



2024 Spring Equinox Newsletter



Community Science, Education, and Stewardship:
Equitable and inclusive hands-on student research essential
to the management of the Rio Grande ecosystem.

BEMP Education



Happy Spring! This winter, BEMP education has been busy with Phenology Study Trips with 5th grade classes from Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School in Rio Rancho. All five 5th grade classes concluded our Dabbling in Data lessons where they learned about groundwater data, how the amount of groundwater has changed over time, and how to graph and interpret these data. After these lessons, these 5th grade students joined us in the bosque to learn about phenology in our bosque, as well as general ecosystem information. Thank you MLK Jr. Elementary!



These 5th graders weren't the only ones learning about phenology. Pre-K students from Mission Avenue made the trek from the Rio Grande Nature Center to the river with us to observe phenological changes. These young students saw their first porcupine, flocks of gulls, and plenty of animal scat. Thank you Mission Avenue!

**Since the winter solstice, we have reached 713 students and 72 adults
from various schools throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley!**

BEMP Science

With all 2023 collections completed, the science team is currently hard at work processing, entering, and quality controlling all data for the upcoming reporting season. Several reports to partners, funders, and the public are coming up due in the Spring.

Our ecologists have also been making some trips to our Reynolds sites in the Belen area to clear trails and flag site equipment; this area is still seeing the effects of the 2023 Big Hole fire, which drastically changed the landscape around our research site, downing many big trees, producing lots of ash, and clearing the ground for kochia to take over.

With the spring semester underway, a new cohort of UNM interns is getting trained on protocols and familiarized with our sites. We look forward to more field and lab work with them!



Big Hole
Fire area,
February
& March
2024



Have you noticed...
Cottonwood branches starting to
bud out for springtime?

Call for student presenters!

Are you interested in scientific presentation and public speaking opportunities for your students? Great news, BEMP has two symposia coming up!

1. The [Crawford Symposium](#) is an annual event where we celebrate our year's successes in memory of Cliff Crawford, BEMP's co-founder. In this event, K-12 students, college interns, grad students, and partners showcase their experiences in the bosque and projects with BEMP data. This event will take place at the **University of New Mexico (Ballroom C) on Monday April 15th, from 5:30-7:30pm MST.**

2. This year on its **10th Anniversary (!)**, the [Luquillo-Sevilleta LTER Virtual Symposium](#) is a bilingual event where students from various schools in New Mexico and Puerto Rico gather for a live session to share research on their local ecosystems. Presentations and Q&As are conducted bilingually in Spanish *and/or* English. The goal is for students to present their projects in Spanish (ask about assistance translating slides!). This event is all about scientific exchange across cultural, political, and language barriers. Please join us **Friday April 12th at 8:00am MST!**

Please contact bemp.education@bemp.org for more information or if you'd like to participate in either of these events.

Are you looking for a local non-profit to support?
Consider donating to BEMP by visiting bemp.org/donate
or via the QR code below!

FOLLOW US!



@bemp.nm



facebook.com/
bemp.nm



Scan to Donate!



BEMP



bemp.org