

Welcome to the **September 25, 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

News/Announcements

Current statistics for the www.enviroedexchange.org website:

Date	No. Server Requests	No. Page Requests
6/15-7/15	3,886	1,206
7/15-8/15	5,622	1,056
8/15-9/15	4,946	1,239

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.

Death Valley National Park and Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is extending an invitation to education partners and special friends to join in activities for the Fall 2007 Devils Hole Pupfish Count at the Refuge and Devils Hole on September 29th.



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Death Valley National Park is seeking seasonal employees who are of "lesser represented groups" for the 2007/2008 winter (3 months) season. Please contact Terry Baldino (760/786-3279) or Nancy Hadlock (760/786-3226).

Nevada Cancer Institute is available to give presentations regarding Sun Safety, Wellness and Nutrition, and other cancer prevention and screening information to your companies/organizations. Contact Jenny Quade, Partnership Coordinator, (702) 822-5299.

Planning is currently underway for the Our Places Tell Stories 2008 Conference! The conference will be held at the Springs Preserve March 4-6 and will feature the theme: Education about the Environment – Designing With Our Communities. We will be expanding possibilities through techniques and methods for designing experiences with our communities. Stay tuned for more information!

Calendar

September 24-30	Take a Child Outside Week	Take A Child Outside Week (http://takeachildoutside.org/) is an international program designed to help break down obstacles that keep children from discovering the natural world.
September 29	National Public Lands Day	Events will take place at Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area. (http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/events.htm)
September 29 - 30	Conference: Kaleidoscope of Early Culture in Las Vegas	Explore the history of the Las Vegas Valley from early American cultures to Anglo-European settlers. Sponsored by the Nevada Council for History Education (see attached flyer). For more information, contact Linda Miller at (702) 492-7742.
October 13	National Wildlife Refuge Week	National Wildlife Refuge (Decatur, approximately 5 miles north of 215). (http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/events.htm)
October 14-20	Earth Science Week	American Geological Institute organizes this national and international event to help the public gain a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth Sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth. (Earth Science Week)
October 27	Make A Difference Day	Red Rock Canyon NCA – graffiti removal and trail maintenance. (http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/events.htm)
November 6-10	National Association for Interpretation National Workshop	Wichita, Kansas (registration packet).
November 9	Partners for Education about the Environment	Bi-monthly meeting, 9-11:30 a.m., location TBD.
November 13-17	NAAEE Annual Conference & Research Symposium	Virginia Beach, Virginia (http://www.naaee.org/conference/registration/)
November 26-28	Post Tbilisi +30 Conference	Ahmedabad, India. A unique opportunity to join with colleagues in exploring award-winning EE for Sustainability programs (http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/professional-development-tours/post-tbilisi-30-tour/).
March 4-6, 2008	Our Places Tell Stories Conference	Springs Preserve. Information and registration to follow soon!

Resources



[*What Makes a Difference in the Education of Latino U.S. Students: Learning from the Experience of 13 ENLACE Partnerships*](#) (W. K. Kellogg)

Foundation) summarizes lessons learned from the ENLACE initiative, which the Kellogg Foundation established in 1997 to boost academic achievement, college admissions, and graduation rates among the nation's fast-growing Latino population.

The Earthday Network (<http://www.earthday.net/>) has redesigned its [Educators' Network](#) pages. They've created [discussion boards](#) to facilitate communication and collaboration between environmental educators and restructured the organization of curricula and activities that are both theme and discipline-specific.

Partners for Education about the Environment are working on a new goal to provide techniques for creating and effectively using outdoor classrooms. Here are a few resources to get us started:

- Karyn L. Johnson, Community Based Instructor at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, is working on initiatives to incorporate school gardens as a way to increase student interest in science and math, while providing some alternatives to the abstract sort of learning environment that students who live in apartments are getting these days. She can come into the school and share topics on everything from insects to earthworms, soil and plants (both native and edible).
- The California School Garden network (<http://www.csgn.org/>) has created a fairly comprehensive web-based set of resources, including publications, curricula, and a network of community partners.



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Articles/Info

Our latest in the Best Practices Series is on creating more inclusive programs – see attached document.



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General Share Drive\

Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) introduced legislation that strengthens and expands environmental education in America's classrooms and reconnects children with nature. These bills, each titled the No Child Left Inside Act of 2007, were introduced in the House (H.R.3036) and the Senate (S.1981).

The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 amends the NCLB law in the following ways:

- Provides federal funding to states to train teachers in environmental education and to operate model environmental education programs, which include outdoor learning.
- Provides funding to states that create environmental literacy plans to ensure that high school graduates are environmentally literate.
- Provides funding through an environmental education grant program to build state and national capacity.
- Re-establishes the Office of Environmental Education within the U.S. Department of Education.

You can make a difference by writing a letter to your Congressperson, print it and fax it to their Washington, DC office. This method of communication apparently has an exponentially higher impact compared to sending emails.

Monkeys seem to learn the same way humans do, a new research study indicates. "Like humans, monkeys benefit enormously from being actively involved in learning instead of having information presented to them passively," said Nate Kornell, a UCLA postdoctoral scholar in psychology and lead author of the study, which appears in the August issue of the journal *Psychological Science* (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/08/070801161511.htm>). "The advantage of active learning appears to be a fundamental property of memory in humans and nonhumans alike."