

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Volume 2, Issue 4
May 2007

SUMMER in the City!



Bring on the Heat!

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Bosque Ecosystem 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



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO



BEMPin' it UP: Student Congress Style

I know the end of the school year is busy all around, but on Friday April 27th Bosque School campus got a little bit busier. Approximately 180 students, teachers, parents, and local professionals were celebrating another year of BEMP monitoring at the annual Student Congress. The program, which now consists of 23 sites along the middle Rio Grande Valley – from Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo all the way south to Lemitar – has organized student groups to monitor abiotic and biotic components like groundwater table depths, precipitation, leaf litter and arthropod (insect) communities in the bosque for the last 10 years.

The Student Congress is a chance for ALL students involved to share what they've learned in their last year in the field. With visitors from Ohkay Owingeh Community School, La Cueva High School, APS School on Wheels, CEPi and Bandelier Elementary, sharing became a visual montage of posters, presentations, videos and fabulous skits. Morning and lunch break entertainment (and by entertainment I mean wicked cool educational stuff like live birds, flowing river models, bones, scat and more) came in the form of visiting representatives from Petroglyph National Monument, Sandia Mountain Natural History Museum, Hawks Aloft, Albuquerque Open Space, Albuquerque BioPark, CUIDAD Soil and Water Conservation District, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Bosque del Apache NWR.



Sandia Mountain Natural History Center representative Jamie Minich takes time to show visiting students coyote bio-artifacts during a presentation break at the BEMP 2007 Student Congress!



Hawks Aloft's Maria Lavender shows off her live burrowing owls and bird bio-artifacts!

The Congress also brought U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife representative Cindy Abeta, Bernalillo County Commissioner Deanna Archuleta and New Mexico State Senator Dede Feldmen to the Bosque School campus. Additionally, April 27th marked the unveiling of the new BEMP 2007 Student Artwork Calendar. The calendar included art selections from Bosque School and Delores Gonzales Elementary in Albuquerque as well as, Rio Grande Elementary students from Belen.

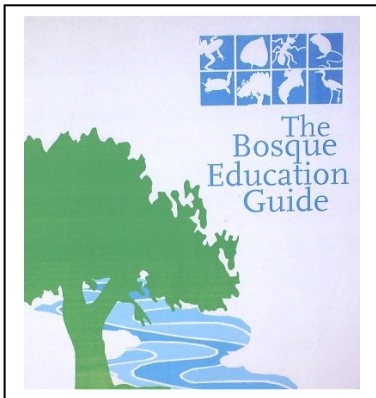
** photos by Marisa Gay **

Cirriculum Corner

Bosque Education Guide

- the BEG -

Whether you're new to the area or have been teaching here since the glamorous days of your graduation you owe it to yourself and your students to check out a Bosque Education Guide Teacher Workshop at the Rio Grande Nature Center. Take a day to learn **fun** HANDS ON activities for the classroom, the schoolyard, and the bosque. Come away with a FREE updated 600+ page guide to bosque ecological concepts, field activities, classroom handouts, cross-referenced standards and of course the prepared brilliance any teacher feels when learning more about their local area! HOW to do it? I'm glad you asked...



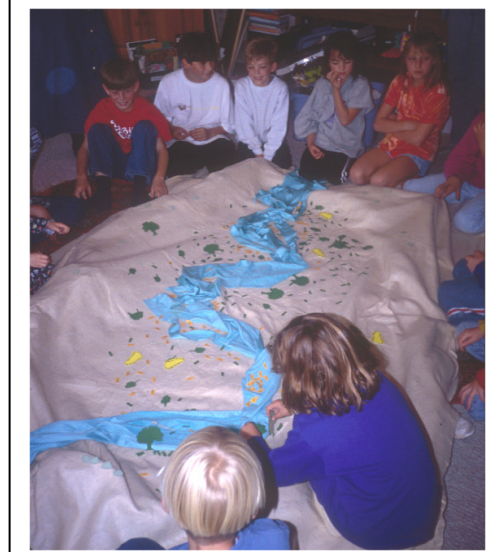
Summer BEG Teacher Workshops

June 28, 2007 (Spanish focus)
and July 28, 2007

8:30am to 4:30pm

At the Rio Grande Nature Center!
For more information,
please contact

August Wainwright at 841-2861
or august.wainwright@state.nm.us.



Local students participate in the BEG activity the Changing River Model. This activity takes students through the Rio Bravo, Rio Manso and Rio Nuevo to illustrate how the Rio Grande watershed has changed over the last 2000 years!

- GOOD NEWS -

You can check out a **pre-made** Changing River Model kit at our Bosque School (Kimi @ 898.6388) or UNM (Jen @ 277.0758) office! Hurray!

Bad joke of the newsletter – Q. How does a molded fruit-flavored dessert answer the phone?

A: Jell-O!

Workshops a Go-Go:

- the Outdoor Classroom Workshop: in Santa Fe, July 12th
Contact: Pricilla Logan 505.424.1413 - www.outdoorclassroom.org (\$50)
- New Energy Future: Albuquerque BioPark, June 29th-30th (teachers grades 5-8)
Contact: 505.764.6214 - it's FREE!
- Wonders of Wetlands (WOW) & Planning of Wetlands: Abq. Aquarium & Tingley Beach, July 13th-14th
Contact: 410.745.9620 or www.wetland.org (\$90 for both days)
- Super Seeds: Albuquerque Biopark, July 19th (teachers grades K-5)
Contact: 505.848.7180 (\$15)

Did somebody say 501(c)(3)?:

- \$3,000 - \$8,000 for action-oriented environmental work from Patagonia
Website: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10006612/patagonia>
Deadline: August 31st, 2007
- \$1,500 - \$5,000 for stewards of natural resources within the National Wildlife Refuge system
Website: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10006610/nfwf>
Deadline: September 4th, 2007



Meet a Tree

Concept: Using senses other than sight to get up close and personal with some local nature!

Age: Try them all!

Materials: blindfolds and/or bandanas

Where: natural area, school grounds, backyard...

Activity: Have students pair up and hand out blindfolds (one per pair). The non-blindfolded students may twirl their partner around and then lead them to a nearby tree of their choice – making sure that SAFETY comes first (watch out for roots, down limbs, shrubs, etc.). The blindfolded student uses their senses to explore the tree. While at the tree the student can touch, smell, listen to help determine what makes their tree unique. Once they have finished they are to be lead back to the starting point where they can then remove their blindfold. Have the student try to guess which tree was theirs before switching partners.

Additional: This activity can be taken farther by having the students...

- key out the species of tree
- sketch a picture
- collect leaves, twigs, berries or flowers
- do a leaf/bark rubbing
- look for animals and insects that live in or around your tree



Congratulations to BEMP participants **School on Wheels Alternative High School** students, teacher Vince Case and Principal Felipe Perea for winning the Dunn Foundations national **Excellence in Community Appearance award!** The Dunn Foundation is based out of Newport, Rhode Island, and their mission is to educate children and adults about the loss of cultural, historic and visual character in cities, towns, villages and rural areas across the United States, as well as cause change, which will allow beauty and growth to co-exist.

School on Wheels Alternative High School students did just that by creating an outdoor garden/classroom at their main campus located at 129 Hartline SW here in Albuquerque. The opportunity for this service learning project came out of the 2005 North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Albuquerque-based conference.

Teacher Vince Case couldn't be happier, stating "It's been incredible for the students and the school to receive this recognition. The students especially have realized that people really do care about what they do and are proud of them as part of their community."

For more information about these organizations, check out the following...

- The Dunn Foundation - www.dunnfoundation.org
- North American Association of Environmental Education - www.naaee.org

Summer Monitors

NEEDED...

Many of our school-based monthly monitors are gone for the summer and we would love your help! If you are a teacher, parent or student that is familiar with one our monitoring sites and can help with our June 19th and/or July 17th collections please contact:



Field Coordinator
Jen Schuetz at our
UNM office:
505.277.0758
or e-mail:
jschuetz@sevilleta.unm.edu
Thank You!

Participating Schools & Student Groups

Bandelier Elementary
Bernalillo High School
Bosque School
Cottonwood Valley Charter School
Creative Education Prep Institute
Dolores Gonzales Elementary
Duranes Elementary
East Mountain High School
Harrison Middle School
High Desert Home School
Holy Ghost Middle School
Hoover Middle School
Hubert Humphrey Middle School
Horizon Academy
Jimmy Carter Middle School

John F. Kennedy Middle School
La Cueva High School
Los Lunas High School
Montessori of the Rio Grande
Monte Vista Elementary
Montezuma Elementary
Ohkay Owingeh Comm School
Pueblo of Santa Ana
Rio Grande Elementary
Sandia High School
School on Wheels Alternative HS
Washington Middle School
Wingate Elementary
Zia Schools



THANK YOU

Mrs. Molly Madden

Thank You and Congratulations to 2nd grade Rio Grande Elementary teacher Molly Madden! Molly is retiring from teaching after a long and busy career as an elementary teacher. Molly has also been a valuable asset to the BEMP team, she has taken on the role of BEMP school representative and leader for Rio Grande Elementary since 1998. Her leadership, organization and enthusiasm has stewarded many students through our Belen BEMP sites. Luckily she'll still be working with the BEMP program after retirement to help enhance our curriculum and maintain careful watch over the bosque to the south of Albuquerque! ☺

*** CONGRATULATIONS ***



IMPORTANT DATES

June 5th – UNM BEMP intern course starts
June 19th – BEMP monthly monitoring
June 25th-29th – BEMP pitfall trapping
July 3rd-13th – BEMP water chemistry testing
July 17th – BEMP monthly monitoring
August 6th-10th – BEMP water chemistry testing
August 13th – APS first day of classes
August 21st – BEMP monthly monitoring
August 21st – Bosque School first day of classes

THANK YOU

to those that sponsor the BEMP program

Albuquerque Community Foundation – Bernalillo County –
Bosque School – Education Foundation of America –
McKee/Crawford Foundation – Messengers of Healing
Winds Foundation – Middle Rio Grande Bosque
Initiative/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – National Science
Foundation's Schoolyard Education Program at UNM's
Sevillea Long Term Ecological Research Site – New Mexico
Association of Conservation Districts – PNM Foundation
Classroom Innovation Grant – Sandoval County – Thomas
Nichols – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bosque Restoration
Program – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – 7 Bar Foundation