

# Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Volume 5, Issue 2  
January 2010

A new year is upon us!



**A New Year... a  
NEW data set!**

p.s. BEMP loves purple

## 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](http://www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.htm)  
edited by: Kimi Scheerer

## BEMP Snazzy Teachers Shine

As we move through yet another season, it's good to remind ourselves of the highlights in the past year. This year BEMP is proud to acknowledge three of our teachers that are not only involved in the monthly monitoring of our local bosque, but also shine in additional ways through their schools and greater communities!

**Snazzy Teacher #1: Elaine Smith** – a 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher at *Santo Domingo Middle School* on Santo Domingo Pueblo and *Santo Domingo BEMP site representative*. Elaine was awarded one of two Outstanding Environmental Educator awards presented annually by the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (EEANM – [www.eeanm.org](http://www.eeanm.org)). Elaine was recognized for her dedication to her students and enthusiastic work in both the classroom and field!

**Snazzy Teacher #2: Tammy Dunham** – a 6<sup>th</sup> grade science, language arts and afterschool MESA teacher at *Van Buren Middle School*, part of Albuquerque Public Schools and *Badger BEMP site representative*. Tammy, one of fifty-three national recipients, was awarded the \$25,000 Milken Educator Award by the Milken Family Foundation (MFF – [www.mff.org](http://www.mff.org)). Tammy was recognized by a state panel for her dedication and ability to find exciting opportunity for her students both in and outside of the classroom!

**Snazzy Teacher #3: Vince Case** – a high school teacher at Albuquerque Public School's *School on Wheels Alternative High School* and *National Hispanic Cultural Center BEMP site representative*. Vince is a state finalist in Science for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST – [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org)). This award, administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (holy bureaucratic title Batman), recognizes outstanding teachers that "serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration for their communities and leaders in the improvement of math and science education".

On behalf of BEMP's staff, funders & data users: Congratulations to all three dynamic teachers!



Elaine Smith (middle), 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher at Santo Domingo Middle School, receives the Outstanding Environmental Educator award from EEANM president Christy Tafoya (left) and vice president Kimi Scheerer (that's me – right) at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. ©  
Photo by: Barbara Garrity



BOSQUE SCHOOL



scholarship • community • integrity



# Project Learning Tree & Project WILD

~ Professional Development ~



## Watersheds, Forests and Habitats Natural History Workshop

**Join us for a fun, interactive weekend of learning** using Project Learning Tree (PLT) PreK-8 and Project WILD K-12. You will learn how to integrate these award-winning activity guides with your curricula requirements, engaging tips and tricks for taking students outside and inquiry-based activities that incorporate field investigations, reading, writing, math and science.

**Who:** any formal, non-formal, pre-service educator, scout troop/den leader, church youth leader, etc.

**When:** February 26<sup>th</sup> (7pm) through February 28<sup>th</sup> (noon)

**Where:** Hardman Hall, Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM

**What You Will Get:**

- PLT and Project WILD guides (with 200+ classroom activities!)
- additional free resources for your classroom
- a stipend (\$\$\$) and certificate of completion
- networking with other teachers
- field experiences to invigorate your teaching
- snacks – mmm...
- Fabulous Prizes - OMG! ☺



**Registration:** deadline is February 5<sup>th</sup>

**Contact:** e-mail Jean Szymanski at [jszymanski@fs.fed.us](mailto:jszymanski@fs.fed.us)

Include your name, phone number, e-mail and where you work and/or teach. Participation is limited, so register early. Participants will need to provide their own meals and lodging.



Sponsored By

*New Mexico Game and Fish - Project WILD*

*Forest Service, Southwestern Region - Project Learning Tree*

*New Mexico State University - Scientifically Connected Communities*



[www.bosqueschool.org/summercamps.htm](http://www.bosqueschool.org/summercamps.htm)

For more info about Bosque School's Summer Camp programs...

**Havin' a BEMPIn' good time...  
summer camp style!**



Bosque School is offering an expanded summer camp schedule with several **NEW** camps! In addition to our returning **Bosque Biology, Weird & Wacky Wildlife, Geology** and **Farm to Table** camps, we are once again offering the fabulous **Spanish Experience** camp. We are also excited to introduce two new camps this year; **Awesome Anthropology & Archeology** and the **Alternative Energy Experience**. Dates and times for these 1 week camps will be set by February 2010, so keep your eye on the Bosque School website at [www.bosqueschool.org](http://www.bosqueschool.org) and click on summer camps for updated information!

\*\* SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE – contact Colleen Seager at [cseag@bosqueschool.org](mailto:cseag@bosqueschool.org) or 505.898.6388 for info.\*\*

Geology Camp
Spanish Experience & Farm to Table Camps
Bosque Biology Bonanza Week 1
Weird and Wacky Wildlife Biology Week 1
Awesome Anthropology & Archeology
Weird and Wacky Wildlife Biology Week 2
Bosque Biology Bonanza Week 2
Alternative Energy Experience

**This 2009-2010 School Year**

**2,526**

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

**BEMPIn' it Up!**

# Notes from the Field (and Lab)

By BEMP Field Coordinator Jennifer Schuetz

At most of our 25 BEMP sites local school teachers and students participate in monthly monitoring (the collection of shallow groundwater table, precipitation and leaf litter data). However... some (actually most) classes do MORE than just that. Sometimes Education Coordinator Kimi Scheerer goes to the classroom and does activities that connect the field and the classroom in stronger themes. Sometimes the already amazing teacher does extra activities they're familiar with in the field... we certainly encourage that! We, here at BEMP, want you to **take advantage of being outdoors and learn all the awesome and cool things about science you can!** Here are some activities outside of monthly monitoring that I, Field Coordinator Jennifer Schuetz, have participated in recently:

Vince Case (also highlighted on page 1... what a guy that Vince ☺), the site representative of the National Hispanic Cultural Center site and high school teacher at APS School on Wheels Alternative High School, has his students **sort litterfall from an entire year and graph it.** During the lab, students are paired up while they sort and weigh litter from the same two tubs for each month of the year (see photo on left). Once sorting is complete, Vince assigns each student one tub, and the student graphs out the weight of each species and total weight per month. Not only do the students gain the experience of the leaf litter lab, they can also interpret the changes in the bosque throughout the year by graphing it. Math and Science all in one... try it out!

In December, Karen Gram and her fifth-grade students from the Cottonwood Valley Charter School in Socorro **picked up trash** from their Sevilleta site (see photo below). The students, Mrs. Gram and I worked together filling trash bags with old glass bottles, discarded plastic containers and whatever else we could find. Unfortunately, the old tire had to stay... for now. This is a great way to let caring students help their BEMP site shine!



**Want to take a look at the data from your site?**

Contact BEMP Co-Director Dr. Kim Eichhorst at [kimde@unm.edu](mailto:kimde@unm.edu)



Photo on Right: 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Cottonwood Valley Charter School in Socorro clear their BEMP site of trash in December of 2009!

2010 Arthur Day Poster Contest  
**Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!**

Dear New Mexico 5th Grade Teachers,

You and your students are invited to participate in the annual Arthur Day Poster Contest sponsored nationally by The Arthur Day Foundation and locally by Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) in collaboration with Keep New Mexico Beautiful, New Mexico State Forestry and Trust New Mexico. This year's theme, **Trees are Terrific and Energy Wise**, is designed to increase your students' understanding of the importance of trees in the production and conservation of energy, right in your own community.

New Mexico Contest Sponsor

**How to Get Started**  
Carefully follow ALL contest guidelines available at <http://www.arthurdayschools.com/contest/>

Mail your school's winning poster by February 12, 2010 to: Molly Madden, Keep New Mexico Beautiful, PO Box 98924, Albuquerque, NM 87199 0924.

Awards will be presented for the top 3 posters submitted. Awards will include savings bonds, framed certificates, environmental education books and a ceremony with a tree planting at the school of the 1st place winner.

For more information, contact New Mexico's State Coordinator: Molly Madden, Keep New Mexico Beautiful (505) 861-4388 [education@knb.org](mailto:education@knb.org)



Students from School on Wheels visit the BEMP offices at UNM campus to help sort the leaf litter they collected throughout the year!

## BEMP Teachers: Keep Your Eye on your INBOX



In order to better serve our BEMP-a-reffic students and teachers, we'll be sending out a **QUICK** and **EASY** teacher survey from **Survey Monkey.com**. Please help BEMP improve our programming and data collection by completing this user-friendly and **GREEN** online resource! ☺



image from: [www.make-noise.com](http://www.make-noise.com)

# NOTES...

Albuquerque, NM

from the community!

## SAVE the DATE: BEMP Student Congress

Teachers and Agency Representatives...

WHO: grades 7-12

WHEN: Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

WHO: grades K-6

WHEN: Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>



### CONTACT

BEMP Education  
Coordinator Kimi  
Scheerer for more  
info: 505.898.6388  
ext. 128

### Participating Schools & Student Groups

Albuquerque Biopark	John F. Kennedy Middle School
Abq. Institute of Math & Science	La Academia Esperanza
Bandelier Elementary	La Cueva High School
Bernalillo Middle & High School	Los Lunas High School
Bosque School	Mountain Mahogany
Citizen Schools	NM Museum – Young Explorers
Cottonwood Valley Charter School	Ohkay Owingeh Comm School
Dolores Gonzales Elementary	Pueblo of Santa Ana
Duranes Elementary	Rio Grande Elementary
East Mountain High School	Rio Grande High School
Gallup Middle School	River Retrievers Home School
Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary	Santo Domingo School
Harrison Middle School	School on Wheels Alternative HS
Hoover Middle School	Van Buren Middle School
Hope Christian School	Washington Middle School
Horizon Academy	Zia Elementary

#### New Mexico Watershed Watch / BEMP Partners:

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



## IMPORTANT DATES

February – Cheese in the Field Month – Mmm...

February 16<sup>th</sup> – BEMP monthly monitoring

March 15-19<sup>th</sup> – APS & UNM Spring Break

March 16<sup>th</sup> – BEMP monthly monitoring

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Bosque School Solar Fair

April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day – What will you do to celebrate?

[www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)

April 29-30 – BEMP/Watershed Watch Congresses

May 3-7<sup>th</sup> – BEMP pitfall trapping

May 18<sup>th</sup> – BEMP monthly monitoring



## Cool Ways to Get Yourself Outside

The National Park Service (NPS) offers teachers the opportunity to live and work throughout the NPS during the summer months with their **Teacher to Ranger to Teacher** curriculum based program. The program, made possible by the Inter-governmental Personnel Act Agreement, puts teachers in a variety of NPS roles including: developing and presenting interpretive programs for the general public, staffing the visitor center desk, developing curriculum-based materials for the park or taking on special projects. If you've always wanted a big, authoritative hat and super cool belt buckle or to experience the historical, cultural and biological diversity of some of our country's most interesting resources – this is the opportunity for YOU!

Now's your chance... check out:

[www.nps.gov/learn/trt](http://www.nps.gov/learn/trt)

to learn more!

# THANK YOU

to those that sponsor the BEMP program

Albuquerque Community Foundation ♦ Bernalillo County ♦ Bosque School ♦ 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 ♦ PNM Inc. ♦ Sandoval County ♦ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ♦ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ♦ USDA Forest Service ♦ Wal-Mart Foundation ♦ 7 Bar Foundation