



The Watershed

Spring, 2019

River Wranglers' mission is to inspire youth through hands-on learning to explore, conserve, and understand the importance of local rivers in Northern Nevada's Great Basin Watershed.

River Wranglers Welcomes Watershed Coordinator

Christie James joined the River Wranglers team in January. She comes to RW with significant teaching and training experience, most recently with the State of Nevada.

Christie will work on Conserve the Carson River workdays and Trout in the Classroom in both Douglas County and Carson City. She will be instrumental in River Wranglers taking over a program called "Snapshot Day."

For more than ten years, Snapshot Day for the Carson River has taken place in the fall. On the same day at the same time, different groups take measurements of various aspects of the water in the river. There are eleven different USGS sites where these measurements take place, and the information is



Christie James

then sent to the state lab for testing.

Christie looks forward to all the RW activities, and we are thrilled to have her on board!

Let's Go to the River!

Or, let's bring the river to the library! On World Water Day, River Wranglers took the show on the road to the Churchill County Library. Participating in the weekly STEAM program, RW had the opportunity to work with more than 50 local students.

With a focus on the importance of a clean river, students learned about non-point source pollution. They also made a bracelet representing the different parts of the water cycle.

Students also interacted with River Wranglers' extensive pelt collection. They learned about bobcats, skunks, and bears. A good time was had by all.



River Wranglers Board Chair, Eric Johnson, teaches students about the mountain lion native to our region.

Trout in the Classroom

One of River Wranglers' favorite programs, Trout in the Classroom, launched hundreds of fry into the Carson River this spring. Schools from all over the Carson River Watershed participated in this long-standing educational opportunity. Trout eggs are delivered to schools in January, and students watch them grow while learning about trout habitat, the importance of clean water, and the life cycle of fish. The project culminates with a trip to the river where students release their fry into the cold waters of the Carson River. The survival rate of these sterile rainbow trout is higher than in the wild.

While the trout are growing in the classroom, River Wranglers visits the students to teach them the ancient Japanese art of fish printing, called "Gyotaku."

Students work with rubber fish to create an imprint of a trout and then draw a habitat reflecting all they have learned.

On release day, River Wranglers and program sponsor, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, work together to provide an exceptional educational experience to the students. They learn about water quality, non-point source pollution, flood risks, and the water cycle.

During the few brief months of Trout in the Classroom events and classroom visits, River Wranglers has approximately 400 student contacts in Douglas, Storey, and Lyon Counties as well as in Carson City.



One of the beautiful Gyo-taku prints. Students paint their rubber fish and then press paper on top to create these memorable prints. Each fish print is unique!

River Wranglers Fun Facts

- River Wranglers has eight Conserve the Carson River Workdays coming up in the next two months.
- River Wranglers receives generous funding from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Carson Water Subconservancy District, Lush Cosmetics, Trout Unlimited, and The Energy Coalition. Thank you for your support!

Flood Awareness in the Carson River Watershed

Through a FEMA grant managed by the Carson Water Subconservancy District, River Wranglers visits schools, teaching students about flood awareness. By using such tools as a flood model that shows students how areas around a river are prone to flooding, RW helps the students talk about what they would do in the event of a flood. A flood relay teaches students to recognize important items to take with them in case of evacuation.



CWSD's Debbie Neddenriep and NV Division of Water Resources' Carlos Rendo share the flood model at Silver Stage Middle School.

"Our hope is that by educating youth, parents will also learn," says River Wranglers Executive Director Darcy Phillips. "We hope they will take these messages home and engage their parents in the preparedness process."

The last major flood on the Carson River happened in 2017. This year looks to be equally problematic, but we are always at the whim of the weather. Are you prepared in the event of a flood? Visit www.nevadafloods.org for more information.

Want to become a River Wranglers member?

Yearly membership levels:

- ◆ Student Streamkeeper—\$10
- ◆ Streamkeeper—\$20
- ◆ River Steward—\$50
- ◆ Watershed Guardian—\$100
- ◆ River Wranglers Champion—monthly giving program

Join today! Tax deductible. Visit our website at www.riverwranglers.org

Conserve the Carson River Workdays

River Wranglers is gearing up for a busy spring. With eight workdays plus countless other outreach events on the calendar, we expect to accomplish great things.



From a water quality intensive teaching event with Silver Stage High School—to making duck boxes for the NV Department of Wildlife with Fallon's NUMA Elementary—to pulling invasive weeds at Baily Pond with Empire Elementary students, students all along the Carson River will experience the joy of learning outside and exploring their watershed.



Thank you to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection; Carson Water Subconservancy District; Dayton Valley Conservation District; Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space; Carson Valley Conservation District; Lahontan Conservation District; River Fork Ranch; and Nevada State Parks for their partnership in Conserve the Carson River Workdays.

Please remember River Wranglers in your giving. Donations help keep our programs running!
Donate at www.riverwranglers.org/join-us today.

Donate to River Wranglers while you shop! It costs you nothing, and RW receives a donation for every dollar you spend. Don't know how? Just follow these easy steps:

- 1.) Sign in to smile.amazon.com using your regular amazon credentials.
- 2.) From your desktop, go to "Your Account" from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity.
- 3.) Select **River Wranglers** as your choice. **SHOP!**



Carson Corner

Each newsletter will feature a photograph of a place in our beloved Carson River Watershed.

This photograph is surely recognizable to most! The first person to email the correct location to RW@riverwranglers.org will receive a River Wranglers t-shirt!

