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If spring came but once a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change. ~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

If you've never been thrilled to the very edges of your soul by a flower in spring bloom, maybe your soul has never been in bloom. ~Audra Fuceo

Dates to Remember

- March 15** California Green Summit ~ Sacramento
- April 3** Early Registration due for Spring Conference
- April 3** Howard Bell Award Nominations Due
- April 11-17** National Environmental Education Week
- April 17** Regular Registration due for Spring Conference
- April 22** Earth Day
- April 30-May 2** AEOE Spring Conference at Camp Hess Kramer, Malibu

Conference Registration Information Enclosed!

- Registration Packet
- Registration Form
- Schedule
- Registration Information
- Directions to Camp Hess Kramer

I think that no matter how old or infirm I may become, I will always plant a large garden in the spring. Who can resist the feelings of hope and joy that one gets from participating in nature's rebirth? ~Edward Giobbi



A Message from the AEOE President

"Listen, can you hear it? Spring's sweet cantata. The strains of grass pushing through the snow. The song of buds swelling on the vine. The tender timpani of a baby robin's heart. Spring."

- Diane Frolov and Andrew Schneider, *Northern Exposure, Wake Up Call, 1992*

The signs of spring are quite evident where I work in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Colorful bursts can be seen on the flowering plants, the animals are coming out of hiding, and the birdsongs all sound a bit sweeter.

AEOE will be springing ahead this season with the introduction of on-line registration for our conferences, new membership cycles, and a more prevalent environmental education action and information network headed by our advocacy coordinator, Sean Hill. You can find more information about all of these within the pages of this newsletter.

Our 2010 spring statewide conference at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu, CA, is coming up, April 30th – May 2nd. We have received a vast amount of varied and exciting workshop proposals for the conference and will be putting that schedule together soon. Check <http://www.aeoe.org> for more information and to register on-line for the conference.

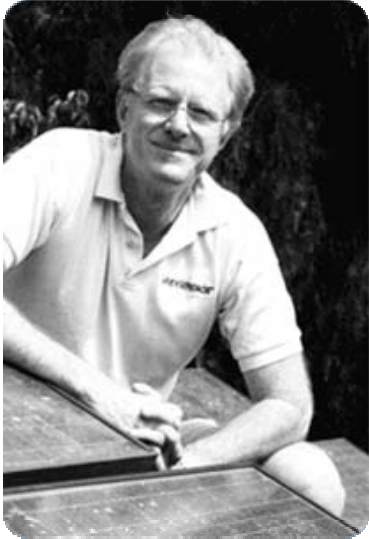
In our last newsletter, I mentioned that we will be hosting the 2012 NAAEE (North American Association for Environmental Education) Conference in Oakland, CA. You can learn more about NAAEE here: <http://www.naaee.org/>. While it is a couple of years out, a conference of this size requires a lot of planning. There are many pieces to it and we will be asking for help throughout. If you are interested in helping with the conference, please e-mail: president@aeoe.org.

As always, I thank you for your support and interest in AEOE,

Ryan Brennan
President, AEOE

Keynote Speaker – Ed Begley Jr.

Ed Begley, Jr. is a well known actor and environmental activist/educator. He has appeared in multiple television shows such as "St. Elsewhere," for which he received 6 Emmy nominations, "Gary Unmarried," "Boston Legal," "Six Feet Under," "Arrested Development," and many others. In addition to TV, he is also commonly seen in films including "Pineapple Express," "Best in Show," "For Your Consideration," and "Batman Forever."



Aside from his acting career, Ed is probably best known for his work in the environmental field. Along with his wife, Rachele Carson, he stars in his own reality show, "Living with Ed," where viewers get to see what it's like to live green. While most people strive to be carbon neutral, Ed is actually the epitome of living carbon negative. From owning a windmill since 1985 to riding a modified stationary bike that produces enough energy each morning to make toast, he is an inspiration on how to put your words into action.

In an article with tonic.com, Ed talks about his inspiration to "go green": "It was growing up in smoggy LA. It was such a negative influence, living in that smog for two decades, the '50s and '60s. Finally by 1970, Earth Day came along and said, 'We gotta clean up the smog!' It was like, 'Hell yeah!'" That's about the time he bought an electric car, began using biodegradable soaps and detergents, composting and recycling. He also cites another driving factor in going green, saving money.

Now, after 40 years of living green, it's just a part of his life. Not only does he have rain barrels at his house but also an underground cistern system that collects rainwater in a 550-gallon barrel and grey water from the house for irrigation. He is truly a shining beacon of the environmental movement and we are thrilled to have him as our keynote speaker for the 2010 AEOE Statewide Conference.

Saturday Night Entertainment – Delta Nove

Delta Nove is a national touring world-funk band based out of Long Beach, CA, comprised of members with diverse musical backgrounds and influences. From coast to coast, Delta Nove has been rocking the dance floor with their tasty blend of funk, Brazilian samba, afro-beat, world, jazz, rock, ska and reggae music.

In addition to being voted as one of the "Top 10 Bands to See in 2005" by Jambase.com, Delta Nove was awarded "Best Live Act" at the Orange County Music Awards in 2006 & 2007. With an intense touring schedule, they are one of the hardest working bands in the independent music scene and are a unique addition to the already rich musical history of Long Beach, CA. The varied rhythms, deep grooves and funky horns that make Delta Nove stand out are what moves the crowd and gets the place jumping.



The group's touring schedule has afforded them the opportunity to play in such prestigious venues as The House of Blues Sunset Strip, Knitting Factory, various Hard Rock Cafés, The Lion's Den, Ventura Theatre, Georgia Theatre, Orpheum Theatre, and the Galaxy Theatre, to name a few. The band has also performed at numerous universities, public schools, festivals, and community events and benefits ranging from New York to Nashville, and San Francisco to New Orleans, etc. Delta Nove is here to bring funky positive and uplifting music, taking music lovers on a pleasurable trip and giving them the time of their life. See you at the D No show!

A Letter from the Southern Chair

Another week in San Diego and another winter rain storm.

It certainly has been a wet winter in southern California. To quote the late comedian Chris Farley, "I am *El Niño*! All other tropical storms must bow before *El Niño*." Although we have not matched last season's rain totals yet, the experts are predicting these winter aqua blasts to continue through spring. In case you are under 25 and don't remember the last El Niño, I think Farley explains it best, "Yo Soy *El Niño*. For those of you that don't *Habla Español*, *El Niño* is Spanish for *The Niño*".

Well if winter has got you down, and your season seems to be a never ending cycle of routine, mopping wet cabin floors, and gearing up kids for rainy nature hikes, then I've got the cure for you. Come to the AEOE Spring Statewide Conference at the Fabulous Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu, California! This marvelous event (April 30-May 2) features a gathering of our California's naturalist community with professional growth opportunities, fabulous entertainment, and a spectacular ocean front setting.

OK so I'm a little biased because this will be my third trip to Camp Hess Kramer including my first AEOE conference back in 2006. As a recently hired naturalist with not much training and a whole lot of questions I learned so much from the experience. I attended workshops facilitated by other naturalists in the field, learned some new acts at the conference skit night, and danced to the beats of dozens of djembes in the largest drum circle west of the Mississippi.

This year's conference theme is "Building Foundations" and will feature well known actor, educator, and sustainable living activist Ed Begley, Jr. as our keynote speaker. Also to entertain us and retuning from their epic show at the 2006 conference, are the Afro Samba World Funk Experience, Delta Nove.

If I haven't convinced you yet here is a list of the top ten reasons you should attend this year's AEOE Statewide conference in Malibu:

10. Your entire Outdoor School is already going
9. Conference Rideshare for car pooling (in case #10 was not true)
8. Great workshops on teaching nature to kids, activities, song writing, flora, fauna, and much more
7. Scholarships and an early registration discount are available (April 3rd Deadline)
6. Making new friends (or possibly your future life partner)
5. Photography Contest (put your own on display or view other's amazing work)
4. Job Fair (In this economy I know you can't ignore this opportunity)
3. Annual Saturday Skit Night (if you haven't been you're missing out)
2. Ed Begley, Jr. (where else are you going to go to see and hear from an inspirational activist up close and personal)
1. Malibu, California in spring time! (Need I really say more?)

If I still haven't convinced you call or email me at southern.chair@aeoe.org and I will give you ten more reasons why you can't miss this opportunity.

See you in Malibu!

Steve Morris



A Letter from the Northern Chair

Greetings from Northern California,

I hope everyone is enjoying the winter and all the beauty it brings. From snow packed mountains begging to be skied to the sound of raindrops tickling the leaves of our diverse forests. To me winter has brought a story to share. While on an all day hike in early January with 20 rain soaked 5th graders in tow, the dark clouds that had been following us all day decided to open up and unleash upon us a most chilly hail storm. Was this the moment that would break them? It had been quite a day already. A quick flash of the previous three hours ran through my mind as I turned around to see how they were doing: visions of the majestic trees of the redwood forest bending to and fro with each mighty burst of the western winds threatening to snap at any moment, visions of the 20 pairs of cold feet unable to bypass every puddle, visions of the brave young faces chilled by the relentless rain as they ate their soup once known as sandwich. Was this the final straw? No. My expectation of defeated expressions was instead met with the biggest smiles and the proclamation: "This is AWESOME!!!! it's raining Dip and Dots." We really have the best job in the world.

As the much needed rain and snow quenches the thirst of our fair state, our thoughts and hearts long for spring. With the wildflowers and newborn creatures, spring also brings to us our statewide conference held this year in sunny Malibu. I sincerely hope to see you all there. Like spring, the conferences (through the many workshops and networking opportunities) serve to refresh our minds and reignite a possibly burned out spirit fading through a long season. I always leave a conference excited to try out the new ideas shared by the mentors and peers of our membership.

Speaking of members I invite all of you to join the northern council. If you have lots of ideas and a passion for environmental education then jump on board. We meet by phone once a month and in person at conferences to discuss issues pertaining to our section. Currently we are gearing up for the spring conference in 2011.

In closing I want to thank both Kestrel and Coyote for all their hard work in putting together the outings for the north. The Año Nuevo trip was a hit and the trip to the Pinnacles will be a blast. Hope you all can make it out there. Also a big thanks to Pamela "Shark," Jeanine "Jumping Mouse" and Kim Taylor for their support and mentorship on the Northern Council.

See you all in Malibu,
Jymn "Scooby" Meier



2010 Howard Bell Award

The purpose of this award is to give recognition and pay tribute for outstanding achievements and contributions as a leader in the field of environmental and outdoor education. The award is presented at the Statewide Spring Conference by the AEOE Leadership. While not limited to any certain profession, nor exclusive to AEOE members, the award is designed primarily for individuals who are still active in their work. Each member of AEOE has the opportunity to nominate someone whom they feel deserves consideration for this award. Nominations are kept on file for three years and may be voted on by the Board as many as three times. The deadline to nominate is April.

Please submit nominations on-line at www.aeoe.org or to Tara Murgatroyd at vicepresident@aeoe.org

Skit Night Statement

"Skit Night" will be conducted in two parts. The first part will be titled "Campfire Workshop" followed by the "Talent/Skit Show."

During the "Campfire Workshop," we ask that you present material that could be used with students. These skits should be aimed at sharing fun, interesting, and educational skits to use at your school or institution.

Directly following the "Campfire Workshop" portion will be the "Talent/Skit Show." We welcome a broader range of presentations, not specifically catered towards our programs and students, during this part of the night. You can sing songs, perform skits, teach a dance, etc. "Skit Night" performances will have a maximum time limit of 7 minutes.

We would like to remind our membership that "Skit Night" is optional and that we will have supplementary activities to attend if you are not interested in attending "Skit Night." Regarding the content of the presentations during "Skit Night:"

We encourage your creativity and artistic expression at AEOE conferences and events. When creating your masterpiece, please make certain that the end result is something you, your organization, and AEOE can be proud of. Keep your message positive and fun, use respectful words and actions, and acknowledge others' hard work by honoring time limits. Please no fire acts allowed due to the hazards that this presents.

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in your organization being excluded from the next year's "Skit Night" performances.

If you have any questions or comments regarding "Skit Night" please e-mail: Steve Morris at stevomm@hotmail.com

We can't wait to see what you come up with this year!

Thank you,

AEOE Board of Directors

Joie's Daisies Scholarships Available for AEOE Spring Conference!

Joie's Daisies Scholarships began when a group of naturalists at the Fall 1999 Northern AEOE conference decided that they wanted to do something in Joie Armstrong's name, something to help naturalists new to the field. For those of you who may not be familiar with Joie's story, she was the Yosemite Institute naturalist who was tragically murdered in Yosemite in July 1999. The home that she lived in was originally a pioneer home and had feral daisies, which were descendants of those planted by the original homeowner. Most of them were fading in the summer heat, and shortly before her death, Joie was trying to give them a little more life by hauling water from the stream and bringing it to the flowers one heavy bucketful at a time. During the FBI's thorough investigation of the area, a ranger noticed the flowers and took pity on them. He was seen making the same trips to the river to extend their lives yet a little longer.

AEOE is one group that has taken on the job of keeping the next generation of Joie's daisies alive, metaphorically speaking. We have many scholarships available in amounts up to \$100 each. Our scholarship fund comes from money raised at our silent and live auctions at our statewide conferences. The scholarships are available to those who would normally not be able to afford to attend the conference. Interns and students will receive priority, although we encourage you to apply even if you are a full-time employee with financial need.

If you are nervous about taking money from a fund like this, or intimidated by the application process, DON'T BE! The whole purpose of this fund is to allow people like you, who would normally decide not to come due to financial burden, an opportunity to attend this amazing conference. Remember, by participating, you're helping to honor a wonderful person whose name and life deserve to be remembered!

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Scholarships are not transferable.
2. Scholarships are not available for folks whose programs fund their attendance already.
3. Your application must be postmarked by the conference April!
4. Scholarships are for *up to* **\$100**, so you must pay a minimum fee for conference registration. If you can afford to pay more, please request a smaller scholarship to help the scholarship funds stretch farther so more people may attend.
5. You must also pay your membership dues if you are not a member or if your membership has expired. \$15/yr student/intern membership \$20/yr regular membership
6. The scholarship is only for registration. If you would like to sign up for a paid workshop, you must pay full price for these items.
7. By applying for this scholarship, you agree to allow AEOE to use all or portions of your scholarship application in AEOE publications (print or online) and in AEOE publicity. If you prefer to retain anonymity, please indicate this on your scholarship application.
8. This application DOES NOT guarantee you will receive a scholarship to the conference. If you do not receive a scholarship, you can choose to pay the full early registration conference fee or you can request that your check be returned. The scholarship committee will contact all applicants by two weeks after the deadline.

Joie's Daisy's Scholarship Application

Thank you for your interest in a scholarship! We are excited to have the opportunity to help you attend the conference, while remembering the life of Joie Armstrong. Please follow the steps below:

- Fill out a conference registration form found in the spring newsletter or online at www.aeoe.org
- Fill out the Scholarship Application form below
- Send your conference registration form (please do not submit your registration online), scholarship application, and your check for your conference registration fees (calculated by subtracting the scholarship amount you are requesting from the total cost of early registration and membership dues), postmarked by April 3, 2010, to:

Kim Taylor
PO Box 762
Yosemite, CA 95389

Please contact Kim Taylor at ktaylor@yni.org or at 209-379-9514 x 28 if you have any questions.

AEOE Spring Conference Scholarship Application Form

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____ Program/School Affiliation: _____

Supervisor's signature: _____ Supervisor's phone/email: _____

By signing here, I acknowledge that the applicant has a financial need and will benefit from receiving a scholarship to the conference

1. On a separate page, answer **one** (or more, if you are inspired) of the following questions by writing an essay or by responding in your own way, i.e. drawing, song, diagram, etc.

- What does this year's theme mean to you?
- Explain your current situation and why you feel a scholarship to this conference will be beneficial to you.
- Why are you drawn to the environmental and outdoor education field?
- What are your aspirations and dreams for the future?
- Create a lesson plan detailing how you'll inspire your students to keep the lessons of outdoor education going after they've gotten home. Extra points for incorporating this year's theme!

2. Determine your cost. The conference fee (early registration) is \$150. The maximum scholarship amount you may receive is \$100. **YOU MUST ALSO PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER OR IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED** (\$15 student/intern, \$20 basic).

Total Conference registration fee \$150

Subtract workshop presenter discount (if applicable) - _____

(Accepted workshops only, discount applicable for Lead Presenter only)

Subtract amount you can afford to pay for registration (minimum \$50, does not include membership) -

_____ = Total scholarship amount requested (maximum \$100) \$_____

3. Please send your conference registration form, scholarship application, and check for conference registration (calculated by subtracting the scholarship amount you are requesting from the total cost of early registration, membership dues, and paid workshops), postmarked by April 3, 2010, to:

Kim Taylor
PO Box 762
Yosemite, CA 95389

This application DOES NOT guarantee that you will receive a scholarship to the conference. If you do not receive a scholarship, you can choose to pay the full early registration conference fee of \$150, or you can request that your check be returned to you. The scholarship committee will contact all applicants within two weeks of the deadline.

The AEOE Advocate

By Sean Hill, AEOE Advocacy Coordinator

Greetings from the River City! While some may know about Sacramento's nickname (the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers is less than a mile from where I now type) most people know of it as the capital city, the confluence of California's storied and complex government. This context of natural, ecological history and politics is a great backdrop for the topic of this new AEOE newsletter series – the AEOE Advocate. It is here you will find quarterly updates on current movements or legislation that impact our field of environmental and outdoor education, as well as ways that you can get involved. If you would like to sign-up for our regular advocacy-related updates, please send an email to advocacy.aeoe@gmail.com, or enter your email address on our website homepage: <http://aeoe.org/>. Thank you for being an advocate!

No Child Left Inside

Language from the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Act was included officially in the President's version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, also known as No Child Left Behind) on February 1st, 2010. In fact, No Child Left Inside is referred to as "Key Legislation" on the Committee on Education and Labor homepage: <http://edlabor.house.gov/education/k-12/>. Check it out; NCLI is listed alongside three other pieces of key legislation including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and No Child Left Behind!

While it is exciting to see this movement gaining traction on Capitol Hill, there is still a chance that language from NCLI does not make it to the final version of the ESEA. March 26th is the deadline for comments and letters to the Committee on Education and Labor, eseacomments@mail.house.gov (please send letters of support). For highlights of the No Child Left Inside Act, visit <http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=948>. (Continued on Page 10)

AEOE Wants You!

We are looking for interested members to fulfill a few new positions within the organization. If you would like to be involved, please e-mail: president@aeoe.org. Openings in AEOE:

Fundraiser

The Fundraiser will be responsible for developing and presenting to the Board a proposed fundraising campaign for the current year which considers grants, events and solicited donations. The Fundraiser will identify grants for which AEOE might successfully compete and are aligned with the mission and current activities of the organization. The Fundraiser will be responsible for the grant-writing or the delegation of the task to another individual able to do so. The Fundraiser will also communicate with the section Chairs about the fundraising activities of the sections and about needs of the sections which might be served by obtaining a state level grant. If you are interested in this position, please e-mail: president@aeoe.org.

Marketing Coordinator

The Marketing Coordinator will be responsible for establishing and maintaining contacts with Institutional Members. They will research similar organizations and associations and reach out to diverse organizations within the EE field by publicizing our organization's events, including regional and statewide conferences. They will also develop and present to the Board an annual marketing plan, work to build capacity within the organization, work with the Chief Financial Officer on annual marketing budget, and work with the Fundraiser to form fundraising campaigns. If you are interested in this position, please e-mail: president@aeoe.org.

As always, we are looking for members interested in helping out on the section councils. For the Northern section, please e-mail: northern.chair@aeoe.org, and for the Southern section, please e-mail: southern.chair@aeoe.org.

Change to AEOE's Membership Cycle

By Helen de la Maza, AEOE Membership Coordinator

As AEOE increases in membership, and delves into the world of new-fangled technology (online registration! accepting credit card payments!), the Board has been looking for ways to ensure accuracy and simplicity in our database and records. In light of these, we will be changing the membership cycle.

To simplify the membership process, we will now have only two possible membership cycles for all Individual and Institutional members:

Cycle 1

Calendar Year: January 1 - December 31

Expiration date: December 31

Anyone joining/renewing between January 1 - June 30 will have an expiration date of Dec. 31 of the same year.

Example: Join April 5, 2010; membership expires Dec. 31, 2010 (covers spring and fall conferences)

Cycle 2:

School Year: July 1 - June 30

Expiration date: June 30

Anyone joining/renewing between July 1 - December 31 will have an expiration date of June 30 of the following year.

Example: Join October 1, 2010; membership expires June 30, 2011 (covers fall and spring conferences)

For those of you who are current members, we will extend your memberships to place you on one of these cycles. You will receive email notification of your new expiration dates.

Once this two-cycle membership has been implemented, all members will expire December 31 or June 30. We encourage Individual and Institutional members to renew annually to take advantage of being active members for 12 months.

Any questions can be addressed to membership@aeoe.org. Thank you for your support!

The Advocate (continued from page 9)

Earth Day

The Earth Day Network and NCLI Coalition are trying to make a national call for kids to learn outside on Earth Day, and are looking for a high-level figure to help create national visibility for this movement. Let's generate some grassroots momentum to help get our local students outside on Earth Day on April 22, 2010, and let's raise awareness of the event. Write a letter to the editor, blog about it, take pictures and spread the news!

National Environmental Education Act

The National Environmental Education Act is up for reauthorization. Passed in 1990, it is the major funding source for the EPA office of Environmental Education and subsequently many EE organizations and programs through EPA grant money (the National EE Foundation, EETAP, NAAEE). Folks with NAAEE and the National Environmental Education Foundation are working with Congress for reauthorization and hope to get a bill in the Senate and in the House soon, ideally with a signature by President Obama by the end of 2010. There are some complications right now with how much money will be appropriated towards the Act this year, as well as how that money is divided once it is appropriated. Please call your local Senator or Representative and tell them that you support reauthorization of this bill at 14 million, not 9 million (dollars). For more on NEEA, including a letter template, join the AEOE email advocacy list. Remember: "the world is run by those who show up." -Anonymous

State-wide Addresses:

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<http://www.aeoe.org>

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Ryan Brennan
president@aeoe.org

Vice President:
Tara Murgatroyd
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Chief Financial Officer:
Zayanne Gardner Thompson
cfo@aeoe.org

Membership:
Helen de la Maza
membership@aeoe.org

Webmaster:
Ryan Brennan
webmaster@aeoe.org

Secretary:
Coleen Ryan
secretary@aeoe.org

Members-at-Large:
Michael Charnofsky
Tom Drake

Southern Section Addresses:

Chair:
Steve Morris
southern.chair@aeoe.org

Adventure/ Outings Coordinator:
Stephen Morris
southern.outings@aeoe.org

Northern Section Addresses:

Chair:
Jymn Meier
northern.chair@aeoe.org

Adventure/ Outings Coordinator:
Karyn "Kestrel" O'Hearn
Cathy Harkness
northern.outings@aeoe.org

AEOE Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone: () _____ H W C *(select one)*

Address: _____ e-mail*: _____
(necessary for E-Newsletter)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School/Program: _____ Position/Title: _____

AEOE Membership ID *(if renewing member)* _____

Membership Category

- Basic \$20
- Student/Intern \$15
- Contributing \$35
(Thanks for your additional tax-deductible donation to AEOE)
- Life \$200
- Institutional (organization only) \$75
(Does not include individual memberships for staff)

Membership Status

- New
(Includes complimentary issue of Green Teacher Online)
- Renewal
- Change of Address
- Send paper newsletter**

Please make checks payable to: AEOE

Mail to: AEOE Membership
c/o Helen de la Maza
8 Ardmore
Irvine, CA 92602

* The e-mail you receive with the E-Newsletter will notify you of your AEOE membership expiration date.

** If you select a paper copy, your mailing label will have your expiration date.