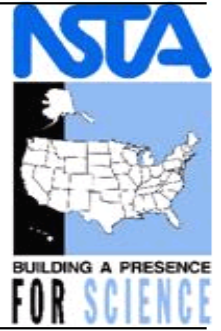




Illinois Building a Presence for Science

Network News

March, 2008



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Cool Communities Grants of up to \$500 from ISTA

Go to: <http://www.ista-il.org/> for list of this year's winners and application for 2008-2009 due June 15, 2008

Professional Opportunities

1. **Free Geospatial Workshop** April 21 in Springfield; for registration go to <http://www.gis2gps.com/ilgisa2/Spring2008ilgisa.htm>
2. **GPS Summer Workshops**; Multiple opportunities for teachers grades 3-12; for more information go to <http://www.gis2gps.com/newclasses/2008classes/2008newclasses.htm>
3. **University of Illinois Extension Workshops**; So many topics! For a complete list, go to <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/inform/default.cfm>
4. **Is your school Green?** For a checklist go to <http://www.standingupforillinois.org/green/>
5. **Entice Workshops from IDNR**; for full listing go to <http://www.ilcf.org/Workshop/Courses.asp>
6. **Summer and Fall Semesters Online Courses** from IDNR and University of Illinois Springfield offer Graduate credit or CPDUs; For class descriptions and enrollment information go to <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/graduatecourses.htm>
7. **May 26 registration deadline** for Fermilab Summer Secondary Biology Institute June 16 --June 27; for complete information go to http://eddata.fnal.gov/lasso/program_search/calendar_workshops.lasso
8. **The Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers' (IAAP) Teachers Workshop** about the importance of rocks, minerals, and mining in everyday life is July 21-23 at Stoney Creek Inn, Moline. Additional information and registration at <http://www.iaap-aggregates.org/workshop.htm>
9. The **Human Anatomy and Physiology Society's Institute** offers graduate credit through the University of Washington in conjunction with its annual conference (New Orleans, May 24-29). For more information go to www.hapsweb.org or email: HAPS-Institute@hapsweb.org
10. The University of Illinois Extension in Cook County offers professional development in science and mathematics. For the months of March and April, the Science and Technology team will be providing hands-on learning demonstrations for students and teacher workshops at a variety of locations. To learn more about the lessons visit <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/scienceonthego/programs.cfm> for Extension's calendar of events please visit <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/inform/default.cfm>.

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 February 18, 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 more. 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. "Climate Change: Connections and Solutions" the latest resource available from ***Facing the Future*** and it's completely FREE for educators. These two 2-week units for middle school and high school students encourage critical thinking about the root causes and interconnections among issues related to climate change. Visit www.facingthefuture.org
5. In honor of National Transportation Week (NTW), May 11-17, 2008, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) annually invites 5th grade students nationwide to express their viewpoints on transportation by participating in a poster competition. For more information go to <http://www.ntweek.org/posters/default.htm>

Latest Links

1. The *Earth Science Week* website, at <http://www.earthsciweek.org>, features classroom activities, theme-based resources, research projects, and dozens of recommended lessons for teachers. All are aligned with the NSES.
2. The *News Digest* looks at the world of biotechnology education and offers links to recent biotechnology education articles. Link to http://www.biotechnstitute.org/news/news_dig.html.
3. Combining dramatic images of Earth weather and space weather with the challenge of an old-fashioned slider puzzle, the new "Slyder" game on the SciJinks Weather Laboratory website captures the attention of any middle-schooler: <http://scijinks.gov/weather/fun/slyder>
4. In Chocolate Chip (Cookie) Mining, students are challenged to excavate chips from cookies. Chips = \$, but mining costs \$, the 'land' cannot be 'repaired' post-excavation, and hey, it's COOKIES! http://www.earthsciweek.org/forteachers/cookieMining_cont.html
5. *Exploring the Relationship Between Carbon, Photosynthesis, and the Roots of Trees*, a new publication from the USDA Forest Service is targeted to grades 5-8. Background information, lessons and student activities are included. To download a free copy go to <http://www.naturalinquirer.usda.gov/pdf/12.pdf>
6. Check out the *Illinois Sustainable Schools Compact*, featuring 12 environmentally-friendly practices that schools can do to green school operations, buildings and grounds, and curriculum. Take the challenge at: <http://www.greensolutions.il.gov>.
7. Sign up now to take part in National Environmental (EE) Week, April 13-19, 2008! Check out the details at <http://www.eeweek.org/> for standards-based environmental education lessons and activities; electronic newsletters, and knowledge-sharing with educators from across the country.

NSTA Resources

Too busy to sift through the news in search of interesting stories?

Click on the link to read current news stories, that are collected for you by NSTA staff members, and are related to **Natural History, Nature Science, and Science Teaching.**

http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2008-02/web_high.htm

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