

NNREC Newsletter



Winter 1990-91

Nevada Natural Resource Education Council



Notes From The Chair

This will be the last time I will be writing this section for the newsletter. We will be electing new officers at our meeting in Las Vegas on the 8th of February. I want to invite everybody to participate in this annual meeting of the Northern and Southern Chapters of NNREC. You will find an agenda for the meeting in the newsletter and I only ask that you notify John Jones at the Las Vegas office of the Nevada Division of Forestry at 486-5123, or myself at 831-0494 so that we know how many wish to participate. We are meeting at the BLM office on Vegas Drive from 8 AM until, we hope, about 4 PM.

You will also see that we are asking all those who haven't paid for membership in the last year for your financial support again. The money collected pays for the newsletter. We collect enough from membership to just pay for the newsletter and we are trying to make it a little better each time.

We have been working for the last year on a Resource Directory for Environmental Education for the state of Nevada. We are done and it is at the state printer right now. For all of you who renew your membership I will ship you one right off the press. I would hope this would get you excited about joining NNREC. This directory will list

all the agencies/groups/associations that are involved with Environmental Education in the state. It was designed so that teachers/scout leaders/youth group leaders can easily find out what EE assistance is available in their county. They will also be available upon request and depending upon sponsors we may have to charge the printing/shipping costs for them. We are looking for sponsors to help with the cost of printing these Directories and if you are interested please give me a call.

Shirley Pollock and I just recently applied for a Forest Service grant through the Natural Resources Conservation Education Program (NRCEP) and received a grant for \$3,000 for the workshops sponsored by NNREC each year.

I want to thank the membership and board members of Nevada Natural Resource Education Council for allowing me to be the first Chair of this very worthwhile organization. I have enjoyed my association with this organization very much and I will not be leaving; just stepping down into a different role.

Mark Kimbrough

**State Chair,
Nevada Natural
Resource Education
Council**

Contact Mark at:
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Incline Village, NV 89450
831-0494

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Calendar

February

- 8 NNREC Annual Meeting, Las Vegas
- 27 Nevada Shade Tree Conference ①

March

- 6-7 Aquatic WILD Workshop, Winnemucca ②
- 14 Water Wise 92 ①
- 20 Spring Equinox

April

- 4-5 Project WILD, Las Vegas ②
- 10-11 Oxbow Inservice, Reno ②
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Arbor Day ①
- 24-25 Project WILD, Reno ②
- 24-25 Aquatic WILD, Las Vegas ②

May

- 1-2 Aquatic WILD, Yerington ②
- 2-3 Project Learning Tree, Las Vegas ①
- 8-9 Aquatic WILD, Reno ②
- 15-16 Project WILD, Fernley ②

June

- 14-19 The Alpine Conference
- 21-26 The Sawtooth Workshop
- 26 Oxbow "Birthday"

July

- 7-13 Fish and Wildlife Ecology Workshop
- 11-17 Mt. Charleston Outdoor Education Workshop, Las Vegas

August

- 2-7 Heartland Peaks Outdoor Education Workshop
- 3-7 Central Utah Outdoor Education Workshop

- 7-11 Western Regional EE Council's Annual Conference
- 9-14 Nevada Outdoor Education Workshop, South Lake Tahoe

October

- 17-21 North American Association for EE International Conference

For more information about ① items, contact John Jones at 486-5123. For more information about ② items, contact Dave Sanger at 688-1555 (Reno) or Geoff Schneider at 486-5127 (Las Vegas).

Southern Chapter of NNREC 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.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon meetings are the third Saturday of even months.

Mojave Native Plant Society meetings are the second Monday of each month.

Workshop Details

The Alpine Conference (June 14-19; Eastern Idaho 4-H Camp, Alpine, Wyoming). A 40-hour university credit workshop featuring small group problem-solving activities and investigations, IYE field studies and introductions to many excellent programs being used around the country (PLT, WILD, OBIS, NatureScope, Living Lightly). Focus on discussion skills and natural history interpretation.

The Sawtooth Workshop (June 21-26; Luther Heights Camp at Alturas Lake, Stanley Basin, Idaho). A 40-hour university credit workshop featuring small group problem-solving activities

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*“Calendar Details”
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and investigations. Ways to teach ethically about controversial issues are explored using simulations, community issue and natural resource investigations, issue analysis, values clarification, packaged education programs and neutral discussion skills, as suggested strategies.

Fish and Wildlife Ecology Workshop (July 7–13; University of Idaho Camp at Ponderosa State Park, McCall, Idaho). This week is devoted to understanding wildlife principles and practices and involves participants in a number of hands-on projects.

Mt. Charleston Outdoor Education Workshop (July 11–17; near Las Vegas, Nevada). A 32-hour university credit workshop featuring small group problem-solving activities and investigations. This workshop emphasizes the desert experience through various field investigations, art, and Native American cultural studies. Activity and discussion design is included.

Heartland Peaks Outdoor Education Workshop (August 2–7; University of Idaho Camp at Ponderosa State Park,

McCall, Idaho). This 40-hour process-oriented workshop emphasizes the use of EE in cooperative learning and in mainstreaming special groups of students. Participants will be introduced to “Tribes” (cooperative learning), “Keepers of the Earth,” COMETS, and Joseph Cornell’s “Flow Learning.” Field studies will investigate the influence of fire on western landscape.

Central Utah Outdoor Education Workshop (August 3–7; Gooseberry Guard Station near Salina, Utah). The 40-hour workshop focuses on small group problem-solving activities and investigations. Participants learn a variety of approaches for developing appreciation and respect for our natural world. A full PLT or WILD workshop is included. Participants apply approaches and investigations on a working ranch tour. Planning special EE events and outdoor classrooms is included.

Western Regional Environmental Education Council’s Annual Conference (August 7–11; Prospector Square Hotel, Park City, Utah). As many of you know, WREEC is/was the developer and national co-sponsor of both Project Learning Tree and Project WILD. Now the Council is helping to promote/develop Project WET, market the NatureScope materials, and are involved in many other new projects. The conference is open to any member of WREEC (\$10). Be on the cutting edge of new program development. Plan to attend now.

Nevada Outdoor Education Workshop (August 9–14; Nevada 4-H Camp, South Lake Tahoe, Nevada). This 32-hour university credit workshop emphasizes small group problem-solving activities and investigations. The workshop is a mix of four components: investigating environmental issues, IYE field investigations, instructional strategies/discussion skills, and an introduction to useful program materials (PLT, WILD, Energy Education, NatureScope, Joseph Cornell, etc.).

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



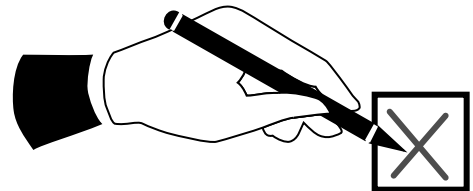
NNREC Annual Meeting Agenda

February 8, 1992

- election of officers
 - Project Learning Tree update
 - Project WILD update
 - WREEC update
 - state budget
 - NAAEE affiliation
 - workshop schedules for annual training sessions
 - NRCEP grant
- NEE-NET update
 - newsletter
 - membership
 - EPA grant application
 - Directory
 - Intermountain EE workshop schedules
 - goals / direction for next year
 - awards

Candidates for Office

Chair: John Jones
 Members at Large (two to be elected):
 Sue Jacox
 Elsie Hardenbrook
 Pat Murphy
 Gini Mitchell



Awards for NNREC Members

The Nevada Wildlife Federation (NvWF) awarded Gini Mitchell Educator of the Year and John Jones Forest Conservationist of the Year. The NvWF held its 41st annual meeting in Carson City this year. It awarded nine individuals awards for their outstanding contributions in conservation efforts. Both Gini and John are members of NNREC, Southern Chapter and were honored for their environmental education and natural resource contributions.

Chris Miller

Shirley Pollock has been awarded national recognition for dedication to Nevada's environment and education. She was chosen as Nevada's Environmental Woman of Action for her efforts toward environmental and conservation education, "showing creativity and

determination in initiating environmental action in her community."

She is a leading proponent of moving Nevada's law in environmental education into all the school districts, and implementing the law on a statewide basis. She is one of the state directors for the Lake Tahoe Outdoor Education Workshop and has facilitated at the Mt. Charleston Workshop. Both of these workshops train teachers/resource people in the hands-on activities for across the curriculum environmental issues and concerns. Shirley has also been a Project WILD/Project Learning Tree facilitator and has given inservice classes which share more about the environment and the classroom.

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“Awards for NNREC Members”
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As one of the Environmental Women of Action in the United States, Shirley will receive a \$1000 donation which has been designated to be used at the Oxbow Nature Study Area in Washoe County. She will travel to New York City in February to receive her award in a special ceremony held at the Tavern on the Green. In addition, a book is being published featuring the 50 Women of Action chosen, encouraging more women to take environmental action in their communities.

Shirley has been chairperson of the Northern Chapter of NNREC since its inception. She has also been vice-president in the north of the Nevada Wildlife Federation for three years. These two organizations have been instrumental in focusing attention on conservation and environmental education in Nevada.

“This is an incredible honor for me and I’m especially thrilled at this time in my life,” Shirley said. Shirley was nominated by Mark Kimbrough and Sue Jacox, executive committee of the NNREC.

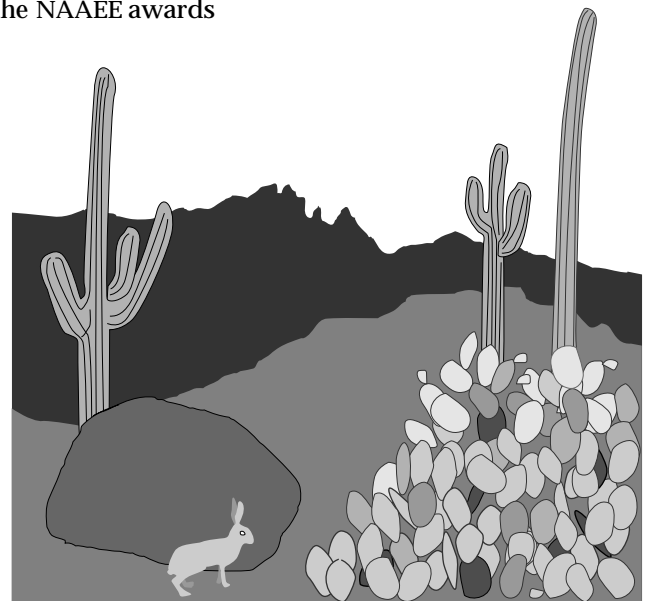
NNREC Becomes Affiliate Member of NAAEE

The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) is a professional association established to assist and support the work of individuals and groups engaged in environmental education. The goal is to promote a healthy, sustainable environment through education, and to contribute to the professional development of environmental educators throughout the world. NAAEE uniquely combines both the “environmental” and “educational” aspects of environmental education. It is a non-partisan organization using an approach that is neither confrontational nor adversarial in nature.

NNREC receives the following benefits as an affiliate member of NAAEE:

- a copy of the *Environmental Communicator*, a great medium for exchanging and sharing information
- voting rights by affiliate’s representative
- NAAEE board member participation/presentation at affiliate conferences as requested
- assistance from NAAEE headquarters with fundraising, grant writing, membership development, etc.
- group insurance participation for members of the affiliate

- publication possibilities in the NAAEE newsletter and monograph series
- listing in *Directory of Environmental Educators*
- participation in Environmental Issues Forums, developed to reach adult audiences and work with controversial environmental issues
- telecommunication and networking opportunities on EcoNET
- right to participate in annual forum of state, provincial and regional environmental organizations at NAAEE annual conference
- eligibility for the NAAEE awards program



Project WILD in Nevada

Dave Sanger, Nevada Department of Wildlife

Busy as a bee ...

The year of 1991 was real busy for us at the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Many Project WILD and Aquatic WILD programs combined with a Facilitator Workshop in Las Vegas kept Kim and I and a whole handful of volunteers hopping. Kim and I have also been working on an expanded budget for aquatic education in 1992. Wallop-Breaux funds combined with monies from Washoe County School District, the City of Reno, and in-kind matching funds from all of the volunteer work has

given environmental education a real boost in the arm. Many great things are happening and 1992 will offer new horizons in aquatic education.

I am happy to announce that each year more teachers become interested in Project WILD and Aquatic WILD, and some are asking for more. One alternative has been the offering of an "Oxbow Inservice" session for teachers who are looking for "site-specific" activities in and around Reno. Another alternative is providing more workshops throughout the state.

From the Aquatic Education Coordinator...

There's a lot of things happening in Nevada's aquatic education program as well as at the Oxbow Nature Study Area. First the Oxbow: Since March 15, we have had 9,600 students (K-12) tour the Oxbow. Wow! That's quite an accomplishment. Most of these tours lasted from 1.5 to 2 hours and included a list of activities too long to mention here.

of the park and will allow us to increase the number of classes able to use the park.

Now, for the Aquatic Education Program. This program is taking off like you would not believe. We have nine fishing clinics tentatively scheduled for the 1992 calendar year reaching as far south as Las Vegas! Most of these clinics are tailored for children, but if there is enough demand out there we will have some adult clinics as well. So, if you don't know how to fish and want to learn, please let me know.

We also had a curriculum written for the park which is now available in every school in Washoe County. It can be found in the library of elementary and middle schools. And the science chairperson has a copy at all of the high schools. This curriculum contains pre-visit, on-site, and post-visit activities you can do with your class.

Lurn tuh Fish!

Fishing Clinic Schedule 1992

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Instructors | Las Vegas | March 13/14 |
| Trout | Las Vegas | March 20/21 |
| Trout | Las Vegas | April 3/4 |
| Walleye | Reno or Fallon | May 1/2 |
| Mackinaw | Lake Tahoe | June 5/6 |
| Derby | Las Vegas (6 sites) | June 6 |
| Trout | Reno | June 12/13 |
| Trout | Dayton | June 19/20 |
| Trout | Carson City | July 10/11 |
| Trout | Las Vegas | October 9/10 |

Interpretive sessions have been so successful and the demand so great, we are planning to hire a seasonal interpreter for the park this coming March. This position will better facilitate the use



Project WILD Recognition from President Bush

Geoff Schneider

In a Rose Garden ceremony at the White House on October 31, 1991, President George Bush announced his selection of Project WILD as one of the three recipients of the President's Environment and Conservation Challenge Award for Education and Communication.

President Bush recognized Project WILD as an organization that best exemplifies the cooperative, innovative spirit of the new environmental era in the area of education and communication.

The award was accepted by Dr. Cheryl Charles, Project WILD Executive Director, and Tim Provan, Chairman of the national Project WILD Management Committee.

In accepting the award, Dr. Charles said, "The public wildlife agencies deserve enormous credit for the accomplishments of this program. Their leadership, true partnership with educators and willingness to stand behind their commitment with personnel and funds have all contributed to Project WILD's success."

Project WILD is a joint project of the Western Regional Environmental Education Council and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. In Nevada, Project WILD is sponsored and funded by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

A Different Weather Station

Make Your Own Weather Station

Fix a dry pine cone onto a small piece of wood with sealing wax or glue. Stick a pin into one of the central scales and place a straw over it. Put the pine cone out-of-doors, protected from the wind and rain. The straw moves according to the state of the weather. Next, make up a scale.

This simple weather station was built by nature. The pine cone closes when it is going to rain, to protect the seeds from moisture. The outside of the scales absorb the moisture in the air, swells up and bends, a process which you can also observe with a piece of paper which is wet on one side.

This activity is appropriate for just about all grade levels, but especially for the younger kids.

Reference: Simple Science Experiments, Hans Jurgen Press

Earth Science Speakers Bureau

Becky Weimer Purkey

Are you excited about your profession? Do you have a favorite subject related to the earth sciences that you would like to present to local schools, grades K through 12?

The Education Committee of the Geological Society of Nevada (GSN) is in the process of expanding the Earth Science Speakers and Topics List. This list was introduced to the Washoe County Schools system in April 1991. Currently, several speakers on this list are being contacted weekly to address northern area schools. To date, the list contains over 70 volunteer speakers located in the Reno metropolitan area including professionals from the mining industry, academia, federal and state agencies, and private consultants. These people are speaking in school classrooms, conducting hands-on activities, or leading field trips related to all aspects of geology, mining, minerals, energy resources, the environment, and career opportunities in these fields.

The GSN Education Committee would now like to expand this list statewide,

and to provide more expertise in the related fields of chemistry and math to help give these subjects a boost in Nevada's schools. We would like to be able to represent all aspects of earth systems science (the lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, atmosphere, and the earth in space) to schools around the state. However, this program only works because of YOU, volunteers who love what you do and care about the state of science education in the U.S. today. As soon as new volunteers are recruited from the Las Vegas and Elko areas (and any geographic areas in between), we will print a new list and introduce it to all of the county school systems. The list will be updated and redistributed about once a year.

If you are interested in participating, please call Becky Weimer Purkey at the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (702-784-6691) for more information. Copies of the Earth Science Speakers and Topics List are available for viewing/purchase at the NBMG Information Office.



Children's Corner

There is nothing better than lying in an open field looking at the stars with friends by the full moon light on a cool night.

Kate Kositch, Chadborne School

What is the Children's Corner? It is a place to record the moving and insightful things that children write when they are in contact with the natural world. Please make additional contributions, from the children you teach, or learn with, or your own children!

a magic spot is a place to be
a place to listen, watch, and see
a place to be quiet, a place to learn
a place to sit with the ferns
a place away from everyone else
a place to keep to yourself
a place to watch the birds fly by
a place to sit and look at the sky
a place to be
with only me

Paige Johnston, Monterey Park School

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.

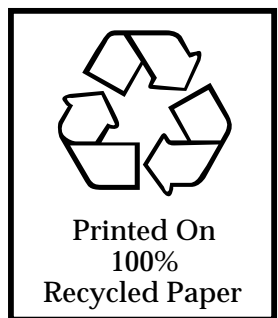
Submission deadlines are:

Fall September 1
Winter December 15
Spring April 1

Contributions may be submitted on paper or 3.5 inch diskettes in any common word processor 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+4 _____

Telephone Home _____ Work _____

Membership Category

- Active \$15 (includes newsletter)
- Associate \$10
- Supporting \$25 (includes newsletter)

Change of Address

Membership is renewable at the beginning of every calendar year.

Chapter Preference

- Northern Nevada
- Southern Nevada

Make checks payable to NNREC

Mail to:

NNREC
P.O. Box 28272
Las Vegas, NV 89126-2272

Desert Tortoise Adoption

Betty Burge

Teachers and Students: Now is the time to prepare your home yard for the tortoises that you plan to adopt from Tortoise Group in the Spring. Remember, proper conditions for tortoises are not available in the classroom. Tortoises of all ages must live outdoors to be healthy.

For information on how to prepare your yard and care for tortoises, pick up a free copy of "Desert Tortoises, Adoption and Care" from any veterinary office or branch of the public library in Clark County.

Schools with inner court yards may be just the place to set up a tortoise habitat. Call Tortoise Group at 739-8043 for help in planning for school adoption.

Free living tortoises are still protected by law. Taking tortoises from undeveloped desert without a permit is illegal and punishable by a \$20,000 fine and possible jail time. There is no need to poach. Free, legally acquired tortoises are available to adults from Tortoise Group. Call 739-7113. If you have questions about development and the tortoise, call the new hotline at 383-TORT.

Nevada Natural Resource Education Council

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Las Vegas NV 89126-2272

Are your dues due? Please see the membership renewal
in middle of this newsletter. Renew today!