



Environmental Education Association of New Mexico

February 2014



What's Next for the Environmental Literacy Plan?

After presenting the initial draft of the Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) at a fantastic summit in September, we have been incorporating your feedback into the plan. Thank you to everyone who participated in the summit and sent comments and suggestions! You may still provide feedback and access the document at [this link](#).

In a series of meetings this spring, we will gather input for the ELP from Native Americans and border communities. We were able to reach out to these groups thanks to funding from the EPA. We'll incorporate the additional input into the ELP and have the next draft ready in time for a Summit this summer or fall.

[Read more about the ELP and download the first draft.](#)

We're Looking for Help!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Albert I Pierce Foundation, we are able to contract with someone to be a Program Assistant for 10-15 hours a week. [Read more about the position.](#)

Project Learning Tree Grows

In 2014, the American Forest Foundation's PLT Model Programs Initiative will support the 2nd Annual Forestry and Fire Ecology Academy in Las Vegas, NM.



Tell us what you think!

[Take EEANM's 2014 Survey](#)

Membership Status: **Current**

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BRAVO!

2013 Outstanding Service to Environmental Education Award

Wild Friends Lobbies Against Poaching

In January, we helped with student field trips to the State Legislature in a continued partnership with UNM School of Law's Wild Friends. Students are lobbying legislators to increase poaching penalties (HM 3 and SM 14). [Follow their progress on Facebook.](#)

EPA Small Grant Recipients Deliver Results

During 2013, twenty-one grantees from EPA Region 6 worked on projects funded by the Small Grants Program administered by EEANM. The six grantees from New Mexico have been busy increasing EE opportunities:

- Hawks Aloft took their hands-on, project-based "Living with the Landscape" curriculum into more schools.
- NM Wilderness Alliance piloted a three-tiered wilderness education program that targets classrooms, outdoor experiences and communities.
- Four Corners School of Outdoor Education focused on water issues with professional development for K-8 teachers from schools on the Colorado Plateau.
- New Mexico Water Conservation Alliance connected teachers to both hands-on and high-tech resources in their RiverXchange Teacher Workshop.
- UNM's Wild Friends Program integrated civics with wildlife science as they got even more students involved in the democratic process.
- The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) delivered a training at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.

EECapacity Focus Shifts from Food to History

Working with Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) in 2013, we hosted conversations, trainings and workshops promoting local food and community gardens.

- Mary Erwin taught a fantastic session using [Growing the Outdoor Classroom: A Handbook on Gardening in Albuquerque Public Schools](#) (pdf)
- Sayrah Namaste shared the American Friends Service Committee's [Building a Community Garden:](#)



Becky Kerr
NM Regional Coordinator
Four Corners School of Outdoor
Education

Becky has served for 6 years (and counting!) on EEANM's board and spent the last 20+ years teaching and promoting EE. [Read more.](#)

2013 Dr. Richard W. Becker Award for Excellence in Environmental Education



Colleen Langan-McRoberts
Open Space Coordinator
Bernalillo County

Colleen has created many EE opportunities for Bernalillo residents through events, classes, citizen science and collaborations. [Read more.](#)

[A Collaboration of New Mexico Farmers and Educators.](#)

- Eric Griego, former State Senator, talked about how to get policy support for using more local produce in public schools and other legislative efforts. (Thanks to McCune Charitable Foundation)
- Mandy's Farm hosted a workshop on Cultural Competency, where we learned about working with people with disabilities.

For 2014, we are partnering with the Town of Atrisco Grant to build connections through place-based learning. We'll host teacher workshops for Project Learning Tree's [Places We Live](#) secondary module and help encourage young citizens to connect with their own community and history.

Youth Conference on the Environment Returns

Thanks to continued support from Lockheed Martin, we are co-hosting the 17th Annual Youth Conference on the Environment on April 8. The free, one-day event offers high school science students opportunities to learn about environmental issues in NM. It is currently booked to capacity, but email [Katrina Wagner](#) from Sandia National Labs to join the waiting list or be notified next year.

Around the State

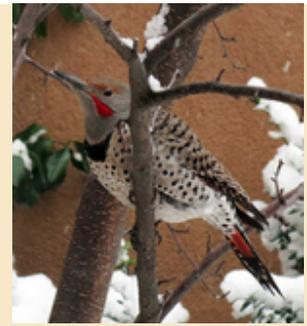
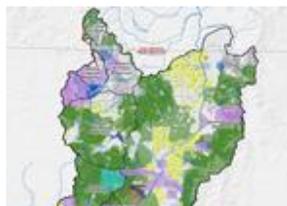
Here are a few updates from our partners. For regular updates, be sure to join our ["Eco Ed" Google Group](#).

Jr Duck Stamp Contest Now Open

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is accepting artwork from K-12 students through March 15. [Get contest details.](#) We had a chance to visit this beautiful new refuge (formerly Price's Dairy) and encourage you to go to one of their monthly open houses!

Rio Grande Water Fund Gets an Outreach and Education Plan

Led by the Nature Conservancy, an outreach and education working group is drafting a plan to increase



Northern Red-Shafted Flicker
by [BrianAAdams/Flickr](#)

awareness about water sources and support for water security. The Rio Grande Water Fund aims to generate sustainable funding for a 10-30 year program of large-scale forest and watershed restoration treatments. [Learn more](#) or contact [Laura McCarthy](#) to get involved.



Silvery Minnow and its Relationship to the River – Feb. 23

Bernalillo County Open Space hosts this talk as part of its Naturalist Series. [Register or view](#) other February events.

BEMP's Crawford Symposium – Feb 25

The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program holds its annual [Crawford/Next Generation Symposium](#). Professionals and students will present research and share information about the Middle Rio Grande Bosque.

Southwest Regional Real Food Summit - Feb. 27 – Mar. 2, 2014

Share & learn about the food system while you gain skills to further support local, sustainable, fair food efforts. [Read more.](#)

Bioregional Outdoor Education Conference – Feb. 28 – Mar. 2

Four Corners School of Outdoor Education hosts “Bringing it Home: Elements of Effective Education 2” in Blanding, Utah. [Register or read more.](#)

Green Teacher Offers EE-themed Webinars

In February, Green Teacher is offering free webinars about overcoming Nature Deficit Disorder, building resilience after natural disasters, and water quality monitoring. [Check out the details.](#)

Do you have news or events for our next newsletter?

Please send them to info@eeanm.org.

Banner image of coyote by [Larry Lamsa on Flickr](#).

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