

John Martin Reservoir celebrates the “Year of Clean Water”

by Karen Downey
Park Ranger

October 18 marked the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. In celebration and support, the U.S. Congress, Governors of various states, and several national organizations proclaimed 2002 as the Year of Clean Water. The anniversary was used as an opportunity to enhance public awareness of our water resources, celebrate improvements to water quality and foster understanding of the challenges and solutions the nation and our communities face.

In conjunction with the anniversary, park rangers at John Martin Reservoir seized the opportunity to involve local schools in the celebration of clean water. On October 17, 34 4th and 5th grade students from McClave School joined Park Rangers Don Headlee and Karen Downey at Lake Hasty, where they gained hands-on experience monitoring the quality of water in that lake.

Test kits were supplied that allowed the kids to check temperature, dissolve oxygen, pH level and turbidity. Discussion was held before tests were taken as to the importance of each element to the ecosystem and how the quality of water affects both aquatic and terrestrial communities. How humans contribute to water quality through pollution of our resources and agricultural practices was also discussed.

In addition to the water monitoring, Ranger Downey



Photo by Bias Redding

Students combined learning with fun as they learned about the importance of water quality at Lake Hasty at John Martin Reservoir.

spearheaded a poster contest for local 4th graders. The theme of the posters was “Clean Water” and could be in any medium the children chose. A winner from each school was chosen and that child received a prize. A grand prizewinner was chosen from among all participating schools and the lucky student received a deluxe microscope set with carrying case.

The grand prize was provided by the T.E.N. Program (Teaching Environmental Science Naturally), of which the Corps is an active participant. In addition, T.E.N. provided a packet to teachers that contained numerous games and activities regarding water, as well as interesting water factoids that are suitable for classroom participation.

The outing ended with the class moving to a dinosaur track location just recently discovered on the project at John Martin. Question and answer sessions continued

throughout the outing, and all who participated deemed the day a success with the end product of having a new respect for our water resources.

VETERAN'S DAY



NOVEMBER 12TH