

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Volume 6, Issue 2
February 2011

Getting youth involved, one adventure at a time!



Create your own fabulously cheap and easy BEMP-a-reffic card with some construction paper, a glue-stick and a heart-shaped cottonwood leaf!!!

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) is collaborative **long-term** ecological monitoring of key abiotic and biotic processes and characteristics to promote continued education, understanding and stewardship of the riparian ecosystem to scientists, teachers, students, policy makers and the public.

www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.htm
edited by: Kimi Scheerer



~ Next Generation ~ Making a Green Trail

A Conference & Celebration for Young People
Who Are Taking Action to Create a Sustainable Future

Getting students into their local environment and making stewardship connections has always been a mission of BEMP. We'd like to take a quick moment to showcase some of the exciting contributions we've seen by various students and their organizations along the valley.

The 4th annual Next Generation student conference was hosted at Bosque School on Wednesday, January 26th, 2011 and funded by the Cebrin Goodman Youth Leaders & the Environment Project. The conference brought about 60 middle and high school students together to present and learn about topics connected to sustainability.

Image 1: Amy Biehl High School student **Isabella Pilar** leads a nature journaling lesson in the bosque. Selected student work will be included in a book about student impressions of nature by Isabella.

Image 2: Students from local high schools create journal entries based on thoughts and images of the bosque.

Image 3: Students work with BEMP staff, the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico and the Sierra Club's *Building Bridges to the Outdoors* program to help compile a list of OUTDOOR opportunities that **every New Mexico child** should have the chance to participate in.



Albuquerque Academy student **Akilah Sanders-Reed** also presented *iMatter*, a project connecting kids and global climate change issues.

For more info, contact Akilah at:
akilah.project350@gmail.com.



Additional topics covered included:
Recovering an Endangered Toad
Campus Sustainability Groups
Conservation and River Health
Predator Survey of the Bosque
Outdoor Children's Bill of Rights
Farming Sustainability



BOSQUE SCHOOL



scholarship • community • integrity

New Mexico Envirothon



Insects, trees and soils, OH MY!

By BEMP Field Coordinator Jennifer Schuetz

Want to do some hands-on activities to learn about soils, aquatics, forestry and wildlife?
Come participate in the New Mexico Envirothon!

Envirothon...What is that?

It's a competition for high schoolers across New Mexico, the United States and Canada to compete in environmental problem solving... consider concepts involving soils, aquatics, forestry and wildlife and the interactions among those disciplines. The perfect competition for future wildlife biologists, foresters, and soil and aquatic scientists!

When is it?

It's this May 6-8th at the Inlow Baptist Youth Camp in the Manzano Mountains north of Mountainair, New Mexico. All competitors and judges will gather after school on Fri. May 6th (optional), there will be hands-on training and tests on Sat. May 7th, and teams will wrap up with presentations on a particular topic on Sun. May 8th.

What's in it for me?

Well, you could learn that you want to be a wildlife biologist, or you may decide soils are the coolest things you've laid your hands on! Maybe you'll make some friends with some other high schoolers in New Mexico, or maybe... *just maybe* your team will win and get a paid trip to the Canon Envirothon (the US and Canada) in **New Brunswick, Canada** in July!!!

Why am I telling you about this?

I am the aquatics coordinator for the NM Envirothon. I love getting students engaged in hands-on activities that help get them interested in science and hopefully choose a career in some scientific discipline.

So come out and have some fun! Check out the **NM Envirothon website** at: <http://nmenvirothon.com/>. If you have questions or are interested in helping to coordinate the New Mexico Envirothon competition, please e-mail me at schuetz@unm.edu. We would love to have more students AND professionals involved!

BEMP/WATERSHED WATCH STUDENT CONGRESS

WHO: 7-12th grade BEMPer's & WWer's

WHEN: Thursday, April 28th

WHERE: El Rancho de los Golondrinas

TIME: 10-00-2:00 pm *lunch included*

WHAT'S HAPPENING: student presentations (poster, PowerPoint, etc.) climate change education, macro-invertebrate filled pond, wildlife and more!!!

WHAT TO DO: contact Kimi Scheerer

e-mail: ksche@bosqueschool.org

phone: 505.898.6388 ext. 128

Funding for buses available! ©



So far, this 2010-2011 School Year

3,032

...students, teachers, community members,
college interns, research partners, parents,
agency professionals, festival attendees, tribal
representatives & government leaders...
have been

BEMPin' it Up!

Spotlight on Support!



Special Thanks to **Bernalillo County Open Space** for helping to **SUPPORT community leadership** and **CREATE local environmental stewards!**

Look for local workshops, activities and volunteer opportunities with our OPEN SPACE partners at:

www.bernco.gov/openspace



Getting Outside this Summer

~ Bosque Summer 2011 ~

By: Colleen Seager

BEMP Administrator & Bosque School Summer Programming Director

Welcome to Bosque Summer 2011, a series of programs designed with the interest of parents and students alike. We are especially proud to have **doubled** the summer offerings from last year providing a wide array of activities and learning opportunities. Bosque School's summer programs are planned for one or two week intensive courses, that range from half day to full day offerings, and fit around family schedules.

Bosque Summer programs are designed to allow students to develop life-long connections, relationships, and skills in a nurturing and energetic environment. You will find athletic, environmental, enrichment, and creative programs to choose from. Whatever your child's interest may be, he or she will walk away from the programs having learned new skills, met new friends, and will have found a new passion for adventure.

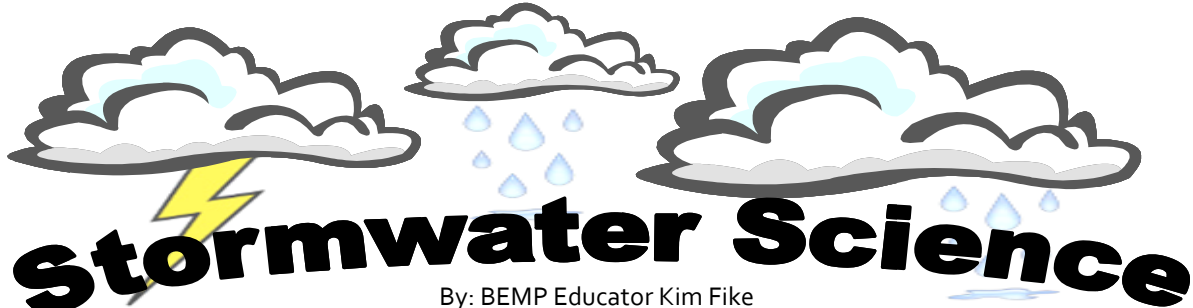
You can find out more about our qualified and energetic staff, explore the offerings and choose the courses that fit your schedule and the interests of your child by visiting: www.bosqueschool.org/summerprograms.htm.

Bosque Summer, Adventure for All!

Save the Date for THIS year's BEMP K-6th grade Congress...

Bosque School will host a contingency of BEMPer's, grades K-6, at the annual BEMP Student Congress - **Friday, April 29th, 2011**. We'll have both student and professional stations to learn about small mammal trapping, birds of prey, New Mexico reptiles, animal adaptations and MORE!

April 29th, 2011



The goal of this **NEW** program is to help students understand that the health of the Rio Grande is directly tied to the health of the surrounding watershed and arroyos. It will also educate students about how they can make a difference in improving the condition of our river.

Topics covered include:

- ◆ **Importance of water to all living things!** - Where does *our* water come from?
- ◆ **NM Watersheds** - What are they and which one is ours?
- ◆ **River ecology** – What is REALLY in the river? Biotic and abiotic exploration delights.
- ◆ **What is *E. coli*** and how can I help reduce it's presence?
- ◆ **What happens to our river after a storm?** A game that shows the changes our river experiences after a precipitation event.
- ◆ **Erosion on vegetated slopes vs. bare slopes** – An activity where the students become raindrops, trees and rocks! How does rain change the landscape?

To schedule an educator to visit your classroom for a **1 and a ½ hour presentation**, please contact BEMP Education Coordinator: Kimi Scheerer
Phone: 505.898.6388 ext. 128
e-mail: ksche@bosqueschool.org

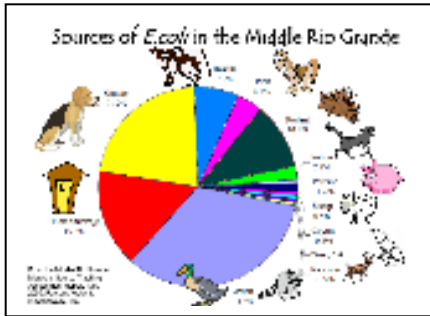
This program is a partnership of the following organizations....



NOTES...

from the Education office!

The following **Sources of *E. coli*** poster has been adapted by our BEMP Education & Outreach staff! With it, students can see the input percentages of *E. coli* sources in the Middle Rio Grande! ☺



How it GET IT!

Soon to be posted on our BEMP website... until then, contact Kim Fike at kfike@bosqueschool.org or 505.898.6388.

Participating Schools & Student Groups

Albuquerque Biopark	Kewa Pueblo DNR
Abq. Institute of Math & Science	La Academia de Esperanza
Bandelier Elementary	La Cueva High School
Bernalillo Middle & High School	Los Lunas High School
Bosque Farms Elementary	Montessori of the Rio Grande
Bosque School	Mountain Mahogany
Cottonwood Valley Charter School	Navajo Elementary
Dolores Gonzales Elementary	NM Museum – Young Explorers
Earthforce: Summer of Service	New Mexico State Parks
Escuela Luz de Mundo	North Star Elementary
Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary	Ohkay Owingeh Comm School
Harrison Middle School	Pueblo of Santa Ana
Holy Ghost Catholic School	Rio Grande Elementary
Hoover Middle School	Roots & Shoots
Hope Christian School	Sandia Vista Elementary
Infinity High School	School on Wheels Alternative HS
John Baker Elementary	Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge
Kewa Middle School	Van Buren Middle School

New Mexico Watershed Watch / BEMP Partners:

Cimarron High School, Cochiti School, East Mountain High School & United World College



IMPORTANT DATES

March 4th – Roots & Shoots Recycle fair at NHCC
 March 14th - 18th – APS/Rio Rancho Spring Break
 UNM Semester Break
 March 14-18th – **BEMP monthly monitoring**
 April 14th – Sevilleta NWR jackrabbit survey
 April 15-17th – Dept. of Game & Fish
Prairie Chicken Festival: Milnesand, NM
 April 18-22nd – **BEMP monthly monitoring**
 April 21st – Otter Festival (K-1st @ Bosque School)



KUDOS to the organizers of the 44th Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society. This year, the Pinetop, AZ conference (Feb. 3-5) plenary session focus was on the **NEW endangered species: "child-in-nature"**. They did a great job highlighting how southwest agencies and organizations are getting kids outside!

THANK YOU

to those that sponsor BEMP

AMAFCA, Stormwater Team ♦ Albuquerque Community Foundation
 ♦ Bernalillo County Open Space ♦ Bosque School ♦ Captain Planet Foundation, Inc. ♦ Center for Education Initiatives ♦ Educational Foundation of America ♦ Goodman Family ♦ McKee/Crawford Foundation ♦ Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation ♦ Middle Rio Grande Bosque Initiative/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ♦ Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District ♦ National Science Foundation's Schoolyard Education Program at UNM's Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research Site ♦ New Mexico Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts ♦ New Mexico Forest & Watershed Institute at Highlands University ♦ Norcross Foundation ♦ PNM Inc. ♦ Sandoval County ♦ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ♦ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ♦ USDA Forest Service ♦ Wal-Mart Foundation ♦ 7 Bar Foundation