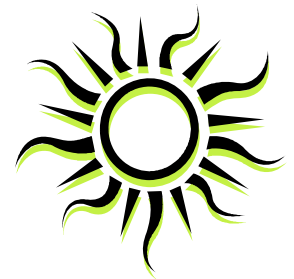




**Sierra Watershed
Education Partnerships**

*Fostering a sense of place
through hands-on community
projects*



Summer June 2005

Projects and Events

Garden Clubs:

Schoolyard habitats come alive

Glenshire Elem. has partnered with Teichert Aggregates to grow Jeffery Pine seedlings for restoration projects. Nearly 400 seeds were planted during the school-wide Earth day celebration.

At Creekside, a garden club has been formed and funds for a greenhouse have been obtained. Look for their native **plant sale and garden party on June 17.**

Kings Beach Elem., SWEP, Boys and Girls club and Project MANA have partnered to install

a demonstration BMP plot and plant a summer veggie garden. **Planting party June 11.**

Sierra High School has partnered with Teichert, who is helping with the funds and expertise to install a shade house where students will be growing native plants to be used for restoration projects.

There are many ongoing projects at Tahoe Lake School. Check out the demonstration BMP project on their campus! **Garden party and celebration June 20.**

Professional Development 05/06

Focus on literature and civic engagement

This year SWEP and partners will host several workshops that build on the themes of literature and civic engagement. These themes will be infused into the community and environment based themes of PBSL.*

Beginning with a coordinated effort to enhance the site-advocate model (school site reps.), participants will attend a two day intensive workshop Aug. 30-31. This workshop includes a half day session with Service

Learning and literature expert, **Cathryn Berger Kaye.** Site advocates, teams of teachers from the same grade level or school site are invited to attend.

This will be followed by a Project Citizen workshop in Sept. Project Citizen is a civic engagement curriculum geared for 5-8th grades, however, the process of investigating community issues taught is appropriate for all teachers.

Project planning support and study-group style

The earth is not
ours; it is a treasure
we hold in trust for
future generations.

—African Proverb

Truckee Elementary has created a large living laboratory on campus with native plants, flowers and beautiful walkways. Teachers meet regularly to discuss plans and curriculum for their gardens.

National Service Learning Consultant

Cathryn Berger Kaye,

August 31, 2005

Topics include:

- Linking Literature to PBSL*
- Creating Curriculum Connections
- Leading youth to social action using the community setting and a Service Learning lens

meetings will be held every other month throughout the school year in order for participants to gain a deeper understanding of PBSL, civic engagement and using literature to enhance curriculum connections to hands-on community projects.

Contact Christine McMorrow 530-525-6692 or christine@4swep.org for more information or to sign up.

Practical Activity: Grow Jeffery Pines

Here's How:

In the fall, collect Jeffery pine cones. Using rocks and gloves, have students pound the seeds out of the cones. Seeds must be inspected for holes and other abrasions. Note: The likelihood of collecting viable seeds is not very good. Seeds can be purchased. Have students do an experiment comparing germination rates of the collected seed vs. the store bought seed.

Before seeds are planted they must be germinated. To do this, place some seeds in a zip-lock baggie with a moist paper towel. Write on the bag the date and number of seeds. Place the baggie in the refrigerator for 2-3 months (this simulates winter!). One week before you are ready to plant the seeds, remove them from the refrigerator. They should begin to sprout.

For planting use a 50/50 mixture of store bought and native soil.

Be sure to protect seedlings from the critters!

For details and standards that can be taught with this activity see the **Teach Tahoe curriculum.**

Contact:
Jan Ellis 530-412-2585
jan@4swep.org or
Dan Allison
dan@4swep.org for information on obtaining **Teach Tahoe** materials.

*Place-Based Service Learning



Dates To Remember

June 26-27: Truckee River Education Coalition (TREC) retreat; Sagehen Field Station

August 30-31: PBSL* Intensive Wksp., Sagehen Creek Field Station

September 1: All-staff convocation with guest speaker Cathryn Berger Kaye, Alder Creek Middle School

September 1: Cathryn Berger Kaye mini-sessions

September: Project Citizen Training

Sept/Oct: Teacher's Interpretive Hikes: Walk through the Watershed

October: Truckee River Day

Place-Based Service Learning (PBSL)

is a teaching method that focuses on the local community throughout the learning process. Students learn to value what is local; the unique watershed, history, environment, culture, economy, literature and art of their place through hands-on community projects

Truckee River Education Coalition (TREC)

A Collaborative Effort for Place-Based Service Learning

In the past three years SWEP has worked with the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District's Service Learning Partnership (TTSLP), providing and supporting Place-Based Service Learning (PBSL) experiences in the district. We continue to work closely together, however, this year our relationship with TTSLP has grown into a greater collaboration in an effort to remain sustainable and recruit more community-based organizations to join us in our endeavors.

Both SWEP and TTSLP are now a part of a new collaborative called Truckee River Education Coalition (TREC), meeting monthly and working toward embedding PBSL* in the curriculum of our local schools through the adoption of a district wide Service Learning board policy. District administrators and teachers have been integral in our efforts as well as other community-based partners, including Teacher's Alliance for Outdoor Education and Adven-

ture (TAO) and UC Berkley's Sagehen field station. As a coalition we have combined our energy, funding and staff to complete three PBSL experiences in our schools this year, including; a field day at Sagehen with Alder Creek Middle School's 7th grade; the Adventure Risk Challenge (ARC) literacy program for selected ELL students and the Best Management Practices (BMP) demonstration project at Tahoe Lake School.

The efforts of our new coalition can clearly be seen—**Happy Kids** practicing math, science and language arts skills in our beautiful backyard!

There will be a TREC retreat held at Sagehen field station June 26th – 27th. If you would like to get more information about TREC, attend a meeting or the TREC retreat, please let us know! We are very interested in having new partners join our exciting efforts!

Contact: Ashley Taylor 582-2517
ATaylor@TTUSD.org

Teichert Aggregates

Teichert Expands Education Efforts

"Community involvement has long been a part of Teichert's legacy" said Jill MacGregor of Teichert Aggregates. Teichert actively supports local community groups and schools through activities, charitable contribution and personal involvement.

Jill first met Jan Ellis (SWEP) in the spring of 2003 at a regional partnership meeting. The two women discovered that they shared common ground in habitat restoration. Since then, SWEP and Teichert have worked together to involve students in restoration efforts by integrating their reclamation program with a slope stabilization test with 4th graders. The data gathered will be used to inform future restoration projects. In addition, Teichert is sponsoring a shade house at Sierra High, where stu-

dents will work with biologists to grow native plants for Teichert and SWEP projects. Teichert also hosts tours of the facility in order that teachers and students can gain better understanding of the process of mining aggregates and the contribution Teichert is able to make in recycling. Teichert takes in material from demolition sites and recycles it back into aggregates to be used for road base.

These are new education programs for Teichert. Jill says of the endeavor, "I am honored to be trusted with this responsibility." Future plans include a job shadow program for ESL students and projects and tours with Earth Science classes.

Please feel free to contact Jill MacGregor, 530-587-3811 for more information.



**Sierra Watershed
Education Partnerships**

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*Place-Based Service Learning