



# SCIENCE BYTES

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## Opportunities Are Knocking!

### Opportunity #1

Two exhibits at the Anchorage Museum:

• **uungnaqpiallerput (The Way We Genuinely Live) Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival Continues through 10/26/08.** The Way We Genuinely Live is a joint project of the Anchorage Museum and the Calista Elders Council, developed with the guidance of Yup'ik elders and educators and with major support from the National Science Foundation.

This exhibition presents more than 200 remarkable 19th and early 20th century tools, containers, weapons, watercraft and clothing in an exploration of the scientific principles and processes that allowed these people to survive in the sub-arctic tundra of the Bering Sea coast.

Sponsors of this exhibition include the National Science Foundation, Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Northern Air Cargo, Alaska Airlines, BP, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Calista Corporation and the Anchorage Museum Association.

• **Circannual Rhythm: Video Installation by Michael Joo**  
On view May 2 through Sept. 21

Opening reception 5 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 2

New York installation artist Michael Joo combines art with science to examine the complex relationship between

technology, nature and spirituality. Joo was an artist-in-residence at the Anchorage Museum in 2007 and will install an exhibition featuring sculpture and video he created in Alaska in 2002.

The exhibition includes *Circannual Rhythm*, a video installation with imagery filmed in several locations across Alaska, which will occupy a 30-foot wall in Galleries 5 and 6. Admission to the opening reception of this exhibition is free.

### Opportunity #2

**25th Anniversary of Sally Ride's First Space Shuttle Mission** You are invited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Sally Ride's first space shuttle mission at a summer Educator Conference. The conference, presented by Sally Ride Science, NSTA, and NOAA, will provide educators an opportunity to learn more about Earth's changing climate and hear from Sally about how Earth has changed in the 25 years since her first flight.

*Earth Then, Earth Now: Our Changing Climate*  
July 23 – 24

NOAA Science Center  
Silver Spring, MD

<http://www.sallyridescience.com/conferences>

The cost of the conference is \$60.

### Opportunity #3

**New NASA Website** NASA's Science Mission Directorate has launched a new Web site that provides enhanced and engaging information about NASA's vast scope of scientific endeavors and achievements. The site will provide in-depth coverage of NASA's past, present and future science missions with features that include: Expanded "For Educators" and "For Kids" pages to provide access to a broader range of resources for learning the science behind NASA missions. Interactive tables and searches for Earth, heliophysics, planetary and astrophysics missions.

Insight into dark matter and dark energy, planets around other stars, climate change, Mars and space weather. Resources for researchers including links to upcoming science solicitations and opportunities. A mapping of science questions for NASA science missions and the data they produce. A citizen-scientist page with access to resources that equip the public to engage in scientific investigation. Easy-to-navigate design and an improved search engine to help find information.

Visit the new NASA science Web site at  
<http://nasascience.nasa.gov>

### Opportunity #4

**Send My Teacher to the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy** The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy recently announced a new way for elementary school teachers to get a chance to attend the 2009 Mickelson ExxonMobil

Teachers Academy and improve their math and science teaching skills. Students can nominate teachers from Grades 3, 4, and 5 or urge them to apply for an all-expense paid trip to the Academy's math and science professional development program by logging on to <http://www.sendmyteacher.com>, an interactive website.

Developed in conjunction with the National Science Teachers Association and Math Solutions, the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy enables teachers to hone their science and math-teaching skills, enhance their curricula, and discover innovative new ways to inspire students. The teachers will spend five days next July at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, NJ, deepening their understanding of mathematics and science content, building expertise in facilitating student learning through problem solving and inquiry, and using links between math and science that support student learning and understanding in the classroom.

Teacher applications are due by October 31, 2008. The National Science Teachers Association and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics will convene a panel of math and science experts to evaluate the entries and announce the selections in February 2009. The 2008 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy will host more than 600 teachers in Houston, Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Jersey City, New Jersey. To date, nearly 1000 teachers have attended the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy.

To nominate a teacher or to learn more about the program, visit [www.sendmyteacher.com](http://www.sendmyteacher.com)

#### **Opportunity #5**

Still looking for graduate/PD credits this summer? Take an online course from the American Museum of Natural History.

#### **Seminars on Science**

<http://learn.amnh.org/welcome.php?BAP> offers award-winning online graduate courses in the life, earth, and physical sciences. Designed for K-12 educators, each six-week course is led by an experienced classroom teacher and a research scientist. In-depth readings and assignments paired with rich web-based discussions assure that educators come away from each class with a deeper understanding of both the science and the tools of scientific inquiry.

Courses may meet your local professional development needs, including degree, certification, NCLB and salary graduation requirements. Check out the Seminars on Science website for complete information, including free sample resources—essays, videos, and interactives—from all of our online courses.

All ten courses are available this summer including: The Solar System; Evolution; Earth: Inside and Out; The Ocean System; Genetics, Genomics, Genethics; and Space, Time and Motion. Free sample resources are available for each course on the Seminars website.

Summer sessions run June 9 – July 20 AND June 30 – August 10. Register early for a \$50 discount. For more information, go to [learn.amnh.org](http://learn.amnh.org) <<http://learn.amnh.org/welcome.php?BAP>> or call direct at 800-649-6715.”

J. Katie Rasmussen, Outreach Coordinator

[jrasmussen@amnh.org](mailto:jrasmussen@amnh.org)

#### **Opportunity #6**

#### **2008 NSRC National Science Education Strategic Planning Institute July 20–25, 2008**

The National Science Resources Center (NSRC) invites you to participate in this year's National Science Education Strategic Planning Institute.

More than 800 forward-thinking school districts at the cutting edge of science education reform have participated in one or more of the 60 previous NSRC planning events, and are at various stages of implementing the strategic plans they developed there. Be part of this growing national movement: Participate in the National Science Education Strategic Planning Institute this year.

During the Institute a team of expert practitioners will guide your school district leadership team through the rigorous process of developing a tailored strategic plan—a plan for initiating and implementing an effective research-based science program. You will—

Explore current research on how students learn and develop. Examine exemplary research-based science curricula. Address the five elements of reform; curriculum, professional development, materials support, assessment, and administrative and community support. Receive technical assistance in the strategic planning process and network with others involved in science education reform.

#### **Opportunity #7**

#### **National LASER K–8 Science Education Strategic Planning Institute** Where: Alexandria, Virginia

When: July 20–25, 2008

Who Should Attend: A five-person team of teachers, school administrators, community leaders, and a scientist or engineer representing a corporation, academic institution, museum, science technology center, foundation, government, or other non-profit organization working to reform science education.

Details: The brochure, sample program, registration information and frequently asked questions may be found at

[http://www.nsrconline.org/pdf/2008\\_SPI\\_main.pdf](http://www.nsrconline.org/pdf/2008_SPI_main.pdf).

Additional Information: Contact: Mary Raucci, NSRC, 202.633.2971, [laser@si.edu](mailto:laser@si.edu).

### Opportunity #8

The Education Development Center's Center for Children & Technology is working in partnership with PBS TeacherLine New York and the Buffalo PBS affiliate WNED to conduct this National Science Foundation funded study to learn more about what teachers gain from online professional development and whether it impacts student learning.

They are looking for high school biology teachers with knowledge of genetics and evolution to pilot an assessment.

Interested teachers will: Receive the assessment electronically Complete the 60-75 minute assessment which includes content and pedagogy items as well as questions about a lesson plan Electronically submit the assessment along with the lesson

plan. Receive \$50 as compensation

If you are interested, please contact Kristen Griffiths at [KGriffiths@edc.org](mailto:KGriffiths@edc.org) <<mailto:KGriffiths@edc.org>> or 212-807-4267.

### Opportunity #9

**Space Agriculture in the Classroom** would like to inform you about the Growing Space magazine series, written especially for science and agriscience students and teachers. Three volumes of Growing Space have been developed by researchers from the University of Florida, along with Scientists and Professionals from USDA and NASA. I encourage you to take the time to browse our website [www.spaceag.org](http://www.spaceag.org) <<http://www.spaceag.org>> and consider requesting free copies to distribute to educators. Lesson plans, Spanish versions, and other educational resources are also available at this website. 'Space Agriculture in the Classroom is a joint project of USDA, NASA, and the University of Florida that is designed to boost student awareness of the space program and the role of agriculture in our economy and society. Growing Space Vol. 1-3 will help students see the connection between agricultural practices on Earth that relate to space-based research, particularly in the plant sciences.

To request your free copies of Growing Space, obtain lesson plans, and learn about other space education materials, please visit our website at [www.spaceag.org](http://www.spaceag.org) <<http://www.spaceag.org>> .

### Opportunity #10

**Check out the latest Space Place news from NASA.**

<http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/en/educators/>  
Read the NASA Space Place newsletter, download and print images from Earth and space and find science and math activities ready to download, print and use in your classroom. ENJOY!

### Opportunity #11

**SEND YOUR NAME TO THE MOON WITH NEW LUNAR MISSION WASHINGTON** -- NASA invites people of all ages to join the lunar exploration journey with an opportunity to send their names to the moon aboard the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, spacecraft. The Send Your Name to the Moon Web site enables everyone to participate in the lunar adventure and place their names in orbit around the moon for years to come. Participants can submit their information at <http://www.nasa.gov/lro>, print a certificate and have their name entered into a database. The database will be placed on a microchip that will be integrated onto the spacecraft. The deadline for submitting names is June 27, 2008.

"Everyone who sends their name to the moon, like I'm doing, becomes part of the next wave of lunar explorers," said Cathy Peddie, deputy project manager for LRO at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. "The LRO mission is the first step in NASA's plans to return humans to the moon by 2020, and your name can reach there first. How cool is that?"

The orbiter, comprised of six instruments and one technology-demonstration, will provide the most comprehensive data set ever returned from the moon. The mission will focus on the selection of safe landing sites and identification of lunar resources. It also will study how the lunar radiation environment could affect humans. LRO will also create a comprehensive atlas of the moon's features and resources that will be needed as NASA designs and builds a planned lunar outpost. The mission will support future human exploration while providing a foundation for upcoming science missions. LRO is scheduled for launch in late 2008. The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter is being built at Goddard. The mission also will be managed at the center for NASA's Explorations Systems Mission Directorate in Washington.

Send Your Name to the Moon is a collaborative effort among NASA, the Planetary Society in Pasadena, Calif., and the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md.

To send your name to the moon, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/lro>

### Opportunity #12

**INSPIRE Counselors Needed** The Interdisciplinary National Science Project Incorporating Research and Education Experience, also known as INSPIRE, is seeking educators to supervise high school students during eight-week summer internships. Positions are available at several locations across the U.S. One counselor will be selected for each of the ten NASA Field Centers.

The position requires a professional educator to coordinate NASA INSPIRE activities within the NASA Center region. The INSPIRE Counselor will be the designated point of contact for

INSPIRE participants at the assigned NASA Center. Training will be provided prior to the assignment. The position requires a minimum of a four-year degree in science, mathematics and/or technology education, a valid teaching certificate, and a minimum of three years teaching experience in grades 6-12. A combination of teaching experience and NASA education experience is also acceptable. U.S. citizenship is required.

Counselors who are chosen will receive lodging and meals during the eight-week event, travel to and from the NASA field center, and a stipend of \$5,800. Oklahoma State University graduate credit is also available to those who are interested. Applications are due May 30, 2008.

To learn more about this opportunity and how to apply, visit <https://opportunities.nasa.okstate.edu/index.cfm?lftoff=applications.PositionDetails&JobPostingID=20>. If you have any questions about this opportunity, please e-mail them to Richard Adams at [richard.adams@okstate.edu](mailto:richard.adams@okstate.edu).

### **Opportunity #13**

**NASA' s Office of Education Announces Opportunity to Partner With NASA on the Development of a Massively Multiplayer Online Game** NASA's Office of Education is seeking proposals for collaboration with an organization to enhance NASA's ability to achieve its educational goals by creating and managing a Massively Multiplayer Online game. The goal of this game is to enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics education by combining NASA-based content that draws and holds young people's attention with fun and challenging game play. The primary audience for this MMO game will be students from the middle school level through college.

This request will result in the establishment of a non-reimbursable Space Act Agreement (defined as one with no exchange of funds) that will define the full roles and responsibilities of NASA and the proposing organization. A follow on call for education experts to work with the project is expected in June 2008.

Proposals are due June 18, 2008.

For more information about this opportunity, visit <http://prod.nais.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/eps/synopsis.cgi?acqid=129682>. If you have any questions about this opportunity, please direct your questions to the Daniel Laughlin, [daniel.d.laughlin@nasa.gov](mailto:daniel.d.laughlin@nasa.gov).

### **Opportunity #14**

**Alaska K-12 Teachers Your Insights are Needed!** The survey will be open for a bit longer. Please take the time to fill this out if you are a teacher in grades K-12. You do not have to be a full time science teacher to do this survey.

Alaska K-12 Teachers Your Insights are Needed!

(and completing a survey makes you eligible for a chance to win an ipodnano)

Please take a moment to share your thoughts on teaching and learning science. Your insights are critical in understanding what can be done to improve science education across Alaska.

Please find more information and complete the survey at: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ohSKTmUgUTRLe1ywvyPITQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ohSKTmUgUTRLe1ywvyPITQ_3d_3d)

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### **Grand Canyon University -Online Master's Program**

Grand Canyon University is pleased to extend a scholarship opportunity to Alaska teachers interested in earning their first or second Masters degree. A scholarship of \$1,000 will be offered to educators, and the \$100 application fee will be waived for the upcoming Summer and Fall semesters.

You may also be eligible for financial aid and the Title I loan cancellation program to help pay for school. Educators teaching in Title I schools may be eligible to cancel up to \$5,000 off a Federal Student Loan.

Choosing to pursue your Masters degree in Education is a huge decision. As a teaching professional, you know earning an advanced degree will have a direct impact on your career. I am here to assist you in determining if Grand Canyon University is a good fit for you, as well as help you decide which program will help you achieve your educational and professional goals.

Grand Canyon is consistently ranked one of the top Masters in Education degree granting Universities in the United States. OEDb's Online Education Ratings ranked Grand Canyon University best of class. The OEDb link is as follows: <http://oedb.org/rankings> <<http://oedb.org/rankings>> .

Grand Canyon University's main campus is located in Phoenix, Arizona. The university is Regionally Accredited through the North Central Association for the Higher Learning Commission. All Education programs are 100% online for those teachers needing a more flexible and convenient way to pursue higher education.

Please feel free to share this information with other educators in your district who are also in need of their Bachelor's or Master's degree in Education. The ability to share books and work with a cohort of fellow educators provides not only support but can also save you money.

We offer many different Education programs that teachers can complete 100% online. Completion time is 18 to 30 months. For more information on the programs, Title One Loan Cancellation, and the Alaska scholarship, please click the link below or cut and paste the address into your web browser: <http://www.gcu.edu/ec/lgrossman>

If you are ready to apply for admission and the scholarships still available, please click this link please or cut and paste the

address into your web

browser:<https://secure.mastersonline.com/application/frmllogin.asp?molid=191> <<http://www.gcu.edu/ec/>>

You must contact Lauren Grossman in order to receive the Alaska scholarships. There are a limited number of scholarships available. Individuals that request information through the general website will not qualify for the scholarships.

Scholarships are for new students only.\*\*

Lauren K Grossman, Enrollment Manager

<mailto:lgrossman@online.gcu.edu>

<blocked::blocked::blocked::"><mailto:lgrossman@online.gcu.edu>

<<mailto:lgrossman@online.gcu.edu>>

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### Space Explorers : Planetary Times excerpts

#### NASA PHOENIX MISSION READY FOR MARS LANDING

NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander is preparing to end its long journey and begin a three-month mission to taste and sniff fistfuls of Martian soil and buried ice. The lander is scheduled to touch down on the Red Planet May 25, 2008.

More Info... <http://news.space-explorers.com/?v=6&i=5&a=1>

#### DISCOVERY OF MOST RECENT SUPERNOVA IN OUR GALAXY

The most recent supernova in our galaxy has been discovered by tracking the rapid expansion of its remains. More

Info... <http://news.space-explorers.com/?v=6&i=5&a=2>

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**A SPACE EXPERIENCE** From July 27 - August 1, 2008, students in 7th - 12th grades can attend A Space Experience at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay.

More Info... <http://news.space-explorers.com/?v=6&i=5&a=4>

**EXCITING TEACHER OPPORTUNITIES** Check out these programs and workshops for educators looking to further their knowledge about weightless flight, rocketry, engineering, and black holes.

More Info... <http://news.space-explorers.com/?v=6&i=5&a=5>

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### Ag Literacy course in Palmer in August

Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom is offering an Educator Institute in Palmer, Aug. 5-7. This is the second year for the three-day workshop, available with one or two credits. There is also a July 30-Aug. 1 session in Fairbanks.

The course is a fast-paced, fun, hands-on introduction to farming in Alaska, including production agriculture, economics, marketing and the sciences that relate to agriculture. I will be showing you how to incorporate agriculture into your everyday classroom work, while special speakers will give you their in-

sights on Alaska agriculture. When it is done, you will have a new appreciation for Alaska agriculture, training to help your students become agricultural literate in fun ways that meet standards, and a bounty of materials to help you. It is three intense days of activities, where even the lunches (provided) are lessons.

Cost for the institute without credit is \$90 (that includes the materials, Alaska Grown lunches, snacks and tours). If you want to earn professional development credit through UAA, it is an additional \$69 for one credit or \$89 for two, as well as the mandatory contact and noncontact hours. All that information is available when you pre-register at [www.agclassroom.org/ak](http://www.agclassroom.org/ak).

Victoria Naegele

Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom

907-746-2172

fax 746-2173

[www.agclassroom.org/ak](http://www.agclassroom.org/ak)

### Earth Science Week Update

#### Students Worldwide Compete In Earth Science Olympiad

Students excited about Earth science are encouraged to “try out” for the second annual International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO). The competition invites U.S. students to complete a free online assessment by the end of next week, between May 15 and May 23. Those who demonstrate outstanding geoscientific knowledge and skills will become eligible for special studies and training opportunities this summer, possibly culminating with attendance at IESO in Manila, Philippines, in late August 2008.

IESO, supported by the National Science Foundation and Earth Science Week, is open to U.S. secondary school students who will not be more than 18 years old on July 1. The official language of IESO is English. The competition is organized by The Global Challenge Award, which covers costs for travel, participation, housing, and conference fees for selected students.

IESO offers a unique opportunity for students who want to learn about Earth sciences, global challenges facing the world today, and their peers in other countries. For more information or to take the online assessment, see The Global Challenge Award (<http://www.globalchallengeaward.org/ieso>).

#### Contests Add Fun, Learning To Earth Science Week

AGI is sponsoring three national contests during Earth Science Week 2008. The photography, visual arts, and essay contests allow both students and the general public to participate in the celebration, learn about Earth science, and compete for prizes.

The photography contest, open to all ages, focuses on “Earth Science Beyond Your Front Door.” The visual arts contest, titled “Studying Our Earth,” is open to students in grades K-5. Finally, students in grades 6-9 are eligible to enter the essay contest: “Earth Connections.” Essays of up to 300 words should

describe how natural processes are interconnected and how they affect each other where the author lives.

Entries may be submitted starting now, but all are due by the Friday of Earth Science Week, Oct. 17, 2008. The first-place prize for each contest is \$300 and a copy of AGI's "Faces of Earth" 2-DVD package. To learn more about these contests, including how to enter, visit

<http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests>.

### **Explore 'My Events Map' For Happenings Near You**

Get out of the house and away from the classroom! That's what the "No Child Left Inside" theme of Earth Science Week 2008 (Oct. 12-18) encourages you to do. To help, AGI is launching a website to connect participants with learning opportunities off the beaten track.

Want to sign up for a geological tour in your area? Or identify a geoscience exhibit being offered nearby? The new "My Events Map" (<http://www.earthsciweek.org/eventsnearyou/index.html>) provides clickable links to Earth Science Week events taking place at parks, museums, science and technology centers, university geology departments, local geological societies, and other locations close to you. Expect to see more events on the map in the coming months.

If your organization is planning a special program or event for the public during Earth Science Week, please contact AGI at [info@earthsciweek.org](mailto:info@earthsciweek.org). We'll be happy to post the information on the new Earth Science Week 2008 My Events Map!

### **Weather Channel Offers Forecast Earth Summit**

To help promote environmental literacy, The Weather Channel invites high school students to enter the running to participate in the second annual Forecast Earth Summit, Dec. 5-7 in Washington, D.C.

Freshman, sophomores, and juniors of the 2008-09 school year are eligible to submit a 200-word essay outlining what they are doing to address climate change. Entry forms can be submitted online until Sunday, October 19, at the end of Earth Science Week.

Twenty students will be selected to take part in the three-day summit, which will focus on promoting environmental literacy and in-depth engagement with environmental leaders, enthusiasts, and scientists. To learn more, visit <http://www.forecastearthsummit.org>.

### **Post Photos Online From Earth Science Week**

Want to see yourself and your students on the Earth Science Week website? Simply send us your photos from past Earth Science Week celebrations and activities, along with signed

permission forms. We'll post selected images on the Earth Science Week Photo Gallery (<http://www.earthsciweek.org/whatsgoingon/gallery/photos.html>).

By submitting a photo, you agree to allow AGI to post the image on the Earth Science Week website, without compensation unless prohibited. All submissions and all rights of ownership in and to the images, including all rights to use, reproduce, publish, modify, edit, and distribute the same will become the exclusive property of AGI and will not be returned. AGI reserves the right to edit, modify, adapt, copyright, publish, use, and reproduce any and all entries without further compensation. You can snap shots with your digital camera or cell phone, or scan regular photos for electronic transmission. JPEG files are preferred. Download permission forms at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/whatsgoingon/gallery/ESWPhotoPermissionForm.pdf> and send your photos to [info@earthsciweek.org](mailto:info@earthsciweek.org). See you online!

### **View 'Why Earth Science' Online With Your Students**

AGI's "Why Earth Science" video is now available for free viewing online on YouTube. For an exciting introduction to the geosciences, you can't do better than this six-and-a-half minute clip, featuring eye-popping cinematography and computer-animation highlights from AGI's "Faces of Earth" mini-series, which aired last year on The Science Channel.

The video, an alternate version of which recently won a bronze Telly Award, is ideal for illustrating the importance of Earth science to not only students, but also education decisionmakers who may be weighing the subject's place in the local curriculum. To view the clip, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxbIJH4fTYo>.

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### **Science News You Can Use!**

Resources for Science Teachers - Volume 8, Issue 5

Buy 6, Get 1 FREE! - Applicable to Microscopes, Balances, & Lab Tables - All major brands, all year! For details visit:

[www.NebraskaScientific.com](http://www.NebraskaScientific.com)

<<http://www.nebraskascientific.com/>> !

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### **GEOTIMES ONLINE: NOW WITH VIDEO**

Alexandria, VA – The American Geological Institute (AGI) is pleased to announce the first Geotimes videocast, available both through <http://www.geotimes.org> and YouTube. The premiere videocast takes a look at the current developments related to the Chaitén eruption in Chile.

Geotimes Online is now producing original videocasts of Earth-related news. The videocasts will cover current geologic news, including natural disasters, current research and public policy

affecting the geosciences. Anchored by staff writers of the magazine, the videocasts supplement Geotimes' regular earth science news items throughout the month.

To view the latest posting as well as to read features from the magazine and view other Web Extras, please visit

<http://www.geotimes.org/>.

Keep up to date with the latest happenings in earth, energy and environment news by checking out Geotimes online at <http://www.geotimes.org>. Published by the American Geological Institute, Geotimes is your source for news and perspectives on research, technology and policy that affect you every day.

Sign up for E-alerts, our short, weekly e-mails that alert subscribers to new content posted on the Geotimes Web site, and subscribe to the magazine at <http://www.geotimes.org>.

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### **MY WONDERFUL WORLD MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER** **Create Your Own Backyard BioBlitz!**

May 30 and 31, National Geographic and the National Park Service are hosting the 2008 BioBlitz in the Santa Monica Mountains, California. Teams of naturalists, scientists, and volunteers

will explore the park's 150,000 acres, observing and recording as many species as possible. At the end, they'll have a catalog of biodiversity in the area -- a long list of bugs, plants, animals, birds, and other organisms that live in that environment. Can't make it to Santa Monica? Create your own backyard BioBlitz! These fun educational activities will teach junior field researchers the skills to observe and record the biodiversity in their communities.

#### **BioBlitz**

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B1DC C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

#### **Educational Activities**

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B8DFC C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

**CAMPAIGN UPDATE** Big news from the My Wonderful World blog! We've debuted a guest blogger series, soon to feature geographers, experts, cartographers, educators, and generally cool people. Visit the blog and read "Spin the Globe" author Marissa Giamo's perspective on generating geography gusto through storytelling.

#### **Visit the Blog**

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B9DEC C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

**GAMES AND COOL STUFF** Check out National Geographic Traveler's Places of a Lifetime for insider's tips on some of the most amazing cities around the planet:

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B5D9C C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

**FOR PARENTS:** On June 5, join the United Nations and celebrate World Environment Day. Visit the website for ways to "kick the carbon habit" and inspirational suggestions to make your community environmentally aware. Or, find an event in your area and learn how local initiatives are promoting low-carbon economies.

#### **World Environment Day**

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B6D8C C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

#### **World Environment Day Fact Sheet**

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B2DB CC23EE0D2A28F17A0>

#### **Find An Event**

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B3DA CC23EE0D2A28F17A0>

**FOR EDUCATORS:** Earthwatch Live From the Field fellowship program is accepting applications until June 1 for placement during the 2008-09 school year. Visit [www.earthwatch.org/LFF](http://www.earthwatch.org/LFF) for more information. The National Environmental Education Foundation is launching the Classroom Earth National High School Challenge -- an opportunity for as many as 25 teachers to secure funding for innovative curricula. Visit [www.neefusa.org](http://www.neefusa.org) to learn more.

#### **Live From the Field**

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B1C5C C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

#### **National Environmental Education Foundation**

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B2C4C C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

**FOR KIDS:** Go on a virtual field trip around the world with National Geographic Kids! Watch videos, learn facts, view maps, and peruse beautiful photos at People and Places. <http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B9C7C C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

**FOR TEENS:** Check out the New York Times layer in GoogleEarth and virtually fly to news stories all over the world.

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B0C6C C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

#### **TEST YOUR GLOBAL IQ**

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/W0RT01EE4B1CEC C23EE0D2A28F17A0>

#### **ABOUT MY WONDERFUL WORLD**

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**TELL US** Have you explored your backyard or local park lately? Create your own BioBlitz and tell us what interesting

plants, animals, bugs, and other organisms are native to your neighborhood.

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