

# The COPUS Clarion

A monthly newsletter of the COPUS network Volume 2 Issue 9 September 2008

*The Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS) is a grassroots effort linking universities, scientific societies, science centers and museums, advocacy groups, media, educators, government agencies, businesses, and industry in a peer network having as its goal a greater public understanding of the nature of science and its value to society.*

## Teachers and Schools – Celebrate Science With Us!

The Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science invites you to join us in these three exciting initiatives:

### Building a network to improve communication and collaboration across the scientific community.

Register your school or classroom to become a part of this network (its free and easy!). By registering, other COPUS participants in your area will be able to contact you and brainstorm ways to work together locally!

### Celebrating science in Year of Science 2009.

Participants in the Coalition are organizing the Year of Science 2009 and collaboratively developing a web resource that will help you find cool resources to incorporate in your classroom.

### Changing the way we talk about science and being a scientist.

The new Understanding Science Web site, launching January 3, 2009 will support improved teaching about the process and nature of science, and about who scientists are and how they work.

Participation can be as simple as registering your school or classroom, but we encourage you and your students to consider other events and activities as well, such as those on the back of this Clarion and on the COPUS Web site.

## COPUS Participants – Get involved, support education (without making more work for teachers).

➤ Encourage teachers to register for YoS09 so that resources can find them!

➤ Plan a hike with a scientist or behind the scenes science event at your institution for the weekend—but work with teachers to make sure it meets their requirements. Ask the teacher to share information about the event with his/her students.

➤ Seek out the schools' science club, or your local Girls Scout or Boy Scout troop that you can work with to coordinate science cafes and citizen science events, that happen outside of classroom hours.

➤ Volunteer at your own children's school to help

make science curriculum more engaging or host a science study group of your children's peers to teach cool science after school.

➤ Work with COPUS participants in your community to make a traveling science exhibit that can move from school to school.

➤ Organize a contest to highlight science in your community--not the traditional way! Science poems, science songs, videos, children's stories, art. Let kids create their own content, communicating science the way they do best!

*“Business, government, and education leaders rightly have declared science education “in crisis.” From low student performance to a lack of skilled workers, it is painfully evident that the nation’s scientific leadership has slipped. There is widespread consensus that we need a strong push across the nation to bolster support for science education, and we need it now!”*

- from NSTA *Science Matters*

### Welcome New Participants!

Academy of Science-St. Louis  
Ball State University  
Barry University  
Bay Area Skeptics  
Besant Hill School  
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science  
BlogTogether  
Boston Regional Brain Bee/ Boston Area Neuroscience Group  
Brisbane Catholic Education  
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine  
Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration  
City of Largo Nature Parks

Community High School  
Concerned Minds for Habitation Securities (COMIHAS)  
Conn CAP Pre-Engineering Program at the U. of Bridgeport  
Darwin Bicentennial Project (MassCARE)  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, U. of Arkansas  
Earth Science Literacy Initiative  
Flat Stanley Project  
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy  
Good Nature Publishing  
Hagley Museum and Library  
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy  
Illinois Science Teachers Association

Info.Resource, Inc.  
J. David Gladstone Institutes  
Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University  
Marion Zeh School  
MATE  
National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area  
Organization of Biological Field Stations  
Ryan Elementary Math and Science Focus School  
San Bernardino County Museum  
Science Buddies  
Science Club for Girls  
ScienceComedian.com

Soil and Water Conservation Society  
South Dakota Science Education Network  
South Dakota Wildlife Federation  
Suncoast Earth Force  
U.S.G.S Florida Integrated Science Center  
UC Berkeley, Sagehen Creek Field Station  
UCLA  
University of Florida Gulf Coast Research and Education Center - Plant City  
University of South Florida College of Marine Science  
University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley  
Wondergy

## HERE ARE SOME SAMPLES OF WAYS FOR YOUR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN REAL SCIENCE IN 2009:



### **Pulse of the Planet's Kids' Science Challenge**

<http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com/>

Scheduled to launch October 1, 2008. Third to sixth grade students will be able to participate in their classrooms, in after-school groups, or online. If you are a teacher or parent of third to sixth graders and would like to receive more information about the Kids' Science Challenge, then please sign-up on their web site to receive updates.



### **CoCoRaHS**

<http://www.cocorahs.org/>

Are you interested in water resources and our changing weather? If you have a place to put a rain gauge, your students can contribute to a long-term meteorological study and help to gather precipitation data. Consider joining the CoCoRaHS team.

### **Encyclopedia of Life (EOL)**

<http://www.eol.org>



You and your students can “adopt” a local species, work with a scientist in your area, and become part of this extraordinary effort – the documentation of all species of life on Earth. The EOL project will be providing an opportunity for student groups to get to know their local flora and fauna and to contribute species-related content to this project.



### **Science Cafes in Schools**

<http://www.juniorcafesci.org.uk/>

Cafe Scientifique offers a unique opportunity for students to meet working scientists in an informal, relaxed, ‘café’ atmosphere and together explore contemporary issues in science and technology. The cafes can be student-led, selecting topics of interest and providing the chance to turn concerns into participation, based on classroom experiences.



### **4-H National Youth Science Day**

<http://www.4-h.org/4-HNYSD.html>

On October 8, 2008 the 4-H Youth Development Program is launching the first annual 4-H National Youth Science Day to help build America's future science, engineering, and technology workforce. The National Science Experiment, the designated science activity of 4-H National Youth Science Day, will focus on the environment and will use science principles to teach youth across the country about the importance of water conservation.

**STAY TUNED TO THE YEAR OF SCIENCE WEB SITE TO FIND MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN 2009,  
AND DON'T JUST STAY TUNED, GET INVOLVED!**

Questions? Comments? Ideas? Contact Sheri Potter at [spotter@copusproject.org](mailto:spotter@copusproject.org).

Support for COPUS planning workshops was provided by the National Science Foundation under grant numbers EAR-0606600 and EAR-0628790 to the University of California Museum of Paleontology. The cognizant fiduciary body for COPUS and the Year of Science 2009 project is the American Institute of Biological Sciences Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which is providing staffing support, IT, and other resources. The Geological Society of America, the University of California Museum of Paleontology, and the National Science Teachers Association are also contributing funds for COPUS and the Year of Science 2009. The Steering Committee welcomes support from additional scientific organizations and is also pursuing funding from federal agencies and private foundations.

