



Boise WaterShed News / Winter 2009

Happy New Year!

As 2008 comes to a close we reflect on all of the individuals, community partners, corporations and agencies who continue to help make the Boise WaterShed Environmental Education Center a success. We've welcomed over 5,000 visitors through our doors, and we plan to share our water conservation and stewardship message with many more this coming year. Watch for the surge of projects planned for 2009 — the new interactive Home Water Saver exhibit, a stellar line-up of WaterShed Weekend programs, Citizen Monitoring Day, artist Amy Westover's stained glass window installation and floor entryway, art podcast tours, and more!

Citizen Monitoring Day

The 1st annual Lower Boise River Citizen Monitoring Day was held on September 13, 2008. This collaborative effort was planned in conjunction with World Water Monitoring Day and Boise RiverSweep events. Working closely with many water quality management agencies, 92 citizen volunteers collected water quality information (chemical, physical, visual assessments and photo documentation) at 16 river, tributary and pond locations. Citizen Monitoring Day was not only successful in engaging the public in active watershed stewardship, but it also provided valuable Tier 3 water quality data for future comparisons. After February 3 data results will be posted in the World Water Monitoring Day Year In Review report at www.wcmd.org



Thanks to all of the 2008 participants! Join us for the next Citizen Monitoring Day on Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. To sign up as an individual, family or group, email BoiseWaterShed@cityofboise.org or call 489-1284 with your name, contact information, and preferred location in the Boise River watershed.

New Infusions for BWE

Mike Hill and NorRae Spohn are the two newest members elected to serve on the Boise WaterShed Exhibits, Inc. (BWE) Board of Directors.

As VP and General Manager, Intermountain Region, MSI Systems Integrators, Mike brings twenty five years of marketing experience to the effort to raise funds for the Boise WaterShed. Mike will spearhead the Pave-To-Save-Our-Water, brick paver program which has the potential to contribute significantly to the Boise WaterShed's Phase II, 1.2 acre pedestrian Water feature and interpretive Grounds.

NorRae Spohn recently retired as Senior VP, Imaging & Printing Group for Hewlett Packard and offers twenty-six years of science experience to the Board. NorRae has been looking for a meaningful way to serve the community and says that, "The Boise Watershed is unique in the way that it allows me to combine several of my passions — children, education and the environment."

On the financial front, Carrie Maulin, BWE Executive Director, secured a \$4,000 grant from the Whittenberger Foundation to fund a portion of her part-time administrative position. Carrie says, "This donation is significant in that it marks the first time the Whittenberger Foundation has contributed to an environmental cause."

NEWS BRIEFS

2009 BEE Catalog has arrived!

Download your copy of Boise Environmental Education K–12 Lessons and Tours: www.BoiseEnvironmentalEducation.org under Lessons and Tours.

Coming this February!

The new, whiz-bang Home Water Saver exhibit — buttons, knobs and levers; lights, sound and action; and take-home water saving hints.

Water in the WaterShed?

The Boise WaterShed literally became a "watershed" on the morning of December 3. A watermain outside the northeast door broke suddenly, flooding the entire facility in two inches of water. Thanks to quick action from plant maintenance staff, the water was quickly removed and the exhibits remained unharmed. However, there was minor water damage to the walls. The facility will reopen just in time for WaterShed Weekend event "Water Conservation for the New Year" this Saturday, January 17.

Meet the Boise WaterShed Staff

Toni Smith joined the Boise WaterShed staff in August 2008. She is a graduate student in Hydrologic Sciences at Boise State University, and was awarded a fellowship under the National Science Foundation GK-12 Program. The fellowship allows selected BSU graduate students in Biology and Geosciences to work as an informal science educators with K-12 students and teachers, with the goal of enhancing communication between scientists and nonscientists. Toni is delighted by the opportunity to teach courses and develop curriculum with the incredible Boise WaterShed team, and she looks forward to sharing science with more K-12 students!

Tom Bouton joined the Boise WaterShed team in September as the AmeriCorps Education Specialist. AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs created to improve environment, enhance education, increase public safety, and assist with disaster relief and other unmet human needs. He has four years of experience as an environmental educator and English teacher in China, Chicago and Oregon. Tom is eager to see another season in our watershed and the range of classes to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT, JAN 17

WATERSHED WEEKEND PROGRAM:

Water Conservation for the New Year

OPEN 10 am–2 pm; Treatment Plant tour at 1 pm

Start the New Year off right armed with the tools you need to save money and water. Find out where you're pouring money down the drain and what you can do to increase your cash flow, while reducing energy and water consumption. At 11:30 a.m. see and hear energy efficiency tips from Idaho Power. Calculate your water footprint and take home free water efficient devices. Kids can take the water challenge to become a water hero! FREE admission.

FRI & SAT, FEB 13–14

Intro to the Boise WaterShed Education Center Educator Workshop for K-12 teachers

Feb 13, 4:30–9 pm, Feb 14, 8 am–4pm.

Cost: FREE or \$60 for one (1) Graduate credit available through U of I, BSU, or NNU.

This two-day workshop is designed to provide teachers with an introduction to the variety of water-related educational re-

sources and opportunities the Boise WaterShed provides to enhance and localize their classroom instruction. Through hands-on Project WET activities, knowledgeable presenters, and field trips, teachers will gain an understanding of how the natural and man-made watershed intersect. Register by Feb 1: Julie Scanlin at 332-4414 or jscanlin@uidaho.edu.

SAT, FEB 21

WATERSHED WEEKEND PROGRAM:

H2O Olympic Games

OPEN 10 am–2 pm; Treatment Plant tour at 1 pm

Come out for some friendly competition in recognition of the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. Get to know some of the unique properties of H2O and compete against others in wacky water games that demonstrate water's unique qualities. You're sure to discover that water is an Olympian in the natural world! FREE admission.

(CONTINUED BOTTOM PANEL)

Volunteer Spotlight

Camille Wight was raised in Boise, Idaho, in 2004 she graduated from Capital High School and headed to Logan, Utah to attend Utah State University. Last May she graduated with degrees in both Environmental Studies and Philosophy. During a brief study abroad in the Great Rift Valley of Kenya she had opportunity to examine native people's use of water and gained a particular interest in the relationship between people and the environment in which they live. Eventually she hopes to attend law school with an emphasis in environmental law. Volunteering here since May she has put together several teacher resource kits, and recently discovered the flood in the exhibit hall!



Welcome, new volunteers: Bob Mallis, Brinya Olmstead, Andy Roman, Marsha Wood, Allan Waite, Jeff Gross, and Laura Good! Their diverse talents have been helpful in assisting with school visits, outreach activities, and "behind-the-scenes" work. A heartfelt thank you goes out to them!



11818 W Joplin Rd
Boise, ID 83714

EVENTS CONTINUED

MONDAYS FEB 23–MAR 30

FREE Water Efficient Landscape Classes

6-8:30 pm at Boise Public Library

Learn the fundamentals of Water Efficient Landscaping by signing up for one or all of our six sessions. Join United Water Idaho, the University of Idaho Extension Service and the City of Boise for free landscaping classes designed to keep your yard green and save water. To register call 362-7336.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

WATERSHED WEEKEND PROGRAM:

World Water Day Celebration

OPEN 10 am–2 pm; Treatment Plant tour at 1 pm

Make a splash during our cultural celebration of water as part of World Water Day. Make colorful rainsticks and march to the beat of a thunderstorm! Share water proverbs and sayings from around the world, and develop your own unique water sayings for display at our Center. Hear stories about the importance of water and how water availability and use varies by region. FREE admission.

DAILY MARCH 23 – 27

Spring Break Week Activities

OPEN 9:30 am–4:30 pm at Boise WaterShed

Drop in to the Boise WaterShed for special all-ages activities throughout each day. FREE admission.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

CITIZEN MONITORING DAY

9 am–12 pm various locations along Boise River, streams & ponds

Take a snapshot of the health of the Boise River watershed by monitoring water quality. Community groups, schools, families, and individuals are invited to participate in this event. A knowledgeable trainer will meet you at your assigned location along the Boise River to provide an overview of water quality and water quality parameters, as well as assistance with monitoring. All ages welcome, no experience necessary. Pre-registration is required by April 8. Call 489-1284 or email BoiseWaterShed@cityofboise.org for more information.