



EE Certification Starts This Fall

New Mexico's Environmental Education Certification Program will launch this fall with a pilot group of applicants. EEANM will coordinate the program. Thank you to the volunteer committee members who have helped bring this program from an idea to reality!

Certified environmental educators will show their mastery of six themes:

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

Applicants will start with a self-assessment and professional development plan to gain any needed skills, knowledge and experience. Over the next 12 months, applicants will assemble an electronic portfolio to demonstrate their competencies. With narratives, lesson plans, papers, videos, photos and other supporting documents, the portfolio is intended to be a flexible assessment mechanism that will also be professionally valuable beyond the certification process.

Applicants can opt to work with an advisor. A team of peer reviewers will serve as the certifying agent. The five-year certification term will allow professionals to continuously improve as our field evolves.

The application will be available in June, and we'll post all the details through EcoEd and our newsletter.



Happy Earth Week!

We'd love to see pictures from your Earth Day celebrations and activities. Share them with us on our [Facebook page](#).

Support EEANM

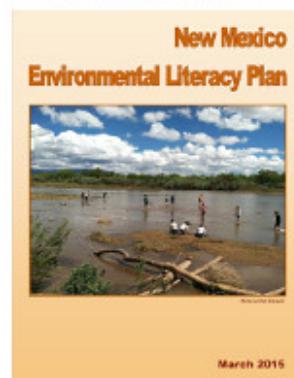
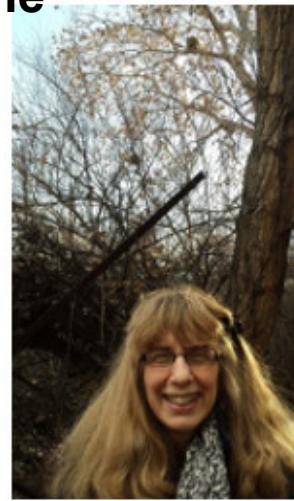
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The Path Forward from the Environmental Literacy Summit

On March 10, EEANM hosted the second Environmental Literacy Summit at the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque. Keynote speaker, Judy Braus, Executive Director of the North American Association for Environmental Education, spoke about national efforts to support environmental education by creating evidence-based research and documentation. (Judy also spotted her first porcupine while visiting New Mexico!)

We introduced the second draft of the Environmental Literacy Plan, which features an additional chapter on school facilities and campuses and how to use them for educational purposes. The group discussed sponsoring a memorial supporting EE at the next State legislature as a legislative step toward building support for the plan.

EEANM's director, Barbara Garrity, presented the Environmental Literacy Plan at the Green Our Schools Sustainability Education Summit in Santa Fe on April 18.



Upcoming Events

Project WET Workshop.
June 2, 9-3, at La Cienega Community Center in Santa Fe.

EE Book Club.
July 29, 6:30pm at Old Town Pizza in Albuquerque. Discussing *Hope Beneath Our Feet: Restoring Our Place in the Natural World*. Please see article for more info.

Applications due for EE Certification Pilot Group.
August 15. Please see article for more info.

PLT Places We Live Workshops.
A partnership with the NM MainStreet Program.
August 29 - Farmington
September 5 - Raton
September 12 - T or C
October 3 - Grants

2015 Annual Conference.
November 13-14 in Hobbs. We're partnering with the science and math teachers' associations again to bring together our state's finest educators for a diverse offering of workshops and presentations.

An EE-themed Evening with Food and Friends

Grazie! to those who joined us last month at Scalo Northern Italian Grill for a delicious fundraiser dinner. Thanks to dinner attendees and silent auction bidders (at the Environmental Literacy Summit earlier that day), we raised nearly \$1000 to support EEANM's environmental literacy work.



Coming Together for Environmental Justice



On April 17th at the Mountain View Community Center, a group of 75 people came together to teach and learn about environmental justice. Richard Moore, director of Los Jardines Institute, provided a moving keynote speech that

chronicled many of the local environmental justice battles that he and others have taken on over the past 50 years. Now that the old Price's Dairy has been transformed into the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is entering into an agreement with local environmental justice advocates to develop the first-ever environmental justice plan for a federal project that includes locals as decision-makers.

The event also included a panel discussion with Juan Reynosa (Southwest Organizing Project), Beata Tsosie-Pena (Tewa Women United), Nadine Padilla (Native American Voters Alliance), and Lauro Silva (Mountain View Neighborhood Association).



Roberta Salazar Wins the 2015 Outstanding Project Learning Tree Educator Award!

Roberta Salazar, Executive Director of Rivers and Birds, has been selected to receive the fourth annual New Mexico Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educator award for 2015. This award acknowledges her commitment to using Project Learning Tree (PLT) to build awareness and understanding of the environment, as well as motivation to take action to address issues. PLT is a program of the American Forest Foundation's Center for Environmental Learning. The program includes teacher training with curriculum guides and the Green Schools program.



Roberta has established Rivers & Birds' nine-day Watershed Learning Project, which takes fifth graders into nature for hands-on learning incorporating Project Learning Tree's activities; the Rivala Tree Fund, which annually raises money for tree plantings with students and volunteers; the Heartwood Coalition that offered tree workshops and planted an orchard with 25 fruit trees; partnership with USFWS to establish schoolyard habitats with pollinator gardens at four schools in Taos. She was the local community organizer for the Columbine Hondo Wilderness Campaign to permanently protect 45,000 acres of forested watershed. The Act passed in 2014, forever protecting these headwater forests. In 2011, she hosted a Project Learning Tree – Project WILD workshop in Taos. She is an exemplary environmental educator and we are proud to honor her! The New Mexico PLT team will be presenting her award at a location of her choice (TBD).

EE Book Club Reads *Hope Beneath Our Feet: Restoring Our Place in the Natural World*

Wednesday, July 29, 6:30pm at Old Town Pizza, 108 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, ABQ

"Presenting diverse strategies for change as well as grounds for hope, the contributors to this anthology celebrate the ways in which we can all engage in beneficial action for ourselves, our communities, and the world."

The next EE Book Club will feature an anthology of writings from environmentalists, artists, CEOs, grassroots activists, religious figures, scientists, policy makers, and indigenous leaders. We'll each take an essay or two from it to read and present to the group. (Of course, you're welcome to read the whole book, too.) Please [email Barbara](#) to RSVP and to select your essay.

New Partnership with New Mexico MainStreet Program

EEANM will partner with four NM MainStreet Program locations--Raton, Farmington, Grants and Truth or Consequences--to hold teacher workshops using the secondary module of Project Learning Tree (PLT), *Places We Live*. The PLT guidebook offers a planning curriculum as a way of assessing and affecting the urban environment.

The MainStreet Program is a historic preservation and

downtown revitalization program that can work well with an environmental urban planning curriculum. The teachers who attend the workshop will receive a stipend and commit to some follow-up student engagement with their local MainStreet program activities. We are excited about the potential to strengthen local community MainStreet efforts and increase students' civic engagement with this partnership.



Dates for the workshops are as follows:

- Farmington - August 29
- Raton - September 5
- Truth or Consequences - September 12
- Grants - October 3

Around the State

Talking Talons Youth Leadership Collaborative Forest Restoration Project.

April 29, 4:30-6pm, Talking Talons Program Office, Cedar Crest. A multiparty education meeting for the community to learn about the project and its impact. [Learn more.](#)

Wonder of Learning: Nature Exhibit.

May 1, 6-9 p.m., Bachechi Open Space, Albuquerque. An evening featuring student artwork, labyrinth building, a campfire and music. Bring a picnic for this celebration of the Middle Rio Grande and rivers around the world. [Learn more.](#)

Next Generation Stewards for Ancestral Places: The Chaco Landscape.

June 2-5, 2015. (Apply by May 1.) Preserve America Youth Summit presents an on-site interactive learning experience for New Mexico middle and high school students, teachers and service leaders. Study cultural heritage, historic preservation and heritage tourism issues and undertake service projects across the Chaco landscape. [Learn more.](#)

Do you have news or events for our next newsletter?

Please send them to info@eeanm.org.

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