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**WERC**  
A CONSORTIUM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

**NATURE SW**



## Students Exercise their Minds at the Children's Water Festival

Contributed by Susan Gorman

"Let's look in the tray  
with the rocks!"

"OK, and then let's see  
who lives in the  
algae."

Fourth graders enjoyed  
the exhilaration of  
discovery as they met  
water bugs up close.  
They found stoneflies



under the rocks and other aquatic bugs sheltering in the algae. Next  
door, students filled cups from a jug of water representing our water  
supply to demonstrate that water is shared among cities and towns,  
nature, farmers, downstream users and (*see Water Festival page 7*)

## Multi Facilitator Wrap Up

Contributed by Carolyn Valtos

On February 6 and 7 of this year, EEANM, with the support of  
Project WET, Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, the Leopold  
Education Project, and several local curricula including the Bosque  
Education Guide, sponsored the second (of three) Multi-Facilitator  
Training Workshop in Las Cruces, New Mexico at the New Mexico  
Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. These workshops hope to update  
facilitators and train new facilitators by increasing knowledge,  
awareness and understanding about the environment. For this  
particular training, participants ranged (*see Multi Facilitator page 9*)

## **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. The following is an example of how you would subscribe if your email address was leo@aldo.org

1. Convert your email address as follows:  
**leo@aldo.org** becomes **leo=aldo.org**
2. Add your converted email address to this phrase:  
**ecoed-subscribe-leo=aldo.org@lists.nm.org**
3. To subscribe, send an email message to:  
**ecoed-subscribe-leo=aldo.org@lists.nm.org**
4. Don't put anything in the subject line or in the body of the message.
5. To send a message to the listserv, address it to:  
**ecoed@lists.nm.org**
6. To unsubscribe from the listserv, send an email to:  
**ecoed-unsubscribe-leo=aldo.org@lists.nm.org**

To reply to an individual's message on the listserv, 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.

*Have you experienced a great EE class, workshop, or program? Have you read an insightful EE article, book, or publication? Please share your experience or great find with other EE Connections readers by submitting to upcoming issues...*

## **Summer Newsletter** **Deadline is May 20**

The EE Connections Summer Issue will be distributed in June 2004. Please send submissions to the newsletter editor by May 20. Long or short articles about environmental education and other closely related topics are encouraged. Digital pictures accepted and welcomed. In addition, information about materials, opportunities, grants and job openings are welcome. Please send your contributions to Amy Claesson at the e-mail address below. If you send an attachment, it should be a Microsoft Word document *without* special formatting. Please send newsletter contributions: aclaesson@state.nm.us  
Inquiries or special requests: email Amy or call (505) 744-5998 or 744-5707.



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otherwise noted.*

*Have a message for the Board? On line Forums are  
available: [eeanm.org/PHPBB2/index.php](http://eeanm.org/PHPBB2/index.php)*

## Teacher Wins Grant for Playa Program

Terry Pipkin, a 6th-grade teacher at Highland Elementary in Clovis, New Mexico, recently received a \$1,000 grant from Public Service of New Mexico to conduct in-the-field playa education. Pipkin's students will study the nearby Green Acres playa to understand the wetland's value for people and wildlife, and investigate the overall "health" of the playa.



"My students will someday be in charge of my community and I will be relying on them to be stewards of this environment," Pipkin said. "My job is to show them that the world exists right outside that door. Their job is to step out and

ciation, joy and responsibility." Pipkin was assisted in preparing the project proposal by Tish McDaniel of Phalarope Consulting, who receives support from New Mexico's state capacity grant awarded by the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV). Pipkin has arranged for a variety of science experts to help teach her students, including David Haukos, a USFWS biologist at Texas Tech University, who is a longtime PLJV partner and member of the Joint Venture's biological planning teams.

Other teachers seeking educational materials on playas need only to look on the PLJV web site for a wealth of resources. The PLJV's Educator Resource Guide is a detailed index of books, activity guides, magazine articles, videos, and field programs focused on playas, associated uplands and wildlife. The Guide has recently been updated with several new sources, including a playa activity guide, video on Mountain Plovers, and pocket guides to prairie birds and raptors. If you have additional educational resources to include in the Guide, contact Debbie Slobe, Communications Team Leader, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, 103 E. Simpson Lafayette, CO 80026. She can also be reached at (303) 926-0777 or [debbie.slobe@pljv.org](mailto:debbie.slobe@pljv.org).

Learn more about PLJV at <http://www.pljv.org>

## PEEC Invites Community to Participate in Earth Day

The Pajarito Environmental Education Center is once again organizing Earth Day events in Los Alamos. This year's activities will be held from April 17 through April 25, with an Earth Day celebration on April 24. PEEC, a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to establishing a nature education center in Los Alamos, has organized Earth Day events for the past several years. This year's theme, Water for Life, is the same as the international Earth Day theme.

Even though recent snows have brought some needed relief to the drought-starved landscape of the Pajarito Plateau, water is a subject that will continue to make headlines. Albuquerque and Santa Fe routinely impose water restrictions, and PEEC's board would like to see more Los Alamos residents practice water conservation. "Like many northern New Mexicans, I have been enjoying a small return to winter that the February storms have provided," said PEEC Vice President Randall Ryti. "However, the brown or dead trees seem to stand out even more upon a fresh blanket of snow. Thus, the snow helps to emphasize some of the changes in our landscape from drought or fire and brings directly home the meaning of water for life.

"Hopefully, this visual reminder will encourage us to be better educated on the choices we have to improve the quality and quantity of water in our area," Ryti said. "One of PEEC's missions is to celebrate the earth, trees, and skies that make Los Alamos such a glorious place to live," said board member Becky Shankland. "Most of the time we just take it for granted, though fire and drought have made us more aware of what we could lose. Earth Day is the day to acknowledge our gratitude for this (*see Earth Day page 14*)

# **SPONSOR New Mexico Department of Game & Fish**

## **Teacher Enhancement Opportunity**

**June 17-20, 2004**

Advanced Project WILD  
Natural History Workshop



### ***Trout, Mountains and Forest***

The cool, conifer forests of New Mexico invite you to join us for 2 ½ days of exploring high altitude riverine systems. One focus will include the native cold water trout, the Rio Grande Cutthroat. The Conservation Education Section of the NM Department of Game and Fish will host both traditional and non-traditional educators at a location in northern New Mexico for this summer's Trout, Mountains and Forests Natural History Workshop.

Beginning Thursday evening and concluding Sunday mid-day, we will explore watersheds, riparian wildlife and the Montane ecosystem of northern NM. The Project WILD Coordinators, fisheries biologists, watershed ecologists and fly fishers will lead the activities. All activities will demonstrate practical methods of integrating language arts, science and math, as well as meeting NM Academic content Standards and Benchmarks. Pre-registration is required along with a housing fee.

Colleen Welch, Project WILD Assistant Coordinator  
N.M Dept. of Game and Fish  
505-476-8119 or cewelch@state.nm.us

## **Professional Development Opportunity**

**Sept 24-26, 2004**



Advanced Project WILD  
Natural History Workshop

### ***Rocky Mountain Elk & Forest Ecosystems***

Treat yourself to a weekend of experiential learning in the beautiful area known as the 'Yellowstone of New Mexico'. This workshop will take place at Shuree Ponds, Valle Vidal Unit, Carson National Forest, east of Costilla, NM. Cost: Free! Registration & deposit same as July Workshop. Pre-registration required, contact Kevin Holladay.



## **Professional Development Opportunity**

**July 16-18, 2004**

Literacy-Science-Math  
Advanced Project WILD



### ***Butterflies & Rocky Mountain Forest Ecosystems***

Treat yourself and family to a weekend of experiential learning and discovery in northern New Mexico! Learn how to bring butterflies and their habitat into the classroom. NM State Parks and Dept. of Game and Fish are teaming up to bring you an exciting weekend of fun and learning. This workshop will take place at **Heron Lake State Park** from Friday evening to Sunday noon. Cost: Training and all activities are free.

Activities will demonstrate practical methods of integrating New Mexico Content Standards and Benchmarks in science, math and language arts into the classroom • Engaging and inquiry-based learning adventures centered on butterflies and their habitat! • Learn how to safely stalk and observe butterflies from preeminent researchers. If we are lucky we might find hairstreaks, fritillaries and checkerspots! • Early morning beginning bird walks • Learn to identify wildflowers • Discover the hidden world of NM's bats • Night sky talks • Camp out with your family in gorgeous surroundings, network with other educators and enjoy the presence of several, beautiful butterfly species.

Accommodations include camping are available on site, or you can stay in Chama area hotels. Group size is limited to 25. Camping & entry fees are required. \$15 refundable deposit required to reserve space. Pre-registration required, contact Kevin Holladay.

Kevin W. Holladay, Project WILD Coordinator  
N.M. Department of Game and Fish  
505-476-8095 or Kholladay@state.nm.us



## **Project WET Workshop Covers Rio Grande Watershed**

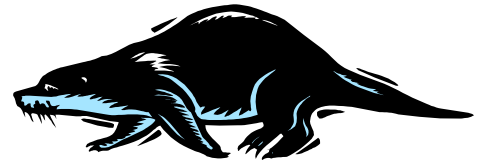
A total of 48 teachers attended a WERC-sponsored Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Workshop, Dec. 4, 2003 in Las Cruces, NM. The workshop was an addition to the NM Math and Science Teachers Conference held at New Mexico State University Dec. 4-6 that WERC co-organized.

The seminar addressed the Rio Grande Watershed that stretches from Colorado to the Gulf of Mexico, and covered topics including water issues, area culture, and water use and conservation issues of the watershed. The workshop was held in partnership with the Office of the State Engineer and included guest speakers from the Bureau of Land Reclamation and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District. The workshop also included a trip to Picacho Wetlands State Park in Las Cruces under the guidance of the Southwest Environmental Center of Las Cruces.

Project WET is a nationally developed, K-12 environmental education program with water as its central theme. Formal and informal teachers are given information concerning water issues and also experience lab exercises and activities designed to be utilized in the classroom.

For more information, contact Bryan Swain, (505) 646-1378 or [bswain@nmsu.edu](mailto:bswain@nmsu.edu).

# **Return of the River Otter?**



Contributed by Kevin Holladay

If ongoing feasibility studies by the NM Department of Game and Fish in the Upper Rio Grande pan out, then the long absent Northern River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) could be swimming in New Mexico in the next couple of years. This semi-aquatic carnivore was once fairly common throughout New Mexico's major river drainages. Otters were documented many times in the diaries and journals of early travelers in the region. Historical reports indicate that River Otters were present in the Gila River, the upper, and middle Rio Grande, Canadian River, and possibly the San Juan River. After centuries of trapping, habitat degradation and dam construction, otter populations were decimated. The last otter in New Mexico was trapped in 1953 in the Gila River near Cliff.

Since the 1970's there has been a groundswell of public support to reintroduce the River Otter. Of the 23 states where River Otters were extirpated, all but New Mexico has successfully reintroduced the species. Our neighboring states of Colorado, Arizona, and Utah all have viable River Otter populations.

While otters feed on crayfish and slower-moving fish, some sportsmen are concerned about the potential impact of otters on the state's trout waters, especially the San Juan River trophy waters. Although, River Otters will take the occasional trout they mostly prefer the slow-moving fish. Other states that have brought back the otter have found that because otters target exotic carp and crayfish that it reduces competition from these species and trout populations actually improve.

Educators and their students can learn more about River Otters by checking out the Forest Carnivore Education Trunk that contains among other items an otter skin and skull along with lots of information and activities on River Otters. Contact Kevin Holladay, Project WILD Coordinator, NM Dept of Game and Fish, (505) 476-8095, [Kholladay@state.nm.us](mailto:Kholladay@state.nm.us).



**2004 Summer  
Environmental Academy  
“Sustainable Use of Natural  
Resources”**

**July 18-23, 2004**

*Silver City, NM*



The Academy is a multi-disciplinary, hands-on program sponsored by WERC. The program is designed to increase

awareness of how

science, technology and mathematics relate to studies and careers in engineering and the environmental fields and provide teachers with the necessary resources and tools to implement a successful environmental curriculum in the classroom. Topics may include, watershed interactions, multiple use sustainability, ecotourism, recreation, sustainable forestry, agriculture, ranching, mining and endangered species.

The program incorporates educational, innovative and exciting activities for both students and teachers. A unique aspect of the academy is that students and teachers will work together as a team throughout the five-day event. Each team will participate in activities such as field trips, presentations by environmental professionals, hands-on research and laboratory activities, Internet research and PowerPoint presentations.

This event is hosted by Western New Mexico University in partnership with Gila National Forest, Surface Water Quality Bureau and the U.S. Forest Service.

For more information, contact Deb Thrall, (505) 277-0718, [dthrall@unm.edu](mailto:dthrall@unm.edu), or visit [www.werc.net](http://www.werc.net).

## WOW!

### Wetlands Workshop

**June 22 WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands**

**June 23 Follow-up Facilitator Training**

*Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro, NM* - Bring Wetlands Alive and into Your Classroom with WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands is an instructional guide for educators that provides a resourceful and creative collection of wetland activities, information, and ideas. The guide includes: hands-on multidisciplinary activities in lesson plan format, extensive background information on wetlands, ideas for student action projects, and a wetlands resource guide. Correlated to national and state science standards so schools can combine science curriculums with actual environmental stewardship, WOW! has been called, “the most comprehensive introduction to wetland issues and definitions” by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). WOW! Facilitator Training will join you into a nationwide network of trained WOW! facilitators who are increasing the level of wetland awareness and understanding – one workshop at a time. Benefits include: • Sanctioned to teach WOW! by a national leader in field of wetlands • Eligible to earn valuable gifts as part of Environmental Concern’s new Facilitator Incentive Program • Purchase WOW! books at a discounted price (required for Workshop).

**Registration Fees:**

**WOW!: \$40**

**WOW! Follow-up**

**Facilitator: \$40**



**Environmental  
Concern**

**we're All About Wetlands**

**[www.wetland.org](http://www.wetland.org)**

WERC in partnership with Environmental Concern, offers these trainings for the first time in NM. Info: Bryan Swain, (505) 546-1378 or [bswain@nmsu.edu](mailto:bswain@nmsu.edu)

**Project WET Workshop Covers Rio Grande Watershed**

“Water Education for Teachers” June 11-12 in Las Cruces, NM. The workshop is an addition to the NM Math and Science Teachers Conference held at NMSU in December that WERC co-organized. For more information, contact Bryan Swain, [bswain@nmsu.edu](mailto:bswain@nmsu.edu), (505) 546-1378.

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Environmental Design Contest**

April 4-8 at NMSU, a competition providing students and teachers unique opportunities involving environmental research and engineering design. The first place team will receive a cash award of \$1,500 and second place will be awarded \$1,000. Information: Bryan Swain, [bswain@nmsu.edu](mailto:bswain@nmsu.edu), (505) 546-1378, or visit [www.werc.net](http://www.werc.net)

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## *(Water Festival from page 1)*

evaporation. In a normal year, there is enough water to fill all the cups. In a dry year, some of the cups are empty. The students must negotiate water sharing just like we must do.

In every room of Santa Fe's Sweeney Convention Center, more students were discovering real water facts and concepts and exercising their critical thinking skills through fun, hands-on activities. A different activity was presented in each room, 12 in all, about water science, history, geography, and our water future. More than 500 4th grade students from Santa Fe area schools participated in the second Santa Fe Children's Water Festival held February 18-19.

A highlight of the Santa Fe Water Festival was a visit from New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman. He visited students as they played Water Jeopardy and urged them to really concentrate on learning about our water because it is essential to our future. He toured several activities, observing the students as they engaged in water sharing, discovered who lives in the algae, and played "Swimmin' in the Rio Grande", a board game about the perilous life of a Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. We are grateful for Senator Bingaman's deep interest in the Water Festival!

***"OK, and then let's see  
who lives in the algae."***

This was the seventh Children's Water Festival we have organized for students in the Middle Rio Grande and Santa Fe areas. In the years since we began holding Water Festivals, water has been in the news with increasing frequency. In the last two years, we have faced the reality of drought. On New Mexico's hillsides we see hundreds of dead pinon - killed by lack of water and voracious beetles. During the summer and fall the great Rio Grande looked like a collection of small brown islands with trickles of water meandering around them. The reservoirs that provide the water for us to use have been dangerously low for 2 years. Still, people are reluctant to acknowledge that water is a limited resource in our arid homeland and we have so much to learn about living sustainably in this place. So, the importance of water education has become increasingly clear to all of us. Over 6,000 students have participated in the Water Festivals held

since 1999. That means the students who participated in the first Water Festival are now in high school! Before long, they will be making lifestyle decisions and, we hope, voting! Will they remember the lessons of the Water Festival way back when they were 10? We hope the answer is YES!

Over the years, we have expanded the methods we use to evaluate the effectiveness of the Festivals from questionnaires and teacher interviews to visits with the students after the Water Festival. We have identified the six Big Water Questions that encompass the "Big Picture" of water:

- ◆ **Why is water so important to life?**
- ◆ **What is the water cycle and why is it important?**
- ◆ **What is a watershed and how does it function?**
- ◆ **How do trees, plants, animals, people, soils, and water depend on each other?**
- ◆ **How do our actions affect water quality?**
- ◆ **How much water does my family use?**

We are convinced that if students learn about water in all of its many aspects while their minds are open and their curiosity is boundless, they will understand the connections and interactions more clearly. As adults, we tend to separate water conservation from water pollution, and surface water from ground water. The kids haven't put things in boxes yet and so when we ask how trees, plants, animals, people, soils, and water depend on each other, students understand the connections!

In the next few weeks we'll be visiting kids in the classroom to better understand what they learned at the Festival. We will also be starting the planning for the sixth Middle Rio Grande Water Festival coming up in October. We'll be looking for great activities and presenters for the next Festival! We invite you to consider being a presenter! It is a wonderful way to revive your faith that our future is in good hands!

For more information, contact Festival Manager Susan Gorman, at (505) 259-7190, or at [H2ofest@aol.com](mailto:H2ofest@aol.com). To learn more about future Children's Water Festivals log onto [www.pioneerwest.net](http://www.pioneerwest.net).



## *Knowledge Through Wilderness Exploration In New Mexico Since 1926*

[www.cottonwoodgulch.org](http://www.cottonwoodgulch.org)

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### **Our Mission**

The Cottonwood Gulch Foundation sponsors educational wilderness expeditions and outdoor programs in the American Southwest that promote personal growth, scientific, historic, and cultural discovery as well as a knowledgeable environmental ethic among all those who participate. The Cottonwood Gulch Foundation is an educational 501(c)(3) organization.

### **Our History**

Currently in our 78<sup>th</sup> year of operations, Cottonwood Gulch was founded by Hillis L. Howie, an Indianapolis teacher and school leader. Under Mr. Howie's direction, the Foundation grew a national program of educational summer expeditions in the Southwest and purchased our nature preserve at Cottonwood Gulch. Today, under only its fifth director, the Foundation works with a diverse set of schools and families across the country to inspire future scientists, naturalists, artists, historians, public servants, and educators.

### **Our Methods**

All Gulch programs focus on learning through first-hand experience and sharing that knowledge with others. We have a base of experience and tested techniques for structuring project-driven learning. Current projects include writing a field guide to the flora and fauna of the Zuni Mountains and completing a 5-year experimental study of low-impact fuel reduction techniques for ponderosa forests.

*Inquire about our professional positions as  
lead instructors and visiting scholars.*

### **Summer Expeditions for 10-19 Year-Olds**

These small-group wilderness courses take students into the backcountry to study the scientific, historic, and cultural significances of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. Expeditions emphasize scientific, humanistic, and artistic inquiry, which demands the development of outdoor living skills, teamwork, and personal responsibility.

### **Nature Preserve and Educational Facility**

The 540 acres at Cottonwood Gulch are located in the Zuni Mountains, bordering the Cibola National Forest. Fed by a perennial stream, this large undeveloped area provides habitat for a wide variety of species, from owl to elk, and offers rich opportunities for natural science pursuits. The primitive, rustic facilities include open-air cabins, composting toilets, two traditional Navajo hogans, a challenge course, photography lab, and our kitchen and dining hall.

### **Outfitter Support**

Our mobile base camps are well suited to all kinds of field activities, from small weekend trips with students to extended backpacking trips. Our equipment is designed to be low-impact and is updated regularly. Each mobile base camp fits into one of our custom-designed trucks and can go wherever you need it in the Southwest.





Cheri Vogel, Office of the State Engineer, fielded questions from workshop participants during the Project WET session at NMSU. Don't miss the next training August 6-7 at the Farmington Museum.

### *(Multi Facilitator from page 1)*

from public school teachers to graduate students to volunteers to representatives of government agencies, and all attending brought a tremendous variety of approaches and experiences. This dynamic creates the beauty of the training; all had phenomenal interactions and direction. Bright and energetic, attendees were eager to begin the learning process. With 26 attendees from Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, we delved into a realm of focused learning and intense training to develop better skills in teaching others, not only environmental education but also more knowledge of teacher concerns. This Multi-Facilitator training is designed to provide opportunities for various environmental education programs and curricula to build capacity in New Mexico.

On Day One, sessions approached aspects of teaching to supply attendees with ideas and solutions to teaching environmental education in the state of New Mexico and beyond. Sessions concentrated on mentoring as a way to reinforce facilitator involvement, community service learning as intrinsic to learning, knowing and meeting state and national standards, creating a good workshop, using the environment as an integrated concept, and evaluation. Using a variety of technology, small group interactions, and hands-on activities, participants experienced a full day!

On Day Two, participants chose to spend the entire day on either Project WET or Project Archeology. Both workshops offered a thorough overview of the curricula in addition to hands-on activities. Workshop facilitators gave participants curricula guides in their prospective workshops. Attendees explored and worked out some of the curricula in small groups, then presented their findings to fellow attendees. By the end of Day Two, attendees were able to go into their communities and schools and facilitate one of the Projects. With the mentoring aspect of the training on Day One, participants are able to utilize more experienced facilitators in conducting their own trainings for support and feedback.

Overall, the second Multi-Facilitator Training Program proved to be successful. Facilitators on both days were full of contagious energy, and laughter filled the halls of the building. Weather remained in the high 50's and the facility treated us well with lots of room, good food, and yummy snacks. Experiences from evaluations were positive, and as one participant said, "the trainers and speakers are a wealth of knowledge – thanks for all your hard work!" Another participant stated, "I salute all of you for your dedication to these critical issues. For my children and their futures, I thank you!"

We hope to see you on August 6 and 7 for the third Multi-Facilitator training, this time at the Farmington Museum in Northern New Mexico! Once again, we hope to share good times and exchange experiences to better teach the children of the world. Look on EEANM's website for August's registration information—please join us!!



At **NATURE SW** we have 15 years of experience providing workshops and in-service training in teaching creative and critical thinking at all levels (K – Collegiate)

### **TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- *Teaching Thinking with Style*
- *Knowledge as Design*
- *Concepts, Principles and Theories*
- *Socratic Questioning*
- *Issue Analysis*
- *Creative Problem Solving*
- *And more*

## **TEACHING THINKING - METACOGNITION: WHERE DO OUR OPINIONS COME FROM?**

1. Have students list those individuals of most importance to them in their lives. Five or six of their family members, close friends, teachers, celebrities and so forth is a sufficient number.
2. Select an issue of current concern. Do not avoid controversy because students will not be asked to voice their individual opinions.
3. Have students write a brief summary of their current opinions on this issue (not to be shared).
4. Have students examine their lists of significant people in their lives and decide how each of those individuals would stand relative to the issue.
5. Ask students to report their discoveries to the class. How does each student's opinion compare with his or her significant list? If there is considerable match, how did this happen? Is the student's opinion really his or her own? If not, what are the likely sources? Who had the opinion first?

This is a powerful tool to help students understand that we are each a product of the ideas and opinions of others, especially those whom we most admire or value in our lives. Once they realize that their initial opinions are not really their own, they are poised to take charge of their own thinking and use evidence and reason to form their own opinions. Paying attention to and controlling our own thinking is METACOGNITION.

### **NATURE SW**

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# MATERIALS & OPPORTUNITIES

## Water Conservation Workshops Still Available

The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) received a grant from the EPA's Environmental Education program. The grant, Water Conservation Mini-Workshops, supports travel, printing and supplies for 12 educator workshops throughout the state. This allows the OSE to present the workshops at no cost to the school district or community. Due to the extreme drought conditions that New Mexico is facing, water conservation has become a necessity rather than an option. It has been called the one remaining source of new water. Agricultural communities are looking at ways to stretch their irrigation water and urban areas are fighting to keep their daily water use down. The water conservation curriculums sponsored by the OSE will help with insight into both areas and updates on current drought conditions. The workshops range in scope and grade level depending on the needs of the participants. Of the 8 workshops that have been completed, Learning to Xeriscape, the Discover a Watershed: Rio Grande/Rio Bravo, and Project WET have been the primary focus. Most workshops last approximately 3 hours.

For more information on scheduling a workshop in your area, please contact Cheri Vogel at 505-827-4272 or [cvogel@ose.state.nm.us](mailto:cvogel@ose.state.nm.us).

## Chihuahuan Desert Expo 2004



The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park (CDNP), in Las Cruces, will host the sixth annual education event for kindergarten through fourth grade students on the Las Cruces Downtown Mall, May 6-8, 2004. The Chihuahuan Desert Expo is an expansion of the popular annual Insect Expo and will now focus on all aspects of the Chihuahuan Desert. New stations include a puppet show about desert animals, desert survival, desert plants, and geology. Students will do art projects, physical activities, games, and quizzes to learn about the Chihuahuan Desert.

CDNP is seeking volunteers to help staff the education booths and assist with other areas for this wonderful event. More than 2,000 kindergarten through fourth grade students will visit on May 6 & 7. The event is open to the public on Saturday, May 8, 9 a.m.-12 noon. Seeking Sponsors: \$100-\$200 levels available (contact us for sponsorship benefits).

CDNP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing scientific literacy by fostering an understanding of the Chihuahuan Desert. The Nature Park provides hands-on science education programs for more than 12,000 students throughout southern New Mexico and west Texas each year.

Contact us in Las Cruces: (505) 524-3334 or [www.cdn.org](http://www.cdn.org)

## **SPONSOR**     ***Randall Davey Audubon Center***



# **Audubon** NEW MEXICO

RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON CENTER, 1800 UPPER CANYON ROAD SANTA FE, NM 87501



Nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains, our 135-acre sanctuary & education center offers:

- *Environmental Education Programs to K-6 children in Santa Fe*
- *Weeklong Summer Day Camps for Children ages 5-11*
- *Family events, adult classes, and Saturday morning bird walks!*
- *Volunteer and Intern Opportunities*
- *Nature store with books, gifts, bird feeders, seed, and much more!*
- *Teacher trainings*

Contact us by phone: 505.983.4609 or visit our website @ [nm.audubon.org](http://nm.audubon.org)

## **Albuquerque's Environmental Story: The beginning of "The Rest of the Story"**

Contributed by Bill Hoffman

**Since the 3rd edition of the Environmental Story was published in 1996, much has taken place:**

### **A. Within the City of Albuquerque:**

1. New Water Plan and Conservation Program (rates doubled: use of river water)
2. Expanded Waste Water Treatment (rates doubled)
3. Automated solid waste collection, recycling expansion, environmental remediation
4. Bio Park (Aquarium and Botanical Gardens) built
5. Transit Education Program, natural gas vehicles
6. New Open Space ¼ tax, Anderson Field established, Bosque work begins
7. Quality Growth/Sustainability (Progress Indicators, Planned Growth Strategy)
8. Big I Reconstruction

### **B. Beyond the City of Albuquerque:**

1. Bosque Restoration begins
2. State Water Planning begins
3. Rio Grande Nature Center expanded
4. Rebuild New Mexico and Alternative Energy Programs
5. Bosque Prep built; Bosque Education Monitoring Program
6. Bosque Restoration (Dia del Rio, etc.)
7. Kirtland Sandia landfill cleanups begin
8. Cebolella Wildlife Preserve
9. Quality of Life: Thousand Friends, New Mexico First

Still to come: Environmental Education Resources available at the City of Albuquerque and new web page connections!!

# MATERIALS & OPPORTUNITIES

## **Black Mesa Ecological**

### **Academy**

**June 20-25, 2004**

The New Mexico Section of the Society for Range Management is seeking high school students to attend at Camp Billy Joe and Black Mesa State Park near Kenton, Oklahoma. NM tuition \$225. Adults counselors are also needed to serve during the academy.



Earnest Romero (505) 374-2391 Extension 3  
Dr. Terrell Baker, (505) 646-2218, [ttbaker@nmsu.edu](mailto:ttbaker@nmsu.edu)  
David Graham (505) 374-7884, [johgraha@nmsu.edu](mailto:johgraha@nmsu.edu)  
Applications: <http://agecon.nmsu.edu/nmsrm>.

## **Pilot New Water Curriculum**

**April-May 2004** Elementary Educators needed to pilot test a new elementary curriculum on NM water issues and water conservation. Curriculum is designed for 2nd and 3rd grade students but educators at all levels are welcome to participate. The project will include both a component for the students and a teacher's guide. The teacher's guide will only have a few graphics, but will include background information, activities, and extensions for in and out of the classroom. If you are interested in helping, please email your name, school or affiliation, mailing address, e-mail address and a contact phone to [cvogel@ose.state.nm.us](mailto:cvogel@ose.state.nm.us) or call 505-827-4272. Please pass this to any colleagues that might be interested.

## **Renewable Energy Activities & Events**

projects, materials, meetings, symposia; NM Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department; contact [Cwenz@state.nm.us](mailto:Cwenz@state.nm.us) or 505-476-3312.

## **Southwest Desert Sustainability Project**

Earth Building, Water Distribution, Natural Power Integration. Contact: Don & Julie Ward, 505-544-0224 or [www.swdesertsustainability.org](http://www.swdesertsustainability.org).

## **New Mexico Forestry Camp**

**June 6-11, 2004 Boys & Girls ages 13-18**

The program introduces campers to a wide variety of outdoor sciences and professions, with active hands-on projects and presentations. The camp is held at the Girl Scout camp, Rancho del Chaparral, in the Jemez mountains. Counselors who can work with teenagers at camp are also needed. To find out more, look up [www.nmforestrycamp.org](http://www.nmforestrycamp.org).

## **Summer Camp Counselor Positions**

Fenton Ranch, Jemez Mountains. These positions involve leading 6-14 year old children in outdoor activities. Applicants must be 25 years of age. Deadline is May 15, 2004. Send resume and letter to: Kestrel Mandras, Manzano Day School, 1801 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104. (505)243-6659 [km@mds.k12.nm.us](mailto:km@mds.k12.nm.us).

## **Internship Position**

Administer Junior Docent Program, NM Museum of Natural History. The summer Jr. Docent program is for students who have completed grades 7 through 12. Dates needed: May 27 - August 5. Deadline: April 28, 2004. Contact: Becky Pate, 505-841-2877 or fax 505-841-2866. email: [bpate@nmmnh.state.nm.us](mailto:bpate@nmmnh.state.nm.us) or visit: [www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org).

## **Counselor Opportunity**

New Mexico Forestry Camp, June 6 – 11, 2004. Rancho del Chaparral Girl Scout Camp, Santa Fe National Forest. Volunteer positions. Campers are ages 13-18 years old. Application, contact Marsha Hagerdon at (505) 287-8833 or email [mhagerdon@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhagerdon@fs.fed.us) more info at [www.nmforestrycamp.org](http://www.nmforestrycamp.org).

## **Field Instructor**

Young Explorers Summer Science Camp, NM Museum of Natural History and Science. Application procedure: Please send cover letter, resume and names and phone numbers or email addresses of three references to: Young Explorer's Program Coordinator, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104-1375. Contact: [agrochowski@nmmnh.state.nm.us](mailto:agrochowski@nmmnh.state.nm.us).



# GRANTS & AWARDS

**Barron Prize for Young Heroes** \$2,000 awards to youth working to protect the environment. This award recognizes young people ages 8 to 18 who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Winners each receive \$2,000 to be applied to their higher education or to their service project. Nomination deadline is April 30, 2004. Contact Ann Richman, Program Director, Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, P.O. Box 17 Boulder, CO 80306. (970) 875-1448 or [www.barronprize.org](http://www.barronprize.org). For more information, visit [www.barronprize.org](http://www.barronprize.org).

**2004 Brower Youth Awards** Earth Island Institute is accepting applications until June 1, 2004. People ages 13 to 22 who have demonstrated outstanding leadership with projects in environmental conservation, preservation or restoration are encouraged to apply. Six winners from the U.S. and Puerto Rico will each receive a cash award of \$3,000 and ongoing support of their development as environmental leaders. Applications: <http://www.earthisland.org/bya>, or by request to Cindy Arch at 415-788-3666, Ext. 160, or email [bya@earthisland.org](mailto:bya@earthisland.org). Applications can be mailed or e-mailed. Brower Youth Awards, Earth Island Institute, 300 Broadway, suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133.

**Unsung Heroes Awards** 100 awards of \$2,000 to K-12 educators pioneering new methods and techniques that improve student learning. Educators submit applications describing projects they have initiated or would like to create. Judged on their innovative teaching methods, creative educational projects, and ability to make a positive influence on the children they teach. Deadline: April 30.

[http://www.ing-usa.com/us/about/connect/education/unsung\\_heroes.html](http://www.ing-usa.com/us/about/connect/education/unsung_heroes.html)

## **Technology Opportunities Program Grants**

Approximately \$12.9 million is available for grants through TOP. Application deadline: April 27, 2004. Application Kits available on TOP's website: [www.ntia.doc.gov/top](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/top). Evaluated on: Project Purpose; Innovation; Community Involvement; Evaluation; Project Feasibility; and Project Budget. If you are not applying, reviewers are needed. See our website for more information.

## **President's Environmental Youth Awards**

Acknowledge kids K-12 for their outstanding environmental works. The program recognizes young people across America for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Application deadline: July 31. Online applications <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html>. For region specific questions, please contact: Patty Senna, PEYA Coordinator, 214-665-7178 - direct 214-665-2118 - fax 1-800-887-6063 - toll free or email: [senna.patty@epa.gov](mailto:senna.patty@epa.gov)

### *(Earth Day from page 3)*

remarkable landscape and all its inhabitants."

PEEC's board of directors has selected a preferred site for an environmental education center – the abandoned Pueblo Canyon sewer plant – and is working with county officials to see if this site can be used. PEEC sponsors educational hikes and talks throughout the year, and offers Kids' Night with stories for children from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Fridays at Film Festival at Home. Earth Day events always



include outdoor events and hikes, activities for children, and lectures. This year, PEEC has established a building fund, and proceeds from a silent auction and 50/50 raffle will go toward the fund.

PEEC's Earth Day Committee is also planning a water slide show or photo display and a children's puppet show on April 24. More information about PEEC is available and updates on Earth Day activities will be posted at [www.peecnm.org](http://www.peecnm.org).

## EEANM Web Site has Online Forums

The Environmental Education Association of New Mexico has added online forums to its website. The General Discussion forum is open to any and all discussions regarding environmental education and its impacts. This is your opportunity to find information, vent about bothersome issues, or research an important topic in a friendly, sympathetic environment. *Current discussions are focused on the No Child Left Behind Act and its impacts on environmental education in New Mexico and where environmental education fits in the state standards.*

Do you have an opinion? We would like to hear from you. Please go to [www.eeanm.org](http://www.eeanm.org) and click on "Online Forums" in the top left corner of the page. Either respond to one of the existing threads or start a new thread for discussion.

You are not required to register to post or reply to a topic. However, registration does allow you to enter a user profile including an e-mail address. If you choose not to register, your profile will remain as "guest" and you will not be able to send messages to other registered members or participate in forums that require registration.

## Stay Connected with EEANM

[www.eeanm.org](http://www.eeanm.org)

By visiting the EEANM web site, you can get up-to-date information about events, job announcements, volunteer opportunities, requests for grant proposals and more.

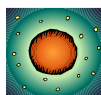


## New Mexico State Parks

[www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com) 1-888-NM-PARKS

**Astronomy Weekend! April 23-24** Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park, Carlsbad, N.M. Friday, 8-10 p.m. join the star party and gaze through telescopes at Jupiter, Saturn and deep sky objects such as star clusters and distant galaxies. On Saturday, "Astronomy Day" events from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. view the sun and its sunspots through a large telescope enhanced with special filters for solar viewing. (505) 887-5516.

**Migration Sensation! April 23-24** Percha Dam State Park, Caballo, N.M. Come enjoy the northward influx of birds on spring migration in one of southern New Mexico's best remaining fragments of Rio Grande bosque. Experts will lead walks and talks, but you don't need to be an expert to enjoy the weekend. Free with park pass. (505) 744-5998



## NM Museum of Natural History & Science

[www.NMnaturalhistory.org](http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org) (505) 841-2826

**Mars Rocks!** Celebrates the rover mission to the red planet through exhibits, shows and activities that runs through June 6, 2004. This is the only location in the country where such a detailed, life-size Rover model can be seen.

**Bugs!** A bug's eye-view of the fascinating universe of insects magnified up to 250,000 times their normal size in the Extreme Screen DynaTheater Begins March 29.

**Naturescapes** Annual amateur photography competition and exhibit. March 6–April 25.

**Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land** Traveling Exhibit. 49 stunning photographs on display through May 9, 2004.



# EEANM Member Application

Name:	Affiliation:	
Year-round Mailing Address:		
City/Town:	State:	Zip Code:
Phones: W. (    )	H. (    )	Fax (    )
Email Address:	Web Address:	

## CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP TYPES

- ☐ Limited Income/Student Membership.....\$10.00
- ☐ Individual Membership.....\$25.00
- ☐ Organizational Membership.....\$50.00  
(Allows for 1 voting member and 2 general members)
- ☐ Check here if you object to your name being given to other organizations.

*Name of voting member:*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Names of 2 additional newsletter recipients:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Occasionally, other EE organizations ask for the EEANM mailing list. The EEANM Board is selective in giving out the list to organizations with similar interests or mission(s).

Notes for EEANM Membership Directory: Briefly include, in ten words or less, how you are involved in EE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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