

NNREC Newsletter

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Fall 1991

Nevada Natural Resource Education Council



Notes From The Chair

This was a busy summer for Environmental Education in the State. The annual Western Regional Environmental Education Council (WREEC) meeting was held in Reno and our own Dave Sanger is now an officer in the Council. Congratulations Dave!

Dave has written an article to give a brief synopsis of the WREEC conference. I hope to be able to participate in a Project WET program and that we can have some training in the state.

The WREEC conference also had an EE Share Fair that was very successful and the program had some great press coverage. The comments on the conference were all favorable and I know Nevada benefitted from the help of: USDA Forest Service (Guy Pence and all his staff), Nevada Division of Forestry (Pat Murphy), NNREC (Sue Jacox), Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (Dale Shute), Nevada Department of Wildlife (Dave Sanger), Office of Community Services (NEE-Net), Connie Susich, the Oxbow Interpreters, Great Basin Nature Interpreters, Washoe County Parks, Nevada State Parks and donations from the Nevada Wildlife Federation and the Truckee River Fly Fishers. Thanks especially to Shirley Pollock, who made this the best WREEC conference possible.

We seemed to have failed once again to get funds for a state Environmental Education staff person or funds to support our state law for EE. Maybe by next legislative session we can gather even more support for this badly needed funding for EE in the state.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and praise Dan Allison, who, if you don't know, puts together this newsletter. Without his dedication to EE and his donation of heart and soul to this newsletter we would not even begin to have such a great newsletter. The quality of this newsletter competes with any national production and Dan is very generous in the amount of time and extra effort he puts into this newsletter. If ever given the opportunity to write or talk to Dan, please say "Thank You."

Mark Kimbrough

*State Chair,
Nevada Natural
Resource Education
Council*

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November

2-3 *Project WILD Facilitators Workshop*
Las Vegas

December

15 *Winter Newsletter Deadline*
22 *Winter Solstice*

Southern Chapter meetings are the first Thursday of each month (excluding July and August) at 7:00 PM, at the Nevada Department of Wildlife, 4747 W. Vegas Drive in Las Vegas.



**1991 Nevada E.E. Contributions Award
to Mark Kimbrough**

Mark Kimbrough, chair of NNREC, was selected for the 1991 Nevada E.E. Contributions Award for extraordinary efforts in the field of environmental education.

The award is gratefully given to those who have made significant contributions to environmental education at the state level for at least five years. Past recipients include Leon and Barbara Hunter, Elizabeth Bradley, Barbara Burford, Shirley Pollock, Sue Jacox, and

Bob Goodman.

The awards program, dating back to 1977, is a joint effort now, between USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region, and the newly formed Intermountain Environmental Education Foundation. The award was presented at the Seventh Intermountain E.E. Leadership Conference's Awards Banquet in Park City, Utah, on September 28.

**Southern Chapter Nationally Recognized
Elsie Hardenbrook**

The Southern Chapter was among the semi-finalists in the 1990 Take Pride in America Awards Program. Ben Collins, Las Vegas District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), presented the group with a Certificate of Merit at the September meeting. The certificate is on display at the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center.

Take Pride in America is a national campaign established to focus attention on the importance of public resource stewardship and responsibility through the promotion of volunteerism and good citizenship. The BLM nominated the Southern Chapter for its continuing efforts in providing natural resource education / techniques workshops for interested persons in southern Nevada.

Project WILD in Nevada!

Dave Sanger

The news from the Nevada Department of Wildlife includes basically two subjects for this issue: the WREEC meeting in Reno in June, and the *Facilitator Workshop!*

Elena Schofield (California resource representative) said, "the meeting this year was the most productive WREEC meeting I have attended in many years." Several projects are being considered by WREEC for adoption. One that I am particularly interested in is Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Initially, one might harbor concern about the duplication of subject matter with the already popular Aquatic Project WILD supplement. Even though there is some crossover of subject (water), the guide supplements rather than duplicates. After listening to Dennis Nelson's introduction, and much discussion, he was given the go ahead on final contract preparation. The WREEC executive committee is presently editing the cooperative agreement, and it should be signed and acted upon in the near future.

NNREC Officers

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Mark Kimbrough

Vice Chair (Northern Chapter President)

Shirley Pollock

Vice Chair (Southern Chapter President)

Jim Rathbun

Secretary

Sue Jacox

Treasurer

Shirley Pollock

Director

John Jones

It appears NatureScope will be adopted by WREEC as well. Funding and processing of materials is a key concern, and it looks as though these materials will be purchased from WREEC in the near future.

As your WREEC resource representative for Nevada, I will be looking for any input you might have to this organization. Elected to the Executive Committee in this year's meeting, I began an educational process of learning about much of the internal structure and responsibilities of WREEC. As a WREEC resource representative, I am looking for ways to communicate with *all* resource agencies, keep them up to speed on what is going on with WREEC, and encourage input.

Though many workshops have already been completed this school year, there is one upcoming that merits attention. On November 2nd and 3rd we will be conducting a *Project WILD Facilitator Workshop*. Preliminary contact with Jim Rathbun and the southern chapter reveals a real need for a training seminar for facilitators. As always, the "wild bunch" (NNREC Southern Chapter) was cooperative in preparing dates, places, and agenda options. It looks as though we will have several out-of-town participants this year from Needles, California. Please put the word out on this workshop. If interested, please call Geoff Schneider (Las Vegas, 486-5127) or Dave Sanger (Reno, 688-1555).

This year's facilitator workshop will have some new gadgets to help you do a better job. One of these additives includes an old, but rejuvenated theory on *journaling*. This idea is exciting! Journaling has changed many of my perspectives, and I am eager to share this concept with all of you. Take care and stay WILD!

Workshops



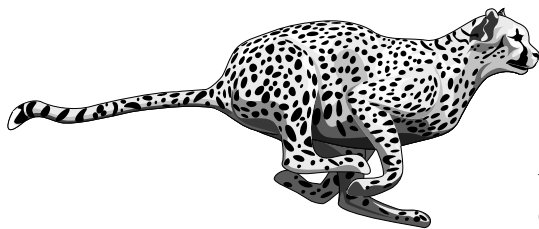


EE Share Fair

Mark Kimbrough

Nevada had its first Environmental Education Share Fair at the Peppermill Casino in Reno on July 14th.

This was the greatest gathering of agencies, groups and private organizations that have ever assembled to share their ideas and programs in Environmental Education in Nevada. There was



a total of 25 booths in the event with participation by the Audubon Society, Nevada Department of Wildlife (Project WILD), Nevada Division of Forestry (Project

Learning Tree), USDA Forest Service, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Soil Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Wildlife Federation, Animal Ark, Great Basin Nature Interpreters, Washoe County Parks Department, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Parks, and other groups or agencies that were part of the WREEC conference being held at the same time.

NNREC hopes to do this same type of program again since so many agencies and groups responded favorably to this program.

PLT Undergoes Revisions

John Jones

A major revision of the Project Learning Tree (PLT) materials is underway with input from educators and resource professionals around the world. The project to update and improve the program began in March, 1990 with a survey mailed to 50,000 PLT users nationwide. The survey sought to identify needs, concerns and new ideas for materials and format.

Results of the survey were reviewed at the 1990 PLT Coordinator's Conference and needs were outlined. Regional workshops were organized to draft the revised formats, activities and materials, with participants expanding and refining the work produced at the previous workshop. Final writing, editing and organizing will be accomplished by PLT staff with the help of professional writers, education advisors and the PLT Planning and Advisory Council. The new materials will be pilot

tested by teachers in several regions, evaluated and fine tuned before publication, projected in 1993.

The new PLT will feature three integrated projects: a grade K-8 activity guide with a special grade 6-8 section; a teacher resource guide; and a series of independent grade 9-12 modules including case studies. Whole language and constructivism learning approaches will be emphasized, as will cooperative learning and problem solving strategies. A new, easier to use, curriculum framework will serve as an introduction to the guide, which will be organized into sections representing four interdisciplinary themes: Diversity, Interdependence, Structure and Systems, and Patterns of Change. Each section will contain units focusing on the Environment, People and the

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The NNREC Newsletter is published three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring) by the Nevada Natural Resource Education Council, P.O. Box 28272, Las Vegas, NV 89126-2272. All Active and Supporting members receive the Newsletter.

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Raincloud Publishing/Dan Allison

Contributions are welcome from any member. Calendar items, reports on NNREC sponsored activities, workshop and conference announcements, articles on sister organizations and agencies, educational resources, and graphics are very much appreciated. Writings and drawings created by children in educational activities are especially inspirational.

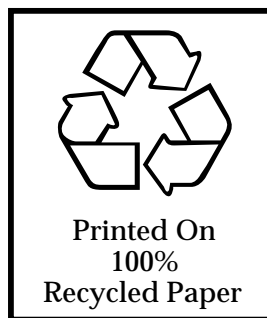
Submission deadlines are:

Fall September 1
Winter December 15
Spring April 1

Contributions may be submitted on paper or 3.5 inch diskettes in any common word processor or text format. Call the chapter Coordinating Editor for the address to use for submissions and additional information.

Send address changes to: NNREC, P.O. Box 28272, Las Vegas, NV 89126-2272.

Please use the membership form below, with your old mailing label on the reverse, if possible.



Please Join Us! Nevada Natural Resource Education Council
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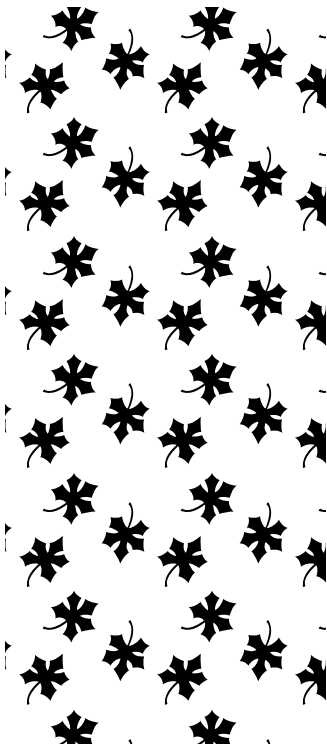
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Membership is renewable at the beginning of every calendar year. When you join a membership card and copy of the most recent newsletter will be sent.

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*“PLT Undergoes Revisions”
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Environment, People and People, and “It’s Your Turn” (students taking meaningful actions).

The high school modules will deal with particular aspects of the environment and their related scientific and social issues. Forest management, recycling, and biodiversity are several examples of modules being developed. Background information will be included for each module, as will several activities that can be used independently or as a unit. Individual student research, analysis and action is emphasized.

The teacher resource guide will accompany the K-8 guide, and will provide extensive scientific and social background information and reference

materials relating to the activities in the guide.

Two Nevada representatives attended the Western Regional PLT Revisions Workshop, August 21-23 in Mill Valley, California, at the beautiful R. L. White Retreat on Mt. Tamalpais overlooking San Francisco Bay. Jones Jones and Carol Heinrich, both members of Nevada’s State PLT Steering Committee, joined over 40 other PLTers from as far away as Minnesota, Guam and Canada. A lot of new ideas were developed and a lot of work was accomplished in a short time.

The dramatic revisions may result in the need to retrain PLT facilitators. Until then, we’re still using PLT as we always have, educating teachers and students alike about the wonderful world around us.

Nevada Natural Resource Education Council (NNREC)

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