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94/Spring

LCRA'S

# Chalk Talk

News about the Lower Colorado River Authority's educational programs for Central Texas teachers

Government Publications  
Texas State Documents

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## Weather Proof

Troy Kimmel, Austin television's foremost weather forecaster, has joined LCRA as staff meteorologist. He'll prepare daily weather forecasts and long-term analyses for LCRA to use in managing its electric and water operations.

Troy is working with Education Programs on a pilot project, "Weather Watchers," in which upper-elementary students (Grades 4-6) would monitor and record weather data (temperatures and rainfall) and even try their hand at forecasting. The program could be used as an extension of LCRA's *Major Rivers* program or science studies.

Troy can also talk to your students about weather, subject to the other demands on his schedule. He's developed several programs tailored to grade levels. To learn if he can visit your school, call him at (800) 776-5272, ext. 3350.

If you are interested in participating in a "Weather Watchers" pilot or have suggestions on



how it could be incorporated into your teaching plans, contact us at the same toll-free number, ext. 3227, or mail back your Response Card.

## Starring on T-STAR

Look for LCRA's education programs to appear on television this spring. *Eye on Earth* will premiere March 30 on TEA's new T-STAR instructional network for school personnel. The series, produced by the Texas Environmental Awareness Network, will feature environmental news and educational programs produced by LCRA, state and federal agencies.

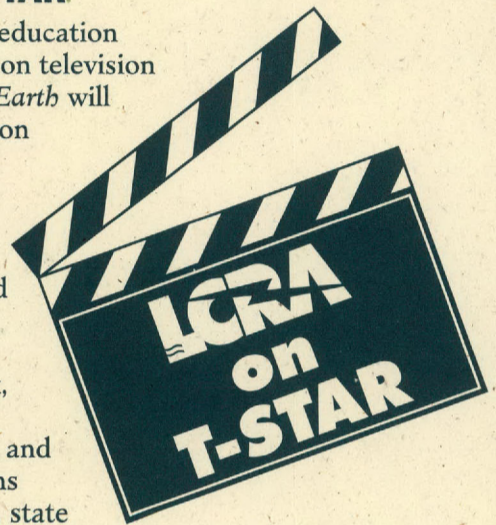
Five episodes will air this spring:

- Mar. 30 (4:15-4:45): "What To Do with Waste"
- Apr. 6 (3:30-4:00): "Field, Streams, and You"
- Apr. 19 (4:20-4:45): "Air Care"
- Apr. 27 (3:30-4:30): "Bring (Wild) Life to Your Classroom!"
- May 17 (3:45-4:45): "Water Watch"

Look for presentations and demonstrations of *Major Rivers*, *Get to the Point!*, and the Colorado River Watch Network on the May 17 program. All programs will be live, and you'll be able to call and talk to participants during the program.

Check to see if your school receives T-STAR. If not, arrange to watch the programs at your regional Education Service Center, or ask ESC to tape the programs for you.

If you still can't access the programs, call us — we'll have copies of *Eye on Earth* in our loan library.



## It's YOUR Newsletter!

Feel free to copy and distribute to teachers who may be interested in any of these articles.

To be added to our mailing list, please fill out and return the coupon.

## We're as near as your mailbox or phone.

Need more information about any of our programs? Need help on a particular subject relating to energy, water or the environment? Fill out and mail this card. Or call, toll-free, 1-800-776-5272, ext. 4089. (In Austin, call 473-4089.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Subject or Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_ ISD \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 When is the best time to call you? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Here's what I Need: \_\_\_\_\_



## Archaeology Workshops Are the Pits — Not!

Once again, LCRA is planning its popular summer workshop series in early June at the Kingsland Archaeological Center.



"The good news is that we're planning a third workshop — an advanced course that complements our beginning and intermediate workshops," reports staff archaeologist Bruce Nightengale.

The third workshop would allow teachers to apply the knowledge they've gained from the introductory and intermediate workshops by participating in some form of an excavation activity. "If we decide to conduct this workshop, you'll need to have attended the introductory and intermediate workshops," says Nightengale. "We'll offer those again this summer."

Write or call us for more information. Registration is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

## In Concert Off to Strong Start

*In Concert with the Environment*, LCRA's new high-school program, launched its pilot program in November at Bastrop High School, with approximately 300 students (mostly sophomores in Physical Science) participating. Nearly 90 percent completed their Energy Use Surveys, receiving a detailed analysis of their families' energy use and the number of EcoWatts (units of environmental benefit) they can earn from wise use of energy and other resources.

This spring the *In Concert* pilot is being conducted at San Marcos, Georgetown, La Grange and Llano High Schools. Watch for the next issue of *Chalk Talk* for a summary of the pilot results.

## Free for the Asking...

- *About Energy*, an 8 1/2 x 11 16-page coloring and activities book for Grades K-3 students. Through pictures, games and word puzzles, students learn simple concepts about energy, its major forms, and some easy steps they can take to use it wisely.
- *Let's Save Energy* has puzzles and activities for

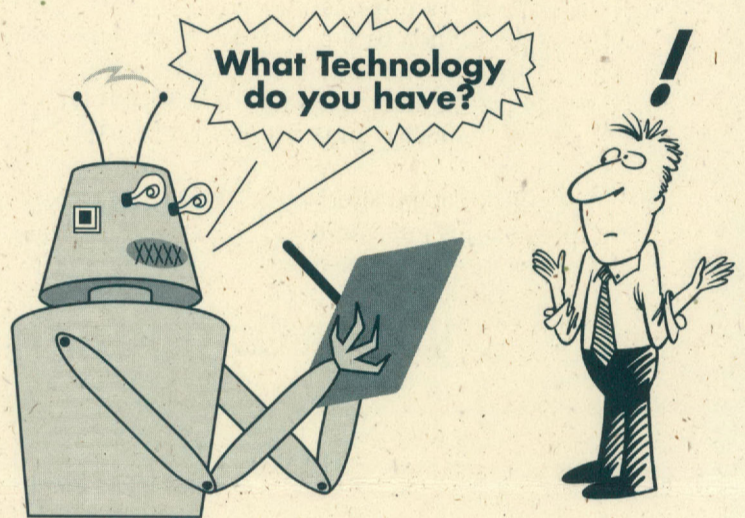
students in Grades 3-6. The 8 1/2 x 11, 16-page book also contains an article, "The Case of the Fuelish Consumer," which you can use for a class discussion, and experiments with insulation and weatherstripping.

Grade levels are suggested — you may want a review copy of each book before you order class sets. These materials are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## LCRA Conducting High-Tech Survey

We're surveying schools in our service area on their use of computers, electronic bulletin boards, and other "high-tech" options. We want to learn how much these items are being used in our service area so that we can determine to what extent LCRA should be cruising the information superhighways.

Your school's information is important. Please check with your computer coordinator if he or she has completed the survey. If not, contact us and we'll send out another copy.



## So What Can We Do For You?

Most of *Chalk Talk* is devoted to LCRA's new and ongoing educational programs and services. But occasionally we like to ask our readers if there's anything else we can offer.

So what can we do for you? Teaching materials for certain grades and subjects? Training in any particular area? Tours and other "hands-on" activities?

If we've got it, we'll send it to you (or tell how you can register for workshops or tours). If we don't have it, we'll try to refer you to other sources. And if we see a trend of requests for a new product or service, that helps us in our planning.

Your comments and requests are always important to us. *So tear out that response card and mail it back!*



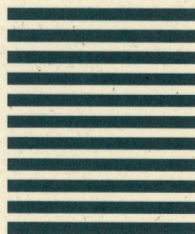
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