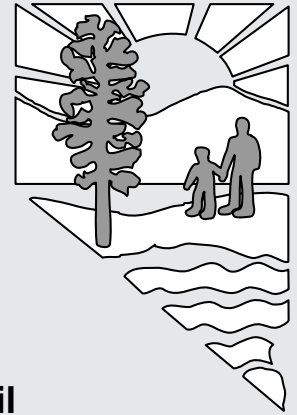


# NNREC Newsletter



## Winter 1992-93

**Nevada Natural Resource Education Council**

### Notes From The Chair

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. It will be interesting to see what changes 1993 will bring. As for NNREC, I'm looking forward to a new and productive year. At the Annual Meeting in November, I was elected to a second term as State Chair, and Elsie Hardenbrook and Carol Heinrich were elected to the Board of Directors. The three of us, along with the respective Presidents of each Chapter, will meet in Las Vegas in February to discuss the budget, goals and activities for the year. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

The theme for this issue is winter ecology and activities. Many people think winter is a great time for staying indoors (except when skiing or sledding, of course). But there are lots of "environmental" things to learn or teach, indoors as well as outdoors. It's the best time to examine the intricate branch structure of deciduous trees and shrubs, to review weather principles, and to study the winter habits of animals.

Also in this issue is a full report of the Annual Meeting and the Environmental Education planning conference that NNREC hosted in Elko last September, focusing on mining and EE.

The theme for the Spring issue will be the status of environmental education in Nevada. Extra copies will be printed for the benefit of our Legislators, who may help determine the future of EE in Nevada.

Don't forget to send in your 1993 Membership dues, and encourage others to join NNREC too! If you haven't been already, get involved with your NNREC chapter activities and meetings. We need your ideas and your support!

John Jones  
State Chair  
Nevada Natural Resource Education Council

Contact John at:  
NV Division of Forestry  
4747 W. Vegas Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89158  
486-5123

### Renew!

Please renew your membership today, using the pre-addressed and pre-stamped form in the middle of this newsletter. We need you!

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## March

1 Vernal Equinox

## April

1 Deadline for Spring newsletter  
17-18 Project WILD, Las Vegas ③

## May

1-2 Project WILD Aquatic, Las Vegas ③  
15-16 Project Learning Tree, Las Vegas ②

## June

13-18 Mt. Charleston Outdoor Ed Workshop, Las Vegas ①  
13-18 Alpine Conference, Alpine, WY ①  
13-18 Sawtooth Workshop, Stanley Basin, ID ①  
20 Summer Solstice

## July

18-23 Heartland Peaks Outdoor Ed Workshop, McCall, ID ①  
26-30 Central Utah Outdoor Ed Workshop, Gooseberry, Salina, UT ①

## August

8-13 Nevada Outdoor Ed Workshop, Lake Tahoe, NV ①

For more information about:

- ① summer workshops, contact John Jones at 486-5123
- ② Project Learning Tree, contact John Jones at 486-5123 (Las Vegas) or Pat Murphy at 687-4350 (Carson City).
- ③ Project WILD, 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. Contact Elsie Hardenbrook at 363-1921 for more information.

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

**Mojave Native Plant Society** meetings are the third Thursday of each month, at 7 pm at the Desert Demonstration Gardens in Las Vegas.

## NNREC Appreciation Awards Presented

Three individuals and one organization were recognized at the Annual Meeting for their dedication and service to natural resources education in Nevada. Each was presented a customized plaque. The recipients, by award category, were:

Agency/Organization: Nevada Dept. of Wildlife  
State: Pat Murphy  
Northern Chapter: Dave Sanger  
Southern Chapter: Jim Rathbun

## NNREC Annual Meeting Held in Reno John Jones

The fourth Annual Meeting of the Nevada Natural Resource Education Council was held at the Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno on Saturday, November 14. Fourteen delegates attended, seven from the Northern Chapter, six from the Southern Chapter and one from Utah. Because of travel schedules, it was a rushed, but productive meeting. Thanks to Nancy Holmes, who provided the use of the meeting room at the park. Regrettably, we did not have time for a full tour of the beautiful grounds.

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After reports from each Chapter were heard, Jim Rathbun presented a Treasurer's report. The state fund has been converted to a checking account to make disbursements easier. We currently have 46 dues-paying members and a budget of more than \$5,000, mostly from U.S. Forest Service grants for the summer workshops.

Jim reported that the Mt. Charleston Outdoor Education Workshop had to be cancelled last summer because of logistical problems, but will definitely be held this year. Shirley Pollock reported on the Nevada OEW at Lake Tahoe, which was a success despite low attendance. Some changes are planned for this year, and a promotional video is in the works.

Richard Pine provided information on the other summer workshops to be held in the region. He also made suggestions for developing closer working relationships with local Forest Service districts and other agencies, and offered other assistance from his office in Ogden. The Forest Service grants, EPA grants and other sources of funding for EE projects was discussed.

John Jones reported on the Project Learning Tree workshops, the PLT/NatureScope facilitators' workshop held at Lake Tahoe last spring, and the status of the national PLT revisions. Dave Sanger reported on the Project WILD and Aquatics programs in Nevada. One PW facilitators' workshop was held, and recent changes in UNR's credit requirements have caused some problems. A recent meeting between NV Dept. of Wildlife and NNREC representatives resolved concerns of both parties. A motion was passed that NNREC should send a letter to Governor Miller requesting that NDOW be allowed to fill the vacant Conservation Educator position in the Las Vegas office.

Gini Mitchell reported on the new Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Pilot materials for Nevada have been completed and are being field tested. In January, a writing workshop for the national Project WET curriculum will be held in Las Vegas.

John reported on the EE Planning Conference that NNREC hosted September 25-27 in Elko. The theme was Mining and Environmental Education, and opportunities were opened for developing partnerships between NNREC, the mining industry and the NV Dept. of Minerals. The Project MINE program and the proposal of a mining module for the summer workshops was also discussed.

Ideas for the future of the NNREC newsletter were discussed. A motion was passed that the theme of the spring issue should be the status of EE in Nevada, and that copies be provided to all State legislators. Also, Jim presented a report on the membership.

The annual NNREC appreciation awards were presented to: NV Dept. of Wildlife (Agency/Organization), Pat Murphy (State), Dave Sanger (Northern Chapter) and Jim Rathbun (Southern Chapter). Dave Rice accepted the award for NDOW.

Mark Kimbrough reported on the international ECO-ED conference he attended in Toronto in October. While there, Mark represented NNREC at the North American Association for Environmental Education annual conference. NNREC is also an affiliate member of the Alliance for EE. Mark mentioned that any corrections or additions to NNREC's Resource Directory should be submitted to him or John Jones.

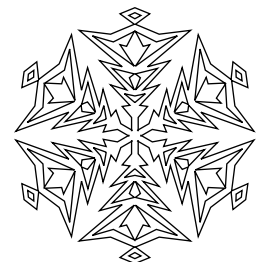
Election of 1993 officers was held, with John Jones retained as State Chair, and Elsie Hardenbrook and Carol Heinricy elected Members at Large on the Board of Directors.

## Mining Focus of EE Conference John Jones

The Intermountain Environmental Education Training Team met in Elko September 25-27 for their fall planning conference. NNREC hosted the conference, which had mining as its theme.

A panel consisting of educators, agency staff and mining industry representatives discussed common misconceptions about modern mining practices and industry attitudes, and about environmental educators (not the same as "environmentalists"), setting the stage for understanding and cooperation.

The Independence Mining Company, Inc. sponsored a tour of its Big Springs gold mine, the nation's first hardrock "showcase" mine, located on the Humboldt National Forest. The operation has been recognized for its demonstration of environmentally sensitive practices in open pit mining.



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These practices include erosion control to protect a threatened fish species and the local watershed, salvage and storage of native topsoil to be replaced after backfilling, slope restoration, leach field liners, an independent water recycling system, and air pollution control.

Paul Iverson, of the Nevada Department of Minerals, gave a very informative presentation on mining in Nevada and pointed out the importance of minerals in our everyday lives. He also reviewed minerals education programs currently available to

Nevada teachers, such as a two-day seminar featuring k-6 activities, the Project MINE package that includes videos, a 10-lesson study of Nevada mining history, and educational booklets.

All participants at the conference came away with an appreciation of the need to include mining in natural resource education programs, and with hope for future partnerships between the industry and education, including NNREC.

# Workshops

## Spring Workshops in Las Vegas:

Project WILD	April 17-18	(Facilitators' planning meeting March 24)
Project WILD Aquatics	May 1-2	(Facilitators' planning meeting April 15)
Project Learning Tree	May 15-16	(Facilitators' planning meeting April 29)

## 1993 Outdoor Education Workshops:

Mt. Charleston OEW	June 13-18	Las Vegas, Nevada
Alpine Conference	June 13-18	Alpine, Wyoming
Sawtooth Workshop	June 13-18	Stanley Basin, Idaho
Heartland Peaks OEW	July 18-23	McCall, Idaho
Central Utah OEW (Gooseberry)	July 26-30	Salina, Utah
Nevada OEW	August 8-13	Lake Tahoe, Nevada

# Outdoor Education

## A Mountain Journey Gini Mitchell

Shortly after I told this story to our Southern Chapter Board, Elsie asked me to submit it for publication. However, since I told the story, many changes have taken place at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Education Center, and I missed the last publication deadline. Besides, I felt the story didn't quite have an ending. But before we talk about endings, here is the story.

The Center is located in a four-plex apartment building on J Street just north of Nucleus Plaza in West Las Vegas. It was a hot July day and as I arrived at the Center, the Las Vegas Housing Authority bus was already there. This was a field trip to "Mount Charleston." Before the day was over, I hoped these youngsters would remember that Mount Charleston was a part of a larger range of mountains, the Spring Mountain Range.

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This trip was the end of the environmental education program, "A Mountain Journey" that I had provided to the Center's day camp. These youngsters had already learned about the life zones of the range from a slide presentation, games, and puzzles all designed to help them learn about the range of mountains west of Las Vegas. And they still called it Mount Charleston!

Brenda Durosinmi, Center Director, and several teen counselors supervised the loading of snacks, drinks and youngsters as I handed out journals and explained how we would complete them.

Our first stop was just off Highway 95 on the Kyle Canyon turnoff. It's close to the highway and I cautioned everyone to watch the traffic. We read the metal information marker, checked out the creosote plant's leaves - "they are really sticky!" and felt the sharp ends of the Yucca. Then it was back on the bus. Everyone was quiet as they filled in the blanks in their journal.

We watched as creosote bush gave way Joshua trees and then to the singleleaf pinyon pine. We discussed the changing vegetation and why it happened.

Our next stop was "where the Christmas trees grow." This time, away from the familiar sidewalks and blacktop, the exodus was slower. I noticed that many of the youngsters stood close to the bus. One girl stood in the door of the bus "to see better."

Here Utah Juniper and Singleleaf Pinyon Pine grow side by side. We examined the differences in leaf, bark and seed. It wasn't until we boarded the bus, that I realized that one youngster hadn't gotten off.

Now we could feel the difference in temperature. Someone identified an aspen from the description in their journal.

We found a large ponderosa pine to park under. Here we would look at the different plants and trees, make comparisons and record them in the journals. The chatter was deafening as the counselors led the group off the bus. It was here I noticed Tony. He was the first one off and he scampered up the hill ahead of everyone. I waited as they got off. In the back of the bus one little girl didn't move. I went back and sat beside her.

"Don't you want to get off?"

She shook her head. "No! I'm afraid of snakes."

"Snakes? With all that noise, no snakes would stay around!"

"My momma told me there were big snakes that would eat me if I got off the bus. I don't want to be eaten."

I was caught between being angry and laughing. I put my arm around her. "It would take a very large snake to eat you. Do you see any snakes that large?" She looked out of the window and shook her head. "I doubt if there are any snakes around here. But if you did see a snake, it would be as afraid of you as you are of it. You just need to be careful where you sit and where you put your hands. You shouldn't be afraid of snakes. Just be careful and if you do see one, walk away from it."

I could see she didn't believe me. I wasn't making any progress and the others were waiting for me. "You sit here and watch out the window," I told her.

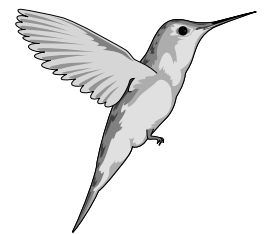
Our investigation was a success. We checked out bark patterns and leaves. We even found some bark that had fallen off a tree and could see where bugs had eaten it. A golden-mantled ground squirrel scolded us from his rocky perch and a jay flitted in the branches above us. Tony found a big black beetle and wanted to bring it on the bus. Brenda reminded us that we needed to find a place to have our snacks so Tony released his bug and we loaded up.

At the end of the road there was no place to park. We turned round and headed back. I suggested we stop at the ranger station. We could eat our snacks and take that all-important restroom break. As the counselors handed out snacks, the squirrels and jays descended. Some of the youngsters ate on the bus, but others were off to investigate.

While the kids ate, I checked out the Visitor Center. They were open and would be happy to have us come through—ten at a time.

While I was gone, the kids had discovered the hummingbirds. Darting close overhead, the hummers were eating from feeders hung on the eaves of the Visitor Center and the nearby ranger's house. A teen counselor and I started the first group through the Visitor Center.

The volunteer behind the counter answered questions and gave each youngster a Smokey Bear bookmark and pin. The kids were full of questions,



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and the slice of tree, labeled with historical events at various time during its life, caught everyone's eye. One of the counselors asked about the donation box. I explained that contributions were very important in keeping the Visitor Center open.

"I wish I had brought money," he said. "It would be awful if this place was closed down. We don't have anything to give them."

Outside, several kids were talking to the ranger's wife and son. They had been watching the hummers too. The ranger's son was showing several of the boys his bird book, and some of the youngsters walked down to see the wild roses growing along the fence.

"Come and see this bird. It's hurt." It was Tony. Always ahead of everyone, he had found the creature entangled in brambles.

The ranger's son carefully extracted the bird while my troupes watched breathlessly. Carefully the ranger's wife examined the frightened creature. Her gentle hands and soft voice seemed to soothe the frightened bird. It stopped struggling.

A hand slipped into mine. I looked down to see the girl who was afraid of snakes. "We saved it," she said softly. "May I touch it?" Her question seemed to break the spell.

"Careful now, don't everyone try to touch it," cautioned Brenda. But she didn't have to worry. The wonder of this wild creature, resting quietly in the hands of this knowledgeable woman, held

everyone in awe. Only Tony and the youngster at my side ventured to touch the bird.

The toot from the bus told us our bus driver was ready to go. The trip down the hill went quickly. Journals were completed. We talked about raising money for the Visitor Center. Brenda suggested the kids might want to collect aluminum cans. It sounded like a great idea and everyone was excited about it.

Time has passed and a lot of changes have been made. Many of the kids who took that trip are no longer at the Center. Collecting cans sounded so easy on the bus. But it's very difficult in a place like the Center. Space is at a premium. The story ends.

Not quite. Last week I took a Touchy-Feely box over for a short session during Winter Break. It held different types of leaves. Tony was there. He identified the pine, and told the kids about the difference in the singleleaf pinyon pine and the ponderosa. And he told them about the bird. This summer we will go back to the Spring Mountain Range. Yes, Tony remembered.

## Residential Environmental Outdoor Education (REOE) Jim Rathbun

The REOE committee continues to meet monthly in a effort to formulate a viable program for outdoor education for the students in the Clark County schools. Jim Rathbun and Chris Chairsell spent November 23 and 24 at the California Outdoor Schools Administrators (COSA) Conference at Woodleaf Outdoor Camp. COSA represents the majority of outdoor education schools in California and has developed the personnel, funding and material support necessary to carry out a successful outdoor school program. They have invited us to observe some of their successful schools and are willing to assist us in establishing outdoor schools in Nevada.

The committee which developed the Desert Tortoise Research Center Educational Facility will be meeting with school district representatives, BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel the first of the year to determine the progress of that proposal. Any member or interested citizen who would like to volunteer to assist in this effort should call Jim Rathbun at 870-8172.



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.

Mark Kimbrough – Northern NV  
PO Box 8867  
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Send newsletter submissions and ask for additional information from the Coordinating Editors:

Submission deadlines are:

Spring April 1  
Fall September 1  
Winter January 1

Elsie Hardenbrook – Southern NV  
Red Rock Canyon, BLM  
PO Box 26569  
Las Vegas, NV 89126  
647-5148 W / 645-6478 H

Send address changes to: NNREC, PO Box 28272, Las Vegas, NV 89126-2272. Please use the membership form below, with your old mailing label on the reverse, if possible.

### NNREC Officers

Chair:

John Jones

Vice Chair (Northern Chapter President):

Mark Kimbrough

Vice Chair (Southern Chapter President):

Jim Rathbun

Treasurer:

Jim Rathbun

Directors:

Elsie Hardenbrook

Carol Heinrich



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*Please Join Us!*

## Nevada Natural Resource Education Council Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Active \$15 (includes newsletter)

Chapter Preference

Associate \$15

Northern Nevada

Supporting \$25 (includes newsletter)

Southern Nevada

Change of Address

Make checks payable to NNREC and mail to:

NNREC  
PO Box 28272  
Las Vegas NV 89126-2272

Membership is renewable at the beginning of every calendar year. Your mailing label indicates type of membership (S=supporting, A=active, C=complimentary), and current membership year.

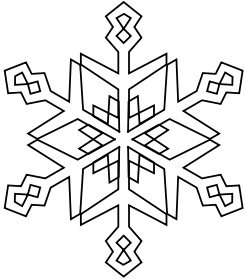
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## Welcome New Members

Bob Lawson  
Leland Smith

Dan Porath  
Terry Simmons

## Hello Again Renewing Members



Carol Heinricy  
Frank Tepper  
Gini Mitchell  
Larry Goodson

Jim Rathbun  
John Jones  
Chris Miller  
Elsie Hardenbrook

## AEOE Conference

Our sister organization in California, the Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (AEOE) is holding its statewide spring conference April 16–18 at Camp Lodestar in the beautiful Sierra foothills. NNREC members are welcome to attend and discover how the two states are similar and different.

John Hendrickson of Woodleaf Outdoor School will keynote the conference with an entertaining and moving multimedia presentation on their successful effort to preserve old growth forest adjacent to the outdoor school. Children from classrooms attending the school raised most of the money.

The conference will also offer a variety of workshops, presentations, field trips, and socializing opportunities. For more information on AEOE and the conference, please contact Dan Allison at 878-8739.

<b>Newsletter Themes</b>	This issue: Winter Ecology and Activities Spring issue: The Status of Environmental Education in Nevada
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***Nevada Natural Resource Education Council***  
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