



Environmental Literacy Summit

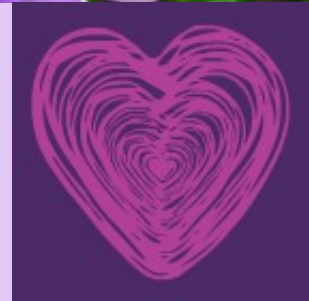
Join us on March 10 from 10am-3:30pm at the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque. We'll present the second draft of New Mexico's Environmental Literacy Plan and make plans to move it forward. Our keynote speaker is Judy Braus, Executive Director for the North American Association for Environmental Education.

As a long-time environmental education and conservation leader, Judy understands how to reach people, empower them to shape policy and advance environmental literacy efforts. In a 2014 interview on the *Voices Across EE* podcast, Judy said:

"I think of environmental education as excellent education that is focused on creating a more sustainable society. It also helps people understand what it means to be active and engaged citizens.



...People need to understand why a healthy environment is important and how it links to our quality of life. And then we need to help people understand how to get involved in the political process to create change. We're facing all these enormous challenges...and environmental education helps us navigate



Thanks for the Love!

A big thank you to everyone that supported our end-of-year fundraiser. You gave more than \$800 to support environmental literacy initiatives!

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through the issues and feel like we can have the power to create the change that we need to see in the world. It's like Ghandi's quote, 'Be the change that you wish to see in the world.' I truly believe that."

Elena Kayak, Rio Rancho Public Schools' energy/environmental specialist, will introduce the major revisions in the second draft of the Environmental Literacy Plan. During break-out sessions, we will strategize about building statewide support for adoption. We'll also hear from Debraura James, retired teacher and past recipient of EEANM's Outstanding Environmental Educator Award, about a youth-led effort to make climate change education and environmental literacy part of state requirements.

This project is funded by a grant from the Albert I Pierce Foundation. Register to attend on [EEANM's homepage](#).

Fine Food for a Sustainable Future

After the summit on March 10, join us for dinner with NAAEE Executive Director Judy Braus at Scalo Northern Italian Grill in Albuquerque's Nob Hill. We'll enjoy fantastic food, hear more from Judy, and celebrate the EE community. Tickets, \$35, include dinner and a glass of wine. Purchase in advance at www.eeanm.org. This fundraiser, sponsored in part by Scalo, will support EEANM's environmental literacy efforts across the state.

What Do You Love about the Outdoors?

February is a month full of love, and like many of you in the EE community, one of our biggest loves is New Mexico's outdoors. We asked long-time member and former Board President Kim Scheerer about her love of the outdoors:

"Sometimes when people think of love they go BIG! Think grand gestures... something that captures your attention and is over the top! Nature and the spending time in the outdoors can be the same. A trip to Costa Rica, Alaska or South Africa can lure you in with epic animals, amazing landscapes and cultural flare. For some, it's a once in a lifetime experience.

Upcoming Events

Project Learning Tree and Ag in the Classroom Workshop

Sat., Feb. 28, 9am-3:30pm, Mesilla Valley State Park, Las Cruces. Formal and informal educators receive Project Learning Tree's PreK-8 Environmental Activity Guide, try out activities from PLT and Ag in the Classroom, network with others and enjoy a delicious lunch during this workshop. \$20. Pre-registration required.

Environmental Literacy Summit

Tues., Mar. 10, 10am-3:30pm at Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque. Keynote by Judy Braus, NAAEE Executive Director. Presentation of second draft of New Mexico's Environmental Literacy Plan and plans to move it forward.

Fine Food for a Sustainable Future

Tues., Mar. 10, 7-9pm at Scalo, Albuquerque. A delicious fundraiser for EEANM's environmental literacy initiatives with a talk by Judy Braus.

Project WET Workshop

Sat., Mar. 21, time and location TBA, Los Alamos.

EE Over Lunch

Fri., Mar. 27, time and location TBA, Santa

However, getting outside doesn't have to be HUGE. You don't need \$500 dollars of equipment, 3 months of planning and a snappy "out of the office" e-mail response. Just step outside in your own backyard or walk up the street to a local park. It's close, it's calming and it may just be the one little bit of earth that you see most commonly. Look at the grass and shrubs or rocks and dirt around you.

For me, my backyard garden is the patch of the world that I take deep breathes in, that I plan tomorrow's dinner in... it's the place I call my girlfriends from or maybe even stare off into the world for a good 20 minutes to gain some perspective. My backyard garden isn't glorious or amazing; no one will put this garden in a five-page spread in Good Housekeeping. Yet this garden, with its bench made of hay and wooden planks is the best place to spot Ms. Puddlesworth, our backyard toad, and to regain myself and my energy. Mondays can't really be that bad if grasshoppers keep hopping, flowers angle to the sun and ants continue their march across the gravel and roots of my yard. Maybe I just need a bit more of my Monday to happen out there!"

Now, it's your turn. Tell us what YOU love about the outdoors on [Facebook](#) or by [email](#).

Looking for Outstanding PLT Educators

Do you know a dedicated educator who uses Project Learning Tree and encourages others to incorporate PLT into their environmental education program? Nominate him or her to be the next PLT Outstanding Educator!

Any educator working in the state of New Mexico who is trained in and using Project Learning Tree curriculum may be nominated. An educator may be a teacher, naturalist, youth leader, or anyone actively involved in the education of youth. Deadline: March 15. [Download the nomination form here.](#)

The Outstanding Educator will be honored with a plaque, \$200 award and recognition at appropriate events and through PLT and EEANM communications. The winner will be announced in April 2015.

Fe. Good food and networking with environmental educators and EE supporters. We'll be joining a group from Santa Fe Botanical Garden that meets regularly for lunch.

EE Book Club

Wed., Apr. 1, 6:30pm at NYPD Pizza, 215 Central Ave. NW, Albuquerque. *Beyond Ecophobia* by David Sobel (a short read) and *This Changes Everything* by Naomi Klein.

Environmental Justice Workshop

April, details TBA. National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque.

Partnering with NM MainStreet Program

EEANM is working with NM MainStreet Program to offer Project Learning Tree's Places We Live secondary educator workshops throughout the state. We are hoping to schedule workshops in Farmington, Grants, Raton, and Truth or Consequences. If you'd like to host a workshop, please let us know!

Around the State

Centers, Networks, Projects and People: The Expanding Ecosystem of Informal (and formal) STEM Education

Mon., Feb. 23, 2pm, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, Albuquerque. Jamie Bell, Project Director & Principal Investigator, presents an overview of the Center for the Advancement of Informal Science Education (CAISE) and informalscience.org, an online community and collection of informal STEM learning projects, evaluation, and research resources. [Read more.](#)

BOEP Annual Conference

Circle of Learning: Experience, Engage, Express

Feb. 28 - Mar. 1, Blanding UT. An exciting, hands-on conference for teachers and educators from the Four Corners region and beyond, with a special focus on K-8. [Details and registration.](#)

The Next Generation Conservationists Career Fair

Sat., Apr. 25, 1-4pm, Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge, 7851 2nd St SW, Albuquerque. Connect with around 300 students, ages 15-25, and share information on volunteer projects, internships and conservation careers. To be an exhibitor, contact Endion Schichtel, Career Fair Coordinator, Talking Talons Youth Leadership, at 505-281-1133 (ext. 8) or nwfw@talkingtalons.com.

Do you have news or events for our next newsletter?

Please send them to info@eeanm.org.

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