



Southern Nevada WILD

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The Southern Nevada Wild newsletter for educators and students can be found online at www.ndow.org/learn/programs/region/south/index.shtm.

Environmental Education Certification Program

It all began with an idea. A few dedicated environmental educators and interpreters wanted to promote their profession and develop a certification program for those in the field. In the fall of 2005, the first meeting of the minds was held at Lake Tahoe. What followed was a grant from the North American Association for Environmental Education, which funded the development of the state program in Environmental Education & Interpretation (EE & I). The program is facilitated by the folks at the Public Lands Institute at UNLV. The EE & I program is offered for educators and others working in nature centers, museums, zoos, aquaria, schools, and other nature-and heritage-rich places. To become certified, EE & I participants complete four courses, including environmental literacy and EE & I methods. At the end of the coursework, participants complete a supervised internship. Upon the achievement of coursework and the internship, the participant is awarded a Nevada State Certificate in Environmental Education & Interpretation. The program graduated fifteen individuals from its first class, held in the summer of 2008. New graduates will be certified several times a year. Do you want to be one of them? Contact Allyson Butler at 702-895-5734 or allyson.butler@unlv.edu. You can also go to <http://www.enviroedexchange.org/certification/index.htm> for more information.



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Birding and Wildlife Watching Partnership

In an effort to promote birding and wildlife watching in Southern Nevada, the Southern Nevada Birding and Wildlife Trail Partnership (SNBWTP) was formed in 2006. The partnership consists of government and non-government entities that are committed to supporting conservation through wildlife-watching recreation and tourism. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that over \$9 million was spent on wildlife-watching activities in 2006. Capitalizing on this trend, the partnership will provide travel information on the US 93/95 corridors, focusing on the rural areas of Clark, Nye, Lincoln and White Pine counties that offer natural sites known for birding and wildlife viewing. The partnership's website, www.snbwtp.org will offer educational materials, such as species identification, tips for finding species and viewing etiquette.

The group will also assist in the development of key birding and wildlife sites in Southern Nevada's rural communities. It is their hope that Southern Nevada will become recognized for its important wildlife habitats, from desert to alpine to riparian areas.



The SNBWTP is sponsoring the first-ever birding and wildlife-watching festival in Southern Nevada! The dates are March 13 – 16, 2009. A celebration of all things wild in the Mojave desert, it promises days of exploring, fun and learning along the Colorado

River in Laughlin. Educational seminars, informational booths, field trips and even a nature art show are planned. Check www.snbwtp.org for agenda and registration!

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of a least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."

- Rachel Carson



Wild Standards!

They're here! If you've been looking for correlations of the Project Wild activities to the Nevada education standards, look no more! Although NDOW has been offering Project Wild teacher training for years, the curriculum has never been correlated to the state standards before. Project Wild has been correlated to the national standards, and several states have correlated the curriculum to their own state standards. Now Nevada joins them, hoping to give credibility to the Project Wild program in the state. The correlations will make both the Project Wild program and NDOW's overall wildlife education program more accessible to educators.

Currently, the correlations are to the life science standards, as this is where probably 95% of the activities match up. The standards for grades 3-5 are addressed, as that is the target for NDOW's wildlife education program. Not all the activities matched a standard, because some activities are geared for other grades and/or other subjects. Correlations were done for both the Project Wild basic curriculum and the Project Wild Aquatic (aka Aquatic Wild) curriculum. You can find the correlations on CCSD's Interact website, under Beyond the Classroom, on the Nevada Department of Wildlife page.

Springtime Calendar

Feb 2, 2009 – World Wetlands Day

http://ramsar.org/wwd/wwd_index.htm

Feb. 21 & 28, 2009—Project Wild teacher workshops

Register on CCSD's Pathlore

March 12 – 15, 2009 - Birding & Wildlife Festival, Laughlin

www.snbwrtp.org

March 28 & April 4, 2009—Aquatic Wild teacher workshops

Register on CCSD's Pathlore

April 9 – 12, 2009 – Clark County Fair

www.ccfair.com

April 12 – 18, 2009 – National Environmental Education Week

www.eeweek.org

April 18 – 26, 2009 – National Wildlife Week

www.nwf.org

April 22, 2009 - Earth Day

www.earthday.org

April 22, 2009 – Junior Duck Stamp Contest

www.fws.gov/juniorduck

**April 25, 2009, 9:00 – 11:00 am – NDOW WILDLIFE WATCH,
Overton Wildlife Management Area**

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