



The Newsletter of the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico



CONNECTIONS

Vol. 18, No. 3: Winter 2010

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www.eeanm.org

Outdoor Children's Bill of Rights

The Leave No Child Inside Coalition has drafted a list of rights that should be guaranteed to every child in New Mexico and is planning to have it introduced as a memorial at the NM State legislature in January 2011. The coalition is comprised of organizations and individuals throughout the state that support environmental education and creating opportunities for children to experience the out of doors. The Sierra Club founded the coalition, and Kristina Ortez de Jones, the Sierra Club's SW Youth Representative for Building Bridges to the Outdoors, is the coordinator.

The memorial will begin with a series of "whereas" statements that provide the rational and justification for the memorial, and be followed by the list of rights that follows (this is still in draft form, so it may change somewhat in the next few days):

The State of New Mexico is committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to connect to the outdoor world on a daily basis throughout their lives. The New Mexico State Legislature proclaims that every New Mexico child shall have the opportunity to:

1. Play outside and freely explore
2. Watch wildlife in the quiet outdoors
3. Wade in a clean river, creek, lake or pond
4. Catch a fish and hunt for food
5. Camp out under the stars
6. Plant a seed and visit farms and ranches
7. Travel a trail
8. Explore New Mexico parks, nature centers and wildlife sanctuaries
9. Actively care for land, water and wildlife
10. Dig in the dirt and learn about the world from the ground up

Once the memorial is introduced at the legislative session in Santa Fe in January, support from the environmental education community will be essential. Please plan to write a letter, make a phone call, or come give testimony when the time comes.

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EEANM *PRESIDENT*

New Officers are Elected

EEANM elected the following as their officers for 2010-2011:

Kimi Scheerer, President

Kristina Orteiz de Jones, Vice President

Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Secretary

Amy Landers, Treasurer

Kimi Scheerer is out of town for the holidays and was unable to write a “message from the President” for this newsletter. Her bio is below, so that you can learn a bit about her if you somehow haven't met this dynamic person! EEANM is glad to have her enthusiasm and leadership at the helm of the Board of Directors.

Kimi the Education Coordinator for the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This is her 5th school season living in New Mexico and she has been enjoying the riparian valleys and mountains since coming here from the Florida Keys. She has a B.S. in biology from Alma College in Michigan and an M.S. in marine biology from James Cook University in Queensland, Australia. Marine biology might seem an awkward subject for an environmental educator in a high-elevation desert, but she's been involved with a variety of education programs in the U.S. and Caribbean that focus on ecosystems and their intricacies (this one is just farther away from sea level with different species)! She has worked with nature centers, aquariums, an ecological institute, and several residential school programs. She is the BEMP educational representative where she works in the classroom and field with BEMP students up and down the middle Rio Grande valley, co-teaches BEMP's UNM intern class, cultivates BEMP curriculum and supports Bosque School field research projects (like radio collaring porcupines – oh la la). She has been on the EEANM board for four years, the past two of which she was Vice President.



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We will join with public health community, educators, parents, and children to support this bill. Your help will be welcome and essential!

Participants in the development of the Bill of Rights include Dana Richards, Carole Palmer, Molly Madden, Katie Mast, Barbara Garrity, Teresa Gray, Rich Schrader, Carol Schrader, Dana Richards, Christy Tafoya, Dana Vackar Strang, Amy Roberts, Deb Novak, Laurie Wearne, and others. Input gathered from children created the basis for the list.

To get involved with this effort, please contact Kristina Orteiz de Jones or Barbara Garrity (contact info on page 3).

EEANM *BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

Officers

President

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

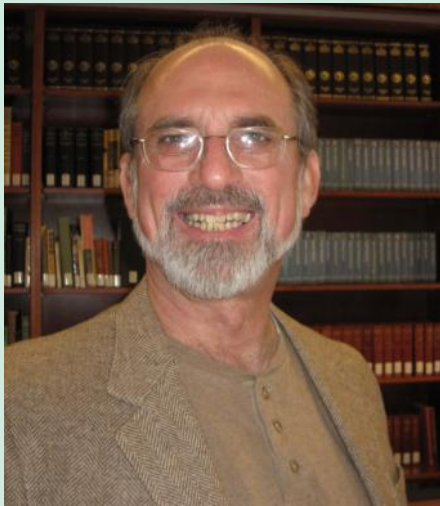
Barbara Garrity

info@eeanm.org

505-715-7021

New EEANM Board Members

The October election for EEANM Board members brought two new faces to the group. Larry Winn is the executive Director of Connections, Inc. in Gallup and Garth Smelser is the Acting Director of the Lincoln National Forest in Alamogordo.



Larry Winn, Ed. D. is the Executive Director of Connections Inc. in Gallup, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit which provides environmental enhancement services in the McKinley & Cibola County areas through two EPA grants and constructs trails and mitigation structures through YCC contracts with the State of NM EMNRD, McKinley County, and the City of Gallup. Larry is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and former professor. He is also currently Chairman of the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission, a Governor - appointed board, overseeing the 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts which cover the state. He is the Chairman of the Gallup Water Board. A member of the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Quivira Coalition, and the Archaeological Conservancy, Larry also sits on the Northern New Mexico Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), a group working for environmental improvements on National Forest lands. His primary professional emphasis currently is helping bridge the policy and “cultural” gap historically separating environmentalists and traditional land users. He worked successfully with other groups during the 2010 Legislative Session to secure passage of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act. He is experienced in educating as well as securing contracts and effecting on-the-ground improvements through partnerships with groups representing varied interests.



Garth Smelser has served as Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Lincoln National Forest since January 2010. Mr. Smelser came to New Mexico from the Apalachicola National Forest in Florida. Garth completed his Bachelor of Science degree at the United States Naval Academy in 1995 after which he served as a Naval Flight Officer for eight years. After receiving his Master's Degree at the University of Hawai'i, Garth was awarded a Presidential Management Fellowship with the US Forest Service in Washington D.C. working on forest planning and roadless issues. Having served on the Gifford-Pinchot, Monongahela, Bighorn, and Inyo National Forests, Garth brings a wealth of collaborative land management experience from all levels of the agency. Having grown up loving the outdoors, Garth dedicated efforts to establishing the statewide *Get Outdoors, Florida!* Coalition and bringing *More Kids in the Woods* grants to the Florida panhandle. He brought this passion to southern New Mexico and has helped gather dozens of partners in the establishment of the Youth A.C.T.I.o.N. Coalition which currently is fueling the Lincoln's Children's Forest efforts. Garth is married to Julie Fitzpatrick; together they are helping their twin 2-year old daughters discover all that nature has to offer on their daily walks.



Christy Tafoya Receives Outstanding Service to Environmental Education Award

Christy Tafoya, former President of EEANM from 2007-2010 was awarded the *Outstanding Service to Environmental Education Award* by the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (EEANM). The award, presented October 8 at our annual conference in Albuquerque, recognizes sustained service to the field of environmental education in both professional work and service to the organization.

Christy's day job is Education and Resources Program Manager for New Mexico State Parks. Her work with the Outdoor Classroom Program for NM State Parks brought thousands of children and hundreds of teachers into outdoor places, where environmental learning is most effective.

Christy served four years on the Board of Directors for EEANM, including one year as vice president and three as president. During her tenure, Tafoya helped with significant transitions in organizational development such as hiring the first staff member, supervising grant administration, and helping launch several statewide initiatives.

Jeremy Marley Recieves Outstanding Environmental Educator Award

Jeremy Marley, a 6th grade Science teacher at Jemez Valley Middle School, received the Outstanding Environmental Educator Award from EEANM at our annual conference in October.

Jeremy demonstrates leadership in his use of the outdoors as an effective learning environment. He participates in Project Venture of the National Indian Youth Leadership program, which involves weekly field trips with his students. Jeremy is also working on a river restoration project with his students and students from the Pueblo of Jemez.

Jeremy has engaged in a multitude of voluntary professional development opportunities, driven to be the best teacher he can be. He has been trained in the Leopold Education Project, Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WET, and many others. The success Jeremy has had in writing grants to obtain books and materials for outdoor investigations reflect his commitment to teaching, above and beyond what is expected of him.



EE WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars for these upcoming workshops!

January 29, 2011

Project Learning Tree Educator Workshop K-8

Sandia Mountain Ranger Station, Tijeras, NM

Contact Jean Szymanski, US Forest Service, jszymanski@fs.fed.us, (505) 842-3325

February 26, 2011

Project Learning Tree Facilitator Workshop

Albuquerque, NM

Funding available for participants who have already been trained in PLT and who reside in locations where there are currently no PLT facilitators.

Contact Barbara Garrity, EEANM, info@eeanm.org, (505) 715-7021

March 25-27, 2011

Project WILD, K-12 and Project Learning Tree, PreK-8 Workshop

Friday evening to Sunday noon, Taos, NM

River Otters: Coming Into the Watershed & Mountain Forests

Contact Colleen Welch, Co-Coordinator, Conservation Education and Project Aquatic WILD at colleen.welch@state.nm.us, (505) 476-8119



Teaching about Climate Change

With nearly unanimous agreement among scientists that climate change is occurring, with global and regional temperatures rising and weather extremes increasing, it is imperative that we environmental educators have resources for teaching this important subject. Here are some online resources and links to help find what you may need.

The New Mexico Environment Department sponsors Climate Masters, an actions-based education program that helps individuals reduce their personal and household greenhouse gas emissions. Upon completing the free course, trained Climate Masters™ volunteers share with others easy, low-cost ways to reduce emissions from home energy, transportation, food, consumption and waste, and yards.

<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/NewMexicoClimateMasters/>

The NM Museum of Natural History and Science has a Climate Change Educator, Eileen Everett. Eileen works with children, families, and adults on educating about our changing climate and actions we as individuals, communities, and societies can take in regards to our warming planet.

EileenM.Everett@state.nm.us

Online Climate Change Education Resources:

<http://www.climatechangeeducation.org/>

<http://www.epa.gov/teachers/climate.html>

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/index.html>

<http://www.education.noaa.gov/Climate/>

<http://hdgc.epp.cmu.edu/teachersguide/teachersguide.htm>



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.....\$20.00

☐ Individual Membership.....\$30.00

☐ Organizational Membership.....\$60.00

(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