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www.eeanm.org

Celebrating the 6th Annual

McKinley County Youth Water & Energy Awareness Days 2010

by Elizabeth Barriga

How can a Water Festival serve more students in your community? Consider having an in-the-classroom Water Festival. This worked phenomenally well for McKinley County, New Mexico.



Don Hyde of Gallup Solar demonstrates renewable energy resources with this solar & wind energy activity.

Why bring a Water Festival to Gallup and McKinley County, New Mexico?

As we tell all our students, water education is critical to dry, McKinley County, New Mexico. Gallup has no surface water and is located in the middle of the high southwestern desert. Our only precarious source of water comes from aquifers over a half mile deep underground. As one presenter duly noticed while teaching at the first 2005 McKinley

County Water Festival, most students she encountered had never received any water education prior to attending this event. For most McKinley County elementary students attending, this was their first introduction to the wonderful and fascinating world of water, and the importance of water – a resource that unites all people.

This amazing event was originally brought to Gallup and McKinley County during the Spring of 2005. Since McKinley County’s Water Festival’s inception, it has evolved from 300 attending the 1st, one-day 2005 Water Festival, expanding to 1,500+ attending a two-day Water Festival the last five years. Activity station topics typically include the hydrologic cycle, water conservation, animals that live in water, water purification, watershed awareness, water quality, chemical and physical properties of water, wastewater management, and more.

McKinley County Water Festival is unique because this event reaches beyond instructing one grade level. This event teaches a variety of grade levels. The first day

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EEANM *PRESIDENT*

Message from the President:

Christy Tafoya



Dear Members:

Greetings and I hope you have had a fantastic spring! I know that this is one of the busiest seasons for environmental educators and EEANM has been hard at work as well.

First, I'd like to thank those of you who were involved in our latest round of bylaw changes resulting in the addition of a new board member position. Your board now has eleven members, allowing for more cultural and geographic diversity.

In order to fill that new position, we held a special election and welcome Kristina Ortez de Jones as our newest member. Kristina comes to us from the Sierra Club where she has tirelessly worked on the Building Bridges to the Outdoors program. Her coalition building efforts in connecting kids to the outdoors have been outstanding and we are happy to have such a strong partner as a board member.

On other fronts, our Executive Director, Barbara Garrity, has been busy fulfilling the many grants, teacher workshops, conferences and special events that EEANM has committed to in furthering environmental education in our state.

Barbara also shepherded the environmental education certification planning process, which has consisted of multiple committee meetings and research projects during the past few months. I thank each committee member for their valuable input and support. Based on all of this hard work, I feel that New Mexico has a fresh new direction for ee certification, so stay tuned for the plan of action.

Thanks for your hard work and enjoy your summer.

-Christy

GETTING KIDS OUTSIDE:

A STRATEGY TO COMBAT CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN NEW MEXICO

AUGUST 5, 2010

8:30AM – 3:30PM

Where: [Bosque School](#), Albuquerque, NM

Who: Teachers, Public Health Professionals, Environmental Educators, Outdoor Programs, Parents, and others

Why: Come explore ways to increase opportunities to getting kids outside as a means to a healthier lifestyle and to combat childhood obesity.

Contact Person: Kristina Ortez de Jones, Sierra Club, (505) 243-7767, kristina.ortez@sierraclub.org

Sponsors: [Sierra Club](#), [Environmental Education Association of New Mexico](#), USDA Forest Service, Bosque School and the Leave No New Mexico Child Inside Coalition

Save the date! More information coming soon – check our websites!

EEANM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President

Christy Tafoya
Santa Fe
(505) 476-3384
christy.tafoya@state.nm.us

Vice President

Kimi Scheerer
Albuquerque
(505) 898-6388
ksche@bosqueschool.org

Treasurer

Amy Landers
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 764-6285
alanders@cabq.gov

Co—Secretaries

Donna Grein
Santa Fe
(505) 827-6565
donna.grein@state.nm.us

Jeremy Philipp
Santa Fe
(505) 983-4609 ext. 27
jphilipp@audubon.org

At Large Members

Elizabeth Barriga
Gallup
(505) 863-1393
ebarriga@ci.gallup.nm.us

Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Ph.D.
Las Cruces
(575) 524-3334
stephanie@asombro.org

Steve Blake
Silver City
(505) 388-3268
steve.blake@aldoleopoldhs.org

Becky Kerr
Flora Vista
(505) 334-1702
bkerr@boep.org

Maceo Carrillo Martinet, Ph.D.
Albuquerque
(505) 761-4752
maceo_martinet@fws.gov

Kristina Ortez de Jones
Albuquerque
(505) 243-7767
kristina.ortez@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara Garrity

info@eeanm.org

505-715-7021



Dan Ware, the State Forestry Fire Information Officer/Public Relations Coordinator, teaches about forest and watershed health.

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of the Water Festival is dedicated to instructing 4th & 5th grade elementary students. The second day, expands this age group to high school students. Miyamura High School's principal Frank Chipetti has been gracious allowing us to use his school to host this event 2006 to present. Normally, the McKinley County Youth Water & Energy Festival event is set up as stations in a large gymnasium building to protect students from possible, harsh outdoor weather. During the 2009 & 2010 festival planning, three-quarters of Miyamura High School was demolished, placing our Festival right in the middle of a massive construction

overhaul. To compensate for the loss of the gymnasium, the first day of the festival is scheduled at the scenic Red Rock Park Auditorium accommodating 500 - 4th & 5th grade classes. This left the planning committee in a quandary as to how & where to locate Day Two (May 6, 2010) Water & Energy Festival. The answer to the dilemma of not having a large area to house the Water & Energy Festival went back to basics. Why not have the Water & Energy Festival directly where classroom teaching normally occurs - in the classrooms! The Festival Coordinator, Elizabeth Barriga, was quickly off planning Day Two of McKinley County Youth Water & Energy Awareness Days so that 18 high school math and science classrooms + instructors would rotate to different activities throughout the entire day. Rotating attending classroom presentations were physically positioned to be relatively close to each other with a 5 minute interval to reach the assigned inside or outside activity. Each festival activity lasted approximately 23-25 minutes. Each classroom attended two activities per normal 55 minute block period. One important lesson learned for planning future in-class Water & Energy Festivals is to make certain that students do not have class groupings such as Panda, Tigers, Bears, etc. which visit the same group of teachers. The 2010 festival was planned to minimize seeing the same presenter twice. The culmination of having the in-class high school water and energy festival was a resounding success compared to the classic in the gym previous water festival set-up. The site is free, participating teachers could patrol their students more easily, noise problems were reduced, and instructors felt comfortable in their normal teaching setting.

This event's success is only possible from the contribution of previous generous sponsors such as the City of Gallup, Bureau of Reclamation, AIP Foundation, McKinley County SWCD, local sponsors and critically essential professional presenters such from the Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix AZ; (NOAA) National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; NM Game & Fish; Northern Arizona University; Navajo EPA; NTUA Laboratory Team; USDA NRCS Los Lunas Plant Materials Center; the City of Santa Fe; Gallup Solar; Cibola National Forest, Mt.

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Taylor Ranger District, Wildlife Rescue, Inc.; Smart Use, LLC; New Mexico Environmental Department; NM Bioregional Outdoor Education Project; and Sandia Laboratories.

Another way the festival spreads an on-going conservation message is through a T-shirt design contest. A Miyamura High School art teacher, John Ohle, had students create water conservation designs for the festival. The winning design is printed on free T-shirts for all attending 500 - 4th & 5th grade students depending on each year fund raising success. This year couple hundred extra t-shirts were distributed to Miyamura High School students. This year's 2010 winning design was created by Anita Charley.

The McKinley County Water Festival has evolved into a Water and **Energy** Festival with the help of Gallup Solar presentations which are very popular. This year, many students were lucky enough to learn about Solar Energy Raisers, Hydrogen Fuel Cell Demonstration and Solar & Wind Energy Demonstrations.

Water & Energy Festivals are a unique way for schools to partner with local water resource organizations and community groups, as well as local businesses, parents, and government officials. McKinley County Youth Water & Energy Festival is celebrated in a festive atmosphere using fun, hands-on, creative games, demonstrations, and activities. The important theme behind the McKinley County Youth Water & Energy Awareness Days is for McKinley County students to share the conservation message learned at the festival, so that benefits of water, energy conservation and stewardship can be implemented and multiplied to family members and friends.

Welcome to New Board Member, Kristina Ortez de Jones

Kristina Ortez de Jones is an active EEANM member and partner and has served New Mexico well through her position as the Associate Regional Representative, Building Bridges to the Outdoors, Sierra Club New Mexico. A strong and successful advocate for the NM State-wide Outdoor Classroom Program, Kristina's program has coordinated the Leave No New Mexico Child Inside coalition, which is made up of nearly 150 organizations and individuals who support connecting children with the outdoors. As proof of the power of this coalition, as well as Kristina's efforts, in January 2010, the Albuquerque City Council unanimously passed a resolution to Leave No Child Inside. Kristina's program has also directly provided funding for outdoor classroom initiatives, including grants to outdoor classroom providers, such as the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center and a variety of schools statewide.



Kristina grew up in the San Joaquin Valley of California. She graduated cum laude from Harvard College with a degree in Anthropology. She has been an organizer and advocate on wilderness and wild scenic rivers in California and Washington, D.C., a policy analyst on water issues in California, and a board member of organizations to restore and protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Joaquin River. Kristina has had a great deal of experience protecting water quality and habitat, and promoting conservation efforts with state and regional water agencies. She was a legislative advocate with Campaign for America's Wilderness and the National Hispanic Environmental Council, where she worked directly with Latino youth around the country.

Kristina is dedicated to the outdoors and enjoys skiing, whitewater rafting, hiking and camping.

Asombro Institute for Science Education

By Rink Somerday

The Asombro Institute for Science Education (home of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park) is located in Las Cruces, New Mexico and promotes scientific literacy by fostering an understand of the Chihuahuan Desert. To achieve this mission, the Asombro Institute serves more than 14,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students in southern New Mexico and far west Texas, in the classroom and on field trips at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park.

The Chihuahuan Desert is the largest desert in North America. It stretches west toward Arizona, to the north almost to Albuquerque, to the west into western Texas, down through the Big Bend area. Most of the desert is found in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. Which is where it gets its name from; it has nothing to do with packs of wild Chihuahuas running around. We receive an average of nine inches of precipitation a year, with most of it falling during the monsoon season of July - September.

Many people who live here, whether they are native or transplants from another part of the United States, think that the desert is nothing but brown. They could not be farther from the truth. While the Asombro Institute for Science Education's classroom programs bring the desert to the students or the students to the desert on a field trip, we also educate the public on this unique ecosystem.



The Asombro Institute hosts many different educational events for the public at the 935-acre Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park. Topics range from native desert plants to bats, to nighttime in the desert. On August 21 (9:00 am - noon) we will be hosting our 8th Annual Butterfly Flutterby. There will be more than ten educational booths highlighting the fascinating world of these delicate creatures. Families can learn what native flowers attract butterflies, where in New Mexico to find different species of butterflies, and do some butterfly identification. There will be arts and crafts and butterfly face painting.

In October, we will have a nighttime presentation about bats. This flying mammals are misunderstood and there are many myths about them. Southern New Mexico is home to several migratory species as well as several that over-winter here. Learn what to do to attract this insect-eating machine to your neighborhood.

We wrap up the year with a Nature Walk right before Christmas on December 23. The serenity of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park is just the thing to loose all the holiday stress and relax. We will be walking the 1.2-mile Desert Discovery Trail to view local flora and fauna. The wildlife is still active during the winter and you never know what you may see.

The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park is open Tues. - Sat., 7:00 am - 5 pm. Admission is free (donations welcome). If you would like more information about the Asombro Institute for Science Education or the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, please visit our website at www.asombro.org. If you have any questions, or would like to become a member of the Asombro Institute, please contact us at 575-524-3334 or information@asombro.org.

Rink Somerday is the Program Coordinator for the Institute. Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Board Member of EEANM, is the Executive Director.



News from the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)

Dr. Deb Thrall, Member, Board of Directors of NAAEE



Ever wonder what it's like to serve on a National Board? As I reach the end of my 3 year commitment I thought it might be interesting to share with you some of what it's like, at least when you attend the Tri-National Conference! The conference actually begins on Wednesday, but the board meets for two days prior.

Tuesday – 8 am to 8 pm - Began with Strategic Initiatives & Enterprise Strategies of the new Strategic Plan. Reviewed reports from the Board committees: Awards, Diversity, EE Advocacy, Membership, Publications, Communications, Leadership Development, Development, and Personnel. Then Commission Reports: Research, Non-formal/Community-based EE, Higher Ed, International, Conservation, Sustainability Ed, Environmental Justice, and Service Learning. Council Reports followed: Resources Review, PreService Advisory, and Certification Advisory.

The morning wrapped up with the Finance Committee Report, **prospective funding changes and consequences for 2010. After a working lunch with the Research Commission we worked on Financial Planning Policies**, had an Executive Session to discuss the Personnel Committee Report and prepared for evening sessions with Research Commission and Affiliate Leaders. Whew!! What a day!

Wed – 8 am – 9 pm - Started with a review of Governance and Management Recommendations of the Strategic Plan, reviewed the Technology Revamp and then accepted the Governance Committee Report on the review and approval of commission charters and retirement of the Constitution as a historical document. After lunch then we began with the EECOM-NAAEE MOU where NAAEE will seek to provide a broader array of services in Canada as a part of its commitment to truly become tri-national. After the President's comments and a review of Board scheduling commitments for the conference we held a session on Board/Leadership/Financial Development, looked at Cross-cutting Issues/Next Steps and met with the Diversity Committee. Then the Conference began with an Opening Session by Pete Donaldson, creator of the one-man touring production "Salmon-People."

Thursday – 7 am to 9 pm - Started with a Commission, Council and Chairs breakfast followed by a Development committee meeting. Attended a few sessions before the lunch Plenary with Salvador Morelos Ochoa, Head of the Center of Education and Training for Sustainable Development in Mexico; Ruth McCully, Director of US EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education; Elizabeth Kilvert, Research and Strategy Advisor for Environment Canada. Caught a few more sessions and then attended "A Sense of Wonder"- a play based on the life and works of Rachel Carson, written and performed by Kaiulani Lee. The exhibit hall and all the fun associated with the Affiliates tables followed at 7 and after the Sponsor reception at 8 it was time to hit the hay!

Friday - 7 am to 10 pm - Breakfast with the Commission and sessions throughout the morning preceded the Art Commission meeting during lunch. EPA working session on upcoming grant cycles and the Leadership Committee meeting went until the Board Reception at 6:30 followed by the Silent and Live auction at Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Saturday 8:30 am to 10 pm. Began with the NAAEE business meeting followed by Finance Committee meeting. Noon Awards luncheon featured Charles R. Jordan, Director, The Conservation Fund on "All Hands on Deck: Increasing Diversity in Conservation" Working session on a potential Film Festival in conjunction with Wildscreen and ARKive filled the afternoon then on to the Presidents Reception at 5:30 closely followed by the final closing event!

Wow!! What a week and I must say that it was the most educational and truly fun time that I have spent in a very long time and I highly recommend it! See you in Buffalo for 2010!

Forests of the World Workshop

Los Alamos, March 27

On a late winter day in Los Alamos, twenty hardy teachers and educators met to learn more about world forests through Project Learning Tree's (PLT) secondary module, *Forests of the World*. Developed in conjunction with the World Forestry Center, the module provides a framework for exploring forests around the world, with an emphasis on the human interaction with and dependence on those environments. Jean Szymanski, PLT Coordinator, Barbara Garrity, PLT Co-Coordinator, and Ron Ortega, Forester from the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, presented activities. A fire ecology presentation provided by the local fire managers was also presented. The group visited the Cerro Grande Fire burn site, where, about ten years after the fire, the devastation is still apparent. Trees are starting to return, and many that were planted by volunteers after the fire and now established.



Jean Szymanski leads an activity.



Some trees escaped the fire, but most were destroyed (in the distance to the right).



Karen Beamish surveys the burn site.

EE WORKSHOPS

Watershed of the Upper Rio Grande

Pilar, NM



(above) Carol Bylsma, Director of Forest Song, leads the water testing and bug collection and identification at the Rio Grande, just north of Pilar.

Project WET's Healthy Water Healthy People curriculum and an introduction to the Globe Program were the draw for 19 participants in this workshop along the upper Rio Grande in Pilar, NM. Barbara Garrity, EEANM Exec. Dir., and Carol Bylsma, Director of Forest Song, and nonprofit in northern NM, led the workshop that included both indoor and outdoor activities related to watersheds and water quality.

GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) is a worldwide hands-on, primary and secondary school-based science and education program. GLOBE's vision promotes and supports students, teachers and scientists to collaborate on inquiry-based investigations of the environment and the Earth system working in close partnership with NASA and NSF Earth System Science Projects in study and research about the dynamics of Earth's environment.



(left) Participants search for clues to the pollution affecting the lake in this exercise from the Healthy Water Healthy People Educator Guide.

(right) Participants learn to distinguish between the macroinvertebrates found in the river (by doing yoga?).



EE WORKSHOPS

Environmental Risk

Albuquerque, April 30

Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health sponsored a Project WET Healthy Water Healthy People, combined with the Project Learning Tree's Focus on Risk secondary module. Eighteen teachers and educators came to the Menaul School to spend the day increasing their understanding of environmental risk, risk assessment and communications, particularly related to water quality. Featured speaker, Allyson Zahm, Zoo Education Coordinator & Acting BioPark Education Curator for the Albuquerque BioPark, gave a fascinating talk on Amphibian Decline and Conservation. Mike Matush, Water Quality Environmental Scientist from the NM Environment Department, spoke about water quality in the Rio Grande. Matt Cross-Guillén, Education Coordinator for Bernalillo County Env. Health, taught the ever-popular water testing. Jeremy Marley, a middle school science teacher from Jemez Valley Middle School, taught a hands-on activity. Barbara Garrity facilitated and co-taught the workshop. All participants received a water test kit to use with their students, as well as the curriculum guides.



Allyson Zahm presenting her talk on Amphibian Decline.



Matt Cross-Guillén (above) teaches the teachers how to use the water testing equipment.



EE WORKSHOPS

Early Childhood Environmental Experiences

Bernalillo, April 23

On April 23, 13 Early Childhood educational trainers met at Coronado State Monument to learn about the new Project Learning Tree module, Early Childhood Environmental Experiences. Talk about FUN!!! PLT's *Early Childhood Guide* integrates nature-based exploration, art, literature, math, music and movement, and outdoor play into early childhood education programs. The activities encourage young children to explore the senses, the seasons, and neighborhood trees. The activities highlight the importance of kinetic learning and engagement by incorporating music and movement using an accompanying music CD. The curriculum encourages children to explore, discover, and communicate in expressive ways, and provides an introduction to environmental education at a key developmental period in children's lives. Barbara Garrity facilitated the workshop with the assistance of two early childhood education specialists from the University of New Mexico Family Development Center, Janet Stewart and Alida Davila-Larrichio.



Participant communicates with his "special place."



Sunshine sandwiches are delicious!



Weaving ribbons around the maypole, with Celtic music to keep time.

Environmental Educator Certification Program Development Update

The planning committee has finished Phase I of the program development for establishing an EE Certification for Environmental Educators in New Mexico. The committee researched the 8 existing programs in other states, and is currently compiling a draft of a NM program. The certification relies on the candidate proving competency in 6 areas of environmental education:

- ◆ Environmental Literacy
- ◆ Foundations of Environmental Education
- ◆ Professional Responsibilities of the Environmental Educator
- ◆ Planning and Implementing EE
- ◆ Fostering Learning
- ◆ Assessment and Evaluation

Proof of the candidate's competencies may be essays, answers to worksheets, videos clips, coursework, workshops, or other methods.

The draft program will be revised by the committee, which is open to new members at all times. Then the draft will be circulated widely, through all our statewide networks, for feedback and more revisions. Phase 2 will result in a completed program, that will be implemented and refined with ongoing evaluation. To get involved in this effort, contact Barbara Garrity at (505) 715-7021.

EEANM Annual Conference

The Environmental Education Association of New Mexico will be joining forces again with the NM Science Teachers Assoc and the NM Council of Teachers of Mathematics for our annual conference at the Bosque School in Albuquerque October 7-9.

Hotels in the area are filling up due to Balloon Fiesta at the same time, so make your hotel reservations ASAP!!

You can now **SUBMIT PROPOSALS** for sessions at this year's NMSTA/NMCTM/EEANM Conference by going to:

Call for Proposals: <http://nmteach10-presenter.eventbrite.com/>. The deadline is September 8.

You can also **REGISTER** on-line for the conference at:

Attendee Registration: <http://nmteach10-registration.eventbrite.com/>

and Exhibitors can **RESERVE A SPACE** in the Exhibit Hall at:

Exhibitor Registration: <http://nmsta10exhibitors.eventbrite.com/>

More information will be posted on the EEANM and NMSTA websites (www.eeanm.org, www.nmsta.org and <http://nmctm.org>) as it becomes available.

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Affiliation:		
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Phones:		
Work ()	Home ()	Cell ()
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CHECK ONE OF THE MEMBERSHIP TYPES

- Limited Income/Student Membership.....\$15.00
- Individual Membership.....\$30.00
- Organizational Membership.....\$55.00

(Allows for 2 voting members)

Name and *email address* of voting members:

Newsletter Sponsor



Would you like to have a business card or a quarter page ad for your organization in our newsletter? _Contact our newsletter editor at info@eeanm.org.

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