

Nevada Natural Resource Education Council Newsletter & Conference Registration

September 2004

Statewide Conference

This year for the first time, NNREC is holding our statewide conference in a rural area. Some of you may be thinking “Winnemucca? It must be for rural people.” Yes, it is, but also for educators throughout the state of Nevada, and that means you! This is a wonderful opportunity to see a part of the state that many just pass through, and to find out about the people who live and work there, and the environmental and educational issues they face. Our main partner in the conference, Nevada Outdoor School, is a program that offers in-classroom, field trip, community education, and service learning opportunities for people in Winnemucca and northern Nevada. On a per-capita basis, there is probably more going on in Winnemucca than any other part of the state. The world does not revolve around Las Vegas, or even Reno/Sparks! Come see how the other half lives, works, and takes care of their land and community: Preserving rural values through resource education and community partnerships!

Keynote speakers will be Doug Hogan, Great Basin College Instructor, and Carolyn Dufurrena, Humboldt County Educator. Saturday workshops include Composting, Vermi-composting (worms), Service Learning, Family Astronomy, Live Animals in the Classroom (snakes, raptors and bats), Integrated Classroom Gardening, Newmont Mining, Fish, Fish, Fish (from flies to the dish), and How to Design Orienteering Courses on Public Lands, and will occur at Sonoma Heights Elementary School and the Winnemucca Community Garden. On Sunday there will be several service learning projects in celebration of National Public Lands Day.

The registration fee of \$15 includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and a social hour Saturday at the community garden. You may register online, by mail, or by calling 775-623-1712. Check the NNREC web site

for more registration and other information – <http://nnrec.org/conference/>. The last page of this newsletter is a registration form and flier for the conference.

Summer Workshop in PLT and WILD

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest hosted the Summer Workshop in Project Learning Tree and Project WILD at Lamoille Canyon in the Ruby Mountains near Elko. NNREC, Nevada Division of Forestry and Nevada Department of Wildlife provided support. The five-day workshop in August had thirteen participants, four teachers and nine resource specialists. Shirley Pollock and Sue Jacox of NNREC facilitated Project WILD, and Dan Allison, Sue, Tony Dietz of NDF, and Portia Jelinek of the Forest Service facilitated Project Learning Tree, including Burning Issues and FireWorks. Participants experienced a large number of hands-on lessons from the PLT and WILD guides, received supporting information on natural history and educational skills, and enjoyed the wonderful natural environment of Lamoille Canyon at the camp and on our walk and talk in the upper end.

NNREC hopes that this workshop will occur again next summer. NNREC and the Intermountain Environmental Education Training Team sponsored week long workshops in western Nevada for a number of years, and nearly all people active in environmental education during that time experienced the workshops. We still believe in the value of such in-depth week long professional development and were overjoyed when the Forest Service decided to organize and sponsor this summer’s workshop. But the Forest Service must have more participants to make their funding worthwhile. If you are interested in experiencing the workshop next summer, please contact Portia Jelinek at 775-355-5340 or pjelinek@fs.fed.us. Contact her now, because if you wait silently to see whether the workshop is going to happen next summer, it may well not.

Teachers can receive either inservice credit through the Nevada Department of Education or graduate recertification credit through Sierra Nevada College. Everyone received PLT and WILD guides and a quantity of supporting information and curriculum.



Symposium for Environmental Education in Lake Tahoe Schools

On Tuesday, September 28, environmental educators and supporters of education will gather in Incline Village for the Symposium for Environmental Education in Tahoe Schools: Meeting Environmental Goals through School-Based Programs. The symposium is also the fifth annual meeting of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (LTEEC), the lead organizer of the event. The Symposium will focus on innovative teaching methods that increase student motivation and boost student performance on standardized proficiency tests.

By shining the spotlight on K-12 programs, this year's LTEEC Annual Meeting will bring teachers, natural resource managers, and community leaders together to form local partnerships to enhance student learning and help reach environmental goals in the Tahoe Basin.

Topics to be covered:

- Place-based Learning (PBL) and research-supported benefits of PBL
- Various levels of participation: from guest speakers to hands-on projects
- Tools for educators including videos, curriculum, professional development opportunities, and off-campus programs
- Presentations on successful service-learning projects in Tahoe schools
- School-based Programs addressing Tahoe's issues, including:
 - Water Quality
 - Wildfire Risk and Defensible Space
 - Erosion Control and Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - Native Plants, Community Gardens and Environmental Restoration
 - Wildlife and Fish Habitat
- Involve students in reducing wildfire threats and meeting local water quality ordinances at your school campus

To register or to learn more about this event, please call Heather Segale at (775) 832-4138.



Board of Directors

The board of directors of NNREC, which is elected by the members at the annual meeting, provides governance for the organization, as well as much of the work of coordinating and providing environmental education. We meet four times a year, and our next four meetings are:

Friday, September 24, 2004 (in Winnemucca, before the statewide conference)

Thursday, January 6, 2005 (Strategic Planning)

Thursday, April 7, 2004 (including Advisory Council)

Thursday, July 7, 2005 (Annual Meeting)

Any member of NNREC or the public may sit in on board meetings. They aren't always exciting, but they are a great way of finding out what is going in EE in the state, and of course we hope that you will find a place you can fit in and contribute, by being on the board, serving on a committee, or just working on a particular project with a group of people. We have a board of six members right now, and have room for three more, and always welcome enthusiastic educators to consider board service. In particular, we would like one or more people from southern Nevada. We have funds set aside for travel and/or conference call costs for board members who do not live in the western Nevada area, and are always willing to consider meetings in other parts of the state.

Annual Meeting

At our Annual Meeting this July, three board members were re-elected to the board, and a new slate of officers selected for the year. Dan Allison is the Chair, Shirley Pollock the Vice Chair, Anga Rebane the Secretary, and Craig Rock the Treasurer. Chris Miller and Stephanie Lefevre also serve on the board, and Stephanie is our conference coordinator for the upcoming statewide conference. The board also adopted a \$15,000 budget for 2004-2005, continued planning of the statewide conference, heard a report on the June High Sierra Resource Workshop (see report below), discussed the upcoming Summer Workshop in Lamaille Canyon (see report above), reviewed our participation as a North American Association for Environmental Education Affiliate Network member and attendance at the November 2004 Conference, and talked about fund-raising ideas for the year.

If you would like to attend a board meeting, please contact Dan Allison, Chair, at 775-882-2375 or allisondan@sbcglobal.net for details about the location and time.

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

Dan Allison, Chair (through 2006)

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

Shirley Pollock, Vice-Chair (through 2005)

4655 E Lake 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

Craig Rock (through 2006)

PO Box 1055, Virginia City
NV 89440; 775-847-7088 H;
comstockrock@yahoo.com

Stephanie Lefevre, Conference Coordinator (through 2005)

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

Chris Miller (through 2005)

Carson City District, 5665 Morgan Mill Rd, Carson City NV 89701
775-885-6148 W;
Christina_Miller@nv.blm.gov

River of Words

River of Words (ROW) trains teachers, park rangers, youth leaders and other educators around the world on way to incorporate nature and the arts into their own work with children. The organization was co-founded in 1995 by U.S. Poet Laureate (1995-1997) Robert Hass and writer Pamela Michael to promote literacy, watershed awareness, and the arts.

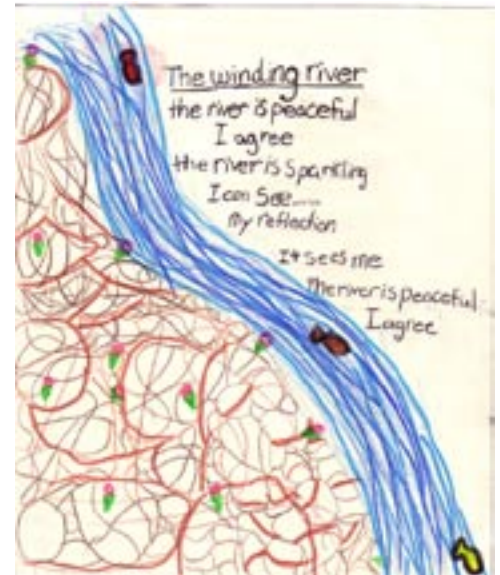
In affiliation with the Library of Congress Center for the Book, River of Words conducts an annual international poetry and art contest for children in kindergarten through twelfth grade on the theme of watersheds. ROW's "Watershed Explorer" curriculum, which combines history, math, science, social studies, geography, language, and the arts, helps children to develop an informed respect for the natural world as well as the skills and imagination they will need as engaged, active citizens.

River of Words publishes a book of winning entries to its art and poetry contest each year and also exhibits the children's work at museums, conferences, libraries, festivals, and other locations around the world. For more information about River of Words, visit <http://riverofwords.org/>.

In Nevada, Dan Allison is the coordinator for River of Words. A mini-grant from NNREC has allowed ROW Nevada to acquire a Watershed Explorer curriculum and three copies of the new River of Words: Images and Poetry in Praise of Water book, a beautiful and inspirational collection of the art and poetry that has won the contest over the last few years. These materials are available for loan to any teacher in the state. Teachers in western Nevada may also schedule a classroom visit for a brief introduction to ROW (free), an art and poetry session (travel costs), or an in-depth journal making workshop (travel costs and fee).

This year, Oscar Renteria of Bijou Community School in South Lake Tahoe (just across the border) won in the K-2 category. Oscar is a second language learner who had never before enjoyed writing!

Grasshopper
Had one
Kept it
Tickling
It jumped away
I let it go
I was touching
Something live



For more information about ROW Nevada, visit <http://raincloudpub.com/row/>.

Place-Based Education

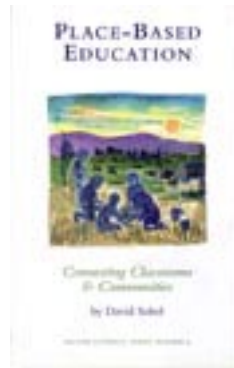
A new book from David Sobel and The Orion Society, *Place-Based Education: Connecting Classrooms & Communities*, is transforming the agenda and language of environmental education in the Lake Tahoe basin. With funding from Adopt-A-Watershed and others, copies of this book have been given to most of the environmental educators in the basin as summer reading material.

Sobel builds a definition by providing examples of PBL in the classroom and the community, highlighting places where PBL has made a real difference in learning and in the quality of life in communities.

continued next page

“After a century of educating young people to be mobile, rootless, and autistic toward their places, better ideas are gaining steam. David Sobel’s book is about a revolution in education that is connecting students to their neighborhoods, communities, and ecologies, and equipping them to be homecomers, stewards, citizens and more. It is about joining heads, hands, hearts, and the places in which we might dwell with competent affection.” – David Orr, Author of *Ecological Literacy* and *Earth in Mind*

Copies are available from a link on the NNREC web site at <http://nnrec.org/resources/pbe.html> or from The Orion Society at <https://secure.oriononline.org/orionsoc/shop/showitem.cfm?Itemnum=nls-PBE>, for \$8.



attending the statewide environmental education conference, and occasionally for scholarships for people entering the field of environmental education, please donate online at http://nnrec.org/donate_scholarship.html. If you would like to make a general donation, please go to <http://nnrec.org/donate.html>. There are links there to Just Give and Network for Good, standard donation methods for nonprofit organizations.

NNREC is a 501(c)3 organization. You can check our entry on GuideStar, ‘The National Database of Nonprofit Organizations,’ by going to <http://guidestar.org/> and typing “NNREC” in the ‘Search for Nonprofits’ box. You won’t see a Form 990 there since NNREC’s annual income is less than \$25,000. Our annual financial report should be posted within a month.

Donations and Membership

Though NNREC receives grants from the Nevada Division of Forestry Conservation Education program and sometimes other sources, to fund specific activities, most of our activities are funded by membership dues, including this newsletter, the web site and our day-to-day operations. We are a volunteer organization, and most of our work is accomplished by volunteers, but we still need some funding to keep going. Please help us keep these resources available to educators in Nevada by joining NNREC. You can join online, or by mail, by going to <http://nnrec.org/about/membership.html>.

We also welcome donations. If you would like to donate to our scholarship fund, which is used to offer scholarships to low income or under-represented people



33rd Annual NAAEE Conference
November 6 – 10, 2004

**CASTING A WIDER NET
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Biloxi, Mississippi
Grand Casino Biloxi
Bayview Hotel

Don't miss these innovative strands:

- Developing the EE Profession
- Leadership Development and Institutional Building
- What Research Has to Say to Environmental Educators
- Cultural Diversity in EE Programs
- Sustainability Education
- Watersheds and Forestry
- Open Mic: EE Innovation

Plan now to take part in a unique opportunity to help set the course for the future of EE!

For more information: www.naaee.org



NEW for 2004! First Annual Preconference EE Research Symposium
November 5 – 6, 2004 • Visit our website for more information

Conference Registration

Note; Online registration and payment is available at http://nnrec.org/conference/registration_online.html. For pre-registration, this form must be postmarked by September 20, 2004. After this date, you must register at the conference and pay a higher fee.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip+4 _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Agency/Organization _____

Are you interested in NDE inservice credit? YES NO

Did you apply for scholarship? YES NO

Meal preference: OMNIVORE VEGETARIAN

Payment

Registration Fee _____

Registration Subtotal _____

Membership Dues _____

Total Payment _____

Check, MO or PO # _____

(payable to NNREC; mail to NNREC, PO Box 4741, Carson City NV 89702)

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 June of every year. Memberships starting in the last quarter (April-May-June) will be extended through the next year. All persons providing email addresses will be added to the announcement-only E-Newsletter email list.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip+4 _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Agency/Organization _____

Regular.....\$15

Senior/Student\$10

Corporation/Organization\$50

Supporting.....\$25

Complimentary Newsletter

I want to help with:

Board of Directors

Advisory Council

Statewide Conference

Workshops

Liaison with other organizations

Fund-raising

Other _____

Nevada Natural Resource Education Council Annual Statewide Conference September 25 & 26, 2004 Winnemucca, Nevada

*Preserving rural values through resource education and
community partnerships.*

The NNREC Statewide Environmental Education Conferences will be held Saturday, September 25 & Sunday, September 26, 2004, in Winnemucca, NV. The theme this year is: "Preserving rural values through resource education and community partnerships".

Saturday, September 25, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Enjoy a day filled with multiple workshops offered at Sonoma Heights Elementary School, 1500 Melarkey Street, and the Winnemucca Community Garden, 151 McArthur Avenue, Winnemucca, Nevada. **Workshops include:** Composting, Vermi-composting (worms), Service Learning, Family Astronomy, Live Animals in the Classroom (snakes, raptors, and bats), Integrated Classroom Gardening, Newmont Mining, Fish, Fish, Fish... from flies to the dish, How to Design Orienteering Courses on Public Lands. These workshops will be offered throughout the day for participants to choose from.

Keynote Speakers...

Doug Hogan, Great Basin College Instructor
Carolyn Dufurrena, Humboldt County Educator

Social Hour, Saturday, September 26, 2004, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Hor d'oeuvres, wine, and beer served at the Winnemucca Community Garden.

Sunday, September 26, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Prepare for a day in the sun. National Public Lands Day service projects will be taking place Water Canyon, Bloody Shins Trail, Winnemucca Community Garden, and Lovelock Cave. Your choice!

Call (775) 623-1712 or register on line at <http://nnrec.org/conference/>.

Registration Fees:

Pre-registration: \$15 Pre-registration deadline, Monday, September 20, 2004.

On-site registration: \$20 Limited conference scholarships are available.

Meals: Continental breakfasts, lunches, and snacks are provided.

Lodging: Please call if you need assistance locating a room. Nevada Outdoor School, (775) 623-1712

*****Continuing Education Credit Available*****