

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Black Institute for Environmental Studies at Bosque School

www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.aspx

Volume 8, Issue 3 ~ May 2013

End of the Year Adventures

BEMP students celebrate another YEAR of monitoring

Each year Team BEMP works to bring our student field data collectors together to celebrate a year of monitoring AND to meet the other students throughout the valley who monitor our bosque. This year, BEMP added a new/third event in partnership with our friends at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)!

On Wednesday, April 24th more than 120 K-2nd graders from Belen got to visit the Sevilleta NWR new visitors center AND the Sevilleta/San Acacia BEMP site. Not only did students hike the landscape, learn about Gavilán the red-tailed hawk, and explore the newly refurbished Sevilleta Visitor's Center, but we also picnicked under the beautiful New Mexico sky. It was a great day to enjoy the bosque and learn more about the ecosystem and animals of the Sevilleta.

On Thursday, April 25th Team BEMP traveled north to El Rancho de los Golondrinas. In combination with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish's Watershed Watch program, nearly two hundred 7-12th grade students came together to present their year of data collection. The ceremonies started with poet and musician Ilan Shamir drumming and sharing his *Advice from a River*. Special thanks to Mr. Shamir for donating his poetry bookmarks and posters to our students and teachers!

Learn more about Ilan's work at
www.yourtruenature.com



Top: K & 2nd graders from Belen picnic near the San Acacia dam & associated BEMP site. Middle: Watershed Watch coordinator Rich Schrader joins artist Ilan Shamir and 7th grader Gavin Mosher to drum in the opening ceremonies at El Rancho de los Golondrinas. Bottom: Zoo to You volunteers educate and captivate student attention with a visiting armadillo at our 4-6th grade event at Bosque School campus. Photos by Kimi Scheerer

End of the Year Adventures continued...

Our final BEMPin' event took place on Friday, April 26th on the Bosque School campus. BEMPers in grades 4-6th and a variety of fun and educational community partners, rotated through different stations to learn about the bigger ecological picture. Visiting presenters included:

Albuquerque Open Space
Avian Ambassadors
New Mexico Herpetological Society
Sandia Mountain Natural History Center
Zoo to You

Students also had a chance to interact with BEMP staff and their fellow BEMPers at learning stations including:

All about Porcupines
BEMP Data Interpretation with Dr. Kim Eichhorst
Hike to the Rio Grande
Interview Another BEMPer
Small Mammal Trapping

With nearly 250 students celebrating their year of BEMP and picnicking under the trees of Sanchez Park... it's easy to remember why we so carefully watch over our beloved bosque.

Congrats to BEMP field and office assistant **Danny Ortwerth**! Danny started with BEMP as a high schooler at Bernalillo High School, spent a summer working with our UNM office, and returned to BEMP as an enrolled lobo (UNM student) and college ambassador with our program. Danny has been with BEMP for 4 years! He has recently headed to **Zambia, Africa** for 3 months of mission training with Overland Missions. Good luck Danny, we hope your overseas adventure is amazing and opens your eyes to the different landscapes, animals, people and cultures of our great planet earth!



Danny (right) works with 6th graders to process small mammals along the Rio Grande bosque. His abilities to help in the field and office have been greatly appreciated by our BEMP staff over the years!



2nd graders from Rio Grande Elementary in Belen enjoy the refurbished Visitor's Center at the Sevilleta NWR.



Abq. Institute of Math & Science students don't hesitate to 'wader up' and hop into the Golondrinas pond on a quest for macro-invertebrates.



4th graders from Cottonwood Valley Charter School show off their fabulously BEMP-a-reffic science posters at the Bosque School Congress.

**EL RANCHO DE LAS
GOLONDRINAS**

Thanks, once again, to our hosts at the Golondrinas!



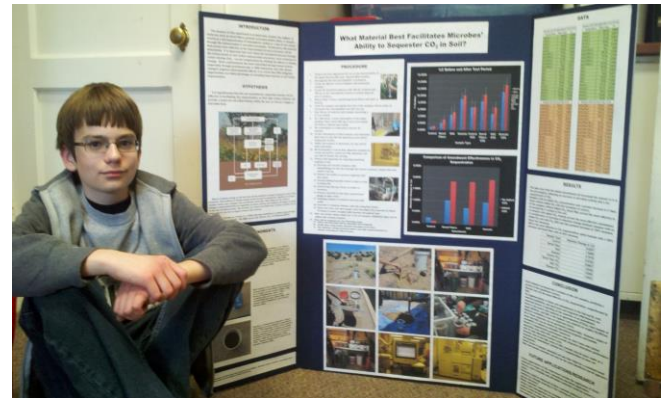
Native Fish Release

On a beautiful, crisp morning in May, students from **Valle Vista** and **Laguna Acoma Elementary Schools**, joined the **Bosque School Wildlife Biology & Conservation Class** to release the native fish that they had cared for all year in their classrooms into the Rio Grande. Officials from the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** transported the fish to the river in coolers and netted them into small buckets so that each student could release a single fish. The students said their goodbyes to the fish with a poem that they read in unison. Afterwards, students learned about aquatic macro-invertebrates, the basics of fishing, hydrology AND even took a hike in the bosque where they heard a Cooper's Hawk defending his nest. Thank you to **Angela James** with USFW for her leadership and passion for connecting students with our native fish!



A "Winning" Relationship!

This year, BEMP Science Coordinator, Jen Schuetz mentored **Jarek Kwiecinski**, an 8th grader from the Albuquerque Institute for Math and Science (AIMS) for his science project. Jarek has volunteered with BEMP from 6-8th grade as a part of AIMS community service program and wanted to test if soil additives/ amendments would help sequester CO₂ from the atmosphere. **His goal is to help decrease the problem of global warming!** Jarek's project "What Material Best Facilitates Microbes' Ability to Sequester CO₂ in the Soil?" won **ELEVEN** awards (see below) and Jarek a space to observe at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair this May in Phoenix, AZ! Team BEMP is so proud of Jarek and we look forward to a long relationship with him throughout his educational career.



- 🏆 State & Regional Jr. Div. Environmental & Life Sciences - First Place
- 🏆 Regional Research Challenge Top Junior Division Award - First Place
- 🏆 Regional 8th Grade Student Observer for the International Science and Engineering Fair
- 🏆 Broadcom Master - First Place Certificate of Recognition and Invitation to submit project to national competition
- 🏆 Albuquerque Petroleum Association Award - First Place
- 🏆 EPScor Climate Change Research Award - First Place
- 🏆 International Test and Evaluation Association Award - First Place
- 🏆 Junior Academy of Science paper Competition - First Place
- 🏆 New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Award - First Place
- 🏆 Regional Research Challenge Junior Encouragement Awards - Honorable Mention
- 🏆 UNM Chapter of Sigma XI Award: The Scientific Research Society - First Place

Summer Focus Groups at Bosque School



Educators Focus Group

Thursday, June 27th 11:00-1:00 pm

Lunch Provided

RSVP by June 21st to

Kimi Scheerer at: kimi.scheerer@bosqueschool.org

** come early to participate with a *Native Fish in the Classroom* release with our Bosque School summer programs!

Data Users Focus Group

Friday, June 28th 11:00-1:00 pm

Lunch Provided

RSVP by June 21st to

Jennifer Schuetz at: schuetz@unm.edu



BOSQUE SCHOOL



scholarship • community • integrity



AMAFCA, Stormwater Quality Team ♦ Albuquerque Community Foundation ♦ Bernalillo County Open Space ♦ Bosque School ♦ Educational Foundation of America ♦ Goodman Family ♦ LANL Foundation ♦ 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 ♦ Norcross Foundation ♦ PNM Inc. ♦ Sandoval County ♦ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ♦ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ♦ USDA Forest Service ♦ 7 Bar Foundation

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Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Quarterly Jackrabbit Survey

Join BEMP staff Kimi Scheerer for a summer evening of adventure on the Sevilleta NWR. As a part of our connection with the Long Term Ecological Research network (LTER) we'll continue our study of ecosystem effects on the local jackrabbit population!

When: Monday, June 24th-Tuesday, June 25th

Time: meet at the Bosque School BEMP office at 6:30 pm on Monday, return Tuesday about noon

What to Expect: a 5 hour moonlight survey across 21 miles of Sevilleta landscape

Housing: we'll luxuriate at Sevilleta research housing, complete with bunks, bathrooms and kitchens

Possible Sightings: jackrabbits & cottontails (of course), pronghorn antelope, exotic oryx, associated beasts of the night

Who is Invited: adults in the BEMP network of educators, agency members and community representatives

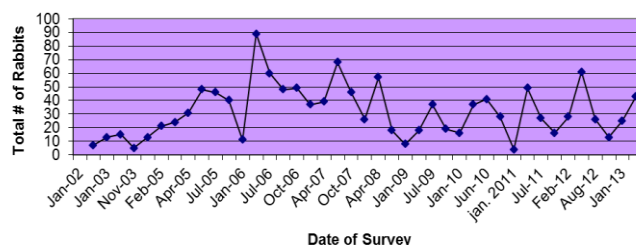
How to Sign Up: reserve a space with Kimi at 505.898.6388 ext. 151 or e-mail

For More Info & Pictures: scroll to bottom of page, www.bosqueschool.org/Wildlife__Conservation.aspx

LTER



Sevilleta NWR Rabbit Survey



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.