

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Volume 6, Issue 1
December 2010

Fabulous fall to wonderful winter!?!?

Just BEMPin' Around!!!

As we've moved forward through the seasons, we've been up to some fun in and around the bosque... here's a snapshot of what's been happening as the 'BEMPerature' has been falling! ☺

photo 1. **Bosque School** middle schoolers help teach local 4th graders about the importance of **WATER** to both humans and wildlife at the **Albuquerque Water Festival** in October

photos 2 & 3. 4th graders from *Dolores Gonzales Elementary* (teacher Ashley Webb) observe **wetlands** and different bosque arthropods before *setting pitfall traps* along the **Rio Grande Nature Center's Aldo Leopold trail**

photo 4. **UNM Bosque Internship BIO 408L** class meets at the City of Albuquerque **Tingley Beach wetland** with *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science* **Climate Change Educator Eileen Everett**

photo 5. **Albuquerque Institute of Math & Science (AIMS)** 7th grade students create a historic view of the middle Rio Grande valley with the **Bosque Education Guide's Changing River Model** activity

photo 6. 28 black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) and cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus auduboni*) were spotted at **Sevilleta National Wildlife** refuge during our *fall 2010 survey*



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2



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5



6

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



BOSQUE SCHOOL



scholarship • community • integrity



3 Kim's and Counting!!!

By: Kim Fike, NEW BEMP Educator

Hello all! My name is Kim Fike.... yes it is true, there is yet ANOTHER Kim to add to the BEMP staff (Dr. Kim Eichhorst = Co-Director; Kimi Scheerer = Education Coordinator)! I am so excited to become a part of this amazing organization! I thoroughly enjoy my new position as Environmental Educator here at the Bosque School BEMP Education & Outreach office. Every day I learn something new, explore the many curious elements of the bosque, and push myself to grow. I think this job was meant to be!

Now, a bit about who I am...I was born and raised here in Albuquerque, just south of the Rio Grande Nature Center. Many days were spent riding my bike beneath the cottonwoods and swimming in the Rio (shhh... Mom didn't know!). I went to high-school at Sandia Prep but am excited to be a Bobcat now! I left Albuquerque to attend the University of San Francisco, but after two years the claustrophobia of a large metropolitan area set in and I decided to go to a less developed area. So, I transferred to Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO and finished my degree in Environmental Biology with a minor in Chemistry.

While living in Durango, my eyes were opened to the world of 'EXTREME' sports including rock climbing, mountain biking, and snowboarding. My passion for conserving our precious landscapes furthers each time I climb up a boulder, peddle down a trail, or carve down a powdery mountainside. If you want advice on good rocks to climb... just ask! ☺



Kim Fike will be helping with a variety of BEMP outreach activities: regional water education, BEMP connections in the classroom, BEMP Bosque Study Trip adventures AND she'll be showcasing our 2010-2011 school year **Mid Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team** education initiative. The Stormwater initiative will pilot in January with 3 local schools on the west-side of Albuquerque. Our goal is to **educate** community members *about how to help keep our waters clean!*

Scoop the Poop
Keep the **RIO** Grand



Above: Oh, and in case you were wondering... yes the bird on my head is real, and it is called the black-chested buzzard eagle (photo taken in Peru).

Below: Kim leads the BEMP presentation at the Albuquerque Children's Water Festival this October.



The Stormwater Team partners include:

- Bernalillo County
- Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority
- City of Albuquerque
- Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District
- Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority
- University of New Mexico
- New Mexico Department of Transportation

So far, this 2010-2011 School Year

2,568

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

BEMPin' it Up!



WET and Wondrous Workshop

By: Melanie Keithley



On November 13th BEMP hosted a Project Wet Workshop through our Bosque School outreach office in Albuquerque. This one day workshop was presented by Sharon Sivinski of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) and me, Melanie Keithley Program Assistant for BEMP! The workshop is **FREE** and offered to any teacher and/or educator interested in teaching their students more about important water topics like conservation and resource management.

Teachers and educators who take the one day workshop also receive a **FREE** and amazingly easy-to-use Project Wet curriculum guide. Breakfast and lunch are included. If you are interested in attending a workshop this spring please contact Sharon Sivinski at ABCWUA for more details, email: ssivinski@abcwua.org.



Teachers from throughout the region gathered at Bosque School to learn about Project Wet, the national curriculum for water education that has been growing, evolving and supporting communities since 1984.

www.projectwet.org



Save the Date for next year's Congress events...

Our end-of-the-year student BEMP Congress events are designed to bring students together to share in their environmental monitoring experiences. Grades 7-12 will celebrate on Thursday, April 28th; Grades K-6 on Friday, April 29th 2011!

April 28th & 29th, 2011

NOTES: from the Field

By: Jennifer Schuetz

I want to thank **David Morgan**, with **La Calandria Associates**, for helping maintain trails at the wild and crazy overgrown Ohkay Owingeh BEMP site. Each year they have gotten out there with steel-bladed weed whackers and busted a nice trail through the site after the growing season. This helps so we don't lose students in the site once they return the school in September. ☺

La Calandria Associates are ecological consultants based in Santa Fe. They have worked extensively with Pueblos and other community and land managers in northern New Mexico on bosque restoration and other aspects of sustainable resource management. At Ohkay Owingeh, they have supported the Pueblo for 13 years in restoring over 1000 acres of riparian wetland along the Rio Grande and Rio Chama, and were involved from the beginning in setting up the Ohkay Owingeh BEMP site. Their staff includes ecologists, educators and seven full-time restoration specialists from Ohkay Owingeh.

David Morgan, president of La Calandria Associates, Inc., has over twenty years' experience in ecological restoration, water management, and environmental planning. Prior to founding La Calandria Associates in 2002, he taught at the College of Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico Community College, consulted independently, and worked for the New Mexico Environment Department.

~ for more info visit: www.lacalandria.net ~

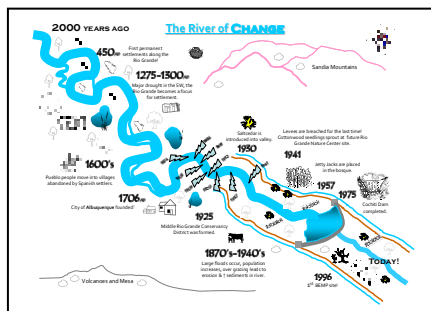


NOTES...

By: Kimi Scheerer

from the Education office!

The following River of Change worksheet has been created by our BEMP Education & Outreach staff! With it, students can follow the changes of the middle Rio Grande valley during the past 2000 years!



How it GET IT!

Soon to be posted on our BEMP website... until then, contact Kimi Scheerer at ksche@bosqueschool.org or 505.898.6388.

Participating Schools & Student Groups


Albuquerque Biopark	Kewa Pueblo DNR
Abq. Institute of Math & Science	La Academia de Esperanza
Bandelier Elementary	La Cueva High School
Bernalillo Middle & High School	Los Lunas High School
Bosque Farms Elementary	Montessori of the Rio Grande
Bosque School	Mountain Mahogany
Cottonwood Valley Charter School	Navajo Elementary
Dolores Gonzales Elementary	NM Museum – Young Explorers
Earthforce: Summer of Service	New Mexico State Parks
Escuela Luz de Mundo	North Star Elementary
Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary	Ohkay Owingeh Comm School
Harrison Middle School	Pueblo of Santa Ana
Holy Ghost Catholic School	Rio Grande Elementary
Hoover Middle School	Roots & Shoots
Hope Christian School	Sandia Vista Elementary
Infinity High School	School on Wheels Alternative HS
John Baker Elementary	Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge
Kewa Middle School	Van Buren Middle School

New Mexico Watershed Watch / BEMP Partners:

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



IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 20-24th – BEMP monthly monitoring
 Dec. 20 - Jan 17th – UNM semester break
 Jan. 17-21st – BEMP monthly monitoring
 January 21st – Sevilleta NWR jackrabbit survey
 Feb. 14-18th – BEMP monthly monitoring
 ** February is cheese in the field month!!! 
 March 14-18th – BEMP monthly monitoring
 March 14-18th – APS & UNM spring break
 April 14th – Sevilleta NWR jackrabbit survey



Our BEMP team from the UNM office: **Jennifer Schuetz** (left) and **Kristen Weil** (right) get goofy in the field this season! Our field office has been kept busy with another round of **groundwater chemistry** testing this fall and now **woody debris** monitoring through the winter.

For more information call our UNM office at: 505.277.0758

THANK YOU

to those that sponsor BEMP

AMAFCA, Stormwater Team ♦ Albuquerque Community Foundation ♦ Bernalillo County ♦ Bosque School ♦ Captain Planet Foundation, Inc. ♦ Center for Education Initiatives ♦ 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 ♦ Norcross Foundation ♦ PNM Inc. ♦ Sandoval County ♦ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ♦ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ♦ USDA Forest Service ♦ Wal-Mart Foundation ♦ 7 Bar Foundation