Welcome to the Full Circle Newsletter!

2012 Tribal Lands Forum - Monday (August 20) Training Sessions
August 20-23, 2012

There are still open slots available for the Monday training sessions. Please click HERE, then click on the Agenda tab for the sign-up sheet. For more information, contact Todd Barnell at (928) 523-3840 or Todd.Barnell@nau.edu.

www4.nau.edu/itep/conferences/tribflf2012nflf.asp

1. Eight-Hour HAZWOPER Refresher Training: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
2. Site Assessment Training: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
3. Solid Waste Transfer Stations and the Economics of Solid Waste Management Training: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
4. Managing the Environmental and Socioeconomic Impacts of Modern Hardrock Mining: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
5. National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Meet Our Staff:

- **Todd Barnell, Program Coordinator Senior, TSWEAP and TWRAP**
  Todd joined ITEP in 2002. In 2006 he developed TSWEAP and TWRAP two years later. Prior to joining ITEP Todd worked for The Nature Conservancy and has been a field researcher on ecology and climate projects.
  928-523-3840
  Todd.Barnell@nau.edu

- **Jennifer Williams, Program Coordinator Senior, TWRAP Alaska**
  Jen joined ITEP in 2001 and has worked on a variety of issues affecting Alaskan Natives, including air quality, solid waste, environmental education, and hazardous substances. She oversees TWRAP’s Alaskan projects.
  928-523-0673
  Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu

- **John Mead, Program Coordinator Senior, TWRAP and TRI Assistance Program**
  John has been with ITEP since 2002 and he has worked in the fields of wastewater, compliance, and waste management. He currently assists with coordinating the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum as well as trainings.
  928-523-2005
  John.Mead@nau.edu

**Tribal Steering Committee Profile: Virginia LeClere**

Virginia LeClere is currently serving on the TWRAP Steering Committee, and has been since 2009. A member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and a descendant of the Winnebago and Seneca-Cayuga tribes, she is a tribal employee and life-long resident of the Prairie Band Potawatomi reservation near Mayetta, Kansas. As Environmental Manager of the tribe’s Division of Planning and Environmental Protection, she manages the departmental staff and administers all program activities. Virginia received an Associate’s Degree from Haskell Indian Nations University and attended Friends University and Baker University, where she earned a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Management.

In 2000, Virginia worked on the radon, lead-based paint, and air quality programs for the tribe. She transferred to her current position of Environmental...
Manager in 2005, and coordinated efforts to build up the programs in the division. Many observers will note that the tribe has a comprehensive list of planning and environmental services, including air quality, water resources, planning programs and emergency management, wastewater, and waste management. An environmental compliance (tribal codes) and enforcement program is available to assist the tribe in handling criminal offenses through judicial processes. Staff members also prepare and distribute community newsletters for public education and outreach purposes.

Throughout the years, Virginia was able to gain more experience and knowledge in the area of solid waste. Under her management, the tribe has been successful at securing both competitive funding and tribal monetary support for its solid waste and hazardous waste management programs. For tribal waste programs and funding, Virginia states that, "many of the solid waste problems that affect tribes, particularly in rural areas, require more than prevention and outreach. Tribes need real money to backpedal, clean up decades-old messes, and create alternatives. More funding is needed to develop a comprehensive approach that includes prevention/source reduction, outreach, enforcement, compliance, and implementation."

In working with community members, it is vital for tribal programs to be visible and available to receive suggestions and recommendations for adequate customer service and to earn the trust of the community. Virginia adds, "Sometimes our most successful means of communicating our goals and objectives is to just talk and listen to our community members, or even play (when conducting outreach with the youth). By establishing relationships at the most basic informal level, we make it possible to more successfully sell our ideas, programs, and goals."

**Prairie Band Potawatomi in Action:**
Photos courtesy of Virginia LeClere

Virginia's motivation in joining the TWRAP Steering Committee is consistent with her continual desire to assist tribes in building their capacities to address the issues of environmental protection. She also considers her membership with the Steering Committee as being important and positive, as she can share and exchange ideas with other tribal environmental professionals and to learn from fellow committee members. Virginia strives to fulfill personal goals that would benefit the Steering Committee, ITEP, and tribes. These goals include assistance with the Tribal Lands Forum, course development, and hazardous substance research projects. She also hopes to successfully communicate the concerns and issues of Midwest tribes and with tribes that have similar concerns of the Prairie Band Potawatomi (e.g. rural challenges, extensive agriculture, etc.).

Away from the office, Virginia enjoys running and participating in sports, as well as watching her husband and three sons participate in baseball, basketball, softball, and fishing. The family also enjoys traveling to powwows and having the pleasure to visit "many other beautiful reservations and Indian communities along the way."

**EPA Finalizes Rule for TRI Reporting in Indian Country**

EPA has finalized a rule that provides tribal governments with the right to directly receive Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) information from facilities located in Indian country. The rule also clarifies the rights of tribal leaders to take an active role in TRI through petitions to modify the TRI chemical list or through requests to add a facility within Indian country to the TRI Program. This action is part of EPA's ongoing efforts to improve access to information on toxic chemical releases.
that may affect local communities in Indian country. Learn about the rule at: www.epa.gov/tri/lawsandregs/tribalrule/index.html

- **New Version of TRI-CHIP Tool Helps You Find Toxicity Information about TRI Chemicals**

  Version 2.06 of TRI-CHIP (TRI - Chemical Hazard Information Profiles) is now available at www.epa.gov/tri/tri-chip/index.html.

  TRI-CHIP is a downloadable Microsoft Access database that allows easy access to toxicity information from multiple data sources on chemicals included in the TRI list. Searches can be customized across a single chemical, a set of specific chemicals, or to filter data based on adverse health effects and/or quantitative toxicity values. This tool is updated periodically based upon changes in information available by the various data sources.

  For more information about TRI contact John Mead (John.Mead@nau.edu) at ITEP.

- **Summary of 40-Hr HAZWOPER Course (April 16-20, 2012)**

  ITEP, in collaboration with the U.S. EPA Environmental Response Team and HazTrain, offered a 40 Hour HAZWOPER course to 25 tribal professionals during the week of April 16 in Tempe, Arizona. Trainers from the Maryland-based HazTrain covered broad issues pertaining to the recognition, evaluation, and remediation of an uncontrolled work site. Course topics included cleanup operations, hazardous materials guidelines, worker safety principles, emergency response operations, and OSHA and environmental regulations. Participants also engaged in lab simulations and mock response exercises in full dress-out of Level A, B, and C suits. OSHA developed the HAZWOPER program under OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 to protect employees working at hazardous sites and devised extensive regulations to ensure their safety and health.

  To maintain HAZWOPER certifications, participants must attend annual 8-Hr HAZWOPER Refresher courses within one year of attending the 40-Hr training. At the 2012 Tribal Lands Forum in Coos Bay, Oregon, an 8-Hr Refresher course will be available on August 20, at no cost to participants.

  For more information about HAZWOPER training contact Roberta Tohannie (Roberta.Tohannie@nau.edu) at ITEP.

- **Recycling Strategies for Tribes Course a Success!**

  In May, we offered our first Recycling Strategies for Tribes course, in Spokane, Washington. Over 70 tribal professionals applied for one of the 20 open spots. The course attendees came from across the country and had a diverse variety and level of experience. Joaquin Bustamante, from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Craig Graveratte, from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, joined Todd Barnell in providing instruction. The course was focused on the business side of recycling and the attendees were an extremely engaged and passionate group. In addition to class instruction and small group activities, the attendees were able to visit a local recycling and waste-to-energy facility, as well as talk with representatives from local recycling businesses. We were very excited that the course was so well received and we look forward to hearing about the projects the course participants implement back home.

  For more information about this course and recycling resources contact Todd Barnell (Todd.Barnell@nau.edu) at ITEP.

- **Selection Process Has Begun for the TWRAP Steering Committee**

  Nineteen tribal professionals, from across the country and representing various areas of specialization, have submitted applications to the Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program Steering Committee. In the next few weeks our selection team, composed of three tribal environmental professionals, three USEPA Regional
office personnel, one representative from ITEP, and one representative from USEPA OSWER, will begin reviewing all of the applications. Up to five successful candidates will be selected to serve a two-year term on the TWRAP national steering committee. Best of luck to all the applicants!

For more information about the TWRAP Steering Committee please visit: www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/ntsc.asp

- **Upcoming ITEP Courses and Training Events**
  
  **July 17-19, 2012:** Addressing and Managing Illegal Dumps in Indian Country  
  **Location:** Denver, Colorado  
  **Course Overview:** The focus of this two and half day course is on assessing, mitigating, and closing illegal dumps on tribal lands. Illegal dumps have been an ongoing problem for tribal programs and this course will include instruction on enforcement techniques, site assessments and closure issues by tribal professionals. Contact Roberta Tohannie (Roberta.Tohannie@nau.edu) at ITEP for more information.

  **August 20-23, 2012:** Tribal Lands and Environment Forum  
  **Location:** Coos Bay, Oregon – Hosted by the Coquille Tribe  
  **Forum Overview:** The Tribal Lands and Environment Forum is an annual national gathering of tribal environmental professionals and their colleagues from US Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies addressing topics in the field of waste management, brownfields, Superfund sites, underground storage tanks, land remediation, and emergency response. The forum provides opportunities for professional development, training, and networking to assist tribes in the development and advancement of their community and environmental protection efforts.

  For more information and to register for the Tribal Land and Environment Forum go to: http://www4.nau.edu/itep/conferences/confr_tlf.asp

---

**Learn more...**

- **Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program (TWRAP)**  
  TWRAP is a program focused on assisting tribes with all waste management, brownfields, USTs, contaminated sites, and response programs. This program is funded by the USEPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

- **Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program (TSWEAP)**  
  TSWEAP's focus is providing training and assistance to tribes working on solid and hazardous waste management. It is funded through a grant with the Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

  “Any opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Rural Utility Service.”