



Sierra Watershed
Education Partnerships

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

Fall 2007

'Got Space' Bumper Sticker Draws Statewide Attention



TJ presents the 'Got Space?' bumper sticker to Northstar fire fighters.

Defensible space education has been a prominent part of our Forest Health education program for over three years now. We have built collaborative partnerships with North Tahoe Fire's defensible space team, CA State Parks fire personnel, USFS fuels managers, and Truckee Fire to educate our local youth about important issues related to forest fire prevention and safety. SWEP's programs go beyond classroom education and field studies to include hands on experiences with community partners, in which youth participate in monitoring, restoration and public outreach projects. Examples of public outreach projects by youth participating in our Forest Health education program include brochures on defensible space, persuasive letters written to land managers and the 2006-2007

Pelletier, created the 'Got Space' sticker and presented it to the his peers and the public at the 2nd annual Youth Service Symposium held May 18, 2007 in Truckee. With a small grant from the California Community Forests Foundation and funds from Nevada County Forest Reserve grant, SWEP had the bumper sticker professionally printed for distribution. TJ has been busy presenting the bumper sticker to local fire departments and community members in order to increase public awareness about defensible space. Obviously, the Angora Fire, has done a lot to increase awareness of late, and a primary lesson learned is that education is an extremely important factor for creating awareness and action on the part of citizens.

The young people of our community have a strong desire to participate and act on important community issues such as this. By doing so, they learn

Forest Charter school freshman, TJ

how to take action on issues, while using academic knowledge and skills they are required to know for mastery of the California State content standards. Essentially, education practiced in this way provides the context youth need to be intrinsically motivated to learn and it offers them the opportunity to be civically engaged.

Students removed over 3,600 over crowded trees from Donner State Park this year! See our website for before and after pictures.

The Sierra Sun featured an article about the 'Got Space' bumper sticker in the August 2, 2007 edition. Since that time, SWEP has been contacted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and chapters of the CA Fire Safe Council, who are interested in producing the sticker to promote defensible space in forested communities.

New Programs for Fall 2007! SIGN UP NOW!

Parent Docent Workshops

The Parent Docent workshop is modeled after the Community Leaders in Classrooms workshop (offered by SWEP) and is designed for parents who work in the k-5 setting. Parents interested in learning about Art, Nutrition and Environmental programs in the schools are encouraged to attend.

See calendar for dates and times.

Math and Science Nights

This fun filled evening will demonstrate the everyday ways that we use math and science. Hands on activities will be provided by SWEP, the Nutrition Coalition, Project MANA and others. Families will learn about the type of math & science that students need to know at the 4-5 grade levels and how to foster comprehension of these skills outside the classroom.

Roots and Shoots at Rideout Teen Center

Youth participating in Roots and Shoots clubs all over the world are making a difference for people, animals and the environment. See related article pg. 4.

Sierra Junior Botanist

The Sierra Junior Botanist helps youth to learn the names and characteristics of native flora in our region. This program has been tested on kids and they love it! See related article, pg. 3.

Wetlands Program

SWEP is offering classroom presentations, field studies, and service learning projects with a focus on wetlands. Classroom presentations are aligned to science standards and last about an hour. Customized, interdisciplinary programs are available for classrooms wanting an in-depth experience.

Contact: Christine, 530-525-9457

SWEP: 1994-2007

13 Years of Watershed Education

As most things do, it started with an idea, followed by passion and commitment. It was the 1994-95 school year; Toni Rockwell and her fourth grade students partnered with Karla McClure (CA State Parks) to complete a forest health study on the property adjacent to their school, Rideout Elementary. Things went from there. Toni recalls, "I remember getting a phone call from Sue Rae [Ireland], asking if I would be interested in supporting and promoting these kinds of projects" by starting a working group.

At that initial meeting, Karla McClure introduced the group to Adopt-A-Watershed (AAW) and their place-based learning model. The AAW model required that participants organize a 'community commit-

tee'. The goal of the community committee was to foster leadership within schools and the community by offering professional development workshops, curriculum support and venues for restoration and monitoring projects.

The community committee eventually evolved into SWEP and in 1997, SWEP incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Soon after an Americorps member was hired to carry out the mission of SWEP.

The Americorps position turned into a program manager position. Then, a formal partnership with AAW (prop 13) allowed for two staff members and leadership development that has helped SWEP tremendously in getting to where we are today.

In 2007 SWEP is going strong and looking to the future!

SWEP is able to fill a unique niche in our community. There is no other organization quite like SWEP. We get kids outside—but not just for fun nor are SWEP programs an environmental education 'add on' to an already busy curriculum schedule. As our name suggests we rely on our partners and their leadership in recognizing the value and importance of restoration and monitoring projects with kids.

The leadership and vision of our partners, combined with SWEP's determination to involve youth in community projects has us seeking funding that directly benefits TTUSD students and teachers.



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 that enhance their academic classroom goals.

SWEP Core Values

1. Place is the context for learning. Our watershed is our unique place. When students are able to discover how the world works, starting with the place they live, their education becomes relevant.

2. Knowledge about environmental systems and a personal connection to the natural world produce stewards of the environment. SWEP believes that time spent in the watershed is the simplest, most effective way for students to discover and develop a personal connection to nature.

3. Civic engagement and service to community are the pillars of a democratic society. Students must practice the skills of democracy; organization, communication, collective decision-making, and critical thinking.

Friends of SWEP

Help support excellent programs for youth

We all live in a watershed and it takes individuals like you to build community, improve our schools, and create a sense of place and connection for our youth.

Friends of SWEP are a diverse group of individuals who care about exposing the young people of Tahoe Truckee to the wonders of nature through exploration, discovery and action. By becoming a Friend, you allow us to provide youth with the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary for them to become active stewards of our communities and our environment, now and in the future.

Your tax-deductible donation, combined with contributions of other Friends like you has the power to involve even more young people in our comprehensive watershed education programs. Your contribution is a direct investment in our community.

Giving Levels:

Individual Friend

\$25.00

Family Friend

\$50.00

Community Steward

\$100.00

Watershed Steward

\$250.00

Community Advocate

\$500.00

Watershed Advocate

\$1,000.00

Become a Friend Today!

Contact:

Christine McMorrow

christine@4swep.org

530-525-9457



"It's never too late to do something great"

Dorothy Haddock,
Activist



Winter Kids Discovery Program

Looking Forward to Winter '08

SWEP and the Tahoe XC Ski Education Assoc. have a shared vision of a winter ski day that goes beyond the experience of skiing to include the wonders of the forest and the winter environment. By combining the assets of both organizations, this vision can become a reality.

The Winter Discovery Center will provide an educational opportunity to youth who already use the Tahoe XC center and hopefully provide a value added educational experience that we anticipate will attract even more students.

We will pilot the program this winter ('08) with 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Lessons are in line with CA state content standards for science, math and language arts.

A nest egg has been started to get the project off the ground; specifically to purchase a 30' yurt to use as a classroom. We are currently accepting sponsorships for this program. All students will leave the program with a field journal for Winter Discovery, wherever they are!



Sierra Junior Naturalist Program

Ready to implement at all grade levels

When you're introduced to someone you learn a person's name and begin to develop a relationship. The same can be said for developing a relationship with the plants and animals of the Sierra Nevada. SWEP is excited to launch the Sierra Junior Naturalist Program. This program is intended to teach youth to identify Sierra native plants and animals. SWEP staff piloted the "Tree and Shrub" kit this summer and the kids loved it!

Students advance through levels of mastery to ultimately earn his/her Junior Botanist Certificate. The botanist portion of the program is modeled after the Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Scout troops, schools, clubs and church groups are invited to follow our protocol to help students learn how to identify native trees and shrubs in their own backyard.

The test requires students to correctly match

cones and needles – leaves and berries or flowers with the name of the plant. Our wetlands plant kit is ready for the new school year. As part of the Winter Kids Discovery Center (@Tahoe XC Center), wildlife identification (tracks and habitat), will be added to complete the Junior Naturalist program.

For more information on guidelines and how you can participate contact Jan Ellis at jan@4swep.org or 530-412-2585

Teacher's Interpretive Hike Series 2007

Exploring the Places We Live

Compelling arguments from Richard Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods* indicate that getting kids outside and into nature is essential for developing not only a sense of place, but also for developing a sense of wonder and imagination, intra- and inter-personal skills, and compassion. It is with this in mind that SWEP brings you the 2007 Teacher's Interpretive Hike Series, featuring activities from the new Project Learning Tree module, *Places We Live*.

Our theme will lead us to discover a few places in our community that offer exceptional educational opportunities for our students. All workshops include connections to Language Arts, Math and Science standards and offer opportunities for service learning projects at all grade levels.

Partners include, the Town of Truckee, UC Davis TERC, and Trout Unlimited.

Wandering Through the Wetland: October 9, 4-6pm

Adopt-a-Stream

October 16, 2007 4-6pm

Discover! Tahoe Environmental Research Center

October 30, 2007 4-6:30pm

See www.4swep.org for details.

Dates to Remember

September 24: 3:30-5:00pm TTREC Kick-Off Partnership Meeting

September 20: 10am-4pm, Service learning mentor workshop, Rocklin

September 21: 12 noon Peace One Day minute of silence

September 23: 3pm Peace Day at the Village at Squaw; flying Giant Peace Dove

September 24: 3:30-5:00pm TTREC Kick-Off Partnership Meeting

September 25: 5:30-7:30pm Parent Docent Workshop, Tahoe Lake School

September 27: 5:30-7:30pm Parent Docent Workshop, Sierra Mountain Community Education Center (old SMMS), Truckee

October 9: 4-6pm Wandering Through the Wetland, Tahoe City (next to Albertson's).

October 10: 5:30-7pm, Math & Science Night, Kings Beach Elem.

October 14: 9am-12noon, Truckee River Day

October 16: 4-6pm Adopt-a-Stream, Trout Creek, Truckee

October 23: SWEP annual meeting, location TBA.

October 25: 5:30-7pm Math & Science Night, Truckee Elementary

October 30: 4-6:30pm, Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Incline Village

Truckee Tahoe Regional Education Coalition (TTREC)

KICK OFF GATHERING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

3:30-5:30PM

Sierra Mountain Community Education Center, Truckee

The TTREC first meeting of the 2007-2008 school year is coming up! Don't miss it! Come find out what service learning opportunities are available in the community, what TTREC partners are up to this year and how you can be involved!

This meeting is for teachers, parents, community groups, agencies and non-profits who are interested in youth development through service learning and other community based learning opportunities.



EXPERIENCE

DISCOVER

ACT

Peace Day: Roots and Shoots Youth Program Giant Peace Dove Project

Roots and Shoots, a program of the Jane Goodall Institute, has clubs that participate in Peace Day all over the world. This year, SWEP is starting a Roots and Shoots club for middle school students at Rideout. The club will meet from 12:30-2:30 on Wednesdays. Our first project is making a giant peace dove to fly on Peace Day, September 21.

The Roots and Shoots Model is based on the belief that every individual matters, every individual has a role to play and every individual makes a difference. This core idea is at the root of Dr. Jane Goodall's philosophy.

"Roots & Shoots provides kids with a framework for organizing and achieving meaningful projects that connect their minds, hearts and hands as they promote care and concern for animals, people and the planet. Youth are empowered by the Roots & Shoots model— Knowledge, Compassion, Action— which teaches them they are capable of improving the status quo"

Stan Cross, Director of Education, Environmental Leadership Center, Warren Wilson College, North Carolina

The Roots and Shoots philosophy and model fit nicely with the mission of SWEP. Youth voice and choice of projects are a priority for this club. The Rideout site is perfect for outdoor investigations that could lead to service projects. R & S members are able to connect to an international network of R&S clubs. We hope to get a picture of our giant peace dove flying on Jane Goodall's website.

Contact Nicole Deas for information.
530-582-2584



A letter from the Founder of Peace One Day

Dear Friends,

I founded Peace One Day (POD) in 1999 to document my efforts to create an annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence with a fixed calendar date. In 2001, POD achieved its primary objective. United Nations General Assembly resolution (A/Res/55/282) was unanimously adopted by UN member states, formally establishing an annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence on the UN International Day of Peace, fixed in the global calendar on 21 September – Peace Day.

With the Day in place, POD's main aim is to raise awareness of Peace Day 21 September. POD is a non-profit organization, impartial and independent of any government, political persuasion, corporation or religious creed.

Last year on 21 September, **27.6 million people from 200 countries did something for Peace Day.** I hope you'll make your own commitment for Peace Day and log it on this website. By working together there will be Peace One Day. We look forward to hearing from you.

With thanks and best wishes

In peace

Jeremy Gilley

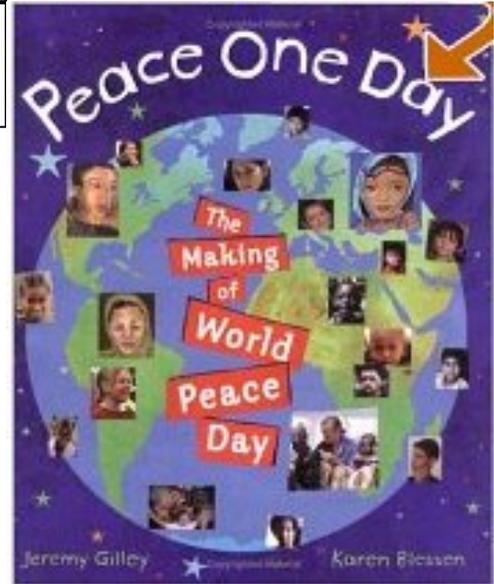
www.peaceday.org

Look for the community wide Peace Day celebration on September 23 3pmat the Village at Squaw



SWEP

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