



Environmental Network News

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

SPRING 2008

Another Outstanding Year for EarthTeam's Special Events Days

Invasive species beware -- Bay Area teens are not afraid of rolling up their sleeves and getting dirty! Armed with enthusiasm, gardening tools, and trash bags, over 300 students participated in EarthTeam's three large-scale restoration programs this year.

Kicking off the school year with our annual **Coastal Cleanup** at Berkeley Aquatic Park, a dedicated group of students helped protect the environment and wildlife from harmful marine debris by collecting 285 pounds of trash and recycling from the shoreline in less than two hours!

In January, students were at it again, braving rain and cold weather as they restored the tidal wetland habitat at Oakland's **Martin Luther King Shoreline**. This event, held on Dr. King's birthday, gave students a chance to reflect on Dr. King's life and provided a powerful example of what



Orinda High School students team up to restore Martin Luther King Shoreline
Photo by Dan Sullivan, www.dansullivanimages.com

can be accomplished by working as a part of a team.

The **Cesar Chavez Day** cleanup, EarthTeam's final Eco-Service restoration event of the school year, was held at the end of March. This successful event included restoration activities, food, music, and dancing.

Thanks to all the students, partners, volunteers, and EarthTeam supporters that made these events possible!

Students, please join us for our Coastal Cleanup Day on September 20th.



Traditional Mexican dancers performing at Cesar Chavez Day Cleanup

"Our actions today had a positive impact on the environment because we cleaned the park and various types of pollution. I will continue being involved in these types of activities that have a positive impact. Thank you!"

-- Raymond Chan,
Oakland HS

These special restoration events are one component of **EarthTeam's Restoration Initiative (ETRI)** which also includes classroom presentations, class field trips, and Aqua Team, an after school group of Richmond high school students committed to learning about ecology through weekly meetings and taking part in restoration projects on a monthly basis. To learn more about EarthTeam's restoration work, please visit our website, www.earthteam.net.

IN THIS ISSUE

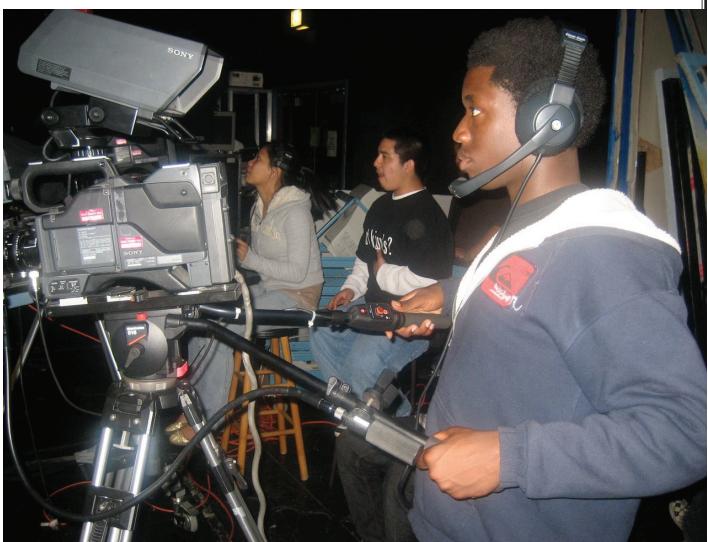
- Counting on EarthTeam / Pg. 2
- Spotlight On... Something's in the Air / Pg. 3
- Selections from The Green News / Pgs. 4 and 5
- WAM! in Action / Pg. 6
- Mark Your Calendar / Pg. 8

Supports Teachers • Inspires Teens • Impacts Community

Counting on EarthTeam: A Year in Highlights

**So far this school year,
EarthTeam students have...**

- Written, produced, and starred in **12** Green Screen episodes
- Spent **3,082** volunteer hours participating in **29** restoration projects
- Displayed **30** works of art and writing in the traveling Visuals & Voices exhibit at **11** libraries and other community exhibit locations in the Bay Area
- Enjoyed **30.5** hours at Camp Arroyo for the Leadership & Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) student weekend (**88** students)
- Conducted **7** waste audits at their schools
- Contributed **175** photos, articles, poems, interviews and art to the Green News website
- Participated in **16** classroom sessions to learn about and take action to address asthma & air pollution
- Held **6** monthly Cool School global warming meetings
- Attended **27** classes to learn about local ecology and their watershed (**595** students)
- Chosen to turn their environmental clubs into **3** EarthTeam clubs



Dana Dizon, Braulio Figueredo and Cameron Hamilton
filming an episode of the Green Screen

Check Out the Latest Green Screen Episode

EarthTeam's 30-minute Green Screen episodes continue to air on 9 Bay Area TV stations.

The newest episode of this student-created, environmentally-themed TV program explores the issue of our rivers and salmon populations.

Visit www.thegreenscreen.net to find out the air times or to watch the episodes online.

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.

EarthTeam Environmental Network

Sheilah Fish, Acting Executive Director — **Maggie Fleming**, Assistant Director

Trisha Allen, Restoration Program Director — **Chicory Bechtel**, Program Director — **Lana Husser**, Multimedia Director

Caroline Sandifer, Program Assistant — **Abel Buickerood**, Webmaster

Board of Directors

Sheilah Fish, President, *EarthTeam Founder* **Dan Hanel**, Financial Vice President, *Heritage High School*, Vice Principal

Cindy Spring, Secretary, *Bay Nature*, Writer **Kathy Barrett**, UC Botanical Gardens, Education Director

Tendai Chitewere, San Francisco State University, Assistant Professor, *Liberal Studies* **Whitney Dotson**, Ch. Parchester Village, Ch. N. Richmond Shoreline **Xavier Fernandez**, San Francisco Estuary Project, Environmental Scientist **Michele Perrault**, Sierra Club, International VP

Justin Watkins, UC Cooperative Extension, School Garden Coordinator

To Contact Us:

.....

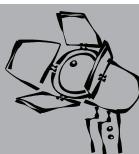
EarthTeam Environmental Network is located at 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite L, Berkeley, CA 94702

We can be reached at (510) 704-4030 or via email at info@earthteam.net

Visit us on the web at www.earthteam.net



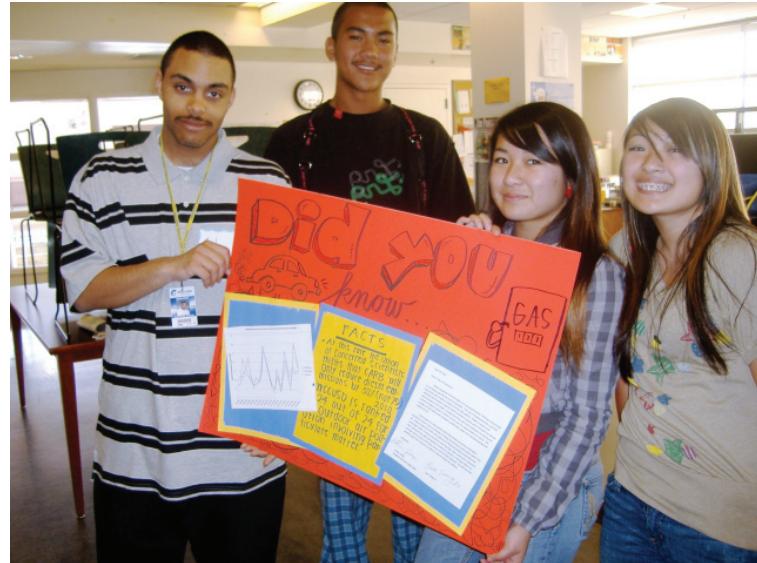
SPOTLIGHT ON... *Something's in the Air*



While school bus exhaust fumes and rising incidences of asthma among classmates may go unnoticed by most students, the topic of air has moved front and center in fifteen Richmond and Oakland classrooms, thanks to EarthTeam's Something's in the Air Asthma Project (SITA).

SITA uses hands-on learning to educate students about the quality of air in their schools and communities. Using curriculum that allows students to compare the air quality in their community to the air quality of other communities, SITA demonstrates that asthma disproportionately affects underserved communities and gives students the resources to take action toward promoting government change to improve air quality.

In the two to three weeks spent on SITA, classes receive briefings from air quality and asthma guest speakers, students collect data through basic science experiments and computer tools that help connect science to students' experiences in their communities, and the teens learn about civic actions they can take to promote environmental justice and improve air quality regulations.



Students' showing off their poster about an off road vehicle ruling, which was one component of last year's SITA Environmental Justice and Policy workshop

The schools participating in SITA this year are Skyline HS, EXCEL at MacClymonds, Oakland High School, Pinole Valley HS and Hercules HS.

To read more about SITA and the program's classroom materials, please visit www.earthteam.net.

Excerpt from a letter from last year's SITA students wrote to the California Air Resources Board:

We are students from College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, and we are concerned with the rising cases of asthma in the Bay Area...Although we are merely high school students, we learned enough about air quality and pollution to know that it's a rapidly growing problem, and we hope that things change. Air is good; it should be kept clean.

--Yulia Cherednikov, Nancy Duan, Suzy Azimi

SELECTIONS FROM “THE GREEN”
EarthTeam’s 100% Student-Written Online Environmental News Magazine

Pine Forest Rain

by Sasha Grace, Tomales High School

the pine forest rain
 the angels perfume made from a memory of
 when the old world was still new and utterly
 clean
 the wonderful fresh pine seeps into you
 filling you to bursting with its sweet invigorating
 energies
 anytime even the memory makes you lighter
 though the sad half wants to smell the heav-
 enly air again
 as you wander happily through the forest
 gazing in awe at the newly formed diamonds
 sparkling on the end of every pine needle
 as the rising sun hits them
 silently walking as you listened to the unending
 music
 as they meet the ground
 falling only when they're ready
 pine forest rain

**A Tree Does Make a Sound**

by Alex Ortiz, Pinole Valley HS

Rain

by Katie Flanagan
 Alhambra HS, Martinez

The rain splatters on hard pavement
 Forming puddles that reflect like mirrors
 Mirrors that watch the crying face of earth shat-
 ter its tears upon us
 Cold yet dry the wind blows the rain in all direc-
 tions
 Drips on pie trees
 Dampens building tops
 What a wonderful thing the rain is
 It makes life possible

**Wolf**

by Kiki Han, Mission HS,
 San Francisco



Day Lily, by Alex Ortiz, Pinole Valley High

Selections from “The Green” Continued...**Meet Dr. Green**

This year's Dr. Green, our featured blogger and environmental teen expert, is Justin Sedar, a senior at Piedmont High School.

Here's one of Justin's blog posts and a comment posted by a teen reader:

Green Jobs in Richmond and Cleveland

What's a "green job"? I recently came across the term in a news article. Perhaps not surprisingly, a "green job" is one that contributes to the production of renewable energy--putting up/maintaining wind farms and installing solar panels are just a few examples. As people across the country have become more aware of environmental issues and what they can do to fix them, and as the economy has taken a turn for the worse, the demand for "green collar jobs" has increased; in addition to being an important part of the environmental policies of the various presidential hopefuls, green jobs have been the subject of an exciting experiment right here in the Bay Area.

The concept of "green collar jobs" is music to the ears of the presidential candidates: green jobs benefit the country economically, while being great for the environment. Thus, Clinton, Obama, and McCain have all stepped out in favor of increasing green jobs. This is one issue on which all three of the candidates seem to agree: all three promise to increase funding and incentives for green collar jobs across America, although few specific numbers have been disclosed by the campaigns.

Flowers Like Butterflies
by Christian Sweeney, Alhambra HS, Martinez



Bird After Oil Spill
by Solomon Buckner, Creative Arts Charter School, San Francisco

Meanwhile, the city of Richmond has decided to take the matter into its own hands with an ambitious program designed to train low-income residents for green jobs. The program teaches workers how to install residential solar electric systems, and the hope is that at least some of these workers will be able to take these skills and convert them to a career, thus helping them out of poverty and helping the environment at the same time. To put these new green collar workers to good use, Solar Richmond oversees a project that offers free solar electric system installations to low-income Richmond families.

Comment

Hi my name is Braulio Figueredo I am 18 years old and also a Richmond resident. I heard about the Solar Richmond project when watching the local news and soon came to find out that a resident neighbor qualified to receive the free solar panel installation for his house. I thought it was very cool to hear that low-income families were able to receive solar panels to be more energy efficient. I am part of the Green Screen so I decided along with another member to interview the resident receiving the panels. He will be shown on our upcoming episode number 11, so I would like to ask you to check it out please. You can find our Green Screen link on the earth team website. Well alright then Dr. Green talk to you later thanks!

***For more of “The Green News” visit,
www.thegreennews.net***

Submit poems, articles, interviews, photos, videos, and art to the **Green News** online or by contacting Lana at lana@earthteam.net or 510-219-1571.

WAM! In Action

Teens in 7 schools in West Contra Costa and Central Contra Costa County are digging through garbage in an effort to shine light on the connection between global warming and recycling.

In its pilot year, EarthTeam's Waste Action Month (WAM!) project is off to a great start. By participating in this project, students gain the resources to discover how much energy - and carbon emissions - their school can save by recycling more.

WAM! begins with classes or clubs conducting an initial waste audit at their school - a very eye-opening experience into the campus's consumption culture, with students weeding through food wrappers, gooey notes, water bottles, uneaten sandwiches, and even shoes! Data is collected to calculate how much carbon could have been saved by recycling items that were instead put in the garbage, so students can best evaluate how to tackle their school's present recycling behavior and make improvements.

Classes/clubs then launch an education campaign at their school, making posters, re-painting recycling bins into works of art, etc., before performing a follow-up waste audit a few weeks later. Schools that make the biggest waste and recycling improvement in each school district win a coveted cash prize.

If your school would like to participate in WAM!, please contact Caroline at caroline@earthteam.net or 510-704-4030.

Congratulations to a few of EarthTeam's many students heading off to college:

- **Elizabeth Price** (St. Mary's College HS) is still deciding between USC and UCB
- **Dyani Main** (St Mary's College HS) will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall
- **Braulio Figueiredo** (Richmond HS) will be going to Contra Costa College next year
- **Allison Cooper** (Albany High School), will move to Montreal in the Fall to attend McGill University, where she plans to study International Development studies
- **Erin Bravo** (RHS) will be attending Santa Cruz in the Fall
- **Jessica Ambriz** (RHS) will be attending Fullerton College in the fall
- **Jaclyn Lim** (OHS) is heading to Cal Poly to study forestry and natural resource management
- **Raymond Chan** (OHS) attending UC Davis next year

We'll miss you!



Katya Roudneva conducting a WAM! waste audit at Las Lomas High School, Walnut Creek.

Thank you, Chicory!

After five years on staff, our fabulous **Program Director, Chicory Bechtel**, is leaving EarthTeam. With a wedding and cross-country move planned for this summer, Chicory has still found the time to successfully wrap up her EarthTeam programs and train EarthTeam's Program Assistant, **Caroline Sandifer**, to take over as our Program Director next fall.

Chicory has been an instrumental part of EarthTeam, from running the Restoration program during her first three years to more recently piloting Something's in the Air and the Cool Schools Global Warming Campaign programs.

Chicory's energy, wit, and passion for the environment and youth will be missed by the countless students and teachers that she's worked with over the years.

We wish her the best of luck in Wyoming and this next phase in her life!



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

****The following list represents donations received or committed since May 1, 2007.****

Primary Sponsors (\$10,000+)

Altamont Education Advisory Board
Bay Area Quality Management District
California Breathing/CA Dept. of Health Services
California Coastal Commission
Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority
Clorox
EPA
Sheilah & Harry Fish
Hewlett Foundation
Hurlbut-Johnson Fund
Marin Community Services
Mendelson Family Fund
PG&E
Richard & Rhoda Goldman Foundation
Rose Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Sheila Wishek

Sponsors (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Alameda County Waste Management
Contra Costa County Community Watershed
East Bay Regional Park District
Firedoll Foundation
Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit
Open Circle Foundation
Rogers Family Foundation
S. D. Bechtel Foundation
The Watershed Project

Supporters (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Alameda County Community Watershed Project
Dow
National Fish & Wildlife Nature of Learning
East Bay Municipal Utility District

Joseph & Betty Gong

Patagonia

ProAction Foundation

VanLoben Sels/Rembe Rock Foundation

Save the Redwoods League

Shell Martinez

UC Berkeley Chancellors' Community
Partnership

UC Cooperative Extension

Wells Fargo

West Contra Costa County Integrated Waste
Management

Partners (\$500-\$999)

Ellen Beans
Sallie & Dick Olsen in honor of Zane Biandaca-
Olsen
Cindy Spring

Patrons (\$200-\$499)

Rick & Hope Cinquegrana
Janet & Ken Forman
John McGillivray
Michele Perrault
Virginia Wallace

Friends (\$100-\$199)

Kathy Barrett
Barbara Bream
John & Gail Buchbinder
Louise Clark
Other World Computing
Jim & Barbara Curry
Joan & Bob Fenske
Rochelle Fried

Piyush K. Gupta

Norman La Force

Lois Laine

David McGee

Pacific Rim Recycling, Inc

Diane & Bud Spangler

Joe & Joan Sutton

Norbert Young

Members (\$1-\$99)

Janet Appel
Tendai Chitwere
Barbara Cooper
Carol Custodio
Marilyn Foreman
Lorrie Osborn
Maya Rappaport
Peter & Polly Rogers
Linda Tobin
Roger & Lucy Ann Trump
Justin Watkins
Carol & Neil Wilson

In-Kind Supporters

aiso.net
Autumn Press
Barbara's Bakery
Berkeley Community Media
Chabot Space & Science Center
KCRT
REI
Seventh Generation
Yali's Cafe



Yes, I want to support EarthTeam's work with teens and teachers.
Enclosed is my membership contribution of:

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Payment method:

Here's my check payable to EarthTeam

Charge my VISA or Mastercard

Card No: _____ Exp: _____

Last 3 or 4 digits on reverse: _____

Signature: _____

Email: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Tel: _____

Thank you for your support! EarthTeam is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Early June:** Cool Schools Celebration. Contact Chicory at chicory@earthteam.net for more information.
- **Every month:** Submit your writing, art, and photography to Green News at www.green-news.net
- **This summer:** Outreach for next year's programs begins. Teachers, contact EarthTeam at info@earthteam.net to schedule appointments for meetings to learn more about our programs.
- **September:** Kick off meeting for EarthTeam's Student Global Warming Campaign. Contact Caroline at caroline@earthteam.net for more information.
- **Saturday September 20th:** Coastal Clean Up Day. Contact Trisha at trisha@earthteam.net for more information.

Lawrence Hall of Science students working at Sausal Creek, Redwoods site



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

SEE INSIDE FOR...
*EarthTeam Students vs. trash!
*Spotlight on Something's In the Air!
*Student Writing and Art from "The Green!"
*Program Updates & Announcements!
And more....