

# NNREC Newsletter



Spring 1991

Nevada Natural Resource Education Council



## Notes From The Chair

We are moving into the spring and summer months, when Environmental Education (EE) is highly requested by school teachers as they schedule their field trips. Us northern folks have to wait for the weather to warm up before the schools want to venture out. It is important for agencies to be able to respond to these requests with a good formal program. I know that there are agencies and groups that have great problems in Nevada. If there are any agencies or organizations that get requests for EE but do not have programs, I encourage you to approach any of the agencies or groups that *do* and see how easy it is to establish a good program. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) sponsors "Project WILD," and the Nevada Division of Forestry, USDA Forest Service or Nevada State Parks can help with "Project Learning Tree." These are excellent tools for resource agencies or other groups to get staff trained in.

NNREC will finally be putting out our Resource Directory in the next two months. The final touches are being put on the manual and we will be printing it very soon. This directory will show all the agencies, groups or private enterprises that are involved with or do Environmental Education.

I recently attended the first meeting of an organization called "Great Basin Nature Interpreters." They are associated with Washoe County Parks and the NDOW. This new organization is training volunteer nature interpreters to lead hikes for groups in the County's many parks. The participation has been great and the trainers are experts in the community. I applaud this program and see it as a pilot for other communities in Nevada. There is an article in this newsletter on GBNI.

The planning for the annual meeting for Western Regional Environmental Education Council (WREEC) is in its final stages now. Of interest to all is the EE fair scheduled for Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 P.M. at the Peppermill. We would like to see all agencies and groups involved with EE participate and bring in their materials for display.

In our last executive committee meeting it was decided to become a member of the "Alliance for Environmental Education" which is the world's largest EE organization. You will see some articles in our newsletter from the Alliance's Newsletter from time to time now.

A new organization has formed in

*continued next page*

Mark Kimbrough

*State Chair,  
Nevada Natural  
Resource Education  
Council*

## Contents

<i>Calendar</i> .....	2
<i>NNREC News</i> .....	3
<i>Workshops</i> .....	4
<i>Action</i> .....	6
<i>Agencies &amp; Organizations</i> .....	8
<i>Newsletter &amp; Membership</i> .....	9

# Calendar

Nevada called Nevada Environmental Education Network (NEE-NET) which is supported by the Nevada Office of Community Services and the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) College of Education. They will address the need for environmental and energy education in Nevada. A UNR foundation has been opened for NEE-NET and they are soliciting funds. Two contacts are given for this organization: Pam Calhoun in the Research and Education Planning Center in the UNR College of Education at 784-4921, or Curtis Framel in the Office of Community Services / State

Energy Office at 687-4990. They are requesting everyone's time, ideas and enthusiasm as well as support.

🏠 Mark Kimbrough  
Chair, Nevada Natural Resource  
Education Council  
P.O. Box 8867  
Incline Village, NV 89450  
831-0494

## April

- 20 *Earth Fair*  
Sunset Park, Las Vegas
- 20 *Workday*  
Carson RD, Toiyabe NF
- 20 *RedRock Cleanup*  
Las Vegas
- 21 *Earth Day Fair*  
UNLV, Las Vegas
- 22 *Earth Day*
- 26 *Arbor Day*
- 26-27 *Project Learning Tree*  
Carson City
- 27 *Workday*  
Carson RD, Toiyabe NF

## May

- 4-5 *Project Learning Tree Workshop*  
Southern Nevada  
John Jones: 486-5123
- 9-11 *Mountain Management Workshop*  
Salt Lake City UT

## July

- 13-17 *Western Regional Environmental Education Council*  
Reno
- 14 *EE Fair at WREEC*  
Reno
- 29-3 *Central Utah Outdoor Education Workshop*  
Gooseberry Guard Station UT

## August

- 11-16 *Nevada Outdoor Education Workshop*  
Lake Tahoe

**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.

## NNREC Officers

Chair  
**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**

---

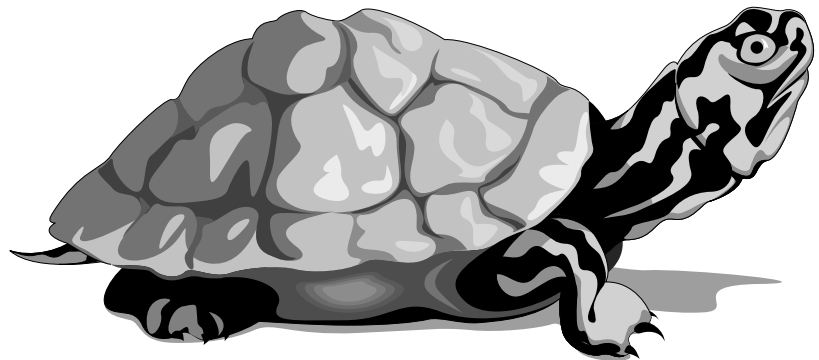
## NNREC Southern Chapter Works on Desert Tortoise Education Project

As a result of a meeting held in the early part of January to gather information on the status of Environmental Education Instruction in Clark County schools, Sid Sloan, District Biologist for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) involved in the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center, proposed that we develop an educational planning committee to incorporate education activities into the construction of the facility at the Desert Tortoise area. A planning group was formed after meeting with Joyce Woodhouse, Director of the Community Partnership Program with the Clark County School District (CCSD). The following persons were appointed to the committee: Jim Rathbun, teacher and member of NNREC; Elsie Hardenbrook, Red Rock Canyon NRA Interpreter and member of NNREC; Sid Sloan of BLM; Kathy Grimes, teacher and Project WILD facilitator; Lyn Kiehlbauch, teacher and President of Southern Nevada Science Teachers; Gini Mitchell, Desert Tortoise expert with the Nevada Cooperative Extension; Gene Butler, Science Specialist with CCSD; and Sharon Buck, Science Specialist with CCSD.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, this group met on the site of the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center with Chris Tomlinson, Nevada Department of Wildlife biologist, and developed the following proposal. Initially, a *Public Use Facility* would be built to accommodate instruction for up to sixty students, with restrooms and a covered area for large group presentations and several loop trails to present the fauna and flora of the area. The first phase would also incorporate a Desert Tortoise Observation Site for public viewing of the Desert Tortoise and its habitat. In about three years, we would propose *enclosed classrooms and auditorium with a research area to be used by CCSD students*, which

would enhance this year-round training facility. By year five, *dormitory facilities for overnight camping for students and training of educational personnel* would be incorporated into the site. This would offer year-round school camping in the desert habitat and 3 to 5 day camps for schools, probably initially using one of the upper elementary grade levels. The final phase would provide for the total implementation of Nevada Revised Statute (NRS. 389, the environmental education requirement) by the CCSD.

This proposal will be submitted to the Community Partnership Program and the BLM in the middle of April for discussion and possible adoption. It represents a step in the right direction of utilizing public resource agencies and the school district in a positive program of environmental education involving one of the threatened species of Nevada, the Desert Tortoise.



## NNREC Has Booth At Science Conference

On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March, the Southern Chapter of NNREC participated in the second annual science teachers conference sponsored by Southern Nevada Science Teachers Association (SNSTA). NNREC had a booth where we sold National Wildlife Federation Earth Day T-shirts and handed out information on our activities. John Jones made two presentations using Project Learning Tree materials during concurrent sessions, Elsie Hardenbrook and Sara Lapp presented two sessions on Project WILD Aquatic, and Jim Rathbun presented two sessions on Project WILD to the attendees. The presentations by NNREC were well received by the science teachers who attended.

The keynote presentation was made by Dr. Margaret Rostker of the Environmental Protection Agency, discussing the role of regulatory agencies in the education of the public concerning the

health of our environment. She stressed the importance of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts and the overriding need to police the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. Public awareness of the impact of their actions relative to the polluting and damaging the environment was also discussed. It is important for the science educator, for that matter all educators, to help make the youth aware of how fragile the environment is, and how they can be the catalyst for positive actions ensuring clean and healthy surroundings.

The organizers of the conference expressed their thanks to the many creative and resourceful teachers who continue to uphold a high level of professionalism in the instruction of science K-12 in the schools of Clark County while faced with overwhelming social and educational problems.

## Nevada Outdoor Education Workshop

August 11th - 16th

Secluded 4-H Camp at Lake Tahoe

Experience the excitement an outdoor setting can lend almost any subject matter. While lodging in log cabins on Tahoe's shore, we will work cooperatively on outdoor field investigations, current environmental issues, energy education, and discussion-leading skills. Special presentations include introductions to Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, Joseph Cornell, OBIS games, Nevada history, and a naturalist led walk around Spooner Lake. The workshop offers a unique opportunity for interaction among resource agency professionals and educators, and all

should emerge with a renewed appreciation of Nevada's natural resources and our role in protecting them.

Sponsored by: Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada Department of Wildlife, USDA Forest Service, Continuing Education at University of Nevada Reno, Washoe County School District, Nevada Natural Resource Education Council, Lahontan Chapter of the National Audubon Society, and Nevada Wildlife Federation.

*continued next page*

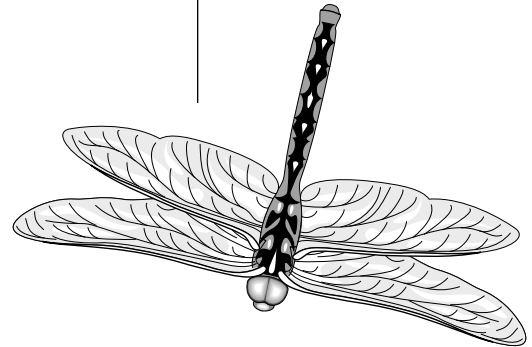
Overview of things participants should be able to do:

1. Select and use "problem-solving" activities which allow the students to collect and interpret data on their own.
2. Lead a discussion that involves each student and uses the higher level thinking skills.
3. Develop and incorporate awareness of current Nevada issues into general curriculum guidelines.
4. Describe ways to increase student motivation, productivity, and feeling of worth.
5. List five sources of materials that would be appropriate with their class and describe ways to obtain them.

In addition, teachers will learn more about natural resources, their wise use, protection, and management.

More information? Write or call:

Shirley Pollock  
Washoe High School  
2880 Sutro, Building G  
Reno, NV 89512  
(702) 333-5150 W  
(702) 849-2180 H



---

## Project Learning Tree in Nevada

PLT is alive and well in Nevada! NNREC Southern Chapter continues to facilitate at least one workshop each semester in the Las Vegas area, and we held a workshop in Mesquite (Virgin Valley School) last May. The Spring 1991 workshop is scheduled for May 4-5, and the course was filled two weeks after the announcement appeared in the Clark County School District's *Focus* publication in January. Demand for PLT among Clark County teachers is high. The class is usually offered for one professional growth credit from the school district, and twice we have arranged for UNLV credit.

In northern Nevada, the next PLT workshop is scheduled for April 26-27 at Carson City. Community college credit is available. Additional workshops are planned for summer and fall.

The State PLT Steering Committee is currently being revitalized to address the future of PLT in Nevada. Representatives of the Committee will include past partners such as the Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Department of Education, Nevada State Parks

and Nevada Department of Wildlife, the USDA Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Cooperative Extension, Girl Scouts USA, and Society of American Foresters. Also included will be representatives of NNREC (Northern and Southern chapters), EE school teachers and the regional PLT representative from Portland.

At their next meeting, the committee will discuss annual and 5-year goals for PLT in Nevada, getting PLT into the rural communities, and funding forestry education consultants to help organize and facilitate workshops.

If you have any questions about PLT, contact your nearest office of the Nevada Division of Forestry.

 John Jones



## Mountain Management

The 1991 Mountain Management Workshop will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, May 9-11. The workshop is the first national forum for panels of climbers, Federal, state, and private land managers, and interest groups to discuss and debate issues such as access, bolting, liability, wildlife, and environmental concerns. For more information, call (801) 524-5042 or (801) 524-5043 or write Mountain Management Workshop, 6944 South 3000 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84121.

## Central Utah Outdoor Ed

The 1991 Central Utah Outdoor Education Workshop will be held July 29 - August 2 at the Gooseberry Guard Station located 17 miles east of Salina. This unique 40-hour hands-on workshop is for elementary and secondary teachers, resource agency personnel, and youth group leaders. Participants will experience a variety of activities being used around the country to help aid understanding and respect for our outdoor world including the conservation of natural resources. No science or technical background is needed. For more information, contact: Bill Wood, USDA Soil Conservation Service, P.O. Box 534, Richfield, UT 84701.

## Earth Day 1991

Last year's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Earth Day was celebrated around the globe with ceremonies, "teach-ins," fairs, tree plantings and other actions that demonstrated people's concern for the health of our planet. Some felt that the hoopla of Earth Day 1990 would soon die out and it would be back to business as usual. Not so!

This year, again, activities are planned to emphasize that today's generation takes seriously its responsibility of stewardship of the earth. In Nevada, Earth Day 1991 will be observed with a number of events.

An Earth Fair will be held at Sunset Park in Las Vegas Saturday, April 20, and UNLV will host an Earth Day fair sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Sunday, April 21. The week before, McDonald's restaurants will cosponsor an Environmental Writing Fair, highlighted by a tree


planting ceremony at Las Vegas High School, April 13. McDonald's restaurants nationwide will give away tree seedlings to customers who request them April 13-14. Also, Southern Nevada Clean Communities and the Bureau of Land Management will host the annual Red Rock Cleanup on April 20.

In Reno, an Earth Day fair is being planned and will probably be held at a local park. The Carson Ranger District of the Toiyabe National Forest is inviting the public to participate in two workdays, April 20 in the Woodfords/Markleeville area, and April 27 at Dog Valley. A barbecue is planned after both workdays. The Nevada Wildlife Federation is again selling Earth Day T-shirts, and plans to present awards for their annual Wildlife Week poster contest to coincide with Earth Day.

*continued next page*

Other groups and communities are planning activities for Earth Day around the state. If you can't find anything going on in your area, encourage your community officials to arrange a tree

planting or other program, or plan something yourself. Let's keep Earth Day alive in Nevada!

 John Jones

---

## Global ReLeaf Fights Global Warming — Locally

The American Forestry Association, the nation's oldest non-profit citizens' conservation organization, is sponsoring an international campaign of education and action aimed at improving the earth's environment through more and better trees and forests. Global ReLeaf challenges people to "Think Globally, Act Locally" by planting and caring for trees in urban and rural settings, protecting and expanding our forests, reducing energy use and dependence on fossil fuels, and controlling pollution.

The buildup of certain air pollutants in the atmosphere is suspected of leading to global warming by trapping the sun's energy that normally reflects back into space. Carbon dioxide, the foremost of these "greenhouse gases," is produced in tremendous amounts by the burning of wood products and fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas worldwide. Cutting down on such burning and the use of energy produced by it will help protect our environment as well as conserve our natural resources.

Equally important in controlling carbon dioxide buildup are the trees. Trees and other green plants absorb carbon dioxide while releasing oxygen, hence the world's forests have been called the "lungs of the earth." It seems that we must ensure their survival to ensure our own.

In our cities, trees provide shade and cooling, cut air conditioning costs, beautify the community, increase property values, serve as windbreaks and noise buffers, filter the air, provide habitat for wildlife, and even food for

the table. Any of these are sufficient incentive for us to want to plant and maintain trees.

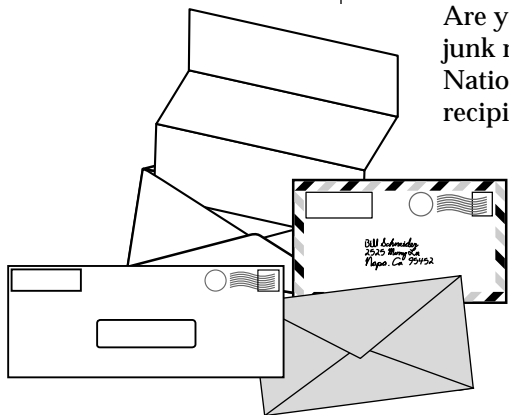
Growing Solutions is a non-profit organization of local citizens, businesses and agencies in southern Nevada dedicated to educating the community about the importance of, and promoting the planting and care of, water-efficient trees and other plants. An affiliate of Global ReLeaf, Growing Solutions has been active for over a year to accomplish their mission. The group's Trees for Tomorrow campaign highlights 30 tree species suited to the unique climate of southern Nevada and provides tips on planting and care in a booklet available free to the public at participating nurseries and demonstration gardens.

You can make a difference in your community by planting or donating a tree, informing friends and neighbors, or getting involved at the local level. Even a simple phone call to 1-900-420-4545 (\$5.00 toll charge) will pay for planting a tree and support Global ReLeaf actions nationally.

For more information, write to Global ReLeaf, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013, or Growing Solutions, P.O. Box 11242, Las Vegas, NV 89111-1242, or contact your local Nevada Division of Forestry office.

 John Jones

## Save Trees — Junk Your Junk Mail



Are you plagued with unwanted junk mail? According to the National Tree Society, for every recipient junk mail costs two trees per year! That's why they suggest you put a stop to such waste. You can reduce the junk mail you receive by 75% or more simply by writing to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association,

11 West 42nd Street, P.O. Box 3861, New York, NY 10163-3861, and asking that your name and address be removed from the mailing lists.

In the Las Vegas area, you can pick up a free postcard, pre-addressed for this purpose, at Video-Tyme, 7-11 stores, and Sav-On Drugs. All it costs is a postage stamp! For more information, contact the National Tree Society office in Las Vegas at 434-TREE.

# Agencies & Organizations

## Interpreters Lead Community Environmental Awareness

You have probably noticed that there is an increasing concern about the environment all around us. No one is more encouraged about this than park departments. Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department, City of Reno Parks and Recreation Department and the Nevada Department of Wildlife, in particular, are trying to satisfy this demand. Since they do not have the staff to handle this increased demand, they are forming a group of volunteer interpreters. This volunteer organization, called the "Great Basin Nature Interpreters," is eager to promote and provide environmental awareness in the community. The group's goal is to recruit and train a group of volunteer interpreters who will then lead field trips to sites such as Oxbow Nature Study Area, May Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Washoe County's five regional parks and other nature areas.

The Great Basin Nature Interpreters (GBNI) will be available to give presentations, and lead field trips for a variety of community groups, according to

Lynda Nelson, a Horticulturist for Washoe County's Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

*Basic training* for the GBNI's will be taught by teachers and experts in the area. Nelson also said that they are making every effort to take advantage of other programs already in place which might be appropriate.

Training sessions will be on Wednesday evenings and several Saturdays, to teach ecological principles and specifics of habitats in the Great Basin. Field trip leadership, history, and site specific training will be taught at various sites.

For more information about being a Great Basin Nature Interpreter, please call Lynda Nelson at 785-4153, or write to Great Basin Nature Interpreters, P.O. Box 9272, Reno, NV 89507.

 Washoe County Department of Parks & Recreation

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.

Coordinating Editors:  
Elsie Hardenbrook - Southern NV  
363-1921 W / 645-6478 H  
Mark Kimbrough - Northern NV  
831-0494 W

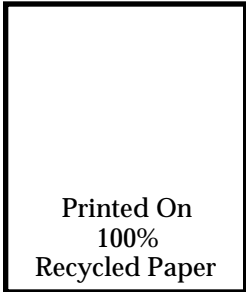
Design and Production:  
Raincloud Publishing/Dan Allison

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 Macintosh 800K diskettes in WriteNow, Word, WordPerfect, MacWrite 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  
Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip (full) \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category  
 Active \$15 (includes newsletter)  
 Associate \$10  
 Supporting \$25 (includes newsletter)  
 Change of Address

Chapter Preference  
 Northern Nevada  
 Southern Nevada

**Make checks payable to NNREC**  
Mail to:  
NNREC  
P.O. Box 28272  
Las Vegas, NV 89126-2272

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.


---

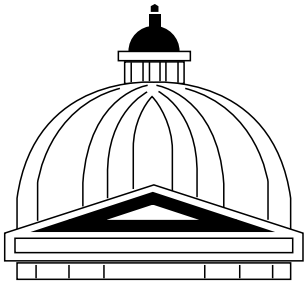
## National Environmental Education Act

The National Environmental Education Act (NEEA), signed November 16, 1990, is intended to increase public understanding of the natural environment and to advance and develop environmental education and training.

### Mandates and Authorizations

1. Office of Environmental Education (OEE) within the EPA.
2. Environmental Education and Training Program grants to operate an environmental education and training program.
3. Authorizes EPA to enter into grants and contracts, each not to exceed \$250,000.
4. Internships for college students with agencies of the Federal Government.
5. National awards recognizing outstanding contributions to environmental education.
6. Environmental Education Advisory Council and Task Force will advise and make recommendations.
7. National Environmental Education Foundation will encourage private gifts for the benefit of environmental education activities of the Agency.
8. Authorizes funds of about \$13,000,000 per year through 1996.

 *A Synopsis Prepared by the EPA*



---

**10**

*Nevada Natural Resource Education Council*

## ***Nevada Natural Resource Education Council (NNREC)***

*P.O. Box 28272*

*Las Vegas, NV 89126-2272*

