

TEF NEWS

*FROM THE TRAQC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
DECEMBER 2009*



Welcome and Happy New Year!

Welcome to our first edition of the **TEF News**, our e-Newsletter for the TRAQC Educational Foundation (TEF). The TRAQC Educational Foundation (TEF) is a local 501 (c) (3) non-profit public charitable foundation. We provide direct benefit to public education services and programs for Tracy area public school students focused on Tracy's History and Natural Environment.

We plan to issue regular editions of the **TEF News** twice a year, but will provide more frequent updates if needed. And to save trees (we are about environmental education after all!) and money we will only provide an email version. So make certain we have your current email address.

As part of this effort we have updated our web site (www.traqc-foundation.org) to provide better information for teachers and the community. You can find Announcements and recent News or sign up for our e-Newsletter and RSS Feeds that notify you when we have posted an update. Our special thanks go to David Sul of Sul and Associates (www.sulandassociates.com) who helped update our site.

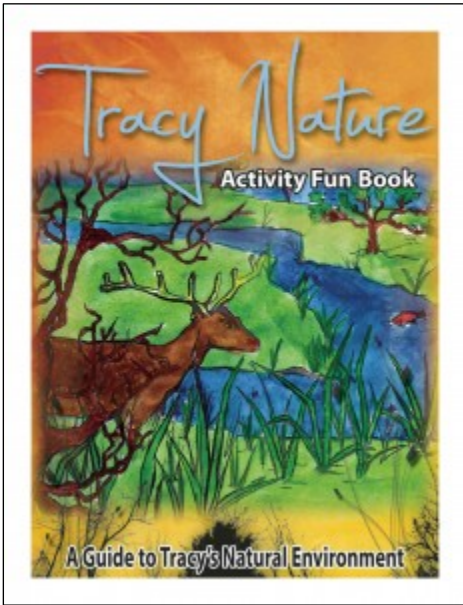
Let us know your [comments and suggestions](#) as our web site and e-Newsletter are 'works in progress.'

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Nature Activity Fun Book issued

In September 2009 TEF issued the first edition of the [*Tracy Nature Activity Fun Book*](#) to 31 fourth grade classes and nearly 1,000 students in Jefferson School District and Tracy Unified School District.



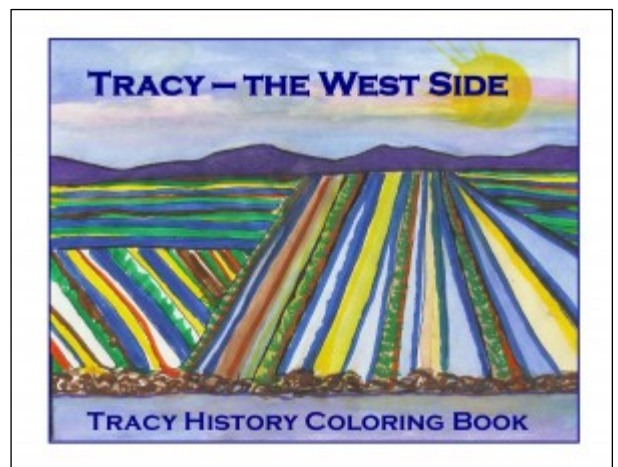
The activity book is designed to support and complement State and District physical and life science curriculum and provide a fun and easy way for teachers to incorporate information about Tracy's natural environment into their required lesson plans. We hope the activity book will encourage students to learn more about the natural environment of their Tracy community, how they are connected to it, and how they can help enhance and protect it.

Grants from the Great Valley Center and The Safeway Foundation and community donations supported development and production of the first edition of the Nature Book. With your continuing support, we hope to be able to provide the *Tracy Nature Activity Fun Book* to 4th grade classes each year.

2009 History Grants awarded

In October 2009, the Educational Foundation issued over \$6,400 in [classroom grants](#) to 47 third grade teachers in Jefferson School District and Tracy Unified School District to cover registration fees for the Tracy Historical Museum school program and the Historic Lammersville Pioneer School program. The nearly 1,200 students supported by the Classroom Grant program will also receive a copy of the *Tracy History Coloring Book* developed and produced by TEF.

We could not fund these classes to attend the local history programs without your support. Donations and proceeds from the 2009 *'Dinner in the Field'* fundraiser directly support this program.



[Tracy Poppy Project launched for season](#)

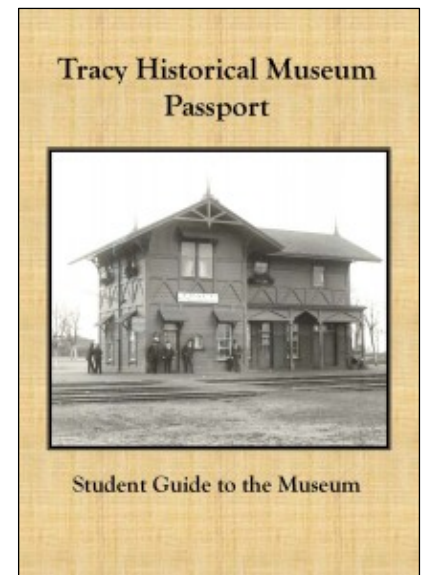


As part of the [Tracy Poppy Project](#), California Poppy seeds packets plus classroom resource materials were distributed to over 25 4th and 5th grade classes in Jefferson School District and Tracy Unified School District in early December. Classes will plant their seeds in December and January and watch their beautiful California Poppies bloom in the spring. Join the Tracy Poppy Project and plant poppies in your yard. Help us celebrate our state flower and make Tracy bloom with California Poppies each spring.

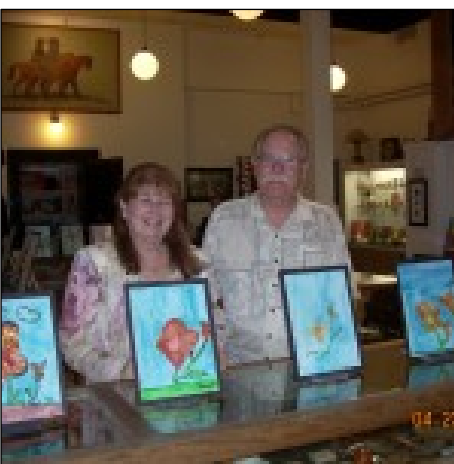
[Museum Passport developed](#)

To make the Tracy Historical Museum more accessible for younger students, the TRAQC Educational Foundation has developed a [Tracy Historical Museum Passport - Student Guide to the Museum](#). The Passport is a fun guide to the Museum, leading students on an interactive hunt through its treasures.

We are now raising funds to print the first edition for Museum docents to use. If you would like to contribute to help print the *Tracy Historical Museum Passport – Student Guide to the Museum*, please send your tax deductible donations to TEF, PO Box 721, Tracy, CA 95378.



[Student Art Shows set for March and April](#)



After a successful first year, TEF will sponsor two Student Arts Shows at the Tracy Historical Museum in 2010. Featured in March will be California Landscapes from Theresa Ayala's 4th grade class at Hirsch School. In April, Adele Bloch's 4th grade class from Freiler School will display their paintings of California Valley Quail and California Poppies. Plan to visit the Tracy Historical Museum in March and April and enjoy the student art work and the Museum's displays.

- **California Landscapes - March 8 – 24, 2010**
- **California Quail and Poppies - April 12-28, 2010**

Make TEF part of your annual giving

TEF relies on community support from you, corporate donations and small grants to continue to conduct our local history and environmental education programs and develop new programs for local students. We are pleased to partner with the West Side Pioneer Association to support local history programs, and serve as the only organization conducting local environmental education. TEF is a local 501 (c) (3) non-profit public charitable foundation and your donations are tax deductible. As the year end approaches, please consider making TEF part of your annual giving. Your ongoing support is essential to our continued work to link our students to their community.

TRAQC Educational Foundation

PO Box 721

Tracy, CA 95378

TIN – 68-0470312

State CT # – CT119082

Get your TEF S.H.A.R.E.S. card

You can now help TEF raise funds year long just through your regular grocery shopping. The TRAQC Educational Foundation now participates in the Save Mart Corporation S.H.A.R.E.S. program. When you shop at a Save Mart, Food for Less, Lucky or SMART Foods store, Save Mart Corp will donation up to 3% of the value of your purchase to TEF. All you need is a **TEF S.H.A.R.E.S.** card that will link your purchases to the TEF account. When you do your regular shopping, just swipe the card before you pay and your order is finished being rung up. That is it! There is no cost to you and does not affect your purchase in any way. Consider helping TEF by using a **TEF S.H.A.R.E.S.** card. If you have questions or would like a **TEF S.H.A.R.E.S.** card, please mail tef@starband.net.

Watch for announcements about TEF fundraisers

Thank you for your support of our annual fundraisers. Your generosity and donations allow us to continue to support the classroom registration fee grants for the Tracy Historical Museum and the Lammersville Pioneer School, plus all other TEF offerings described in this newsletter.

In **May 2010**, we will hold a giving campaign asking for your help to sponsor classes at the Lammersville Pioneer School and Historical Museum programs for the 2010/2011 school year. The next ***Dinner in the Field*** fundraiser will be in **May 2011**. It will feature a hike, bird watching, dinner, raffle, auction and more. It is a great time and we hope you will plan on joining us.

About TEF - The TRAQC Educational Foundation (TEF) is a local 501 (c) (3) non-profit public charitable foundation formed in 2000 to provide direct benefit to public education programs and services for Tracy public school students focused on Tracy's History and Natural Environment. The TRAQC Educational Foundation is run by a volunteer board. The Foundation is seeking interested community members and teachers to serve on the volunteer Board. For more information go to www.traqc-foundation.org

If you would like to be removed from our e-newsletter list please [reply here](#), and put UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

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tef@starband.net , www.traqc-foundation.org, CT – 119082, TIN – 68-0470312