RI Science Teachers Association shares opportunities in science education for teachers and students.

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| **Science Update** |
| November 2, 2015 |

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| Happy Fall! |
| We hope that you are taking advantage of some of the events mentioned in our first two newsletters.  If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed, please contact the organization that is listed in the entry.  Please send any items that you consider relevant to other science educators to ristanewsletter@gmail.com \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***Upcoming RISTA Events**Welcome Reception for new RIDE Science SpecialistJoin RISTA to welcome Dr. Simone PalmerRISTA is sponsoring a reception for our new Science Specialist.  Dr Palmer, as well as colleagues from RIDE and a variety of science educational organizations will join us for food and networking.  Plan to join us at the Radisson in Warwick on November 12th at 5:00 p.m. Find [details and registration here](http://www.rista.us/event-2082577).\*\*\*\*\*\*Sponsor Workshop: Engage students in critical thinking and problem solving with proven tools that concentrate on Biology's most challenging conceptsNovember 12th3:30-5:00 at Classical High School, room 156In conjunction with the National Association of Biology Teachers Conference, joinDr. Tom Robertson, Scientist, CEO & Co-Founder will present a demonstration of the interactive cases and technology that Cogent Education has developed to be used as classroom tools.Cogent Education is dedicated to assisting teachers by creating interactive case study software that provides captivating real-world scenarios where students learn difficult biological concepts through inquiry and problem-solving. Funded by NIH and NSF, the Interactive Cases were designed by scientists, in partnership with teachers, to provide students opportunities to act like real scientists.To learn more, visit:  [www.cogenteducation.com](http://www.cogenteducation.com/)Click on the yellow "Preview Cases" button on the homepage to see short demo examples of the Interactive Cases.All participants will receive a free trial!  You can choose the topic and investigation and try it for free!!\*\*\*\*\*\***NGSS Information and Advice:**Great blog on Teaching Channel from Sean Elkins of Kentucky, another NGSS adopted state.  Gives a nice perspective on implementing NGSS effectively.  Read it at:   <https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2015/10/16/ngss-classrooms-achieve/>\*\*\*\*\***Opportunities & Resources for Teachers:**NSTA Virtual Conference on Shifting to Integrated STEM: Experiences of Three School Districts Join us on Saturday, November 7, 2015, for a half-day virtual conference titled: Shifting to Integrated STEM: Experiences of Three School Districts. As part of the program, you will learn about three case studies in K-12 STEM Integration from which common goals and practices emerged that can your your work in STEM implementation. The three case studies (New York, Oregon, and Florida) differ both culturally and geographically. The New York case, centered on a large urban district, represents more than a million students in five boroughs. The Oregon case is focused on four moderate-size school districts in the Pacific Northwest. The Florida case includes a large city and more than a dozen small towns. Together, the case studies offer a thought-provoking vision of what “getting to scale with integrated STEM” could look like if we take these lessons to heart and find ways of communicating and collaborating across state boundaries, school subjects, political philosophies, and other barriers to change. The Virtual Conference starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. ET. The four presenters are Al Buyers, Adaliz Gonzalez, Mariel Milano, and Cary Sneider. For more information please go to: [http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/online\_courses/VC\_STEM\_151107.aspx](https://www.linkedin.com/e/v2?e=1b8rg2-igcnn89n-1i&t=plh&midToken=AQH0UzqyL8z1Dg&ek=group_announcement_message&urlhash=85Ap&url=http%3A%2F%2Flearningcenter%2Ensta%2Eorg%2Fproducts%2Fonline_courses%2FVC_STEM_151107%2Easpx)Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Nominations are open**The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST),**the nation’s highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science, has opened its 2015 – 2016 nomination and application period for elementary (K-6th) teachers. PAEMST is awarded annually to exceptional K-12 educators throughout the nation, alternating each year between K-6 and 7-12 grades.We encourage you to nominate an exceptional teacher you may know, or if you’re a teacher yourself, to being an application. Being a PAEMST awardee is a tremendous honor. Recipients will gather in Washington, D.C. for  a series of events as tribute to their accomplishments, will receive a certificate signed by the President and a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation (NSF).The 2015-2016 **nomination deadline is April 1, 2016**, and the **application deadline is May 1, 2016**, so consider nominating a talented teacher or submitting a self-nomination on the [PAEMST website](http://www.paemst.org/)Dream Outdoor Classroom Workshop**Free Design Workshop with DownCity Design**Make your dream outdoor classroom a reality! Learn the basics of the design process and how to engage your students in the design of their very own outdoor classroom. Then submit your classroom's design for a chance to win a $500 grant to complete the project!This workshop is suitable for informal and formal educators, and is a great resource for those who wish to create a new or enhance an existing outdoor learning space or even those who don't plan to help a class construct an outdoor classroom. DownCity Design always uses engaging and unique presentation methods and many have found that this workshop helped their own presentation style.The workshop is **Thursday, November 12, 2015** from 4:00pm-6:30pm at the Roger Williams Park Zoo. [Click here for more information](http://rieea.org/outdoor-classroom-design-workshop/)USDA Seeking Next Generation of Citizen Scientists in Efforts to Stop the Spread of Asian Longhorned BeetleFrom Rhonda Santos, Public Information Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has developed an educators’ guide that meets all core curriculum standards to help elementary, middle and high school understand and prevent the spread of a devastating invasive pest, the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB).“Beetlebusters: An Educators Guide to Stopping the Asian Longhorned Beetle” offers lesson plans aimed at guiding students to become good stewards of the earth. The materials are located at <http://asianlonghornedbeetle.com/educate-kids/>It takes approximately 10 minutes to check your trees for signs of the ALB. The educator’s guide is an effective tool in helping kids protect the trees in their communities. The public has played a significant role in helping USDA in spotting the signs of the ALB, and now kids can learn about this invasive pest while helping to save trees.  The Asian longhorned beetle has led to the loss of nearly 130,000 trees combined in Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Ohio. Up to 70 percent of the U.S. tree canopy is at risk of being lost to this pest, as all states have trees the beetle can attack and complete its life-cycle in. If ALB were to become established in the United States, it could have a severe impact on the timber, maple syrup, tree nursery, and tourism industries, as well as the environment.  In addition, public spaces, yards, and neighborhoods would take decades to recover.Climate Change Communication- A New Approach Join us in learning about strategic framing- a research-based approach to communication that engages audiences in thinking productively about how they can participate in creating or supporting solutions to climate change.Thursday, December 10, 2015 | 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Save The Bay, Providence, RIThis one day workshop will:* ·                Introduce participants to the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI)- a community of colleagues who share an interest in stimulating dialog about how we can all participate in addressing issues of ocean and climate change
* ·                Introduce participants to the elements of strategic framing such as tone, values, explanatory metaphors, and solutions
* ·                Provide an opportunity for participants to practice applying what they learn
* ·                Increase participants’ confidence in their ability to overcome barriers to interpreting climate change issues

Target Audiences: informal science educators, communications staff, journalists, scientists, and other interested parties.There is no cost to attend this workshop, but pre-registration is required. A light breakfast and lunch are included. Seats are limited so please reserve yours today: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XKHK6RT.Facilitators: Annette Brickley, Science Education Consultant with Buttonwood Park Zoo and Kati Maginel, Education Specialist at Save The Bay. Both are active members of the NNOCCI network who have participated in intensive learning programs called “study circles” and have practiced with strategic framing in their workplaces.Contact: Jennifer West, jennifer@nbnerr.org, 401-222-4700, x 7413 Tangible Thinking - The Intersection of Art, Design, Math, & ScienceArt League of Rhode Island Opens Season with “Tangible Thinking” Sept. 12th, VETS Gallery, Providence.  This is free and open to the public, student groups are welcome!Tangible Thinking - The Intersection of Art, Design, Math, & Science, a program of the Art League of RI will take place from September 12, 2015 through January 19, 2016 at the group’s VETS Gallery, One Avenue of the Arts, in Providence, RI.The gallery is open Thursday through Saturday from noon to 3pm and on Gallery Night, Thursday, Sept. 17th from 5-9pm. The opening reception will be held on September 18th from 5:30-8pm. Entrance to the VETS Gallery is on the Park Street side of the Veterans Memorial Auditorium.  See entire [press release here](http://www.rista.us/Resources/Documents/Tangible%20Thinking%20PR%20%281%29.pdf) as well as [printable poster](http://www.rista.us/Resources/Documents/Tangible%20Thinking%20poster%2018X24%20%28original%29.pdf) to display and [directions to the venue](http://www.rista.us/Resources/Documents/THE%20VETS%20GALLERY%20MAP.png)Plugged into URI Energy ResearchURI has a lecture series on Energy Research.  The lectures all take place at 7:00 pm on the Kingston Campus.  * Energy & the Ocean will be discussed November 3rd
* Energy and URI Extension November 10th.

More details and exact locations are included [here.](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs194/1102238942925/archive/1122340692489.html)Loraine Tisdale Environmental Education Fund awardsThe Environment Council of Rhode Island’s (ECRI) Education Fund is pleased to announce that we are opening the application process for the Ninth Annual Loraine Tisdale Environmental Education Fund awards.Each year ECRI’s Education Fund gives out small grants to Rhode Island schools and school-based after-school programs for hands on environmental projects by students that benefit the local environment.  Schools and after-school programs can request an application from the ECRI’s Education Fund, or download one at  <http://www.environmentcouncilri.org/news/applications-2016-tisdale-awards-now-available>We are pleased to offer 3 grants of up to $250 in support of school-based projects that:1.  Have student participation 2.  Lead to measurable improvement in an environmental condition 3.  Involve the community beyond a school in some wayAll Rhode Island schools and school-based after-school programs are encouraged to apply, and an ECRI Education Fund representative will be happy to answer any questions to help schools with their project application. We can be contacted either by email here or by phone at 621-8048.Independent environmental professionals will review all applications and three schools or school-based after-school programs will receive $250 to carry out their projects. Over the last 8 years, schools all over Rhode Island have been awarded these grants for water quality, school garden, recycling, composting, and alternative energy projects. The Loraine Tisdale Environmental Education Awards honor a woman whose energy for a just and healthy environment was legendary. Mrs. Tisdale held an undergraduate degree in chemistry and a degree in nursing. For many years she led an organization that addressed safety and health issues concerning pesticides.**The application deadline is November 20, 2015** and awards will be made in January 2016 for projects to be undertaken in the spring of 2016.  Application and further information is available here <http://www.environmentcouncilri.org/news/applications-2016-tisdale-awards-now-available>Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship (AEF) Program This program provides a unique opportunity for accomplished K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educators to serve 11 months in a Federal agency or U.S. Congressional office. Einstein Fellows bring their extensive classroom knowledge and experience to their host offices to inform Federal STEM education efforts.Past Einstein Fellows have:* Designed and implemented national STEM education programs.
* Built partnerships among Federal agencies.
* Drafted legislation seeking to improve U.S. K-12 education and teacher preparation.
* Evaluated national STEM programs centered on school reform.
* Designed and deployed digital and online learning tools for students and teachers.

See the [announcement for more information](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/AEF%20announcement.docx) and a link to apply.  Applications due by November 19th.Free STEM Opportunity to Join a Ship of ExplorationApplications are now available for the chance to explore the Eastern Pacific Ocean with Dr. Robert Ballard’s team of explorers the Corps of Exploration. This FREE opportunity for students and educators of all types allows individuals to sail aboard the E/V Nautilus as the team participates in scientific exploration of the ocean using two deep sea remotely operated vehicles(ROVS). We have programs for high school students, college, graduate and recent graduates as well as formal and informal educators. Applications close throughout the month of January for the different programs. Each program has a detailed application packet with all the information regarding the program requirements and application process. You can find out more about the programs at [www.nautiluslive.org](http://www.nautiluslive.org/) and [www.oceanexplorationtrust.org](http://www.oceanexplorationtrust.org/) [Patch Design Contest (Winter 2016)](http://www.rista.us/%20http%3A/www.oceanexplorationtrust.org/#!nautilus-patch-contest/c1m6z)[Science & Engineering Internship Program (College, Graduate and Recent Graduate)](http://www.oceanexplorationtrust.org/#!internships/c20ru)[Honors Research Program (High School Juniors)](http://www.oceanexplorationtrust.org/#!honors-research-program/ca78)Videos describing HRP:2015: [HRP Recap](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B7mGri2IM4z4aFlNY0lXcEVmWlk)2014: <https://youtu.be/bYTiIg9lLlk>[Science Communication Fellowship (Formal and Informal Educators](http://www.oceanexplorationtrust.org/#!communication-fellowship/cb0)RI Nature Video Festival  Saturday February 6  2016 1 PM   Metcalf Auditorium  RISD Museum,  N Main St,  ProvidenceRhode island has an abundance of nature and these days many people carry a camera capable of taking video.  It would be great to gather RI Nature videos for a 4 hour showing and bring the nature video makers together.  It will be a most interesting and entertaining event.  So here is a call for submissions to the Rhode Island Nature Video Festival being organized by the Environment Council of Rhode Island, a coalition of more than 60 Rhode Island environmental organizations.  [Review the rules](http://www.rista.us/Resources/Documents/RI%20Nature%20Video%20Festival%20Rules.docx) and send us your links.  Submission deadline is December 10 2015 for an event that will be held on February 6,  2016. Tickets will, go on sale in December.  Links for videos being submitted should be sent to environmentcouncil@earthlink.net     Questions can be directed to the same email address or if you prefer you may call the Environment Council office at 401-621-8048.  Apply for Michelson ExxonMobil Teacher AcademyThe school year has only just begun, but if you're a third- to fifth-grade teacher, it's not too early to think about your summer plans! The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy, a partnership among professional golfer Phil Mickelson, ExxonMobil, NSTA, and Math Solutions, will take place at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey, in July 2016. Applications are currently being accepted!This unique program provides third- to fifth-grade teachers with an all-expense-paid, week-long professional learning experience that equips them with new ways to inspire their students in math and science. For more information and to apply to the Academy—or nominate a fellow teacher—go to [www.sendmyteacher.com](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80857621&m=10931259&u=NSTA&j=29543170&s=http://www.sendmyteacher.com)  Please share this with the teachers in your school today and join the almost 5,000 teachers nationwide who have attended since 2005.Enter Now for a Chance to Win the 2015–2016 Shell Science Lab ChallengeAre you a science teacher succeeding in providing exemplary lab instruction with minimal equipment and resources? The Shell Science Lab Challenge offers you a chance to win a school science lab makeover, valued at $20,000, by sharing your creative approach.Middle and high school science teachers (grades 6–12) in the United States and Canada who have found innovative ways to deliver quality lab experiences with limited school and laboratory resources are encouraged to apply! The deadline for submissions is  **December 16**.All winners will receive science lab equipment, Shell cash grants, NSTA membership, and support to attend NSTA Conferences on Science Education. The grand-prize winner and four national finalists will be honored at a special banquet and ceremony at[NSTA's National Conference on Science Education in Nashville](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=81671586&m=11037296&u=NSTA&j=29779485&s=http://www.nsta.org/conferences/national.aspx) , March 31–April 3, 2016. [Click here](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=81671587&m=11037296&u=NSTA&j=29779485&s=http://www.nsta.org/shellsciencelab/) for more information about the Challenge or to download an application.Ocean Exploration Trust is accepting applicationsThe Ocean Exploration Trust is now accepting applications for students and educators to participate in the 2016 Nautilus Exploration Program Season!  Participants will gain exposure to and experience in the applications of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the field of ocean exploration.  The Nautilus Exploration Program, founded in 2008 by Dr. Robert Ballard and conducted by the Ocean Exploration Trust, centers on specific exploration of the ocean launched from aboard Exploration Vessel Nautilus, a 64-meter research ship equipped with remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and advanced mapping technologies.  Opportunities for educators and students with the Nautilus Exploration Program include the Science Communication Fellowship (formal & informal educators are eligible to apply) and Honors Research Program (students in high school Class of 2017 are eligible to apply).  For more information about these exciting opportunities please visit [www.oceanexplorationtrust.org](http://www.oceanexplorationtrust.org/)See [attached flyer](http://www.rista.us/Resources/Documents/OET_Application_Flyer_v6.pdf) for distribution in your school.  Please contact education@oceanexplorationtrust.org with any questions!World of 7 Billion Video ContestBack by popular demand, the World of 7 Billion student video contest can help you bring technology and creativity into your middle and high school classes. The contest challenges your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges dealing with either Deforestation, Public Health, or Water Scarcity. Students can win up to $1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is February 25, 2016. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at[www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest](http://www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest) Registration Now Open for Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision ProgramRegistration for the 24th annual Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision program—the world's largest K–12 student science competition—is now open. The deadline for all project submissions is **February 1, 2016.**Through the competition, teams of 2 to 4 students are challenged to research scientific principles and current technologies as the basis for designing innovative technologies that could exist in 20 years. Students simulate real scientific research to outline how they plan to test their ideas and create mock websites to illustrate concepts. Student participants will have a chance to win a number of great prizes, including $10,000 U.S. Series EE Savings Bonds (at maturity). Canadian winners receive Canada bonds purchased for the equivalent issue price in Canadian dollars. And to celebrate ExploraVision's 24th anniversary, the top 24 teachers who submit 24 eligible online entries will receive a Toshiba tablet.Teachers can learn more information by visiting the [frequently asked questions page](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=81349648&m=10995279&u=NSTA&j=29681412&s=http://www.exploravision.org/faqs) on the competition [website](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=81349649&m=10995279&u=NSTA&j=29681412&s=http://www.exploravision.org/) Look Up to the StarsThis organization assists you in fostering interest and literacy in science for your students through astronomy programs. They provide in-school field trips that explore the universe and directly align with requirements for STEM and the Next Generation Science Standards.Program options Include:* A single auditorium presentation
* Individual workshops with age appropriate hands-on activities
* Daytime viewing of sunspots on the sun using the same type of solar filter that NASA uses. They can empower your students to build a powerful telescope that will last through generations and help fulfill many requirements of STEM
* Evening school fundraisers followed by outdoor viewing of celestial objects in the night sky, such as the craters on the Moon, ice crystal rings of Saturn, etc., through a powerful handcrafted telescope, weather permitting
* Interdisciplinary workshops for teachers

Go to [www.lookuptothestars.com](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910366&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://www.lookuptothestars.com/) to learn more.NSTA ConferencesNSTA conferences offer the latest in science/STEM content, pedagogy, and research to enhance and expand your professional growth. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to collaborate with science education leaders and your peers. Each year, NSTA hosts a national conference on science education (in the spring), three area conferences (in the fall), and a STEM Forum & Expo. [Learn more](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910373&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://www.nsta.org/conferences/)Upcoming conferences:Philadelphia: Nov. 12–14, 2015 Kansas City: Dec. 3–5, 2015 Nashville (National): Mar. 31–Apr. 3, 2016 STEM Forum & Expo: Denver, July 27–29, 2016**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*For Students:**Participate in the You Be The Chemist Challenge® in Rhode IslandThe You Be The Chemist Challenge®, run by the Chemical Educational Foundation (CEF), is an interactive academic contest that encourages students in grades 5-8 to explore chemistry concepts and their real-world applications. The Challenge provides a unique opportunity for a variety of individuals and organizations—including schools, members of the chemical industry, educators, and other community partners—to come together and show their support for STEM education. Rhode Island will be participating in the program for the first time this year! In addition to the Challenge, the Chemical Educational Foundation also offers the You Be The Chemist® Activity Guides (Lesson Plans for Making Chemistry Fun) and the You Be The Chemist Essential Elements℠ program (a professional development workshop for K-8 educators). To learn more about CEF’s programs and how to get involved, visit [www.chemed.org](http://www.chemed.org/)ACE Mentoring RIThis is a free after school hands-on program for RI HS students interested in exploring careers in Architecture, Civil Engineering and Construction Management.This is a great way for your students to meet professionals in the industry and explore the skills required.More information and flyers to distribute for [schools](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/8.5x11%20ACE%20RI%20Flyer%20-%20FOR%20SCHOOLS%20-%20with%20hyperlinks.pdf) and [parents](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/8.5x11%20ACE%20RI%20Flyer%20-%20FOR%20PARENTS%20-%20with%20hyperlinks.pdf).For students to register at one of the three locations in RI go to [www.Acementorri.org](http://www.acementorri.org/)The NAE is pleased to announce the annual EngineerGirl Essay ContestThe National Academy of Engineering invites students (both boys and girls) in grades 3-12 to submit an essay about how they would protect the environment and the safety, health, and well-being of the public as a responsible engineer.Cash prizes of $500, $250, and $100 are available for the best essays in each of 3 age categories.  We want to hear from you! Submit your essay by February 1, 2016 at 6:00 pm EST. Find out more at [www.engineergirl.org/2016contest.aspx](http://www.engineergirl.org/2016contest.aspx)Makezine.comTo fuel the maker in you—[this site](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910374&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://makezine.com/)  is filled with project ideas, contests, news, and videos. Find out about a new Maker reality show!MIT Women's Technology ProgramThe [Women's Technology Program](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910375&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://wtp.mit.edu/) (WTP) goal is to spark high school girls' interest in the study of engineering and computer science. WTP is a rigorous four-week summer academic and residential experience where female high school students explore engineering through hands-on classes, labs, and team-based projects in the summer after 11th grade. Information about WTP 2016 and the application will be available in November 2015.Students attend WTP in either [Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS)](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910376&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://wtp.mit.edu/eecs/index.html) or [Mechanical Engineering (ME)](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910377&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://web.mit.edu/wtp-me/) |

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