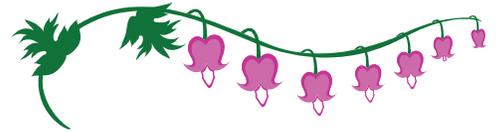




Summer Newsletter 2006



Experience. Discover. Act

Project Highlights

Forest Health:

A message from our youth

5/23/06

Dear Ranger Lozano,

Wildfire is a frightening and real danger in the Tahoe Basin. But there are things we can do to reduce the danger and help protect our forests. I think we should do a prescribed burn in Burton Creek in order to remove dead and dying trees and reduce the amount of underbrush and duff that fuels and accelerates forest fires. This is important because if a wildfire were to hit this area it would travel very quickly because of all the ladder fuels, trees without defensible space and weak or dead trees in Burton Creek.

First we need to mark the dead or dying trees and cut the majority of them down.

Some should be left standing as they are all habitats for wildlife in our area and we don't want to wipe out the wildlife. If we have the resources, we could even trim back the healthy trees that remain. Next we should make a series of controlled burns in the area to eliminate ground fuels, like the extremely flammable Manzanita bushes, that help fires spread. Finally, prescribed burns would help to create necessary defensible space for the healthy trees which remain.

I love living in Tahoe because of the mountains, the lake and the trees. But our area is in great danger of having a super wildfire that would destroy everything

The future depends on
what we do in the
present.

Mahatma Gandhi

in its path – for generations to come. We have many dead and dying trees and lots of overgrown bushes, making the spread of fire easier and the fighting of it much more difficult. This is why I think we should have a prescribed burn in Burton Creek.

Sincerely,

Mariah Dodge

6th grade

Ms. Eckert – Science



Forest Health and Climate Change projects funded by State Farm SL Initiative. Thanks!

Breaking News!

Environmental Stewards Leadership Program

Teichert Foundation
funds SWEP internship
program

SWEP is proud to announce that we have received funding to work with six high school students this summer and throughout the 06-07 school year. These students will have the opportunity to work with community partners in the field, doing things like collecting data, repairing trails, and monitoring wildlife. Students will also have the opportunity to work directly with SWEP, helping us organize education events, giving classroom presentations and hosting projects.

Since forming in 1994, SWEP has primarily worked with students within the parameters of the school day. This program expands how SWEP works with youth in our community. We are overly excited to offer this program, as we feel that it will help to fill the gap in vocational and school to work programs.

The goal of this program is to provide youth with the opportunity to work with environmental professionals in the field, gain job and leadership skills. Participants will keep a portfolio journal of their experience and complete a service project of their choice.

Space is still available for school year interns and a small stipend is available to participants.

Contact Jan Ellis,
jan@4swep.org or
Christine McMorow,
christine@4swep.org

Youth Global Climate Change Symposium *Hundreds of students participate in the 1st annual*

On May 5, 2006, 275 students, 11 teachers, 12 community partners and dozens of parents participated in the 1st annual Youth Global Climate Change Symposium. It was amazing! Students shined while showing off their projects. Presentations ranged from science fair style presentations to project citizen policy recommendations presented to Truckee mayor, Beth Ingalls and others.

If you ask students what their favorite part of the

day was, most of them will tell you that they loved watching the model solar cars race. The fastest car at the end of the day was made by a group of Alder Creek MS students.

Students from Forest Charter school gave an informative presentation about bio-diesel myths and facts. Truckee high students informed us about our household carbon footprint—did you know that the average amount of garbage dumped per household per year at the

Cabin Creek transfer station is 6,130 lbs!!! All that trash ends up in Reno, at the 3rd largest landfill in the US! Oh my!

Our keynote speaker, Doug Stoup, gave a compelling presentation about his treks to the N and S poles and Antarctica. He has been traveling to the icy areas of the world for years and has been noting the changes over time to the ice. On his last trip (N. Pole), he and his team had to swim in parts due to unexpected breaks in the ice!

Thanks to all who participated in this symposium!!



Dates to Remember

August 11-13: Sierra Nevada Alliance 13th annual Conference: N Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach

August 29-30: Education for Sustainability Workshop: Community Center TC, 10-4:30pm

August 31: TTUSD Convocation with guest speaker Jamie Cloud

September 30: Project Learning Tree curriculum/project workshop

September/October: Teacher Interpretive Hikes: More information TBA when school starts!

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.



Christine and South Tahoe MS 6th graders doing the Project WET activity 'Sum of the Parts'

Education and the Environment Initiative

SWEP invited to attend state-wide curriculum workshops

SWEP is excited to announce that we have been invited to participate in the Education and the Environment Initiative professional development workshops.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) are actively engaged in the implementation of the Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) pursuant to AB 1548 (Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003) and AB 1721 (Pavley, Chapter

581, Statutes of 2005). These landmark laws mandate the development of a unified strategy to bring education about the environment into California's primary and secondary schools. Other current key partners include the Office of the Secretary of Education, State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and the California Resources Agency.

The purpose of the workshops is to provide professional development and technical assistance to non-governmental organizations

to help adapt materials and programs to reflect California's Environmental Principals and Concepts and the model curriculum which is being developed.

For more information about the EEI, AB 1548 go to: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/>

Jan Ellis and Christine McMorrow will attend a total of four workshops. We plan to work on the Teach Tahoe curriculum, Forest Health and Water Quality units.

Education Matters: Where does SWEP fit in?

Community forums identify priorities

The recent Education Matters forums brought the community together to identify its top eight priorities for quality education. SWEP staff and board members attended the forums and were encouraged by the results, as SWEP's programs support many of the priorities identified.

The eight priorities identified are: Safe, Healthy Environment; Whole Child; Preparation for Life; Leadership/Management; Quality Staff;

Diverse Curriculum; Integrating Cultures/ Language Programs; Individualized instruction.

Each of these categories comes with a list of things that describe what that category means. The priorities that SWEP programs best support are whole child, preparation for life, quality staff and diverse curriculum.

These priorities identify things like, real life/experiential learning, lead-

ership for students, happy teachers, freedom in teaching methods, curriculum relevant to real life, integrating course work across the curriculum; all of which SWEP programming supports in our district. As we move into the 06-07 school year, SWEP will work with partners to continue to offer the services that fulfill these priorities.

See the full list of priorities on our website!

SWEP Website Gets a New Look and Great Content

www.4swep.org!

The SWEP website has gotten a new look! Thanks to Dan Allison for the changes and content update.

We have redesigned the site so that it is easy to navigate, visually appealing and full of current and historical information. Here's what you'll find:

- Community Calendar; local and regional professional development and education events

- Current and past newsletters
- Community partners information; a list of links and contacts
- SWEP's mission, vision and guiding principals
- Resources; learn more about PBSL, find the Teach Tahoe curriculum and find references for more information about using the Environment as the Inte-

grating Context (EIC) for teaching and learning

- Past projects
- How to get involved!

Please put www.4swep.org on your 'favorites' list and check the site regularly. As we plan and schedule events for 06-07, we will update the site with the latest information.

2006-2007 Theme: Education for Sustainability

Building community now and in the future



Jamie P. Cloud, founder and president of the Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education

SWEP is pleased to announce Jamie Cloud from the Cloud Institute for Sustainability as our featured workshop presenter for this year's back to school kick off.

Last year I attended one of Jamie's workshops and knew that our community could benefit from her ideas, research and solutions. The two day workshop that we have planned will take us through the concepts and mental models that surround Education for Sustainability.

About Jamie P. Cloud

Jamie P. Cloud is the founder and president of the Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education (formerly the Sustainability Education Center) in New York City. The mission of The Cloud Institute is to ensure the viability of sustainable communities by leveraging changes in K-12 School Systems to prepare young people for the shift toward a sustainable future. We monitor the evolving thinking and skills of the most important champions

of sustainability, and transform them into educational materials and a pedagogical system that inspire young people to think about the world, their relationship to it, and their ability to influence it in an entirely new way.

Ms. Cloud teaches extensively, and writes and facilitates the collaborative development of numerous instructional units and programs that are designed to teach core courses across the disciplines through the lens of sustainability. Ex-

This is not about bio-diesel and solar energy! This is about how we choose to live, participate and solve problems in our community. There will be something for everyone in this workshop.

Why education for sustainability? In our final TTREC (see pg 4) meeting of the year, participants brainstormed ideas for the 2006-07 theme that would focus the groups' activities over the course of the year. Education for sustainability came out as the overarching

examples include, Ecological Economics for Life; Introduction to Sustainability; Changing Consumption Patterns; Systems Thinking; Core Content and Habits of Mind of Education for Sustainability, and From Global Hunger to Sustainable Food Systems.

For more information about the Cloud Institute see their website:

<http://www.sustainabilityed.org/>

theme, with a lot of specific areas of focus as part of that theme, the health (physical and mental) of our youth was at the top of the list.

We feel that education for sustainability is a broad enough topic that this introductory workshop will give us enough information and ideas for taking action on the topics on TTREC's list for 06-07.

When:

August 29-30, 2006

10am-4:30pm

Where:

Community Center, Tahoe City (next to the fire station, above the Art Center)

Who:

Anyone interested in the topics of sustainability, community or education

How:

Contact Christine McMorrow, 530-525-9457 or christine@4swep.org

Registration is \$30

Inquire about graduate credit, buy-back and/or in-service credit

Two-day schedule at a glance

Workshop for teachers, community partners, parents and youth

Day 1 for Educators and Parents

What would students know, be like, and be able to do if they were educated for a sustainable future? What are we already doing? What do we need to do differently? On this first day, we will create a learning community that engages participants in activities combining systems thinking, sustainable economics, and the science of sustainability. We will increase partici-

pants' awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the core concepts, content, and habits of mind that characterize EFS.

Day 1 for community

What is sustainability, and why are a growing number of businesspeople, architects, government officials, designers, educators, planners, and others talking about it and integrating it into their work? In this intensive day-long seminar,

professionals, community leaders, and concerned individuals will explore the kinds of knowledge, skills, and habits of mind essential to developing sustainable practices. Participants will take part in activities that combine systems thinking, sustainable economics, and the science of sustainability.

Day 2

What is community? Through a variety of activities (including a

"community walk") participants will spend the morning exploring the common characteristics of community and thinking deeply about their role in their community. The afternoon will be spent in planning next steps for your communities move toward sustainability.





Partnership Highlights

Truckee Tahoe Regional Education Coalition (TTREC)

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SWEP Board of Directors
Toni Rockwell, Chair
Sue Rae Ireland, Treasurer
Heidi Bushway-Verkler, Secretary
Kristen Sura
Sarah Dorland
Heather Segale

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

The network of service learning partners, (teachers, administrators, community partners), that has come to be known as the Truckee Tahoe Regional Education Coalition (TTREC), has had an impressive year. After Cathryn Berger Kaye's visit last year, TTREC partners decided to meet monthly, host partner presentations and work together to host the Youth Global Climate Change Symposium. Over the course of the school year, we heard from Jeff Brown (Sagehen), Doug Stoup (IceAxe), and Peter Mayfield (Gateway Mountain Center). Scott Terrell hosted a workshop for teachers, in preparation for the Youth Global Climate Change Symposium (pg.1). Jill Mac Gregor hosted students at Teichert Aggregates for a day of restoration planting, water quality monitoring, and concrete making (see their stepping stones at Glenshire Elem).

All in all, TTREC partners were highly committed and involved this year. Many thanks to all those who participated throughout the year. It is exciting to see the partnership network continue to strengthen and grow.

Monthly meetings will continue for the 2006-2007 school year. Service learning site advocates meetings will be combined with the TTREC meetings, making TTREC a perfect venue for teachers to meet partners, get project ideas and learn more about PBSL. Community partners wanting to get involved in education will find TTREC a perfect venue to meet teachers, find out more about PBSL and current education trends and priorities.

Everyone is invited, **Thursday August 31, 2006** to a kick-off meeting with Jamie Cloud (see pg 3), to define our goals for the year. The meeting will be at the Truckee Tahoe Learning Center



Teichert Partners and Jan after a field day at Teichert Mine

Thanks to All Our Partners 2005-2006

Once again, another great year in service learning has gone by. And once again, it is has been made great by our dedicated community partners. Community partners support service learning in the school district by providing technical expertise and assistance, attending/hosting workshops, and by participating as a member of the Truckee Tahoe Regional Education Coalition (TTREC). Partners contribute to PBSL in our school districts by giving classroom presentations, hosting field day stations, providing project sites, and through in-kind and monetary donations.

This year, a group of dedicated partners played a key role in the planning and implementation of the Youth Global Climate Change Symposium. Other projects include stream restoration, forest health monitoring, BMP implementation, and more.

Thanks to all our partners!

Tahoe Truckee Unified School District
 Teachers' Association for Outdoor and Adventure Education (TAO)
 UC Berkeley Sagehen Creek Field Station
 Gateway Mountain Center
 Adventure, Risk, Challenge (ARC)
 Teichert Aggregates
 Truckee Donner Public Utility District
 Truckee River Watershed Council
 Tahoe Resource Conservation District
 California Tahoe Conservancy
 Lake Tahoe Unified School District
 UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC)
 Sierra Nevada Alliance
 California State Parks, Sierra District

Tahoe Lake School PTO
 Sierra House Elementary PTO
 US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU)
 Tahoe Rim Trail Association
 Integrated Environmental
 Kiwanis Club
 Town of Truckee

- * Interested becoming a Truckee Tahoe Regional Education Coalition (TTREC) partner?
- * Want more information about meeting your organizations education goals?

Contact Christine McMorrow
 530-525-9457