



Sierra Watershed  
Education Partnerships

SWEP promotes environmental stewardship by connecting students to their community and local environment through comprehensive watershed education and service learning

## Summer 2008

### Youth Fire Safe Chapter Formed



Morgan presents her map of the NTMS evacuation procedure to her peers.

Students at North Tahoe Middle School have formed the first ever Youth Fire Safe Chapter and already they have something to brag about. On May 21, students in Pat Hamilton's service learning elective hosted an educational event at their school in which all 255 students attended!

These youth have been learning about defensible space, forest health and how to stay safe in an emergency situation. Community guest speakers have come to their classroom, students attended the annual meeting of the Ne-

vada Fire Safe Council and researched topics that they presented to their peers.

Students showed a power point presentation on defensible space, school evacuation procedures, fire wise plants and products we use that come from trees.

The Nevada Fire Safe Council has chapters throughout the Tahoe Basin. Their mission is to create an organization that serves as a bridge between fire services and public agencies, and communities threatened by wild-fire.

To learn more about the Fire Safe Council, the services that they provide or to learn about the function of local chapters, contact the North Shore coordinator, Ryan McDermott at (775) 720-2815 or [ryan@nvfsc.org](mailto:ryan@nvfsc.org), or visit [www.nvfsc.org](http://www.nvfsc.org).

### Community Wetland Celebration & Historic Fish Hatchery Tours June 9 12-1:30pm

The Historic Fish Hatchery building located at the corner of Hwy. 28 and Lake Forest Dr. has quite a history. The first state owned and operated fish hatchery opened near Tahoe City in 1889. This hatchery had inadequate water supply, and was moved to the current location. The building was completed in 1920. By 1940, the hatchery operations were deemed inefficient—the water was too cold and fingerlings grew too slowly. Closed in 1956, the hatchery was never reopened as a fish culture station.

In 1975, UC Davis

Tahoe Research Group began using the building as a laboratory. Then in 1996, UC Davis purchased the building for the price of \$1!

The building has undergone a historic renovation and updating of the laboratories and facilities making it a functioning state of the art research facility on the inside.

Join SWEP, UC Davis researchers and staff, and NT middle school students for a fun day at the newly renovated hatchery and surrounding wetland. Come learn what lives there, the research being conducted and check out the new

remodeled Historic Fish Hatchery building!

Students and researcher will be on hand to give tours and answer questions.

Community members are invited to spend lunch hour touring the site and get a sneak preview of the new building. The Grand Opening ceremony will be August 14.

See our website for more information - [www.4swep.org](http://www.4swep.org)

## New Programs!

### Summer Watershed Adventure Camp

July 21-25, 2008

For youth ages 11-14

SWEP's North Tahoe Adventure campers will spend each day working together as a team to participate in local service learning projects and group challenges. One day we may hike to the top of a mountain, the next get down and dirty while completing a habitat restoration project with State Park Rangers. You and your team will navigate your way around our unique local environment, while working together to document what you experience and discover on your daily journey.

North Tahoe Adventure camp will foster personal development through teaching leadership, stewardship, teamwork, healthy choices, and self-reliance.

SWEP camp instructors are Nicole Deas and Eric Mckee- Please visit our website [www.4swep.org](http://www.4swep.org) for instructor bios and camp details.

### Winter Classroom Coming Soon!

Excellence in Education and Lahontan Community Foundation have agreed to fund a 30' diameter yurt to be used as a classroom for the Winter Discovery Program at the Tahoe Cross Country Center. The pilot program will involve 8 3-5th grade classes from both Kings Beach and Tahoe Lake Elementary schools.

Contact Christine McMorrow for information, [christine@4swep.org](mailto:christine@4swep.org)





EXPERIENCE

DISCOVER

ACT



## Dates to Remember

**June 9: 12-1:30pm** Community Wetlands Celebration, Historic Fish Hatchery building

**June 11:** Forest Health Field day and Lopper Brigade tree removal, Donner State Park

**June 16:** Science Field Day, NTMS, 6th & 7th grades

**July 14-18: 9:30-3pm** Watershed Walkabout Discovery Camp; Rideout Community Center (grades 2-5)

**July 21-25: 9-4pm** Watershed Camp ages 11-14; Rideout Community Center

**August 14:** Grand Opening, UC Davis Tahoe City Field Lab (historic fish hatchery building)

**August 21: 9am-4pm** Watershed Tour, South Shore

**August 23: 9am-4pm** Watershed Tour, North Shore

**September 6: 9am-6pm** Environmental Literacy Summit; Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Incline Village

## Partnerships are a Cornerstone for SWEP Programs

By Watershed Education Assistant Eric McKee

Over the past few months I have found that Partnerships are the most integral and unique part of Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships. Since its inception, SWEP has firmly established itself in the Tahoe-Truckee community as a leader and great contributor to the service-learning and environmental education of youth and adults alike.

Once I scratched the surface of what SWEP is and what it provides, I began to see a vast network of civic minded groups, individuals, and organizations that are all working towards the betterment of our environment and lifestyles.

I quickly realized how significant these partnerships are for serving the community, and for getting the job done. By

collaborating with the Tahoe Cross-Country Ski Center, SWEP is able to implement ongoing winter ecology programs; by utilizing the Rideout Community Center we are able to run after-school and summer programs; by joining teachers around the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District we are able to come into the classroom and deliver lessons, and we continue to connect and cooperate with organizations such as the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, the Sierra Business Council, the Forest Service, and many, many more.

Thanks to the dedication, creativity, and ingenuity of the SWEP staff, alongside a plethora of community partners, I look forward to greater cooperation and unification of educators around the basin.

### Watershed Tours: Showcasing Partnerships

August 21 & 23

9am-4pm



Designed for formal and non-formal educators, the tours will showcase partnerships and educational opportunities at field locations throughout the Lake Tahoe watershed, as well as outreach opportunities for classrooms. Highlights:

- curriculum ideas to connect with the environment around your school
- visit a restoration site to learn about streams, wetlands and forest health
- monitor streams and wetlands for water quality and species
- The critical pedagogy of place using Teach Tahoe curriculum

The Watershed Tours and Environmental Literacy Summit are sponsored by the US Forest Service, Nevada Natural Resources Education Council, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, and SWEP. For more information call Joy Barney (USFS) 530-543-2685. Tickets and registration are available at [www.4swep.org/summit](http://www.4swep.org/summit)

### Environmental Literacy Summit: Sharing Assets

September 6

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Art Sussman!

The summit will bring together teachers, educators, agency and organization staff, and interest community members to share assets in Applied Science, Service Learning & Environmental Literacy. Teachers will receive integrated curriculum resources, funding information, contacts with agency and organization partners for classroom and schoolyard visits as well as field trips, and service learning project ideas. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Art Sussman, famous science educator, with his Planet Earth Show.

#### SWEP Staff:

**Christine McMorrow**  
Executive Director  
Phone/fax: 530-525-9457  
[christine@4swep.org](mailto:christine@4swep.org)

**Nicole Des**  
Project Director  
Phone: (707) 599-2502  
[deasnicole@yahoo.com](mailto:deasnicole@yahoo.com)

**Eric McKee**  
Watershed Education Assistant  
Americorps Member:  
[ejmckee@syr.edu](mailto:ejmckee@syr.edu)

**Board Members:**  
Toni Rockwell  
Sue Rae Irelan  
Heidi Bushway-Verkeler  
Heather Segale  
Monika Bock  
Dan Allison  
John Pang  
Diane Malven-Pang  
Tamara Anderson

Gratefully funded by: State of CA Prop.40 & 50; Nevada County Forest Reserve; Teichert Foundation; Town of Truckee; YCOE SL Initiative; TTCF