



# Environmental Network News

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

FALL 2007

## INTRODUCING: THE NEW GREEN NEWS!

"It's...alive!!" Bright green branches zig-zagged across computer screens as EarthTeam staff previewed *The Green News*' exciting new look (created by Chris Myers of Glitch Design). The make-over of EarthTeam's student-created monthly online newsletter presents a sleek design with a Flash introduction, lots of video, and a focus on interactivity, including a student-run blog. But this new *Green News* is more than just a pretty face. Its design was planned to further EarthTeam's vision of using 21st century technology for environmental education. *The Green News* offers a contemporary forum for teens' journalism, creative writing, and artwork.

Though *The Green News* has existed since 2002, and is read by an estimated 2,500 subscribers, it now incorporates more multi-media content, especially video and animation. The new website gives *The Green News* a flexible, multi-media framework, which takes advantage of the online format's potential for interactivity. Pictures and photographs move within a gallery. Submission links allow users to immediately send their own work to *The Green News*. Readers can engage in dialogue by responding to an environmental blog. A new set of curriculum guidelines, available on the website, supports teachers in using *The Green News* as a classroom tool. Some of the website's features, such as a thought-provoking "Question of the Month," are tailored to inspire classroom discussion.

Justin Sedor, a senior at Piedmont High, is taking EarthTeam's "Ask Dr. Green" feature in an interactive new direction: he is blogging as Dr. Green. While responding to reader questions (including one from Uganda!) and writing opinion articles, he has added new types of content that capitalize on the blog format. The blog is off to a great start, and it can only improve as readers begin to engage with it. Justin says, "I'm excited to see how people will



Above: The new *Green News* logo.  
Below: Students Braulio (Richmond HS) and Jocelyn (Middle College HS) create picture trails for the new website.



interact with each other in the context of the blog; the nature of a blog is designed to encourage healthy discussion and interactive learning, which is something that I think has been missing from *The Green News* up to this point."

*The Green News* will play a vital part in highlighting student achievement. EarthTeam's Restoration Initiative (ETRI) will pilot a creative component this year, which Restoration Director Trisha Allen describes: "Students will record observations and sketches in the field to enhance their immediate environmental learning, and refer back to their field notes in the classroom, working these raw materials into a poem or piece of prose. By participating in this nature writing process, students will learn how to critically observe and investigate their surroundings while expressing a personal connection to nature in fun and creative ways." *The Green News* will provide ETRI students an opportunity to publish this work; the chance to share their experiences with the larger community.

Meredith Charpantier, *The Green News*' Outreach Coordinator, will be communicating with students and teachers. Meredith offers a larger vision for the site: "I want to see [*The Green News*] as an integral part of the transition to more mindful, ecological life styles for all Bay Area high school students and their families, schools, and communities."

Lana Husser, EarthTeam's Multi-Media Coordinator, heads up *The Green News* as well as EarthTeam's *Green Screen* TV show. Her vision for the site emphasizes its potential for interaction between teens: "Teens know how to best speak to each other. *The Green* has always been intended to be a spot for students, where their 'visuals and voices' are heard. The new *Green News* is just more technologically equipped to handle all the different ways students might express themselves." In the end, perhaps the most exciting element of the new site is its ability to grow in response to its users' creativity. Teens themselves will be key in determining what's next – their ideas and contributions will be the next wave of the new *Green News*.

Check out the new *Green News* on the EarthTeam website ([www.earthteam.net](http://www.earthteam.net)) or at [www.thegreennews.net](http://www.thegreennews.net)!

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**Supports Teachers • Inspires Teens • Impacts Community**

## THE GREEN SCREEN GOES GUERRILLA!



*The Green Screen*, EarthTeam's environmental TV show with a cast and crew of East Bay middle and high school students, is back for a second season! Eight episodes from 2006-07 are airing on 7 Bay Area cable channels, and this year's *Green Screen* team is already hard at work filming monthly episodes for the 2007-08 season at Richmond's KCRT TV and Berkeley Community Media. (For more information, visit [www.thegreenscreentv.net](http://www.thegreenscreentv.net)).

This year, *The Green Screen* is teaming up with the Intel Computer Clubhouse at the Marin Youth Center to co-sponsor an exciting, 24-hour student environmental film contest and festival called **Guerrilla Green!** The contest is open to any group of 3 or more students, ages 12-20, throughout the Bay Area. The schedule is as follows:

### Saturday, January 19 -

**10 AM:** Teams meet at the Marin Youth Center (1115 Third Street, San Rafael) for instructions and demonstrations, and to learn the contest's topic.

**12 PM:** They're off! Teams begin work on their video, which can be anything from a 1-minute PSA to a 6-minute short film. Live action, animation, stop motion, and use of any editing program are all acceptable.

### Sunday, January 20 -

**7 AM:** Teams return to the Marin Youth Center to screen their final videos and receive prizes (which will include an iPod and other great items!). \*\* All completed videos will be featured on *The Green Screen* television show and website!

**Sign up your team now by contacting Lana Husser, EarthTeam's Multimedia Director, at [lanah@earthteam.net](mailto:lanah@earthteam.net) or 510-219-1571.** Lana says: "It's going to be so cool because you can unleash your creativity by being challenged to create on the spot!" There's still room for 8 more teams to register! Ask your school about getting service learning or extra credit for participating.



Bay Area students at EarthTeam's first 2007 Global Warming Campaign meeting enjoy ice cream at a Berkeley Ben & Jerry's

## Global Warming Campaign Wins Climate All-Star Award!

EarthTeam's *Cool Schools* Global Warming Campaign was one of 15 organizations (chosen from 49 nominees) to be recognized as a 2007 "Climate All-Star" by the Climate Protection Campaign, for "inspiring, aligning, and motivating the next generation." Chicory Bechtel, EarthTeam's Program Director, accepted the award at the Climate All-Stars Conference on September 21 in San Francisco.

*Cool Schools* kicked off its second year in early October, with 22 students participating in a "Cool Walking Tour" of downtown Berkeley (capped off with ice cream at Ben & Jerry's!). The 2007-08 *Cool Schools* Global Warming Campaign will feature monthly meetings with fun activities and inspiring guest speakers. The program's focus is on working with students to carry out action projects on their school campuses. Highlights will include Waste Action Month (WAM), during which students will work on reducing waste at their schools in order to decrease the energy used for disposal, and the popular Carbon Reduction Raffle. **For more information on *Cool Schools*, contact Chicory Bechtel at [chicory@earthteam.net](mailto:chicory@earthteam.net) or 510-704-4030.**

### EarthTeam Environmental Network

Jaunie Federowicz, Executive Director (Incoming) — Faith Gong, Executive Director (Outgoing)  
Trisha Allen, Restoration Program Director — Chicory Bechtel, Program Director — Lana Husser, Multimedia Director  
Lauren Levin, Program Assistant — Abel Buickerood, Webmaster — Meredith Charpentier, Green News Outreach Coordinator

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### To Contact Us:

EarthTeam Environmental Network is located at 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite L, Berkeley, CA 94702  
We can be reached at (510) 704-4030 or via email at [info@earthteam.net](mailto:info@earthteam.net)  
Visit us on the web at [www.earthteam.net](http://www.earthteam.net)





## SPOTLIGHT ON... Aqua Team!



Many Bay Area students work to clean and restore their local watersheds, but a certain group is going above and beyond to earn the spotlight: The Aqua Team. This continually growing team of Richmond High School students meet for two hours after school each week to learn about ecology and upcoming restoration projects. They then meet monthly for field restoration events led by different community partners. Danny Santos, a UC Berkeley student, is heading up Aqua Team for a second year: he is assisted in facilitating the group by EarthTeam's Restoration Director, Trisha Allen.

The dedicated students of Aqua Team throw themselves into each project: they get their hands dirty in the field, removing invasive vegetation at Baxter Creek and cleaning the shoreline at Point Pinole Regional Park. They also do valuable scientific research. By conducting a bird census at Wildcat Marsh and gathering GPS information at shorelines, they gather data about local ecosystems that will be used by the City of Richmond. Aqua Team heightens community enjoyment of watersheds by cleaning and greening the shoreline along Wildcat, San Pablo, and Baxter Creeks.

Because Aqua Team students meet so frequently and return to work at their sites, they have the satisfaction of seeing the outcome of their projects. They are also able to work closely with dynamic environmentalists who teach them about green careers. In fact, many students have returned to the program for a second year for these reasons, as student Anna Sanchez explains: "Last year was



*Aqua Team members suited up in order to conduct a GPS survey of Richmond's Wildcat Creek. (L. to r.): Danny Santos (UC student and Aqua Team facilitator), Mario Esquivel, Erin Bravo, Anna Sanchez, Lynn Scarpa (Industrial Waste Inspector, City of Richmond, Public Works), Victoria Bravo, Michelle Luebke (Watershed Monitoring Coordinator, Contra Costa County).*

fun and it made me want to come back. I am excited to work with Lynne Scarpa (from City of Richmond) again and to see how the native plant demonstration area at the El Sobrante Library ends up looking after we have completed our project."

The Aqua Team program (formerly named Creek Keepers; it was renamed by student vote this year) has been shepherded by many organizations since it began in 1995. Administered at different points by Friends of the Estuary and San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP), and the Urban Creeks Council, the program continues with their help, as well as that of the East Bay Regional Parks District, the City of Richmond, SPAWNERS, and the Natural Heritage Institute, who are providing field activities. EarthTeam now administers the

program because of Aqua Team's fit with EarthTeam's mission: to create tomorrow's environmental leaders by providing inspiring environmental experiences in the classroom and community.

As high school students, the members of Aqua Team have schoolwork, social life, and activities competing for their attention. But Mario Esquivel, Victoria Bravo, Erin Bravo, Anna Sanchez, and Jessica Ambriz have committed much of their extra-curricular time to the environment. Danny Santos and Trisha Allen remark on their extraordinary dedication: for instance, when Danny and Trisha offered an extra workday on the weekend, all the students chose to attend. Aqua Team students have taken environmental stewardship beyond the field, coming up with ideas about how to live their lives more environmentally, such as avoiding the use of plastic. "They keep me on my toes!" said Trisha.

By participating in Aqua Team, students learn about watershed ecology, discover environmental careers, and develop a connection to nature. The 'Team' in the group's name is apt. Danny Santos and the students have built a community that looks forward to working (and laughing, and lip-synching) together each week. Now the students are sharing what their hard work has built, by planting native species in Richmond's demonstration garden and presenting about restoration to younger students at Lovoyana DeJean Middle School. Congratulations to the superheroes of Aqua Team – naturalists, trail-builders, peer educators, and environmental leaders!

## EarthTeam Restoration Kicks off with California Coastal Cleanup Day!



*Students display the trash they found at Aquatic Park.*

116 Bay Area students turned out at Berkeley Aquatic Park on September 15 for EarthTeam's Kickoff Coastal Cleanup. They collected 285 pounds of trash and recycling in less than 2 hours!

Participating schools and organizations included: Berkeley HS, Oakland HS, De La Salle HS, Skyline HS, San Lorenzo HS, Building with Books, and The Green Screen. Special thanks to our site partner, Aquatic Park EGRET, and volunteers from REI Berkeley; especially Amber Hoffman, REI Volunteer Coordinator.

***SELECTIONS FROM "THE GREEN NEWS"***  
***EarthTeam's 100% Student-Written Online Environmental Newsletter***

**The Beauty Beneath The Dark**

**By Max Torres, St. Ignatius College Preparatory, San Francisco**

**April/May 2007**

***Visuals & Voices 2007 First Prize Winner, Poetry***

As I walked along the soft yet sturdy sand, the feeling of cool air rushing against my face  
Felt like a strong, gentle touch rubbing against my cheeks.

The Wind, the smooth and icy breeze that burrowed through my skin  
Created a quiet sensation that coursed from one part of my body to the next.  
Noticing the colorful gravel beneath my shoes gave the beach a sense of identity  
and uniqueness.

Looking ahead towards the tall, sturdy rocks that formed mountains and mountains of  
Radio Laria from years of life, now deceased, living behind not their souls  
But proof of their existence.

Gazing past the basalt and greywacke stones, the ocean appeared before my eyes.  
I have always dreamt of a vast blue and clear water that leaped outwards  
From the sunset to the shore when land and water meet for the first time.  
I imagined the great blue water heading out towards the sunset where neither land nor a stop sign can be seen.  
But as I stared into the rushing waves crashing into the rocks that lay between  
The shore and the vast water,  
I noticed the color of the liquid.  
Different from that my dreams had shown me.  
I believed and imagined the clouds above my head had somehow rained colors of  
Turquoise, lime green and blue into the water that ran across the gravel for miles  
And all mixed into one distinctive color.

Just by looking at the vast, aquatic fluid that covered my view from right to left,  
I could almost feel the rush of air, coming off the shore.  
I could feel its cold, icy touch running up and down my whole entire flesh.  
I could smell the salty air that extended from the minerals of the water to the gravel below my feet.

I could feel and see the life that coursed through this land of beauty.  
I was rare to see this kind of beauty in such a day  
where light did not shine above our heads,  
but lonely clusters of clouds, surrounding the entire sky that stretched out what seemed to  
be for an eternity, were to be seen

No light and no visibility were needed to see such magnificence.



*"Chard" by Hanna Morris,  
Berkeley HS, Berkeley  
May 2007*

*Visuals & Voices 2007 2nd Prize  
Winner, Photography*



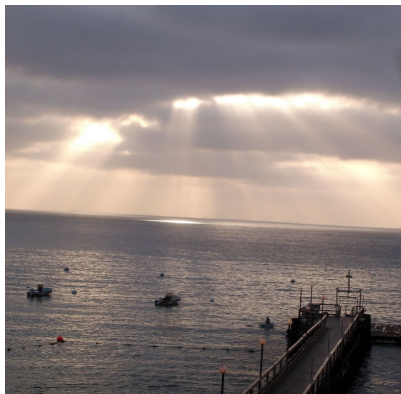
## Selections from "The Green News" Continued...

### Birth

By Emily Sun, Albany HS, Albany  
October 2007

Swept across the canvas  
dust clouds floating in the darkness  
illuminate. beneath the surface.  
springs eroding water  
floods the canvas receding to the four corners  
dripping like summer's transcending rain  
it falls and makes a soft but subtle sound  
like a single note  
played by a piano prodigy  
thus creating a thin thread of suspense

bang. a cry.



*"Morning Sun Rays"*  
by Kai Luu,  
Oakland HS, Oakland  
April 2007



**Visuals & Voices 2007 Grand Prize Winner**  
(Theme: Global Warming)

*"Liberty's Limit" by Isabel Menz. Lincoln MS, Alameda*



### Plastic Bags Do Not Grow On Trees!

by Cynthia Zuniga, Adams MS, Richmond  
May 2007

Do not believe what you see. This plastic bag did not grow on a tree. It might have been blown away by the wind and landed up on this tree and after it will be blown away again and land in a sewer and go right into the ocean.

In San Francisco they just banned plastic bags from the grocery stores to protect the animals in the oceans. We should recycle bags and not let this happen or --- use those new bio-degradeable bags.

\*\*\*For more of "The Green News," visit our website,  
[www.earthteam.net](http://www.earthteam.net) or [www.thegreennews.net](http://www.thegreennews.net)\*\*\*

Deadline to submit student writing and photography to  
"The Green News" is the 25th of each month! Contact  
Lana Husser at [LanaH@earthteam.net](mailto:LanaH@earthteam.net) or 510-219-1571.

## A Letter from the Outgoing Executive Director

Dear EarthTeam friends and partners,  
As many of you already know, my husband and I are expecting our first child in early December. Therefore, I will be taking a 6-month maternity leave from EarthTeam beginning November 16, after which I hope to return in a part-time development role.

I want to thank all of you for your partnership and support during my tenure as EarthTeam's Executive Director -- it's been an honor to serve in this capacity at such a special organization. EarthTeam's vision of creating environmental stewards in the next generation is as fresh and exciting as it was 7 years ago, and one I hope to incorporate into my own family. During my relatively short time at EarthTeam, I've been thrilled to see how our programs continue to grow and adapt to incorporate student interests and 21st century technology. And, quite frankly, you'll never find a nicer, more competent staff! Although I'm looking forward to the new adventure of motherhood, I will certainly be excited to return to EarthTeam in a new capacity.

I am leaving EarthTeam in the extraordinarily capable hands of the incoming EarthTeam Executive Director, Jaunie Federowicz. Jaunie and I have been working together over the past month, and I've loved getting to know her and seeing the unique skills she brings to EarthTeam. Jaunie and her husband moved to Berkeley this past May from the Imperial Valley. Jaunie has a strong background in both education and environmental issues; previously, she served for 3 years as the Executive Director of Grace Montessori School in Allentown, PA, where she was instrumental in a capital campaign that culminated in construction of a new school building. She has also served as Education Director at both the Lehigh County Game Preserve and the Lititz Community Center, and as a Board Member for the Boys and Girls Club. When not saving the world through nonprofit education initiatives, Jaunie is a devoted practitioner and instructor of Ashtanga Yoga.

Once again, thank you all for your support of EarthTeam. I know Jaunie will appreciate your warm welcome and continuing encouragement!

Sincerely,

Faith Gong



Faith Gong and Jaunie Federowicz



L. to r.: Meredith Charpentier, Stephanie Konle, Jagoda Perich-Anderson

## NEW FACES AT EARTHTEAM!

We are fortunate to have three new helpers at EarthTeam this fall: **Meredith Charpentier** joins us as Outreach Coordinator for *The Green News*. She brings to the position 15 years of experience as an educator in the arts, language, and environment, as well as extensive fundraising skills. Among other things, Meredith was the founding director of ArtSmart, a nonprofit that developed creative educational workshops for disadvantaged Bay Area high school students.

Meredith will be assisted by **Stephanie Konle**, who is doing volunteer outreach for *The Green News*. Stephanie is a graduate of the New York Teaching Fellows Program, and most recently taught at Coliseum College Prep Academy in Oakland.

**Jagoda Perich-Anderson** is volunteering to help EarthTeam with organizational development as we craft a new strategic plan. Jagoda recently moved to the Bay Area from Seattle, where she was most recently the Associate Director for Shared Strategy for Puget Sound. She has over 20 years of experience as an organizational consultant.

A warm welcome to Meredith, Stephanie, and Jagoda!

## MISSION STATEMENT

*EarthTeam's mission is to create a new generation of environmental leaders by introducing into the classroom and community environmental experiences that are so active and engaging that they inspire dedication to a healthy environment.*

## WHO DO I CONTACT AT EARTHTEAM?

### \*RESTORATION PROGRAMS

Trisha Allen, trisha@earthteam.net

### \*COOL SCHOOLS GLOBAL WARMING CAMPAIGN

### \*SOMETHING'S IN THE AIR - AN AIR POLLUTION & ASTHMA RESEARCH & ACTION PROJECT

### \*LEADERSHIP & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION FORUM

Chicory Bechtel, chicory@earthteam.net

### \*THE GREEN SCREEN

### \*THE GREEN NEWS

Lana Husser, lana@earthteam.net

Meredith Charpentier, meredith@earthteam.net

### \*SPEAKERS BUREAU

Sheilah Fish, sheilah@earthteam.net

### \*GENERAL QUESTIONS

Jaunie Federowicz, jaunie@earthteam.net



**EarthTeam would like to thank the following 2006-2007 supporters for their commitment to our youth and the environment, and for making our projects and events possible.**

*\*\*The following list represents donations made since July 1, 2006.\*\**

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West Oakland Asthma Coalition  
Whole Foods (Berkeley)  
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Please mail to:  
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**2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite L**  
**Berkeley, CA 94702**

# Mark Your Calendars!

**Saturday, November 3: Cool Schools Global Warming Campaign Meeting!** Exact Berkeley area meeting location and time to be determined. Join EarthTeam and Bay Area teens on Step It Up, a day of national climate action. Snacks provided. RSVP requested. EarthTeam waiver required for all participants. Contact Chicory Bechtel at [chicory@earthteam.net](mailto:chicory@earthteam.net) or (510)704-4030.

**Saturday, November 3, 2007: Habitat Restoration at Strentzel Meadow in Martinez, 9:30 AM -12:30 PM!** Join EarthTeam and other East Bay teens on a variety of restoration projects including an erosion control project in the seasonal stream and removing invasive species from the meadow to improve habitat for native plants and animals. For more information, email Trisha Allen at [trisha@earthteam.net](mailto:trisha@earthteam.net) or call 510-704-4030.

**Saturday, November 17, 2007: Habitat Restoration at Dow Wetlands in Pittsburg, 10:00 AM -1:00 PM!** Come join EarthTeam, Dow Wetlands Team, and other East Bay teens for a planting party at Dow Wetlands. We will be planting natives and spreading woodchips to minimize invasive growth. For more information, email Trisha Allen at [trisha@earthteam.net](mailto:trisha@earthteam.net) or call 510-704-4030.

**Sunday, December 2: Cool Schools Global Warming Campaign Meeting, 2-4 PM!** Focus topic and guest speakers to be determined. Meet at Berkeley HS College and Career Center, 1980 Allston Way (at Milvia) 1 block from the Downtown Berkeley BART. Snacks provided. RSVP requested. Contact Chicory Bechtel at [chicory@earthteam.net](mailto:chicory@earthteam.net) or (510)704-4030. Or click [here](#) to learn more.

**Monday, January 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration & Restoration Project, 10 AM - 2 PM!** Join students from all over the Bay Area as we celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. at MLK Shoreline in Oakland. The day will feature performances, planting native species and coastline cleanup with our partners at Save the Bay, and a delicious lunch! For more information, email Trisha Allen at [trisha@earthteam.net](mailto:trisha@earthteam.net) or call 510-704-4030.

**\*\*Deadline to submit student writing and photography to "The Green News" is the 25th of each month!** We're looking for any photography, poetry, book reviews, articles, opinion pieces, cartoons, and more – related to the environment. Contact Lana Husser at [LanaH@earthteam.net](mailto:LanaH@earthteam.net) or 510-219-1571, or submit online at [www.thegreennews.net](http://www.thegreennews.net).



**EarthTeam Environmental Network**  
**2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite L**  
**Berkeley, CA 94702**

## **SEE INSIDE FOR...**

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