



CHOLLA Meeting

March 13, 2007, 1:00 – 3:30
Clark County Wetlands Learning Lab

In attendance: Barbara Slivac (NSMHS), Ellen Leigh (Atomic Testing Museum), Stacy Irvin (Mojave Max), Laverne Dicky (Red Rock RCA), Amy Page (Las Vegas Natural History Museum), Margie Klein (Nevada Department of Wildlife), Chris Leavitt (Clark County Wetlands Preserve), Kitty Heckendorf (Clark County Museum), Mary Weisenmiller (CCSD), Ivy Santee, (Angler Education NDOW), Mandy Keefer (Old Fort), Dan Allison (NNREC), Sheila Siino and John Duggan (Whitney Mesa), Marcella Posthuma (MP King School), Aaron Leifheit (Red Rock Environmental Ed), Leanne Fernald (Consultant Clark County Museum)

I. News

Members reported on upcoming events and exhibits. New to CHOLLA:

Aaron Leifheit was recently hired by Red Rock Interpretive Association as an Environmental Education Specialist to work on developing a classroom program for K-12 as an alternative to field trips.

Mandy Keefer was recently hired by the Old Fort as a permanent full-time staff person for Chris. She has already begun work on expanding the education programs.

One other notable Cholla news item is that Christie and Kitty created (word based) stationary for CHOLLA and will send it via email for use as needed.

II. Old business

Presentation to the CCSD Board

Group has not yet met to work on this project. Leanne suggested that the presentation be a "report" on Cholla – what it is and what it does for CCSD students – extend their learning and improve test results.

Amy Page noted that the Powerpoint done by Allison Brody and committee for the T3 conference is a good base for this. It was suggested that the report contain even more pictures of students and quotable quotes from kids at our institutions.

An email request will be sent to members to gather quotable quotes. The quotes would show effectiveness of class visits to facilities and also of programs done by CHOLLA members in the classrooms. Letters, evaluations, verbal comments are some sources to start from.

There is a form for requesting presentation time to the Board. Leanne will follow up on this for the group.

Southern Nevada Science Teachers Association and Southern Nevada Science Council

Reactions to presentations were received from Mary Weisenmiller and circulated for reading. The comments were positive and tell us that informing teachers of what we all offer can be done effectively with hands on materials.

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III. New business

The invitation for CHOLLA to participate at Red Rock Canyon's Spring Fling, on Saturday, May 5, with a table was extended. Marcella is interested and will follow up on this and the activity idea. (Contact person Janice – 515-5380)

It was suggested that we produce a map with pictures activity – e.g. LV area with Cholla members listed and stamp areas on the map. This would be directed at parents and for the Spring Fling would be appropriate. It could be used at other such public events.

Whitney Mesa Nature Preserve – Sheila Siino and John Duggan

Surprise: Whitney Mesa is listed in CHOLLA. Sheila and John explained the current status of Whitney Mesa, an area owned by CCSD. It is a now fenced gated area with wildlife – coyotes and others. Over the past few years, boy scouts and girl scouts have conducted projects at the site doing building of overlooks, trail creation, and cleanup. John and his wife produced a Curriculum Guide for teachers. John is the contact for field trips to the site. Sheila teaches a PDE class on science and literacy activities which can be done using Whitney Mesa as an outdoor classroom. The Preserve currently does not have a school connected with it. (John is the Manager of the CCSD Environmental Compliance Office and his office is at the bus yard near the Preserve.) Field trip groups are usually 2 classrooms. Sheila teaches at Cox Elementary and has been on the Cholla list for several years and John will now be added.

Program: New Wetlands Park trail guides –the group visited the main kiosk and 3 trail stations using a feedback form provided by Christie.

Next meeting: May 8, 2007, 1:00 – 3:30 Nedra Joyce Computer Lab training/updates

**June 12, 2007 Nevada State Museum & Historical Society
Annual planning meeting 9:00 – 3:00**