

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Volume 3, Issue 3
March 2008

No Child Left Inside!



Spring is in the Air!

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

Inspire the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

Due to the heavy focus on math and reading testing in our nation's schools as a result of the No Child Left Behind law, many students are no longer being taught basic environmental education. Teachers, who previously taught students the importance of clean air and water and the threat of global warming, are now focusing their efforts strictly on issues that will be tested, and the environment isn't on the list. The "teaching to the test" requirements have also (in many cases) excluded field trips to nature centers or other outdoor activities, which have the potential of opening young minds and eyes.

U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and U.S. Representative John Sarbanes (D-MD) want to reenergize environmental education in our schools. They have introduced the **No Child Left Inside Act in the House (H.R. 3036) and Senate (S. 1981)**, which would provide new **federal funding** for environmental education and give states incentives to improve environmental instruction and teacher training. The No Child Left Behind law is due to be reauthorized in Congress; Senator Reed and Representative Sarbanes are working to have the provisions of the No Child Left Inside Act incorporated into that legislation.

Provisions of the No Child Left Inside Act include:

- The requirement that states seeking environmental education funding under No Child Left Behind develop and submit a K-12 plan to ensure that high school graduates are environmentally literate. States receiving such funds would submit status reports on how those plans are being implemented.
- The provision for new funding for states to develop, improve and advance environmental education standards.
- New funding to train qualified teachers to teach environmental education courses and programs.



At a time when the nation and the world face major environmental challenges, it is crucial that our next generation of students receive the education and tools they need to tackle these challenges head on. Many of us can remember our first school field trip to a nature center and how those experiences shaped who we are today; it is essential that we share these values with our children.

More than 170 groups are strongly supporting the No Child Left Inside Coalition, including the Sierra Club, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Audubon Society, the North American Association for Environmental Education and now BEMP!

To **show your support** for environmental education and the inclusion of the No Child Left Inside Act, contact your Member of Congress and the Chairs of the House Education and Labor Committee and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

For more information, check out: www.eenclb.org



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

 **BOSQUE
SCHOOL**

BEMP Student Congress

~ a double dose, bringing kids together to share THEIR environmental stories ~

HOT Dates: Thursday, April 24th 2008
Friday, April 25th 2008

What's YOUR story?

Grades 7-12 Sponsored by Watershed Watch **Thursday**
details: 9-12 noon (if you can, stay later for a bosque hike)

Grades K-6 Sponsored by BEMP **Friday**
details: 10-2:00 pm (picnic lunch)

Agencies & Non-Profits Bring something fun, we'll give you a table!
why not...? double it up! **One Day Both Days**

Public call for details **Stop on In**

Location Location Location Bosque School (we like it when you visit!)
(SE corner of Coors & Montañño) 4000 Learning Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

You're IN...? You ROCK! *contact:* Kimi Scheerer
505.898.6388 ext. 129
ksche@bosqueschool.org



Sue Hansen, with Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District, brought the "Rolling River" model to last year's BEMP Congress. Students learn how water flows through the middle Rio Grande valley.



<http://www.ciudadswcd.org>

Tales can be told...

- with a skit, play or dance
- DVD, Powerpoint
- poster
- display table
- outside activity

featuring: student **YouTube competition**

- winning clips will be posted on BEMP's website:

www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.htm



Bad joke of the newsletter – Q: How did the beaver get online?

Do you want YOUR joke in PRINT? Ready to impress all YOUR friends with witty newsletter banter?! e-mail me at: ksche@bosqueschool.org ☺

A: He logged on!

BEMP Mad Libs ®

Spring is in the _____ and I can't wait to get outside and do my monthly _____.

(noun)

(verb ending in 'ing')

As the weather warms up, I'll start to see more _____ and even _____ if I

(plural noun)

(plural noun)

take my binoculars. Last month I was _____ to see that there were _____

(emotion)

(number)

mm of precipitation in the _____ gauge. BEMP

(noun)

stands for _____

(noun starts w/ B)

(noun starts w/ E)

(verb starts w/ M)

_____. All this fieldwork is to help our community

(noun starts w/ P)

make _____ decisions about our local _____.

(adjective)

(noun)

Check out www.madlibs.com for more and *real* Mad Libs!

So far, this 2007-2008 School Year

2042

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

Just Do IT! Write the Grant, get the Money... do COOL stuff!

- ◆ **Albuquerque Community Foundation** – grants for non-profit organizations & educational institutions
 - application deadline: April 16th, 2008
 - www.albuquerquefoundation.org/grants
- ◆ **Christopher Columbus Awards** – national community-based science and technology program for middle school students
 - application deadline: March 17th, 2008
 - winners get an ALL EXPENSE paid trip to DISNEY WORLD
 - www.christophercolumbusawards.com
- ◆ **Education Foundation of America** – environmental grants to support non-profit organizations
 - application deadline: rolling
 - www.efaw.org/apply.htm
- ◆ **Jackson (Henry M.) Foundation** – grant money for environment & natural resource management
 - application deadline: June 1st, 2008
 - www.hmjackson.org/index.php?p=Program_Areas&s=203
- ◆ **Lawrence Foundation** – environmental & educational grants to support non-profit organizations
 - application deadline: April 30th, 2008
 - www.thelawrencefoundation.org/grants
- ◆ **Patagonia** – grants from \$3,000-\$8,000 for environmental work
 - application deadline: April 30th, 2008
 - www.patagonia.com/web/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2927
- ◆ **Project Learning Tree** – Green Works! grants up to \$5,000 for community-based environmental projects
 - application deadline: April 30th, 2008
 - www.plt.org, then click on Green Works!
- ◆ **Surdna Foundation** – environmental & community grants for non-profit organizations
 - application deadline: rolling
 - www.surdna.org/grants
- ◆ **Wildlife Forever** – grants from \$1,000-\$10,000 for habitat restoration, research & educational projects
 - application deadline: July 1st, 2008
 - www.wildlife forever.org/grants/overview.aspx

Expand YOUR knowledge – curriculum, workshops & FUN

- ◆ **Facing the Future** – climate change curriculum and teacher workshops
 - FREE 2 week curriculum guides for middle & high school teachers
 - www.facingthefuture.org
- ◆ **Science Education Institute of the Southwest (SEIS)** – summer science courses for teachers
 - Basic Astronomy – 5 day workshop: June 9th-13th (*Monday-Friday*)
 - Field Botany – 6 day workshop: June 15th – 20th (*Sunday evening – Friday*)
 - contact Matt Nyman at 505.277.4355 or mwnyman@unm.edu
- ◆ **Write on! Wetlands Challenge** – create a book written & illustrated by kids, for kids
 - Writer's Challenge (grades 7-9): entries must be received by April 1st, 2008
 - Illustrator's Challenge (grades K-6): info coming soon
 - www.wetland.org/education_writeon.htm

◆ BOSQUE BONUS ◆ Bosque Education Guide Workshop

- at the RGNC State Park
- **FREE** course & BEG
- Friday, March 28th
- 8:30am-4:30pm
- contact August @ 841.2861
or
august.wainwright@state.nm.us

NOTES...

From the field!

Jen Schuetz and her team (including program assistant Melanie Keithley and our UNM interns) have been monitoring fuel load at BEMP sites throughout the valley! Analyzed data sets will soon be available on our website: www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.htm, just click on Data Sets.



Woody Debris/Fuel Load is collected by **US Forest Service** standards. Information collected helps management officials understand fire risks along the Rio Grande's bosque!

Participating Schools & Student Groups

Bandelier Elementary	La Academia Esperanza
Bernalillo High School	La Cueva High School
Bosque School	Los Lunas High School
Cottonwood Valley Charter School	Montessori of the Rio Grande
Creative Education Prep Institute	Monte Vista Elementary
Dolores Gonzales Elementary	Montezuma Elementary
Duranos Elementary	Ohkay Owingeh Comm School
East Mountain High School	Pueblo of Santa Ana
Harrison Middle School	Rio Grande Elementary
High Desert Home School	Sandia High School
Holy Ghost Middle School	Santo Domingo School
Hoover Middle School	School on Wheels Alternative HS
Hubert Humphrey Middle School	Van Buren Middle School
Horizon Academy	Washington Middle School
Jimmy Carter Middle School	Wingate Elementary
John F. Kennedy Middle School	



IMPORTANT DATES

March 18th – BEMP monthly monitoring
 March 21-28th – APS Spring Break
 April 9th – Annual Youth Conference on the Env.
 April 15th – BEMP monthly monitoring
 April 18-20th – Sevilleta NWR Youth Forum
 April 24th – **Watershed Watch Congress**
 April 25th – **BEMP Student Congress**
 May 5th-9th – BEMP pitfall collection
 May 20th – BEMP monthly monitoring



EEANM Brown Bag Luncheon

Environmental Education Association of New Mexico

Bosque School is hosting EEANM's next Brown Bag Luncheon...

WHEN: Wednesday, March 26th 11:30-1:30 pm

WHERE: Bosque School – Budagher Hall
 4000 Learning Road NW
 Albuquerque, NM 87120

QUESTIONS: call Kimi at 898.6388 ext. 129

This event is **FREE** and open to the public. Grab your lunch and come meet other teachers and EE professionals that live and work in the Albuquerque area!

River nature hike and BEMP site tour by yours truly (kimi) following luncheon!

THANK YOU

to those that sponsor the BEMP program

Bernalillo County ♦ Bosque School ♦ Educational Foundation of America ♦ 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 Conservation Districts ♦ PNM Inc. ♦ Sandoval County ♦ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bosque Restoration Program ♦ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ♦ 7 Bar Foundation