

Welcome to the **November 30, 2006** 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: from October 15 through November 15, there were 4,337 successful server requests and 670 successful requests for pages. If you would like field trip information for your site or to have your organization posted on the site, please send information to: allison.brody@unlv.edu or fax to (702) 895-5166, Attn: Allison Brody.

BLM has created a web-based program for middle school students called "Renewable Energy: POWERful Choices" (www.efieldtrips.org/energy). Produced in conjunction with Distance Learning Integrators, the website features a "virtual visit" focusing on five major renewable resources and the role of public lands in their use and development; an "Ask the Experts" segment; and a student journal, which allows educators to assess student learning.

The State of Nevada lost 1.46 million acres of wildlife habitat to wildfires this summer, including 1.04 million acres in Elko County alone. The 2006 fires, along with past fires, have reduced the habitat that had supported 30,000 deer in the 1960s down to possibly less than 6,000 deer. An emergency fund has been set up by the Reno Chapter of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU), in cooperation with Nevada Department of Wildlife, to gather funding to support wildland rehabilitation efforts. This fund provides individuals and interested organizations with the opportunity to participate in the purchase of seed and its timely dispersal over scorched winter ranges. Donations may be made in person at any Heritage Bank of Nevada branch, or checks can be mailed in to: Partners in Rehabilitation, NBU – Nevada Wildfire Disaster Fund (acct # 3030003481), Heritage Bank of Nevada, 47 Damonte Ranch Parkway, Reno, NV 89521.

Hudsonia Ltd., a nonprofit scientific research institute, has a Biodiversity Educator position open. Send letter, resume, three scientific or technical writing samples, and names and contact information for at least three professional or academic references to: Gretchen Stevens, Hudsonia Ltd., PO Box 5000, Annandale, NY 12504, or e-mail to stevens@bard.edu. Closing date: December 15, 2006.

Calendar

1/9/07	CHOLLA meeting	1:00 p.m. -3:30 p.m. Atomic Testing Museum, Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, NV.
1/12/07	Partners for Education about the Environment	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Location TBD.
1/13/07 and 1/20/07	Mojave Max PDE course	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Red Rock Canyon NCA. Contact: Stacy Irvin, Project Coordinator, Mojave Max Education Project, 702-258-7097
1/26-27/07	CCSD Math/Science Teachers Conference (K-12)	Green Valley High School, Henderson, NV (500 people attended last year)
2/16-19/07	Cornell Lab of Ornithology/National Audubon Society's Annual GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT	Sign up online (http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/)
3/29-4/1/07	National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) National Convention	St. Louis, MO (http://www.nsta.org/)
4/15-21/07	National Environmental Education Week!	http://www.eeweek.org/

Resources

The San Francisco Exploratorium has inquiry resources for science educators (<http://www.exploratorium.edu/ifi>). Its website contains a wealth of free online resources including: professional development curricula; a library of inquiry and education resources selected for the field; tools for teachers and teacher-educators; access to a community of education practitioners and programs; and information about Institute for Inquiry workshops. As well, ten new Facilitator's Guides -- five that introduce teachers to science inquiry and five that investigate the use of formative assessment in the classroom -- are now available free online.

The Center for Invasive Plant Management (www.weedcenter.org) has a wealth of information for educators needing information and resources about invasive plants.

The City of Las Vegas conducted a recreation survey on public attitudes, recreation interests, and recreation participation by Las Vegas residents (<http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Publications/reports.asp?id=9943#9943>). The results will be used to assess the need for new and/or improved parks, facilities, and programs.

Don't Trash Nevada is a new campaign to educate residents and visitors about the problems and costs associated with litter and desert dumping on public lands in Southern Nevada. A major component of the campaign is a website (<http://www.donttrashnevada.org/>) that features information on recycling, litter, and much more.

Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide. That amounts to more than one million per minute. Billions end up as litter each year. This website (<http://www.reusablebags.com/>) provides plenty of resources on eco-friendly reusable bags, facts, and news on reducing our dependency on plastic bags.

Looking to entice more school groups to your site? Target Corporation is offering one-time grants for field trips to K-12 educators (<http://sa-eapp.org/fieldtripgrants/rules.php>).

Looking for funds to implement an innovative science project? The Toyota TAPESTRY Grants award fifty \$10,000 grants and at least 20 mini-grants of \$2,500 to K-12 educators of environmental science, physical science, and science and literacy programs (<http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/>). The deadline is January 18, 2007.

The Toolbox for the Great Outdoors (<http://www.tools4outdoors.us/index.jsp>) is a web-based tool for adding resources and partners to your recreation and visitor services programs.

Articles/Info

The National Extension Diversity Center (<http://www.ediversitycenter.net/index.php>) provides many resources on staff development, reaching diverse (especially Hispanic and Latino) audiences, organizational change, and definitions. Most are from the Extension perspective, but readily adaptable to other forums. Examples of what this website has to offer include:

iLotería! A Culturally Appropriate, Effective Program for Latinos

One educator discusses her keys to success in reaching out to Hispanic families.

Creating Reader-Friendly Materials

Articles and learning modules that help staff design, illustrate, and write culturally-appropriate materials.

Engaging New Audiences in Community Development

Together, a combination of people, programs, and organizations in the community development arena can generate new forms of leadership for addressing change.

Ethnic Marketing: A Method to Market Programs to Ethnically Diverse Audiences in Extension

Large businesses and corporations have successfully used ethnic marketing over the last decade to increase the effectiveness of marketing efforts. Ethnic marketing also has real promise for educators.