
Workshops Offered

Three types of workshops are presented or co-sponsored by NNREC throughout the state. These workshops are offered to teachers, resource agency personnel, and all others active in natural resource education. Participants receive hands-on experience in using the educational activities, background materials, and curriculum guides. Many of the workshops include field trips.

For information about currently scheduled workshops, see the "Calendar" section of the Newsletter.

Project WILD is an interdisciplinary, supplementary environmental education program. The goal of Project WILD is to assist learners of any age in developing awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment upon which life depends.

Project WILD Aquatic focuses in on

wildlife in freshwater and marine environments. Aquatic species and aquatic ecosystems give humans early and clear warning about the quality of the watery environment upon which we all depend.

Project Learning Tree offers an opportunity for educators and students to step into the forest, thereby developing awareness, knowledge, and skills related to understanding of renewable and nonrenewable resources of a finite planet.

Coordinators for the workshops are:

Northern Nevada

Project WILD

Project WILD Aquatic

Dave Sanger: 688-1500 W

Southern Nevada

Project WILD

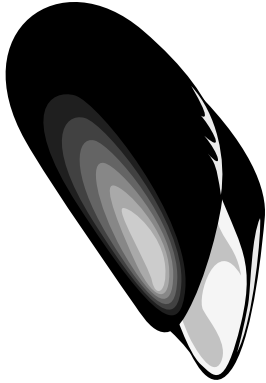
Jim Rathbun: 870-8172 H

Project WILD Aquatic

Elsie Hardenbrook: 363-1921 W

Project Learning Tree

John Jones: 486-5123 W



Red Rock Canyon National Conservation

Area

The biggest news in natural resource education in southern Nevada is Red Rock Canyon near Las Vegas, Nevada, receiving National Conservation Area status on November 16, 1990. Just what does this mean for Red Rock Canyon and other concerned parties? Better protection for the natural resources and increased visitor services through a boost in permanent staff and future funding. This status is designated by Congress and signed by the President. In some ways a National Conservation Area (NCA) administered by the Bureau

of Land Management resembles the National Monument status of our sister agency, the National Park Service.

This new status has allowed for a full time park ranger, Elsie Hardenbrook, to oversee the natural resource education (NRE) program at Red Rock Canyon. In addition, I hope two of our new interpretive rangers will assist Elsie with the NRE program. Future Clark County School District field trips to the area, and teachers participating in Project Learning Tree and Project WILD, should enjoy and benefit from the additional support.

Jim Bridger Teachers and E.G.&G. Develop An Educational Partnership

In an effort to increase the awareness of the use of science and technology in the work place and everyday life for junior high school students from an ethnically mixed and low to middle socio-economic neighborhood, representatives of E.G.&G. Energy Measurements, Inc. and the science and computer teachers at Jim Bridger Junior High School developed a school / business partnership. The scientists presented programs on endangered species, fiber optic communications, and operations and communications with computers.

Three physicists brought equipment and knowledge of fiber optics into the eighth grade physical science classes and allowed the students to communicate through receiver/transmitter head sets attached to 500 foot fiber optic strands. The students shared questions and

puzzlement as to how light could carry their voices.

Dr. Ted Deorr, wildlife biologist, discussed the plight of the federally-listed desert tortoise, and efforts to locate and relocate them to habitats which will allow the threatened desert tortoise to continue to live. After the students observed and handled a few of the small desert tortoises, Ted designated one of the students to be a desert tortoise. He then took his telemetry antenna out onto the athletic field and demonstrated how the desert tortoise is located even when in its burrow. The students expressed great interest and concern for the plight of the desert tortoise.

continued next page



A seventh grade student during a life science lesson expresses interest and astonishment while holding a young desert tortoise.



The school district's School / Business Partnership program has become an effective mechanism for developing better relations between the community and the schools of Nevada. One of the statewide goals of NNREC is to foster partnerships to increase support for the instruction of environmental education in the schools of Nevada.

👤 Jim Rathbun

Jim Rathbun shares knowledge of desert tortoises with students in a Junior High life sciences class.

Action

Environmental Education Legislation Will Be Presented to 1991 Nevada Legislature

In the 1991 Nevada Legislature, enabling legislation will be introduced to provide for the implementation of the present statutes which require that environmental education be taught for kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) in our public schools. These statutes have never been implemented by the State Department of Education, primarily due to the lack of funding from the Legislature.

The language submitted to the bill drafter by Senator John Vergiels includes a fiscal impact of \$500,000. Of this amount, \$150,000 would be set aside for the appointment of a Department of Education staff person to coordinate and ensure the

implementation of the provisions of NRS 389.110-140. Responsibilities would include coordination of various disciplines within the education system concerned with environmental education, development or adoption and distribution of instructional materials for use in environmental education, development or adoption of programs of inservice training in environmental education, and coordination of the efforts of private organizations, local school districts and governmental agencies that are concerned with environmental education. And, finally, coordination of investigation by local school districts of

continued page 10

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
Suzanne Sturtevant - Northern NV

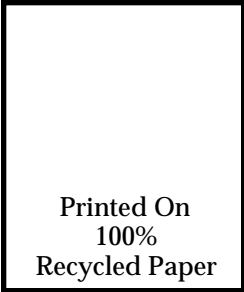
Design and Production:
Raincloud Publishing

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

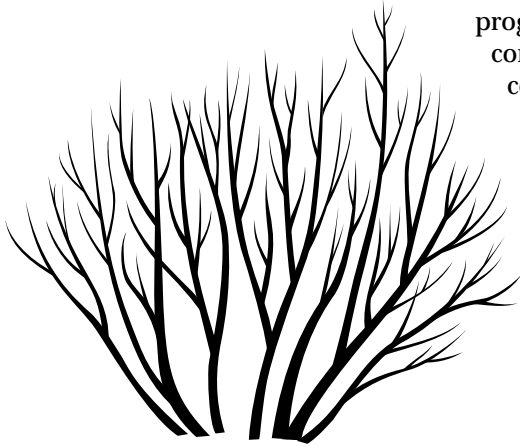
Chapter Preference
 Northern Nevada
 Southern Nevada

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.

the feasibility of programs of outdoor environmental education and camping for its students.

Jim Rathbun, Southern Chapter Chair, and Joyce Woodhouse, Director of the Clark County School District School / Business Partnership program, have scheduled a conference of various concerned groups January 3 to provide input on environmental education instruction in the Clark County School District. At the conclusion of the conference, the proposed legislation to implement NRS 389 will be presented and discussed.



The implementation of NRS 389, environmental education instruction K-12 in the public schools of Nevada, has become one of the primary goals of the state NNREC membership. We would like as much support as is available to educate the public about this important effort to provide the state Department and local school districts the opportunity to become leaders in the environmental education movement. This is especially important in light of the recent congressional passage of a National Environmental Education Act.

Copies of the present NRS statutes and the proposed legislation can be received from Jim Rathbun (870-8172) or Shirley Pollock (849-2180).

✉ Jim Rathbun

Nevada Natural Resource Education Council (NNREC)

P.O. Box 28272

Las Vegas, NV 89126-2272

