



**Sierra Watershed  
Education Partnerships**

*Promoting science literacy  
through hands-on community  
projects*

## Projects and Events

### Watershed Web Mural

*Students create mural in Kings Beach*

It all started with an old cinder block wall on the side of "Mr. Video" in downtown Kings Beach. "Every time I drove by I visualized a watershed mural created by kids" says Jan Ellis, SWEPEP project director. Bob McCormick, owner of the building, agreed.

This vision produced a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club summer teen program. B&GC art director Diana Cristales, Arts for the Schools artist Marya Roddis, volunteer artist Cheri Guerrette and Jan Ellis introduced the idea

to the students. They were excited and began learning about the proposed theme, 'Food Webs of Lake Tahoe'.

There were art lessons and a visit to the D.L. Bliss visitors museum where students were able to see for themselves some of the native animals and plants of Tahoe. An interpretive hike gave the students a better understanding of the habitat needs of different species. Students each chose three plants or animals in a food web to contribute to the mural.

"It has been an

## Back to School September '03

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"You must be the  
change you wish to  
see in the world."  
-Mahatma Gandhi  
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opportunity to teach kids about food web dynamics and now they are taking pride in a community project that is educational, attractive and fun!" Said Jan Ellis of the mural.

Check out the mural on the corner of Hwy.28 & Coon St. in

### MOUNTAINS

The mountains smell like snow

The mountains feel so happy

And look like spring.

The mountains sound like the wind.

By Yanet, 2nd grade  
Kings Beach Elem.

Teachers are encouraged to get their classes involved in this effort. Those interested in participating in this world-wide effort can receive water quality monitoring training and equipment from SWEPEP and their partners.

Activities and more information can be found at [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org)  
Or call Christine McMorrow @530-525-6692.



2003

Teacher's  
Interpretive Hike  
Series

### Nature Journaling

*Marya Roddis, Artist*

October 2

4:00-6:30pm

This hike explores the schoolyard, focusing on using words and images to record observations and prompt critical thinking.

### Aquatic Habitat

*Stewart McMorrow,*

*Ecologist*

October 7

4:00-6:00pm

Take an in-depth look at what lives in and around the water. Explore the relationships between plant, animal and aquatic communities. Learn water quality monitoring and how to collect and identify aquatic insects.

### Geology Field Study

*Jim Howle, Geologist*

October 9

4:00-6:00pm

Learn about unique formations and historical events that shaped Lake Tahoe. Gain an understanding of geology terms used to describe Lake Tahoe and learn interesting facts about our rocks, soil and land forms.

*SWEPEP is requesting a  
\$5 donation for each hike*

*To register, contact:*

*Christine McMorrow*

*530-525-6692*

*christinemcmorrow@4sweep.org*

### World Water Monitoring

*Tahoe and the international effort*

America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association are inviting citizens and organizations from around the globe to share in the experience of water quality monitoring on World Water Monitoring Day 2003. World Water Monitoring Day serves as a global educational platform for watershed leaders, educators and trained volunteers to help those

who are less experienced better understand how the actions of individuals in a watershed can impact many others.

From September 18 to October 18, citizens throughout the world community will have an opportunity to monitor the quality of their local watersheds and enter the results of their efforts into an international database.



## Dates To Remember

**September 25:** Service Learning 101 Workshop 4-8:30pm, Glenshire Elem.

**October 2:** Nature Journaling Hike 4-6:30pm, with Marya Roddis

**October 7:** Aquatic Habitat Hike 4-6pm, with Stewart McMorrow

**October 9:** Tahoe Geology Hike 4-6pm, Jim Howle

**October 18:** World Water Monitoring Day, local streams and lakes

**October 19:** Truckee River Day, Community Watershed Restoration Event

**October 21:** Service Learning Partnership meeting 3:30-5:30pm, Truckee District Office

Mark your calendar for **2004** dates!

**January 28:** Site Advocates meeting, NTMS

**March 2:** Service Learning 101: Reflection tools

**March 23:** Partnership Meeting, Celebration, Truckee, District Office

**April 20:** Site Advocates Meeting, SMMS

**May 18:** Site Advocates Meeting, KBE

## Tahoe-Truckee Service Learning

*Working together for teachers and students*

The Tahoe-Truckee Service Learning Partnership (TTSLP) is entering into its third year working within the TTUSD. The core decision making body of the TTSLP is the Management team. This group consists of members who represent essential links to community, school and youth resources. The purpose of this group is to guide the development of service learning activities within our schools and community on a daily basis.

The Management team consists of **Sasha Neumann, Education Coordinator:** Sasha organizes teacher trainings and support for SL. She is a teacher at Truckee High. **Laurie Martin, School District Administrator:** Laurie is the primary contact with the superintendent and administrators. Laurie is also the Youth and Community Development coordinator for the TTUSD. **Jill Sarick, Regional Watershed**

**Partner:** Jill works with the Adopt-A-Watershed program and brings us a national perspective on watershed education. **Christine McMorrow and Jan Ellis of SWEPE:** They provide direct support to teachers for the coordination of watershed-based SL projects. **Sarah Green, Mentor Coordinator, Caring About Kids:** Sarah involves adult mentors and community to support SL activities. **Sarah Dorland, VISTA volunteer:** Sarah provides the entire partnership with logistical support, communication and resource development. **Stacie Creps, Youth Support:** Stacie coordinates the Friday Night Live and Cesar Chavez Day programs.

The members of the Management team are here to support SL in any way possible. Feel free to contact any of the members with questions, concerns or suggestions.

## Partnership Highlight:

*Jill Sarick of Adopt-A-Watershed*



Adopt-a-Watershed (AAW) is a national non-profit that helps communities develop programs which enhance student learning and promote watershed stewardship. The vision for this program is for schools to serve as the hub of sustainable and involved communities in which citizens make conscious choices that serve to protect and maintain the health of that community or watershed.

Adopt-a-Watershed Regional Coordinator, Jill Sarick is charged with working as a facilitator with local community, education and watershed management groups to develop education programs with the intent of creating a sense of place, fostering a connection to the land, building inclusive, civic-minded communities that support one another. These local

groups work in teams to implement the vision they build together with the assistance of AAW.

The goals for the local programs are to work with emerging and existing leadership in the communities tied to the four school districts within the Tahoe Basin to first develop partnerships that will lead to the implementation of place-based

education programs. Place-based Education is a methodology which emphasizes the use of an integrated, standards-based curriculum with the local place as the context for learning.

SWEPE supports teams of community leaders in attending the AAW leadership institute. These people make up the Tahoe-Truckee Leadership Team which works to implement the AAW model in our community.



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