

Welcome to the **February 6, 2008** posting to the Education about the Environment Interchange listserv!
Any questions, issues, suggestions, or postings should be directed to Allison Brody at:
allison.brody@unlv.edu

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Current statistics for the www.enviroedexchange.org website:

<i>Date</i>	<i>No. Server Requests</i>	<i>No. Page Requests</i>
10/15-11/15	4,714	1,081
11/15-12/15	5,566	949
12/15-1/15	5,832	1,098

If you would like field trip information for your site or your organization information posted on the site, please send information to: allison.brody@unlv.edu or fax to (702) 895-5166, Attn: Allison Brody.

The Our Places Tell Stories 2008 Conference (www.enviroedexchange.org) will be held at the Springs Preserve in Las Vegas March 4-6. The conference will feature keynote speaker David Sobel, renowned exhibit evaluator Beverly Serrell, 12 action studios, nine panel discussions, nine presented papers, and much more.

The Art of Nature: Images from the Wildlands of Southern Nevada, on display through June 1 at the Nevada State Museum, includes sketches, paintings, and photographs of the region's inspiring wildlands by acclaimed artist Sharon Schafer (<http://www.lvrj.com/neon/14309722.html>).

An exhibit by internationally acclaimed photographer Nicholas A. Price is now on display at the Springs Preserve Ori•Gen Experience, including over 30 hand printed photographs with scenes portrayed in the rocks, clay and mountainsides of the Valley of Fire.

Nevada Outdoor School is looking for an After-School Program Coordinator to run the Outdoor Club at Winnemucca Junior High in Nevada. This AmeriCorps position is a 40/hr a week position that will last 6 months. Benefits include a living stipend of about \$800/mo and a \$2,360 education award (ellen.kunz@gmail.com).

The RPDP Elementary Science Department is offering several classes to teachers that will include information sessions about Science in the Community. CHOLLA organizations have presented in the past to great effect. Teachers of grades 3-5 will attend a session scheduled for February 11 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (contact Anna Maria Behuniak, Regional Trainer, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program, (702) 799-3835 x248) and K-2 teachers will attend on Monday, April 14 between 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (contact Lois Bloom, RPDP Elementary Science Trainer, 799-3835 x246).

Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat is proud to participate in World Ocean Day June 7 and 8, 2008, an international celebration for individuals to learn more about our ocean and to help make a difference. Community partners are invited to join Mirage staff for this two-day celebration to share educational information about your organization's role in helping to protect our environment. For information, contact Missy Giannantonio at (702) 791-7588.

The BLM Las Vegas Field Office and the Friends of Gold Butte are seeking to create a stakeholder mailing list for notification of activities in the Gold Butte area. If you are interested in being included, respond to Gayle Marrs-Smith (Gayle_Marrs-Smith@nv.blm.gov) or Nancy Hall (birdladynv@yahoo.com). For those of you unfamiliar with Gold Butte, it's located in the northeast portion of Clark County - south of the City of Mesquite and bounded on east by Arizona and on the south by the Colorado River and Lake Mead National Recreation Area. It is one of the most wildlife-rich regions of Southern Nevada, possesses incredible otherworldly geologic features and landscapes, is rich in important Native American cultural sites, and has a colorful Nevada mining history (<http://weethump.wordpress.com/2007/11/20/fall-hike-in-wonderful-gold-butte/>, <http://www.thespectrum.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080118/DVTONLINE01/80117022/-1/buildasx>).

CALENDAR

Feb. 8-9	T3 Regional Conference	Southern Nevada Mathematics Council and the Nevada State Science Teacher's Association statewide conference at Spring Valley High School in Las Vegas (http://www.snvmath.org/conference/)
Feb. 20-21	Great Basin, Great Expectations: NGO Workshop 2008	This workshop for Non-Governmental Organizations on the natural resources and environment in the Great Basin will be held in Reno at John Ascuaga's Nugget (https://naes.agnt.unr.edu/ngo_workshop/). Attendees will help to identify issues that ultimately will lead to preserving and sustaining this natural ecosystem — making it perform better for its native population and visitors.
Feb. 28-March 2	NAI Region 8 Interpreters Workshop	Desert Outdoor Center at the Lake Pleasant Regional Park, Phoenix, Arizona (http://www.lifedraw.com/naiR8/)
Feb. 29-March 2	Western Regional Association for Experiential Education conference	Sustainability in Experiential Education (http://aee-west.org/2008_wraee_conference), Sly Park Environmental Education and Conference Center, near Sacramento, California.
March 4-6	Our Places Tell Stories Conference	Springs Preserve, Las Vegas (www.enviroedexchange.org).
March 11	CHOLLA meeting	1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Mirage, Las Vegas

March 26	Partners for Education about the Environment meeting	9:00 a.m.--11:30 a.m. (note change in day and date) at the Desert Research Institute
April 9-11	The Climate and Deserts Workshop: Adaptive Management of Desert Ecosystems in a Changing Climate	Co-hosted by the California Desert Managers Group and the University of Arizona Extension, the Symposium will be held at the Aquarius Hotel and Casino in Laughlin (http://www.dmg.gov/climate/index.html).
April 13-19	National Environmental Education Week	http://www.eeweek.org
April 25-27	2008 Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Spring Conference: "Unless"	Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu, California (http://aeoe.org/conference/spring/2008/index.html)
May 28	Partners for Education about the Environment meeting	9:00 a.m. --11:30 am (note change in day and date) (LOCATION?)

RESOURCES

The Gerald C. Corcoran Education Grant offers up to \$1000 for environmental education projects to educate the public about native fishes, including producing and distributing educational materials, conducting stream surveys with public education as a primary goal, public lectures, nature center displays, and teacher training workshops (<http://www.nanfa.org/corcoran.shtml>).

The "Save Our History" grant program from the History Channel gives grants to local organizations that partner with schools or youth groups in historic preservation projects (http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=mini_home&mini_id=51103).

The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History has launched a new online journal, *Lessons in Conservation*, designed to provide educators and students with the most up-to-date resources and thinking in biodiversity conservation (<http://ncep.amnh.org/linc>). The journal will be the official publication of the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners, a collaborative project of the American Museum of Natural History and a group of institutions and individuals around the world that seeks to develop capacity aimed at sustaining Earth's biological and cultural diversity.

Treasures in the Sea (<http://treasures.amnh.org/?mid=32>) is a new resource book that provides teachers with scientific information and engaging, hands-on activities that encourage students to discover, cherish, and protect the sea and all of its treasures.

Recreation Research Update January 2008 No. 63 is available from the Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station Wildland Recreation and Urban Cultures (<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/recreation/update.shtml>).

To receive a free copy of *Discover a Watershed: Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Educators Guide* (educator pays shipping), contact Audrey.powell@projectwet.org.

The Story of Stuff (<http://www.storyofstuff.com/>) is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns.

The Southern Nevada Health District is launching the Get Healthy Clark County Challenge. This 12-week program will e-mail you each week with a new 'health challenge' including lots of tips, resources, mid-week reminders and motivation to help you succeed. Weekly prize drawings will be held for people that are participating regularly (www.gethealthyclarkcounty.org).

The Conservation District of Southern Nevada has teamed up with the Stormwater Quality Management Committee to launch a poster contest for 4th and 5th grade students in Clark County (http://www.lvstormwater.com/pdfs/poster_contest_flyer1.11.08.pdf). Poster submissions should support the message "How you can prevent stormwater pollution." Entries will be accepted until March 14, 2008. Along with launching the poster contest, CDSN is introducing the newly created stormwater pollution workbook "Down the Drain Stormwater and You" (http://www.lvstormwater.com/pdfs/waterguidefinal1.3.08_newfont.pdf).

Pledge to protect your watershed today at the Wyland Clean Water Challenge (<http://www.wylandcleanwaterchallenge.org/index.cfm?mid=3&sid=10>), a new art and science program developed by the Wyland Foundation, Scripps Institution of Oceanography (UCSD) and the Birch Aquarium at Scripps. The Clean Water Challenge is designed to instruct and inspire young people everywhere about the conservation of water quality on our planet. Through a unique range of continually updated activities, students are offered a global view of our planet's oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and wetlands, and our relationship to one of our greatest natural resources.

This spring, students across the country can monitor the migration of monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, whooping cranes, and other animals via interactive maps available at *Journey North*, an internet based program that explores the interrelated aspects of seasonal change (<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>).

ARTICLES/INFO

From NSTA Reports, January 2008, Vol. 19 No. 5

U.S. students continue to lag behind their peers in science, according to the Programme for International Student Assessment. Nearly a quarter of 15-year-old US students did not demonstrate competencies at the baseline level. NSTA Executive Director Gerry Wheeler points out that the results are not surprising, given that "science is not being strongly emphasized in U.S. classrooms, and science educators need more resources to deliver sound lessons to students." In fact, U.S. scores have been dropping steadily for years, from 14th worldwide in 2000 to 19th in 2003, 21st in 2006, and 22nd this year.

The Cost of Bottled Water (from <http://money.howstuffworks.com/bling-water.htm>)

Bottled water has become so popular that 41 billion gallons are consumed every year around the world. Many people consider it safe and convenient. Over the past few years, however, many bottled water companies labeling their product as "purified" or "natural spring water" have confessed to filling their products with simple tap water. In July 2007, for instance, Pepsi admitted to filling bottles of Aquafina

with public water, even though the packaging suggests the water comes from natural springs [source: Environmental Working Group]. Recent studies have concluded that bottled water is no safer than tap water, and the costs of producing the drink and its effect on the environment have caused some alarm [source: National Geographic News].

To understand how expensive regular bottled water is, let's compare it with gasoline. With the price of oil rising, we typically think of gasoline as very expensive. On the other hand, some of us will barely blink an eye at picking up a few bottles of water from the same gas station. Here are the numbers:

A gallon of gas costs around \$3. If we assume a one-liter bottle of water from the store costs about \$2.50, a gallon of the same bottled water should cost about \$10. Water, life's most necessary substance, costs about three times more than gasoline when it comes in a plastic bottle. If you wanted to fill up a car's 15-gallon tank with gasoline, it would cost you about \$45. If you wanted to fill up that same 15-gallon tank with bottled water, it would cost you \$150 [source: National Geographic News].

Tap water, on the other hand, costs a fraction of the price of bottled water. The same \$2 you spend on a liter of bottled water will get you about 1,000 gallons of tap water [source: EPA].