

Monthly Newsletter, October 2005

“The entire website is very user-friendly. It is easy to navigate and with links throughout, you are never far from anything. . . .

With the range [of activities] you have, it is easy to find an activity suitable for the learning style and ability of any student.”

-5th Grade Teacher from Hanover Elementary

Member News

Hands on the Land sites continue to contribute Educator Resources. This is a great resource for those of us who are teaching a new topic or grade level or are looking to expand their program offerings or curriculum.

Andy Spencer (HOL) and Drew Burnett (EPA) will be presenting at this year’s North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the end of October. The subject of the presentation is “Hands on the Land: Public Lands Public Treasures.” The purpose of the presentation is to demonstrate the depth of resources on the HOL website and how teachers can get involved with their federal agencies and public lands.



Featured Site

This month we are featuring Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (our country’s newest national park!). GSDNPP is located in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Colorado. The wind from these rugged mountains carves the dunes to a height of 750 feet creating a unique and forbidding landscape that is nonetheless home to a diverse range of fauna and flora.

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve offers age appropriate, curriculum-based education programs for K-12 students. Subject areas include geology, animals and ecosystems, plants, cultural

history, and wilderness and Leave No Trace skills. GSDNPP have uploaded over 40 teaching activities to the HOL Educator resources (a world record!) and are busy creating a range of curricula for elementary to high school students.



If you would like to share your HOL site please contact: aspencer@keystone.org.

Action Items for October 2005

We need your help!

During the month of October all of our HOL participants will be invited to participate in our most comprehensive survey ever. The survey will arrive as a *Zoomerang* email invitation. Please take the time to complete this survey, as it will have a direct impact on the professional development opportunities that HOL will offer in the future. The survey will also determine the nature and scope of HOL's technical-website support (thanks Dave!).

Don't forget to submit your site's information on ***job postings, useful partnership documents, and training and teaching opportunities***, and ***photos***.

Do you have any of the following that you can send?

- **Useful Documents**

We are working to create a database of useful documents including partnership agreements, volunteer/docent documents, special days, educator information, etc. Email us any documents that you think might help your fellow sites develop and grow.

- **Job Opportunities**

Does your site have a job posting? Do you have any volunteer opportunities? We'd love to post them on the HOL website.

- **Training Needs and Opportunities**

Are you running a PROJECT WET workshop? Do you have opportunities for professional development for educators, staff or volunteers? Are you looking for any particular equipment? Creating a network of information can help fill these needs!

- **Teaching Materials**

What new activities has your site created? What are the lesson plans that excite students time after time? Send them our way. We have uploaded over 45 new activities to the HOL site in just the past two months! Be sure your site is represented.

- **Photos**

Send any photos or stories to celebrate what is happening at your site. And, if your site gets publicity we would love to hear about it and share it with other HOL sites.

For additional information, comments or questions, contact:

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