

# Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Volume 3, Issue 2  
December 2007

Season's Greetings!



## Winter Wonderland!

### 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](http://www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.htm)  
edited by: Kimi Scheerer

## Water Festivals for Winners

Lucky for New Mexico, local coordinator Katie Babuska of **Experiential EE, LLC** puts together two Children's Water Festivals in the Albuquerque and Rio Rancho areas. The festivals target local fourth grade students and their teachers, bringing the importance of water literally right into their hands.

BEMP participated again this year, sharing the expertise of Bosque School and UNM students with over 250 of the 1000+ participants. Students shared information about how water is the lifeblood of both the abiotic and biotic communities within the bosque.

The festivals occur in October and more information can be found at:



[www.waterfestnm.com](http://www.waterfestnm.com)



Bosque School 7<sup>th</sup> graders help teach Rio Rancho 4<sup>th</sup> graders about the importance of water in the bosque in regards to leaf litter.

~ photo: © Experiential EE, LLC ~



UNM Bosque Intern Patrick Vasquez teaches local Albuquerque 4<sup>th</sup> grade students about the impact water can have on insect populations.

~ photo by: Sarah Holcomb © Experiential EE, LLC ~



## CALENDAR CONTEST

Have your students create a masterpiece of what BEMP means to them, your school, or the community!

1. BEMP masterpiece size = 8 1/2" x 11"
2. submit art to Education Coordinator Kimi Scheerer at Bosque School by **Friday, March 28th**  
4000 Learning Road, NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120
3. come to our BEMP Student Congress to find out who the winners are and get your *new* BEMP calendar (complete with BEMP monitoring dates and nifty BEMP factoids)
4. there are 12 months every year... that's 12 chances to win!

# BEMP as a National Model

~ for community-based ecological monitoring ~

Why not spread the word of BEMP and encourage others to study the long-term ecological changes in their area? Well... that's just what I (Kimi Scheerer, BEMP Education Coordinator) did at the annual National Association for Interpretation (NAI) conference in Wichita, Kansas November 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>! Now interpretation may make you think of sign language or foreign languages, but the NAI mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance **heritage interpretation** as a profession. Our heritage in this case: the natural environment, more particularly... the bosque! We've been monitoring your bosque for the last 10 years and decided it's time to share our research, program model and enthusiasm with the rest of the world. In fact there is already interest in the Santa Rosa area of New Mexico and Nepal... that's right Nepal. Current UNM Urban Floodwater Demonstration Project scientist and BEMP alumni Christian LeJeune is helping to facilitate both programs! Yeah Team BEMP – going global! ☺



## For more information...

- NAI: [www.interpnet.com](http://www.interpnet.com)
- Santa Rosa & Nepal BEMP Projects, contact Christian at [lejeune@unm.edu](mailto:lejeune@unm.edu)



Service Learning Project: Fellow interpreters (from throughout the country) and I (Kimi) worked with a local Kansas Roots & Shoots to build a natural habitat area behind a Boys & Girls club during a conference free day!

[www.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.rootsandshoots.org)



*Bad joke of the newsletter* – **Q: What do elves learn in school?**

**A: The elf-abet!**

## Ways to Get Money for Cool Environmental Stuff

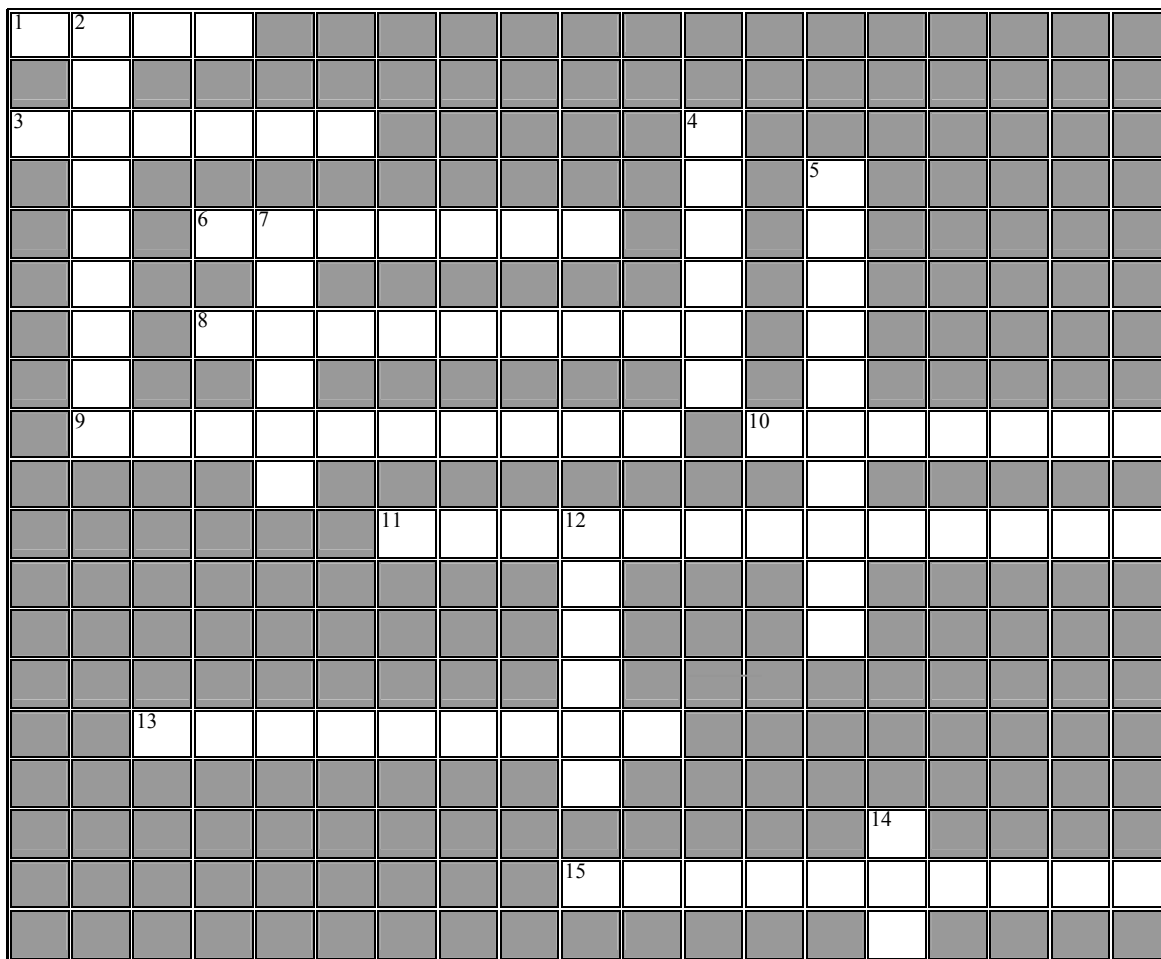
- ♦ Albert I. Pierce Foundation Grants – Environmental, arts & education projects.
  - \$5,000 grants due January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008
  - [www.aipfoundation.org](http://www.aipfoundation.org)
- ♦ Vulcan Materials Company Foundation – Funding for education & environmental stewardship in Vulcan's (Rio Rancho & Albuquerque) communities.
  - [www.vulcanmaterials.com/social.asp?content=guidelines](http://www.vulcanmaterials.com/social.asp?content=guidelines)
- ♦ Chapin (Harry) Foundation – Environmental programs that promote a safe and sustainable environment.
  - Up to \$10,000: grants reviewed in March, July & November
  - <http://fndcenter.org/grantmaker/harrychapin>
- ♦ Kettering Family Foundation – Grants for cultural arts, education & the environment.
  - deadline is January 31, 2008
  - [www.ketteringfamilyfoundation.org/kff\\_application.html](http://www.ketteringfamilyfoundation.org/kff_application.html)
- ♦ U.S. EPA Environmental Education Grants
  - applications due December 20, 2007
  - [www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# BEMPin' it UP

~ crosswords for fun ~



## ACROSS

1. a program that has 24 field sites along 140 miles of Rio Grande bosque
3. Spanish for 'riparian forest'
6. non-living components of an ecosystem
8. a quilled forest dweller
9. taking monthly measurements of groundwater, precipitation & leaf litter
10. a type of trap used to collect local insects
11. can be in the form of rain, sleet, snow or hail
13. a New Mexican National Wildlife Refuge that has a BEMP site
15. a local native tree with a heart-shaped leaf

## DOWN

2. a natural unit with living and non-living parts that interact
4. *Castor canadensis*'s common name
5. collected to determine bosque plant species and abundance
7. living componets of an ecosystem
12. a four legged predator often found in the bosque
14. the university that offers a Bosque Internship class

\*\* Answers can be found at: [www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.outreach.htm!!!](http://www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.outreach.htm!!!)

Bosque School & the Cebrian Goodman Youth, Leadership & Environment Project recently presented...

the **NEXT GENERATION** series...  
~ making a **green** trail ~

The first in a conference series for and about student Environmental successes!

Most recently featuring: 15-year-old Malkolm Boothroyd and his parents, as they bicycle south on a year-long, fossil-fuel-free journey (by bikes, boots and boats) in search of birds.



Malkolm has challenged others to make a difference. See how at [www.birdyear.com](http://www.birdyear.com)





# NOTES...

## From the field!

BEMP groundwater chemistry data was collected from all BEMP wells during the first 2 weeks of November.

Hurray for Jen Schuetz and her field team!



### Data Collected

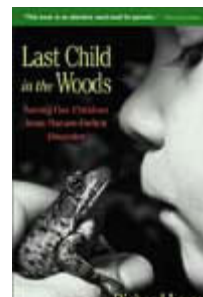
Turbidity  
Dissolved Oxygen  
Temperature  
Conductivity  
pH and  
Lab Work: chloride,  
bromide, nitrate,  
phosphate, sulfate &  
ammonium

## Participating Schools & Student Groups

Bandelier Elementary	John F. Kennedy Middle School
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
Duranes 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



Pictures courtesy of:  
[www.cnaturenet.org](http://www.cnaturenet.org)



## NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE

The Sierra Club's Building Bridges to the Outdoors program and the Children & Nature Network are sponsoring 'An Evening with **Richard Louv**', author of "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder" at the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) in Albuquerque on Thursday, December 13 from 7-9pm. Lt. Governor Diane Denish will be making opening remarks.

The event is free and open to the public. Tickets will be required and can be picked up at the NHCC box office (505-724-4771).

Thanks to **Michael Casaus**  
(with the Sierra Club) for  
all he has done to bring this  
event to New Mexico!



## IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – author Richard Louv @ NHCC

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – BEMP monthly monitoring

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>-Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> – APS Semester Break

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – BEMP pitfall trapping

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> – BEMP monthly monitoring

March 18<sup>th</sup> – BEMP monthly monitoring

March 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> – APS Spring Break

April 25<sup>th</sup> – BEMP Student Congress

May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – BEMP pitfall collection

## THANK YOU

to those that sponsor the BEMP program

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 ♦ 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 Foundation Classroom Innovation Grant ♦ Sandoval County ♦ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bosque Restoration Program ♦ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ♦ 7 Bar Foundation