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...Connections.....

Linking kids with nature across the Forest Service...

January 2009

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Director's Note

Hello and Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a peaceful and joyous holiday season. We have another wonderful year ahead of us, full of new and exciting endeavors. For years, you have done an excellent job in reaching children all across the nation.

In 2009, I look forward to working with you, and supporting programs that implement the *Conservation Education Strategic Plan to Enhance Environmental Literacy*. Environmental literacy is more than traditional conservation education. Our goal is to support programs that emphasize sustained, lifelong learning that:

- develops the knowledge, skills and motivation for people to make responsible choices about the environment,
- increases awareness and understanding of forest ecosystems, and
- improves the practice of environmental stewardship.

Quick Links

CE Website
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The need for high-quality, effective programs for all has never been greater.

All children deserve opportunities to explore and understand their environment. We plan to address this goal on a variety of levels, from sustained, local partnerships with schools and education centers designed to create immediate and direct effects on specific, targeted populations. In addition, we want to support your work with local and regional agencies, universities, and other organizations to expand these efforts beyond classrooms and into the arena of creating an informed citizenry among the populations of cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural areas.

-- *Safiya Samman*



Happy 10th Anniversary Natural Inquirer!

The *Natural Inquirer* celebrates its 10th anniversary with the release of its new Climate Change Monograph Collection. It includes 4 monographs (single articles) on climate change topics: *Beetles Are Supercool!*, *It's a Gas!*, *Where in the World is Carbon Dioxide?*, and *Balancing Act: Urban Trees and the Carbon Cycle*. The new articles are available to download and order on-line from:

<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

Each monograph is about a specific Forest Service research project investigating climate change. A *Natural Inquirer* science journal containing several new climate change articles is coming out soon.

For more information, contact Barbara McDonald, bmcdonald@fs.fed.us 705-559- 4224

Updated Climate Change, Wildlife, and Wildlands Toolkit for Formal and Informal Educators Available On-line!

An new Climate Change Toolkit for Teachers and Interpreters is now available on-line:
<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/CCWKit2008.html#intro>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with seven other federal agencies, including the Forest Service, developed the kit for classroom teachers and informal educators to teach middle school students about how climate change is affecting our nation's wildlife and public lands. Case studies on eastern and western forests highlight Forest Service research and climate change educational resources.

Additional components of the Kit will be available on the website. In February 2009, the entire kit, including a new HD video, will be available free in DVD format from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) at 1-800-490-9198.

For more information, contact Vicki Arthur, varthur@fs.fed.us 202-401- 4068

Take Part in the Presidential Inauguration by Sponsoring a National Service Day Event Jan. 19th!

Exciting news! The WO Forest Service Conservation Education office and American Forest Foundation's [Project Learning Tree](#) are honored to host an event that will be part of the Presidential Inauguration activities on National Service Day held on January 19, 2009 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) has selected a D.C. children's tree planting event hosted by USFS-CE and PLT as a feature event that may be attended by President-elect Obama and his family or an Obama designee. The D.C. event will be held at one of our local **GreenSchool!** locations.

Your Region can also be an official Inaugural event by sponsoring your own National Service Day project on Jan. 19th!

All planned activities will be uploaded to the National Service Day PIC website <http://www.pic2009.org/page/s/DS2> . You can also join local PLT planned events. California, Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, and Virginia have signed on.

For more information, contact Vicki Arthur, varthur@fs.fed.us 202-401- 4068



Staff Spotlight

Pete Griffin

We are very excited to welcome Pete Griffin to the Washington Office as Acting Assistant Director in January. He brings an extensive background in wildlife biology with many years of experience on our National Forests. He joins us from Juneau, Alaska where he is a District Ranger on the [Tongass NE](#), the largest National Forest in the nation. In his 34 years with the Forest Service, and a lifetime spent in the woods and on the waters, Pete has gained a

great deal of insight into the natural world, as well as working with the public. He practices passing that knowledge on to the next generation as a storyteller.

Marchelle Roberts

Marchelle joins the Conservation Education staff from the Chief's office as our new administrative support assistant. She has been with the Forest Service for 11 years; including four years in the Chief's office and seven years with Ecosystem Management Coordination. Her previous positions were as an automation clerk and an office assistant. Marchelle has a great deal of experience and is a joy to have on our staff.

For more information, contact Marchelle Roberts, mroberts@fs.fed.us 202- 205- 5681

Kenya Richardson

Kenya is a student intern with Conservation Education and has worked for CE the past two years. Kenya is a recipient of the \$10,000 grand prize award from the Forest Service-supported, EnvironMentors program. The program pairs local high school students with environmental science professionals, to aid in the development of a year long science fair project. The program has recently expanded nationally to North Carolina, Alabama, Colorado, Nebraska and California. Kenya is currently using the scholarship towards continuing her education as a sophomore at Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pa.

For information about the EnvironMentors Program, visit <http://ncseonline.org/environmentors/>

National Get Outdoors Day -- June 13, 2009

On June 13, 2009, [National Get Outdoors Day](#) sites across the nation will welcome new faces to the joy and benefits of the great outdoors. For the second year, the Forest Service will be a key partner in the celebration of National Get Outdoors Day. This annual event encourages healthy, active outdoor fun -- and opportunities to learn about and celebrate our public lands. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on how you can be a part of the 2009 celebration!

For more information, contact Sandy Frost, sfrost@fs.fed.us 202-205- 3761



Linking Girls to the Land

The [Linking Girls to the Land](#), a national partnership with [Girls Scouts of America](#) and five other agencies, provided stewardship opportunities for girls across the nation. The Forest Service and EPA funded seven councils across the nation to do projects with the Forest Service and other Federal land managing agencies. These projects help [Girl Scouts](#) focus on environmental education, outdoor skills development, career exploration, action and service learning.

Of the 1,233 girls participating in LGTL activities last year, 672 were minorities from locations all across the U.S. including Puerto Rico, Oregon, Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, New Hampshire, Alaska, and Wisconsin. In 2009, funded projects are expected to reach nearly 5,000 girls.

For more information, contact Sue Cummings, scummings@fs.fed.us 202-205- 0986

Symbols Update

Junior Forest Ranger Spanish Version Coming Soon!

The text is currently at the USDA Office of Communications. Interested in getting copies when available? Contact Deb Bruyere at dbruyere@fs.fed.us including full name, shipping address and contact phone number.

Junior Snow Ranger Revision

The national team for the revision completed the content that will be tested during the Special Winter Olympics in Boise, Idaho at the beginning of February '09. In addition, we will have testing sites in Washington State, New Hampshire, Colorado, North Carolina, and Minnesota.

For more information, contact Iris Velez, ivelez@fs.fed.us 202- 205- 0991

Upcoming Events

- [NBC 4 Health and Fitness Expo](#) Woodsy Owl attends the National Fitness Expo! January 10, 2009
- [MonarchLIVE!](#) February 17th & 19th
- [Bird Conservation Through Education: A National Gathering](#) , February 22-26, 2009, Jekyll Island, GA
- [Association of Partners for Public Lands](#) - 2009 Conference, March 2-4, Baltimore, MD
- [National Science Teachers Association - 2009 Conference](#), March 19-22, 2009, New Orleans, Louisiana
- [National EE Week](#) -- Be Water Wise! ! - April 12 - 18, 2009
- [Earth Day](#) - April 22, 2009
- [International Migratory Bird Day](#) - Birds in Culture - Various weekends in May, 2009
- [National Get Outdoors Day](#) - June 13, 2009

Thank You!

Thank you for all you do to connect people with nature. Please let me know (ssamman@fs.fed.us) if you have any comments about this new newsletter format, or have ideas to improve our communications-- Safiya Samman

Newsletter Contact Info

Conservation Education Specialist
Sandy Frost sfrost@fs.fed.us

This January 2009 newsletter was created by Kenya Richardson.

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