

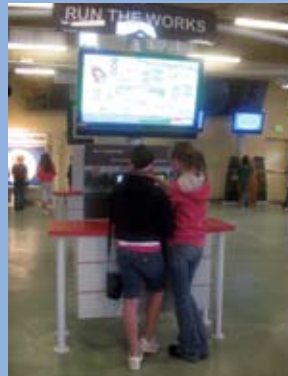


Boise WaterShed News / Fall 2008

Welcome to the first edition of the Boise WaterShed newsletter! Since we opened our doors in May, we've served more than 2,000 visitors with exhibit hall tours, hands-on classes, and wastewater and lab tours. If you haven't visited yet, dive into the fun! We recently launched a series of free Watershed Weekend programs on the third Saturday of each month to engage families with our community partners and watershed stewardship opportunities. The exhibit hall will be open every third Saturday of the month from 9:30–4:30. Thanks to the individuals and community donors, who without their support the Boise WaterShed would not have been possible!

K-12 Education Lessons and Tours

School classrooms and community groups are discovering how much fun it is to explore and learn at the Boise WaterShed. With 11 lessons and tour options from which to choose, there is something for all ages. Each tour or lesson explores the themes presented in the interactive exhibit hall and aligns with the Idaho State Standards. Using hands-on demonstrations, applied science and experiments, students understand the lessons that our watershed teaches.



Tour options include the Boise WaterShed exhibit hall, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, or the Water Quality Lab.



The two most popular lessons this past summer include "Wonderful Water Cycle" and "Water Conservation: Every Drop Counts." Both of these lessons are designed for kindergarten through grade 3. Wonderful Water Cycle teaches the basics of the water cycle through interactive indoor and outdoor games, a

fun skit with costumes and props, and the Water Cycle Boogie song and dance. Water Conservation: Every Drop Counts teaches kids why it's important to conserve water by estimating the amount of clean water on Earth. Kids learn how water use around homes, schools and communities has changed over time, as well as how much water daily activities use like brushing your teeth and taking a shower.

If you are interested in bringing a group to the Boise WaterShed, please contact the Boise WaterShed at (208) 489-1284. Groups of 10 or more people must make a reservation at least two weeks in advance. Visits may be scheduled Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is always FREE.



NEWS BRIEFS

The Poop Scoop: Doo you know?

The West Boise Wastewater Treatment Plant receives the highest wastewater flow one day out of the year: Super Bowl Sunday! On this day, the plant receives about 24 million gallons per day (MGD). On average, the plant receives about 14 MGD on weekdays and 16-17 MGD on the weekends. The flow capacity for West Boise and Lander Street wastewater plants is 40 MGD, which can accommodate population growth in the Treasure Valley.

Meet the Staff

Environmental Education Coordinator Cindy Busche has been involved with Boise WaterShed exhibit and program development since October 2007. She has over 10 years of museum and zoo education coordination experience, and more recently was the Stormwater Education Specialist for Partners for Clean Water. You may have seen her out and about as Eddy Trout! Cindy feels very fortunate to be working on program development with an amazing group of talented staff and volunteers who care about clean water.

Christina Rivas was hired in July as a Customer Service Specialist. Christina has been a volunteer at the Boise WaterShed since May. (Even before the grand opening!) In her new role, Christina will be assisting with administration, greeting visitors, teaching lessons, leading tours and staffing special events. A native of San Diego, Christina moved to Boise in March with her husband Mark, who is stationed here in the U.S. Navy. She previously worked at the San Diego River Park Foundation assisting with project management and grant writing. Christina holds a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management and a bachelor's degree in Communication with a public relations emphasis. We are thrilled to have Christina as a member of the Boise WaterShed team!

Volunteer Spotlight

Trent Hodges began volunteering for the Boise WaterShed in May. Although native to Boise, Trent is currently a senior at the University of San Diego in California majoring in environmental studies. Trent graciously spent some of his summer break at the Boise WaterShed. He worked with middle school kids at the BEE Wild in the City and Boise Earth Action Camps. Trent shares this about his volunteer experience, "The kids camps were an amazing experience for me as I was able



to teach what I am passionate about and help educate them on important water issues. Watching the kids become interested in water while also having an awesome time was an experience that will stay with me into the future." We appreciate all of Trent's efforts this summer and wish him the best in his future studies.

Since the Boise WaterShed opened in May, a steady stream of volunteers has flowed through the doors ready to share their time and talents. We welcome and thank the following volunteers for their contributions: Joan Cloonan, April Harrison, Trent Hodges, Wanda Jennings, Barbara Lane, Shane Sterling, Camille Wight, Bill Grange, and Ammany McFadden. All of these gifted individuals have done a tremendous job of engaging visitors with a unique experience and ensuring that the Center's resources are in place.

Boise WaterShed Volunteer Opportunities

The Boise WaterShed is always looking for new volunteers. We are currently in need of individuals interested in becoming education docents to greet visitors, lead tours and assist with outreach programs. We also need special event and administrative assistants. Hours are flexible and built around personal schedules. Volunteering has many benefits including a personal sense of satisfaction, increased knowledge about water issues, opportunities to meet members of the community, and free unlimited admission to 11 museums after 60 hours of service.

A few upcoming volunteer opportunities include assisting with our Open Saturday activities on September 20 that focus on water quality; Saturday, October 18 for an Audubon birding walk; and Saturday, October 25 for the Girl Scout Waterdrop Patch Day.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Boise WaterShed, please contact Cindy Busche, Environmental Education Coordinator, at (208) 938-8093 or download an application at www.BoiseEnvironmentalEducation.org.



11818 W Joplin Rd
Boise, ID 83714

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
WATERSHED WEEKEND PROGRAM
OPEN 9:30-4:30

Join us from 10-12 for an all-ages Autumn stream walk along the Boise River. We'll walk about 1 mile total along the River looking at Riparian habitat and discussing its impact on water quality.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
WATERSHED WEEKEND PROGRAM
OPEN 9:30-4:30

The Golden Eagle Audubon Society will host an all-ages program at the Boise WaterShed from 10-12. Meet the feathered friends who call the grounds of the Wastewater Treatment Plant their home! Bring binoculars and dress for an outdoor hike.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 5-8 PM
RECEPTION FOR GARY MINTON

Join us for a reception for Gary Minton at the Boise WaterShed! The reception will follow the 2-day intensive "Stormwater Treatment: Design to Performance for Semi-Arid Climates" workshop that will be held at Comfort Suites Airport location. *For more information visit www.PartnersForCleanWater.org*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 10-1
GIRL SCOUT WATER DROP PATCH PROJECT

Junior Girl Scouts will earn their EPA Water Drop Patch as they explore the natural world to learn about watersheds and water pollution. Make a difference in your community by becoming watershed stewards! *Register: Girl Scouts of the Silver Sage, (208) 377-2011, www.girlscouts-ssc.org. Limit: 75 participants. Cost: \$8 includes patch and snacks.*