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## Our Places to Tell Stories: Preliminary Program Springs Preserve

Public Lands Institute

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## *Preliminary Program*

### **SPRINGS PRESERVE LAS VEGAS, NEVADA FEBRUARY 24 - 27, 2010**

#### ***Lead the Way: Engage, Empower, and Embrace through Environmental Literacy***

*Our Places Tell Stories is an innovative conference for educators and others working at public lands, schools, nature centers, museums, zoos, aquaria, and all nature and heritage rich places.*

*This list of presentations represents a preliminary program of sessions. A final program will be emailed to all registrants prior to the conference. Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to seeing you at the Springs!*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Session Type</b>	<b>Name of session</b>
Wed.	8:30-10:00	Meeting	<b>Green Print Meeting</b>
<i>Participate in this exciting initiative to enhance environmental literacy in the state of Nevada! Once endorsed by stakeholders across the state, The GreenPrint, will become Nevada's Environmental Literacy Plan, a requirement of the No Child Left Inside Act. Join us to meet members of the planning committee, understand the components of the GreenPrint and its implications for the state's non-formal and formal education cadre, and provide suggestions and input.</i>			
Wed.	10:15-3:00	Action Studio	<b>Service Learning</b>
<i>Interested in learning more about Service Learning and how to get involved? Service learning fosters environmental literacy by emphasizing learner-centered strategies and addressing environmental issues of importance to students and their community. This four hour workshop will provide definitions, models, and planning strategies.</i>			
<b>Thursday 10:30 – 12:00 Action Studios</b>			
<b>Make Yourself Tall, Make Yourself Small</b>			
<i>This action studio is designed to model the use of movement with children in educational settings as a means of integrating kinesthetic, spatial, and musical intelligences with learning about nature. Betsy Blair guides participants in easy-to-do activities, sharing language art and music resources which encourage nature awareness, and earth consciousness.</i>			
<b>Las Vegas Science Festival 2011</b>			
<i>Drawing upon the successes of science festivals across the nation, join this discussion about how science festivals can extend the reach of informal science communication. An emerging group of local professionals from the education, business, political, and entertainment world are working to bring a world class science event to Southern Nevada.</i>			

## Our Places Tell Stories



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#### **REvolution**

*Restoration scientists, environmental Educators and Volunteer coordinators will share a successful model for REVing people up about stewardship. Learn tips and tricks for developing your own REVolutionary event.*

#### **Meet Emma and Friends: Sustaining Your Programs By Aligning Your Mission with Partners**

*By making sure that your programs are aligned with your agency plans, and by enlisting the aid of partners for funding, programs, training, and contracting, sustainable sources of outside support and promotion can be found. This session will introduce EMMA and participants will create a Partnership Matrix for their agency.*

#### **Thursday 1:30-5:00 Action Studios**

#### **“Green Prescription: Health and the Environment”**

*We know that health and the environment are closely connected, but how do we create and support initiatives that address this important issue? In this action studio, public health experts will provide an overview of public health issues in Nevada and step through strategies for using the environment to address these issues.*

#### **Are You Listening? Volunteer Management**

*In a challenging economic climate, organizations are ready to capture the talents of volunteers in their communities. A successful volunteer program must balance your organizational needs with the needs of your volunteer work force. Join panelists from successful volunteer programs as they highlight "best practices" in volunteer management, providing tools and solutions.*

#### **Telling Our Stories in Our Places**

*Storytelling is an effective educational tool for anyone working in nature and heritage-rich places. This workshop will provide participants with a lively introduction to storytelling skills to engage audiences while promoting environmental literacy through experiential education. Learn to tell your story in your place!*

#### **Friday 9:00-11:30 Action Studios**

#### **GeocCaching**

*Geocaching is an exciting, technology-based physical activity which can provide opportunities for youth to experience the outdoors in a novel way. Geocaching combines physical activity with problem solving while offering an excellent platform for promoting stewardship of our surrounding lands. This session will engage participants in a Geocaching event and include information and ideas on how to set up a course.*

#### **Let's Make a Plan: Strategies for Planning Programs**

*Whether you are designing a program, writing a grant, satisfying funders, or encouraging a board of directors; proper planning can ensure you are set up for success. This session will explore planning steps such as defining your needs; developing themes, goals, and objectives; marketing your program; and evaluating its success.*

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#### **Families in Nature**

*The Families in Nature program takes a different approach to education about the environment by striving to develop authentic relationships between communities and nature. This action studio will focus on challenges, strategies, and the lessons learned while developing this program.*

#### **Project Learning Tree: Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood**

*Exploring nature is a complete sensory experience, and early experiences with the natural world excite children's imaginations and foster their inborn sense of wonder and curiosity—important motivators for lifelong learning. Participants will engage in activities from this guide that integrate nature-based exploration, art, literature, math, music and movement, and outdoor play into early childhood education programs.*

#### **Friday 1:30-2:15 Presentations**

#### **Recycling**

*Recycling seems simple enough. Put your materials into the recycling bin and take it to the curb. But what happens next? Local recycling experts will discuss the recycling process and how to take recycling efforts to the next level by considering recycling markets, landfills, waste reduction, reuse, pre-cycling and buying recycled.*

#### **The Nature Exchange: A novel approach to self-motivated nature education**

*The Nature Exchange is an international program that encourages youth to take an interest in the nature around them by ethically collecting, researching, and trading natural items. Hear about the success of the Nature Exchange at the Springs Preserve and ways that you can encourage appreciation of nature by taking part in the program.*

#### **Ensuring Success with Program Reflection**

*Program effectiveness is sensitive to even the smallest change. Shifts in audiences, facilitators, agency personnel, and even time can affect a program's outcomes. This session will explore strategies for careful reflection of ongoing programs to ensure success and effectiveness.*

#### **Utilizing an After-School Nature Club to Strengthen Environmental Identity**

*Discuss results of a nine-week after-school Nature Club, focusing on using local environments to connect kids to nature and strengthen environmental identity.*

#### **Friday 3:45-4:30 Presentations**

#### **Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights**

*A tsunami of grassroots efforts have been initiated to connect children to nature and the outdoors. This session presents a Southern Nevada initiative to implement a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. You can provide valuable input on the ground-floor development of this community-wide effort.*

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#### **Environmental Justice**

*Environmental justice refers to the equitable distribution of burdens and benefits. Environmental Literacy dictates that we make choices and conduct business in ways that don't impose unjust environmental burdens. This presentation will tell the stories of environmental injustices and what you can do to redress them.*

#### **Where Wheel We Go From Here?**

*This program will present the current state of bicycling, review benefits of bicycling, and offer a case study to address the deterrents to cycling such as clothing, flat tires, and traffic. Participants can use the information to begin supporting an increase for cycling as recreation and as an advocate for active transportation. Participants will also be encouraged to embrace more cycling and cycling advocacy in their own lives.*

#### **Design, Develop, and Implement an AmeriCorps Program to Build Organizational Capacity**

*Learn about the different AmeriCorps programs and how they can help your organization build capacity. This session will focus on identifying potential for a program, applying for a national or state grant, developing your program for impact in the community, and managing members.*

### **Saturday 10:00-12:00 Action Studios**

#### **A Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> century Service Learning**

*Imagine: higher scores on standardized tests in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies; increased engagement and enthusiasm for learning; and greater pride and ownership in student accomplishment. Find out how to achieve this through Service Learning. This workshop will provide definitions, models, and planning strategies.*

#### **Seeing Art in Science**

*The art of seeing: use the visual arts as a portal to engage your students and lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of science, social studies, and geography. Presentation will reveal the hidden beauty of southern Nevada's wilderness areas, as well as curriculum extensions in science, art social studies, and literacy.*

#### **Graphic Novels: An Innovative Approach to Connecting Students to Nature**

*Recognizing the barriers teachers are up against to get students out of the classroom, we must explore additional delivery systems for getting students engaged in their local environment. Graphic Novels are one innovative approach to meeting academic goals and connecting students to environmental issues.*

### **Saturday 1:00-1:45 Content Sessions**

#### **Environmental Issues: Alien Invaders**

*In this session you will learn about aliens that live in the Mojave Desert ecosystem. Participants will walk away with an understanding of what an exotic plant is Which invasive species issues are occurring right here in Nevada, and how these alien invaders affect the Mojave Desert ecosystem and the Colorado River Watershed.*

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#### Plants of the Mojave

Join us as we explore the intriguing world of Mojave Native Plants. From unique adaptations, prehistoric beginnings and monogamous interactions with other species; the plants of the Mojave are a group of diverse survivors that are fascinating to explore. In this class we will discuss desert adaptations, resources for identification and some insider tricks of the trade.

#### Geology of the Mojave

Southern Nevada's geologic history can be summarized in three words: deposit, push, and pull. With a minimum of jargon, In this session you will learn how each of these terms applies to the spectacular geology in your backyard.

#### Project Learning Tree: Classroom Resources that Excite and Empower Students

PLT's many resources help young people learn "how to think, not what to think" about environmental issues. We'll look at lessons that provide hands-on, interdisciplinary activities to create excitement in your classroom. A highlight will be the newest GreenSchools program which helps students to transfer their knowledge into positive action.

### Saturday 2:00-2:45 Content Sessions

#### Water in the Mojave

The terminology: dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and total dissolved solids. What do they suggest about water quality? What tools can we use to determine water quality? Learn how simple tests and basic biology using insects can tell you about the quality of your water.

#### Animals of the Mojave

This workshop will introduce the various forms of wildlife found in the Mojave desert, specific to southern Nevada. Information will cover descriptions, habitats, and adaptations of these animals and their role in Mojave desert ecology. Tips will be given for seeing these animals, including looking for tracks and other signs of their presence, and how to be safe when encountering them.

#### People of the Mojave

Humans have lived in the Great Basin, particularly southern Nevada, for the last 13,000 years. This talk will examine the chronology of occupation, the ways people made their livings, and the outline of their cultures as we presently understand it. The Valley of Fire area will serve as the intellectual laboratory for the talk.

### Saturday 3:00-4:15 Roundtable Discussions



The Southern Nevada Agency Partnership provided major support and funding for the 2010 Our Places Tell Stories conference.