

# STEWARDSHIP QUARTERLY

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Welcome</i>	1
<i>Going Home Again</i>	1
<i>School on Wheels</i>	2
<i>Reminder</i>	2

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**Important Dates**

- Monthly Collections
  - September 20th
  - October 18th
  - November 15th
  - December 20th
  - January 17th
  - February 21st
  - March 21st
  - April 18th
  - May 16th
  - June 20th
  - July 18th
  - August 15th
- Pitfall Collections
  - August 23rd & 25th
  - October 4th & 6th
- Other Dates
  - August 23rd,  
UNM Fall class begins
  - April 28th 2006  
Student Congress

## WELCOME TO THE BEMP NEWSLETTER

Hello Friends of BEMP, and welcome to the first of our quarterly newsletters.

We have decided to start publishing this newsletter for two main reasons. First, we want to create a stronger community between all of those who are involved with BEMP, from those who do monthly monitoring to those who may only participate once or twice a year in BEMP activities. Second, we want to keep everyone better informed of what is happening in the world of BEMP.

Each newsletter will highlight different aspects of the BEMP community, and we want to involve students. If students want to submit writings or



Visiting students collecting leaf litter at the Savannah site in ABQ

drawings, we would be glad to publish them in subsequent newsletters.

Finally, we want to thank everyone who has put forth much effort to make this program a success.

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## MARY DWYER IS HEADING HOME

After working with BEMP for five years, Mary Dwyer is moving back to her home town of New Orleans, Louisiana with her husband Sean Mckee and their new daughter. Mary has been an integral part of BEMP and will be greatly missed. She had taken on the role of co-coordinator and was

a co-instructor for the UNM Intern Class. Mary took the class several years ago and thought it fit well with her field of study. Cliff says Mary was a “hard charger who could giggle along the way.”

## Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

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### Participating School and Student Groups

APS School On Wheels  
Bandelier Elementary  
Belen High School  
Bosque School  
Cottonwood Valley Charter School  
Creative Education Preparatory Institute  
East Mountain High School  
Harrison Middle School  
High Desert Home School  
Holy Ghost  
Hubert H. Humphrey Middle School  
Horizon Academy West  
Jimmy Carter Middle School  
John F Kennedy Middle School  
La Cueva High School  
Los Lunas Elementary  
Los Ranchos  
Ohkay Owingeh Community School  
Pueblo of Santa Ana  
River Rangers  
Rio Grande Elementary  
Sandia High School  
Sierra Vista  
South Valley Academy  
Wingate Elementary  
Tohatchi High School  
Tohatchi Middle School  
Wingate Elementary  
Zia Middle School

### Funders

- Middle Rio Grande Bosque Initiative/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Science Foundation's Schoolyard Education Program at UNM's Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research site
- Bosque School
- Seven Bar Foundation
- Good Samaritan Foundation
- PNM Foundation Classroom Innovation Grant
- Albuquerque Community Foundation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bosque Restoration Program
- New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
- Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- McKee/Crawford Foundation
- Educational Foundation of America

## School On Wheels: A BEMP Profile

Vince Case took the BEMP class at UNM in the Fall of 2001. With Cliff Crawford's guidance and help, along with students from APS School on Wheels, the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) site was installed during the winter of 2001/2002. The site went through a major change in 2004 with the removal of invasive vegetation from the understory. Vince and the School on Wheels students visit NHCC on average twice a month to incorporate other projects into the BEMP monitoring. His students also work with NM Watershed Watch and lead workshops for teachers across the country and their peers. In the spring of 2005, his students worked with 40 students from Duranes Elementary. "The most challenging thing I did with BEMP was supervising kids in the Bosque. We had to know where the kids were at all times so that they didn't get hurt." said School on Wheels student Mike Madrid.

There are several reasons Vince involved his students with BEMP. First, students have the opportunity to learn, experience, and conduct hands-on science in the field. "What I will remember is going down there and collecting leaf litter and the oxygen levels in the water," said Carlos Gonzales. Second, students get the chance to be out of the classroom and away from textbooks, which provides them with exposure to alternative styles of learning. "I like school work when it is not at school." said Victoria Crenshaw. Third, in conjunction with the BEMP student congress and other activities, students become leaders and gain valuable communication skills. Finally, students (and the teachers) enjoy being outside! Plus, students begin to recognize the importance of their natural environment and its relation not only to their collective history and culture but also to their current lives. They seem to take responsibility for the environment and how they interact with it. Monique Romero said, "The Rio Grande has given me a more open view of why Albuquerque is the way it is and what it would be with out it, not a lot."

Vince added, "I just want to thank the BEMP leadership for offering our students the opportunity to participate in such an important project and for working with us and helping us whenever we ask for it (Cliff, Kim, Dan, Jen, Adam). Oh, I'd also like to thank Cyndie Abeyta and the USFWS for supporting and funding BEMP."



Arden Mckee



Leaf Litter Collection, NHHCC, ABQ

### Reminder For the Upcoming School Year

Please remember that turning in monthly collection datasheets and litter fall bags are part of the UNM interns' grade. When the intern is not able to coordinate with his/her teacher or site representative or bring back the collection form, it is reflected in his/her course grade.

### 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.