



Environmental Network News

Inspires Teens to Save the Earth
Enriches Community

Newsletter: Issue 6

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Fall 2010

EarthTeam Turns 10!

EARTHTEAM WAS STARTED AFTER A very memorable Earth Day in 2000. EarthTeam's founder, Sheilah Fish, tells the story of how that event inspired her and community activist, Cindy Spring, to start EarthTeam.

SHEILAH FISH: THE ORGANIZERS OF the Contra Costa Earth Day met together for six months prior to the event, and continued meeting afterward, with the idea that individuals in the group would work on different environmental projects throughout the region. The group consisted of people from all over the Bay Area, including community organizers, teachers, and staff from Save the Bay, Bay Model, the Jane Goodall Institute, and the San Francisco Zoo. For the first seven years of EarthTeam, before we grew to have an office and paid staff members, it was this group of core volunteers that conducted most of EarthTeam's activities. Earth Day 2000 brought together the right mix of people at a time when environmental issues were becoming

more mainstream and people were more receptive to the work that EarthTeam had to offer.

ET: OUR CURRENT EARTHTEAM PROGRAMS, from climate action and watershed restoration to multimedia programs and websites, have evolved quickly and sometimes dramatically over the last 10 years. How have EarthTeam's programs gone through this dynamic process?

need from students and teachers. One example of this is our restoration program. It became evident, from our connections with schools, that science-based field trips were something that teachers wanted to offer to their students. However, teachers weren't often able to organize these trips on their own or access the necessary funding. Over the years, we began to build more partnerships with organizations that needed people to conduct restoration work in the field. EarthTeam became the liaison between teachers and community organizations, as well as developed the classroom activities to complement the field days. Other EarthTeam programs, such as the Green Screen, evolved in response to the experience of talented, energetic staff like Lana Husser, Green Screen's creator.

ET: WHAT ARE SOME NEW developments coming up for EarthTeam in the near future?

SHEILAH: EARTHTEAM WENT FROM NAIVE optimism to a grounded nonprofit. An ongoing challenge is to shape our projects so that they stay relevant to the times, so that students feel they are making a difference. We are all so blessed to have a terrific staff and board of directors to steer the ship as we move forward.

Read the full interview, and see more pictures from past and present at www.earthteam.net

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Students working at ET's 2nd Annual MLK Jr. Restoration Event, in 2003

SHEILAH: MANY OF OUR PROGRAMS grew organically over the years, starting with an idea and often a partnership opportunity, and then growing in response to demand and

(above) Students hold up a banner for the 10-10-10 Global Work Day, organized by EarthTeam at Skyline HS in Oakland **Read all about the event on page 3**

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EarthTeam's Ten Year Retrospective

NOW



Fall, 2010

EarthTeam participates in the **Global Work Party** to bring awareness about climate change



Summer, 2009

Aqua Team's first summer program in Richmond, plus a 1-week trip to Mattole River



Spring, 2008

Waste Action Project launched as part of EarthTeam's Climate Action Campaign



Summer, 2006

Green Screen program is created



Fall, 2002

Launched **Visuals and Voices** - an annual Eco-art, Photography and Poetry Contest



Fall, 2001

Created the **Leadership and Environmental Action Forum (LEAF)**

Fall, 2000

EarthTeam launched a weekly Chat Room for student leadership with *Jean-Michel Cousteau* and *Julia Butterfly Hill*

Summer, 2010

Aqua Team summer program at the Point Reyes seashore



Fall, 2009

Youth for Clean Air launched at Mandela High School in Oakland



Spring, 2009

EarthTeam moves to **new office** cottage in Berkeley.

Fall, 2007

Aqua Team program starts at Richmond High School



Fall, 2006

Climate Action Campaign helps students reduce carbon emissions using tools like the **School-Neutral Carbon Calculator**



Spring, 2005

Launched **Cesar Chavez** restoration and celebration event

January, 2002

Launched **Martin Luther King, Jr.** restoration and celebration event



Fall, 2002

Launched **The Green News**, a student-created monthly email newsletter

Fall, 2000

Restoration Initiatives begin providing field restoration trips to students in the East Bay



April, 2000

EarthTeam was launched by Bay Area Earth Day organizers to honor the 30th anniversary of Earth Day and to serve teachers and teens in the East Bay

THEN

Creating a Sustainable Future: Oakland Schools for 10/10/10

350.ORG, THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN THAT hosted last year's International Day of Climate Action, hosted a Global Work Party on Sunday, October 10 (10/10/10) - inspiring people all over the world to do something to help deal with global warming in their city, community, or school. This year surpassed last year's record by far, with people in 188 countries participating in 7,347 events, including EarthTeam's Campus Work Party and Locavore Picnic in Oakland!

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM SKYLINE HS, Oakland HS, and Bishop O'Dowd HS, partnered with EarthTeam and other community members to host a work event at each campus: a greenhouse restoration, a campus clean-up, and a garden project, respectively - each designed to help create and support a more sustainable school.

CINDY SPRING, AN EARTHTeam FOUNDER, was hugeley instrumental in organizing this event, following the success of her idea for last year's 350.org action at the top of Mt. Diablo. EarthTeam staff joined students from the Green Energy Academy at Skyline HS at their work party that afternoon, helping to restore its run-down greenhouse - a pretty symbolic Work Party given our climate crisis. The group focused on weeding; giving planter boxes a make-over with compost, painted signs, and native plants; recy-

cling old computer monitor shells and other "trash" into planter boxes; and helping reinforce the greenhouse's structure. Students also participated in a

workshop with ET Restoration Director, Kevin Sherrill, on the effects of climate change on vegetation, wild fires, and precipitation.

THREE HOURS LATER, EVERYONE GATHERED together at Dimond Park with students from Bishop O'Dowd HS and other community members for a locavore picnic celebration. Eighty percent of the foods, by weight, came from a 150 mile radius, including goodies like zucchini bread, organic chicken, a vegetable platter, potato salad, cookies, etc.

AFTER SO MUCH HARD LABOR, dust, and sweat, it was a wonderful gathering, and a very inspiring Work Party!



Student building reuse planters at Skyline HS in Oakland

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK 10/10/10 photo album at: <http://www.facebook.com/EarthTeam>

Caroline Sandifer is the program director of EarthTeam's Climate Action Program, an innovative environmental leadership program that addresses the urgent role of climate change. Students are educated about all aspects of climate change, including the connections between global climate change and their community and are empowered to take leadership action.

EARTHTeam ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK STAFF

Maggie Fleming
Executive Director

Sophie Barrett
Green News Assistant

Ben Bezark
Waste Action Assistant

Lana Husser
Multi-Media Coordinator

Liz Morán
Program Manager (Something's In the Air and Green Screen)

Caroline Sandifer
Climate Action Campaign Director

Douglas Scott
Green Screen Program Assistant

Kevin Sherrill
Restoration Program Director

Mel Shin
Green News Assistant

Chiara Swartout
Aqua Team Watershed Educator

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General Manager, ABSOLUTELY NEW, Inc.

To Contact Us: EarthTeam Environmental Network is located at 2525 10th St, Unit B, Berkeley, CA 94710. We can be reached at (510) 704-4030, via email at info@earthteam.net, or on the web at www.earthteam.net

EarthTeam Newsletter

Submissions are welcome
throughout the month!

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Selections from the Green News

THE GREEN NEWS PUBLISHES SUBMISSIONS of student environmental art, writings, photos, poetry and videos on the **Green News website**, in the monthly **Green News Update** that is sent to 4,200 subscribers, and includes all in the Annual **Visuals & Voices contest**. To submit your work for consideration, please visit:

www.thegreennews.net

Recent Green News articles include:

"PETE - One of the Greatest Breakthroughs in Solar Energy" by *Shree Patel*, grade 12, *Dougherty Valley HS, San Ramon*

"Seeds in the City - Urban Agriculture Takes Farming to the Streets" by *Jessie Kathan*, grade 11, *Campolindo HS, Moraga*

Debate - "Should the government be able to regulate the environment?" by *Kim & Gloria Mejia*, grade 11 *Media Academy, Fremont HS, Oakland*



Paradox, by Ashley Chanthouphip, grade 12, Novato High School. Visuals and Voices Honorable Mention



Vulnerable, Tina Currel, grade 12, Campolindo High School, Moraga. Visuals and Voices Honorable Mention

The sun rises and suddenly the earth is alive.
The flowers wake up to say hello.
The trees shake and the wind blows.
Kids awake to get ready for the day.
As birds fly to say hi and sing the most beautiful song.
Graceful butterflies pass the flowers and fly high
into the sky.
Passes the sun as the sun says hi.

POEM: THE BEAUTY OF MORNING, By Mia Stewart,
grade 10, Oakland Military Institute, Oakland, CA

PHOTO: Pacific Sunset, by Jonathon Trinh, grade 12,
Skyline HS, Oakland

Aqua Team's Summer at the Seashore

DURING THIS PAST SUMMER, EARTHTEAM partnered with the Point Reyes National Seashore Association and the National Park Service (NPS) to deliver a two-week intensive program in environmental monitoring at Point Reyes National Seashore.

The program ran from July 5th through the 19th of 2010. Students from Richmond High School and Pinole Valley High School participated in the summer science program, learning the skills required to monitor the health of the recently restored Giacomini wetlands as well as intertidal zones of the Marine Protected Areas at Duxbury Reef. EarthTeam staff and NPS biologists led students in hands-on field projects including: fish seining and monitoring, benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, water quality testing, stream profile surveying, habitat restoration, bird monitoring, and rocky intertidal monitoring using established transects and protocols from the LiMPETS program. Participants enjoyed rustic accommodations at the Historic Lifeboat Station along with numerous recreational activities such as hiking and whale watching. Students walked away with a confidence in their field-based skills in science, a sense of teamwork, and an appreciation for our National Parks.



Comic created by summer program students with help from Kevin Sherrill and Chiara Swartout

"The environmental education part of this trip was great. I learned a lot of different new things and had fun while learning. Thanks to this program I'm thinking about becoming a marine biologist. I want to do this because when we did the rocky intertidal monitoring I really enjoyed learning about the animals that live on the reef. This program taught me so much. I learned about things I never knew existed. As I learned I also got to interact with the things I was working with."

-Jesika Matha, Senior at Pinole Valley High School

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Liz Morán: An EarthTeam Success Story by Andy Ferris

THE STORY OF LIZ MORÁN is a “rags to riches” story of sorts; though she didn’t kiss any frogs or lose any shoes over it. Rather, it is through her ambition and hard-work that her story comes full circle; a tale of a young, easily-influenced Richmond High School student to a Multi-Program Director who now influences the very age group she once leaped from.

OUR STORY OPENS ON YOUNG Liz in high school with Liz’s Academy coordinator and EarthTeam multimedia coordinator, Lana Husser.

Through ambition and the resourceful mind and hands of Lana, a Homer-esq heroine was born to the community; but like most classical heroes, she would have to set out on a journey before becoming a legend. Liz dedicated herself to her studies and after

“I’m proof that an average Bay Area kid can take advantage of mentorship opportunities, tools, and resources to become empowered as a youth.” - Liz Morán

being introduced to Andrew Lyndon, a teacher for Pixar, she was inspired to pursue a career in media production; having been told that her work was superior to her classmates and that she “had what it took” to make it, even in Pixar. She left her local school to pursue a degree in Media Production, a path that would eventually land her in small-town Lynchburg, Virginia at Liberty University. This is the kind of epic pilgrimage our classic heroine had to undertake to eventually graduate with a B.A. in Communications: Video Production; but it wasn’t going to stop there.

WITH LANA STILL WAITING FOR Liz to return and by now having founded EarthTeam’s Green Screen, Liz felt like there were a few final strokes of the painting before there could be a masterpiece. Liz went even further and acquired her Master’s degree in Human Services: Organizational and Leadership Studies. Now our heroine’s training was complete.



Liz Morán at the 2010 Goldman Awards

SHE MADE HER EPIC RETURN to her community, a hero returning home. Her hard work had paid off. She joined with Lana at EarthTeam once again and the power team strengthened Green Screen’s structure. Then one day, as with all great masters, Lana announced that it was time for her to move on, and to leave the Green Screen in the now capable hands of our heroic protagonist.

PASSIONS ABLAZE, LIZ DESIRED MORE and eventually took on the position of Program Director of Something’s In The Air (SITA). As time

passes, her passion continues to grow and she walks, creating legendary footsteps of someone who saw something wrong in her community, worked towards fixing it and now changes this community for the better. These footsteps are here permanently, to be walked in by youthful generations to come.

Liz is currently the director of EarthTeam’s Green Screen program, a student-created environmental television news show produced by mostly Richmond area teens. The program offers youth the opportunity to gain marketable technology and leadership skills and make connections with local community organizations in the greater East Bay area.

Liz is also the program director for EarthTeam’s Something’s In the Air program, a health science unit designed to educate students about air quality and asthma in their local communities.

Check out the latest student webisodes online at:
www.youtube.com/user/GreenScreenTV

Action of the Month supports local businesses doing good in the community.
This month: **Catahoula Coffee**

Episode #33 is up on our website:
www.thegreenscreentv.net

**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 since January 1, 2010.****

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Please put me on EarthTeam's email update list ☐

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EarthTeam Environmental Network, 2525 10th Street, Unit B, Berkeley, CA 94710



EarthTeam Environmental Network
2525 10th Street, Unit B
Berkeley, CA 94710
Phone: 501-704-4030
Web: www.earthteam.net

EarthTeam Newsletter

Highlights from the 2009-10 School Year:

RESTORATION PROGRAM:

428 Eco-Stewards students from **8** schools experienced **32** classroom workshops about their local watershed, and participated in **23** field investigations at **10** East Bay watershed sites. The field investigations produced **2,535** hours of community service.

13 Aqua Team students from Richmond High School participated in the yearlong Aqua Team program that includes a **2-week** summer retreat. This year, Aqua Team students participated in **30** weekly meetings and **12** field days, contributing **829** hours of community service. Additionally, the students designed and painted a huge mural at the El Sobrante library.

3 Special Event Days included **Coastal Cleanup Day**, **Martin Luther King, Jr. Restoration/Celebration Day**, and **Cesar Chavez Restoration/Celebration Day**. Each event drew approximately **100** students. Participants learned about the day's connection to the environment, conducted restoration work, and enjoyed entertainment and food. In total, the **3** events resulted in **1,214** hours of community service.

MULTIMEDIA PROGRAM:

15 middle and high school students, primarily from the Richmond area, participated in the year-long **Green Screen** program where they were trained in all areas of television production and received studio production certification from Berkeley Community Media. The students created, filmed, and produced **7** half hour episodes, and several shorter webisodes last year.

211 students from **54** schools submitted **356** works of art, writing, photography, poetry, and videos to **The Green News** website. All work was featured in the online Green News Monthly email that is sent to over **4,000** subscribers. The annual Green News Anthology print publication highlights student work from the year.

The **Visuals and Voices** Annual Eco-Art, Photography, Writing, and Poetry Contest honored all submissions to the Green News, with professional judges selecting contest winners.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM:

650 students from **18** schools participated in the **Waste Action Project**. These students received **23** classroom presentations, participated in **36** planning meetings with EarthTeam staff, and conducted **32** waste audits on their campuses.

64 students and **9** teachers from **14** schools attended the **Leadership and Environmental Action Forum (LEAF)** weekend at Camp Arroyo. These students presented **10** workshops, designed to share ideas for environmental action projects with students from other schools.

The **Climate Action Campaign** hosted **7** monthly meetings with **39** students from **14** schools in attendance.

85 students participated in the **Tell It on the Mountain** event, where they joined community groups to create a human necklace at the top of Mt. Diablo to raise awareness about climate change. This event was part of **350.org's** Climate Action Day, which involved countless people in **181** countries participating in over **5,200** events. EarthTeam's event was captured by a photographer in an East Bay Regional Parks District helicopter.

ASTHMA AND AIR POLLUTION PROGRAM:

Something's In the Air: **27** classes from **7** schools completed this curricular program, where they measured indoor air quality, outdoor particulate pollution, and asthma prevalence at their schools. Students also participated in local actions connected to air quality legislation.

10 students from Oakland's Mandela High School participated in the pilot year of EarthTeam's **Youth for Clean Air** program. These teens met weekly throughout the year to learn about air pollution, and to take actions to improve the air quality in their community. This year, students participated in **37** weekly meetings, **2** weekend workshops, one field trip to Sacramento to speak at a California Air Resources Board meeting, and one field trip to downtown Oakland to rally in support of AB-32 (the California Global Warming Solutions Act). Youth for Clean Air students conducted a carbon reduction raffle, involving **350** students and reducing an estimated **175,000** pounds of carbon emissions!



Hercules High School students clean up the Pinole Creek at the 2010 EarthTeam sponsored Coastal Cleanup event

EarthTeam seeks to create a new generation of environmental stewards and leaders by introducing into the classroom and the community environmental experiences that inspire dedication to a healthy environment.

Check out EarthTeam on facebook at www.facebook.com/EarthTeam
or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/etnetwork