



Nevada Natural Resource Education Council

Newsletter

Summer 2004

Annual Meeting

Join us for the NNREC Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 1, 6:00 to 8:00 PM, in Carson City. We'll meet at the BLM offices in Carson City, at 5665 Morgan Mill Rd.

At the Annual Meeting we:

- elect new board members
- select board officers
- adopt the fiscal year budget 2004-2005 and discuss the fund-raising plan
- recognize supporters of environmental education and present awards
- summarize our accomplishments of the past year
- discuss the future direction of the organization, including suggestions of the Advisory Committee
- enjoy seeing old friends and making new friends

If you would like to be on the board or find out more about board service, please contact Shirley Pollock. See you there!

Statewide Conference!

The NNREC Statewide Conference will be held September 25 & 26, 2004, in Winnemucca. The theme is "Preserving rural values through resource education and community partnerships."

Saturday, September 25, enjoy a day filled with various workshops at Sonoma Heights Elementary School 1500 Melarkey Street, Winnemucca.

Sunday, September 26, prepare for a day in the sun. National Public Lands Day activities will be taking place in Water Canyon, Bloody Shins Trail and the Winnemucca Community Garden.

Workshops are being finalized but may include: composting, Newmont Mining, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Service Learning, Family Astronomy, live animals in the classroom (snakes, raptors and bats), gardening with schools, Fish, Fish, Fish from flies to the dish, and how to set up an orienteering course.

Keynote speakers are Doug Hogan, Great Basin College Instructor, and Carolyn Duffurena, Humboldt County School Teacher .

Lunch and snacks are provided. The registration fee has not been set, but will be quite reasonable.

Winnemucca is in the Humboldt River Watershed. The Humboldt begins in the Ruby, East Humboldt, and Jarbidge Mountains, and generally flows westward, terminating in the Humboldt and Carson sinks.

Up-to-date information and details will be available at <http://nnrec.org/conference/>.

Mini-Grant Program

NNREC has a mini-grant program designed to offer teachers and other educators small grants (up to \$500) to implement environmental education projects that are too small for major grant funding. Ten mini-grant awards were given for the 2003-2004 year and are listed below. We are particularly pleased to have received so many strong applications from rural areas and to be able to make a significant number of awards to rural areas. The majority of the funds for these grants came from conservation education funds allocated by the Nevada Division of Forestry (NNREC is an equal opportunity service provider).

Each of the grant recipients will submit a closing report, and we will publish these on the web site in order to inform our members of these projects and to provide ideas for future grant applications. NNREC will have a smaller mini-grant program for 2004-2005.

1. Fremont Elementary School, Carson City, Award \$500 to support their low-income student population and their

continued next page



- participation in the Great Basin Outdoor School.
2. River of Words, an environmental writing project and contest to be implemented throughout Nevada, Award \$500.
 3. Marine Research and Education, South Lake Tahoe, Award \$500 to support the participation of low-income students from Douglas and Washoe counties in their water education program.
 4. Owyhee Combined School, Elko County, Award \$500 to support their "Trout in the Classroom" program.
 5. River Wranglers, Silver Springs, Award \$500 to support their water education program for kids in Lyon county high schools.
 6. Carson High School, Carson, Award \$500 to support their environmental education program along their nature study area on the Carson River.
 7. Adopt A Watershed, Incline Village, Award \$250 to support their site advocate program at Lake Tahoe school sites.
 8. Grass Valley Elementary, Winnemucca, Award \$250 to support their education efforts on groundwater contamination and erosion.
 9. Winnemucca Recycling Center, Award \$250 to support their effort to organize recycling clubs at area high schools, including related curriculum and a composting program.
 10. Nevada Outdoor School, Award of \$250 to support a middle school science club for girls including programs in animal tracking, ecofoot prints, a community garden, and a "leave no trace" camping trip.

Project WET in Carson City

Get WET with a one-day workshop offered by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, Thursday, August 26, 2004! NDE inservice credit is available. The Carson River Watershed will be the focus of the workshop, but it is available to and valuable for others. The workshop will happen only with sufficient pre-registration, so if you are even a little interested, please contact Mary Kay Riedl immediately at 775-684-9454 or mrriedl@ndep.state.nv.us.

Please see the flier at http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/wet/workshop_aug26_04.pdf.

Summer Workshop in Lamoille Canyon

The Forest Service is offering a five day workshop this summer for teachers, covering Project Learning Tree and Project WILD. Each workshop is 16 hours, and will include information about local resources and related programs. Trained facilitators, many of them from NNREC, will host each session. The workshop will be held August 9-13 in beautiful Lamoille Canyon in the Ruby Mountains near Elko, and is open to all teachers and other educators, though space is limited. Participants will camp or stay in rustic cabins. Registration costs only \$20 and includes two meals per day. Teachers can receive two NDE inservice credits (free) and/or two credits from Sierra Nevada College (fee). For more information and to register, contact Portia Jelinek at 775-738-5171 or pjelinek@fs.fed.us.

Please see the flier at <http://nnrec.org/news/online/EducationalFlyer3.pdf>.

NAAEE News

NNREC is the state affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), as well as a member of the Affiliates Network, an informal organization of active affiliates that exists to share ideas about effectively operating EE nonprofits and building capacity for EE in the states, as well as providing expertise and leadership to NAAEE.

Dan Allison is the primary affiliate representative and Chris Miller is the secondary affiliate representative. Dan also serves on the Steering Committee of the Affiliates Network and as the Chair of the NAAEE Site Selection Committee. The

continued next page

Calendar

Jul 1 (Thu): NNREC Annual Meeting

Aug 9-13 (Mon-Fri): Summer Educator Workshop, Lamoille Canyon, Elko

Aug 26 (Thu): Project WET, Carson City

Sep 21 (Tue): Tahoe Basin Re-Vision, Incline Village

Sep 22 (Wed): Autumnal Equinox

Sep 25-26 (Sat-Sun): NNREC Statewide Conference, Winnemucca

Dec 21 (Tue): Winter Solstice

Check the NNREC web site at <http://nnrec.org/news/calendar.html>

for up-to-date calendar information and additional detail on these events.



About NNREC...

Mission

The 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

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More information than you ever wanted to know about NNREC is available on the web site at <http://nnrec.org/>. Click on the About link.

Affiliates Network recently submitted to the board of NAAEE a report on Environmental Education Quality Assurance, an initiative of the affiliates to analyze structures and standards for review of materials and certification of environmental educators. Several states are already doing review and certification, so the issue now is how these programs can be replicated to other states in a way that works for the unique characteristics of each state and/or for NAAEE to provide this service to these other states. The site selection group makes recommendations to the board on a site for 2005, a new rotation of hosting regions for 2006 and beyond, and refinement of the criteria for selecting sites and working with the affiliates. The 2005 conference will be in one of the southwestern states: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico or Utah.

The 2004 NAAEE Conference will take place in Biloxi, Mississippi, November 6-10. The theme "Casting a Wider Net for Environmental Education," includes strands on Developing the EE Profession; The Business of EE - Leadership Development and Institutional Building; What Research Has to Say to Environmental Educators; Cultural Diversity in EE Programs; Sustainability Education; Topical Smorgasbord: Watersheds and Forestry; and The "Open Mic" Strand. See the NAAEE web site at <http://naaee.org/conferences/> for more information. Dan will be attending this conference as the Nevada representative.

At each conference the Affiliates Network hosts a full day workshop. This year, the focus is on the "Business of EE", enhancing our skills to overcome the challenges facing our organizations. Key topics we will explore include: strengthening and building the capacity of our organizations; the in's-and-out's of 501(c)(3)'s; effective budgeting; diversifying our memberships; and strategies for promoting and building support for environmental education in our communities. The workshop and Affiliates Network business meeting serve to build community among the affiliates.

If you would like any more information about NAAEE, or are considering attending the 2004 conference, please contact Dan or Chris (see the Board of Directors listings on the next page).