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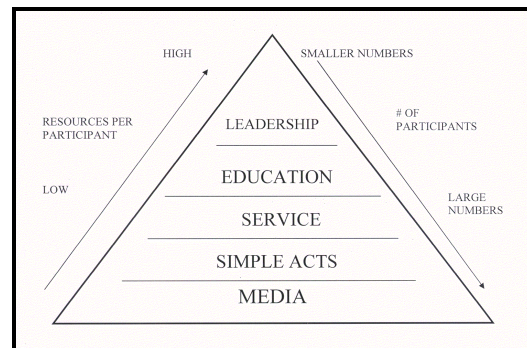
LTEEC Sets New Program Thrusts

By John Cobourn

Participants at LTEEC's annual membership meeting on May 15th urged a broadening of outreach efforts.

One suggestion was to develop a comprehensive education plan for grass roots outreach activities. A task force met on August 21 to discuss the scope of such a plan. This group endorsed LTEEC's structure and mission and recommended continued emphasis on successful subgroups such as Partners in Conservation and the Clean Water Team. The group also encouraged LTEEC to move forward on three new educational initiatives. All three were originally designated by LTEEC's Steering Committee as components of the 2002-03 Work Plan.

The proposed environmental education media campaign now under development will produce coordinated network television spots and newspaper articles on a new topic each week. At our annual meeting, Jeff Hohensee of Tree People emphasized that



School and Community Education Model proposed by Jeff Hohensee of Tree People

strong media attention to consistent messages forms the foundation of a successful environmental education model (see diagram). The LTEEC Steering Committee and public information officers from partner agencies are being consulted to help create the content of this 52-week campaign. Agencies with important messages are encouraged to submit ideas, abstracts and visual images, and to help fund this ambitious media campaign.

A second initiative launched by LTEEC and Adopt-A-Watershed (AAW) set the goal of bringing place-based environmental educa-

(Continued on page 10)

Visit the LTEEC Web site at
<http://www.lteec.org>

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In the News...

Nation Celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act

Throughout the 1960s, public awareness regarding the quality of our nation's water resources intensified as a result of highly volatile environmental issues. Thousands of dead fish washing ashore, fouled city drinking water, and lakes catching on fire were all indicative of a highly stressed aquatic system. Pollution was observable in many of the nation's rivers, streams and lakes. Swimming beaches were closed and public water supplies were contaminated. Government agencies attempted to respond to these problems, often without a good understanding of the social, legal, economic and environmental consequences of their actions. With high demand for more effective means to protect and clean the nation's water resources, Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments, better known as the Clean Water Act, in 1972.

In the three decades since its passage, Clean Water Act programs have yielded measurable improvements in water quality. Lakes and streams that were once devoid of fish and other aquatic life now support numerous and varied aquatic populations. Much of the effort to protect Lake Tahoe is still inspired and funded by the Federal Clean Water Act. Many people are dedicated to making Tahoe another success story of this Act, which has been called the most effective piece of environmental legislation ever passed.

The success of Clean Water Act programs over the years has created a false sense of security in the general public. A large portion of Americans assume that the Clean Water Act has resolved all water pollution problems.

Public attention to water resource issues has waned even though clean water is cited as one of the U.S. EPA's highest priorities. Ironically, even with that priority, public understanding and support of efforts to protect and restore the nation's water resources have steadily declined. Science has given us the ability to detect pollutants in ever-decreasing amounts, and while technological advances provide solutions to pollution problems, they also raise new pollution concerns. Nonpoint sources of pollution from urban and rural areas alike are posing an increasingly significant threat to the nation's water resources. The public steward-

ship ethic of the 1970s must be rekindled to address the broad array of human activity that consistently affects the nation's water resources.

Adopted from the 2002 Year of Clean Water Web site at
<http://www.yearofcleanwater.org/>



Think Globally...

World Summit on Sustainable Development

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Summit 2002) was held Aug. 26 - Sept. 4 and brought together tens of thousands of participants, including heads of State, national delegates and leaders from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses and other major groups. The goal was to focus the world's attention and direct action toward meeting difficult challenges, including improving people's lives and conserving our natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security. Visit www.johannesburgsummit.org to learn more.

Special Report: How to Save the Earth



The Aug. 26, 2002 edition of Time magazine featured a very upbeat (although still realistic) view of how to save the earth. According to Adi Ignatius, executive director of the Time Special Report, the "report is at its root a declaration of optimism. Yes, our planet is under siege from the combined pressures of air and water pollution, global warming and overpopulation. But new technologies, innovative, market-based incentives and a growing mainstream acceptance of green concerns offer hope that real progress is within reach..." View this information packed issue at <http://www.time.com/time/2002/greencentury/>.

Make a Difference on National Water Monitoring Day

Mark the Year of Clean Water and 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act with a real hands-on project that can make a difference in your community.

Measure the health of your local waters on National Water Monitoring Day, Oct. 18. Join thousands of students, families, and community groups as volunteer monitors, and test the quality of your local water resources. Participation is easy and fun. Your results can be submitted to the national Clean Water Data Collection Site. You'll be able to compare the health of your water with water from hundreds of sites around the nation.

With your participation, National Water Monitoring Day can be a force for mobilizing citizens' support for better clean water programs, improved local stewardship, and greater public involvement in local environmental is-

ssues beyond just clean water. Teachers, join the Earth Day Education Program and receive a free guide on how to use National Water Monitoring Day in your lesson plans to teach environmental science, citizenship skills, and offer your students an opportunity to do community service. Need a water testing kit? Low-cost *Year of Clean Water* test kits are available for purchase. Each kit includes materials for 50 tests. Use of this specific kit is not a requirement for participation in the program.

On October 18, volunteer monitoring programs, water quality agencies, students, and the general public will test for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity and enter their results into a national database. Data will be publicly available at <http://yearofcleanwater.org/>. The Year of Clean Water will also feature educational events, water festivals, and



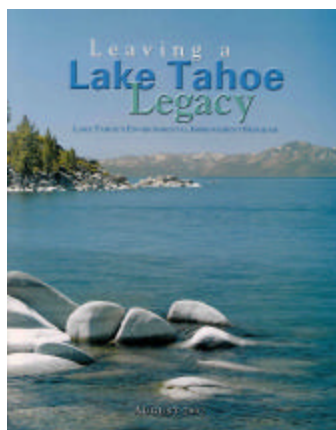
Monitoring kits are available online.

widespread press coverage. To register test sites, order low-cost water testing kits, or find out more about Year of Clean Water events, visit <http://yearofcleanwater.org/>.

LTEEC encourages all its members, organizations and agencies to participate in National Water Monitoring Day. Test kits are available for loan by contacting Heather Segale, (775) 832-4138.

TRPA Releases “Leaving a Lake Tahoe Legacy”

The second edition of “Leaving a Lake Tahoe Legacy” was published as an insert in the local newspapers in early September.



The second “Leaving a Lake Tahoe Legacy” was released in August.

In this edition, Rochelle Nason, executive director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, writes “the top challenge for the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) over the next five years will be public education. The public is being called on to make sacrifices to make the program work. The people making these sacrifices, especially those in the local community, need to understand how EIP investments result in environmental benefits, and how those environmental benefits will translate into social and economic benefits over the long term. To meet this challenge, we need community and government leaders who can comprehend and convey this vision to the public, and who have the courage

to stand up for what’s right under pressure.”

“Leaving a Legacy” describes the EIP with clear language and striking color photographs. For all educators interested in teaching the public about the monumental efforts to save Lake Tahoe, “Leaving a Lake Tahoe Legacy” is a must.

You can obtain a free copy of “Leaving a Lake Tahoe Legacy” by contacting Pam Drum, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, (775) 588-4547, ext. 237. Multiple copies of this 12-page document are available from TRPA for distribution to groups and organizations.

Why Are Trees Dying Along Our Roads?

Increased levels of tree mortality, primarily Jeffrey pines, Ponderosa pines and white fir, became evident along state highways in the Lake Tahoe Basin and surrounding areas during this spring and summer. "Although roadside vegetation tends to suffer similar damage every winter, the number of affected trees appears to be higher than in recent years, and they are located for the most part within 50 feet of the highways. The high visibility of the affected trees has caused widespread concern among the public and government agencies operating at Lake Tahoe," said John Christopherson, forest protection specialist, Nevada Division of Forestry.

There is currently some debate on what is causing the widespread tree damage and mortality in the Tahoe Basin. Shouhua Wang, Ph.D., plant pathologist, Nevada Department of



Many trees along the state highways are dying in the Tahoe Basin

Agriculture, believes that some type of pine needle blight may be killing the trees. "Pine needle blight is found everywhere in the northern part of Nevada. All symptoms are the same, a

red or brown band forms starting from the middle part of the needles, and then needles die from the band to the needle tip," reported Wang.

Since so many of the dying trees are along state highways, some people suspect that the damage is from use of road salt or brine. However, drought conditions, road salt, insect attack, a fungal infection or a combination of these could be causing the problem. Christopherson notes that "the Lake Tahoe region experienced the third driest year on record two years ago," and he suspects that "this is a highly significant contributor to observed tree damage and mortality." The Nevada Division of Forestry is currently working with the Nevada Department of Agriculture and Nevada Division of Transportation (NDOT) to study the phenomenon.

Fire Safe Councils Come to Lake Tahoe

The recent devastating fire seasons of 1999, 2000 and 2001 have caused a growing recognition that the threat of wildfire to human life and property has been escalating rapidly. Increasing the survivability of communities faced with a growing wildfire threat is the aim of the Fire Safe Council.

Fire Safe Councils have recently been formed on both the Nevada and California sides of the Tahoe Basin. Functioning in ways similar to the former "Tahoe Regreen" project, the Fire Safe Councils will help to organize lo-

cal community chapters to explore how communities can better protect themselves and increase their chances of surviving a wildfire. The Council's role is to help interested community groups accomplish necessary pre-fire activities including assessing hazards and risks, developing action plans, and securing funding to implement defensible space and hazard reduction projects. The Nevada and California chapters plan to work in a cooperative and coordinated manner.

In Nevada, Dr. Elwood Miller is the coordinator of the Nevada Fire Safe Council. If you have questions or would like to learn more please contact Miller, (775) 322-2413, or email firesafe@renonevada.net.

During FY 2002, a total of 1,039 acres of forest lands were treated for hazard fuels reduction, including 639 acres of mechanical and hand treatments, and 400 acres of pile burns.
— U.S. Forest Service LTBMU

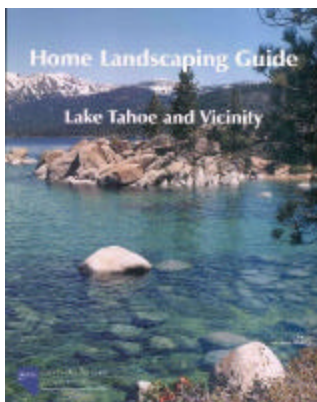


A new "Tahoe version" of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension publication "Living With Fire" is due out in October of 2002.

In California, a grant was recently awarded to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District to fund a California Fire Safe Council in the Tahoe Basin. Tim Oliver will be administering the grant and a coordinator will be hired. Contact Tim Oliver, (530) 573-2756, for more information.

Home Landscaping Guide Second Edition Is Here

The second edition of the *Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe and Vicinity* is now available. This edition has been revised to include information about the new pine needle mulch recommendations and new Best Management Practice (BMP) technologies. (The book is essentially the same as the first edition, so if you already have a copy, you do not need to get a new one.) The book is available for a donation of \$5 at TRPA, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Conservation Districts, League to Save Lake Tahoe, and most local nurseries. You can receive a free copy as part of a free BMP site evaluation by calling (775) 588-4547, Ext. 202, or (530) 573-2754.



Second Edition Now Available

Don't Forget Fall Landscape Maintenance

(Excerpted from the *Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe and Vicinity*)

Good fall garden cleanup is the best way to prevent disease and insect problems next year.

- Fertilize and plant – Ornamental plants will benefit from light fertilization after they go dormant. This encourages healthy root production. This is also a good time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials.
- What to prune – Prune evergreen trees and shrubs, and summer flowering deciduous plants if needed.
- Protect your plants for winter – Mulch plants to conserve moisture. Protect all plants from heavy snow coming off roofs, decks and driveways.
- Prepare garden equipment for winter storage.
- Keep garden records – This helps you plan next year's garden.

Shrink Large Lawns

Moving toward a more natural landscape reduces your time mowing and watering - and cuts your use of water and chemicals. Replacing excess lawn with native plants also attracts native wildlife. Furthermore, a natural landscape often uses less water than a lawn, leaving more water in the soil to recharge groundwater and streams. You don't have to go "all natural" overnight. Even a few natives will improve your yard's contribution to a healthy watershed.



Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Released

Native to the Tahoe Basin, the Lahontan cutthroat trout is currently listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Once plentiful in rivers, lakes, and streams throughout the region east of the Sierra Crest, the trout disappeared from the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watersheds in the 1940s—the result of diversions of water for agriculture, pollution, overfishing, and the introduction of non-native fish. In late June about 30,000 Lahontan cutthroat trout were released in the Truckee River between Tahoe City and Truckee. In mid July about 36,000 Lahontan cutthroat trout were released in Fallen Leaf Lake.

Job Announcements

- Tahoe Rim Trail Association seeks experienced candidates for their Executive Director position in Incline Village, Nevada. For a job description and application procedures visit <http://www.tahoerimtrail.org>.
- Nevada Tahoe Conservation District seeks Associate Program Manager of Backyard Conservation Program. Contact Jason Drew, (775) 586-7202.
- Nevada Tahoe Conservation District seeks Crew Leader, Backyard Conservation Program. Contact Jason Drew, (775) 586-7202.
- Fire Safe Council Coordinator. Contact Tim Oliver, (530) 573-7026.
- Great Basin Outdoor Schools is hiring three VISTA members. Contact Sue Jacox, (775) 687-5538.
- TAO Education, Inc. is seeking a Program Director/Fundraiser. Contact Derek Larson, (530) 550-7252.

Environmental Education Calendar of Events

October

Oct. 1: Teacher's Interpretive Hike: Fire Ecology, 3:30 - 5:45 p.m. Explore the dynamic of fire in the forest. Learn how the effects of prescribed fire differ from the effects of wildfire. Contact Christine McMorrow, Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships (SWEP), (530) 525-6692.

Oct. 5 - 6: Lake Tahoe Kokanee Salmon Festival, Taylor Creek. The Kokanee Salmon Festival is a family event that encourages participation by children and their parents in a wide variety of educational and entertaining events. Contact Mike St. Michel, U.S. Forest Service, (530) 573-2600 Ext. 2611.

Oct. 7 - 10: Sierra Nevada Science Symposium, North Lake Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach. Contact Joni Rippee, Wildland Resources Center, (510) 642-0095 or visit <http://danr.ucop.edu/wrc/snssweb/snss.html/>.

Oct. 8: Tahoe-Baikal Institute Public Forum. TBI will be hosting 25 environmental ministers and biodiversity specialists from Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan), Eastern Europe (Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), and Russia in Lake Tahoe from Oct. 1—10 to highlight lessons learned from regional planning at Lake Tahoe. The project will be sponsored by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). A public forum with the participants is planned for Oct. 8 at Lake Land Village in South Lake Tahoe. See www.tahoebaikal.org for more information.

Oct. 10: Teacher's Interpretive Hike, 3:30 - 5:45 p.m. Stream Ecology with

Tahoe Conservancy. Learn about the plants and animals of the riparian zone and how they affect the health of the stream. Contact Christine McMorrow, SWEP, (530) 525-6692.

Oct. 18: National Water Monitoring Day. See story page 3. On October 18, 2002, volunteer monitoring programs, water quality agencies, students, and the general public are invited to test waters across the nation in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Contact Heather Segale, (775) 832-4138.

Oct. 18: Snapshot Day Volunteer Appreciation Party. Join the Clean Water Team from 6—8 p.m. at Valhalla in South Lake Tahoe for dinner and guest speakers to celebrate the release of the 2002 Snapshot Day Report. For Snapshot Day participants only. Contact Heather Segale, (775) 832-4138, segaleh@unce.unr.edu.

Oct. 20: Truckee River Day. Join the community in restoring our beloved Truckee River. The seventh Annual Truckee River Day is a citizen-based watershed restoration day. This enormously popular community event gives volunteers the opportunity to work on any of a number of restoration activities along the Truckee River and its tributaries. Projects may include revegetation of damaged and eroded sites, stream surveying, photo monitoring, seed collection, fencing to keep animals out of fragile streams, aspen regeneration, bird box construction or maintenance and trash pick up. Last year one of our projects was the planting of more than 4,000 native shrubs along the Truckee River at the site of the Martis Fire. At the end of the day volunteers release native Lahontan cutthroat trout into the river.

Submit environmental education events for inclusion in the calendar of events. Updates are available at <http://www.lteec.org>

ages. Contact Lisa Wallace, (530) 587-4509, lw Wallace@truckeeriverwc.org.

Oct. 26: Teacher's Interpretive Hike, 9:30 - 11:45 a.m. Outdoor Artistic Expression with interpreter Marya Roddis, Arts for the Schools. Roddis, a Master Gardener and lifelong artist, will share techniques for field sketching to record wildlife, botany and landscape in the field. Contact Christine McMorrow, SWEP, (530) 525-6692.

Oct. 26: Teacher's Interpretive Hike, 9:30 - 11:45 a.m. Forest Management/Restoration with interpreter Rex Harold, Nevada State Forester. Rex Harold will give insight into the many components and considerations taken into account on a restoration site. Contact Christine McMorrow, SWEP, (530) 525-6692.

November

Nov. 2: Tahoe Rim Trail Association Annual Meeting, North Lake Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, 1—4 p.m. This is a time for Tahoe Rim Trail Association members and guests to gather and recap the year's events, recognize volunteers, thank financial supporters and talk about future plans for the trail. There will be a State of the Trail Address by President, Nancy Greenhalgh, a slide-show presentation, trail tales, a free raffle, and time to socialize. Refreshments will be of-

Environmental Education Calendar of Events, continued

(Continued from page 6)

ferred. Contact Shannon Raborn, (775) 298-0012, info@tahoerimtrail.org, or visit <http://www.tahoerimtrail.org/>.

Nov. 3—6: Watershed Management Council's Ninth Biennial Conference at the Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington. See article at right or contact Dr. Charles Slaughter, (208) 364-4069.

"Watersheds are vital - The quality of life as we know it depends on water. Whether viewed as resource or commodity, water is the basis of our agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental and aesthetic well being and has been alternately taken for granted, abused, exploited, worshipped, and prayed for. Yet it is only recently that a conscious effort has been made to coordinate agencies and individuals to effectively manage and regulate land use as it applies to watershed management."

- The Watershed Management Council

Watershed Management Council Conference

Watershed Management Council's Ninth Biennial Conference, Nov. 3-6, 2002 at the Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington. The overall conference theme is "Watersheds Across Boundaries: Science, Sustainability, Security." Topics include:

- Watershed Management Across Political Barriers
- Urban Watersheds: Stewardship or Desperation
- Evolution of Watershed Councils
- When Science and Law Butt Heads
- Stream Restoration: Evaluating Effectiveness in a Watershed Context
- Conflicts Between the Clean Water Act and State Laws
- Environmental Education and Public Involvement
- Can Watershed Sustainability be Evaluated?
- Watershed Security: What does it Really Mean?

To register for this conference, please go to <http://www.watershed.org/> or contact Chuck Slaughter at (208) 364-4069 or cslaugh@uidaho.edu.



Watershed Management is Not New to Lake Tahoe

While Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) has been steadily gaining adherents worldwide since the late 1980s, it has been established practice at Lake Tahoe since the late 1970s. Since that time, all planning issues, whether for land use, floodplain management, municipal water supply, wastewater treatment, environmental restoration or nonpoint source pollution have been coordinated by the bi-state Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) in concert with other governmental agencies.

Integrated Watershed Management recognizes the interconnectedness of all natural systems. Since the 70s, scientists and planners at Tahoe have known that disturbance of soil and vegetation anywhere in Tahoe's surrounding watershed will affect the lake's water quality. To this day, most environmental education at Lake Tahoe is aimed at teaching its residents how to reduce our cumulative watershed effects on the lake.

The Watershed Management Council Conference this November (see article to left) will bring together scientists, researchers and educators from the Western United States to learn from each other how to improve the state of the art of watershed management.

Mark Your Calendars for Future 2003 Events

For our full calendar, please visit our Web site at www.lteec.org and click on the Calendar.

Coming Soon:

GLOBE Training for Teachers

Community Leaders in Classrooms Training for Resource Professionals

For Tahoe Area Teachers and Students...

Adopt-a-Watershed Strategy

Please welcome the new Adopt-a-Watershed (AAW) regional coordinator, Jill Sarick. AAW, a national program based out of Hayfork, California, is a K-12 community-based learning experience that uses the local watershed as a living laboratory in which students engage in hands-on activities, making science relevant to their lives. It weaves education with the community, developing collaborative partnerships and reinforcing learning through community service. The goals of Adopt-a-Watershed are to enhance K-12 science education and encourage watershed stewardship.



A five-member team from North Lake Tahoe and Truckee attended the AAW Leadership Institute in Bend, Oregon in 2001 and 2002. These teams are working to build networks and encourage watershed stewardship through K-12 partnerships between community partners and schools. "This is a very exciting step for the future of education in our region," said Sarick. "Using the Adopt-a-Watershed model, we can establish partnerships that will engage students in their local watershed, helping them gain a sense of place by participating in projects that make a positive impact on their communities."

So, what does the future of education look like for the Tahoe Truckee region? The Adopt-a-Watershed partnership with the Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition creates endless possibilities. Tahoe Basin Executives have called for a "Tahoe-based Education Plan" which will promote awareness of the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watersheds' primary concerns and create life-long stewards for our region. This year, AAW seeks to identify community needs through informational interviews, focus groups and surveys. Educational committees will be formed at each school site to create learning experiences that are grounded in actual community projects and real-life Tahoe issues. The long-term goal is the creation of a regionwide Tahoe-based science curriculum for third, sixth, ninth, and twelfth-grade, an evaluation and reporting system, a regional leadership base, and increased cultural competency and environmental literacy for all students.

For more information on the K-12 Working Group, log on to <http://www.lteec.org>. For more info on Adopt-a-Watershed, check out <http://www.adopt-a-watershed.org>

No Child Left Behind

What new education reform laws mean to Tahoe-Truckee educators

Did you know that roughly 68 percent of major business firms report educational shortcomings in their employees? Some high schools in the United States never graduate more than 50 percent of their students. Eighty percent of students entering elementary schools feel good about themselves, but by the time they are seniors in high school, only one in five has positive self-esteem.

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, signed into law in January of this year by President Bush, is said to have some of the most sweeping changes to elementary and secondary education since the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was enacted in 1965.

Enhanced education opportunities are desperately needed, not just for our individual students, but for the entire nation. We are facing a serious challenge, but there is hope. On the horizon, in many classrooms across the nation, education is undergoing a silent reform. One important change includes new teaching methods and programs such as *Service Learning*, *Tribes*, *Project-Based Learning*, *Place-Based Learning (PBL)*, *Using the Environment as an Integrating Context (EIC)*, and more. NCLB imposes time requirements and accountability on the outcomes of this reform.

NCLB changes the federal government's role in kindergarten through 12th grade education by asking America's schools to describe their success in terms of what each student accomplishes. The best known requirement of this Act is standardized testing in all grade levels for reading, math and (soon) science to show that students are meeting academic standards. The Adopt-a-Watershed program in the Tahoe Truckee region assists schools in implementing effective teaching methods to enhance student learning and achievement.

To keep informed of developments in NCLB visit <http://www.ed.gov>. For information on Service Learning, check out <http://www.learningindeed.org>, and for more information on Using the Environment as an Integrating Context (EIC), go to <http://www.seer.org>.

Frederick's Cabin Gets Spruced Up

The Tahoe-Baikal Institute (TBI) would like to thank the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), LTEEC Members, Tahoe Turning Point, and others for helping to clean up the Fredericks Cabin at Fallen Leaf Lake on July 29, prior to use by the 2002 Summer Exchange Participants. TBI has been using this USFS cabin since 1995 to house international graduate students and train them about regional planning issues at Lake Tahoe. The crew spent all day painting, cleaning, and restoring the historic home on a 40-acre site just off Emerald Bay Road. Jane Fredericks provided a history of

the site, and a barbecue topped off the day.

The USFS, which owns the cabin, is interested in developing it into a year-round environmental education center. USFS and TBI have discussed expanding their existing use of the cabin while also opening the cabin to new users such as the Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC), Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (LTEEC) and others, for year-round environmental education activities. Considerable planning and finances are needed to realize this goal, but TBI



Tahoe-Baikal Institute 2002 Participants

hopes this can become a reality over the next couple years. For details contact Tony Brunello at TBI, (530) 542-5599.



Students learn about Lake Tahoe aboard the Prophet.

Marine Research and Education Program Receives New Addition

The Marine Research and Education (MR&E) program is an exciting hands-on experience for children of any age, providing participants with an overview of environmental issues surrounding the Tahoe Basin. MR&E is running strong with more than 1,200 children attending so far this year. They are currently busy making changes for a new season of classes starting this September.

A new and exciting addition to the hands-on aspect of the program is a digital microscope. This microscope is an impressive addition that allows the children to get a better look at the plankton community while onboard

the boat. The microscope is connected to a television located on the boat so that the entire class can participate in the discussion. Students and teachers discuss the two different genera of zooplankton, their characteristics, taxonomy, and how they affect lake clarity. MR&E staff and students are thankful for the donations that made the purchase of this microscope possible.

MR&E runs classes Monday through Friday, based on availability and weather. For more information or questions, please call Marine Research and Education, (530) 541-7409.

Book Review

"The Story of Lake Tahoe" by Dixie O. Westergard combines text, activities and coloring pages to tell the story of the Lake and Basin. The 100-page book is now available for distribution and may be appropriate for children of any age but is most suitable for fourth- to sixth-graders. The text, which is complemented by pictures and exercises, informs the reader about Tahoe's history, development, and natural and man-made environment, and efforts to protect and preserve its beauty. The chapters are full of interesting anecdotes and descriptions of the people who have lent their names to local places. The stories of Chief Truckee, Duane L. Bliss, Henry Yerington, Seneca Marlette, John Freemont, Snowshoe Thompson, John Griff, John Muir and Captain Dick all add color to "The Lake Tahoe Story." Indeed, this book has a little something for everyone, and it might be ideal for a joint exploration by a child and his or her parent or grandparent. For more information, contact Dixie O. Westergard, (775) 882-3506.

New Programs (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

tion into all Lake Tahoe elementary, middle and high schools. (See articles on page 8.) Our K-12 watershed education subgroup now has a full-time regional coordinator, Jill Sarick, who has been funded by AAW. Teachers and administrators who would like to help develop classroom and in-service learning projects about Tahoe's environment should contact Ms. Sarick, (775) 832-4167.

A third area of emphasis is our commitment to increase public knowledge about Lake Tahoe's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The EIP is a complex package of capital improvement and research projects that affects everyone in the Tahoe Basin. LTEEC subgroup members are urged to distribute existing EIP information materials to help spread the word about this important and necessary program. Details about the EIP are available through Pam Drum at TRPA and in both the 2001 and 2002 versions of "Leaving a Lake Tahoe Legacy." (See also page 3.)

Tahoe Interagency Information Management System (TIIMS) Under Development

The Tahoe Interagency Information Management System (TIIMS) project will provide a comprehensive data and information management system based on the latest Internet technologies for the Tahoe Basin. TIIMS will enable a wide range of users to contribute, identify, share and access valuable information about the Lake Tahoe watershed. TIIMS will provide a means of accessing, exchanging, and analyzing data and information across a spectrum of information types (primary data, summary data, reports, fact sheets, maps, and more). TIIMS



Sierra Nevada Science Symposium Coming Soon

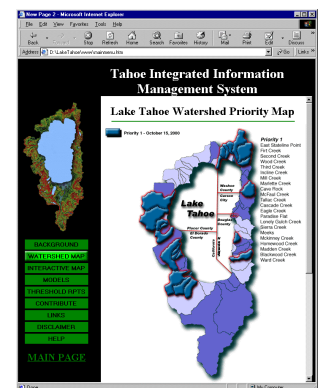
The Sierra Nevada Science Symposium will be held October 7 - 10 at the North Lake Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach.

Policies and strategies that guide use and management of lands in the Sierra Nevada Ecoregion are dependent on objective scientific information. In recent years attention to this bioregion has increased. Correspondingly, there has been much new information collected. Efforts such as the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) illustrate the great effort that is devoted to collecting and using scientific information in support of resource and land management in this region. Each year the array of decisions that affect lands and natural resources in the Sierra carries more weight; evidence the recent interest in the Sierra Nevada

(National) Forest Plan Amendment. How do scientists, therefore, promote the development and communication of scientific findings to inform management and policy decisions?

This symposium is intended to promote the dissemination of scientific evidence to managers, policy-makers, other scientists and the public, and to inform policy decisions. The presentations will range from the discussion of recently gathered scientific knowledge to the integration of that knowledge into planning and management processes and tools.

For more information, visit the website at <http://danr.ucop.edu/wrc/snssweb/snss.html> or call Joni Rippee, (510) 642-0095.



TIIMS, once completed, will provide an interactive website used for gathering and sharing information

will also provide managers with a tool to support adaptive management and decision-making regarding environmental thresholds, the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), and other emerging issues. Finally, TIIMS will be an information system accessible to a broad range of users – program managers, researchers, scientists, and the general public.

TIIMS' conceptual design, user needs assessment and work plan have been completed. Next steps include development of an online prototype.

Contact Tricia York, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, (775) 588-4547, Ext. 201, for more information about the TIIMS project.

About the Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (LTEEC)

LTEEC is sponsored by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and University of California Cooperative Extension.

Our mission is to provide support and leadership to improve the overall effectiveness of environmental education at Lake Tahoe by facilitating groups working together to educate and motivate the public about how to protect the Lake Tahoe environment.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Bringing the University to You

Participating Partners

- California Conservation Corps
- California Native Plant Society
- California State Parks
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- California Tahoe Conservancy
- Desert Research Institute
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Lahontan Audubon Society
- League to Save Lake Tahoe
- Nevada Conservation Corps
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- Nevada Division of State Lands
- Nevada State Parks
- Nevada Tahoe Conservation District
- Parasol Foundation
- Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships
- Tahoe Americorps Group
- Tahoe Area Sierra Club
- Tahoe-Baikal Institute
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District
- Tahoe Rim Trail Association
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- University of California, Davis, Tahoe Research Group
- University of Nevada, Reno
- Waste Not, Incline Village General Improvement District

LTEEC is comprised of various working groups or sub-groups. Each group is led by one or two individuals with a passion for the group's mission, as summarized below. Please call us if you would like to join our efforts!

Partners in Conservation

Assist homeowners in implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control erosion and runoff from landscapes.

Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) Outreach

Educate residents about Lake Tahoe's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

Citizens' Restoration

Educate and involve citizens in actual environmental restoration projects.

K-12 Watershed Education

Help teachers and schools integrate environmental education into the classroom.

Higher Education and Research

Work with scientists to disseminate information about the research projects conducted within the Lake Tahoe Region.

Business and Tourism

Educate visitors and engage businesses in solutions to Lake Tahoe's unique environmental problems.

Citizens' Monitoring: The Clean Water Team

Engage citizens in watershed stewardship and monitoring of environmental indicators.

Forest Health and Fire Prevention

Work with fire prevention agencies to ensure dissemination of consistent defensible space messages in the community.

Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group

Prevent and control invasive weed species in the Basin by sharing resources and information and standardizing methods of treatment and data collection.

Produced quarterly by the Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (LTEEC). Send event listings, letters or comments to:

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Water Resource Specialist
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
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