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BOSQUE ECOSYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAM

Stewardship Quarterly

Message to the Masses

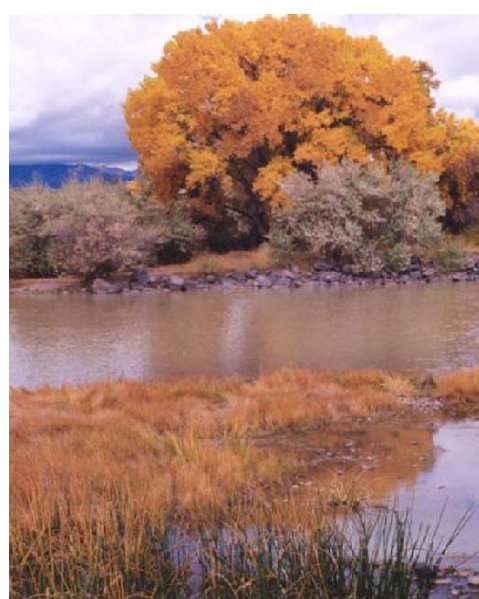
BEMP has recently hired Christian LeJeune, a graduate student at UNM. His role with BEMP will be to bring our environmental education philosophy to the classroom. Christian has worked for BEMP collecting the information from the temperature data loggers at many of our sites.

Christian's first task is to create teaching kits that he can bring to classrooms. These kits will contain lessons and activities from the Bosque Education Guide that are meant to increase students' knowledge and understanding of their work in the bosque.

This will also benefit classes that are only able to visit the bosque one or two times a year. To

schedule an in-class visit contact Christian via email:

bemped@unm.edu



Quality Control

The two main purposes of BEMP are to collect quality data and provide environmental education opportunities. The data sets are used by a variety of agencies, from local to state to federal. It is important that this data is collected in a consistent method so that it is useful to these agencies.

Always make sure your students know what units they are working with and that they are represented clearly on the data sheets. Also, make sure the equipment is working

correctly. If it is not, contact a BEMP staff member and it will be replaced. Look at both side of the rain gauge and check the increments.

Remember that the quality of the data is very important to our program.

Special points of interest:

- North American Association for Environmental Education Conference will be held in Albuquerque Oct. 24th–29th www.NAAEE.org
- Bosque Ecology Field Trips; half or full day trips; substitute and bus money available; ageba@bosqueschool.org
- In Class Discovery of the Bosque; Christian LeJeune Email: bemped@unm.edu
- BEMP Student Congress April 28th

Do your rain gauges need to be replaced? Let us know, ageba@bosqueschool.org or jschuetz@sevilleta.unm.edu

BOSQUE ECOSYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAM

Bosque School
4000 Learning Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Phone Bosque School: 505-898-6388
Phone UNM: 505-277-0758
Fax Bosque School: 505-922-0392
Email: ageba@bosqueschool.org

**Monitoring Your Bosque Since
1996**

**Check out the updated
webpage
www.bosqueschool.org**

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
Montezuma Elementary
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

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

TALES FROM SEVILLETA

What happens when you mix honey, salt cedar and rattlers? Quite a day in the field!

The day began with honey sticks for everyone! Beth Crowder, the Sevilleta site representative, started us off on the right foot by handing out honey sticks from the Sparrow Hawk Farm in Sabinal, NM, which is run by her family. The plan for the day was to perform the monthly collection and maintain trails near the A and B tubs. Sounds like an average day, right?

Peter Crowder, Cougar Barham and Max Fort collected litterfall; Jen Schuetz from BEMP followed them, marking all the trails for clearing at a later date. Skye Fort and Chaya Barham collected groundwater and precipitation data. Meanwhile, three parents (Mike Fort, Titia Barham and Beth Crowder) began the daunting task of clearing a path to the A tub, which was totally blocked by salt cedar and Russian olive trees.

Once we completed the monthly collection, we gathered at tub A to lend a hand in clearing. We had two pairs of loppers, two shears, a saw, a machete, and even an ax! While chopping our way through the dense understory, breathing hard, we sensed a salty taste in our mouths. We were disturbing the salt cedar so much that salt from the leaves misted into the air, and we were inhaling it! Now that's a salty salt cedar!

Once we completed the trail to the A tub, we headed to tub B. We stirred up so much dust and pollen that many of us were sneezing and coughing. All eight of us mostly cleared that trail by 10:30 AM, when we had to leave. We got so much done in so little time... yet there's still much more clearing to do at that site!

On our way out, Beth said, "Let's go out the snake way," meaning scaling up the pile of rocks in which rattlers hang out because of the warmth absorbed by the rocks. Just then, Cougar, in the lead, jumped backwards off a rock and, very coolly and calmly, announced that there was a rattler in the path! We all took a good look at the snake and then took a detour. Once most of us were at the cars, another person pointed out another, younger rattler, that was crossing the path we had just taken! Somehow, most of us missed it! We had seen two rattlers in the last two minutes at the site after spending an hour and a half there!

Anyone want to join us next time?



**BOSQUE
SCHOOL**



The University of New Mexico

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.