

OCTOBER  
2023

VOL. 8

# CCW QUARTERLY

*The Official Education Newsletter of the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park*



## A Message From Owlie the Owl:

Do you hear that? Sounds like school bells! Personally, I love back-to-school season because that means Water Discovery Program field trips are back in session at the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park.

To expand your learning, download my activities from this newsletter and previous editions by visiting [ieua.org](http://ieua.org) and clicking on "Learn About Water." Visit me at the Park soo(HOO)n!

-Owlie



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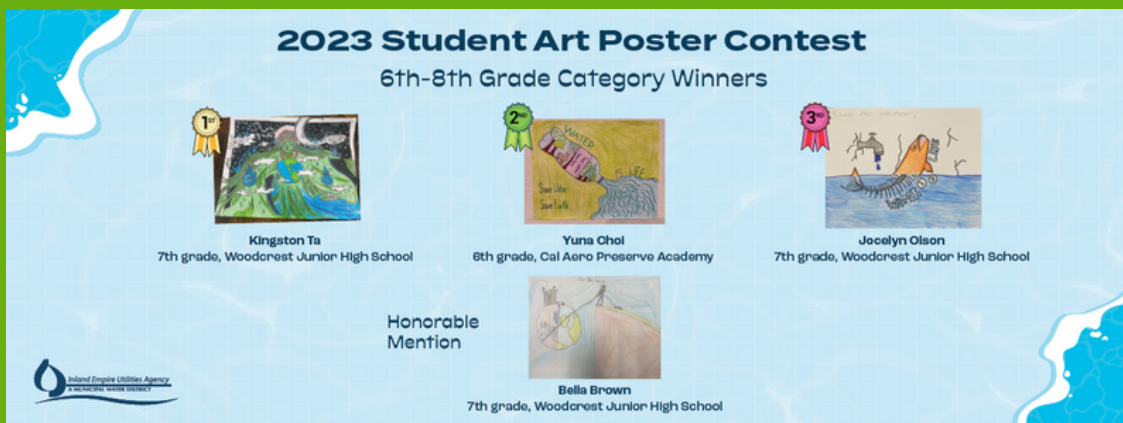
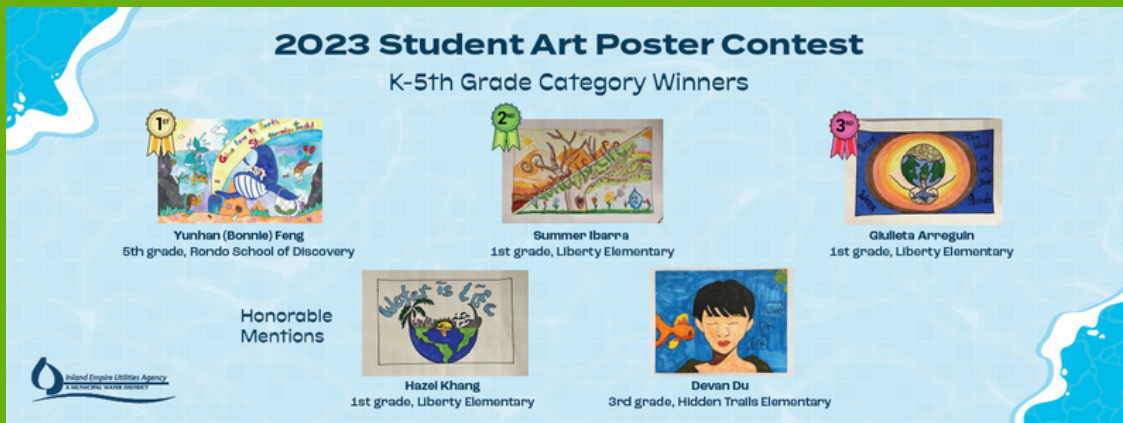
[Wally's Word of the Day](#)

[Printable Activities](#)

# EDUCATION UPDATES

## 2023 "WATER IS LIFE" POSTER CONTEST RESULTS

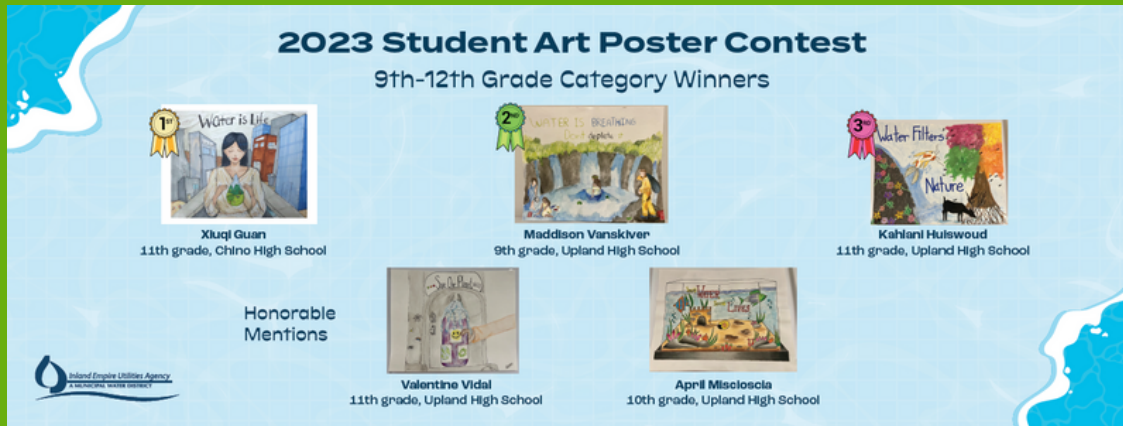
In Spring, IEUA commemorated their annual 2023 "Water is Life" K-12 Poster Contest. Staff voted and selected winners from 3 categories to advance to Metropolitan Water District's regional poster contest. Congratulations to the following students: Xiuqi Guan, Maddison Van Skiver, Kahlani Huiswood, Valentine Vidal, April Miscioscia, Kingston Ta, Yuna Choi, Jocelynn Olson, Bella Brown, Yunhan Bonnie Feng, Summer Ibarra, Julieta Arreguin, Hazel Khang and Devan Du. Visit the [Student Art Poster Contest web page](#) to see the student artwork that is moving forward. Best of luck to all!





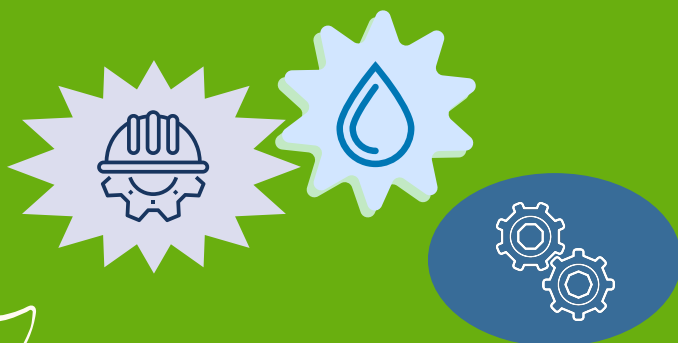
# EDUCATION UPDATES

## 2023 "WATER IS LIFE" POSTER CONTEST RESULTS



## WATER ENGINEERING 4 GOOD (WE4G)

Are you a middle or high school teacher interested in STEAM? If you are within IEUA's service area, check out Water Engineering 4 Good (WE4G), an online STEAM competition for middle through high school students within the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's service area. If you are interested in signing up a team, contact Hazel Ceron at [hceron@ieua.org](mailto:hceron@ieua.org). The deadline to submit a team is **Wednesday, October 11, 2023**.



# EARTH DAY 2023

After a 3-year hiatus, IEUA's Earth Day celebration returned on April 19-20, 2023. The Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park welcomed over 700 students, approximately 1,000 community members and 30 vendors over the two-day celebration. Students enjoyed animal encounters, a nature walk tour of the Park, and fun interactive water education booths. If you missed out on the fun this year, we will be back next year.



Contact Hazel Ceron  
at [hceron@ieua.org](mailto:hceron@ieua.org)  
to be notified for  
2024 updates.





## WATER DISCOVERY FIELD TRIPS

Back to school and field trips rule! The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is currently booking for **FREE**, in-person Water Discovery Field Trips at the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park for K-12 students. Get your 2023/24 date secured by visiting [www.ieua.org/water-discovery-program](http://www.ieua.org/water-discovery-program).



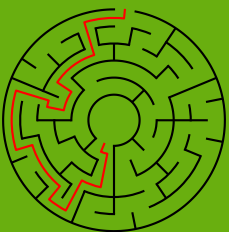
## WEWAC: EDUBUCKS

Attention all educators! Do you want to earn **FREE MONEY** for your classroom? Check out the 2023/24 EduBucks Program through WEWAC (Water Education/Water Awareness Committee). Applications are due by Friday, November 3, 2023. The application and program information is available at [www.usewaterwisely.com](http://www.usewaterwisely.com).

# WALLY'S WATER MAZE



SEND A PHOTO OF  
YOUR COMPLETED  
MAZE TO  
@IEUAWATER ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR A  
PRIZE!



Can you help Wally find the Chino  
Creek Wetlands and Educational  
Park picnic bench?



# ADVICE FROM OWLIE

CHINO CREEK WETLANDS BLOG

**Q: Dear Owlle,**

I think you should do a park clean up ASAP! The ponds at the park have a lot of algae; is it native? Recently, every time I walk my dog, I see more and more of this green stuff. The ducks do not seem to mind, but is it bad for them?

Sincerely,

*Observer on the look out*



**A: Dear Observer on the look out,**

I am so glad to have you as my eyes on the ground when I am catching some z's. It is always a great idea to pick up your trash when visiting the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park (or any public space). The Park is home to a variety of native species and lingering trash can often be mistaken for food, which can harm our wildlife.

As for the green stuff you see, it actually is not algae. The green material that sits on top of our ponds is a tiny plant called Duckweed.

Duckweed is made up of small oval shaped leaves that are the smallest flowering plants known. Duckweed helps filter water by absorbing excess nitrogen, making our ponds cleaner for our wildlife. Occasionally, there may be small patches of native algae,

but not enough to harm native species. Speaking of wildlife, Duckweed is a great source of food for waterfowl such as ducks and birds. It even has more protein than soybeans! Fun fact: Duckweed and waterfowl have a symbiotic relationship. This means that they depend on each other. Duckweed provides food for our waterfowl and in return, our waterfowl carries the Duckweed that gets stuck in between its feet or feathers to help spread the plant for reproduction.

I can tell you have watchful eyes just like me! If you pay close attention to our Park during the summer, you will see that Duckweed's presence will increase. This is because Duckweed is more visible in warmer temperatures due to nutrients present in the water. Alternatively, in the winter, Duckweed will naturally sink to the bottom of our ponds and remain dormant.

See you again at the Park soo(HOO)n!

*Owlie*





# PLANT SCRAMBLE

SEND A PHOTO OF  
YOUR COMPLETED  
ACTIVITY TO  
@IEUAWATER ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR  
A PRIZE!

Unscramble each word to reveal the  
name of the native plants below!

1 saceryom rete

---



2 edmewikl

---



3 leub ylderebrer

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# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

## PLANT: YERBA MANSA

Yerba Mansa, also known as *Anemopsis californica*, is a perennial herb in the southwestern United States and northwest Mexico wetland areas. This plant likes to bloom from March to July and can be found in the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park. In late summer, you will notice their leaves begin to change colors to rich fall

colors! If you are searching for this plant, you will need to look for these three things: a white flower, a tall stem, and large leaves at base.



*Yerba Mansa*

## ANIMAL: PAINTED LADY

Monarch butterfly? Think again. This butterfly is called a Painted Lady or scientifically known as *Vanessa cardui*. Monarchs are bigger and have black veins on their wings versus the brown spots a Painted Lady has on its wings. The Painted Lady is one of the most widespread species of butterflies.

Some of their favorite plants to hang out near are Succulent Lupine and California Zinnias. So if you are in the market for new plants, choose a couple of those, and you might get some visitors.



*Painted Lady*



# WATER WORD SCRAMBLE

D P A M

\_\_\_\_\_

P R D S I E

\_\_\_\_\_

I M H U D

\_\_\_\_\_

T E S W A

\_\_\_\_\_

SEND A PHOTO OF  
YOUR COMPLETED  
WORD SCRAMBLE TO  
@IEUAWATER ON  
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A PRIZE!

WATER WORD SCRAMBLE ANSWERS: DAMP | SPIDER | HUMID | WASTE

## WALLY'S WORD OF THE DAY

po · ta · ble wa · ter

*noun*

1. Water that is suitable for drinking.

antonym

1. Non-potable water.

POTABLE WATER



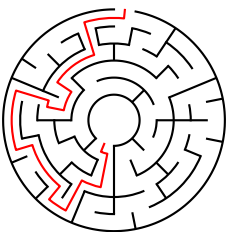
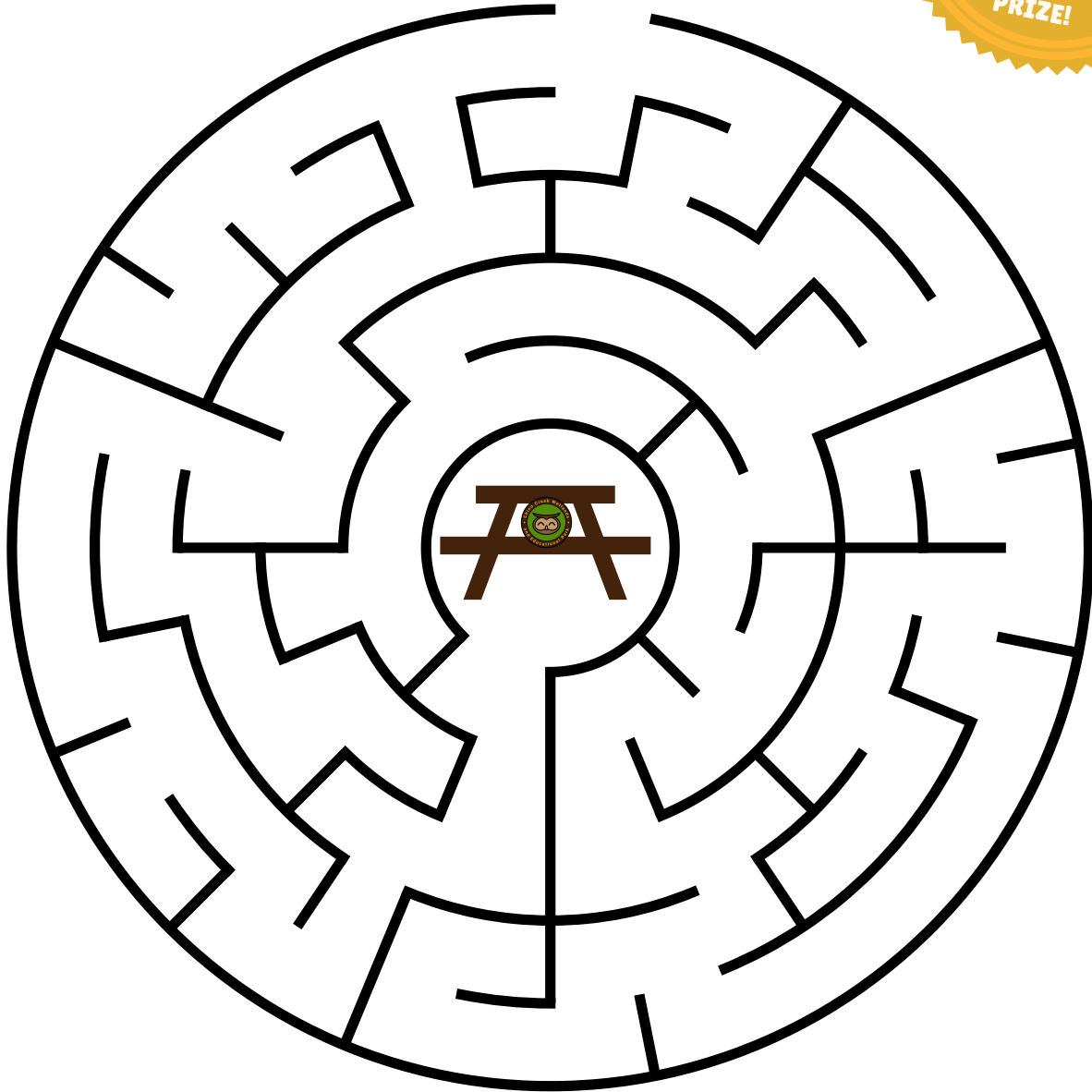
FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@chinocreekwetlands

@IEUAWater

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