

# Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program

Volume 6, Issue 3  
May 2011

*End of the year enthusiasm!*

## Festivals, Frolicking and FUN

~ Educational Adventures for Spring Delight! ~



**Earth's Birthday Project**  
educating children about the earth

Earth's Birthday Project educates children about the Earth — its beauty, resources and conservation.

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

### 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



THE UNIVERSITY of  
NEW MEXICO

BOSQUE SCHOOL



scholarship • community • integrity

When scientists think about spring they often focus on the changes taking place in their environment: trees leafing out, insects that emerge from the ground and animals caring for a new generation.

Ask an educator about spring and they'll give you a completely *different* story; festivals, warm-weather events, grades due and general end-of-the-year mayhem. BEMP holds no exception... we work with the Black Institute at Bosque School to help coordinate 3 large April events: **Otter Day**, **BEMP K-6<sup>th</sup> congress** and our **joint BEMP/Watershed Watch 7-12<sup>th</sup> student congress!**

**Photo 1:** Bosque School middle & highschoolers lead visiting 1<sup>st</sup> graders from Dolores Gonzales, Emerson, Mitchell & North Star Elementary's for our *Earth's Birthday Project* partnered **Otter Day** celebration on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Photos 2 & 3:** UNM intern Cait Rottler helps teach 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders about raptors at our joint **BEMP/Watershed Watch student congress**. Below, RiverSouce coordinator Rich Schrader examines student stream-flow posters at the *El Rancho de los Golondrinas* event on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Photos 4 & 5:** BEMP Co-Director and Bosque School teacher Dan Shaw works with his high school Wildlife Biology & Conservation students to teach BEMPer's grades K-6 about mammals of the bosque at the **Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> student congress**. Below, students explore the wildlife of the school pond with BEMP Program Assistant Kristen Weil at one of our learning stations.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to those educators and organizations that help support our end-of-the-year activities...

Abq. Biopark – Zoo to You  
Albuquerque Community Foundation  
City of Albuquerque Open Space Division  
Petroglyphs National Park  
NM State Forestry – Rolling River  
NM Herpetological Society  
Sandia Mountain Natural History Museum



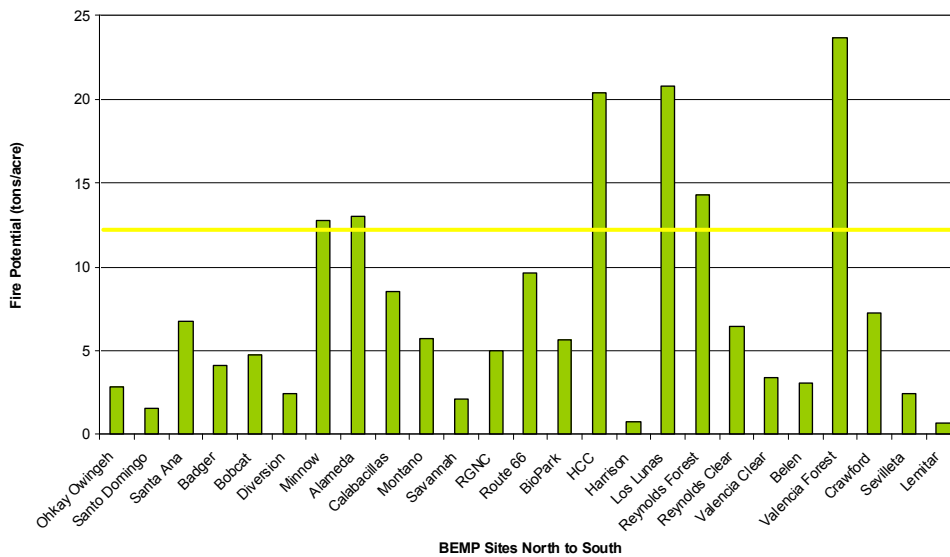
# Notes from the Field Office

By BEMP Field Coordinator Jennifer Schuetz

**Fuel Load... what is that?** The graph below shows the fuel load or *fire potential* of the **25 BEMP sites** (north to south)! Those sites with fuel levels above 12 tons per acre are considered a **CATASTROPHIC** fire hazard. When you consider fuel load - think about the diameter or thickness of the fuel (wood). For example: the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) has a lot of large logs that register in our bosque US Forest Service survey. The NHCC has about 21 tons/acre... a *serious FIRE* issue. However, those large logs are actually there to aesthetically line the trail through the woods and along the river. A data conundrum!  
*Check it out – does the data make sense compared to what you see at your BEMP site while monitoring?*

2011 Fuel Loading at BEMP Sites

catastrophic fire hazard = 12 tons/acre



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU???

Think about the precipitation this year... OR, I suppose the **LACK of precipitation**. This season the bosque is experiencing *lower than average RIVER FLOWS* and **VERY LITTLE RAINFALL!** At our Bosque School Montano BEMP site rain gauges we've recorded **only 2 mm** of rain since the December school holidays. **GASP!** Be prepared for fire warnings and possible fire danger this summer.



# Congratulations!

Special congrats to our *BEMP Program Assistant* **Kristen Weil**, pictured on right celebrating her delight of river monitoring! Kristen joined our UNM field office team after taking our BIO 408 Bosque Internship class at UNM in the fall of 2009. She recently presented her undergraduate thesis about the effects of climate change on high elevation trees, specifically around the South American water resource Lake Titicaca (which lies on the border of Peru and Bolivia). Kristen will be graduating this MAY!

From all of us here at BEMP... **We're so PROUD of YOU!**

So far, this 2010-2011 School Year

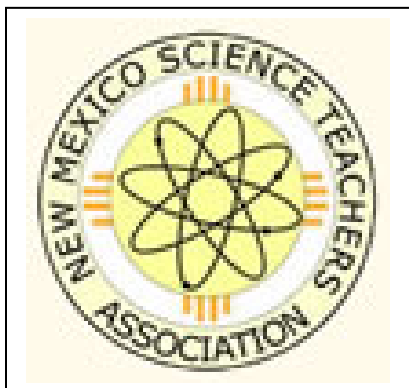
**5,266**

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

**BEMPin' it Up!**







# NMSTA launches new website

~ [www.nmsta.org](http://www.nmsta.org) ~

New Mexico Science Teachers Association

For **SCIENCE** teachers and interdisciplinary educators across the southwest, a new NMSTA website means easier navigation of **SCIENCE** curriculum, networking and workshops in the state! The updated website also makes it easy to learn about the board, get membership info and see photos from constituents across the state.

It also means an easier way to register for the 2011 joint annual conference with the **Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (EEANM)**. The 2011 conference, titled **Soar to Greater Heights: Connecting Earth to Education**, will be hosted at *Piedra Vista High School* (home of the Panthers) in *Farmington, New Mexico*. It will be held **October 20-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**. To register (as exhibitor or participant) AND/OR to submit a proposal to present, visit the **new** NMSTA website and click on the conference tab!

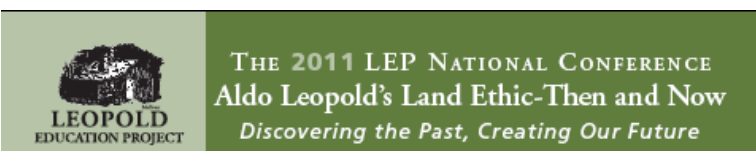


5700 College Blvd.  
Farmington, NM  
87402  
505.599.8880

*Sign up for summer sessions online at: [www.bosqueschool.org](http://www.bosqueschool.org)*

Click on the **Summer Programs** link to find out about Bosque School's fabulous schedule of activities! Sessions include: a BEMP EcoScience series (with Archeology, Backpacking, Geology, Wildlife, etc.), Art, Creative Writing, Spanish, Sports Camps, Video Game Making & more...

**programs begin: June 6th**



Don't miss this opportunity to explore the southwest and learn how Aldo Leopold developed his concept of a land ethic. Discover ways that various communities, organizations, agencies and individuals are creating their own sense of land ethics and sharing it with youth and families across the United States. Investigate Leopold's roots as a forester, visit his first job site/homestead where he managed the land and listen to stories of long ago. Learn new ideas, techniques and resources that will enhance your own educational programs through exceptional seminars, field trips and speakers — simply, an event not to miss!

*Come get a taste of the southwest and make it a family event! Can't Wait to see you there!*



For Information on Registration, Chapter Scholarship Forms, and Call for Proposals please contact: Janine Kohn at 651-209-4971 or [jkohn@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jkohn@pheasantsforever.org)

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.LEP.ORG](http://WWW.LEP.ORG)

## Spotlight on Support

Special **THANKS** to the **Albuquerque Community Foundation (ACF)** and Program Director *Nancy Johnson* for their continued **SUPPORT & community leadership!** ACF supports BEMP student **transportation** throughout the valley. Their grants help get students from their schools to the Rio Grande bosque for BEMP monthly monitoring and Bosque School Study Trips! Lucky for us, Nancy's organization was also able to help pay for the busing that brought 227 students to our K-6<sup>th</sup> Congress event at Bosque School on Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> AND she was even there herself to witness the fun!

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



ALBUQUERQUE  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

*leadership • trust • legacy*

# NOTES...

from the Education office!

Albuquerque Water Utility Authority Educator *Sharon Sivinski* gets Jemez Mountain students excited about water issues in a joint BEMP/ABQWUA education event at Bosque School on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>!



## Participating Schools & Student Groups

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

### **New Mexico Watershed Watch / BEMP Partners:**

Cimarron High School, Cochiti School, Desert Academy, East Mountain High School, Espanola Valley High School, Santa Fe Prep & United World College



## IMPORTANT DATES

May 16-20<sup>th</sup> – BEMP monthly monitoring  
May 31<sup>st</sup> – APS last day of school!  
June 17<sup>th</sup> – Project WET/BEMP teacher workshop  
June 20 - 24<sup>th</sup> – BEMP monthly monitoring  
June 25<sup>th</sup> – Beaver Workshop @ Bosque School  
July 13<sup>th</sup> – Sevilleta NWR jackrabbit survey  
July 18-22<sup>nd</sup> – BEMP monthly monitoring  
August 16<sup>th</sup> – APS first day of school!



The **BERNALILLO COUNTY** Master Naturalist class is kicking off their 2011 summer course this June on the Bosque School campus. The program "aims to instill the pursuit of life-long learning and promote environmental stewardship"!

Other opportunities to get **involved** include:

- agricultural & garden activities in the south valley
- land health monitoring in the East Mountains; including: water quality, flora & fauna studies
- education & outreach projects: youth & public events, cultural & historical presentations AND outreach materials
- AND, ongoing composting classes

contact: **Colleen McRoberts**

phone: **505.314.0398**

visit: **[www.berncgo.gov](http://www.berncgo.gov)** to learn more

# THANK YOU

to those that sponsor BEMP

AMAFCA, Stormwater Quality Team ♦ Albuquerque Community Foundation ♦ Bernalillo County Open Space ♦ Bosque School ♦ Captain Planet Foundation, Inc. ♦ 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