



The Newsletter of the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico

EE CONNECTIONS

Vol. 17, No. 2: Fall 2009

Inside this Issue:

Fall Conference	1
From the President	2
Board of Directors	3
Schoolyard Habitat	4
Growing up Wild.....	5
NAAEE Conference	6
Workshops.....	7
Membership and EcoEd	8

Visit the EEANM website for:

Grants

Jobs

Teacher Workshops

Calendar of Events

EE News

www.eeanm.org

EEANM Again Joins with NMSTA and NMCTM for Annual Conference in Ruidoso, Oct. 22-24



Ruidoso High School will host the fall NMSTA/NMCTA/EEANM conference October 22-24

If you haven't yet registered for EEANM's joint conference with the New Mexico Science Teachers Association and the New Mexico Council for Teachers of Mathematics, do it now! [Click here](#) for the registration website. A low early registration fee of \$45 is in effect until October 13.

The program will include a strong environmental education strand as well as math and science sessions. There are pre-conference field trips such as horseback riding into mining and volcano observation areas; spelunking in caves at Fort Stanton; learning about acoustics at the Spencer Theater; visiting the Sun Spot and Apache Point Observatories or NM Museum of Space History and White Sands National Monument; and a choice of professional development opportunities in math education. Wow! All that is available on Thursday, before the start of the program sessions on Friday. The regular sessions begin at 8 AM on Friday and end before lunch on Saturday.

As soon as the conference program is published, it will be posted on EcoEd Listserve and on our website at www.eeanm.org.

EEANM *PRESIDENT*



Message from the President:

Christy Tafoya

Dear Members:

I hope that your summer has been productive and EEANM is opening the fall with a bang! Last year's conference held in concert with EEANM, the New Mexico Science Teachers Association and the New Mexico Council of Teachers of Mathematics was a great success--so successful that we are joining forces again!

I welcome you to join us at our conference in Ruidoso from October 22-24, 2009 at Ruidoso High School. This year's theme, Soar to Greater Heights: Professional Development for Our Sustainable Future, will have a strong environmental education track, giving teachers and environmental educators tools and techniques to reconnect

students to our resources statewide.

Our board held a retreat on August 14, 2009 at the lovely Bosque School in Albuquerque. We reviewed our history and successes of the past year, and laid out goals and objectives.

EEANM has accomplished quite a bit, particularly through the hard work of Barbara Garrity. In the past year, EEANM has overseen nine grants and has:

- Conducted statewide Project Learning Tree pre-service workshops;
- Coordinated for the Project Learning Tree steering committee a strategic planning process;
- Conducted Project WET pre-service and secondary workshops;
- Began correlation of Project WET to New Mexico benchmarks and standards;
- Coordinated a statewide Outdoor Classroom Program grant with Buena Vista Elementary School, Alamogordo for a schoolyard habitat project, teacher training, service learning projects, and evaluation;
- Conducted six stakeholder meetings statewide regarding environmental education certification;
- Coordinated the annual Lockheed Martin Youth Conference with Sandia National labs.

For the upcoming year, EEANM will continue to work with Project Learning Tree and will continue to provide environmental services statewide. Other topics of interest to EEANM board members are the Statewide Outdoor Classroom Program, the national Leave No Child Inside movement, creating an Environmental Literacy Plan, and environmental education certification.

Finally, we are coming to that time of year to elect new board members! We will have four board member slots available. Also, don't forget to nominate your favorite environmental educator or teacher of the year—visit our website!!

Thanks as always for your hard work! - Christy

EEANM Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members

EEANM will hold our annual meeting on Saturday, November 7, from 11:00-1:00, at the Rio Grande Nature Center. We will not hold our annual meeting at the October conference, due to the many other activities and meetings being held at that time. Please plan to attend the annual meeting and make sure your membership is up to date in order to vote. Ballots will be mailed on Oct. 16. Lunch will be provided!

EEANM *BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

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STATEWIDE COORDINATOR

Barbara Garrity

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505-715-7021

Schoolyard Habitat in Alamogordo

June 29 was the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Schoolyard Habitat at Buena Vista Elementary School in Alamogordo. EEANM secured a grant from the NM State Parks Outdoor Classroom Program to create an outdoor classroom at the school. Features of the habitat are native plants, seating, and interpretive exhibits. A planning committee at the school, headed by DonaKay Hannagan, is in charge of the local effort. Below are photos from the groundbreaking. We look forward to seeing this project develop as all the elements of the plan are installed.





Growing Up WILD: Reaching Out to Early Childhood Educators in NM

The Council for Environmental Education has just launched a new early childhood guide and training program, for connecting young children to nature called *Growing Up WILD*. Through a wide range of activities and experiences designed for children ages 3-7, *Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children* provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about nature and lifelong social and academic skills.

With activities written by educators and wildlife professionals and reviewed by experts in early childhood education (including some here in New Mexico), *Growing Up WILD* provides a tested, developmentally appropriate teaching tool for early childhood educators to encourage nature exploration and play, and scientific inquiry among young learners

Growing Up WILD recognizes that a child begins to develop attitudes towards the environment at an early age. The guide's 27 easy-to-use activities increase nature based recreation, build conservation ethics and outline activities families can do outside together. *Growing Up WILD* is correlated to the National Association for the Education of Young Children Standards and the Head Start Domains.

Educators receive *Growing Up WILD* materials by participating in a free interactive, hands-on workshops that allow them to experience *Growing Up WILD* activities first-hand and discover how to connect young children to nature.

Training is being offered in New Mexico through Project WILD, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. For more information contact Kevin Holladay, Project WILD Coordinator, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (505) 476-8095, kevin.holladay@state.nm.us or Colleen Welch, Co-Coordinator, (505) 476-8119, colleen.welch@state.nm.us

For more information about how *Growing Up WILD* can meet your education goals visit www.projectwild.org/GrowingUpWILD.htm.

Melissa Howard

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Environmental education
projects are my favorites.

**EDITORIAL
SERVICES**

Bosque Education Guide –New Fire in the Bosque Section

By Tish Morris

The *Bosque Education Guide* is your source for teaching students about the Middle Rio Grande ecosystem -- chock-full of activities and information about our great river environment (and any cottonwood habitat in the southwest) there are activities for elementary through high school students. This is a great source for interdisciplinary and theme-based instruction. The new 2008 edition is 699 pages and has activities for elementary through high school. The main activity has students set up a paper and cloth model of the river valley, placing plants and animals in the appropriate environments to show the bosque ecosystem as it was before major human alteration, then changing the pieces around to show how humans have impacted things in the last century. Finally, students conduct restoration projects on the model to see how land managers can maintain as much of the biodiversity and natural



Participants create a river and bosque ecosystem at the workshop.

processes of the ecosystem without compromising the safety of our communities. The Guide has many activities to be done with students on field trips as well as in the classroom or schoolyard. Topics include the geology of the valley, surface and groundwater, the demands on the river's water budget, natural history information and human influence, several mapping activities and two web quests. A new chapter on "Fire in the Bosque" is an important addition in this

time of predicted drought. The final chapter helps teachers plan service-learning projects with their students. A substantial background section and appendices including correlations to the NM state education standards round out the book. Many activities have been translated into Spanish and these can be downloaded in English and Spanish at the Bosque Education Guide website: <http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org/BEG/index.html>

Each year we hear about the extreme fire danger or dramatic fires in bosque areas of New Mexico. To address this topical issue the *Bosque Education Guide* has completed a new section about Fire in the Bosque.

We have a great background section, written



Participants enjoy ample field time in the outdoor laboratory.

(Continued from page 6)

by Lisa Ellis, Ph.D. that tells about fire in ecosystems around the world, but especially in the Southwest. The Ponderosa pine-dominated-forests of the region are adapted to routine fire. Fire clears the dead and downed wood, but the tree can withstand low ground fires. The Ponderosa forest thrives with fires every few years. Contrast that to the bosque—where fires clear giant swaths of riparian vegetation without quick recovery. The low areas along the Rio Grande in the distant past (when people had little effect on the river flow) would have been regularly flooded by spring run-off. This moisture allows for speedy decomposition. Research at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge showed that logs inundated by floodwaters would decompose in 10 years, while in today's dry floodplains that same log would take 70 years to decompose. The result is that far more fuels have built-up in the bosque today—ripe for carrying and creating a hot fire. Plus, there are more sources for ignition of fires. In the past, lightning would be the major source of fire, and at infrequent times, perhaps a grass fire burned across the landscape and into the bosque. Today humans are the main cause of fires in the bosque and with increasing population and use there are more bosque fires started. The bosque is not well-adapted to fire. The bark of the cottonwood looks thick and protective, but in reality the bark is adapted to protect the tree from things bumping into it while being washed downstream in a flood; even a light fire will kill most cottonwood trees. Cottonwoods can recover after fires, as they readily sprout from roots when the main tree is killed by fire, but only if conditions are good. This and other great information is part of our new chapter.

The *Bosque Education Guide* has five activities about fire in the Southwest. A vocabulary match-up, an activity to compare fire in different ecosystems of the Southwest—from grasslands, to mountains to valley fires, a guided scientific journal to use on field trips to burned and unburned bosque areas, an analysis of post-fire recovery, and for the modeling the bosque activity, Changing Fire helps students understand fire's effect on the bosque of the past, present and into the future with new management strategies and fire prevention efforts.

The entire "Fire in the Bosque" chapter is available as pdfs on our website:

http://www.NMnaturalhistory.org/BEG/BEG_Downloads.html

Workshop participants receive the *Bosque Education Guide* curriculum and an accompanying kit. The workshop and the materials for participants are offered through funding from New Mexico State Parks and Public Education Department Statewide Outdoor Classroom Program and are Co-sponsored by the NM Museum of Natural History & Science and the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park with long-term support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Bosque Initiative Group. A limited number of bus stipends for fall 2009 field trips to Rio Grande Nature Center will be available to teachers attending fall workshops.



Tish Morris and Karen Herzenberg (both in center) teach the Bosque Education Guide Workshops at the Rio Grande Nature Center.



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS
creates Leadership in Environmental Education

OCTOBER 7–10, 2009
PORTLAND, OREGON

NAAEE's 38th Annual Conference

6TH ANNUAL
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
OCTOBER 6–7, 2009

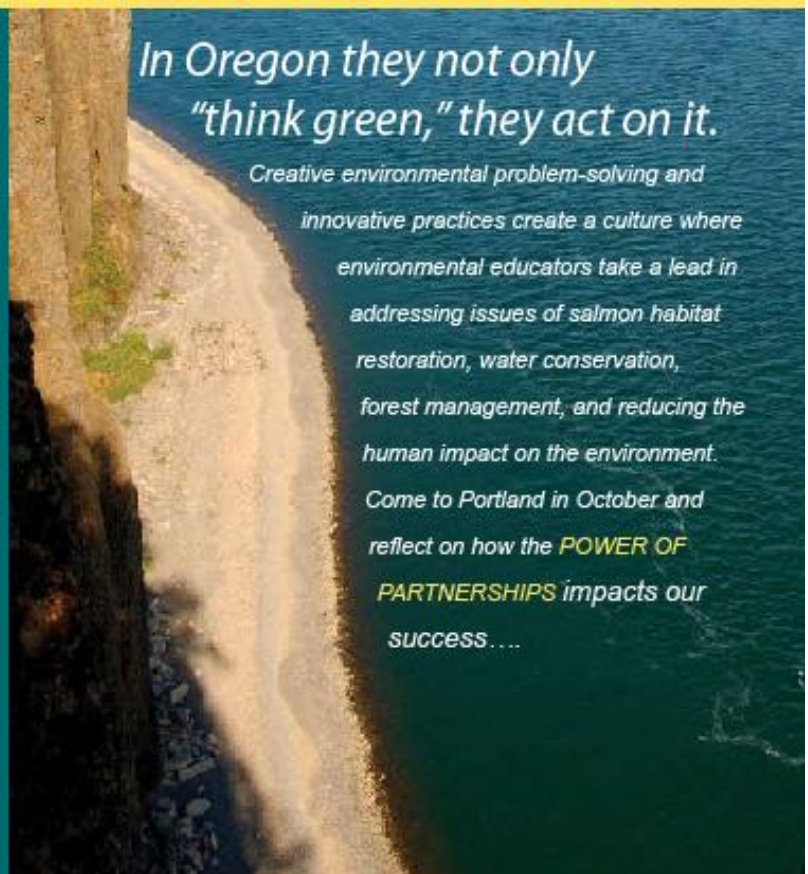


Promoting excellence in
environmental education



*In Oregon they not only
"think green," they act on it.*

*Creative environmental problem-solving and
innovative practices create a culture where
environmental educators take a lead in
addressing issues of salmon habitat
restoration, water conservation,
forest management, and reducing the
human impact on the environment.
Come to Portland in October and
reflect on how the **POWER OF
PARTNERSHIPS** impacts our
success....*



WORKSHOPS

Project Learning Tree — October 3 at the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education program for educators and students in K-grade 8. Topics range from forests, wildlife and water, to community planning, waste management and energy. Through PLT, students learn environmental content that correlates to national and state standards in science, social studies, language arts, math, and other subjects- and strengthen their critical thinking, team building, and problem solving skills. Teachers will receive a FREE curriculum guide! Visit the website at www.plt.org. Contact Susie Davis for more information at 281-5259.

The Outdoor Classroom Workshop—October 10

Join the increasing number of educators who are using the outdoors to teach the state standards, teamwork, sustainability and the joy of learning.

WHO: teachers, teacher trainees, Environmental educators, parents

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 10th, from 10 to 3. Or please contact me to set up a workshop in your area or school.

WHERE: Contact plogan@outdoorclassroom.org 505-424-1413 for directions to Santa Fe location

INSTRUCTOR: Priscilla Logan, retired Public School Reading Specialist, teacher grades K-12, Permaculture and Biointensive Gardening instructor, and teacher trainer

BRING: lunch, water, hat, sturdy shoes

COST: \$50 for Saturday. Also, please make checks or POs payable to Priscilla Logan.

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING:

Hands on experience with a variety of outdoor classroom tools:

binoculars, jeweler's loupes, etc. Discussion of how to create a safe, enjoyable outdoor experience (service learning, gardening, birding, permaculture, etc.) Research on the use of nature to teach academics, teamwork, and it's success with ADHD children.

Explanation of how to align outdoor activities to the state standards. Suggestions for outdoor classroom management.

QUESTIONS? plogan@outdoorclassroom.org 505-424-1413 www.outdoorclassroom.org

www.labyrinthmidwife.org

Forests of the World— Northern New Mexico location and date to be scheduled

Forests of the World is a Project Learning Tree secondary module for middle and high school teachers. *Forests of the World* provides educators with a series of activities to help students and educators gain an increased understanding and appreciation of the diversity of world forest environments, with an emphasis on the human interaction with and dependence on those environments. The activities provide students with opportunities to apply scientific processes and higher order thinking skills while investigating world forestry issues and conducting service learning action projects. Come learn about our world's forests and their role in earth's systems. This workshop is funded by Los Alamos National Labs Foundation. For more information contact Barbara Garrity at info@eeanm.org 505-715-7021.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:

Affiliation:

Year-round Mailing Address:

City/:

State:

Zip Code:

Phones:

Work ()

Home ()

Cell ()

Email Address:

Web Address:

CHECK ONE OF THE MEMBERSHIP TYPES

☐ Limited Income/Student Membership.....\$10.00

☐ Individual Membership.....\$25.00

☐ Organizational Membership.....\$50.00

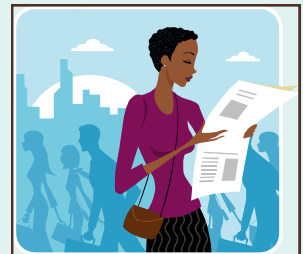
(Allows for 1 voting member and 2 general members)

Name and **email address** of voting member

Names and **email addresses** of 2 additional newsletter recipients

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ECO-ED

*The Listserve for
New Mexico Environmental Educators*

If you haven't signed on to the eco-ed listserv, you are missing out on a great form of communication regarding environmental education in New Mexico. Signing up is easy; just go to our website at www.eeanm.org and follow the instructions.

Problems? contact Barbara Garrity, (505) 715-7021 or info@eeanm.org