

Newsletter

October 2004


Strategic Planning Day

NNREC's winter quarter board meeting will be a Strategic Planning Day. The day will be devoted to considering the mission, vision, objectives and activities of the organization over the next five years. The board, the Advisory Council, members, and interested supporters are invited. We strongly encourage people from all over Nevada to participate since this is your best chance to affect the direction and activities of the organization, as well as to make a commitment to helping carry out the mission.

The day will be held in the Reno or Carson City area on Saturday, January 22, 2005. For people traveling from other areas, locals will provide housing on Friday and/or Saturday night, if you need it, and airport pickups and drop-offs. The event will last about seven hours and include a break for lunch. Afterward, there will be time for socializing and catching up with friends.

As the day gets closer, we will provide more details, as well as some reading materials to help you prepare for the day by reflecting on the community we serve, the niche we fill, and your own role.

 <http://nnrec.org/about/planning/>

 Saturday, January 22, 2005

Conference Report

Winnemucca was the site of our 2004 Statewide Environmental Education Conference, with the theme 'Preserving rural values through natural resource education and partnerships.' This was our first conference in rural Nevada and part of our strategy to serve and learn from all the communities of Nevada. Nevada Outdoor School, an educational program in Winnemucca and the surrounding areas to educate students and the community

about conserving resources and protecting and restoring sensitive environments, was the major partner for this conference.

Author and keynote speaker Carolyn Dufurrena read from one of her three books, showed a video on ranch gates created by ranch women, and told a chicken story, bring a strong sense of place from her life on the Quinn River Ranch and as a teacher at Denio school. Great Basin College instructor Doug Hogan spoke in his keynote about listening to all voices and the need for tolerance to meet the current challenges of both politics and environmental and education issues.

Six workshops were offered during the day. Jim Flanders talked about his use of raptors in falconry while Doug Hogan talked about reptiles. Jim had the group in stitches with his humor, and the edge of their seats with the two raptors he brought into the library at Sonoma Heights Elementary School. We walked over to the community garden for a presentation by coordinator Lynn Lindsey on composting and vermi-composting (using worms to speed the process). Back at the school Cheryl Merzke filled the group in on the community recycling center and with Stephanie Lefevre did several lessons on recycling and materials use, including a fun lesson called eco-footprints that traces the origin and fate of a common object. After lunch

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Jim Flanders presenting on falconry

Members

NNREC is proud to count among its supporters these members, through June 2005:

Individual

Dan Allison	Julie Snyder
Chris Miller	John Roos
Sonya Hem	Glenn Miller
Anga Rebane	Sue Jacox
DeeDee Dann	Shirley Pollock
Paul Guttman	Carol Heinrich
Ann Rose	Phyllis Atkinson
Joleen Nielsen	Portia Jelinek
Mary Baird	
Maureen Dempsey	

Institutional

USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region, Conservation Education
Friends of Red Rock Canyon, Environmental Education Committee
Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning
Nevada Division of Forestry

Why Membership?

This newsletter is brought to you by the members of NNREC.

NNREC operates programs such as our annual statewide conference with professional development activities, Project Learning Tree / Burning Issues workshops, High Sierra Resource Workshop for teens interested in natural resource and education careers, the Summer Institute in Lamoille Canyon for teacher and natural resource professionals, a mini-grant program for teachers and other educators, and many other programs both directly and with partners. We distribute a newsletter via email on environmental education several times a year. Most importantly, we maintain a web site full of the information you want to know to support your work or interest in natural resource education.

We fund some of these activities from government grants, primarily from the Nevada Division of Forestry conservation education and Burning Issues programs, as well as minor funding from other sources. As you can imagine, the level of funding from government sources continues to decline year by year. Our other major source of funding is YOU - our members. Not only do membership dues allow us to maintain the web site and distribute the newsletter, but to supplement the grant funding we receive. Without membership dues we really could not exist!

We hope you will join or renew, supporting and taking part in our efforts to enhance and coordinate environmental education in Nevada! To join, please use the membership application below, or join and pay online at <http://nnrec.org/membership/>.

Membership Application

To join the Nevada Natural Resource Education Council, complete this application form and mail along with your check payable to NNREC to: NNREC, PO Box 4741, Carson City NV 89702-4741. Membership is renewable in July of every year. New members joining in the last quarter (April-May-June) will be extended through the next year. All persons providing an email addresses will be added to the announcement-only E-Newsletter email list. You may also join and pay online at <http://nnrec.org/membership/>.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip+4 _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Agency/Organization _____

- Regular..... \$15
- Senior/Student \$10
- Supporting \$25
- Institutional (agency,organization,school,business) \$50

- Complimentary E-Newsletter only
- You may list my name on membership lists (name only, no other contact info).

I want to help with:

- Board of Directors
- Advisory Council
- Statewide Conference
- Workshops
- Liaison with other organizations
- Fund-raising
- Other _____

Paul Guttman presented Family ASTRO and showed off his solar telescope. Patty Herzog of Newmont Mining presented a mining resources and restoration lesson, then led the group in making stepping stones. Back at the garden, Ryan Bixemann gave the group a good grounding in service-learning approaches to bringing academic learning together with real world learning and service work in the community. We finished off the day by enjoying the sunset, great snacks, and the products of fermentation.

The breakfast, lunch and hor d'oeuvres were all spectacular, mostly organic and locally grown food. The food and the attention to using reusable plates, napkins, cups, etc., and recycling what was not reusable, has set a new standard for our conferences, that will be a challenge to meet, and well worth it.

On Sunday some people attended a work project in Water Canyon, while others visited Lovelock Cave to develop an approach for the BLM to use in refining existing educational materials for use with, and development by, students.

We have not set the location of our next conference, but are exploring the possibility of having it in southern Nevada. If you are a southern Nevada person who would like to comment on or participate in planning and hosting a statewide conference there, please contact Stephanie Lefevre at 775-625-2480 or orchid@cascadeaccess.com.

Project Fire Workshop

A Project Fire workshop will be held all day Monday, November 15, 2004 at the Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit offices in South Lake Tahoe CA. The



workshop, which combines Project Learning Tree with Burning Issues, will focus present a number of PLT activities that can be used by teachers and non-formal educators to impart standards-based understanding of natural processes and issues in the forest ecosystem. The Burning Issues CD can be used to give

students an understanding of fire control and management techniques in several different ecosystems. Building on this framework, we will explore fire and fuels management issues in the Tahoe basin, with local experts providing up-to-date information.

A significant portion of the workshop will be outside, in the extensive forest adjacent to the offices, as much as the weather allows. Participants will leave with a PLT Curriculum Guide, supplements for secondary teachers, a Burning Issues CD, and several other resources. There are a limited number of substitute reimbursements available for teachers in the Tahoe basin. Though the workshop is in South Lake Tahoe, teachers from both states and the entire basin, including Truckee, are encouraged to attend.

Fliers, registration forms, online registration and payment, and a course syllabus are available on the web page.

 <http://nnrec.org/programs/projectfire/>

 Monday, November 15, 2004

Board Transitions

Craig Rock has retired from teaching in Storey County School District and is now living in Los Osos, California. Craig has been involved in service learning for a number of years, involving his students in real world projects in Virginia City, was a central planner of our successful 2003 conference, and has served on the board for four years and as Treasurer. On September 17 we had a going away party for Craig.

Chris Miller will be heading to Billings, Montana in November to start work as a Recreation Planner with the BLM there. Chris has been involved in NNREC since the beginning in the mid-1980s, and has been the lead organizer of the High Sierra Resource Workshop, and has served on the board for years, and in a number of positions. On October 15 we had a going away party for Chris.

Mark Kimbrough has rejoined our board. He also has been involved in NNREC from the early days, but took a break to concentrate on his new position as Executive Director of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, after a long career with Nevada State Parks and Washoe County Parks. Welcome back!

We have openings on our board for at least one more person. If you are interested and would like to find out more, check the web site at <http://nnrec.org/governance/board/>, and contact Chair Shirley Pollock at 775-849-2180.

The next meetings of the Board of Directors are:
Saturday, January 15, 2005 (Strategic Planning)
Thursday, April 7, 2004 (Advisory Council)
Thursday, July 7, 2005 (Annual Meeting)
Board meetings are open to all members.



Annual Report & Mini-Grant Summary

NNREC's 2003-2004 Annual Report and the summary of our 2004 Mini-Grant Program are now available on the web site. Please check it out to see what we've been up to, and for projects you might want to get involved in this year. We are very proud of our accomplishments!

 http://nnrec.org/about/annual_report/


 <http://nnrec.org/programs/minigrant/>

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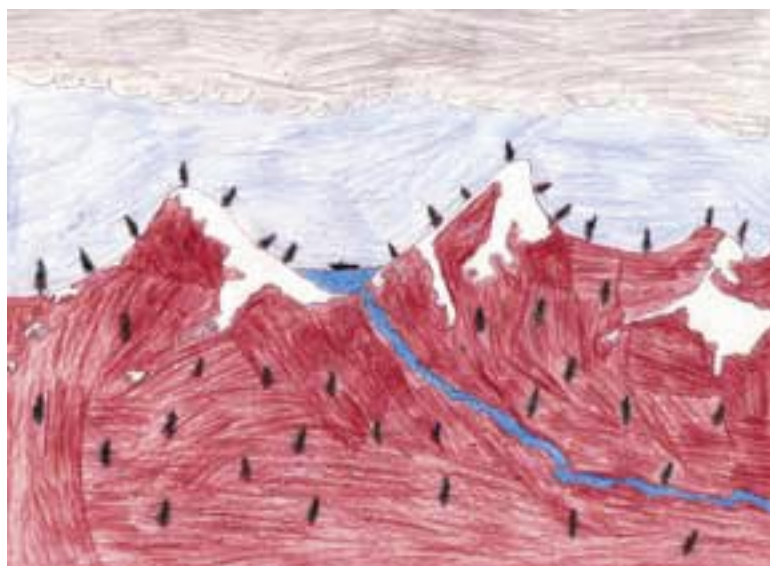
Poetry on the Lake: River of Words Workshop

Two Poetry on the Lake, a River of Words workshop, are being offered in the Tahoe basin. The afternoon workshops (4:00–6:00) will include techniques that work well with reluctant writers, journal making, and information on the international poetry and art contest. Fliers, registration forms, and online registration and payment are on the web page.

 <http://raincloudpub.com/row/>

 Wednesday, November 3, 2004 at Tahoe Lake School, Tahoe City CA

 Wednesday, November 17, 2004 at South Tahoe MS, South Lake Tahoe CA



Pinecone Ball

The annual Pinecone Ball is an awards ceremony and social hosted by Environmental Leadership for the western Nevada environmental advocacy and education community. This year the ball will be Wednesday, November 17, at the Siena Hotel Spa Casino in Reno. The main feature will be 'The Spirit of John Muir' by Lee Stetson. The awards ceremony will be hosted by Alicia Reban, long time host, and John Singlaub. The hosts should be a hoot, entertainment in and of themselves. The Golden Pinecone Awards are given in several categories. Last year the awards were: Karen Boeger - Individual; Nevada Land Conservancy - Non-Profit; Full Circle Compost - Business; John Singlaub - Public Figure/Servant; Jenny Brekhus - Agency Representative; and Reno News & Review - Media. In addition to the entertainment and awards, the Pinecone Ball is a great chance to see people you have worked with over the years but don't see often.

 <http://environleader.org/pinecone.html>

 Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Symposium Success!

The Symposium for Environmental Education in Lake Tahoe Schools, held on September 28, 2004 in Incline Village, was a great success. About 120 teachers, resource agency specialists, and interested others came together to learn about the place-based service-learning approach to effective education.

John Singlaub, Executive Director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, spoke on TRPA's mission and activities in the basin. During a working lunch,

participants visited booths hosted by most of the agencies and organizations that are actively working to protect the lake. Many connections were made here and informally during the rest of the symposium that will lead to future collaborations between schools and others.

Participants heard about twelve successful projects that involved partnerships between schools and agencies or organizations, organized along five topics of water quality including student monitoring, wildfire risk and defensible space, erosion control and BMPs particularly on school sites, native plants, gardens and restoration, and fisheries and wildlife. Each of the projects meets both academic content and skills standards of the schools while also helping the agencies achieve their goals under the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) thresholds. A presentation on the school-site BMP project at Tahoe Lake School which brought together Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships, Tahoe Resource Conservation District and many other agency and community partners to remove pavement and capture roof runoff at the school, and another presentation on the schoolyard garden project at Truckee Elementary School were particularly inspirational.

The symposium was also the annual meeting of the lead sponsor, the Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, and benefitted from LTEEC's existing partnerships and activities. A planning committee worked over the last six months to create and host the symposium, including NNREC board member Dan Allison. Heather Segale of LTEEC was the central organizer and in large part responsible for the success of the symposium.

Nonprofit Day

Nonprofit Day was hosted by the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra on October 13 in Reno. NNREC board members Shirley Pollock and Dan Allison attended, as well as NNREC supporters Sue Jacox and Margie Evans. The day included four sessions, on diversifying your funding base, organizational sustainability, best practices in collaboration, and meaningful strategic planning, as well as an inspirational keynote by Frank Omowale Satterwhite. The workshops offered us a chance to reflect on how we are doing in carrying out the mission of our nonprofits. Both NNREC and Great Basin Outdoor

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About NNREC...

Mission

Nevada Natural Resource Education Council is a statewide not-for-profit organization whose goal is to develop and promote natural resource education in Nevada. The membership is composed of those supportive of the goals of the Council, and includes a diversity of individuals, organizations, and agencies.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the Council are:

- To seek implementation of our state law which mandates environmental education in all Nevada public schools and promises statewide coordination, support, materials, and training
- To promote quality environmental education for the entire citizenry and act as a clearinghouse for public information concerning natural resources
- To enter into partnerships with entities sharing common interests in natural resources to foster resource education

Board of Directors

Shirley Pollock, Chair (through 2005)
4655 Eastlake Blvd, Carson City NV
89704; 775-849-2180 H

Anga Rebane, Secretary (through 2006)
745 Champagne Dr, Incline Village
NV 89450; 775-831-9456 H;
angarebane@hotmail.com

Dan Allison, Treasurer (through 2006)
PO Box 3644, Carson City
NV 89702; 775-882-2375 H;
allisondan@sbcglobal.net

Stephanie Lefevre (through 2005)
529 Lay St, Winnemucca NV 89445;
775-625-2480; slefevre@nv.blm.gov

Mark Kimbrough (through 2006)
948 Incline Way, Incline Village
NV 89451; 775-298-0012 W;
Markk@tahoeirimtrail.org

Chris Miller (through 2005)
Carson City District, 5665 Morgan Mill
Rd, Carson City NV 89701; 775-885-
6148 W; Christina_Miller@nv.blm.gov

Craig Rock (through 2005)
1675 Los Osos Valley Rd #175, Los
Osos CA 93402; 805-528-1931;
comstockrock@yahoo.com

School will be having strategic planning sessions in January.

Workshops such as the Nonprofit Day occur from time to time. We encourage all our members to participate in such training opportunities because the increase your skills in supporting environmental nonprofits, whether you serve on boards, lead projects, or just participate as a member. The United Way is hoping to offer additional trainings in the coming year.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals - Sierra Chapter is hosting the 17th Annual Philanthropy Day Conference on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 at Harrah's Reno. For more information, check the APF web site at <http://afprenosparks.org/>.

University of Nevada Reno Extended Studies offers a series of professional development courses leading to certificates in several topics including Nonprofit Management. Sue Jacox, Dan Allison, and a number of staff and volunteers for nonprofits in western Nevada have completed this program, and found it very valuable for serving as both board members and staff. The classes are valuable freestanding, even if you are not going for a certificate. For more information, check <http://extendedstudies.unr.edu/prodev.htm>.

Carson River Conference

The Carson River Conference was held Friday, October 15, 2004 in Carson City. The event, sponsored by the Carson River Coalition and others, offered speakers on a variety of topics revolving around floodplain protection.



Though everyone seems to agree that floodplain protection is desirable, the six counties (Alpine,

Douglas, Carson City, Storey, Lyon, and Churchill) along the Carson River corridor and tributaries continue to approve development that decreases the ability of the natural floodplain to handle inevitable floods. Rancher Arnold Settlemeyer pointed out that people often have "flood amnesia," even about the recent 1997 flood which filled the valleys with floodwater. Development since that time has reduced the ability of the valleys to handle flood waters, so the next flood of similar size will cause even more damage to both human structures and to the natural environment. The conservation districts and others work to mitigate these effects and restore natural river function, but their efforts are small in comparison to the impact of development in the floodplain. Floodplain protection ordinances are one solution, but ultimately the solution is to educate people so that they understand the economic and environmental value of functioning floodplains, and then work to make sure that floodplain development does not happen in their community.

Some educational efforts have been underway for years, particularly the Carson River workdays and other events that educate students and citizens while accomplishing valuable restoration. The NNREC Carson River Model Environmental Education Project web page links describes and links to many of the events and organizations active in environmental education on and for the river.


 <http://nnrec.org/programs/carsonriver/>

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Project WET

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection sponsors Project WET workshops in northern Nevada. The next one is scheduled for February 4–5 in Incline Village. WET is a water-focused set of lessons designed to motivate students to learn about their own watershed and for ease of use by the teacher. WET is used in the classroom, on the schoolyard, and on field trips, but teachers and the many non-formal educators who work with students and the public. The two day workshop will allow participants to experience and practice presenting lessons so that they are ready to use them with their students. The workshop will look in detail at the water quality issues in the Lake Tahoe basin and the efforts of many agencies and organizations to protect the clarity of the lake. Everyone receives the Project WET Curriculum Guide and many supplementary materials. To find out more or to register, please contact Mary Kay Riedl at 775-687-9454 or mriedl@ndep.nv.gov.

 <http://raincloudpub.com/pbl/providers/agencies/ndep/feb04.pdf>

 Friday & Saturday, February 4-5, 2005

Tahoe Professional Development Calendar

If you work in the Lake Tahoe basin, you will definitely want to be aware of the professional development calendar for the basin. This calendar provides an array of trainings and events designed for both formal (teachers) and non-formal (everyone else who educates students and the public) educators. While some of the opportunities have a limited capacity and are only open to a targeted district or audience, many of them are open to anyone interested.

NNREC works with many organizations, agencies and schools to advertise the professional development opportunities provided by others, and to identify and fill gaps by offering workshops directly. We hope over time to have similar professional development calendars available for all parts of the state. Our calendar at <http://nnrec.org/news/calendar.html> shows all the trainings and events we are aware of. If we are missing things, please let us know. If you see a need to be filled, let us know, and work with us to create professional development to fulfill that need.

NNREC is talking with Portia Jelinek of the Forest Service about offering Tools for Non-formal Educators workshop this spring. Portia was trained in this workshop at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia, and would like to bring the workshop to western Nevada. The workshop develops the skills of educators who are not teachers in offering environmental education to students through classroom presentations, schoolyard activities, and field trips.

Even if you are not able to participate in the workshops that NNREC offers or supports, such as Project Fire, River of Words, and Project WET, we hope that you will print and distribute, or email, fliers on these workshops to friends and associates who you think would be interested. Unfortunately some workshops are cancelled due to low enrollment, and that is a disappointment to the facilitators and to the participants who have signed up.

 <http://raincloudpub.com/pbl/leadership/pd.html>

Next Newsletter

A newsletter is published several times per year, on an irregular schedule, when there is compelling news to share. We distribute the newsletter via email to our members and others who have expressed an interest in our mission (and who we hope will become members!). If your organization, agency, school or business has something to share, please let the Editor know by emailing nnrec@nnrec.org. Often something you've already created can be re-purposed for the newsletter.

