



*Illinois Building a Presence for Science*

# Network News

*April, 2008*



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## Volume 3, Number 4

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### Call for Presentations

Illinois Science Teachers Association 2008 Conference

**"A Future in Science Starts Now"**

November 14-15, 2008; go to <http://www.ista-il.org/>

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### Professional Opportunities

1. Multiple 6-12 educator workshops from Penn State; includes topics from evolution to extreme particle astrophysics; application deadline May 31, 2008: go to <http://teachscience.psu.edu/>
2. Galapagos on-site Workshops from Toyota; applications due May 9; for more info and application go to <http://www.iie.org/Template.cfm?&Template=/programs/toyota/default.htm>
3. Free geospatial conference; deadline for application is April 14; for more info go to <http://www.gis2gps.com/ilgisa2/Spring2008ilgisa.htm>
4. Open registration for "Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG)" Course on June 2-5, 2008 in Mattoon; sponsored by National Association for Interpretation (NAI) and Douglas-Hart Nature Center; deadline is May 15; contact Stacey Clementz at 217-896-2455
5. 2008 Environmental Education Association of Illinois Annual Meeting and Conference, May 15-18 in Oregon, IL; for application and info go to <http://www.eeai.net/>
6. The Biotech Talent Sparks! Teacher Conference for High School science teachers; provides you with the skills and strategies to bring biotech to your classroom; July 14-16 held at Illinois Science & Technology Park, Skokie; for more info go to <http://ibioinstitute.org/programs/eduoverview.html>
7. AAFS Forensic Science Educational Conferences held in 3 places on 3 different dates this summer; go to [http://www.aafs.org/content/meetings/fs\\_educational\\_conference/default.asp](http://www.aafs.org/content/meetings/fs_educational_conference/default.asp)
8. Discovery Education and 3M along with NASA sponsor the 2008 Young Scientist Challenge; looking for great students and teachers who can inspire others with their enthusiasm for science and ability to communicate; for more info go to <http://youngscientist.discoveryeducation.com/>
9. 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and non-formal educators from the Great Lakes region interested in teaching Great Lakes and marine science; applications due: April 18, 2008; for more info go to <http://www.coseegreatlakes.net/events/lakemichigan>
10. The MESSENGER Educator Fellowship Program is recruiting Fellows to conduct teacher training workshops and introduce educational materials related to the MESSENGER mission to Mercury. Includes all-expense-paid, 5-day workshop in Washington DC; materials needed to conduct workshops; an allowance to cover workshop expenses. Applications due **April 18, 2008**. For more info and how to apply <http://btc.montana.edu/messenger/teachers/ao.php>
11. In 1609 Galileo using his telescope, revolutionized our understanding of Earth's place in the universe. To prepare for the International Year of Astronomy in 2009 (400th anniversary), hands-on workshops and a 3-day symposium will be held in St. Louis from **May 31-June 4, 2008**; for more info visit <http://www.astrosociety.org/2008meeting>.

## Great Deals

1. A free puzzler service for teachers! The Cogno game folks provide free weekly science and multi-subject puzzlers by email, for grades 3-8. For info, samples, and to register: [www.cogno.com/puzzlers](http://www.cogno.com/puzzlers).
2. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies Earth Day photo contest for middle school students; interested students should photograph something that is changing in their local environment between Tuesday, April 22, and Tuesday, April 29. Deadline for submissions is May 9, 2008. Visit <http://www.strategies.org/EarthDayPhoto>.
3. 'Revolutionary' CO2 maps zoom in on greenhouse gas sources; includes animations showing the daily burst of emissions as industry and traffic kick into gear, and also reveals regional patterns. See <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/x/2008a/080407GurneyVulcan.html> .
4. Science teachers who are interested in water use and water supply research should read the Spring 2008 *Illinois Groundwater Association Newsletter* now available on the IGA Website: <http://www.iga.uiuc.edu/newsletters/IGAv24n1/IGAv24n1.pdf>
5. *Astronomy Cast Student Questions Shows* created a "Student Questions" series to answer a selection of student questions in standard 30-minute episodes. Astronomy Cast will ship recording devices to schools at no cost. To participate, email [info@astronomycast.com](mailto:info@astronomycast.com). Take a facts-based journey through the cosmos at <http://www.astronomycast.com>
6. The Illinois State Water Survey sponsors a rain gauge project for schools—The Rain Check Network—will provide a rain gauge and instructions to initiate the project. Students measure rainfall every day at about the same time. Student data is posted at the Rain Check Website. Check out the Website at <http://www.sws.uiuc.edu/hilites/stfair/raingage/>.

## Latest Links

1. The Natural Hazards Gateway at the USGS site provides information related to seven natural disasters and shows how USGS science helps mitigate disasters and build resilient communities. <http://www.usgs.gov/hazards/>
2. Tired of students complaining about the weather? It could be worse...this site "depicts an area of the U.S.A. with the most unpleasant or miserable weather conditions of the day." AccuWeather.com artists create a cartoon based on an interesting, unusual place name. Go to <http://www.accuweather.com/news-weather-why.asp>
3. Vital Water Graphics provides illustrations of the causes, effects, trends and threats facing our fresh, coastal and marine water sources; go to <http://maps.grida.no/go/collection/vital-water-graphics>
4. See Mimas Rising over Saturn! <http://www.fileden.com/files/2007/9/14/1431389/mimasrise.gif>
5. Northwestern recently launched a new science e-magazine designed for the public, *Science in Society*; provides information on research and outreach activities on topics that include stem cells, tsunamis, and global warming and clips of movie files; the site can be found at <http://scienceinsociety.northwestern.edu/>

## ISTA Resources

Cool Communities Working Together with Science Teachers! ISTA has been invited to organize a special opportunity for our members to implement class projects that partner with local municipalities this spring and early summer. Get all the details at <http://www.ista-il.org/>

## Contact Us!

Do you know a great science website? Know a good deal? Know someone who has something to share? We'll send you a free ISTA water bottle if we use your idea in our newsletter!

**Please write "newsletter idea" in the subject box of your email and send to**  
Kathy Costello [kacoste@siue.edu](mailto:kacoste@siue.edu) or Linda Shadwick [l.shadwick@mchsi.com](mailto:l.shadwick@mchsi.com)