

LA Wetland Education Coalition

Wetland News for September 21, 2004



1. Natural Disasters Education and Earth Science Week
2. Texas Instruments in cooperation with the JASON Foundation for Education have developed graphing calculator activities for the JASON Expedition: Disappearing Wetlands
3. LAWEC-L listserv information

1. Natural Disasters Education and Earth Science Week

Earth Science Week will be held from October 10-16, 2004. The theme of this year's celebration will be "Living on a Restless Planet". Classrooms around the country will be participating in Earth Science Week 2004 to learn more about natural hazards and what we can do to mitigate or prepare for their effects. Students can enter one of the national Earth Science Week contests, or can complete activities in their classroom or at a local museum or Earth Science Week event. Many geoscience organizations will be planning Earth Science Week events around the country. These include open houses, career fairs, and lectures that are open to the public.

EarthInquiry Sampler Included in the Earth Science Week Kits

One of the highlights in this year's Earth Science Week Kits is a sampler of activities from EarthInquiry Investigations. EarthInquiry is a series of web-based investigation activities (with printed workbooks) that guide students through working with international, national and local data to explore real-world phenomena. It provides students with a direct way of exploring and working with geological data online by exploring real scientific data that is now in the public domain. Students develop a deeper understanding of fundamental geoscience concepts and apply newfound knowledge to explore real scientific problems that scientists confront daily. The activities in this booklet are suitable for upper high school and university level students.

The EarthInquiry sampler contains two activities that tie in with ESW's natural hazards theme: "Coastal Hazards: Severe Storms and Rising Seas" and "Earthquakes and Plate Boundaries". In these activities, students use a printed guide book and online links to examine data from the US Geological Survey, NOAA and the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL). Each activity normally costs \$5 per student, but these activities will be available for free in cooperation with Earth Science Week from September 1, 2004-February 28, 2005.

EarthInquiry is published by WH Freeman and Company. Seven different activity modules are currently available, with several others in the works. These activities span the range of Earth science topics. To learn more about the EarthInquiry program, please visit www.earthinquiry.com.index2.html.

Teaching about Natural Disasters

After using your Earth Science Week kit to learn about natural hazards, you might be wondering what you should tell your students about preparing for a natural disaster to occur. The National

Disaster Education Coalition (NDEC) has put together a comprehensive guide, called "Talking about Disasters," that provides standard messages for how to prepare for and respond to natural disasters. This book was created by a group of government agencies and private organizations including the USGS, FEMA, NOAA, The American Red Cross, and AGI. You can download the entire book or just particular chapters. To learn more visit www.disastereducation.org

Get your Earth Science Week information kit: Hot off the presses!

The American Geological Institute, in cooperation with The U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, the National Park Service and local geological organizations, will be distributing Earth Science Week information kits. The kits are full of fantastic resources for teachers, including classroom activities, informative posters and stunning fact sheets and lithographs that relate to the theme "Living on a Restless Earth". The kits are available from the American Geological Institute for a small shipping and handling fee of \$4.95. For more information or to order a kit, please contact pubs@agiweb.org.

2. Texas Instruments in cooperation with the JASON Foundation for Education have developed graphing calculator activities for the JASON Expedition: Disappearing Wetlands

Three of the five activities are available FREE at <http://education.ti.com>, these activities compliment each of the three units of this year's JASON Expedition: Disappearing Wetlands. To access the activities from the TI Website home page, click on Activities, then Activity Exchange, and enter JASON into the Activities Exchange Search Engine on the left-hand side of the screen. There are activities titled: Nutria and the Disappearing Marsh, Mixing Soil and Water – Let's Settle This, and Sediment Deposition – Let the River Run. Or you can purchase the complete set of five activities in a JASON Expedition: Disappearing Wetlands TI Activity Book and CD for \$19.95 at <http://store.jason.org>.

3. LAWEC-L LISTSERVE INFORMATION

- **Description of this listserve:** A listserve serving educators interested in LA wetlands.
- **To send a message of your own to the listserv:** email LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU and type your message into the body of the email. The message will be distributed to ALL PARTICIPANTS subscribing to the listserve.
- **To UNSUBSCRIBE from this listserve:** email LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU and enclose the following single line in the body of the email
unsubscribe LAWEC-L

Please do not reply to the entire list unless you want everyone to read your message!

