

Environmental Network News

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 SPRING 2007

EARTHTEAM VS. GLOBAL WARMING!

Overwhelming scientific evidence of global warming and alarming predictions of what our future may look like if we continue our current practices have caused widespread international anxiety over the past year. The middle and high school students who participate in EarthTeam programs are no different; they, too, have seen the scenarios in which much of the Bay Area – their home – lies underwater, the result of melted Polar ice caps. "Despite the stereotypes, we're not all Starbucks drinking, gas guzzling, extreme shopping apathetic youth," according to Kelsey Lucas, a senior at Campolindo High School in Moraga.

In order to empower Bay Area students like Kelsey to take productive action against global climate change in their schools and communities, EarthTeam began the Cool Schools Student Global Warming Campaign in Fall 2006. Cool Schools is structured around a series of monthly weekend meetings that are open to all interested students. At these meetings, students are educated on the issues surrounding global climate change by guest speakers such as local elected officials, journalists who cover global warming in the press, and Carter Brooks, one of the first 50 people trained to give Al Gore's Inconvenient Truth powerpoint presentation. The monthly meetings also give the students a chance to network with other environmentally-concerned teens from schools all over the Bay Area.

Back at their own schools, students are involved in a variety of *Cool Schools* initiatives. EarthTeam partnered with DriveNeutral, a nonprofit carbon trading company based at The Presidio School of Management, to develop a carbon offset project for *Cool Schools*. Kevin Shen, a senior at Irvington High School in Fremont (see his essay on pg. 4), worked with Jason Smith, DriveNeutral's Founder and Director, to



Kevin Shen, a senior at Irvington HS (front) and Jason Smith, Director of DriveNeutral, plot to save the Earth from Global Warming!

create the **SchoolNeutral Carbon Calculator**. This online calculator

(available on the EarthTeam website, www.earthteam.net) allows students to calculate their school's "carbon footprint." (A "carbon footprint" is the measure, usually in tons, of the amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere – in this case, by the everyday operations of a school). Once the students know their school's carbon footprint, EarthTeam and DriveNeutral assist them with actions to reduce and offset the carbon their school produces — everything from running a campaign to replace halogen bulbs with compact fluorescents, holding a "bike to school day," or fundraising to purchase carbon credits.

In addition to the actions associated with the *SchoolNeutral Carbon Calculator*, students involved in *Cool Schools* are planning **global warming awareness events** to take place at their schools during Earth Month (April) 2007. EarthTeam is assisting them with this planning, which involves such activities as screening *An Inconve*-

nient Truth, inviting guest speakers on global warming to visit their schools, and peer-to-peer education through drama. Each participating school will take part in the **Cool Schools Pledge Drive**, in which students fill out a pledge sheet committing to specific actions that reduce their own personal carbon footprint. Students who complete pledge sheets will receive a **Cool Schools** bracelet as a sign of their commitment, and will report back on how they met their commitments – all in the form of a friendly competition against their peers!

Since **Cool Schools** is an EarthTeam project, **multimedia coverage** is a given! Lana Husser, EarthTeam's Multimedia Coordinator, and her amazing student crew are filming **Cool Schools** meetings and events for an episode of **The Green Screen**.

Cool Schools has met with such enthusiasm – students at over 7 Bay Area schools are actively involved in the campaign – that EarthTeam will definitely run it again next year. "I decided that this is the most important work I could do," said Chicory Bechtel, EarthTeam's Program Director, explaining why she returned from a 6-month hiatus to run the Cool Schools campaign. Clearly Bay Area teens agree!

For more information and updates on the **Cool Schools** campaign, see the "Youth Coalition" page on the EarthTeam website, www.earthteam.net.

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WERE BANANAS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!



Robert from Northgate HS (left)
holds a battery-operated
monkey wearing a gold lame
vest, that sings Spanish songs.
Robert's team found this
amazing creature during
EarthTeam's CA Coastal
Cleanup Day event at Berkeley
Aquatic Park. 156 students
attended this event and helped
pick up trash along the shore.
The monkey was later declared
"weirdest trash" for all of
Northern California by the
California Coastal Commission!

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT ... The Student Environtmental Leadership Training Weekend





On October 14 & 15, 100 Bay Area middle and high school students descended upon Camp Arroyo in Livermore for EarthTeam's 6th annual Student Environmental Leadership Training Weekend. They attended workshops, heard guest speakers, and challenged themselves on a ropes course, climbing wall, and night hike.

Mark your calendars now: next year's weekend will be October 20 & 21!

"We didn't know what to expect when we got there, we were a little scared actually. We ended up learning many things over the weekend, thanks to [EarthTeam] and the whole Camp Arroyo staff. Not to mention the food! The food was great! We all really enjoyed the poetry, ropes course, rock climbing, singing songs at the campfire, the hip hop theatre, and especially bonding with the other campers. So thank you for preparing a splendid weekend of fun for us and other schools around the Bay."

Michelle Mac, Jocelyn Fuentecilla, Monica Le, 10th Grade, Pinole Valley HS

Where to See The Green Screen

The Green Screen, EarthTeam's exciting new television show filmed and hosted by a crew of Richmond-area teens, is on the air! See the schedule below for air times, or check out the new **Green Screen** website, <u>www.thegreenscreentv.net</u> (linked to the EarthTeam website).

KCRT Channel 28

7 AM and 4:30 PM Monday 7 PM Friday 9:30 AM Saturday

Episode #3 is currently airing. In the near future, the episodes will be rotating.

Berkeley Community Media

Second episode will be airing in March. It runs every 4th cycle Weds 4:30, Friday 4:30, Sunday 4:30)

Contra Costa TV - Comcast 27 in Contra Costa

Airs on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 PM.

TV 28 Pinole

Tuesdays 6:30 PM Saturdays 9:30 AM

Comcast Channel 26 Walnut Creek & Concord

1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30



EarthTeam Environmental Network

Faith Gong, Executive Director — Trisha Allen, Restoration Program Director

Chicory Bechtel, Program Director — Sheilah Fish, Speakers Bureau Coordinator — Lana Husser, Multimedia Director

Lauren Levin, Program Assistant — Dave Jurkeiwicz, Webmaster

Board of Directors

Sheilah Fish, President, EarthTeam Founder Dan Hanel, Financial Vice President, Heritage High School, Vice Principal Cindy Spring, Secretary, Close to Home, Co-Founder Kathy Barrett, UC Botanical Gardens, Education Director Tendai Chitewere, Ph.D., San Francisco State University, College Relations Officer Michele Perrault, Sierra Club, International VP Earl Robinson, Laney College, Teacher Mark Spencer, Ph. D., UC College of Natural Resouces, Instructor

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... Tyler Pavey



Tyler Pavey, a 12th grader at Orinda's Miramonte High School, is living out EarthTeam's conviction that concern for the environment can -- and should -- be expressed through a variety of media. In Tyler's case, this medium is film.

For the past 6 years, Tyler has been making student films, and in the past few years his films have become more documentary in genre. Last year, Tyler's documentary video on biotechnology won second place in the nation in C-SPAN's "Student Cam Video Documentary Competition."

At the beginning of his senior year at Miramonte, Tyler registered for WISE, a yearlong program that includes one semester of English, and a second semester of independent study to be done in a "Third Space" -- a place outside of home and school. Tyler wanted to focus on film for his independent study, and his research brought him in contact with Lana Husser, EarthTeam's Multimedia Coordinator. "Lana needed someone to help mentor her middle and high school film students," Tyler says. "It was perfect." Tyler's "Third Space" became EarthTeam.

When he began working with Lana and EarthTeam in early 2007, Tyler had already started creating a documentary on Global Warming, "a topic that I truly, genuinely care about," for the 2007 C-SPAN video competition. He found that the Richmond-area teens on the crew of The Green Screen, EarthTeam's monthly

Miramonte HS senior Tyler Pavey enjoys a cruise with teens from Shishmaref, Alaska, aboard the San Francisco Belle

TV show, were also tackling the issue of Global Warming, filming the meetings and activities of EarthTeam's Cool Schools Global Warming Campaign in order to create what Tyler calls, "a student version of An Inconvenient Truth." Tyler teamed up with The Green Screen, helping them to compile and edit their video footage. In February, Tyler joined The Green Screen crew to meet and interview visiting students from an Inupiag village in Shishmaref, Alaska.

"It was truly astounding," he says. "Most people don't feel the effects of Global Warming the way these kids from Shishmaref do, and that was eye opening to me. Their food supply is dropping off, and every year they lose about 10 feet of their island. They will literally have to pick up their village and move it."

Tyler has continued to work on his own Global Warming film, which he'll wrap up in March. In creating this film. Tyler interviewed local professors and scientists. and even had the opportunity to videotape an interview with Al Gore. He says that the interview that had the biggest impact upon him was with a professor of physical geography at Chabot College. "He just laid out the facts in a neutral way. That was the first time I felt I was able to really form my own opinion about Global Warming and what we can do about it."

Not suprisingly, Tyler plans on attending film school after he graduates from Miramonte in the spring. He expects that he will stay in touch with environmental issues in his future films.

Before he heads off to film school, Tyler has one more EarthTeam project on his plate. This spring, he'll be mentoring a group of students at Foothill Middle School, helping them to set up a recycling program and make a video for EarthTeam's Our School, Our Planet recycling film project. According to Tyler, the highlight of working with EarthTeam has been "having the opportunity to work with and alongside younger students. It's been a lot of fun."

Summing up his already-impressive film career and his inspiring service to youth and the environment, Tyler says, "I'm just doing what I can to impact what I can." He certainly is.

EARTHTEAM'S RESTORATION INITIATIVE: THE QUICK



A student (above) displays trash he found during a cleanup at Oakland's MLK Shoeline.

of students participating in EarthTeam Restoration Events during the 2006-2007 school year to date ... 601

of volunteer hours contributed by students during 2006-07 EarthTeam Restoration Events to date ... 1,812

Approximate # of native species replanted during 2006-07 EarthTeam Restoration Events to date ... over 100

Types of invasive species removed during 2006-07 EarthTeam Restoration Events to date ... at least 10

Sites worked by students during 2006-07 EarthTeam Restoration Events: Sausal Creek (Oakland), Aquatic Park (Berkeley), Richmond City Garden, Miller Knox Shoreline (Richmond), Iron Horse Corridor (Danville), Dow Wetlands (Pittsburg), MLK Shoreline (Oakland), Strentzel Meadows (Martinez), along Alhambra Creek in Pinole Wetlands (Pinole), Antioch Dunes (Antioch), and more to come!



A student (above) prepares to plant a native buckeye Strentzel Meadow.

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

EarthTeam's Influence On Me by Kevin Shen, Irvington HS, Fremont January 2007

I have read many inspirational stories where students have done amazing things and made an impact in their communities. However, I always had this vague misconception that before I would be able to do so, I would somehow have to cultivate myself more first.

My school features a QUEST project all seniors are supposed to do. Even though I did not expect to be able to do much, I jumped at the opportunity to further my interest in the environment's well being. I found the EarthTeam webpage and posted a comment on a poll. To my surprise, I received several e-mails from Faith and Lana asking if I was interested in joining EarthTeam. I eagerly joined, and the fact that EarthTeam was launching a Global Warming Campaign was pure cake and icing. I was in love.

My experiences with EarthTeam have been fantastic. The Student Environmental Leadership Weekend was especially inspirational. Never had I seen so many students interested in helping out the environment, all grouped together in a fun 2-day camp. Workshops like GoNextGeneration taught me about the wide impacts our daily actions have on our environment. Activities like the "ORT" food leftover measurements and the sustainable design of Camp Arroyo further drilled into my head how much we can do to be at peace with Nature.

But even moreso, I have found the EarthTeam staff and their friends to be remarkably helpful in all ways possible. Lana encouraged me to share nature photography I had taken over the years; Jason (from DriveNeutral) has eagerly offered me work on the carbon calculator and talked to me about carbon markets; Matthew's input has been invaluable in giving me perspective on the topic of sustainable development; and last but not least, Faith (even with the large amount of management that she has to handle!) has unceasingly offered her support in encouraging me to make my EarthTeam experience what I want it to be. Each of the two times that I have gone up to the EarthTeam office, and even more times via e-mail or phone, Faith has been a tremendous help in helping me to understand the scope of environmental work. For example, I have seen other global warming campaigns across the nation and then learned from their example to design a carbon-offset-trading-game and adapt a carbon calculator for school use.

EarthTeam has taught me that students really can do something to help out the community they live in. Each of us has the potential to do something great, and I look forward to both doing additional work with EarthTeam and learning from what other students will do. I hope EarthTeam has inspired you to do the same as well.



"Forest Art" by Carlos Flores, DeAnza HS, Richmond March 2007

Global Warming By Veronica Topp, Diablo View MS, Clayton March 2007

The glaciers melt,
The water heats up,
Cities are flooded,
Memorials are underwater,
People die,
Our world is suffering,
And you ignore the facts.
Overlooking it won't make it go away.
This disaster was caused by us,
We started it and now it is our turn to stop it.
We can do little things to help,
Such as not leaving things on when we aren't using them,
Or to start driving hybrid cars instead of gas guzzlers.

Or to start driving hybrid cars instead of gas guzzlers
So many things can be done,
In order to help end what we have started.
It is simple,
Yet you choose to ignore it

Yet you choose to ignore it, You disregard the signs right in front of your eyes, And ignore the many warnings. Our world is suffering,

And you don't care.

Selections from "The Green" Continued...

A Wish
By Jaime Toy, Archway School, Oakland
October 2006

Yards of old netting
Grasped by young fingers
Pulling, pulling
Upwards from the sea
A crab with three claws
A dead fish without eyes
An irregular shaped starfish
Plastic rings from Coke cans
A sigh
A tear
A wish...



"Looking here at the lagoon, I can see nature close up, but then I look farther and I see the houses and the refinery, the bridge and the dock and I think about how we make changes around us."

Photo of the Miller-Knox Shoreline and Quote by Chris DeLeon, Pinole Valley HS, Pinole November 2006



By Jimmy Dam, Oakland HS, Oakland November 2006



"Mendocino Calla Lily" by Justin Sedor, Piedmont HS, Piedmont March 2007

I Ate My Fork! By Tyler Jolley, Stewart School, Pinole January/February 2007

The other day an odd thing happened. I was eating some great cheesecake, Lana Husser, EarthTeam multimedia director, announced that the forks and knives we were using at our event were made out of potatoes, (not the plastic that we thought they were). I didn't know if I should believe her, so to check it out, I bit right into my fork. My teeth went through and it tasted "spuddish". She was right – potato. I ate the whole thing.

Why do you suppose people want utensils made from potatoes? Well, potatoes are biodegradable, so instead of throwing them out, you can put these utensils into the compost pile and give the back to the Earth. They're recyclable and environmentally healthy. Maybe they'll come out with flavored forks next. I could go for a cherry one.

If you'd like to buy some of these edible utensils, go to www.spudware.com where they say "While plastic sits unaltered in the earth for centuries, SpudWare decomposes within 180 days. Guaranteed."

Or take a walk to your local natural grocery store and ask for spudware to help save our environment.

For more of "The Green" visit our website, 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 or 510-219-1571.



EarthTeam (I. to r.): Lauren Levin, Faith Gong, Chicory Bechtel, Trisha Allen, Lana Husser, Sheilah Fish

MEET THE TEAM!

EarthTeam has made some exciting changes and additions in recent months. Our Founder, **Sheilah Fish**, remains very active as Board President, but decided that six years as a volunteer Executive Director were enough! **Faith Gong**, formerly EarthTeam's Program Director, is EarthTeam's new Executive Director.

We are delighted to have **Chicory Bechtel**, who was EarthTeam's Restoration Director for 3 years before taking a break to explore the Alaskan wilds, back at 2530 San Pablo as our new Program Director. Chicory has a passion for combating Global Warming, so she is enthusiastically heading up the *Cool Schools Global Warming Campaign*.

Trisha Allen, who comes to us directly from Occidental, California, where she was Head Teacher Naturalist at Caritas Creek, is our new Restoration Program Director. Prior to the two years she spent at Caritas, Trisha was coordinating the Notre Dame Public Health/Micro-Business Project in Haiti. We are lucky to have her with us!

Our final addition is **Lauren Levin**, who is bravely creating the position of Program Assistant. In her non-Earth-Team life, Lauren is a gifted poet. A graduate of the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop, she worked with Writers in the Schools in Houston, TX before moving to Oakland last summer.

The only EarthTeam-er who hasn't changed positions is **Lana Husser**, our fearless Multimedia Coordinator, who continues to inspire East Bay teens to create superlative multimedia projects through *The Green, The Green Screen,* and *Our School/Our Planet*.

We're having so much fun working together; stop by and see us in Suite L sometime!

ANNOUNCING: NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT EARTHTEAM

We are delighted to offer you many options for supporting Earth-Team. There are, of course, the traditional donation routes: by check or credit card, using the form on the facing page, or online by clicking "Donate & Shop" on our website (www.earthteam.net). However, we can now offer you several "creative" options!

We have a partnership with **Amazon.com.** Here's how it works: visit the EarthTeam website (www.earthteam.net), click on "Donate & Shop," and then click on the Amazon button:



Part of the proceeds from any books you order by entering Amazon.com via EarthTeam's site will go to EarthTeam!

We also have a partnership with **GoodSearch**, a Yahoo-powered search engine. Visit their website (www.goodsearch.com) anytime you need to search the internet, and select "EarthTeam Environmental Network" from the pull-down menu. For every search you do in EarthTeam's name, we get a penny. It all adds up! You can also access GoodSearch from the "Donate & Shop" page on the EarthTeam website.



Thank you for supporting Earthteam!

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
*VISUALS & VOICES ECO-ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, & POETRY
CONTEST AND TRAVELING SHOW

Chicory Bechtel, chicory@earthteam.net

*THE GREEN SCREEN

*THE GREEN NEWSLETTER

*OUR SCHOOL, OUR PLANET - A SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

VIDEO PROJECT

Lana Husser, lana@earthteam.net

*SPEAKERS BUREAU

Sheilah Fish, sheilah@earthteam.net

*GENERAL QUESTIONS

Faith Gong, faith@earthteam.net

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

The following represent donations made since March 2006:

Primary Sponsors (\$10,000+)

Altamont Education Advisory Board Chris Blair and Heidi Bassett Blair The Clorox Company Foundation Community Technology Foundation East Bay Community Foundation National Fish and Wildlife The Rose Foundation Sheila Wishek

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

Alameda County Waste Management **Anonymous** Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities S.D. Bechtel Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority Chevron Contra Costa County Community Watershed Sheilah and Harry Fish

Roger and Monique Mendelson Save-the-Redwoods League UC Davis Cooperative Extension

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Arizmendi Bakery Berkeley Bowl The Dreyers Foundation KCRT Television Leslie Rule, KQED Noah's Bagels (Berkeley) Shelly Rosenblum, EPA Trader Joe's Victor Zuniga Whole Foods (Berkeley)

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Yes, I want to support Earth leam's work with	teens and	teacners!
Enclosed is my membership contribution of:		

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	□ \$50 □ \$100 □ \$	500		
Name:		Payment method:		
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		☐ Charge my VISA or Mastercard		
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Zip:	Tel:	Signature:		
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:				
Please mail to: EarthTeam Network 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite L				

Berkeley, CA 94702

SPRING FORWARD WITH EARTHTEAM!

Saturday, March 17: Day of Creek Restoration in Martinez! Come join Earthteam and Friends of Alhambra Creek at Strentzel Meadow on St. Patty's Day from 10:00am to 1:00pm. For more information, email Trisha Allen at trisha@earthteam.net or call 510-704-4030.

Saturday, March 31: Cesar Chavez Day of Service. Celebrate Cesar Chavez's legacy with a day of speakers, music and dance, food, habitat restoration, and creek clean-up. Aquatic Park in Berkeley from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. For more information, email trisha@ earthteam.net or call 510-704-4030.

Sunday, April 15: Cool Schools Global Warming Campaign Meeting. Join teens from all over the Bay Area to plan Earth Month Global Warming Awareness events at your school! 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Berkeley High School. Snacks will be provided. For more information, email Chicory Bechtel at chicory@earthteam.net or call 510-704-4030.

Saturday, April 21: John Muir Earth Day Celebration. Join EarthTeam and other organizations from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the John Muir Historic Site in Martinez. Participants will be invited to hike, bike, run and kayak to celebrate the life and legacy of John Muir. The John Muir Birthday – Earth Day Festival at the John Muir National Historic Site will feature exhibits, entertainment and a special birthday presentation at 2 PM. Admission to the Festival is free. For more information, contact Nancy Schaefer at the John Muir Association, 925-370-7158, or nschaefer1@comcast.net, or visit www.JohnMuirEarthDay.com.

Saturday, April 21 & Sunday, April 22: EARTH DAY WEEKEND! Celebrate by loving your planet. EarthTeam encourages you to get involved in local Earth Day events. For more information, visit www.calparks.org/programs/earth-day/

Saturday, April 28: Alhambra Creek Cleanup Day. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Join us for a morning of restoration along Alhambra Creek! Snacks will be served. For more information and site details, email Trisha Allen at trisha@earthteam.net, or call 510-704-4030.

Saturday, May 12: Restoration at Dow Wetlands. Details to be determined. Conact Trisha Allen at trisha@earthteam.net, or call 510-704-4030.

Sunday, May 20: EarthTeam's Environmental Film Festival. EarthTeam's year-end Earth-stravaganza! Join us at Ex'pression College for Digital Arts in Emeryville for a screening of the 3rd annual student-created *Our School/Our Planet* videos, a viewing of an episode of *The Green Scren*, the opening of EarthTeam's 2007-08 *Visuals & Voices Eco-Art, Poetry, and Photography Traveling Show*, a silent auction, refreshments, and the chance to meet EarthTeam students! We'll kick off with a tour of Ex'pression College at 1:00 PM. The film festival runs from 2:00 - 4:00 PM, followed by a reception from 4:00-5:00 PM. For more information, contact the EarthTeam office at info@earthteam.net, or 510-704-4030.



*EarthTeam Students vs. Global Warming!

*Spotlight on Tyler Pavey!

*Student Writing and Art from "The

Green!"

*Program Updates & Announcements!

And more....