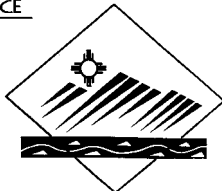


EE CONNECTIONS

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The Forester's Log: Pilgrimage to Boca Chica

Contributed by Mary Steuver

Do desert rivers have deltas? This is one of the questions that is coursing through my mind as I run along the deserted ocean beach. Another question is one of distance. It is hard to tell from the scale on the map provided at the airport rental agency just how far it is from where the paved road to Boca Chica Beach ends, to where the Rio Grande empties into the ocean. Is it one mile? Ten miles? How long do I have to run?

I am on a mission to see for myself the mouth of the Rio Grande, which is known as the Rio Bravo on the south side of the United States/Mexico border. I have a personal fascination with this river. I was born next to the Rio Grande, and have lived much of my life within its watershed. The river itself stretches almost 2,000 miles...the actual figure varies depending on how finely one counts the changing meanders.

Despite what my river-rafting comrades may feel, I believe one truly knows a river, when one knows the river's watershed. Simply defined, the watershed is all of the land where falling rain or snow can ultimately feed the river. For me, watershed boundaries are natural delineations. Watersheds tie us together. We can define our citizenship by watershed, as well as by town, county, state, or country. To know our watershed is to understand the people, cultures, and ecosystems that are supported by this life-giving water. The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo watershed includes three states in the United States and five states in Mexico. It is huge, and so there is a lot to learn as a watershed citizen.

I have a personal goal to study the watersheds I feel bonded to...the Rio Grande and the Colorado River. Last July, I stood at the top of Stony Pass on the Continental Divide in Colorado. This point is considered to be the origin of the Rio Grande, in that it is the furthest point away from the mouth where raindrops falling could still theoretically reach the Gulf of Mexico via the Rio Grande.

There is a heavy emphasis on the theory. In this age of water allocations for agriculture, industry and urban sprawl, Colorado raindrops do

Continued on page 4

EEANM^{NEWS}

EPA Roundtable in Review

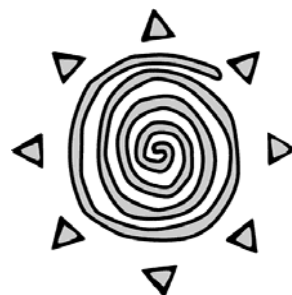
The EPA Region Six Roundtable was held in Dallas, Texas on March 12th and 13th, 2002 at the EPA Regional Offices. New Mexico was well represented with six members in attendance and four of them presenting. Mary Dwyer, current president of EEANM did a presentation on the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program. Dr. Paul Miko represented the Peace Corps Master's International Program at UNM in the College of Education, Parks, Recreation, and Environmental Education Department. Ramsey Lofton, UNM Fine Arts Outreach Coordinator, presented on Art and Environmentalism, and Chris Campbell (WERC P2 Coordinator) was a presenter for the Green Zia Program. Also in attendance were Dr. Debra Thrall (WERC and EEANM Treasurer) and Kevin Holladay (New Mexico Department of Game and Fish). EEANM representatives also shared other EE program news from New Mexico with those in attendance.

Many important issues were discussed at the roundtable. These included all of the presentations above as well as State, Federal, Tribal, and Higher Education program updates from Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. In addition, participants heard reports from Project Food, Land, and People, Tools for Schools, Environmental Justice, and the Regional Video Library. The next roundtables are scheduled for July 9-10, 2002 and November 19-20, 2002.

Stay Connected with EEANM

<http://www.eea.nm.org>

Get up-to-date information about events, job announcements, volunteer opportunities, requests for grant proposals and more. Visit us often!



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EEANM 2002 Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting

EEANM is preparing to host its leadership conference and annual meeting. With a wide variety of individuals there to help define our future, last year's conference was a success. We hope to continue with this good work this fall. The following information is meant to make you aware of the leadership conference and annual meeting so that you may plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!

Date: September 22 – 24, 2002

Where: Ghost Ranch Conference Center - Abiquiu, NM

Please check out this beautiful Conference Center at www.plazaresolana.org

Registration Fee: \$50.00 – Professional

\$40.00 – Student/Teacher

\$60.00 – Late/On-site Registration (You may need to find lodging other than at Ghost Ranch.
Contact EEANM to confirm your room reservation.)

*One Day registration fee will be \$15.00 off total registration cost

*Registration includes EEANM membership

Please be prepared to register as of the next EE Connections newsletter in July, which will include a registration form. Due to space limitations, you need to reserve a room as soon as possible. Rooms will be assigned based on double occupancy with dorm style bathroom facilities. Please be thinking of with whom you wish to room. Our expected attendance is 70 participants. Housing must be reserved through EEANM. Ghost Ranch will not accept reservations for this conference. Rooms need to be reserved by August 23rd in order to avoid penalties to EEANM.

Total cost for two nights lodging and all meals (six):

- Corral rooms are \$98.00 / person
 - Mesa rooms are \$94.00 / person
 - Casitas rooms are \$74.00 / person
 - Campground \$26 / person (meals NOT included)
- Meals: breakfast \$5, lunch \$6, dinner \$7 per day

For more information, please contact:

Richard Becker Ph. D, crbecker@swcp.com

Mary Dwyer, dwyermc@unm.edu

Thank you EEANM!

The following is a letter received by Deb Thrall on behalf of EEANM on December 18, 2001 from the Harwood Art Center.

Dear Deb:

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Harwood Art Center/Escuela del Sol Montessori and myself, I would like to thank you for your sponsorship of the Art and Environment Panel Discussion we held in November this year.

I think the panel was a fantastic step for making a vital, first contact aimed at creating a shared vision between artists and environmentalists. I hope EEANM and Harwood can continue working together to support this kind of dialogue in the future.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Susan McAllister

Director of Development/Special Projects

not stand a chance of reaching the ocean. By the time the river reaches Fort Quitman, south of El Paso, the riverbed is often dry. Further downstream, the river is recharged by the Rio Conchas coming in from the Mexican side. The Conchas provides water to the Rio Grande just in time to flow through Big Bend National Park.

I remember how that late summer day on Stony Pass was also foggy. We were up in the clouds, experiencing a cool monsoon typical of the season. I marvel at the similarities in weather, as the ocean fog lies along this beach, limiting visibility like that low-lying mountain cloud. I consider how unusual this weather is for most of the Rio Grande watershed. It is typically a desert region that feeds this river.

I am in the Brownsville area today because of this river. I have just attended a two-day training and celebration of a new curriculum guide to help educators teach about the river. The guide, called *Discover a Watershed: Rio Grande/Rio Bravo*, is published and sold by The Watercourse, a national educational organization in Montana. This is the second guide in a series. The first one was on the Florida Everglades. Guides for the Missouri and the Columbia Rivers are underway. This spring work will start on the Colorado River watershed. Several years ago, the Montana writing team assembled a group of approximately 100 people from both Mexico and the United States to help compile information and activities for the guide. Now, we have reassembled to receive the guide. I am part of that lucky group.

My luck was extended after the workshop when my airplane was overbooked and I opted to wait a day to leave South Texas. This gave me the chance to see the mouth of the Rio Grande. I am expecting something grandiose. The early morning sky is overcast and the fog is just beginning to lift. About three miles into my solitary run, I meet a few fishermen and inquire about the river. "You are almost there," I am told. I follow the extended hand pointing to what looks like a pond. I am confused and

it must show on my face. "There is not enough water to make it to the ocean," I am told.

I run on to a sport utility with familiar green stripes on a white background. The kind officers with the Immigration and Naturalization Service caution me from continuing past a pathetic line of drift logs, litter, and survey stakes. That's the border, they explain. I complain that I was expecting a river.

The end of the river is in sight, about 100 feet from the ocean. The Border Patrol agents tell me that the sandbar that separates river from ocean has already had a channel dredged in it once. It filled back in rather quickly. It is not so much an issue to be solved by engineering, but by water politics. If the river is to reach the ocean, enough water has to be left in it to get there.

That means we, as citizens of the watershed, need a society, on both sides of the river, who appreciates the river for the river's sake. I am reminded, standing there at the drift log border, why I, as a forester from the mountains of the American Southwest, am so committed to spending time teaching about the Rio Grande watershed. I am sure if people love their river, they will find a way to keep it alive. Perhaps someday this river will flow again, and its fresh waters will mix with the salt waters of the ocean. And maybe there will even be a delta.

Mary Steuver is a forester by trade, an environmental education consultant and a long-time member and supporter of EEANM.

TV Turnoff Week is April 22-28

Children in the US will spend 1,023 hours (on average) in front of the tube this year. This week is a special time to get up and be active, and to leave the TV behind. Possibly, nature will be the answer, and this alternative can be helpful in encouraging behavior for the great outdoors (go EE!!) Pass this information on to other members of the community, and for more information, check out the website www.tvturnoff.org.

New Curriculum Focuses on the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo

Contributed by Cheri Vogel

Discover a Watershed: The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Educators Guide is the newest publication in the *Discover a Watershed* series from The Watercourse/International Project WET. The new curriculum received a gallant kick-off in South Padre Island, Texas, November 30 – December 1, 2001. John Keyes, Executive Director of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and Abelardo Amaya Enderle from the Tamaulipas and National Water Commission of Mexico showed their support as the workshop's keynote speakers.

The Watercourse/International Project WET, a not-for-profit water science and education program based at Montana State University, Bozeman, developed *Discover a Watershed: The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Educators Guide* for formal and non-formal teachers of students in grades six through university. It includes a substantial background section (127 pages) and a collection of innovative activities that are easy to use, interactive, challenging and fun. Depending upon grade level, interest or curriculum needs, educators and students may choose to investigate the hydrology, geology, geography, plants, fish and wildlife, culture, history or contemporary issues of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo watershed. The activities are presented according to a proven and practical format for classroom use and are entirely self-contained. The curriculum can provide a six to eight week course study of the watershed or it can be used as individual activities to supplement an existing course.

The publication is the resulting collaboration of hundreds of educators, students, resource managers, scientists and others from both Mexico and the United States. The English edition is currently available and the Spanish edition will be available in March of 2002. Also in the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo series is *Investigating and Evaluating Environmental Issues of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo River Valley* and *Discover Rio Grande/Rio Bravo KIDS Activity Book*.

Investigating and Evaluating Environmental Issues of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo River Valley, published by Stipes Publishing Company, details how to identify, analyze, investigate and take action on environmental issues. It guides the learners through issue investigations associated with the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo. The goal is for the students to develop ownership and empowerment associated with environmental issues that will lead to positive citizen action. There is both a teacher and student edition.

Discover Rio Grande/Rio Bravo KIDS Activity Book is part of the Kids In Discovery Series from The Watercourse/International Project WET. It is designed for upper elementary and middle school students. This colorful 14-page supplement provides young readers with a variety of creative, hands-on activities, projects, games and valuable information about the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo. Like the *Educators Guide*, the English edition is currently available and the Spanish edition will be available in March 2002.

Additional publications by The Watercourse/International Project WET include: *Discover a Watershed: The Everglades*, *WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands* and *Conserve Water Educators' Guide*.

For pricing and ordering information on any of the materials mentioned in this article contact The Watercourse/ International Project WET at (866) 337-5486. If you are interested in hosting a teacher workshop in New Mexico for the *Discover a Watershed: The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Educators Guide* or *Project WET*, please contact Bryan Swain, New Mexico Project WET Coordinator at (800) 523-5996.

Cheri Vogel is the Water Conservation Education Specialist for the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. She has been a member of EEANM since 2000.

Hawks Aloft Shares Their Success...

With Burrowing Owls

Earlier this spring, Hawks Aloft created underground burrows for burrowing owls at one of PNM's generating stations in Albuquerque. Several small owls are already long-term residents of this facility. Hawks Aloft created the new burrows for burrowing owls that have been rehabilitated. They will be carefully reintroduced to their native habitat with the help of the new burrows and supportive power plant employees.

The burrowing owl is endangered in some states and in parts of Canada and "a species of concern" in others, including New Mexico. They are on the New Mexico Partner in Flight "high priority" list. The species' population has been impacted by habitat destruction, control of burrowing mammals, pesticides, predators and vehicle collisions.

The burrowing owl is a small, burrowing, crepuscular bird that inhabits open short grass prairie, treeless plains and deserts with sparse vegetation. They can be found breeding on native prairie, pastures, cropland, fallow fields, road and railroad rights-of-way, cemeteries, golf courses, aircraft fields, vacant lots, fairgrounds and university campuses. In New Mexico, Hawks Aloft is monitoring active nests at Kirtland and Holloman Air Force Bases.

Burrowing owls use the nests of other animals including prairie dogs, ground squirrels and badgers to raise their young. The new burrows constructed at the PNM power plant are made of hollow concrete block, and designed to resemble the burrows of a prairie dog. PNM plans to install a web cam between the established burrowing owl colony and the newly introduced rehabilitated birds. If the project succeeds, pictures will be available on the PNM website at www.pnm.com.

With American Kestrels

Hawks Aloft, PNM, and B & D Industries cooperated to install kestrel nesting boxes at four area schools, in hopes of drawing mating pairs to the school grounds for the spring breeding season. The sites are: Corrales Elementary, Corrales; Carroll Elementary, Bernalillo; Bernalillo Middle School; and Mountain View Elementary, Albuquerque. Thanks to everyone who replied to an earlier message asking for volunteer schools.

The American kestrel has been the focus of area students since 1999. Hawks Aloft has introduced American kestrel nesting boxes at six other schools in the Albuquerque area in prior years: Eisenhower Middle School, Foothill Middle School, Garfield Middle School, Harrison Middle School, Jefferson Middle School and Taylor Middle School. Students at work on the project this year have learned about the kestrel's habitat requirements, and constructed the nest boxes. Students will monitor the boxes to see how many chicks hatch and note survival rates. Their results will be posted on the Internet. A video-camera monitoring system in active nests will provide photographs in five-minute intervals. The project will run three to five years. For more information, check PNM's website at www.pnm.com, or e-mail Jean Arya at jarya@pnm.com.

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Released an Info Brief on Environmental Education

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), has released an Info Brief called "Environmental Education: Moving Into The Educational Mainstream". Published last August, the Info Brief highlights the use of environmental teaching strategies to promote educational achievement and draws a connection between environmental education and state learning standards.

The Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) has been distributing paper copies of the ASCD Info Brief for several months and interest has been strong according to Communication Director, Bob Holsman. "We've had many requests for the Info Brief because K-12 teachers and school administrators are always looking for ways to improve the quality of their instruction and this report indicates that EE delivers positive results," said Holsman.

Whereas some educators have considered environmental education (EE) an add-on or an enhancement of science programs, the ASCD Info Brief tells a much different story, according to Gus Medina, Project Manager for the Environmental Education and Training Partnership. "ASCD's

decision to feature environmental education signals a growing recognition by the formal education community of the role EE can play in achieving broad educational goals," said Medina. "Largely because of its focus on citizenship education and critical thinking, environmental education is compatible with other educational approaches such as service learning, character education, and education for democratic participation," said Dr. Deborah Simmons of the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education, also quoted in the report.

Background on ASCD

Founded in 1943, ASCD, an international, non-profit association, is one of the largest professional development organizations for education leaders. It provides world-class education information services, offers cutting-edge professional development for effective teaching and learning, and supports activities to provide educational equity for all students. ASCD's 165,000 members reside in more than 140 countries and include principals, teachers, superintendents, professors of education, and other educators. For questions relating to ASCD or the Info Brief, contact Christy Thorp at cthorp@ascd.org or 703-575-5608.

Background on EETAP

EETAP is the national training program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Environmental Education established through the National EE Act of 1990. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UW-SP) administers EETAP through a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA. Eleven other organizations work with UW-SP to coordinate and deliver support services and training to increase opportunities for professional development available in EE.

EETAP's activities support pre and in-service classroom teachers as well as educators working in non-formal settings such as museums and government agencies. EETAP partners include the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Greater Washington Urban League, Groundwater Foundation, National EE Advancement Project (also at UW-SP), National Project WET, North American Association for Environmental Education, Northern Illinois University, Ohio State University, Project Del Rio, Project Learning Tree and World Wildlife Fund. More information about EETAP can be obtained by visiting our web site at www.eetap.org.

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Info Brief on EE

<http://www.ascd.org/readingroom/infobrief/issue26.html>

Experiments in Communication

Contributed by Cary Weiner

Bringing together a large assembly of people to work on creating and maintaining quality environmental education in North America can be a tremendous challenge. As a new member of the EEANM community, I have an idealistic view of its potential. I believe the association can be an effective tool for change in the span and scope of environmental education with proper communication among its members.

A short while back, I attempted communication with the EEANM community via its listserv. I posed a few questions about some fundamental ecological concepts I found difficult to explain to my students. To my delight, I received some thoughtful responses that I am currently considering deeply. To my dismay, only a handful of people responded at all. I received a similar response on a subsequent attempt at communication.

As educators, we should understand the importance of thoughtful communication in introducing, developing, and challenging ideas. Possessing information is only valuable if that information can be communicated effectively to our students. My experiments in communication with the EEANM membership indicate that we possess enough information to be self-sufficient. But do we lack the communication necessary to be effective?

According to my idealistic view of the association, the answer is 'no'. These were simply isolated incidents around the holidays. The EEANM community is centered enough to help environmental educators in need of expertise through use of tools such as its listserv. Right?

Editor's note: There has been a steady increase in communication via the listserv. It is a great tool for sharing information, requesting assistance, or engaging in dialogue.

Summer Newsletter Deadline: June 3

The EE Connections Summer Newsletter will go out in July 2002. The deadline for articles and information is June 3. Please submit long or short articles about environmental education and other closely related topics. In addition, information about materials and opportunities is welcome. We would like to acknowledge our members for their ongoing contributions and accomplishments in environmental education. Please notify the newsletter editor if you or someone you know has participated in a conference, received a grant, completed a project or achieved success in some way, big or small.

Please send your contributions to Stephanie Stansbury at the e-mail address below. If you send an attachment, it should be a Microsoft Word document *without* any special formatting. Call Stephanie at (505) 256-4343 with any questions or special requests.

Send newsletter contributions to: stephaniestansbury@earthlink.net

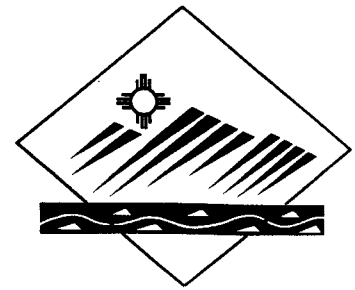
ECO-ED The Listserv for New Mexico Environmental Educators

If you haven't signed on to the eco-ed listserv, you are missing a great information link on what's up in New Mexico Environmental Education. Signing up is easy; just follow the directions below.

1. Prepare a new e-mail message.
2. In your "To" field, type: **mayordomo@lists.nm**
3. In the body of the message, type:
subscribe ecoed your email address
For example: **subscribe ecoed leo@aldo.org**
4. Very quickly, you should receive a return message saying: "Welcome to the ecoed mailing list..." and a second message saying "Subscribe ecoed barney@purple.org Succeeded"
5. To send a message to the listserv, address it to:
ecoed@lists.nm.org
6. To unsubscribe from the listserv, send a new email to: **mayordomo@lists.nm.org** In the body, type:
unsubscribe ecoed your email address
7. To reply to an individual, please create a new email message with their email address in the "To" field. Do not press "Reply" or your message will go to the entire listserv.

New Mexico State Land Office

Ray Powell, M.S., D.V.M., Commissioner of Public Lands



We work for education.

La Semilla Update

La Semilla, “the seed,” is a 2,800-acre nature refuge and environmental education campus planned for state trust lands on the eastern edge of Mesa del Sol in southeast Albuquerque. For further information about La Semilla, visit the State Land Office website: www.nmstatelands.org.

Education Partnership Opportunities—The State Land Office seeks educational partnerships at all grade levels with Albuquerque-area schools (public and private). Potential programs at La Semilla include outdoor classrooms, group service projects, and scientific and archaeological activities. Teachers are encouraged to “get in on the ground floor” at La Semilla and help shape its development into a first class facility. For further information contact: Dana Vackar Strang, Environmental Education Coordinator, (505)827-3809, dvackar@slo.state.nm.us.

Hy Rosner Memorial Service—On May 19 at 3:00 p.m., La Semilla will be the location for a service to celebrate the memory of Hy Rosner. Hy was a legendary conservationist who, together with his wife, Joan, did so much for environmental education in Albuquerque, including authoring *Albuquerque's Environmental Story*. Hy passed away in December, shortly after he and Joan moved to Florida. Joan Rosner will be returning to Albuquerque for this special service. To be placed on the invitation list, or for further information on how you can participate, please contact Alana Eager at (505)344-2975, alanashands@aol.com or Dave Simon at (505)827-5764, dsimon@slo.state.nm.us.

State Land Commissioner Receives Wildlife Society Award

The New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society presented its 2001 Conservation Award to State Land Commissioner Ray Powell. Dr. Powell received the award for his significant contributions to the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat on state trust land in New Mexico. The award is presented annually to someone not directly employed as a wildlife biologist, but who has contributed significantly to the conservation of wildlife and/or wildlife habitat in the state. During Powell's term as State Land Commissioner, he initiated the first-ever inventory of plants and animals on state trust lands, received grants to fund river restoration projects, launched efforts to install wildlife drinkers on state trust lands, initiated a noxious weed management program, requested and received appropriations to improve watershed health, and signed memoranda of understandings with biology departments at three New Mexico universities to facilitate information sharing.

Resource Guide Listings Needed

EEANM needs your help in compiling a statewide resource guide. This guide will connect New Mexican's interested in Environmental Education throughout the state. Currently we are gathering submittals and will hold them to be published at a later date. If you are interested in listing yourself or your organization please contact Dana Vackar Strang by email at dvackar@slo.state.nm.us. You may also mail your business card or organizational flier with contact name to Dana's attention at the New Mexico State Land Office, P.O. Box 1148, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1148.



The DynaTheater Presents “Journey into Amazing Caves”

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science invites moviegoers to experience the mysterious world of the underground when “Journey into Amazing Caves” opens in the Extreme Screen DynaTheater. Infinitely mysterious and radical by definition, caves are one of Earth’s last unexplored frontiers. For those compelled to push their limits in the world’s most hostile environments, the risk of fatal danger and the thrill of new discovery are the everyday factors that make cave exploration such an awe-inspiring experience.

“Journey into Amazing Caves” is a visceral, suspenseful expedition with a new breed of scientists who boldly explore places once thought off-limits to human presence, let alone large-format cameras. For “Journey into Amazing Caves,” these scientists have joined with a team of intrepid filmmakers to bring unprecedented footage from unique and forbidding ice caves, underwater caves, and terrestrial caves to the Extreme Screen DynaTheater.

Audiences can squeeze into Earth’s alien, hidden realms guided by two women cavers on the quest of a lifetime: Daring to enter caves so remote and so threatening, exploring them is like exploring a new planet. During “Journey into Amazing Caves,” audiences will wriggle through tiny, twisting passages, drop into gleaming blue labyrinths of ice, swim through flooded underground

vaults, and enter a world so extreme the microscopic creatures that live there are called “extremophiles.” Viewers will circle the globe, stopping in the hot, lush Yucatán, dropping into barren, frozen Greenland, and flying above the primitive, red rock Arizona desert. And they will hold their breath as their expedition leaders, Dr. Hazel Barton and Nancy Aulenbach, rappel down steep cliffs into unmapped chambers, hoping to bring back startling discoveries that may unlock new cures for human disease.

At the heart of “Journey into Amazing Caves” is the moving triumph of two tenacious young women who are part of the new movement of extreme athletes and extreme scientists—scientists who gather their knowledge and data in treacherous, unforgiving zones of the environment. Dr. Hazel Barton is a microbiologist who is caving to save lives. Like an ancient explorer looking for new worlds, Barton travels the planet’s caves seeking undiscovered organisms that might hold new medical applications, including next-generation medicines to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis. Nancy Aulenbach, Dr. Barton’s caving partner, is a passionate adventure seeker, an expert in cave rescue, and a bold pioneer who is looking to expand the limits of what we know about caves—and how to save them from the imminent dangers of pollution and human encroachment.

Together the two women journey into worlds of unparalleled beauty and danger: The deep, perilous underwater caves of Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula; the frozen ice caves of Greenland; and the rugged limestone caverns of the Grand Canyon ecosystem. In these otherworldly zones, they find an alternate reality where the regular rules of biology and geology do not always apply. But no matter how strange or surprising the environments become, Barton and Aulenbach remain undeterred in their mission to bring back to the surface a new understanding of the richness and precariousness of life on—and within—Earth.

Acclaimed actor Liam Neeson narrates “Journey into Amazing Caves,” and it features new songs and performances by the classic rock band The Moody Blues. The band has written and recorded two new songs for the film—“We Can Fly” and “Water,” an instrumental.

“Journey into Amazing Caves” is produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films in association with the Cincinnati Museum Center and in cooperation with Ft. Worth Museum of Science and History and Milwaukee Public Museum. The National Science Foundation and the Endeavors Group, LLC, provided major funding. “Journey into Amazing Caves” will be shown in the Extreme Screen DynaTheater into mid-September 2002.

WERC

**A Consortium for
Environmental
Education and
Technology
Development**



WERC to Develop Indian Wells Education Site and Interpretive Trail

WERC recently received a grant from the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) hosted by the State of New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department. The program will sponsor up to 20 local students in the YCC to develop an educational trail and at the same time provide members of the corps with training in Alamogordo, NM.

The group will develop the Indian Wells Education Site, a micro-watershed located in the foothills of the Sacramento Mountains, just behind the NMSU-Alamogordo campus and the nearby Museum of Space History. This area was once occupied by Native Americans.

WERC will coordinate the development of the trail and education site designed to support cultural, historical, environmental, and natural resource studies to area public schools, university students and the citizens of New Mexico. The project will become a developed educational site designed to support the teaching of hands-on and interactive education programs. On the broader scope, the Indian Wells Education Site will be a destination that will serve as a community link to both education and recreation for the citizens of New Mexico.

Many partners will bring the project to fruition. The New Mexico Museum of Space History will provide educational programs for the corps members and sponsor the trail head. The U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln

National Forest Sacramento Ranger District is designating the land for the program and will also provide technical expertise in setting up the trail. New Mexico Rails to Trails will assist with trail identification and signage. Holloman Air Force Base Environmental Flight will provide technical assistance and educational services. And Alamogordo's Chaparral Middle School will provide educational programs and help to ensure that state curriculum standards are met.

Training and education activities for corps members will include:

- ◇ First-Aid and CPR
- ◇ Construction Safety
- ◇ Outdoor and Wilderness Safety
- ◇ OSHA Hazard Communication
- ◇ Leave No Trace Training
- ◇ Project Archaeology
- ◇ Watershed Education
- ◇ Environmental Impact Assessment
- ◇ Trail Development
- ◇ Geographical Information Survey
- ◇ Geology and Soils of the Region
- ◇ Hydrogeology of the Region
- ◇ Native Plants of the Region

The program will begin with an opening celebration planned for Space Day, May 4, that will be hosted by the Museum of Space History in Alamogordo.

For more information, contact Bryan Swain, (800)523-5996, bswain@nmsu.edu.

Upcoming WERC Events

High School Environmental Design Contest, Las Cruces, NM, April 8-11

Project Wet "Conserve Water", Las Vegas, NM, April 27

Summer Environmental Academy, Los Alamos, NM, July 14-19

Discover a Watershed: Rio Grande/Rio Bravo, statewide, summer and fall

For more information, call (800) 523-5996, or visit www.werc.net

MATERIALS & OPPORTUNITIES

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

As the weather warms, visitors will discover plenty to see, plenty to do, and plenty to learn at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. You'll find Bosque stands, bugs in cans, bull snake fans and teachers' plans. You'll also find ready hands, eager to explore, guide, and teach visitors of all ages about the plants and animals that make their home in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. The Nature Center's theme for 2002 is *Designs in Nature*, a topic that staff members and volunteer naturalists will explore throughout the year. You'll find nature's revealing patterns in a wide range of exhibits, hands-on activities, workshops and classes. Some scheduled events charge a nominal fee, but many are free. For more information or to sign up for an event, call (505) 344-7240.

For Young Children (June-Sept.)

Friday Evening Sessions for ages 6-12

Early Childhood Outdoors for ages 3-5 plus an adult

Week-long Classes for ages 6-12 (May-August)

Traveling Trunks visit classrooms during the school year

For Young Adults (June-July)

Junior Rangers for grades 6-9

Rio Grande Ecology Institute for grades 10-11

For Adults

Bird and Nature Walks (Saturdays and Sundays all year)

Full Moon Walks (once a month)

Los Poblanos Fields Bird Walk

Lectures, Classes and Hands-on Activities

For Everyone

Herb, Wildflower, and Native Plant Festival (May)

Summer Wings Festival (August)

Sustainable Education Conference and Build-a-Thon

Deming, NM

May 25-27, 2002

This event will include education and presentations on renewable energy, biodegradable systems, sustainable education, passive solar construction, and fuel cells. There will be workshops, demonstrations and a celebration with indigenous music, dance and crafts. Plus, you can participate in the second annual adobe Build-a-Thon. The Southwest Desert Sustainability Project sponsors this event. This organization is a 501(c) 3 educational organization engaged in creating tangible tools (skills training and work study programs) for certified building careers in poured adobe and composite adobe. Their objective is to create affordable, sustainable and self-sufficient housing on the U.S./Mexico border. Call Julie Schultz Ward at (505)544-0224 for more information or visit their website at <http://www.swdesertsustainability.org>.

Global Ecology: A Multicultural Approach

Albuquerque, NM

May 23-26, 2002

The purpose of this conference is to address the interdependence of ecological responsibility from a multicultural perspective. The method is one of dialogue - of deep listening and mutual respect for the different cultural perspectives and points of view that may be expressed. The panelists are leaders in the fields of Global Ecology and multiculturalism. Issues that will be explored include global economics, biotechnology, farming and food resources, environmental justice, indigenous rights, sustainable economic development, the effects of business and how business can change, wild lands restoration, urban ecology, the effects of environmental racism and much more.

This event is hosted by Seed Open University. For complete information, including confirmed participants, registration, cost, hotel information and Schedule of Events, please see www.seedopenu.org or call Toll-Free (888) 818-7333.

MATERIALS & OPPORTUNITIES

Advanced Project WILD Workshops offered by NM Dept. of Game and Fish

Lesser Prairie Chicken and Grasslands

What: An outdoor weekend exploration. Observe and participate in field research! Learn activities you can apply in the classroom.

When: April 12-14, 2002, (Friday evening to Sunday noon)

Where: Department Prairie Chicken Areas, Milnesand, NM

Cost: \$10.00

Who Should Attend?

This educational car camping weekend is designed for teachers K-12 and all adults interested in learning more about wildlife and their habitats. The format is strongly weighted towards content and how to integrate it into effective classroom teaching strategies.

What Do You Get?

A fascinating, colorful wildlife experience you will never forget! Loads of information on Lesser Prairie Chickens, their habitat and conservation. Ideas for classroom activities. Discussion with Prairie Chicken researchers. RV parking and camping in Milnesand. Meals NOT included. Hotels nearby in Portales.

What are we going to do?

We will be up well before dawn to seek out the sensitive Lesser Prairie Chicken on its traditional booming grounds. Our visit is timed to coincide with the annual, spring mating display of the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

Trout, Mountains and Forests

What: Join us for a free educational and fun-filled camping weekend, concentrating on the cold water fish of the Pecos River drainage, streamside habitat, aquatic insects, water quality and of course, fishing!

When: July 18-21, 2002, (Thursday evening to Sunday noon)

Where: Santa Fe National Forest, near Pecos, NM

Cost: Free

What are we going to do?

The cool, conifer forest on the edge of the Pecos Wilderness will be our backdrop for exploring the upper Pecos River watershed. We will be studying the habitat needs and life history of rainbow, brook, brown and our native Rio Grande Cutthroat trout.

We will learn how to tell what constitutes good trout habitat, what is happening with whirling disease in New Mexico, how to sample for stream insects and fish, and how to fly fish. See first hand how knowing fish biology makes for better angling.

The workshop will be led by fisheries biologists and watershed ecologists who will be demonstrating how and why they do their research. Experts will also conduct training on the latest in stream survey methods: snorkeling with the fish! Traditional methods of electroshocking will also be demonstrated.

Integrated into all of the hands-on activities will be suggestions for classroom use with lesson plans and correlations to academic content standards as well as Project Aquatic WILD activities.

Other Opportunities from the New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish

There has been a huge demand for Early Childhood Project WILD workshops. This training is for teachers or caregivers at the preschool level through 1st grade. The next workshop with space available will take place on March 21 at Los Ninos Kindergarten Center in Espanola, NM.

The Conservation Education Department can schedule Early Childhood Project WILD workshops or the regular Project WILD/ Aquatic WILD workshops for any school, agency or scout group. They require a minimum of 15 people with a maximum of 25. If the workshops are not a required teacher in-service, they ask

for a refundable \$10.00 deposit to hold a place. In addition, they are tentatively planning a combined WILD and WET two-day workshop for May of this year. Credit will be available from the University of New Mexico for the full 16 hour workshop.

Contact Colleen Welch at (505) 476-8119 or Kevin Holladay at (505) 476-8095 to register or to receive more information about any of the above events. In addition, you may visit the website for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish at www.gmfsh.state.nm.us.

MATERIALS & OPPORTUNITIES

Adopt-a-Watershed Leadership Institute

July 13-20, 2002 Bend, Oregon

The goal of the National Leadership Institute is to provide professional development to equip a leadership team with the information, skills, and shared vision to develop and establish high quality, self-sustaining Adopt-A-Watershed programs in schools within their designated watershed. The eight-day Summer Institute provides intensive leadership training in the integration of educational standards, curriculum application to local environments, and service-learning concepts.

<http://www.adopt-a-watershed.org/leadership.htm>

Rockin' Around New Mexico Summer Teacher Workshop

July 8-10, 2002 Farmington, New Mexico

Teachers! Don't miss this exciting opportunity to participate in a workshop on geology, mining, geologic hazards and other topics using hands-on lessons in class and in the field. The three-day workshop is based in Farmington, NM and includes a field trip to Shiprock, a tour of a BHP surface coal mine and the APS power plant, plus a special trip to Silverton, CO to tour a silver mine.

An optional hour of graduate credit is available through the MST program at Tech. Contact the MST office at (505) 835-5511 for information on tuition and fees, and an application (separate from the regular Rockin' registration).

Participants are responsible for their own lodging and some meals, transportation to Farmington, and a \$20.00 registration fee to cover materials. We provide a few meals, bus transportation for field trips, curriculum supplies, plus surprises.

For a workshop application, please contact Susie Welch at the NM Bureau of Geology at (505) 835-2311 or susie@nmt.edu. Space is limited so apply ASAP.

New Mexico Forestry Camp

June 9-14, 2002 Jemez Mountains, New Mexico

New Mexico Forestry Camp is looking for some folks to help out with this six day natural resources camp for youth 13-18 years old. The 2002 Forestry Camp will be held June 9-14 and there will be a training class for counselors June 8. The camp is held at Rancho del Chaparral, Girl Scout Camp in the Jemez mountains. The planners need several things.

1. They need people to help plan and organize the specialists and program. Planning meetings are held at least once each month with more meetings close to the first part of June.

2. They need adult counselors to supervise the campers and participate in the activities.

3. They need campers. A flyer will be out soon to promote the camp, and the website should soon be active (www.nmforestrycamp.org).

If this camp program interests you or you want to find out more, contact Peggy Ohler at pegohler@yahoo.com, Bob Cain at sacrops@nmsu.edu, or Peg Sorensen at (505) 761-8920.

How Big is Your Backyard?

http://www.globalethics.org/edu/hbyb_top.html

This secondary school environmental ethics curriculum, based on the Institute for Global Ethics' Ethical Fitness model, prepares educators and students to recognize the ethical issues that surround some of the world's toughest environmental problems. By combining teachings in ecology, natural history, environmental issues, and ethical decision-making, this curriculum allows students to think through some of these tough questions. Students are given the tools to apply ethical principles both to resolve these issues for themselves and to participate in their communities in thoughtful and decisive ways.

Earth Day is April 22!

Join individuals from around the world to celebrate. For ideas about how you might celebrate, visit the Earth Day Network.

<http://www.earthday.net>

MATERIALS & OPPORTUNITIES

Rio Grande BioPark Offers Summer Camps for Kids

The Rio Grande Zoo, Albuquerque Aquarium and Rio Grande Botanic Garden invite you to share another fun summer! Join us for one of seven different educational day camps designed to inspire children's awareness of natural surroundings and the plants and animals that make each habitat unique. For more information, call BioPark Education at (505) 764-6245.

For 5-7 year olds (begin July 9)

Discover the Zoo

Flower Power, Fishy Fun, Wild Art

Discover the Bio Park

For 8-10 year olds (begin July 9)

Explore the Zoo

Rio Adventures

Explore the Aquarium and Garden

For 11-13 year olds (begin July 9)

Animal Behaviors, Naturally

For 0-5 year olds (begin June 5)

Nature Dancing

Plus a Variety of Volunteer Opportunities including:

Touchpoolers

Aquarium/Garden Summer Teens

Conservation Camp Counselors

Dirt Devels

Greeters

Spanish Translators

Teen Theater Troupe

ZooEd Kaleidoscope Captains

Wildlife Magazine for Kids Available to Elementary Educators

Wild Outdoor World, a publication of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, is available for elementary school teachers in the Albuquerque area, says Kevin Holladay, Conservation Education coordinator for the Department of Game and Fish. "This exciting new wildlife magazine comes out five times a year and classroom copies are free," Holladay said. The New Mexico Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is donating the subscriptions. A 16-page supplement about bears was included in the last issue. The magazine stresses the importance of preserving habitat for wildlife. "The habitat message is being carried to thousands of elementary school classrooms in the United States and Canada," he said. "This is a great opportunity for educators to integrate wildlife education into meeting state standards." The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a wildlife conservation group with worldwide membership. It stresses the importance of habitat to elk and other species of wildlife.

To receive free copies of Wild Outdoor World, write to: Kevin Holladay, Project WILD, New Mexico Game and Fish, Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

Bringing Your Classroom to Life

May 29-31, 2002

Albuquerque, New Mexico

This action packed workshop for teachers focuses on how to teach math, science, English, social studies and other subjects using plants, bugs and animals! Hands on activities, including a field trip are packed into this dynamic 2 ½ day course. K- 12 teachers can earn one hour of Graduate credit for participating, with an option to earn additional credits by developing a special project. This workshop will be held May 29-31 in Albuquerque. Registration is limited, so contact Jennifer Hopper at (505) 532-4704 or jhopper@zianet.com for more information. You do not want to miss this great event!

Agriculture in the Classroom

National Conference

June 19-22, 2002

Washington, D.C.

This conference is FANTASTIC!! Teachers have the opportunity to share ideas, receive tons of free materials, and have wonderful learning experiences. Some of the highlights for this year's conference will be a "behind the scenes tour" at both the National Zoo and the Smithsonian's Insect collection, just to name a few. Registration and other information is available on-line at www.agclassroom.org or contact Jennifer Hopper at (505) 532-4704 or jhopper@zianet.com.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS

New Mexico Forestry Camp

www.nmforestrycamp.org

New Mexico Forestry Camp is a six day natural resources camp for youth 13-18 years old. The 2002 Forestry Camp will be held June 9-14. The camp is held at Rancho del Chaparral, Girl Scout Camp in the Jemez mountains.

If this camp program interests you or you want to find out more contact Peggy Ohler at pegohler@yahoo.com, Bob Cain at sacrops@nmsu.edu, or Peg Sorensen at (505) 761-8920.

BioPark Needs Volunteers

Orientation for volunteer opportunities will be held Wednesday, May 29th, 9:30-10:30am, at the Zoo. BioPark Education could not exist without the wonderful help from volunteers! Volunteering at the Zoo, Aquarium and Garden is a great way to meet new people, learn about the natural environment and spend time making a difference! Chances are, we've got the perfect volunteer job for you! If you are a teen, over 14 years old, or an adult, who would like to volunteer for the summer here, don't miss this orientation! We will share information about the various positions available during the summer months. For a full description of all volunteer jobs, visit our web site at www.cabq.gov/biopark. Click on Education and then on Volunteers for descriptions. Call BioPark Education at (505) 764-6245.

Junior Ranger Program

For students entering grades 6-9, two week-long sessions will be held in June and July. Students will explore life in the Bosque through hands-on study, journaling, habitat enhancement projects, and field trips. Call the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park at (505) 344-7240.

The River Ranger Project

Students aged 12-16 who have a strong interest in science and the environment are invited to apply to become a River Ranger in a 2-year model pilot program that puts students at the forefront of environmental protection of the Rio Grande and its ecosystems. Students must know how to swim and be able to pass a basic swim evaluation. For information, contact Paula Morgan at (505) 265-2253 or polly@unm.edu.

Geology/Hydrology Summer Mini Course 2002 at New Mexico Tech

July 14-19, 2002

New Mexico Tech and *The New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources* invite you to spend a week on campus exploring the possibilities of Earth Science as a degree major and as a career. You will learn how geologists and hydrologists use clues from the field and laboratory to solve questions that impact society. You will be able to sharpen your map skills, identify rocks and minerals, and see examples of geological processes at work in the landscape. Also, you will gather and analyze samples and data that will contribute to the completion of a scientific research project. By visiting the Waldo underground mine, you will learn about mining practices and economics. This weeklong course earns one hour of college credit. For more information, or to download an application, you can visit the NM Tech website at: <http://www.nmt.edu/mainpage/admission/mini.html#geol>

To register for the *Geology/Hydrology* Summer Mini Course, contact the Admission Office at New Mexico Tech, (505) 835-5424.

Rio Grande Ecology Institute

The Rio Grande Ecology Institute will be offered in 2 sessions this summer at the Rio Grande Nature Center. Students will either receive a small stipend (\$200) or 1 credit in environmental science (their choice). This is an outdoor ecology class offered for enrichment. Session I runs from 6/3 through 6/28 from 9-3, M-F. Session II runs from 7/1 through 7/26 from 9-3, M-F. Students can choose which session they would like to attend. To answer questions or get applications, please call Rob Yaksich at the Rio Grande Nature Center at (505) 344-7240 or email ryaksich@state.nm.us. Application deadline is 4/15.

Students to Examine Cerro Grande Fire at Summer Academy

High school students and teachers from throughout New Mexico are invited to participate in a weeklong research program held in Los Alamos, July 14-19, to examine the Cerro Grande Fire that occurred nearly two years ago in the Los Alamos area. Teachers receive a \$200 stipend and students receive a \$50 stipend. Only 25 teams will be accepted and the registration deadline is June 14. For registration information, contact Barbara Valdez at (800) 523-5996 or visit the following web site: www.werc.net/educators/summer_academy.htm.

Brand New for 2002: The New and Improved Environmental Education Barter Network!

<http://www.edgateway.net/eebarter>

Revised in January 2002, the new website has a new look and feel which is more user-friendly and intuitive than the original version. The process for setting up a barter trade agreement has been streamlined and can now be created in one easy step. We encourage you to visit the new site, explore and make use of the Environmental Education Barter Network as a tool in your local or regional EE capacity building work. If not currently a member of the Barter Network, please join today. Here are a few changes you will notice when visiting the new site:

Login is no longer required to view the main site. Visitors to the site can learn how the Barter Network works or view all member profiles and current and completed barter. If a member wants to set up a trade agreement or edit existing information, they simply use the Login link at the top of each page.

Quickly locate Barter Network members. You can locate all members, including your own barter profile, by exploring the lists of organizations or resource specialists or using the Search form. You will also find links for creating trade agreements on your profile page (once logged in).

Resource Specialists can now earn and spend EEBU's. Resource Specialists now have the option of donating EEBU's (Environmental Education Barter Units) earned in a trade to an associated organization or building up their own barter account for later trades.

Pennies for the Planet

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/windows/pennies/>

World Wildlife Fund's 2001-2002 Pennies for the Planet program targets three outstanding places from around the world - the Galápagos Islands, the Terai Arc, and the Klamath-Siskiyou Coniferous Forests. The program teaches students about what biodiversity is, why it's so important, and international efforts to protect it. Activities and support materials are available from the Pennies for the Planet web site.

New NAAEE Web Site

<http://www.naaee.org>

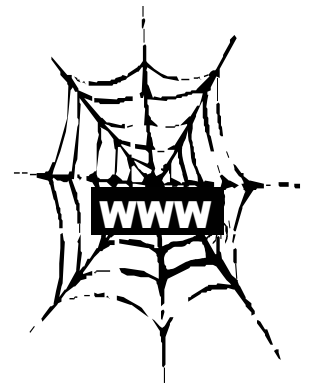
NAAEE's web site has been updated, reorganized, and improved! Features include new graphics, a special section for Affiliate members, and an online store with select NAAEE publications and birding products from HomeEarth.com. Future updates will include a member's only site, online access to the membership database, and other interactive features.

Do you have a favorite web site?

Let us know and we will put it in the next newsletter. We are always looking for new places to go for environmental education resources. Send to:

stephaniestansbury@earthlink.net

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connected



May is Biodiversity Month!

<http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/iboy/biomonth/>

"Explore Your World! Biodiversity Month" is a time to celebrate America's rich diversity of life through educational activities and scientific exploration. You can involve your students in "Explore Your World! Biodiversity Month" by organizing an activity to explore biodiversity for May 2002. Simply by registering your event with "Biodiversity Month" you can link your effort to those of others and contribute to a broader understanding of biodiversity. The "Biodiversity Month" web site offers suggestions, resources to help you plan an event and teach about biodiversity, and forms to register with "Biodiversity Month" and report your results in May. "Biodiversity Month" is part of the International Biodiversity Observation Year 2001-2002.

Bell LIVE! from Minnesota IDEALS

<http://www.umn.edu/bellmuse/mnideals/belllive.html>

Minnesota IDEALS brings worldwide science right into your classroom. This website is operated by the Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. Each year, Bell LIVE! electronic field trips seek to excite and engage youth about environmental science and the role humans play in the natural world. By providing positive role models and a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the world of science, Bell LIVE! motivates students to learn more about the environment and to consider science as a career. The 2001-2002 project, Nature in the City explores the organisms and ecosystems that exist in urban environments.

Portage County Groundwater Web Site

<http://www.uwsp.edu/water/portage/>

The Portage County Groundwater web site, sponsored by the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department of Wisconsin, features the county's groundwater problems as well as goals and management strategies, ideas for teaching adults and students about groundwater, and opportunities for public involvement. Although some information and maps focus specifically on Portage County, much of the information is applicable to other areas. For more information, contact Denise Kilkenny-Tittle at (715) 346-2722, or dkilkenn@uwsp.edu.

EPA Promotes Water Efficiency at Home

<http://www.h2ouse.net>

EPA is promoting water efficiency in the home by offering on-line information on saving water and reducing utility costs. For information on what you can do to improve water efficiency in your home, take a virtual tour of this Water Saver Home developed by the California Urban Water Conservation Council in partnership with EPA.

ThinkQuest

http://www.thinkquest.org/library/IC_index.html

The library contains unique educational web sites that have been created through ThinkQuest competitions and programs. The library currently contains more than 5,000 web sites built by kids for kids to use and learn. Try out *Energy Matters* where you play a simulation game concerning an energy crisis and *Design Paradise* that educates users about the interrelationships among industry, environment, and population.

