



GILA CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

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From our Chair, Linda Zatopek

Dear Supporters and Friends of the Gila Conservation Education Center (GCEC),

It is with great pleasure that we present our 2010 Annual Report.

The 2010 year was very busy for GCEC. Our second outdoor classroom (Bataan Memorial Outdoor Classroom) was constructed and dedicated in December, 2010. Special thanks to Grant County Commissioner Mary Ann Sedillo, numerous Grant County employees and Tanner Matchus who coordinated the project. Also, we want to extend a big round of applause to each and every one of the workers and volunteers who helped make the Bataan Memorial Outdoor Classroom a reality.

In July, 2010 we were notified that we were a sub-awardee of a Compassion Capital Funding (CCF) grant and that we would receive \$12,500 for capacity building over the next few months. This award also provided free technical assistance from the Wellspring Coalition on strategic planning and other capacity building topics. Being a recipient of this award enabled the Board of Directors, with the aid of a strategic planning consultant, to review and revise our Strategic Plan. In August, we were able to bring Dr. Kathy Whiteman on board as Capacity Coordinator/Program Manager.

Thanks to Kathy's education and experience, our focus on conservation education has become more science and inquiry based. This focus will continue in 2011 as we redesign our programs to more effectively meet the needs of area learners. We will continue to utilize our Discovery Trunks, sponsor Children's' Water Festivals and participate in classroom Outdoor Days, but be on the lookout for new and exciting changes! (continued on page 3)

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“We would not be able to do all the work we do without support from the Gila National Forest.”

Thanks Forest Service!

You may not be aware that the GCEC and the Forest Service partner to promote conservation education in southwestern New Mexico. In particular, the GCEC Discovery Trunks program provides students hands-on experiences in a variety of conservation education topics that are important in public land management.

GCEC would not be able to do the work we do without administrative support from the Forest Service.

The Forest Service provides GCEC with office space, office supplies, computers, copiers, telecommunication services and a small annual stipend which is used to maintain the Dis-

covery Trunks.

Last year's 3200+ student contact hours would have been impossible without support from the GNF.

THANKS!



2010 Project Highlights

Outdoor Days

In August 2010, GCEC secured funding through the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Share with Wildlife program to provide Outdoor Days for all 4th grade classes in the Silver Consolidated School District.

Children's Water Festival

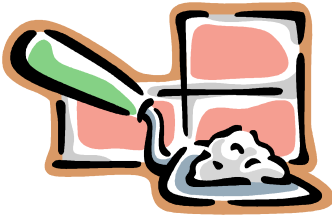
Participation almost doubled from 224 children in 2009 to 457 children in 2010 during our 7th Annual Children's Water Festival! Fourth and fifth graders from Silver Consolidated Schools participated in learning stations on the Gila River. (continued on page 3)



Sammy Schulke, Aldo Leopold High School, with G.W. Stout Elementary students. Sammy is leading a learning station on water quality at Stout's Outdoor Day.

...from our Chair, continued

We want to extend our deep appreciation to our 2010 supporters. Your generosity has made our work possible; your investment in the Gila Conservation Education Center exemplifies your commitment to promoting conservation education in southwestern New Mexico.



Thank you one and all.

Linda Zatopek

Board Chair



County Commissioner Mary Ann Sedillo and Tanner Matchus, GCEC at the Bataan Memorial Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, December 2010

...Project Highlights, continued

San Vicente Watershed Restoration Project

The Gila Conservation Education Center partnered with the New Mexico Environment Department, Aldo Leopold High School, and the Youth Conservation Corps in a three-year wetlands restoration project along San Vicente Creek south of the town of Silver City. GCEC's role will be to prepare posters, brochures and press releases, lead hikes, train docents and sponsor a Wetlands Festival.



Third Annual Gila Symposium

GCEC and partners from the Gila National Forest, The Nature Conservancy, the Native Plant Society of NM, the Audubon Society, the Western Institute of Lifelong Learning and Western New Mexico University facilitated the Third Annual Gila Symposium in October 2010. More than three dozen researchers presented seminars and posters over this well-attended three day event.

Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) sub-award through The Wellness Coalition

GCEC built capacity by revising our strategic plan, hiring new staff, contracting local web-designer Teri Matelson to build a new web site, and bought needed office equipment.

Waterworks

Through a sub-contract award from the Town of Silver City, GCEC will conduct a pre- and post project evaluation beginning in 2011. The project will assess the effectiveness of outreach activities on public awareness of the historic Waterworks site as well as measuring the local population's personal knowledge about the source of Silver City's tap water.

GCEC Welcomes New Staff

Thanks to an award from Silver City's The Wellness Coalition, GCEC was able to hire a new Program Manager/Capacity Coordinator in August, 2010.

Dr. Kathy Whiteman is a recent graduate from New Mexico State University with a degree in biology/plant ecology. As a graduate student, Kathy was a National Science

Foundation GK-12 fellow and recipient of a departmental Excellence in Research award.

"The Gila is one of the most biologically diverse areas on the planet", Whiteman says, "and I am thrilled to be able to live and work with kids in a place that I love."

Whiteman has experience with designing and implementing inquiry learning strategies, conducting field research, as a



Kathy and her daughter on a backpacking trip in the Gila National Forest.

wilderness guide, and packing horses and mules in the Gila, Aldo Leopold and Blue Wilderness areas of NM and AZ. Kathy hopes to infuse these skills into future GCEC programs.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Whiteman to GCEC!

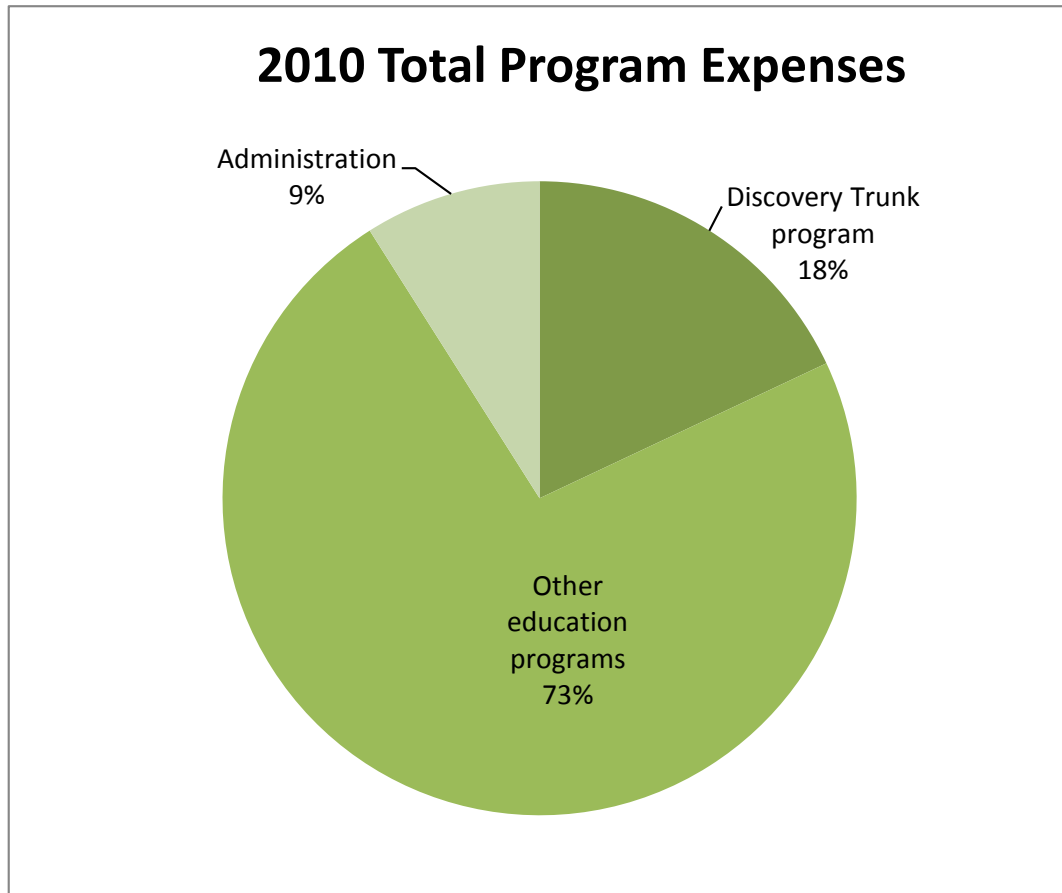
FRIENDS

Thanks to the following organizations for their support* in 2010: Ace Hardware, Aldo Leopold High School, AmeriCorps, the United States Forest Service, Gila National Forest, Foxworth-Galbraith, Gila WoodNet, Microsoft, The Nature Conservancy, the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau, Reserve Independent Schools, Silver Consolidated Schools, the Town of Silver City, Youth Conservation Corps, Western New Mexico University and many volunteers.



* support in the form of goods, services or funds.

Financial Report



The GCEC is committed to spending donor dollars wisely. The majority of our funds directly support educational programs.

- **13 Discovery Trunks:** Fire Ecology, Fire Safety, Gila River Cultural History, Gila River Natural History, Watersheds, Archaeology, Sun Chasers/Solar Energy, Apex Predators, Birds, Geology, Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands, Native Plants and Animal Skulls.
- **Outdoor Days:** Elementary students participate in outdoor learning-station experiences on their school campus.
- **Children's Water Festival.** Silver Consolidated 4th and 5th grade students visit the Gila River and participate in hands-on activities related to water.

Please consider becoming a monthly or quarterly donor and effectively supporting our ongoing and emerging work. You can make a secure pledge on-line through PayPal. Visit our website at www.gcecnm.org and click the Donate tab. Thanks!

Get to know the outdoors!



GILA CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

...dedicated to promoting natural resource conservation through education example and involvement, since 2004.

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**We're on the web:
www.gcecnm.org**

WE

need your help! Consider a financial contribution in any amount. Thank you.

- Cottonwood \$5
- Mesquite \$10
- Oak \$25
- Juniper \$50
- Piñon \$100
- Ponderosa \$250
- Spruce \$500

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
E-mail _____
Contact phone _____

I would like to sponsor a Discovery Trunk for one year* \$550 (list Trunk name below)

Your name or company logo will be displayed prominently in the trunk, acknowledging your support .

Please check here if you do NOT want your name listed in GCEC publications _____