



# Environmental Network News

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

FALL 2006

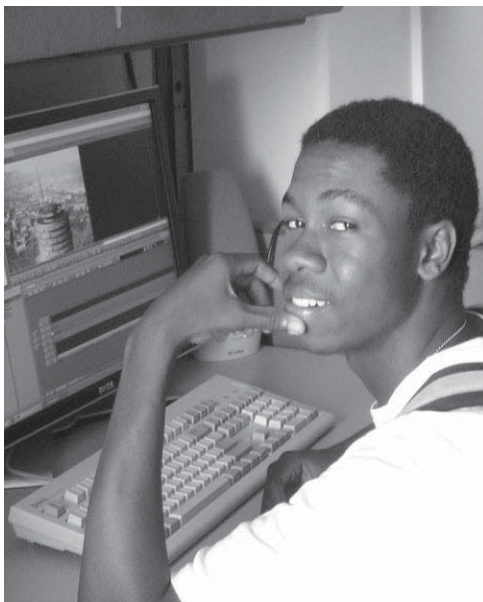
## THE GREEN SCREEN IS ON THE AIR!

If you entered Lana Husser's Richmond home over the summer, you might have been surprised. Rather than spending their school holiday lounging on the beach or hanging out in shopping malls, 20 students from 8 different schools in the Richmond area gathered at the Husser residence to begin work on "The Green Screen," an environmental TV show produced for and by teens.

Husser, an experienced public school teacher and former director of the Health and Environmental partnership academies at Richmond High School, now serves as Multi-Media Coordinator of EarthTeam. "I've always wanted to do a TV show," she says, "I love to document the positive things that teens are doing in their communities."

"The Green Screen" will highlight a variety of projects by East Bay students, with the goal of inspiring other Bay Area teens through the environmental activities of their peers. The episodes in the show's first season include coverage of "Our School, Our Planet," a video project focused on school-based recycling efforts; student campaigns on global warming, air quality and asthma, and sustainability; and environmental study trips. Each episode features interviews with professionals, students, and community groups who are actively involved with the issues. "The Green Screen" will air throughout the East Bay, including County TV and KCRT in Richmond, where the show is headquartered.

How does one get 20 middle and high school students to volunteer their time as crew members for "The Green Screen?" Lana Husser feels fortunate to have many community partners. She received an Altamont Grant from Alameda County, a Community Technology Grant, and support from the Central Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority and the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities. Husser is also thankful for the support of the Richmond mayor, Irma



"Green Screen" crew member Johvonni Moore, a senior at Kennedy High School in Richmond, edits his footage at the KCRT television station.

Anderson, and other city staff. "The city of Richmond really has a commitment to working with students," she enthuses.

The student crew of "The Green Screen," many from low-income backgrounds, has spent the summer being trained by the staff of EarthTeam and KCRT. They have their own classroom set up at KCRT, complete with industry-standard AVID and Premier Pro editing equipment and a MAYA animation system. The KCRT station manager, engineer, and tech specialist have been on hand to teach the students digital video editing, camera operation, and animation. At her house, Lana Husser guides the crew as they set up episodes, learn interview strategies, and discuss community involvement. She's been assisted by college interns with various areas of expertise: Joel (animation), Janira (digital video editing), and Robert (an intern at the public radio station KQED who specializes in "moblogging" – using a mobile phone to write and send text and photos to the internet).

"Green Screen" crew member Johvonni Moore, a senior at Kennedy High School in Richmond, has no regrets about how he spent his summer. "Being on 'The Green Screen,' I've got to do things that I never dreamed I'd do, like being in the TV station and planning a show, and I'm having fun doing it," he says. "I think this is really important work because eventually, you know, we'll probably be doing all the space travel, but for now, this Earth is all we have, and we have to take care of what we have." Parents of the Green Screen crew are also enthusiastic that their students are working on environmental issues while also receiving career training.

The first "Green Screen" episode is slated to air in October. The date will be posted on the EarthTeam website ([www.earthteam.net](http://www.earthteam.net)), which will be linked to the "Green Screen" website created by Piedmont High School senior and "Green Screen" crew member Jacky Wu.

There are still openings on the "Green Screen" crew for 3-4 more local high school students; anyone who is interested should contact Lana Husser at [LanaH@earthteam.net](mailto:LanaH@earthteam.net) or 510-219-1571. "Career education and mentoring as [the students] are learning about environmental issues, and using 21st century tools to teach the kids," explains Husser, "this is what EarthTeam is all about!"

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

**A HIGHLIGHT FROM THE PAST YEAR...****Visuals and Voices 2006-2007**

*A Yearlong, Traveling Eco-art, Photography and Poetry  
Show by Teens*

Visuals and Voices, EarthTeam's annual contest and traveling show, provides young people with an opportunity to creatively express their relationship to the environment. The show travels to museums, libraries and other locations throughout the Bay Area for twelve months, remaining for one month at each location. Now in its 3rd annual year, Visuals and Voices includes submissions from more than thirty different schools in five different Bay Area Counties including Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco County. For more information on where to see the show until April 2007, and for a listing of the Visuals and Voices 2006-2007 student winners, visit the EarthTeam website.



**Grand Prize Winner: "Is This My Country?"**  
by Carmen Lu, Guilder Ramirez, Vivian Two, and  
Danny Wong at IYEL Youth Group in San Francisco

*Iron mesh, acrylic paint, cellophane, canvas, and news articles from SF Gate*

**Artist Statement**

Hurricane Katrina opened our eyes to a lot of issues around us. IYEL chose to focus on Hurricane Katrina because it showed conflict between different groups. It also gave a new perspective to global and environmental issues. If there were still a marsh outside New Orleans, would the disaster have been as bad? If the marsh were there to clean out the toxins, would the city be as polluted as it is now? If we kept most of our resources and did not destroy it, would we have as many natural disasters? Hopefully, Hurricane Katrina will get people to realize that if we preserve and protect our environment, natural disasters won't get too far out of hand in the future.

**Dr. Green Takes on Global Warming**

Samantha Page Barghahn (aka. the beloved Dr. Green of "The Green"), a senior at San Mateo High School, has been writing a grant application that will allow her to be the lead on a Global Climate Change project, in partnership with EarthTeam. Samantha intends to manage a project through the internet that educates teens about global climate change and inspires them to meet with candidates for public office to influence their involvement in climate change initiatives. The candidates will be hearing the powerful voices of their constituents, to whom the future of the planet belongs. Samantha is passionate and energetic, and EarthTeam is proud to harness her energy as a force to inspire and motivate other teens. Here is her own description of the project:

*As I am constantly faced with the reality of global warming, my life passion has molded into an effort to slow down this threatening phenomenon by means of educating others. Although it seems like there is not much that a 17-year-old high school student can do in the effort to decrease carbon dioxide emissions, I have managed to find ways. Currently, I am putting together a grant that addresses the need for global climate change education in high schools. With the help of my publisher, the reputable Lana Husser, I am creating a Power Point presentation that explains the process and future of global warming. This presentation will potentially be presented to Middle College High Schools around the nation. I believe that when these underprivileged students are exposed to this information at an early age, they will be able to find ways to fit environmentally-conscious activity into their lifestyle.*

**EarthTeam Environmental Network**

**Sheilah Fish**, Executive Director — **Lana Husser**, Multimedia Director  
**Faith Gong**, Program Director — **Salli Lundgren**, Restoration Projects Director  
**Ginny Wallace**, Speaker's Bureau Coordinator — **Dave Jurkeiwicz**, Webmaster

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**To Contact Us:**

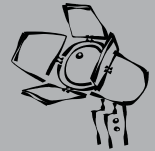
**EarthTeam Environmental Network** is located at 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite L, Berkeley, CA 94702  
We can be reached at (510) 704-4030 or via email at [info@earthteam.net](mailto:info@earthteam.net)  
Visit us on the web at [www.earthteam.net](http://www.earthteam.net)





## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### Oakland High School's Environmental Science Academy



The Environmental Science Academy (ESA) at Oakland High School is a school-within-a-school funded by the California Partnership Academy Program. Founded in 1997, the ESA offers an integrated curriculum focused on career training in the environmental sciences to approximately 180 students in grades 10-12. Over the past five years, the ESA has been developing an exciting partnership with EarthTeam.

According to Katie Noonan, Co-Director of the Academy, "[I] cannot overstate how much it [EarthTeam] has enriched the educational experience of my students. Through EarthTeam, they have participated in exciting outdoor activities such as canoeing, rope climbing, visiting salmon spawning streams and marsh restoration." Kevin Jordan, the other ESA Co-Director, concurs. "It's been a perfect match with EarthTeam," he says. "The things that EarthTeam is doing are synonymous with what we're interested in doing."

EarthTeam and the ESA have partnered on many events over their five year history, but the past year in particular has seen the genesis of some amazing projects. Katie Noonan's 10th grade biology students took several trips to Oakland's Sausal Creek with former EarthTeam Restoration Projects Director Chicory Bechtel. Under the mentorship of Friends of Sausal Creek, they removed non-native plant species from the shoreline and replanted it with native species. On one day alone, the ESA students added over 600 new plants to the creek's shores! Lana Husser, EarthTeam's Multi-Media Coordinator, accompanied the students on their forays to Sausal Creek and taught them how to use digital photography and video to document their restoration work.

The documentation didn't stop there; Leslie Rule, who runs the Digital Storytelling Initiative at the San Francisco public radio station KQED, worked alongside Chicory and Lana to train the students in creating a "QUEST" – a sort of outdoor treasure hunt. The ESA students incorporated their poetry and GPS technology into a Sausal Creek QUEST brochure, now available to any members of the public who visit Sausal Creek.

Oakland High School students and EarthTeam staff at Sausal Creek, ready to do their restoration work.



Kevin Jordan's ESA seniors also benefited from their partnership with EarthTeam during the past year. His students had built an underwater robot to do water quality testing in Oakland's Lake Merritt. They wanted to put together a video of this and other service activities for their senior project, but they were struggling with the editing process. "Thank God for Lana!" exclaims Kevin Jordan. EarthTeam's Lana Husser led 10 afterschool technology classes for the ESA seniors and taught them to use digital storytelling and live action video to put their senior project together. The video was a hit, and some clips were featured in EarthTeam's online student newsletter, "The Green." "We'll do it again this year," says Kevin Jordan. "It's a way for our kids to express themselves and take a look at a whole other medium – a powerful medium – for getting messages across."



Oakland High students clear non-native species from the shoreline of Sausal Creek, which they will then re-plant with native species.

The use of 21st century technology to document environmental activity continued when Leslie Rule brought KQED's 10 mobile laptop computers equipped with microphones to Oakland High School and assisted Lana Husser as she taught the students the basics of digital storytelling. Using this technology, the students documented seven different ESA projects over the past year, including the Sausal Creek QUEST project, water quality monitoring at Lake Merritt, and a 3-day senior study trip to Catalina Island.

The ESA students get more from their EarthTeam connection than hands-on experience with environmental work and technology. Over 50% of ESA students qualify for free lunches, and the group is hugely diverse; approximately 27 different languages are spoken in the students' homes. The ethnic composition is roughly 60% Asian Pacific Islander, 25% African American, 12% Hispanic, and 3% Caucasian and Native American. According to Katie Noonan, "Many students do not usually travel outside their neighborhoods....EarthTeam activities get them out among the larger public to practice speaking and understanding English." Kevin Jordan agrees: "They get exposed to other students. They realize what else is out there."

EarthTeam and ESA projects are already in the works for the coming year, including more restoration projects with EarthTeam's new Restoration Projects Director Salli Lundgren, and more technology workshops with Lana Husser. For her own part, Husser is grateful for ESA's "wonderful team of teachers who are excited about EarthTeam and want to learn how to integrate technology into the program. There will definitely be more," she adds, "and we're excited about it!"

## SELECTIONS FROM "THE GREEN"

*EarthTeam's 100% Student-Written Online Environmental Newsletter*

### Cell Phone Recycling Benefits More Than The Environment

By Kiona Medina, Piedmont HS April 2006

Do you have old unusable cell phones lying around the house? With fast-growing technology, new model cell phones are constantly brought to the market. If you are storing old models and don't know what to do with these, here is a solution for you: recycling.

Production and disposal of cell phones and all other electronic devices pose an increasing threat to human health and to the environment. When mobile devices are thrown into the garbage they eventually leak lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic and other toxic substances that contaminate the water supply. In fact, today's consumer electronics have created 40% of the lead found in landfills. Other regions burn their waste, which puts these same toxic elements into the air, an air made toxic that pollutes rainwater. Since all animal and plant life needs water, everybody gets poisoned. In addition, toxic substances released into the environment also affect the human brain, heart, lungs, kidneys, bones, nerves and much more. By recycling your cell phone, you can save animals and plant life, you can save the environment, and you can protect yourself.

Recycling is easy. Just log on to:

**<http://collectivegood.com>**

and follow the three steps. The organization accepts and recycles all models of cell phones, mobile phones, pagers and all sorts of electronic devices including battery chargers and related accessories.

Next time you get a new cell phone consider the last thing you can do with your old one: save the environment.



*"Rising"*

Kiona Medina, Piedmont HS  
April 2006



*"The Light Within The Darkness Shines Through"*  
Jonathan Lau, NorthGate HS, Walnut Creek June 2006

### A Walk Through Nature

A poem by Natasha Gupta, Monte Vista HS  
July 2006

My feet tread on soft, woven grass,  
With every step walking into nature's grasp.  
The hills are gentle giants for miles to see,  
Sun kissed in the peaceful glow of morning.  
I kneel down and pick a flower,  
and suddenly, the sky begins to shower.  
The fresh, sweet smell of the moist soil,  
Cloaks me like an aroma of lavender oil.  
Water droplets grace the petals of a flowerbed,  
Like tiny crystals spilling onto a velvet spread.  
I roll down the grassy hill, sinking into the wet mud,  
and close my eyes as exhilaration flows in my blood.  
Hours later, I return back home,  
To face the world of papers that never leaves me alone.  
Back to the city lights, and to the cars in a hurry,  
Speeding to get to work sooner, running past life's beauty.  
A cigarette on the sidewalk sits, smoke escaping without a trace,  
and everyone simply passes on- our lives are too fast paced.  
But sometimes I stop and close my eyes, and a gust of wind whispers into my ear,  
It whispers something special and secret, something that takes me far from here.  
I leave my house, my papers and my books, to run back to the hills,  
and once again I run in the grass, to feel the rain as it pours and spills.  
I embrace the call of the wild as I roam among the trees,  
Feeling for just one moment...that I'm finally free.



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

### Under a Giant Baobab Tree

By Allison Cooper, Albany HS July 2006



This photo is of a giant Baobab tree in a village in Mali. I went to Mali in April with the organization called Building with Books to help build a school in a village in Ntoundougou-koloni (meaning the village founded by Ntoundougou with a small well) in the Bougouni region of the West African country. Baobab trees and mango trees, combined with some small shrubs, made up most of the landscape as we drove through miles of hot (always around 100 degrees F-- it was the dry hot season) Sahel desert-- the "shores" of the great Sahara. The village where this Baobab is near Ntoundougou-Koloni; we went there because it has a big market, where neighboring villagers go to the market. The tree is the center of the main marketplace area, surrounded by stands filled with spices, jewelry, henna and other dyes, and random clothing and plastic things. The huge tree centerpiece provides an infinitely important resource to the villagers: Shade! It also provides a fruit called "monkey bread," and the leaves are used in cooking and medicine and the bark is used for rope and cloth.

Baobabs store water in their thick corky trunks, collected during the shorter wet season for use during the long dry season. You may recognize the baobab tree as the home of "Rafiki" in Disney's "The Lion King" (which, I might add, was based in part on Mali's legendary ruler named Sundiata, nicknamed "the Lion King of Mali"). I liked to see how villagers in Mali respected what nature had given them. They use only as much of their resources as they need to keep their natural resources alive and well, so they will continue to sustain them in the future. However, bad farming practices are increasing desertification, or the spread of the desert into dried out land. This is a major environmental problem in Mali and other Sahel countries, and global warming will only have negative effects. Hopefully support from other countries and increased education combined with the native nature-loving African cultures will keep such natural masterpieces as the baobab tree thriving.

### Pittsburg High School Students Experience Volunteering

By Nasher Shaibi, Pittsburg HS  
February 2006

When I went to Oakland to the Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline I had some fun. I thought it was going to be a useless trip, but it was actually pretty cool. We met people from Berkeley High, Oakland Tech, and some other schools. There were plenty of people there and also some famous local people were there. There was a young boy giving a speech from M.L.K and an older boy named Zack who received an award for his project testing the water that the air planes serve. He demonstrated that the water is contaminated.

The weather at Oakland was alright, a little windy, but it didn't ruin our trip. I cleaned the San Leandro Creek with my group from school and also some kids from Berkeley High. Both times we switched up jobs, I still stuck with collecting garbage rather than planting because following the creek help me sweat some calories off.

Some garbage we found by the creek included dime sack baggies, bottles, tires, wrappers, little pieces of foam, candy wrappers, and cigar tips. Also there were needles and broken glass, but anytime we found a needle we had to call for someone to put it in a special "sharps" box, so they could dispose of it safely.



"Earth's Eye"  
Doug Scott, De Anza HS, Richmond  
August 2006

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

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

## Executive Director Wins Jefferson Award for the Creation of EarthTeam!

By Heather Maddan, *San Francisco Chronicle*

After 10 years of volunteering at Contra Costa County's Earth Day celebration, Sheilah Fish decided to create a new group called EarthTeam, an environmental network for teens, teachers and youth leaders. Since it began in 2000, the nonprofit has grown to include three paid employees who direct restoration projects, coordinate multimedia programs and handle youth outreach and volunteers.

"Sheilah is the powerhouse of the organization and works continuously to come up with new and innovative ways to get students involved in the environment through hands-on action," said Chicory Bechtel, the group's restoration projects director. So it's no surprise that the school superintendents in Contra Costa and Alameda counties have both formally endorsed EarthTeam, which works with 60 schools and involves approximately 2,000 students in their programs each year. Participants have the opportunity to take part in a variety of projects, from writing for the Green, an online newsletter, to "Visuals and Voices," a contest and traveling art, photography and poetry show, to environmental justice projects, such as this year's Something's in the Air, which focuses on asthma research and action. This fall, EarthTeam will begin a new venture working with 10 low-income schools to address specific needs.



*Chronicle / Kat Wade*

"It is my hope that students from underserved schools will be inspired by the program and become stewards of their communities," said Fish, whose programs are funded by private and corporate donations, and state and federal grants.

A former therapist, Fish practiced in Walnut Creek for 25 years before she gradually gave up counseling to focus all her energy on EarthTeam. She sprung into environmental action when she looked at the future of the air, water and global warming. She found the scenario depressing and decided to do her part in making a difference.

"I know I'll be a little old lady in tennis shoes," she laughed, adding that she has no plans to retire.

*This article first appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle in June 2006.*



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

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Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority  
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Ginny Wallace  
Carol and Neil Wilson  
Sheila Wishek

## EARTH TEAM INTRODUCES...

Change is in the air with the start of school and the approach of fall, and there's also been lots of change in the EarthTeam offices. Here's an introduction to the new names and faces on our staff:



**Salli Lundgren** will be our new Restoration Projects Director. Salli has been an East Bay Regional Parks naturalist, an Oakland Zoo teacher, and a wildlife rehabilitation educator. She also loves gardening and would like to incorporate that into EarthTeam's focus. Welcome Salli!

**Faith Gong** is our new Program Director. Faith and her husband (who grew up in the Bay Area and will be attending UC Berkeley's PhD program in Agriculture and Resource Economics) moved to Berkeley in August from New York City where she taught elementary school, volunteered as a GED tutor, and taught photography. Faith and her husband spent the past two summers in Tanzania working on a program with Habitat for Humanity that opened her eyes to environmental problems worldwide. Welcome Faith!



To add to this we have an outstanding new volunteer, **Ginny Wallace**. Ginny saw an article about EarthTeam in the Chronicle, contacted us, and since then we've been off and running. Ginny works at USF and her area of expertise is incorporating curriculum into 21st century tools. Ginny is an excellent writer and has been the volunteer coordinator for another nonprofit. She'll be helping EarthTeam by coordinating the Volunteers and Speakers Bureau, and has jumped in with both feet!



**Yes, I want to support EarthTeam's work with teens and teachers.**

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**Payment method:**

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Here's my check payable to EarthTeam

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Charge my VISA or Mastercard

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Last 3 or 4 digits on reverse: \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please put me on EarthTeam's email update list ☐

I would like to volunteer ☐

Please mail to:

**EarthTeam Network**  
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite L  
Berkeley, CA 94702



## LOOKING FORWARD INTO FALL 2006

**Saturday, September 16th - EarthTeam's Restorations Program Kickoff on Coastal Clean-up Day**, Berkeley Aquatic Park from 9:30am-1:30pm. Shoreline clean-up & a free lunch. Bus transportation is available. RSVP by Friday, Sept. 8th to Salli@earthteam.net or 510-520-1111. Please contact Salli to arrange a restoration project for your class or club.

**Sunday, October 1st - Sign-ups begin for "Something's in the Air" – An Asthma Research and Action Project.** A chance to do hands-on research and influence policy! Students will learn about asthma and air quality, conduct community surveys, and measure the air quality near their schools in order to present the data to government officials. Contact Faith Gong at Faith@earthteam.net or 510-704-4030.

**Tuesday, October 3rd - Registration forms due for the Student Environmental Leadership Weekend.** Registration forms are available on our website. Contact Faith Gong at Faith@earthteam.net or 510-704-4030.

**Saturday, October 14th and Sunday, October 15th - EarthTeam's Student Environmental Leadership Weekend at Camp Arroyo.** Our annual weekend of fun and inspiration. Students from across the Bay Area take workshops on the environment, hear great speakers, meet other Bay Area teens, and go on Camp Arroyo's Ropes Course and Climbing Wall. Contact Faith Gong at Faith@earthteam.net or 510-704-4030.

**Saturday, October 28th - EarthTeam Restoration Project at Miller Knox Regional Shoreline** from 10am-2pm, in partnership with East Bay Regional Parks Teens Touch the Earth Program. Bus transportation available. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 20th to Salli@earthteam.net or 510-520-1111.

**Sunday, October 29th - Kickoff Meeting for EarthTeam's Student Global Warming Campaign.** Do you want to be part of a team that creates a student-led Bay Area campaign on global warming? Come hear a speaker on global warming and discuss the vision for this year's student-led Global Warming Awareness Campaign. The meeting will be at the Berkeley Public Library from 2:00-4:00 PM. Snacks will be served. RSVP by Monday, October 23rd to Faith Gong at Faith@earthteam.net or 510-704-4030.

**Wednesday, November 15th – Deadline to Register for "Our School Our Planet: A Sustainable Schools Video Project for Teens."** Students will learn to produce videos that will inspire their peers to care for the planet through recycling and waste reduction. Contact Lana Husser at LanaH@earthteam.net or 510-219-1571.

**Friday, December 1 – Begin receiving entries for Visuals and Voices – a Year-long Traveling Eco-art, Photography and Poetry Show for Teens.** Contact Faith Gong at Faith@earthteam.net or 510-704-4030.

\* Deadline to submit student writing and photography to "The Green" is the 25th of each month! Contact Lana Husser at LanaH@earthteam.net or 510-219-1571.

\* For submissions to "The Green Screen," contact Lana Husser at LanaH@earthteam.net or 510-219-1571.

\* Contact Ginny Wallace for speakers or to volunteer at Ginny@earthteam.net or 510-704-4030.



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

### CHECK OUT OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER!

*Inside...*

**\*Richmond Students on the Air in "The Green Screen!"**

**\*Spotlight on Oakland High School!**

**\*Student Writing and Photography from "The Green!"**

***and much more....***