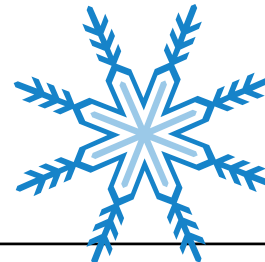




WINTER 2007

Experience. Discover. Act.



Projects and Events

Wetlands Education Center

SWEP receives funding for new programs in TC

In partnership with the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC), SWEP has been funded by CA water quality grant, Proposition 40. SWEP will conduct the outreach and education component of the renovation and restoration of the old UCD Fish Hatchery building on the corner of Lake Forest Dr. and Hwy. 28, near Tahoe City. UCD will begin a \$3M renovation of the site this spring. Plans include a complete renovation of the historic building and restoration of the surrounding property. A native plant demonstration garden, BMP test plots and a self-

guided wetland tours are in the future of this site.

SWEP will be working directly with teachers and students on projects at this site. We are available for in class presentations, field studies, service learning projects and restoration projects. As usual, all our activities are aligned to CA content standards and encourage hands on participation and decision making by youth.

Heather Segale, UCD TERC outreach coordinator sees this as the creation of a top notch educational facility, rivaling Taylor Creek education center in South Lake Ta-

 The power of
 imagination makes
 us
 infinite.

 John Muir

hoe. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting endeavor, SWEP is currently seeking interested teachers, parents and community partners for this project. We are also exploring the possibility of raising Lahontan Cutthroat trout in the classroom and providing a growing pond for the fish at this site. Possibilities abound!

Please join us in creating this community resource!

SWEP's Mission:
 To promote environmental stewardship by connecting students to their community and local environment through comprehensive watershed education and service-learning.

Education Matters Safe Healthy Environment

Where does SWEP fit in?

With the launching of the Education Matters working group, SWEP has been attending these meetings advocating that outdoor education be considered in the matrix of 'what's happening' in the TTUSD to create Safe, Healthy Environments at local schools. SWEP staff and board feel strongly that creating connections to the natural world is an extremely important aspect of creating safe healthy environments at schools.

A recent article in *Orion* magazine by Lowell Monke, suggests that young children should spend less time with technology based assignments and more time on the play ground and exploring nature, because that is where children learn to negotiate relationships, problem solve and use creativity in play. *Last Child in the Woods*, by Richard Louv, highlights the effects of more children seeking entertainment from technology than from play-

ing outside. Not only is the incidence of childhood obesity alarmingly high, but Louv suggests that we are losing a generation of environmental stewards.

Safe, healthy environments must include opportunities for children to be children—especially through outdoor play.

SWEP is currently developing a Junior Botanist program designed to encourage children to learn the names of local flora, get exercise and hopefully find their connection with the natural world.

**Sierra Nevada Ameri-
 corps Partnership
 Up and Running
 January 2007
 Welcome Nicole Deas
 as our Americorps
 Member!!**

As a member of the Sierra Nevada Alliance (sierranevadaalliance.org), SWEP was invited to participate in the Sierra Nevada Americorps Partnership (SNAP). This partnership is intended to help build the infrastructure of environmental organizations in the Sierra. SWEP is partnering with the TTUSD and has received funding from the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation to help pay for the \$6,000 matching funds required for participation in the program.

Interviews and member site selections were conducted in December. It is with pleasure that we announce **Nicole Deas** as our Americorps member. Nicole graduated from North Tahoe High School in 2002. She graduated December 2006 from Humboldt State with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies: Women's Studies with a concentration on environmental issues.

Nicole will be based in Truckee at the Sierra Mountain Community Center (Old SMMS). Expect to see her at TTREC meetings and projects. Nicole will be working with SWEP and partners to implement the Youth Service Symposium (May 2007), a family math and science night and she will work directly with Laurie Martin on TTUSD youth development programs.

WELCOME NICOLE!!



Dates To Remember

January 20: 9:30-4pm Project WET workshop, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, Incline Village

February 12: 3:30-5:30 TTREC meeting: Civic Engagement; NTMS rm 229

March 12: 3:30-5:30pm TTREC meeting Partnership Meeting—Bring a friend for networking and project planning! Truckee

March 28-31: National Service Learning Conference, Albuquerque, NM

March 31: Cesar Chavez day of service

April 9: TTREC meeting; Spring fling! NTMS

April 28: Earth Day at the Village at Squaw Valley

May 4: 10am-1pm Youth Service Symposium

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 Tahoe Regional Education Coalition

Healthy People, Healthy Communities, Healthy Planet

A Community Partnership Supporting Service Learning

The 2006-2007 school year has been great for TTREC attendance. We have seen new faces, new ideas and a new website! Derek Larson offered his expertise in web building and design to start up a TTREC website. Community partners are listed with a description of what they have to offer to educators and youth in our community. Right now, the site is mostly a shell, however, we hope to add pictures of events and projects as well as provide information on upcoming TTREC meetings and projects, such as the Youth Service Symposium. Check it out at www.ttrec.net.

Last year, TTREC partners organized to host the Youth Global Climate Change Symposium and this year we will do it again—the proposed theme is **Healthy People, Healthy Communities, Healthy Planet**. This event is an opportunity for students to showcase their research and service learning projects and to present them to their peers and adults. SWEP has

received funding from Region 3 service learning funds to help coordinate the logistics of the event as well as to work with teachers and community partners on youth projects to present at the event.

Teachers and community partners interested in learning more about the symposium and how to get involved can contact either Jan or Christine (contact info. below). The symposium is primarily geared for middle and high school students, however if you are working with elementary students, SWEP is preparing for, at minimum, one watershed fair for the younger grades. We are planning this in conjunction with our Wetlands Education program which we will begin implementing over the next year (see front for details).

Partnership Highlight:

Heather Segale, Education and Outreach Coordinator



Ms. Segale is the education and outreach coordinator for the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC). The Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) is dedicated to research, education and public outreach on lakes and their surrounding watersheds and airsheds. Lake ecosystems include the physical, biogeochemical and human environments, and the interactions among them. The Center is committed to providing objective scientific information for restoration and sustainable use of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Ms. Segale received her Masters of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and has been working in the field of environmental education and outreach since 2001. Heather Segale is a 10-

year resident of Tahoma, California.

The Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, recently opened in Incline Village is Heather's current priority. The Center is an international leader in science and teaching on the preservation of lakes and their watersheds. Educational tours are currently being scheduled for classrooms and private groups. Trained volunteers docents are on call to lead these tours.

SWEP is working closely with Heather on several projects, including scheduling tours at the new Center and creating a Wetlands Education program at the UCD Lake Forest site (see pg. 1). Additionally, Heather is a SWEP board member. Thank you Heather for all that you do for education in our region!

For more information about the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, contact Heather at 775-881-7562.



**Sierra Watershed
Education Partnerships**

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Gratefully funded by: State of California, CalServe program; State of California, Propositions 13 & 40; Truckee-Tahoe Community Foundation; Nevada County Forest Reserve; State Farm Service Learning Initiative; Teichert Foundation