



The Watershed

Winter, 2020

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 Founding Member Leaves a Legacy

Linda Conlin, founding and retired director, outgoing board secretary, and known to all in the watershed, recently participated in her last board meeting with River Wranglers. Involved from the start more than 25 years ago, Linda felt it was time to make room for new leaders. Linda and other Carson River enthusiasts built an organization known for quality programming that reaches thousands of students every year.

"I loved my time with River Wranglers," Linda said. "We created something wonderful that will continue to educate young people about the importance of their watershed."

Current Executive Director Darcy Phillips, trained by Linda in all things River Wranglers, says she is thrilled to continue Linda's legacy. "I am honored to shepherd this amazing organization into the future," Darcy said. "Having Linda mentor me for the last three years has been invaluable. I will miss her terribly, but she prepared me well."

We wish you a fond farewell, Linda, and thank you for your many years of service to River Wranglers.



Can't go to the River? We'll bring it to YOU!



River Wranglers

2020 provided numerous challenges to an organization that revolves around in-person field trips. We quickly realized we had to figure out another way to reach students. *River Wranglers Virtual 2020* was created to give students the closest version of a Conserve the Carson River Workday we could give them. Full of original videos, non-point source pollution activities, watershed map exercises, and information about the Carson River, the curriculum made its way to teachers all throughout the watershed. Accompanying the online curriculum was a special delivery of stuffed River Wranglers backpacks for each participating student.

"We wanted to give the students something hands-on they could explore," said Sydney Wirkus, River Wranglers education and outreach coordinator. "It is full of experiments, activities, brochures to local museums, a Nevada State Parks pass, and school supplies. We hope they feel less like they missed out on our adventure this year."

A New Version of Conserve the Carson River Workdays

People have been itching to get outside during the pandemic, as evidenced by the increase in park and trail use. How could we continue our mission of educating young people about their watershed during this time? Get their parents involved! River Wranglers held several small, family-oriented workdays this fall where family units came and worked together.

"Educating students and their parents was a great way to have fun outside and help the environment," said Phyllis Atkinson, recently retired teacher and current River Wranglers curriculum consultant.

In addition to these family-style workdays, River Wranglers also hosted Harley-Davidson Financial Services at Dayton State Park for a day of clearing trails, painting



trash cans, whitewashing fencing, and power-washing buildings.

"It is amazing what a group of 20 people can do," said River Wranglers board member Tina Carlsen, who also volunteered at the workday. "They finished projects that really helped the overall look of the park."

River Wranglers also partnered with Nevada State Parks to re-do the kiosks at the park. They now provide information about the history of the area, the Carson River, non-point source pollution, and the plants and animals one can expect to see in the park.

"This was an overdue project," said River Wranglers board member and NVSP ranger Kim Zuch. "We are so happy with how they look!"



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @riverwranglersnv

Please consider a year-end donation at www.riverwranglers.org/join-us

As always, thank you to our sponsors—Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the Carson Water Subconservancy District!