



**Sierra Watershed
Education Partnerships**

*Promoting science literacy
through hands-on community
projects*

Summer Highlights

September, 2002



Projects and Events

Summer Internship

Truckee High Students in the Field

SWEP and Sierra Regional Career Partnership joined forces this summer to support three Truckee High School students wishing to pursue careers in science. Jessica Folck, Olivia Rassuchine and Sara Ortman, all Juniors this fall, have spent the summer in the field monitoring streams and revegetation sites.

Jan Ellis, SWEP project director, has kept the interns busy working with local groups. "These young women aspire to expand their knowledge in the field of

biology and hope to gain a better understanding of the career possibilities in their watershed", says Ellis.

Much of their time this summer has been spent monitoring local creeks with the Truckee River Aquatic Monitors (TRAM). They have been helping TRAM collect macroinvertebrate samples on various creeks. The experience they are gaining is invaluable for them and a helpful contribution to the TRAM program.

Sara, Jessica, and Olivia have also

been involved in monitoring a revegetation site on the Martis Burn.

This fall the interns will learn photo point monitoring protocol and begin photo monitoring on Trout Creek in Truckee.

*"The wisest mind has
something yet to
learn..."*

George Santayana



Adopt-A-Watershed

Summer Leadership Institute

This summer, SWEP sent a team of five people to participate in the Adopt-A-Watershed Leadership Institute. Heidi Bushway-Verkler, Jill Sarick, Stewart McMorrow, Jan Ellis and Christine McMorrow spent an intensive eight days in Bend, OR learning about community leadership development and educational practices that support student learning through

use of the environment as the context for learning.

AAW is a program that works with K-12 teachers and local leaders to implement a service-learning strategy that uses the local watershed as a context for learning. The focus of the Leadership Institute is to help people become effective leaders in AAW and to help com-

munities build sustainable and high quality programs.

AAW has created an entire set of watershed based curriculum designed with the developmental capacities of the learners in mind. The curriculum set is broken into topic specific units. More information about the Adopt-A-Watershed curriculum can be found at www.Adopt-A-Watershed.org or by calling the AAW regional coordinator Jill Sarick @775-832-4167.

WELCOME!

As watershed education grows in our community, so too does its staff! Please welcome:

Bob Wright

Executive Director

SWEP

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Bob Wright was recently hired as SWEP's new Executive Director. Bob brings 12 years of experience with non-profit management and fundraising to SWEP and is excited about working with all of our partners in the upcoming year.

Jill Sarick

Regional Coordinator

Adopt-A-Watershed

Jill will work with the Adopt-A-Watershed program at Lake Tahoe to oversee the planning, implementation and administration of its environment-based education programs. She plans to foster relationships with all the schools in the basin. Her goal is to enhance and evaluate the success of K-12 environmental education at Lake Tahoe.



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 5: Service Learning Training: Treasure Chest part 1: Reflection tools

September 17: Community Leaders in the Classroom 3-4pm, TTUSD District Office

Partnership Mtg. & SL Treasure Chest part 2, 4-6pm, TTUSD District Office

September 21: River of Words Training: Kings Beach Elem. 9am-4pm.

September 26: Habitat Hike 3:30-5:45pm w/ Stewart McMorro

October 1: Fire Ecology Hike: 3:30-5:45pm w/ Esther Mandeno

October 10: Stream Ecology Hike: 3:30-5:45pm w/ Victor Insera

October 20: Truckee River Day

October 26: Outdoor Artistic Expression Hike: 9:30-11:45am w/M. Roddis

November 2: Forest Management Hike: 9:30-11:45am w/ Rex Harrold

High Quality Service Learning: Seven Elements

1. Integrated Learning

*The service informs the academic learning content, and the academic learning content informs the service.

*Life skills learned outside the classroom are integrated back into classroom learning.

2. High Quality Service

*The service responds to an actual community need that is recognized by the community.

*The service is designed to achieve significant benefits for students and community.

3. Student Voice

*Students participate actively in choosing and planning the service activity and planning and implementing the reflection sessions, evaluations, and celebration.

4. Collaboration

*The service learning project is

a collaboration among as many of these partners as is feasible: students, parents, community organizations, administrators, teachers and recipients of service.

5. Civic Responsibility

*The service learning project promotes students' responsibility to care for others and to contribute to the community.

*By participating in the service learning project, students understand how they can impact their community.

6. Reflection

*Reflection establishes connections between students' service experiences and the academic curriculum.

7. Evaluation

*All the partners, especially students, are involved in evaluating the service learning project.

Partnership Highlight:

Marya Roddis



Marya Roddis is a leader in the fields of Art and Environmental Education. Currently she is working as a free-lance instructor with Arts For The Schools where she is including more projects that address local watershed education as well as art and literacy.

Marya understands that students today are often overwhelmed by the situations that surround them. "Artwork provides an avenue to explore in a safe and relaxing venue", says Roddis. Her interactive workshops introduce and develop skills which assist students in employing observational methods to make art in the context of natural history.

Examples of Marya's dedication to the students of the Ta-

hoe-Truckee area can be seen throughout the school district. In Truckee, she is working with students from Sierra High and the Truckee Fire District on a large scale mural project to produce a high quality landscape which highlights community awareness of fire safety.

As several schools this past year expressed interest in schoolyard gardens, Marya stepped up to help with planning and planting. She is helping students and teachers create one, two and five year goals for their gardens, which means continued student involvement year after year.

Look for Marya at SWEP's Outdoor Artistic Expression Hike October 26!



**Sierra Watershed
Education Partnerships**

**Christine McMorro
Program Manager**

Phone/fax: 530-525-6692
christinemcmorrow@hotmail.com

Jan Ellis

Project Director

Phone/fax: 775-831-6071

janmeri@aol.com

Bob Wright

Executive Director

Phone: 530-546-7273

bob@wrightwords.org