



SCIENCE BYTES

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Themed Garden Tours - Tryck's Nursery

Doug Tryck of Tryck's Nursery offers Friday evening themed garden tours from 6 - 7:30 pm through September.

Sept 5th-Planting to attract birds to your garden

Sept 12th- Growing fruit and nut trees for human consumption

September 19- Fall colors -native plants

Sept 26- Fall colors- Exotic trees and planting for winter interest

All he asks is that reservations(space is limited) are made-345-2507, and that he'll be accepting non perishable food items for the food bank

American Geological Institute (AGI) Presents:

Earth Science Week 2008 - Coming Soon Get Ready

Heading back to school? Now is the time to make plans for Earth Science Week 2008. The 11th annual Earth Science Week will celebrate the theme "No Child

Left Inside" with a wide range of exciting activities, programs, and resources designed to help young people explore Earth science firsthand.

Pitch in to promote science literacy. Dig up fossil evidence of past life, record observations of cloud patterns, or visit science centers and parks. Conduct activities described on the Earth Science Week website at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/forteachers/index.html>. For more ideas, see recommendations at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/forplanners/index.html>.

This year's event is shaping up to reach even more than last year's total estimated audience of over 5 million people. For the past decade, AGI has organized Earth Science Week to foster public and professional awareness of the status of Earth science in education and society. To learn more or to order an Earth Science Week 2008 Toolkit, visit the event website at <http://www.earthsciweek.org>.

Global Effort Offers - Unique Teaching Resources

Educators internationally are contributing to a new online resource called Earth Learning Idea (ELI). ELI offers a wide variety of Earth science instruction ideas, all designed to provide practical tools for teachers and teacher-trainers.

For the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), ELI is publishing one activity a week through 2008. Each activity is designed to maximize student participation, learning, and enjoyment while minimizing cost. Strategies promote interactive teaching and students' investigational and thinking skills. Visit ELI at <http://www.earthlearningidea.com>. The site also offers a blog at <http://www.earthlearningidea.blogspot.com>.

IYPE, officially spanning from February 2007 to December 2009, is a major focus of Earth Science Week 2008. IYPE aims to demonstrate new and exciting ways Earth science can help future generations meet the challenges of ensuring a safer and more prosperous world. Outreach includes educational ventures such as lecture tours, geology excursions, articles, competitions, and many other items and activities. To learn more, visit <http://www.esfs.org> online.

NASA to Students: Plant - Ozone Bioindicator Gardens

NASA is launching a new website to help students plant ozone monitoring and bioindicator gardens at their schools or in their backyards. The website expands on the May activity - "Plant an Ozone Monitoring Gar-

den” - of the Earth Science Activity Calendar for the 2008-09 school year, featured in this year’s Earth Science Week Toolkit.

NASA encourages teachers to bookmark the site and visit often. This fall you’ll find background information on ozone-induced plant injury, training in identifying ozone injury to specific plants, activities and links for getting involved, and learning resources for educators and citizen scientists.

The site is designed to help young people discover the importance of understanding ozone in the Earth’s atmosphere and in their own backyards. As the site develops, you’ll have the opportunity to share data with NASA - and eventually with students and researchers worldwide as part of the larger GLOBE project. Visit <http://ozonegarden.larc.nasa.gov/index.html> to learn more.

AGI Website Monitors ‘Pulse’ Of E. Science Education

Worried about the weak heartbeat of education in your schools? You can check The Pulse of Earth Science Education, AGI’s website that monitors Earth science education trends nationwide. The site, new last year, offers detailed, up-to-date information on the status of geoscience education in every state, as well as guidance for advocates.

For each state, AGI provides the most recent available data on:

- * teacher certification requirements and numbers teaching related subjects;
- * relevant courses that middle and high school students must take;
- * K-12 enrollment levels in Earth science and related subjects;
- * coverage of Earth science within state science standards;
- * state assessment of students in Earth science;
- * textbooks adopted and relevance of relevance to Earth science; and
- * contact information for state education agencies.

The website, at <http://www.agiweb.org/education/statusreports>, features findings that many find surprising. Find out whether your state is one of the many where Earth science is included in education standards, but fails to carry through to curriculum requirements or high school exit exams. The site also offers an Advocacy Guide with recommendations for

taking action within your state and local school systems.

The information presented is based on available data collected from numerous sources. Viewers are invited to help update information by contacting AGI at aeb@agiweb.org.

Art Contest Encourages - Learning About Trees

Earth Science Week offers students lots of opportunities to show what they know about geoscience! In addition to traditional essay, photo, and art contests and this year’s new International Year of Planet Earth-Earth Science Week photo contest (<http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/index.html>), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) has announced an art contest for U.S. students in grades two to four.

Challenging students to explore trees and their importance to the world, the contest encourages early elementary students to go outside and directly observe trees in their communities, do science activities with their classes or at home, read stories and books, search relevant websites, and then draw pictures showing what they learned. The contest supports national education standards in science and geography.

Entries are due October 24. The first-place artist will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Crayola.com or Amazon.com, and his or her artwork will be used on IGES’s holiday e-card. Second- and third-place winners will receive \$75 and \$50 gift certificates, respectively. Participation certificates will be available online as PDF files for teachers or parents to download and print. Check the IGES contest website for details, including changes from previous years, at <http://www.strategies.org/artcontest>.

NSTA Conferences 2008-2009

NSTA Regional Conferences – 2008

October – Charlotte, NC: October 30-November 1, 2008
November – Portland, OR: November 20-22, 2008
December – Cincinnati, OH: December 4-6, 2008

2009 National NSTA Conference

New Orleans, LA – March 19-22, 2009

Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and NSTA are pleased to announce the 19th annual Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program. This year Toyota will award \$550,000 in grants to K-12 teachers of sci-

ence. A total of 50 large grants of up to \$10,000 each, along with 20-30 mini-grants of up to \$2,500 each will be awarded. Categories include environmental science, integrating literacy and science and physical science. For further information and to begin the application process online, please visit <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry>. Remember that all 50 large grant winners receive an all-expenses paid trip to the NSTA National Conference on Science Education in New Orleans!

Next Generation of Aviation Professionals

Dear Colleagues, Advisors and Partners,

I invite each of you to view the UAA Aviation marketing videos found at the links below. If this doesn't make you wish you 20 again, check your pulse. Please help to find and recruit the next generation of aviation professionals for Alaska by forwarding the links to your colleagues, friends and young people that have an interest in aviation.

All UAA Aviation programs:

mms://wm.uaa.alaska.edu/AVTech/uaa_aviation_final.wmv

Joint UAA-UAF video Airframe & Powerplant Mechanic:

mms://wm.uaa.alaska.edu/AVTech/ua_maintenance_final.wmv

The video can also be found on You Tube at www.youtube.com search for UAA Aviation.

The marketing gurus tell me the internet is the preferred mode of information retrieval for most young people, but I also know many remote locations in Alaska lack reliable high speed internet connections. If your company serves some of those locations and you would like to personally deliver a copy or two to your village contacts, I have DVDs available and I'm glad to provide them to you.

We will mail at least one copy of the DVD (contains both pieces) to each high school in Alaska as well as emailing the links above. I'm told some MAC users may have trouble viewing the .wmv files if they haven't loaded appropriate software. Within the next couple of days, I'll have a version mounted that will work on all MACs, as well.

Thanks for your help and I look forward to your continued support.

Rocky Capozzi

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Space-Flown Basil Seeds Still Available for Lunar Plant Growth Chamber Design Challenge

The NASA Engineering Design Challenge: Lunar Plant Growth Chamber has positively impacted educators and students nationally. Currently over 1,000,000 students are involved! Plenty of space-flown seeds are still available. To register for the Challenge and receive seeds, visit at <http://www.nasa.gov/education/plantchallenge>. Visit the Web site frequently to find new feature stories about schools participating in the Challenge.

The EESC Fall 2008 Poster Contest is Underway!

"Engineers Make a Difference" is the theme for the Engineering Education Service Center's Fall 2008 Poster Contest. This year's winning entry can be found in a display of inspiration, excitement, wonder and curiosity. Posters should be fun, motivational and inspire students to pursue a degree in engineering, technology and/or science. Engineering is humanitarian, caring and possibly the most effective, hands-on approach to make the world a better place. The engineering field can be very exciting. If you would like a career that allows you to help others on a grand scale or if you ever wanted to make the world a better place, then engineering has something for you! Engineers strive to make our lives better, easier, cheaper, more efficient and more fun by solving problems in everyday life. Engineers are practical inventors. It is through the work of engineers that we are able to prevent devastation from hurricanes, explore other galaxies, and prevent illness from the worst diseases. The work of engineers also includes camera phones, wireless computers, satellite TV, airplanes, hydrogen powered cars, digital music, underwater robots, air conditioning, indoor plumbing, cosmetics, titanium knee and hip replacements, and the list goes on and on. Almost everything you touch has been influenced or designed by an engineer directly or indirectly. It is impossible to think of a major technical development that hasn't included the work of engineers. Cash Prizes Contest deadline: 11:59pm November 12, 2008 For more information or to download a flyer... [<http://www.engineeredu.com/contest.htm>](http://www.engineeredu.com/contest.htm)

Environmental Essay Contest

My name is Van and I am working with the Weather Channel on an environmental essay contest for high school students. The contest is sponsored by the Weather Channel's Forecast Earth Summit, a

conference for environmental experts and high school students in Washington D.C., and twenty high school students will be selected for free trips to attend the Summit.

We're trying to let as many teachers as possible know about this contest. We have a web page about the contest

<https://www.forecastearthsummit.org/index.php>

and have a widget that gives teachers a daily environmental tip

<http://www.forecastearthsummit.tv/widget>.

Van Tran <vtran@vmfoundry.com>

AAAS Project 2061

In this issue

I. Bridging Assessment Research and Practice

Project 2061's chapter in a new NSTA book explains how precise alignment to science standards and the use of student feedback can improve assessment items—and meet the needs of practitioners. Read more

<<http://www.project2061.org/080829/2061Connections/200804a.htm>> .

II. Wide Range of Educators Count on Project 2061 Workshops

K–12 science and mathematics teachers, teacher educators, informal science educators, and state science supervisors are among the educators learning new tools and strategies at Project 2061's "Using Atlas of Science Literacy" workshops. Learn more

<<http://www.project2061.org/080829/2061Connections/200804b.htm>> .

III. Illinois Physics Teacher Wins AAAS Education Prize

Diane Riendeau of Deerfield, Illinois, has won the 2008 AAAS Leadership in Science Education Prize for High School Teachers. Her innovative teaching of physics has earned her \$1,000 and a trip to an international conference of science educators in Shanghai, China. Read more <<http://www.project2061.org/080829/2061Connections/200804c.htm>> .

Thank you for your interest in AAAS Project 2061! Please forward this message to interested friends and colleagues.

AAAS Project 2061

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