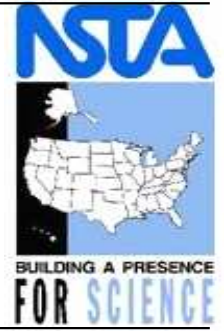




Illinois Building a Presence for Science

Network News

February, 2008



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ISTA/ExxonMobil Outstanding Teacher of Science Awards Program

March 2, 2008 deadline

Up to seven K-8 science teachers representing the 7 ISTA regions will be awarded \$1000 for extraordinary accomplishments; go to <http://www.ista-il.org/>

Professional Opportunities

1. **National Arbor Day Summer Workshop**; focus is New Tools for Connecting the World's Children with Nature; cost is \$445 per person; go to http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/wf2008_nature/
2. **Free Geospatial Technology Conference**: Focusing on GPS and GIS for the Classroom; Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL.; Monday April 21th, 2008; go to <http://www.gis2gps.com/ilgisa2/Spring2008ilgisa.htm>
3. **Environmental Education Association of Illinois Resource Day**; for all educators; held at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield on Feb. 29. New educational resources from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will be available. For more information go to http://www.eeai.net/regions/wc_region.htm
4. **The Fifth Annual Advances in Medicine and Science for Teachers Conference**; held February 29 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago; go to <http://www.nmh.org/nmh/hlc/teacherconf.htm>
5. 2008 is the 10th year of **Discovery Education's Young Scientist Challenge (YSC)**, a prestigious National Middle School Science Competition. For more information go to www.discoveryeducation.com/youngscientist. Further questions can be directed to Erin Dieterich at Discovery Communications Erin_Dieterich@discovery.com.
6. The American Society of Human Genetics Announces the **3rd Annual DNA Day Essay Contest**. Open to Middle and High School Students. Teachers of first place winners receive \$2,000 to purchase classroom equipment! Visit http://genednet.org/pages/k12_dnaday08.shtml for complete information.
7. The Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Kentucky offers **Newton's Universe**, a selection of **Online Physics Courses for Teachers** specifically for grade 4-9 teachers, these guided inquiry courses earn either 1 graduate credit or 30 hours professional development credit. For more information go to www.pa.uky.edu/sciworks/intro.htm
8. Nominate a colleague (or yourself) for the **2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching**. Kindergarten-grade 6, math and science teachers are eligible for nomination this year; go to <http://www.paemst.org/controllers/home.cfc?method=view>

Great Deals

1. Join in IDNR Biodiversity studies. This year there are two: the Spider Study and a new Frog and Toad Study. Both projects open 18 February 2008. To participate, send your name, school email, grades you teach; school name, address, and phone number and the name of project you are interested in to valerie.keener@illinois.gov.
2. Discovery Kits from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration include tutorials, lessons, and multimedia activities for learning about corals, estuaries, ocean currents, tides, and ocean pollution. Go to <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/welcome.html>
3. *Moon Math!* is a set of two mathematics units designed for students in grades 6-9. The units are centered on the theme of lunar habitat design. Each unit is supported by paper-and-pencil activities, as well as an interactive software application. All lesson plans and software applications for these units are free and can be downloaded at <http://quest.nasa>
4. Visit: <http://www.gis2gps.com/ilgisa2/Spring2008ilgisa.htm> for more information on Geospatial Technologies for your students. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) is the rapidly developing new and essential tool for student learning in the 21st Century!

Latest Links

1. Check out the newly revamped **Building a Presence for Science Website** at <http://bap.nsta.org> . Forgot your password? Click the link and it will be sent to you.
2. *Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home* is a documentary about a family that traces the origins of three month's worth of garbage to see the impact of the family household on the environment. Learn more at <http://www.garbagerevolution.com/home>
3. Planning on doing some bird watching? *Bird Watchers' Digest* <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/index.aspx> ; *Bird IQ* http://www.birdiq.com/learn/Resource_Dir/index.php and *EE Week* http://www.eeweek.org/resources/bird_curricula.htm have some great resources.
4. Visit Fermilab's redesigned website – <http://ed.fnal.gov> . Family fairs, teacher workshops, secondary science institutes, prairie programs for elementary students, book lists, links...it's all there! Sign up for their *E-Alert* biannual newsletter at sdahl@fnal.gov
5. Visit the new WAIS Divide Ice Coring Project Educational Outreach Program website at http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/wdop/index.html. The goal of this outreach program is to bring the excitement and adventure of climate change science to teachers and students via blogs, podcasts, and video feeds.

NSTA Resources

2008 National Conference in Boston; March 27-30;

<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2008bos/>

Join NSTA to receive *NSTA Reports*. This monthly newspaper includes a "What's New" section listing the latest freebies and opportunities for educators including those from agencies such as NOAA, NASA, EPA, CDC, NSF, NIH, and the USGS. Even if you only know what *one* of those acronyms stands for, you've got to have it! Join NSTA at <http://www.nsta.org/membership/join.aspx>

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 or Linda Shadwick l.shadwick@mchsi.com