New Mexico Environmental Community Events

This summer has been the season for Environmental Community Events in New Mexico. Santa Clara Pueblo was fortunate to work with our local kindergarten to 6th grade school for the 2nd Kha Po Community School Environmental Day at the end of May. The day began with a cleanup of the Pueblo by the students and Environmental Staff. The students, particularly the younger grades, were enthusiastic about picking up trash to fill their bags. Following the cleanup the Pueblos of Sandia, Isleta and Santa Ana held activity booths.

New Mexico Game and Fish presented on native fish species and taught students to cast fishing rods. Los Alamos National Labs demonstrated their biological monitoring and cultural preservation programs. New Mexico Environment Department DOE Oversight Bureau brought their popular portable stream. Santa Clara Pueblo Behavior Health and Social Services taught the children about Stranger Danger. Jill Sherman and Helen Rubio of the Native American Environmental Protection Coalition came all the way from Southern California to participate in the event and were highly complementary of the behavior of the students at the school.

On July 27th the Santa Clara Pueblo staff participated in the Pueblo of Sandia Environmental Day. This was a fun event with a great lunch, door prizes such as spa treatments and concert tickets and personal highlight was getting a close up look at their cardboard compactor. The Sandia Diabetes program gave out fruit and displayed 5 pounds of fat. You will never feel bad about losing “only” 5 pounds after seeing that display. If you ever come to New Mexico, check out one of these events. We cannot let the Southern California tribal consortium be the only out of state visitors! Next up, Pueblo of Santa Ana Environmental Fair September 28, 2019.

Submitted by Dino Chavarria
Non-Point Source Workshop

On August 22nd, 2019 the Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department hosted a 319 Non-Point Source Workshop. The workshop targeted area farmers and ranchers and had guest speakers from various tribes, and local and state entities. Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend welcomed all attendees and gave a prayer of blessing over the workshop. Presentations were given by Kathleen Welch (Wyandotte Nation), Kristi Laughlin (Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma), Craig Kreman (Quapaw Nation), Shirley Hudson (Oklahoma Conservation District), Cheryl Cheadle (Blue Thumb), Blane Stacy (Oklahoma Conservation Commission), Cody Parker (Natural Resource Conservation Service), John Hendrix and Jonathan Fisher (Fish and Wildlife Service). All presentations focused on Non-Point Source issues and projects.

Submitted by Kathleen Welch

Fort Sill Apache Tribe’s Outdoor Classroom

The Fort Sill Apache Environmental Programs hosted their 2nd Annual Outdoor Classroom for 3rd to 5th graders from Apache Elementary School and Cement Elementary School. The event was held on September 3, 2019. Approximately 200 students attended! There were guests from the U.S. Wildlife Conservation Service, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Blue Thumb, Tribal Administrative Services, Talk Jive Media, and the Kiowa Tribe Environmental Programs. Presentations included educational instruction on wildlife living in SW Oklahoma, drinking water, pollination protection, water quality and a drone demonstration. It was a success and plans are to continue partnering with NRCS to conduct this annual event.

Submitted by Jennifer Heminokey
Water Treatment—Level 1 Training

A Water Treatment—Level 1 training was provided by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and held on August 12-16, 2019 at the Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs office. The instructor was Melissa Durbin with Technical Learning College. There were 12 participants in attendance from the Choctaw Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, and Kialegee Tribal Town. This training covered topics such as Basic Microbiology and Chemistry, USEPA Water Quality Regulations, Filtration Fundamentals, Fluoridation, Water Quality Testing, Sedimentation and Clarifiers, Lime Softening Basics, Introduction to Electrical Systems, Treatment Plant Safety and Records, and Record Keeping and Reporting Procedures.

RTOC Meeting

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee meetings were held July 16-17, 2019 at the Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder in Santa Fe, NM. There were attendees from approximately 28 Tribes and several EPA representatives. Topics of discussion included: Divisional Updates, Solid Waste Issues, GAP Guidance, Multipurpose Grant, Government Accountability Office Report on Superfund, Tribal Leader Roundtable Discussion and a Schedule for Fall RTOC Meeting.
Intro to Drone Training

ITEC staff provided an Intro to Drone training that was held on March 14, 2019 at the Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs office in Tahlequah. There were 12 participants in attendance from Kickapoo Tribe, Comanche Nation, Muscogee Creek Nation, Sac & Fox Nation, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Choctaw Nation and Kialegee Tribal Town. This training covered topics such as Drone Registrations, FAA Part 107 Test Preparations, Overview of KJI Mavic Pro Drone and Field Testing.

8 Hour HAZWOPER Refresher Training

ITEC staff provided an 8 Hour HAZWOPER Refresher Training that was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at the Santa Clara Pueblo Housing Authority in Espanola, NM. There were 15 participants from Taos Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Santo Domingo Tribe, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Pueblo of Tesuque, and Pueblo of Sandia. Some of the topics of this training included: Medical Monitoring, Chemical Safety, Indoor Air, Spill Control, Emergency Procedures, Office Safety, Personal Protective Equipment and Decontamination.
2019 Tribal Lands & Environment Forum

The Tribal Lands & Environment Forum (TLEF) was held at the Palm Springs Renaissance Hotel in Palm Springs, California on August 19-22, 2019.

This year’s TLEF featured special trainings, field trips, and breakout sessions focused on the conference theme: A National Conversation on Tribal Land and Water Resources. Topics highlighted at the TLEF included solid/hazardous waste management, brownfields, UST/LUSTs, Superfund sites, and emergency response. Tribal water program topics such as water quality, drinking water, and habitat restoration (including wetlands, streams and fisheries) was also included with breakout sessions, trainings and field trips.

Plenty of networking opportunities were offered, making this a terrific event for tribal professionals, federal staff, nonprofit and industry personnel, and students of environmental sciences and Native American Studies. There were approximately 520 attendees this year.
# UPCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 4-5, 2019</td>
<td>Oklahoma Governor’s Water Conference, Midwest City, OK</td>
<td><a href="https://www.owrb.ok.gov/GWC/index.php">https://www.owrb.ok.gov/GWC/index.php</a></td>
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<td>February 19-21, 2020</td>
<td>IAQA 2020 Annual Meeting &amp; Expo, West Palm Beach, FL</td>
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## Mark Your Calendar!

**23rd Annual Tribal Environmental Summit**

April 1-2, 2020  
Dallas, TX  

More information coming soon....
The ITEC NEWS gladly accepts and encourages your Tribal environmental information for upcoming issues and events. If you wish to contribute any articles in the next issue or for questions about this newsletter, please call 1-918-453-5109 or contact Karen Dye at: Karen-dye@cherokee.org.

The Cherokee Nation Environmental Program (CNEP) publishes ITEC News each quarter. The mission statement is to protect the health of Native Americans, their natural resources, and their environment as it relates to air, land and water. To accomplish this mission, ITEC provides technical support, environmental services, and assistance in developing Tribal environmental programs to the member Tribes.

The viewpoints contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the USEPA or the CNEP/ITEC. Free and open discussion of all environmentally related issues is strongly encouraged. We also encourage submission of letters, comments, and articles from readers so as to promote a greater awareness among our people about environmental issues and to foster the free exchange of information, technology, and culturally relevant values of Tribal people.

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