LETTER FROM DORETTA

As 2010 came around, we were reminded that PROBEA is fortunate to have been serving the Baja California peninsula for nearly 20 years. We are especially proud of our participants who, since 2005, have expanded our work and theirs to include school/community-action projects throughout the region. Recently we completed the 2009/2010 school year of exciting action projects that involved hundreds of citizens in the Tijuana region and hundreds more citizens of Loreto, BCS. Congratulations to you all. Thank you to our funders for supporting our work and making it possible for educators of the Baja California peninsula to inspire their students and families to become environmental stewards of their local areas.

_Centinelas del chaparral_, a project carried out in collaboration with the La Puerta Foundation staff, included training for the Las Piedras Nature Center staff, creating a curriculum, and teacher training. The heart of the project was a field trip to Parque del Profesor in Tecate for 1,800 primary and secondary school students.

In La Paz, Niparajá, Pronatura, Ecology Project International, and PROBEA are collaborating on a comprehensive multi-year project to help reverse the decline in environmental conditions of the La Paz watershed that result in water scarcity. PROBEA is providing the educational component with a curriculum called _Conoce tu Cuenca_ (Know Your Watershed).

Arminda Mejía Rebollo, our La Paz Project Coordinator from March–June, strengthened and supported our team during our pilot workshop phase. Thank you, Arminda, for all your contributions to PROBEA and we wish you much success in your new position.

We are pleased to introduce and welcome the newest staff person in the Binational Education Department/PROBEA. Chelsea Mulvey, our Binational Education Project Coordinator, is now working with us full time. She is originally from Louisiana, received her Bachelor of Arts from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, and has spent the last three plus years volunteering as a teacher and guidance counselor in Tacna, Peru. We feel very fortunate that we found just the right person to work with us.

_Doretta_
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Jardines en Patios Escolares Workshop</em> (School Yard Habitats)</td>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Ensenada, BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Conoce tu Cuenca Workshop</em> (Know Your Watershed)</td>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>La Paz, BCS</td>
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</tbody>
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**DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KAREN LEVYSZPIRO AT klevyszpiro@sdnhm.org or call 619.255.0228.

**EXCITING NEWS**
OUR NEW WATERSHED PROGRAM IN LA PAZ, BCS!

*Conoce tu Cuenca* or Know Your Watershed is the name of our new curriculum that we will implement in La Paz. After much planning and anticipation, we kicked off our pilot workshop on June 15–17 at the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) in La Paz. The weather was hot and the teachers were burning with the desire to learn more about their watershed. We were very pleased with the participation, as 41 educators and professionals eagerly attended our intensive 3-day workshop. The participants learned about their history of water through the curriculum and engaged in many formative discussions on how to tackle the environmental challenges of the La Paz region.

**CHAPARRAL CURRICULUM AND COMPLETION—TECATE**

The curriculum, *Centinelas del chaparral* or The Chaparral Stewards, was designed to provide a heightened awareness of our shared binational resources such as the diverse land that extends up the peak known as Mt. Cuchumá in Mexico and Tecate Peak in the United States. The program was implemented with our partners Fundación La
Puerta who, along with the staff of Las Piedras Environmental Education Center, made this program a success. After planning and designing the Chaparral Curriculum, we facilitated a workshop to train the youth and staff of Las Piedras. In turn, the staff implemented the curriculum with various school groups. We met recently at Parque del Profesor in Tecate with Fundación La Puerta and the staff of Las Piedras to celebrate the completion of the project. One hundred and fifty-two teachers were trained in the chaparral curriculum and 1,800 secondary and elementary students were brought to the Las Piedras Environmental Education Center to experience their natural environment and learn about chaparral.

SMART SCHOOLS (2010–2011)

PROBEA recently received a grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services: Wildlife Without Borders to begin our new “Smart Schools Green Practices in Baja, California” project for the upcoming school year. We will begin working with the educators in the Baja California border region to design a Smart Schools program modeled after Green-Schools programs from other parts of the world that have proven successful. It is a program that includes a well-defined, step-by-step process for schools to create sustainable, environmentally friendly changes in their schools. Possible themes include litter, recycling, water, habitat, energy, transportation and healthy living. We will involve students, teachers, families and the larger community together to work toward achieving the “smart school” designation.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

Tijuana, BC

This summer we completed two Our Natural Heritage programs implemented in Tijuana, Baja California and Loreto, Baja California Sur during the 2009–2010 school calendar years. In Tijuana 46 participants implemented 12 school/community projects that involve additional teachers and schools and benefited more than 230 families. Projects included school clean ups, recycling, native plant gardens (for outdoor classroom learning) and a school-wide-energy consumption reduction project.
Loreto, BCS
In Loreto, Our Natural Heritage participants engaged teachers and students in five projects to benefit their environment. The largest project involved the staff of the Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto. The leader of the project took groups from 10 different schools and organizations, including 35 students for a total of 307 individuals, to clean-up, recycle trash, and restore vegetation at the Estero de Las Garzas. This project benefited the entire community of Loreto. In other projects, participants visited schools and created trash-awareness campaigns, reforesting projects, and kayaking with an emphasis on clean-ups and recycling. All participants highlighted the need to conserve natural resources in their projects.

GET INVOLVED!

Support these and other PROBEA projects to ensure that taking responsibility for our environment continues to be disseminated throughout the Baja California peninsula and the states surrounding the Sea of Cortés. How can you get involved?

Donate now to PROBEA! To make a donation to our program, please contact one of the officials listed below and send your contribution to the San Diego Natural History Museum. Please state that you would like the donation to go to the bi-national program, PROBEA. Thank you!

- Ann Laddon, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, 619.255.0212, aladdon@sdnhm.org
- Eowyn Bates, Director of Development and Membership Programs, 619.255.0172, ebates@sdnhm.org

Volunteer! PROBEA seeks volunteers to assist in the office and participate in project and outreach work. Contact our Director of Volunteer/Intern Services at volunteers@sdnhm.org.