

Lake Tahoe Environmental Literacy Summit

October 11, 2008

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, Incline Village, Nevada

Summit Overview

This exciting, hands-on gathering of educators will bring together teachers, educators, agency and organization staff, and interested community members to share assets in Applied Science, Service Learning & Environmental Literacy. Teachers will receive integrated curriculum resources, funding information, contacts with agency and organization partners for classroom and schoolyard visits as well as field trips, and service learning project ideas. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Art Sussman, world-famous science educator.

Taking place 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday, October 11, 2008, the sessions will be hands-on, interactive, and fun! The Summit will be held at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences (TCES), a platinum-rated LEED-certified “green” building. This event is sponsored by the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, USDA Forest Service, Sierra Nevada Journeys, and Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships.

Agenda

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Summit Overview	<i>Presented by Heather Segale, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center</i>
9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Keynote Speaker	Dr. Art’s Planet Earth Show <i>Presented by Dr. Art Sussman</i> (*see below for additional details)
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Plenary Session	What is Service-Learning and How Do I Get My Class Involved? <i>Presented by Christine McMorrow, Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships</i> Includes a presentation of the Forest Service Summer Interns “Generation Green” on their Summer 2008 project – student presentation led by <i>Joy Barney, USDA Forest Service</i>
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Open Exhibits	Learn about non-formal educational initiatives taking place in the region <i>(Local organizations will have informational tables on their educational programs, including UC Davis TERC, Sierra Nevada Journeys, SWEF, SS4S, GBOS, TRPA, TRCD, NTCD, Tahoe Maritime Museum, and others)</i>

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Concurrent Session 1	<p>1a. Systems Thinking and Environmental Literacy: Explore systems thinking and how it helps both the understanding and teaching of global and local environmental issues. <i>(with Dr. Art Sussman)</i></p> <p>1b. Hands-on Project Learning Tree (PLT) curriculum to bring back to your classroom <i>(with Al Stenstrup, PLT National and Nick Pretasky, Sierra Nevada Journeys)</i></p> <p>1c. Forest Health & Monitoring - Service Learning <i>(with Jan Ellis)</i></p>
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Concurrent Session 2	<p>2a. Science Dance of the Water Cycle: Explore the science of cycles by moving our bodies and expanding our thinking. <i>(with Dr. Art Sussman)</i></p> <p>2b. Small Conifer Thinning & Service Learning! <i>(Tamara Sasaki, California State Parks and Jan Ellis)</i></p> <p>2c. "Making Nevadan's Environmentally Literate" interactive sessions <i>(facilitated by Jonathan Mueller)</i></p>
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Break	
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	<p>Roundtable Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - choose three topics for three 20-minute rotations - meet agency representatives - find out about funding to support school projects 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest Health & Defensible Space 2. Invasive Weeds 3. Water Quality Monitoring 4. Best Management Practices 5. Wildlife 6. Recycling 7. Connecting Kids to the Land
4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks	
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Mixer <i>(with Cash Bar)</i>	<p>Social Time with Optional Tours:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UC Davis Education Center Tour, includes virtual boat, virtual lab and 3D Visualization Lab <i>(led by Heather Segale)</i> 2. Green Building Tour of the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences <i>(led by Sarah Pitzer)</i>

Dr. Art's Planet Earth Show

* Dr. Art's Planet Earth Show combines exciting scientific demonstrations with audience participation. Based on the books Dr. Art's Guide to Planet Earth and Dr. Art's Guide to Science, the show provides an entertaining way to help people understand how our planet works.

These principles provide a global perspective on Earth's cycles of matter, flows of energy and web of life. Through the show, the audience learns that Earth is a closed system for matter, an open system with respect to energy, and a tightly networked system with respect to life. In addition to its simplicity, this framework provides an easy way to understand environmental issues. Global climate change, for example, is due to alterations in the cycles of matter that interfere with the planetary flows of energy, which can then impact the web of life in unpredictable ways.

Dr. Art's Planet Earth Show models a variety of pedagogical approaches. The show addresses a large number of national Science Content Standards including those from the Earth/Space, Life and Physical Sciences, as well as Unifying Concepts, and Science in Personal/Social Perspectives. The presentation includes instructions for educators to adapt portions of the show for their own situations. Teachers and students can go deeper into the science by exploring the new book (Dr. Art's Guide to Science), its associated website (www.guidetoscience.net), and a new DVD entitled Dr. Art Does Science.