

Welcome to the **April 30, 2007** 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](mailto:allison.brody@unlv.edu)

## News/Announcements

Current statistics for the [www.enviroedexchange.org](http://www.enviroedexchange.org) website: from March 15 through April 15, there were 4,319 successful server requests and 1,100 successful requests for pages. 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](mailto:allison.brody@unlv.edu) or fax to (702) 895-5166, Attn: Allison Brody.

Lake Mead is hiring a seasonal park ranger for interpretation (<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=56637785>). Closing date for this position is May 4, 2007.

## Calendar

5/4-5/6/07	National Association for Interpretation Region 8 Spring Workshop	Idyllwild County Park Nature Center, Idyllwild, California ( <a href="http://www.interpnet.com/download/R8-RIW2007.pdf">http://www.interpnet.com/download/R8-RIW2007.pdf</a> )
5/5/07	SpringFest	11 a.m.-5 p.m., Spring Mountain Ranch State Park Picnic Area, 875-4141
5/5/07	Spring Fling	10 a.m.-3 p.m., Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area
5/26-5/28/07	Black Rock Rendezvous	Spend Memorial Day Weekend in Northern Nevada, where groups come together to celebrate and educate everything Black Rock Desert. ( <a href="http://blackrockdesert.org/blackrockrendezvous">http://blackrockdesert.org/blackrockrendezvous</a> )
6/2/07	National Trails Day	Spring Mountains National Recreation Area ( <a href="http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/events.htm">http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/events.htm</a> )
6/12-6/16 (3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> grade) and 6/26-6/30 (5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade).	Nevada Outdoor School Summer Adventure Camp	An indoor and outdoor science camp that explores ecological concepts and offers as activities including orienteering, wilderness survival skills, backpacking, and falconry ( <a href="http://www.nevadaoutdoorschool.org/summer_programs.htm">http://www.nevadaoutdoorschool.org/summer_programs.htm</a> )
7/30-8/3	Lamoille Institute for Educators	Professional development experience for teachers and other educators <a href="http://nnrec.org/profdev/life/2007/2007LIFE_flier.pdf">http://nnrec.org/profdev/life/2007/2007LIFE_flier.pdf</a> ). This year's theme is water and wetlands.

## **Resources**

NDOW's wildlife education newsletter, second edition, is now available (see attached PDF).

Students in grades 7-9 are invited to celebrate American Wetlands Month by creating a children's book, extolling the value and natural history of wetlands (<http://www.wetland.org/downloads/Write%20on!%20Wet%20-07.pdf>). After the winning manuscript is chosen students in grades K-6 will enter a contest to illustrate the story.

Physicians at Heart Clinic Arkansas in Little Rock have enlisted the medical and health insurance communities to provide private dollars for construction of a specific section of the 24-mile Arkansas River Trail. Called "America's First Outdoor Linear Health Museum," the Medical Mile provides the public with information that will support healthier lives and disease prevention. It offers a unique combination of health education and physical activity, using a variety of artistic and architectural elements that collectively underscore the importance of diet, exercise and healthy lifestyle choices.

Students at the Lafayette Street School in Newark, New Jersey are protecting rainforests around the globe. Integrated into their school-wide themes of good global citizenship and diversity, the teachers at Lafayette Street School have used the educational resources available on the Rainforest Alliance Learning Site (<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/programs/education/teachers/index.html>) to teach their students about the environment, biodiversity and cultures in Latin America.

What will the US save if 100,000,000 households replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a fluorescent bulb? One calculation (making a few assumptions):

Assume: incandescent = 75 W and fluorescent = 25 W.

Savings = 50 W per household

Total Savings (50W x 100,000,000 households) = 5 billion Watts

= 5 million kW

= 5,000 MW

If a coal fired plant is rated at about 250 MW, then the overall savings is equivalent to 20 power plants.

(This "back of the envelope calculation" doesn't take into account how many hours the lamp is used vs. the hours the power plant runs, but still provides an interesting comparison)

Planet Slayer (<http://www.abc.net.au/science/planetlayer/greena.htm>) is an irreverent environmental website that addresses how our actions and choices affect the environment.

## **Articles/Info**

### **Invasive Species**

Two items of interest:

Researchers are having success with controlling tamarisk in Nevada using a leaf beetle, *Diorhabda elongate* (see attached PDF).

Kurt and Allison Knudsen ([knudsenkurt@hotmail.com](mailto:knudsenkurt@hotmail.com)) in Elko, Nevada have successfully used goats in controlling noxious weeds, including white top, scotch thistle, and leafy spurge. They use a controlled herd of 1,000 Boer-Spanish cross goats with

full-time herders, guard dogs and working dogs, in projects ranging anywhere from very tightly monitored and controlled grazing to many acres of range grazing.

### **After-School Programs**

The Southern Nevada Discover Mojave Outdoor World Interagency program ([http://www.discovermojave.org/outdoor\\_world/index.htm](http://www.discovermojave.org/outdoor_world/index.htm)) has seen most of its success by operating as an after-school program. In fact, there is a nationwide trend to replace traditional after-school experiences – arts, crafts, and recreational team sports – with more academic and life-enriching experiences.

The trend can be traced to No Child Left Behind, which allows for fewer “extras” as educators concentrate on improving student performance in math, reading, and other basics. As well, authors of the article, “A New Learning Day: After-School Programs” ([http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=Art\\_1745&issue=feb\\_07](http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=Art_1745&issue=feb_07), the George Lucas Education Foundation) point out that:

“...after-school programs satisfy a social as well as an academic need. Three-fourths of single parents with school-age children in the United States are employed, and in more than half of U.S. households with two parents, both work, leaving millions of students unsupervised after school -- a troubling situation for adolescents, in particular, who are at higher risk for getting into trouble between 3 and 6 P.M. than during any other time of day. Although programs already serve 6.5 million children, nearly 15 million students remain unsupervised each day. ‘The demand is still far greater than the supply,’ said Jodi Grant, executive director of the Afterschool Alliance, a national advocacy and research organization in Washington, DC.”

This is a gap that could be filled by Southern Nevada providers of education about the environment. Filling this gap will require (1) meeting the needs of schools and parents, and (2) procuring funding, which will likely require gathering statistical evidence that the program will be effective.

Meeting the needs of the school system will take more than aligning an agency program with state and local standards. Creating a successful after-school program will require partnering with school administrators and teachers to identify needs and unique ways that our agencies can fulfill these needs. Typically an education about the environment program is framed in terms of science or social studies. Perhaps these programs can fill a more compelling need if we frame them as a health or wellness program, a program that will combat childhood obesity, or a program that will assist English Language Learners.

There are several local resources that can help with program assessment, including UNLV's Center for Assessment and Evaluation. As well, PLI and NNREC are facilitating a statewide development team to create a Nevada Environmental Education and Interpretation Certification Program. One of the courses that will be offered as part of this certification program will be on incorporating assessment into EE&I experiences. The NEEI Certification program should be up and running by November 2007.

Potential funding sources and program ideas can be found at these Hot Links:

[The Afterschool Alliance](#)

[After School Matters](#)

[The After-School Corporation](#)

[The After School Project](#)

[The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#)

[The Flagship Program](#)

[The Harvard Family Research Project's Out-of-School Time Database](#)

[LA's Better Educated Students for Tomorrow \(LA's BEST\)](#)

[21st Century Community Learning Centers](#)