for 138 years. A private expedition led by author and diver Steve Lloyd discovered the *Torrent* in 2007. Join Steve as he discusses the *Torrent*'s mission, its destruction, and his team's underwater search for this historic shipwreck. Program begins at 7:00 pm on Wednesday December 12 at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center (6865 Elmore Road). Please call 267-1247 for more information.

#### **December 13: Seeing More with Your Telescope**

Want to get the most out of looking through the telescope or binoculars you already have? Join us as Christopher Erickson shares his 30-plus years of accumulated tips and techniques for using telescopes and binoculars to study the night sky. The program begins at 7:00 pm on Thursday December 13 at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center (6865 Elmore Road). Stargazing to follow the program if the skies are clear. Please call 267-1247 for more information.