



Nevada Natural Resource Education Council Newsletter

January 2006

NNREC is a statewide not-for-profit organization whose goal is to develop and promote natural resource education in Nevada.

Inside

News of NNREC

- ❖ Mission in Winnemucca
- ❖ Annual Meeting
- ❖ Board Meetings
- ❖ Advocacy?

Mission in Winnemucca

NNREC will hold an Advisory Council meeting in Winnemucca the evening of Saturday, February 25. This meeting is for all people in the rural areas of Nevada, and we hope that you'll make the time for the long drive.

Along with the four meetings already held in Las Vegas and Reno, this meeting will ask our members, partners and others interested in environmental education to tell us about their passions and concerns, and their ideas for the role of NNREC in helping to fulfill these passions and meet these concerns, at a statewide level. From this input, NNREC will revise its mission and develop a vision.

For more information, contact Stephanie Lefevre, 775-623-1712, orchid@cascadeaccess.com.

continued on Page 4

Outside

News of Our Partners

- ❖ NOS Presentations
- ❖ Discover the Waters of Nevada
- ❖ Great Basin Teachers Workshop
- ❖ Project WET
- ❖ Backpacking Program

NOS Presentations

The following programs are offered by Nevada Outdoor School (NOS) to Winnemucca and nearby schools. NOS will come in and teach these lessons in classrooms of all levels on the following dates:

- Animal Myths: 1/16-1/20 Students learn the purpose and importance of animal myths in native culture.
- Moon Mission: 1/23-1/27 Hands-on astronomical activities that allows students to explore the moon.
- Snowflake Crystals: 1/30-2/3 Students make giant snowflakes to learn snowflake symmetry and geometry

continued on Page 2



Programs

Environmental Education

- ❖ New PD Calendar
- ❖ Mini-Grant Program
- ❖ HSRW
- ❖ Project Learning Tree
- ❖ Lamoille?

New PD Calendar

NNREC is pleased to announce the new Professional Development (PD) calendar at <http://nnrec.org/news/pd.html>.

The impetus for the calendar was our question: what professional development is available to our members during the summer and throughout the year? Does the Our Places Tell Stories conference this January in Las Vegas, and Great Basin Teachers Workshop cover the need, or do we also need a Lamoille workshop this summer, or a statewide environmental education conference? We haven't completely answered this question yet, but the calendar has turned out to be of great value.

Fourteen activities are listed already, and more will be added as we find out about them. NNREC will fill the gaps we see. You can help

continued on Page 3

Page 1

Outside continued

- Animal Tracks: 2/6-2/10 Students learn the story tracks tell in the snow.
- Snakes Alive: 2/13-2/17 Students learn about snake anatomy, habitat and behavior with the opportunity to hold and observe California King Snakes
- Carrying Capacity: 2/20-2/24 This is a general introduction to the topic of carrying capacity as students become herds of animals seeking food.

For more information, contact Nevada Outdoor School at 775-623-1712.

Discover the Waters of Nevada

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection teamed up with Project WET (water education for teachers) International and the Bureau of Reclamation Fallon office to develop a new tool to educate Nevada students about water resources. *Discover the Waters of Nevada* is designed to inform fourth through sixth grade students about water through an exploration of Nevada's ecosystems. The full-color 32-page booklet includes facts, experiments, puzzles and educational activities centered around the theme of Nevada's water resources.

I have my copy, and you'll want it too! A set of 30 booklets can be ordered online at http://www.projectwet.org/store/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=6&products_id=67.

Great Basin Teachers Workshop

The Great Basin Teachers Workshop (GBTW) will be held in late July of 2006 in and near Great Basin National Park near Ely. GBTW is a five day workshop with field trips and hands on experience to learn concepts related to the Great Basin Ecosystem. This summer the theme will be The Biological Great Basin. This summer training for teachers has been operating for 12 years and is very popular.

Inservice credit is available for both Nevada and Utah, as well as community college credit through Great Basin College.

For more information, contact Sue Baughman, susan_baughman@nv.blm.gov, 775-289-1827.

Project WET

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is an interdisciplinary water education program designed to supplement K-12 curriculum by integrating water education into any subject in the classroom. Project WET offers an entire network of nationally recognized water education, training programs, and publications under the umbrella organization of The Watercourse located on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.

Workshop participants are given a variety of teaching materials for their classrooms. Project WET Nevada began with a curriculum developed by the Nevada Division of Water Planning. These curriculum materials include an introduction to water in Nevada, highlighting surface water and groundwater resources, simple hydrology, water uses, Nevada water law, water issues in

the State, and pollution prevention. Other curriculum materials from the National office are also distributed to workshop participants.

Project WET Educator Workshops are offered in western and rural Nevada by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection. For more information or to schedule a workshop, contact Mary Kay Riedl, 775-687-9454, mriedl@ndep.nv.gov.

In southern Nevada workshops are offered by the Bureau of Reclamation through the Clark County School District PDE program. For more information, check the CCSD Pathlore online system or contact Phil Aurit, 702-293-8427, paurit@lc.usbr.gov.



Backpacking Program

In addition to HSRW, another summer opportunity for high school students will be a backpacking program offered by NNREC partner Nevada Outdoor School (NOS).

Participants will backpack into the Ruby Mountains Wilderness near Elko, or another high range in eastern Nevada. The program will include backcountry skills, Leave No Trace, and natural history, but the real appeal is spending time with peers in a beautiful area away from the craziness of regular life.

NNREC is working with NOS to determine how we can jointly advertise this backpacking program and

High Sierra Resource Workshop, and use the expertise and staff from each one to enhance the other.

Date and more information on this program will be available in the newsletter as soon as we have it.

For more information, contact Stephanie Lefevre, 775-623-1712, orchid@cascadeaccess.com.

Programs continued

us by passing along word of other opportunities. Use the online form at the bottom of the calendar page, or email Dan Allison, allisondan@sbcglobal.net.

Mini-Grant Program

The Nevada Natural Resource Education Council (NNREC) is offering a mini-grants to classroom teachers and environmental education organizations for projects which enhance the provision of environmental education curriculum and experiences for K-12 students. You must have participated in the 2005 Lamoille Summer Workshop – Exploring Nevada's Forests, Deserts and Wetlands to be eligible. Mini-grants are up to \$250. The total funding available will limit the number of grants awarded.

More information and an online application is at <http://nnrec.org/programs/minigrant/>. The deadline is



February 13, 2006, so don't delay.

HSRW

High Sierra Resource Workshop (HSRW), an 8-day summer program for high school students, will again be offered this summer. The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) will grant NNREC funds to contract with facilitators and help with food, equipment and instructional costs. The Carson Ranger District of the USDA Forest Service is the workshop lead, in partnership with NDF, NNREC and the BLM. Participants spend three days at Silver Saddle Ranch on the Carson River, then five days in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. The instructional program is designed and taught by licensed teachers, along with a number of guest presenters from land management agencies and nonprofit organizations.

For more information about HSRW, check <http://nnrec.org/programs/hsrw/>.

Project Learning Tree

NNREC partner Nevada Outdoor School (NOS) is hosting two Project Learning Tree (PLT) Educator Workshops in February. The dates are February 18, 2006 in the Fallon area, for teachers from that area and Washoe County, and February 25, 2006 in Winnemucca. These two workshops are the result of our PLT Facilitator Workshop in October in Las Vegas. We are very excited to be spreading PLT to areas where it has not been offered in years. Both workshops will offer a half unit of NDE inservice credit.

For information on these two workshops, check <http://nnrec.org/programs/plted/>, or contact

K Dasenbrock, 775-623-5656, nevada_education@yahoo.com.

NNREC is committed to having a minimum of one workshop in the Reno/Carson City area and one in southern Nevada this year. Both will likely be in the fall. We are also willing to schedule workshops at other times and places, so please get in touch if you have ideas. Contact Dan Allison, allisondan@sbcglobal.net, 775-882-2375.

Our recently trained facilitators, and all those in Nevada who were trained at some time in the past and but have been out of touch, please get in touch! We'd like to see you at workshops, whether it is to play a major role in planning and facilitating the workshop, or just to stop by and lend a hand and historical perspective.

The new Project Learning Tree K-8 Curriculum Guide has just been published and will be used in all workshops from this time on. If you'd like to get yourself a copy of the new guide, just enroll in a workshop. You'll find new lessons as well as refreshing old ones.



Lamoille?

Many people have asked whether there will be a Lamoille Summer Workshop in 2006. We still aren't sure!

NNREC and our partner Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, which is the lead agency and primary funder, had decided to wait one year because we felt there was not enough organizational capacity, and perhaps not enough funding, to offer it every year. But as word spread from those who were there in 2005, more and more people are

interested, and wanting it in 2006.

Recently we have been talking to Sue Baughman about the Great Basin Teacher Workshop (GBTW), which will be offered this summer, to see how the two programs can complement each other rather than compete, and these discussions have gotten us excited about Lamoille again. It may be that these two programs will alternate years, or they may be designed so that they either appeal to different audiences, or so that one is more advanced than the other. Then both could be offered each year.

We'll let you know when we know, which should be by March.

Web Site Tidbit

Did you know there is a new glossary on the website that will help you make sense of the alphabet soup of agency and organization acronyms, at <http://nnrec.org/home/glossary.html>. Check it out!

Inside continued

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was October 9, 2005 in Las Vegas, with 15 people in attendance. We reviewed our accomplishments of the past year, which include the High Sierra Resources Workshop (HSRW), a PLT Educator Workshop and the PLT Facilitator Workshop immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, and the Lamoille Summer Workshop.

We brought the group up to date on our strategic planning process which had seen four meetings, and is now focused on revision of the

mission and development of a vision.

We talked about our plans for the coming year, which will include more PLT workshops, a major professional development opportunity (we are still not sure whether it will be another Lamoille, a statewide conference, or cooperating in Great Basin Teachers Workshop.

An Advisory Council policy was adopted, and the council focus for this year will be the mission and vision.

We watched three new PowerPoint presentations, on NNREC, the Lamoille Workshop, and HSRW, and these are available on the website for those who missed them (on the About page).

We also gathered more input for the strategic planning process.

Our next Annual Members Meeting will be October 2006. Annual Meetings are the main chance for our members to tell us how we're doing and what they'd like to see the coming year, so we hope you'll join us for the next one.

Board Meetings

The NNREC Board of Directors is now holding some of its meetings via conference call. This has allowed us to meet more frequently but for shorter periods of time. The board will still meet face-to-face at the Annual Members Meeting and one or two other meetings per year, but conference calls are a good solution for spanning the huge open spaces of Nevada.

We also hope to gain board members from other parts of the state by making it easier for them to participate.

All members are welcome to join



these meetings, but unfortunately we do not have funds to comp the calls, so members will be charged the actual rate of 10 cents per minute. Calls usually last an hour.

Check <http://nnrec.org/governance/minutes.html> for more information.

Advocacy?

Kathy August of the BLM wrote in response to last month's Advocacy article, and we like to share her ideas with you:

The article in the latest NNREC newsletter which states a nonprofit can't lobby "because it's illegal" is a misstatement.

Federal and many State Employees are barred from lobbying while they represent their agency or participating in lobbying while acting as officials for the US government. Therefore membership by federal agencies in organizations which lobby is not allowed under ethics law. Individuals may join organizations which lobby. The employee must participate on their own time in meetings or lobbying and only represent themselves.

The Sierra Club, for example, lobbies, Federal agencies may work with them but Federal employees can not represent the Sierra Club as federal employees. Federal Employees may join the organization, on their own time and with their own money.

If NNREC wants to have official

representation for federal agencies and their employees, the organization can not be one that lobbies.

The BLM in LVFO recently distanced itself from a "Friends group" which was forming because this group wanted to lobby the State legislature. It doesn't mean the BLM won't work with the organization, It just means Federal Employees can't represent the Government and this organization together.

[Note that lobbying and advocacy are distinct activities.]

New Members

These people, organizations or institutions have joined us since December. Susan joins our seven other professional members.

Professional Members

Susan McRae

For information on our other members, please check <http://nnrec.org/membership/members.html>.

Why Membership?

This newsletter is brought to you by the members of NNREC. Membership dues directly fund membership services, in particular the newsletter, the NNREC website, member awards, and memberships in other organizations.

Membership Renewal



With the change of year, it is time to renew your membership in NNREC. This year professional, nonprofit, and institutional members will receive a subscription to Clearing Magazine along with their other membership benefits. Go to <http://nnrec.org/membership/> to pay online, or use the form in this newsletter.

Next Newsletter

Would you like your organization or agency to be next as we highlight the activities and missions of our partners? Please submit articles! You can often re-purpose something you've already created. Photos are great, either digital or print, which we can scan. We'll have a report on the Our Places Tell Stories conference.

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. The membership year is the calendar year. New members joining in the last quarter (October-November-December) will be extended through the next year. All persons providing an email address will be added to the announcement-only E-Newsletter email list.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip+4 _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Agency/Organization _____

- Regular.....\$20
- Professional\$40
- Nonprofit.....\$60
- Institutional\$80
- 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
 - Fund-raising
 - Other _____

January 2006 Board of Directors

Dan Allison, Chair,
Membership Co-ordinator (through 2006)



PO Box 3644,
Carson City NV 89702; 775-882-2375 H;
allisondan@sbcglobal.net

Stephanie Lefevre,
Treasurer (through 2007)



529 Lay St,
Winnemucca NV 89445; 775-625-2480;
slefevre@nv.blm.gov

Anga Rebane,
Secretary (through 2006)



745 Champagne Dr, Incline Village NV 89450; 775-831-9456 H;
angarebane@hotmail.com

Mark Kimbrough
(through 2006)
948 Incline Way,
Incline Village NV 89451; 775-298-0012 W;



MarkK@taoerimtrail.org

Calendar

January 2006

24-27 (Tue-Fri): Our Places Tell Stories, UNLV, Las Vegas

February 2006

2 (Thu): NNREC Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 (conference call)

4&11 (Sat): Project WET, Henderson

18 (Sat): Project Learning Tree (PLT) Educator Workshop, Fallon area

24-25 (Fri-Sat): Project WET Workshop, Reno

25 (Sat): PLT Educator Workshop, Winnemucca

25 (Sat): NNREC Advisory Council Meeting on mission and vision, Winnemucca

March 2006

2 (Thu): NNREC Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 (conference call)

4&11 (Sat): Project WET, Henderson

20 (Mon): Vernal Equinox

21 (Tue): CHOLLA Meeting

April 2006

6 (Thu): NNREC Board of Directors Meeting, Reno/Carson City

22 (Sat): Earth Day (official - events may also be on this weekend, and the preceding and following weekend)

23 (Sun): Earth Day Reno, Idlewild Park, Reno NV

28 (Fri): Arbor Day Nevada

29 (Sat): Tahoe Truckee Earth Day, The Village at Squaw Valley, Olympic Valley CA

For more detail and a longer calendar, please see the NNREC Calendar at <http://nnrec.org/news/calendar.html>. Also see the new NNREC Professional Development Calendar at <http://nnrec.org/news/pd.html>.
