

Newsletter Spotlight

Remember

CRCST Spring Symposium
April 2013

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CRCST President's Message

Susan Clay

Congratulations to everyone who braved the cold, rainy, windy October 27th, Saturday morning to attend the Fall Symposium at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium. Bill Badder's talk on Science and Literacy was enlightening and gave the attendees an insight into Bill's goals for his year as NSTA's Presidency approaches. One of the topics Bill discussed were the Next Generation Science Standards and the final public draft.

From the NSTA website is the following announcement:

Achieve has made the following announcement: *"The release of the second and final public draft of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is set for the first week in January. In recognition of the hectic schedules in December and the approaching holidays, the NGSS staff wanted to ensure all educators, stakeholders and the public had appropriate access to the draft. We fully encourage all interested parties to review the draft as individuals or in groups and provide feedback to the Lead States and writers."*

For more information go to www.nextgenscience.org.

It is important that teachers review the draft since the Next Generation Science Standards will be the guide for science education in both Ohio and the rest of the country for the next decade. Your comments are taken seriously. After the public review of the first draft, there have been changes in over 90% of the objectives. Some were combined, some of the more complex objectives have been broken into step objectives that lead to the complex ideas. The biggest change in the NGSS has been the inclusion of Engineering and Technology. The idea is to formally include what good science teachers have been doing all along...including real world applications of science.

In April, the Spring Symposium will be concerned with the implementation of the new Ohio Science standards. If you would like to be involved with one of the sessions, please contact me at suzieclay@aol.com. Continue to check the CRCST website for details.

As the holidays approach, I would like to wish everyone happy and peaceful holidays. May 2013 be a good year for all our members.

School Districts Hold Their Breath on Election Day

Written by Amanda Whitener

In November, many of our local school districts were pounding the pavement – talking to every neighbor, and gathering allies in the hopes of gaining enough support to pass their proposed operating levies. Eleven communities in Cuyahoga County had levy issues on the ballot, including the highly publicized Issue 107 in Cleveland. Election night had many people glued to their televisions, awaiting the fate of their schools, teachers and programs.

When every vote was counted (and in some communities, EVERY vote was necessary), ten of those communities claimed victory. Even in Strongsville, where the passing margin was less than 1 percent, districts were reminded that their efforts were worth it.

One of the most anticipated results in the county seemed to be the fate of Issue 107, an operating levy for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. CMSD had been without levy support for more than a decade but seemed confident that the community would support would their efforts to move forward with the Cleveland Plan. When the votes landed in their favor, CMSD breathed a huge sigh of relief and can begin implementing the large-scale changes they have been hoping for.

Whether voters approved new funds, supported emergency funds, or voted to continue existing levies, Cuyahoga County voters recognized the need for funding to our schools, students and teachers. In tough economic times, it is good to know that our citizens can see what (or who) is important. Thank you for supporting your local district.

Cuyahoga County Districts with Approved Levies:

Bay Village, Brooklyn City, Cleveland, Euclid, Fairview Park, Maple Heights, Richmond Heights, Rocky River, South Euclid-Lyndhurst, Strongsville

Professional Development Scholarships

Educator Academy in the Amazon Rainforest + Machu Picchu Extension

The July 2-11, 2013 Educator Academy is a cross-curricular professional development workshop for formal and informal educators to learn and use innovative instructional approaches (5E lesson design, inquiry-based learning, STEM problem solving), protocols (PLT, GLOBE, Project Noah) and perspectives (sustainability, global education, service learning) while exploring one of the world's most important natural resources - the Amazon Rainforest. Join Dr. Mo Walters, ASU; Al Stenstrup, Project Learning Tree; Christa Dillabaugh, Amazon Rainforest Workshops; and work side-by-side with scientists Dr. Steve Madigosky, Widener University; and Randy Morgan, Curator/Entomologist, Cincinnati Zoo. Experience a 1/4-mile Rainforest Canopy Walkway, research on Weather and Climate Change, interactions with Indigenous Yagua and Riberenos, a Village Service Project, ReNuPeru Ethnobotanical Garden, Monkey Island Conservation Project, and problem solving inspired by Biomimicry. PD Hours available. Academic Credit and Machu Picchu Extension optional. Land cost is \$1985, plus air. Win one of three \$1000 scholarships drawn on March 8. Land cost is \$985 for scholarship winners. Open registration through May if space is available. <http://www.amazonworkshops.com/educators--naturalists.html> (case sensitive). Contact christa@amazonworkshops.com or 1-800-431-3634.

Local Science Happenings: January—March

Cleveland Botanical Garden

- Recycled Birdfeeders Sat Jan 12 and Sat Jan 19
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Children's Craft Mon Jan 21
- Sustainability Symposium – Seasonal Sustainability Sat Jan 26
- Orchid Mania Tues Feb 5- Sun March 10
- Greater Cleveland Orchid Society show & sale Feb 16, 12-5p

To register and for more information: <http://www.cbgbgarden.org/>

Cleveland Museum of Natural History:

- Portable Planetarium Training Sat, Feb 2
- Mineralogy Teacher Workshop Sat, Mar 9
- Ecology of Rare Ohio Habitats Tues-Wed, July 23-24
- The Nature of Lunch Thur-Sat, July 25-27

To register and for more information: www.cmnh.org/site/SRC.aspx

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District

- Rain Barrel Workshop – Thurs. March 21

www.cuyahogawcd.org

Great Lakes Science Center:

- Free General Admission to Great Lakes Science Center Mon, Jan 21
- Special Exhibition, *Lost Egypt: Ancient Secrets, Modern Science* opens Sat, Feb 2
- Lost Egypt: Ancient Secrets, Modern Science* Teacher Open House Tues, Feb 5
- Health Careers Exploration Day Wed, Feb 13
- Engineer's Week Carnival Sat, Feb 16
- Project-Based Learning 101 Feb 19-21
- Homeschool Day Fri, Mar 1

For more information visit www.greatscience.com

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

- Connections to Africa Workshop, Tues. Jan 8
- Nurture the Wonder Preschool Workshop, Sat. Jan 12
- Connections to Africa Workshop, Sat. Feb 9
- Nurture the Wonder Preschool Workshop, Sat. Feb 9
- Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) Master's Degree applications due, Thurs. Feb. 28
- Connections to Africa Workshop, Wed. Mar 6
- Nurture the Wonder Preschool Workshop, Wed. Mar 6
- Nurture the Wonder Preschool Workshop, Sat. Mar 30

Simulations & APPS

Written by Renata Brown

Rain Garden Simulation Model

Some of you may have already seen this, but the University of Nebraska's extension put together a great rain garden model that should answer most of the public's FAQs (garden depth, size, plant selection) while adding a great visual...straight out of the Mister Roger's Neighborhood diorama! Should you have existing art and adequate Flash capabilities, this could serve as a great template. Otherwise, consider posting to appropriate websites or Facebook pages. http://water.unl.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=bb3e4c0c-73bb-4295-b529-738f2069d0d&groupoid=468067&swf

Common Core Standards App

By MasteryConnect

View the Common Core State Standards in one convenient FREE app! A great reference for students, parents, and teachers to easily read and understand the core standards. Quickly find standards by subject, grade, and subject category (domain/cluster). This app includes Math standards K-12 and Language Arts standards K-12. Math standards include both traditional and integrated pathways (as outlined in Appendix A of the common core) and synthesizes Language Arts standards with the Corresponding College and Career Readiness Standards (CCR's). <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/common-core-standards/id439424555?mt=8>

GRANTS

RGK Foundation awards grants in the broad areas of **Education, Community, and Health/Medicine.**

The Foundation's primary interests within **Education** include programs that focus on formal K-12 education (particularly mathematics, science and reading), teacher development, literacy, and higher education.

Within **Community**, the Foundation supports a broad range of human services, community improvement, abuse prevention, and youth development programs. Human service programs of particular interest to the Foundation include children and family services, early childhood development, and parenting education. The Foundation supports a variety of Community Improvement programs including those that enhance non-profit management and promote philanthropy and voluntarism. Youth development programs supported by the Foundation typically include after-school educational enrichment programs that supplement and enhance formal education systems to increase the chances for successful outcomes in school and life. The Foundation is also interested in programs that attract female and minority students into the fields of mathematics, science, and technology.

The Foundation's current interests in the area of **Health/Medicine** include programs that promote the health and well-being of children, programs that promote access to health services, and Foundation-initiated programs focusing on ALS.

RGK Foundation no longer accepts unsolicited grant proposals. All applicants must complete an electronic Letter of Inquiry from the Web site as the first step. RGK Foundation will entertain one electronic Letter of Inquiry (LOI) per organization in a twelve-month period. Organizations that submit unsolicited proposals will receive notification directing them to submit an electronic Letter of Inquiry via the Web site. After reading the remaining application guidelines, you may click on the link at the bottom of the page to begin. <http://www.rgkfoundation.org/>

The NEA Foundation – Nickelodeon Big Help Grants are available in the form of Student Achievement grants to K-8 public school educators. The Big Help Grants program is dedicated to the development and implementation of ideas, techniques, and approaches for addressing four key concerns – environmental awareness, health and wellness, students' right to a quality public education, and active community involvement.

The grants target these four concerns as areas of great promise in helping develop a sense of global awareness in 21st century students that will encourage and enable them to make a difference in their world. Both the NEA Foundation and Nickelodeon are strongly committed to supporting the development of these skills and attributes for America's students. <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/grants-to-educators/nea-foundation-green-grants/>

CONTESTS

World of 7 Billion Video Contest

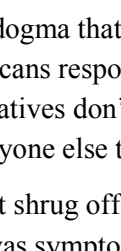
Bring technology and creativity into your high school science classes by incorporating the World of 7 Billion video PSA contest into your syllabi. Challenge your students to create a 30- to 45-second video PSA illustrating the connection between world population at seven billion and one of the following: food security, wildlife habitat, or the global status of women/girls. Students can win up to \$1,000, and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is February 21, 2013. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at www.worldof7billion.org

Whole Foods Healthy 28-day Challenge

HEALTH STARTS HERE® 28-DAY CHALLENGE

Want to eat healthy but don't know where to start? Take the 28-Day Challenge! A change like this can be, well, challenging. So, to help you along the way, we've planned four complete weeks of healthy eating. In each weekly meal plan you'll find links to recipes and a collection of useful tips – so you'll have a basic roadmap to guide the way. <http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/healthy-eating/health-starts-here/28-day-challenge>

Job Opening



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

RESTORING COASTAL LOUISIANA SINCE 1990

National Wildlife Federation

Senior Policy Specialist, Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign
Washington D.C.

Link to job posting: <http://ch.the.taleo.net/CH18/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=NWF&cws=1&rid=500>

The Senior Policy Specialist will be responsible for National Wildlife Federation's national portion of the Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign (MRDRC) to secure authorization and federal funding for restoring the Mississippi River delta, in concert with team members in Louisiana and nationwide, with NWF's Gulf Coast Restoration team, and with our MRDRC partner organizations. This position will be responsible for working within NWF and with our partners on this campaign to advance efforts to restore the delta. Specifically, the Senior Policy Specialist will focus on national campaign planning, political strategy, policy analysis, lobbying, and some national media outreach.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Advocate for NWF's and MRDR campaign's priorities to Congress and the Administration. This includes Authorizations through Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and appropriations. This includes policy analysis, materials production, and participation in relevant meetings.

Advocate for NWF's and MRDR campaign's priorities with Congress and the Administration on Restore Act, NRDA, WRDA and other Federal program implementation. This includes ensuring MRD projects are a priority in any Comprehensive Gulf Restoration Plan. This includes materials production, participation in relevant meetings and policy analysis.

Coordinate with Gulf Restoration Team on Gulf-wide restorations.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree in environmental or public policy, natural resources or other related field. Advanced degree preferred.

EXPERIENCE:

At least 7 years progressively responsible experience required in helping develop and implement advocacy campaigns, grassroots organizing, media, and environmental advocacy.

SKILLS:

- Must be knowledgeable of how Federal agencies and Congress work.
- Ability to work with Congress and the Administration to achieve priority initiatives.
- Strategic thinker, self-starter, well organized and have a demonstrated ability to set goals and meet deadlines.
- Must possess ability to work collaboratively with others as well as independently.
- Strong ability to communicate effectively with media as well as key decision makers.

Proficient in computer applications, including Microsoft Office Suite 2007/2010.

National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization, passionate about protecting wildlife for our children's future. NWF offers an excellent benefits package. NWF is an equal opportunity employer committed to workplace diversity.

Contact:
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muthd@nwf.org

Grand Old Planet

By PAUL KRUGMAN

Published: November 22, 2012 in The New York Times

Earlier this week, GQ magazine published an interview with Senator Marco Rubio, whom many consider a contender for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, in which Mr. Rubio was asked how old the earth is. After declaring "I'm not a scientist, man," the senator went into desperate evasive action, ending with the declaration that "it's one of the great mysteries."

It's funny stuff, and conservatives would like us to forget about it as soon as possible. Hey, they say, he was just pandering to likely voters in the 2016 Republican primaries — a claim that for some reason is supposed to comfort us.

But we shouldn't let go that easily. Reading Mr. Rubio's interview is like driving through a deeply eroded canyon; all at once, you can clearly see what lies below the superficial landscape. Like striated rock beds that speak of deep time, his inability to acknowledge scientific evidence speaks of the anti-rational mind-set that has taken over his political party.

By the way, that question didn't come out of the blue. As speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, Mr. Rubio provided powerful aid to creationists trying to water down science education. In one interview, he compared the teaching of evolution to Communist indoctrination tactics — although he graciously added that "I'm not equating the evolution people with Fidel Castro." Gee, thanks.

What was Mr. Rubio's complaint about science teaching? That it might undermine children's faith in what their parents told them to believe. And right there you have the modern G.O.P.'s attitude, not just toward biology, but toward everything: If evidence seems to contradict faith, suppress the evidence.

The most obvious example other than evolution is man-made climate change. As the evidence for a warming planet becomes ever stronger — and ever scarier — the G.O.P. has buried deeper into denial, into assertions that the whole thing is a hoax concocted by a vast conspiracy of scientists. And this denial has been accompanied by frantic efforts to silence and punish anyone reporting the inconvenient facts.

But the same phenomenon is visible in many other fields. The most recent demonstration came in the matter of election polls. Coming into the recent election, state-level polling clearly pointed to an Obama victory — yet more or less the whole Republican Party refused to acknowledge this reality. Instead, pundits and politicians alike fiercely denied the numbers and personally attacked anyone pointing out the obvious; the demonizing of The Times's Nate Silver, in particular, was remarkable to behold.

What accounts for this pattern of denial? Earlier this year, the science writer Chris Mooney published "The Republican Brain," which was not, as you might think, a partisan screed. It was, instead, a survey of the now-extensive research linking political views to personality types. As Mr. Mooney showed, modern American conservatism is highly correlated with authoritarian inclinations — and authoritarians are strongly inclined to reject any evidence contradicting their prior beliefs. Today's Republicans cocoon themselves in an alternate reality defined by Fox News, Rush Limbaugh and The Wall Street Journal's editorial page, and only on rare occasions — like on election night — encounter any hint that what they believe might not be true.

And, no, it's not symmetric. Liberals, being human, often give in to wishful thinking — but not in the same systematic, all-encompassing way.

Coming back to the age of the earth: Does it matter? No, says Mr. Rubio, pronouncing it "a dispute amongst theologians" — what about the geologists? — that has "has nothing to do with the gross domestic product or economic growth of the United States." But he couldn't be more wrong.

We are, after all, living in an era when science plays a crucial economic role. How are we going to search effectively for natural resources if schools trying to teach modern geology must give equal time to claims that the world is only 6,000 years old? How are we going to stay competitive in biotechnology if biology classes avoid any material that might offend creationists?

And then there's the matter of using evidence to shape economic policy. You may have read about the recent study from the Congressional Research Service finding no empirical support for the dogma that cutting taxes on the wealthy leads to higher economic growth. How did Republicans respond? By suppressing the report. On economics, as in hard science, modern conservatives don't want to hear anything challenging their preconceptions — and they don't want anyone else to hear about it, either.

So don't shrug off Mr. Rubio's awkward moment. His inability to deal with geological evidence was symptomatic of a much broader problem — one that may, in the end, set America on a path of inexorable decline.