



The Watershed

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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 New AmeriCorps Volunteer

Shauna Langan joined River Wranglers in October, and she hit the ground running with Conserve the Carson River Workdays. Shauna grew up in San Diego, where she spent most of her time exploring the beach and hiking outdoors. In high school, Shauna was an avid member of Future Farmers of America. She graduated from Sonoma State University with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and Planning with a concentration in Energy Management and Design. Shauna has been around educators and students all her life in and out of school—this is where she discovered her love for enriching the minds of students. Shauna believes youth are the key to the future and hopes with her position as Education and Outreach Coordinator she is able to learn and then



Shauna Langan

teach those around her. In her free time, Shauna loves to make baked goods, read, and explore the outdoors.

Let's Go to the River!

Linda Flaherty, marine science educator at Dayton High School, is all about going to the river. Every year, she brings her students to the Carson River for a health assessment of sorts.

Using electronic probes that link to apps on the students' phones, Mrs. Flaherty teaches the students about dissolved oxygen, PH levels, and turbidity as important measures of what is going on in the river.

Then the fun really begins. Students collect critters from the river bottom, called "benthic macroinvertebrates," and take them back to the lab for study. The rest of the day is spent cata-

loguing and identifying the river bugs. The students learn a great deal on these field days.



Eric Johnson Retires from Nevada State Parks

Eric Johnson, current River Wranglers board chair, recently retired from Nevada State Parks after a long and storied career. Eric worked every job with parks from ranger to park supervisor, district manager, assistant director, and finally the director of state parks—the first director to come up through the ranks.

Eric never expected one of his employees to do a job he wasn't willing to tackle himself, and his unassuming, fair, and direct personality made him a favorite among all NVSP employees.

Fun fact about Eric? "He's known for eating whatever is offered...when I visited him, I knew to bring food," says Linda Conlin, fellow RW board member. When parks employee and RW bookkeeper Debbie Wren's husband worked as a seasonal em-

ployee at Fort Churchill during Eric's tenure there, she packed a double lunch each day, one for her husband and one for Eric.

As his final job as parks administrator, Eric worked tirelessly to see both Ice Age State Park in Southern Nevada and Walker River State Recreation Area opened to the public. The first new parks in the Nevada system in 20 years allowed an opportunity to preserve important historic properties.

Eric is an original board member of RW and has been an integral part of the organization. We are thankful to have such a caring and committed member of our board.

Congratulations, Eric!



Eric and his wife, Stacy, listen to RW board members share stories about him at his retirement party this fall.

River Wranglers presented Eric with a hand-quilted pillow reflecting his time with both RW and NVSP.

River Wranglers Fun Facts

- From October 1 to November 30, RW worked with 14 schools, 1,500 students, and 5 partner agencies via Conserve Carson River Work Days.
- River Wranglers uses only donated office space to do our work. We have space at Dayton State Park and Carson Water Subconservancy District. Thank you both for your generous support!

Once Upon a Trail (OUT) Program Visits Nevada State Parks

The brain child of RW board members Kim Zuch and Linda Conlin, the OUT program reached all four state parks in the Carson River Watershed this summer. A partnership between the Bessie Minor Swift Foundation, Nevada State Parks, and River Wranglers, these events proved attractive for families looking to get outside.



Kim, an interpretive park ranger at Washoe Lake State Park, put together curriculum surrounding a nature-themed book for each of the programs that involved lessons about the outdoors, history, and conservation.

At Dayton State Park, Kim taught the group about watershed habitat and conservation, with a focus on water quality testing and aquatic bugs. A good time was had by all!

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!

Visit our website at www.riverwranglers.org

Conserve the Carson River Workdays

River Wranglers had a busy fall season of Conserve the Carson River Workdays. The work involved marking storm drains for neighborhood awareness and wrapping trees for protection from beaver damage.

Other stations taught students about the water cycle, the geography of the Carson River Watershed, non-point source pollution, water quality, and beaver adaptations.



In Silver Springs, students spent the day at Fort Churchill State Park. Beavers have been very active in the park, and the students were happy to help in protecting the cottonwood trees.

Minden and Gardnerville students marked storm drains in their neighborhoods. Many people do not realize that storm drains often lead straight to the river, so whatever is put down them ends up in the water our fish and aquatic plants share. Helping raise awareness by marking the drains gave the students a sense of purpose in influencing their neighbors.



Thank you to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection; Carson Water Subconservancy District; Dayton Valley Conservation District; Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space; Resource Concepts, Inc.; Douglas County Stormwater Program; and Nevada State Parks for their partnership in Conserve the Carson River Workdays.

Please remember River Wranglers in your year-end giving. Donations help keep our programs running! Our wish list? We need a truck to haul our RW trailer to workdays and events.

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!**



The Heart of our Work

Carson City Parks, Recreation, & Open Space recently offered River Wranglers staff a tour of the Carson City area of the Carson River. Senior Natural Resource Specialist Lyndsey Boyer drove the group around to various spots on the river to help identify spots that need work for future Conserve the Carson River Workdays.

