

# Nevada Natural Resource Education Council

# Connections

April 2006

NNREC is an educational catalyst for environmental sustainability, generating partnerships that foster stewardship, conservation and responsible land use with students, educators, and communities, to ensure a healthy environment for future generations.

## Inside

### News of NNREC

- ❖ New Mission Statement
- ❖ Staff!
- ❖ 20th Anniversary
- ❖ Annual Members Meeting
- ❖ EETAP Grant
- ❖ Affiliate Programs
- ❖ Lending Library

### New Mission Statement

In April NNREC adopted a new mission statement: *NNREC is an educational catalyst for environmental sustainability, generating partnerships that foster stewardship, conservation and responsible land use with students, educators, and communities, to ensure a healthy environment for future generations.* This new statement is part of our strategic planning process and the result of five Advisory Council meetings which gathered ideas and priorities from members and stakeholders. The board synthesized this input into a new statement. We will also in the near future adopt a vision and values statements.

### Staff!

After 20 years of talking about having paid staff, NNREC does! The EETAP grant (below) and

*continued on Page 2*

## Outside

### News of Our Partners

- ❖ Partners EAE
- ❖ Our Places Tell Stories
- ❖ NAAEE Conference
- ❖ Backpacking Programs

### Partners for EAE

The Public Lands Institute in Las Vegas has formed a committee to develop an area-wide Outdoor Environmental Education Strategy for southern Nevada. It is called Partners for Education about the Environment. The Public Lands Institute is housed at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and is funded by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. Its purpose is to develop projects in the areas of education, research, and community engagement. This includes monitoring for wildlife, vegetation, and cultural resources, as well as a volunteer program called Get Outdoors Nevada, to involve the public in resource projects. The educational arm of PLI is headed up by Allison Brody, PhD.

“Partners” meets once a month, usually at the NDF conference room. The group was formerly meeting as the Outside Las Vegas

*continued on Page 3*

## Programs

### Environmental Education

- ❖ GBTW & Lamoille
- ❖ Professional Development
- ❖ Model Schools
- ❖ Lamoille 2005

### GBTW & Lamoille

Both the Lamoille summer workshop and Great Basin Teachers Workshop (GBTW) will occur this summer. The Lamoille Institute for Educators (LIFE) is five days of hands-on natural and human history sessions for K–5/6 teachers and nonformal educators who work with these ages. Lamoille this year will encourage teams of educators to take the content and methods of environmental education back to their communities. NNREC is partnering with Nevada Outdoor School, Nevada Division of Forestry, and many others to offer this workshop.

GBTW, entitled The Biological Great Basin: The Wonders & Diversity of Life in the Great Basin, is a field course designed primarily for 6/7–12 teachers. Organized by Sue Baughman of the BLM, additional partners are USDA Forest Service, Great Basin National Park, Nevada Outdoor School, and others.

*continued on Page 4*

## Inside continued

continuing funding from NDF have allowed us to create a part-time Director position. The Director will provide stability for NNREC's efforts in leading environmental education efforts in the state while enhancing our professional development offerings. Dan Allison has taken this position as an independent contractor. NNREC plans to identify additional funding to create a full Executive Director position. Please contact Dan at [director@nnrec.org](mailto:director@nnrec.org) or 775-882-2375.

### 20th Anniversary

NNREC is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year! In 1986 a group of people came together at the Environmental Education Planning Workshop at Galena Creek near Reno to talk about the common interests of the agencies, teachers, educational system, and individuals. A leadership executive committee was formed, and a short time later, the Nevada Environmental Education Council. At the same time in southern Nevada a similar group was forming.

In early 1987 the two groups joined together to form the Nevada Natural Resource Education Council, with recognition that most activities would occur in each chapter but both would support statewide initiatives. The southern chapter had an active calendar of Project Learning Tree and Project WILD workshops, while the northern Chapter ran the summer Outdoor Education Workshop for years. The chapter structure continued, with ups and

downs for each chapter, and their activities, through 2002. The bylaws were modified to emphasize the state organizations but allow the formation of chapters. Over the last four years, we have focused on defining the role of NNREC in leading the state in environmental education. We have renewed the summer workshop idea with Lamoille, held PLT workshops and supported Project WET, and started a strategic planning process, working with all stakeholders to come up with a vision for environmental education in Nevada and a clear mission for NNREC.

### Annual Members Meeting

Our Annual Members Meeting will be held Saturday, October 21 in Reno or Carson City. With our 20th anniversary, we are inviting anyone who was there at the beginning or was active over the years to come together for a reunion.

The meeting will be 1:00 to 4:00 on Saturday afternoon, with the exact location to be announced.

Please mark it on your calendar and join us.

### EETAP Grant

NNREC has received a grant of \$12,000 per year over three years from the North American Association for Environmental Education of EPA funds under the third Environmental Education Training Partnerships program (EETAP3). With this "Building State Capacity for EE" grant, NNREC will develop a Nevada Environmental Education Training Plan, increase the capacity and stability of NNREC with paid staff, host the Lamoille Institute for Educators week-long summer professional development experience, host PLT workshops, and start work on initiatives such as model EE schools, creating a Nevada EE Advisory Council, and creating an online database of EE resources and opportunities.

*continued on Page 5*



---

## Outside continued

Foundation EE committee, but has expanded to include many more partner agencies and groups. Members include both the public and private sector.

Member agencies and organizations include:

- National Park Service
- Nevada Division of Forestry
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Clark County School District
- Clark County Air Quality
- Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- Outside Las Vegas Foundation
- Las Vegas Springs Preserve
- Partners in Conservation
- Nevada Division of State Parks
- Bureau of Reclamation
- NNREC

Partners is assessing current EE (place-based) programs in southern NV, looking at gaps and overlaps. It will also look at ways to improve both the marketing and delivery of these programs. Possible targets include ecotourism and new housing developments at the urban interface to public lands. With more lands being sold for development, this becomes a very important audience. This environmental education strategy is progressing nicely, and the group has already developed a mission, vision, and goals:

**Mission:** To strengthen collaborations and support integrated, effective environmental and heritage education efforts.

**Vision:** Every resident and visitor

will understand, appreciate and take care of southern Nevada's environment.

**Goals:**

- Develop and implement a strategy for sustainable Education About the Environment in southern Nevada.
- Foster environmental stewardship in southern Nevada.
- Maximize effectiveness of Education About the Environment



efforts by coordinating support resources.

- Improve skill and knowledge of providers of Education About the Environment.
- Celebrate our successes with the southern Nevada community.

Allison has begun an environmental education list serve and is also developing a database for field trip resources. In the future, the database may include all EE resources for teachers, listing curriculums and the agencies that sponsor them. If

you would like more information, please call Allison at (702) 895-5097. To join the list serve, send an email to [eaexchange@unlv.edu](mailto:eaexchange@unlv.edu), and put "subscribe" in the subject line.

Congratulations to the PLI team for a great first-time ever environmental education conference in Las Vegas, "Our Places Tell Stories"!

*✍ Margie Klein*

## Our Places Tell Stories

One hundred and twenty people attended the Our Places Tell Stories conference at the end of the January in Las Vegas. Nonformal educators from agencies and nonprofit organizations in Nevada came together to learn about effective environmental education and interpretation techniques, to share ideas and solutions, and to network over common interests. Keynote speaker Sam Ham of the University of Idaho addressed best practices in interpretation, sum-

*continued on Page 5*

## Programs continued

Registration for both workshop is now open, with details on the NNREC website at <http://nnrec.org/profdev/>.

GBTW: Jul 31–Aug 4, near Ely  
LIFE: Aug 7–11, near Elko

## Professional Development

Our search for professional development opportunities for teachers and nonformal educators has not only brought additional listings to the professional development calendar, now at 19, but renewed connections with the many schools, agencies and organizations which offer professional development to the same audience of practicing and potential environmental educators.

## Model Schools?

NNREC is looking for model environmental education schools in Nevada. We are aware of many classrooms where teachers are meeting the academic and social needs of their students by bringing together all the subject areas and working hands-on to connect students to real learning in their own lives, their classrooms and schoolyards, and their community. We are not, however, aware of entire schools or grade levels which have implemented environmental education as a core part of the curriculum and school life. Please let us know if we have missed such schools – we'd be pleased to know about them and use them as models for dissemination to other schools. And if none exist, then NNREC will support the creation of model schools. We are seeking



funding to support both the identification and the creation of model schools. Idaho, under the leadership of the Idaho Environmental Education Association (IdEEA), our sister organization to the north, has major funding to create a network of EIC (Environment as an Integrating Context for learning) schools. Idaho would like to share its learning with Nevada, and we are excited about the idea.

## Lamoille 2005

August 2005 saw 45 educators gather at Camp Lamoille for the second Lamoille workshop. Sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, with major support from NNREC and Nevada Outdoor School, the program brought together teachers and nonformal educators from land management agencies for workshops in Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Project WILD and Project Archaeology. Additional sessions in gardening, noxious weeds, Family Astro, emigrant trail, Leave No Trace, Trout in the Classroom,

invertebrates, a mini-market of education sources, and a hike rounded out the week.

## ❖ Editor's Note ❖

Why no newsletter since January? Well, we have all been so busy doing things that we haven't had time to write about it!

In particular, writing the EETAP Building State Capacity for EE grant proposal and supporting documents took hours for Allison Brody, Stephanie Lefevre and Dan Allison. Our new focus on diversifying our funding stream, development of the new mission statement, and planning for summer workshops has taken all the time we have.

This year will continue to be incredibly busy because we've become much more ambitious in what we want to accomplish for Nevada, but we will be better about getting out newsletters at least every other month, and more often when there is exciting or time-critical information to share.

✉ Dan Allison

## Inside continued Affiliate Programs

The NNREC web site offers links to businesses which offer rebates for sales generated by these links. For example, the link to Powells Books generates a rebate of 7.5% to NNREC for each purchase made. We aren't encouraging you to buy things, but if you are already buying something from one of these compatible businesses, you can help NNREC at no additional cost or inconvenience to you. Some of the links are to businesses that we think environmental educators would support but do not offer these rebate links, such as Acorn Naturalists. Check <http://nnrec.org/about/affiliate.html>.

## Lending Library

NNREC members can borrow books from the NNREC lending library. These books are owned by NNREC and by Dan Allison. Most titles are on environmental education, such as *Place Based Education* by David Sobel, with several children's literature books, such as *The Gift of the Tree* by Alvin Tresselt. Books on nonprofit management are also available. Check <http://nnrec.org/programs/library/> for more information. Anyone borrowing a book will also get a free copy of *Discover the Waters of Nevada*.

## Outside continued

ming up by saying "thought provoking is talk provoking," meaning that interpretation that causes people to think causes people to communicate with each other to share ideas and solve problems.

## NAAEE Conference

The annual international conference of the North American Association for Environmental Education will be held October 10–14 in St. Paul, Minnesota. These conferences draw people from North America and the world, offering keynote speakers, hundreds of presentations, pre-conference workshops, field trips, and social activities.

Stephanie Lefevre, Allison Brody, and Dan Allison will be attending. How about you?

For more information about the NAAEE conference and registration, check <http://naaee.org/pages/conference/>.

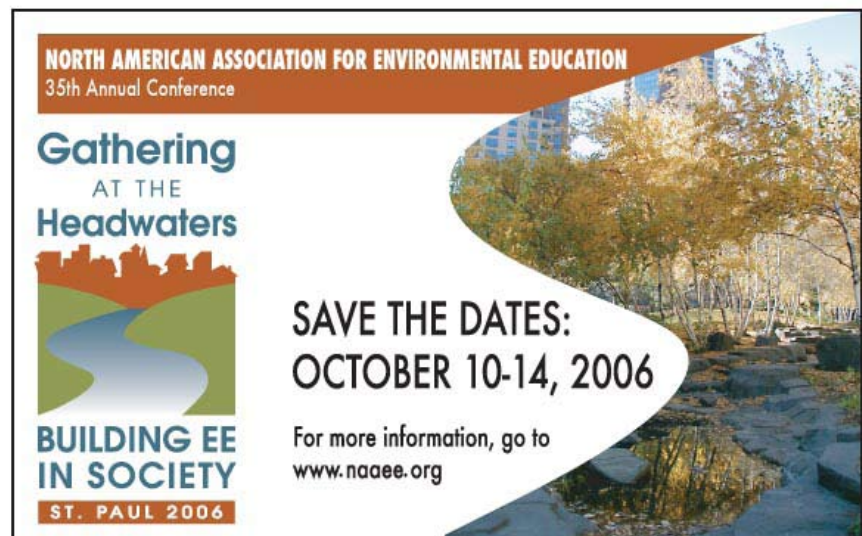
## Backpacking Programs

This summer Nevada Outdoor

School will offer two backpacking programs for high school students. The Ruby Mountain Backpack Adventure will spend one day in the "frontcountry" learning about wilderness skills and environmental issues, then six days along the Ruby Mountains National Scenic Trail. The Sierra Mountain Backpack Adventure will have a similar format, along the Tahoe Rim Trail in western Nevada. Both trips are open to students entering 9th through 12th grade, from anywhere in Nevada and eastern California.

The High Sierra Resources Workshop program will not occur in 2006, but we hope that it will be back in 2007. These two adventure backpacking programs will fill some of that gap.

For details and registration, go to [http://nevadaoutdoorschool.com/summer\\_programs.htm](http://nevadaoutdoorschool.com/summer_programs.htm).



## Board of Directors

Stephanie Lefevre,  
Treasurer (through  
2007)  
529 Lay St,  
Winnemucca NV  
89445; 775-625-2480;  
[slefevre@nv.blm.gov](mailto:slefevre@nv.blm.gov)



Anga Rebane,  
Secretary (through  
2006)  
745 Champagne  
Dr, Incline Village  
NV 89450; 775-831-9456 H;  
[angarebane@hotmail.com](mailto:angarebane@hotmail.com)



Mark Kimbrough  
(through 2006)  
948 Incline Way,  
Incline Village  
NV 89451; 775-  
298-0012 W;  
[MarkK@tahoerimtrail.org](mailto:MarkK@tahoerimtrail.org)



## Staff

Dan Allison,  
Director, Web site,  
Newsletter  
PO Box 3644,  
Carson City NV  
89702; 775-882-2375 H/W;  
[director@nnrec.org](mailto:director@nnrec.org)



---

## Calendar

### May 2006

- 12-14 (Fri-Sun): TRTA Trails and Outdoor Leadership Training, Reno
- 16 (Tue): CHOLLA Meeting
- 19 (Fri): Partners for Education about the Environment, Las Vegas
- 20 (Sat): Snapshot Day, Truckee River Watershed

### June 2006

- 3 (Sat): National Trails Day
- 13 (Tue): CHOLLA Meeting
- 21 (Wed): Summer Solstice

### July 2006

- 31-Aug 4 (Mon-Fri): Great Basin Teachers Workshop (GBTW), Ely area

### August 2006

- 7-11 (Mon-Fri): Lamoille Institute for Educators (LIFE), Elko area
- 9 & 11 (Wed & Fri): Minerals Education Workshop, Carson City
- 21-23 (Mon-Wed): Nevada Museums Association Conference, Reno

### September 2006

- 30 (Sat): National Public Lands Day

### October 2006

- 10-14 (Tue-Sat): NAAEE Conference, St Paul MN
- 21 (Sat): NNREC Annual Members Meeting, Carson City/Reno area

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/profdev/calendar.html>.

---

## New Members

These people, organizations or institutions have joined us since January. For information on our other members, please check <http://nnrec.org/membership/members.html>.

### Professional Members

Tim Rowe  
Shirley Pollock

## 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 web site, 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.

## Web Site Tidbit

Reorganization of the web site and menu has brought all educator professional development (PD) information together under "Prof Dev." The calendar shows all PD of which we are aware, offered by NNREC and many others, has new links to online PD and some opportunities outside Nevada. The Lamoille, and GBTW summer workshops, Project Learning Tree, River of Words, and Project WET workshops are highlighted. Check it out at <http://nnrec.org/profdev/>.

---

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_