

# environmental education 2001 awards



colorado alliance for environmental education



# ee partnership



The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education  
wishes to thank the following for their assistance in this program:

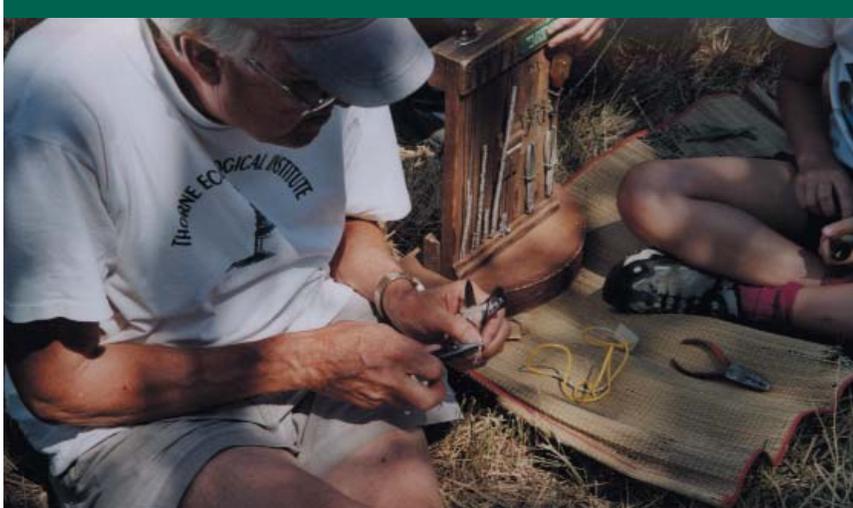
Coors Brewing Company

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# awards 2001

## Oakleigh Thorne, II



Oak Thorne Teaching bird banding

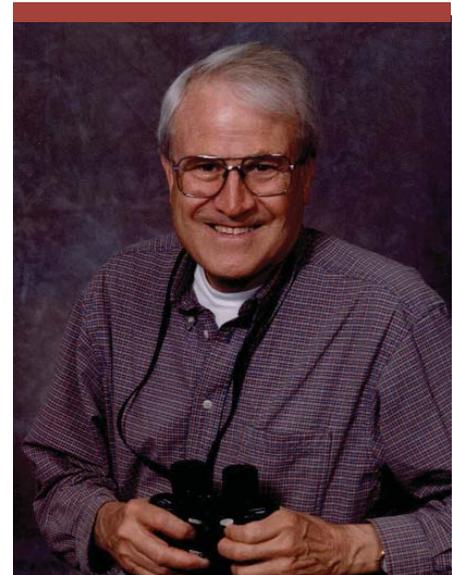
Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II, one of the first graduates of Yale University's environmental conservation program, was inspired to teach communities and corporations the scientific Principles of Ecology. On the cutting-edge of new environmental awareness, he founded Thorne Ecological Institute in 1954, while completing his Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Colorado.

Today the mission of the Thorne Ecological Institute is to offer hands-on environmental education for young people along the Front Range of Colorado. Whether in the field with the Thorne Natural Science School or in the classroom with Project BEAR, the Institute's programs are experiential and exploratory. In its 47 years, it has touched the lives of over 100,000 children and adults.

Thorne Ecological Institute significantly influenced environmental practices and policy in Colorado. For example, pioneering work in the 1960's resulted in the very first Environmental Impact Study in the United States. Dr. Thorne was active in the 1960s in helping to preserve Enchanted Mesa and Settler's Park, and in passing the City of Boulder's sales tax to purchase Open Space. He was a founding member of PLAN-Boulder County, and a member of the City's first Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Creating partnerships with business, government, and other organizations to further environmental education, the Institute hosted Seminars On Environmental Arts And Sciences (SEAS), held in Aspen from 1967-1984.

## Enos Mills Award

The Enos Mills award is the highest honor given by CAEE to environmental educators annually in Colorado. This lifetime achievement award for environmental education is named for Enos Mills, whose passion for environmental protection and education, photographs and writings were largely responsible for the decision by Congress in 1915 to establish Rocky Mountain National Park.



*Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II the recipient of this year's Enos Mills Award for his long-standing vision, leadership, contributions and accomplishments in environmental education in Colorado.*

**Thorne Ecological Institute** helped establish groups such as the Colorado Open Space Council, Denver Audubon Society, Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, Colorado Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and the Chatfield Environmental Education Resource System. Working with such organizations as Girls, Inc. and Educo, the Institute has developed new and unique environmental curricula, resulting in nationally significant programs.

Still very much a part of the day to day leadership and operations at Thorne Ecological Institute, Dr. Thorne teaches a course in Birds and Bird Banding to Thorne Natural Science School students and conducts a Nature Photography class at New Vista High School in Boulder.



# ee partnership

## Wonders in Nature — Wonders in Neighborhoods (W.I.N.-W.I.N.)

Wonders in Nature — Wonders in Neighborhoods (W.I.N.-W.I.N.) is an urban wildlife conservation education program. Its mission is to foster an appreciation of wildlife and their habitats and to promote the conservation of these natural resources through a variety of wildlife-related learning experiences. The W.I.N.-W.I.N. program is implemented by a coordinated and unified partnership that provides relevant hands-on classroom and field experiences for urban youth. The W.I.N.-W.I.N. program helps students understand the continuity of wildlife needs which begin in their own neighborhoods, and extend from the short grass prairies up through the alpine tundra in Colorado.

W.I.N.-W.I.N. addresses the barriers of cost, lack of transportation, cultural differences and language that often prevent urban children from experiencing wildlife first-hand. The program is currently available in English and Spanish. Bus transportation and all other components of the program are provided at no cost to the school.

**W.I.N.-W.I.N. Partner Organizations:** Anderson Farms, Audubon Society of Greater Denver, Barr Lake State Park, Bear Creek Lake Park, Bluff Lake Nature Center, Butterfly Pavilion and Insect Center, Cal-Wood Conservation Education Center, Carson Nature Center at South Platte Park, Castlewood Canyon State Park, Chatfield Nature Preserve, Chatfield State Park, The Children's Museum of Denver, Clear Creek History Park, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Mountain Club, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Colorado's Ocean Journey, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Zoo, Eco-Cycle, Inc., Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, Keystone Science School, Littleton Historical Museum, Morrison Natural History Museum, National Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy of Colorado, Plains Conservation Center, Rocky Mountain National Park, Roxborough State Park, Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, University of Colorado Museum of Natural History.

## Government Partnership Award



### Currently, there are five components to the W.I.N.-W.I.N. Program:

- In-class visits.
- Pre-Visit and Post-Visit Activities which support the in-class lessons.
- Field Site Visits that allow students to experience wildlife in various natural settings.
- Family Nights provide a forum for students to share their enthusiasm and knowledge about wildlife with parents and other community members.
- Community Leadership Projects which encourage students to plan and implement an environmental service-learning project in their neighborhood.

### In 2000/01, W.I.N.-W.I.N. provided services to over 11,000 students in 27 urban, socioeconomically diverse schools in the Denver Metro Area.

- Seven of these schools participated in the newly established Community Leadership Project.
- Five schools received Schoolyard Habitat Certification from the National Wildlife Federation.
- Six schools presented their projects at the National Service Learning Conference.
- All schools and partners participated in a stakeholder-based evaluation of the program, the broadest conservation education evaluation in intensity and scope in this region.



For more information about this program, contact one of the managing partners:  
Wendy Hanophy 303-291-7479 Colorado Division of Wildlife, Jacque Taylor 303-376-4883  
or Matt Herbert 303-376-4835 both at the Denver Zoo.

# awards 2001

## Crazy Horse Educational Expeditions



*Backcountry Discovery participant breaking the barrier*

Crazy Horse Educational Expeditions (CHEE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting outdoor educational experiences for young people and youth at risk, through hands-on projects benefiting wildlife and the local environment. Willie Swanda started the Educational Expeditions in 1998 with the idea of challenging today's youth to take an active role in solving the problems of our modern culture's impact on the environment, and specifically to recognize the importance of regional wildlife and habitat preservation.

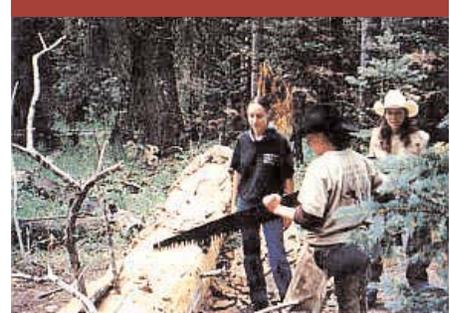
Youth assist with the development of programs for recreation, wildlife habitat and environmental controls in the national forests and wilderness areas of Southern Colorado. Through two week, expedition-style programs in Southern Colorado, the youth recognize and enhance their connection to the community and the regional environment by conducting monitoring programs, performing restoration projects and collecting scientific data to identify and solve problems in streams and rivers, the atmosphere, and habitat. In 2000, a "Leave No Trace" trainer program was added to CHEE's curriculum.

Participants develop self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment by receiving press acknowledgments, and certificates from CHEE partners. The children, the community and the environment are all winners.



For more information contact: Willie Swanda, Crazy Horse Educational Expeditions, P.O. Box 1404 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, 970-731-3641, crazyhorse@pagosa.net, [www.coloroadventure.net/chee](http://www.coloroadventure.net/chee)

## Citizen/Community Partnership Award



*Leave No Trace participants using teamwork to remove fallen trees.*

### Partnership Projects Highlights

Crazy Horse Educational Expeditions, utilizing the National Forests and wilderness areas of Southern Colorado, has earned statewide recognition for its exemplary partnership with the US Forest Service, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and adjudicated youth from the Archuleta County "Juvenile Impact Program" administered by the Pagosa Springs Municipal Court.

With the U.S. Forest Service, CHEE volunteers have adopted over 20,000 acres of forest land projects such as game migration gates, cavity nesting boxes, and wildlife projects in the wilderness and national forest.

Support of local landowners and ranchers, as well as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation facilitated the multi-year project to construct game gates in critical wildlife areas which create a safer and less stressful environment for migrating elk and deer.

In partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, CHEE participants completed a fisheries survey in an alpine wilderness setting. Traveling by horseback, the young volunteers spent four days meeting and observing rangers catch and identify fish at elevations exceeding 10,000 feet. The participants also benefited from the rangers' interpretive classes on wildlife, habitat, conservation, forestry, history and safety.

# ee partnership

Aspen Center for Environmental Studies and the  
Aspen School District Environmental Education Program

K-12  
Partnership Award



Kindergartners pretend to be a flock of geese as they explore the Hallam Lake Nature Preserve.

For more than 20 years the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES) has worked directly with the Aspen School District to provide year-round field science classes to elementary, middle and high school students at ACES' 25-acre Hallam Lake Nature Preserve. Since 1993, each Aspen Elementary School student, kindergarten through fourth grade, attends weekly environmental education classes, reaching over 450 students per week. "The study of nature through natural science, mathematics, language arts, humanities and social sciences is an important part of the mix that makes for a strong education" (Tom Farrell, Superintendent Aspen School District).

## A Classroom that Teaches

In the summer of 1999, an environmentally friendly classroom was created on the Aspen School District campus. Through straw bale and rammed earth tire construction, a solar thermal radiant heating system and a photovoltaic (solar electric) system as well as other elements, the building utilizes some of the most widely recognized methods for achieving energy and resource efficiency. These building elements are visible and used in teaching. The students are immersed in what they are learning. The classroom represents state-of-the-art green technologies and provides a permanent home at the Aspen Elementary School campus for the environmental education program.



Third grade "Ecosystems Detectives" discover bones during a natural community members field trip.

## In the Classroom

Every day, two ACES educators teach the in-school environmental education curriculum to Aspen Elementary School students. The curriculum flow is designed after an ecology textbook, building a foundation with local plants and animals, and moving toward the broader concept of animal and plant adaptations and their roles in natural communities.

## In the Field

All Aspen Elementary School students participate in field study programs at the Hallam Lake Nature Preserve, in the Hunter Creek Valley, at the North Star Nature Preserve, on top of Aspen Mountain and at other natural settings. These field programs are provided seasonally by their ACES environmental instructor and the content directly corresponds with their in-school environmental education curriculum. More than 100 parents of elementary school students participate in the seasonal environmental education field trips.

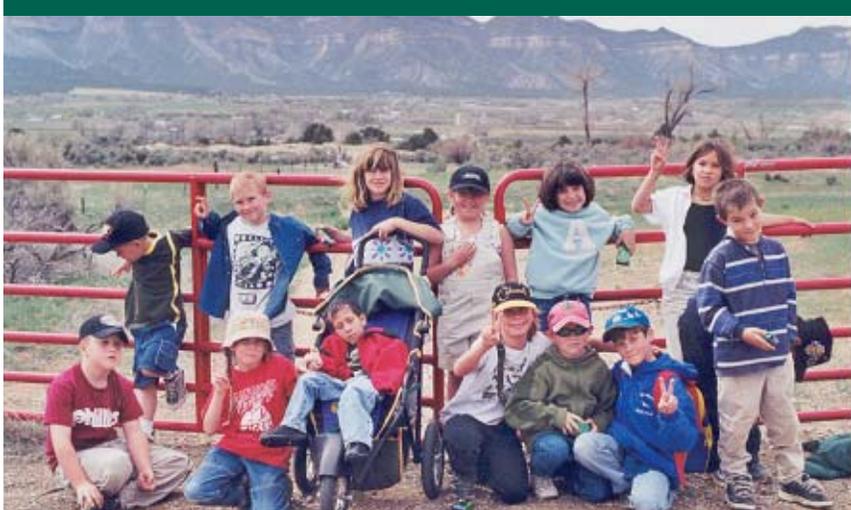


For more information, contact: Holly Hannaway, Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, 100 Puppy Smith Street, Aspen, CO 81611, 970-925-5756, [hhannaway@aspennature.org](mailto:hhannaway@aspennature.org), <http://www.aspennature.org/>

Wendy MacPhail, Aspen School District, 199 High School Road, Aspen, CO 81611, 970-925-3760, ext. 3122

# awards 2001

## Manaugh Montessori I, “Places to Go Around Cortez”



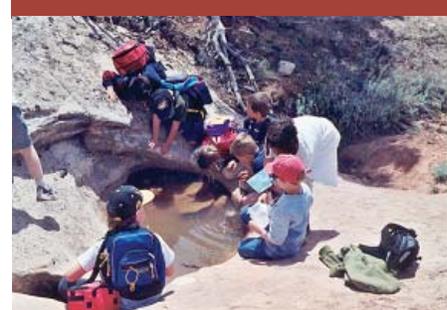
*Authors at Hawkin's Preserve, public land used as a site to educate students about topics from pine & juniper habitat to ancient inhabitants of the area.*

Julianne Martinez began a service-learning project with her Early Montessori class in the spring of 2001, which continues to benefit the students, the community and the environment. They produced a bilingual recreation guide for children titled “Places to Go Around Cortez.” Students, aged six through nine, felt that this project addressed a need for their Spanish-speaking peers to have help accessing the opportunities in the area, and would make all young people more aware of their public lands and how to behave responsibly when using the land for recreation.

The network of partnerships resulted in a book that is useful for parents and children. The published guide fosters ideas such as a sense of place and an appreciation of natural environments. This is important, especially in an area such as Montezuma County, where the majority of land is public. As the guide is circulated more and more, it continues to reach wider audiences and have an impact long after the first printing. Teachers in other geographical areas have taken notice and are trying to start similar projects.

The children at Manaugh were able to provide a real service to people in their community while making learning about stewardship, writing, photography, organization, working together, and much more, fun and authentic.

## Media Partnership Award



*Montessori students squatting around a waterhole looking for signs of tiny life at Sand Canyon, a favorite hiking place south of Cortez on BLM land.*

**To acquire the knowledge necessary for making the book, Ms. Martinez began building partnerships.**

- A photographer from the Cortez Journal visited the class to give a lesson on taking photographs, so the students could illustrate the book with pictures.
- Representatives from the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management came to the class to teach map reading and also to give expert information on what recreation opportunities are available at each public area. Collaboration with her school administration and parents assisted the class in personally visiting the places featured in the book.
- Cortez Parks and Recreation provided information on the types of recreation available in City Parks.
- The Service-Learning Initiative offered informational, financial and publishing support.

# ee partnership

## Denver Master Composter Program



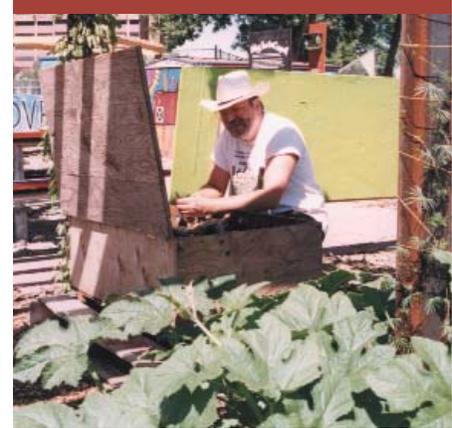
Bin displays demonstrate backyard composting styles and techniques.

The Denver Master Composter Program combines the Denver Public Works Denver Recycles program with the gardening and composting programs of Denver Urban Gardens. Denver Recycles uses a train-the-trainer approach and classroom programs in Denver Public Schools to deliver its message that recycling yard wastes such as grass clippings, leaves, and other yard trimmings help the city and environment by saving land fill space as well as the costs of trash collection.

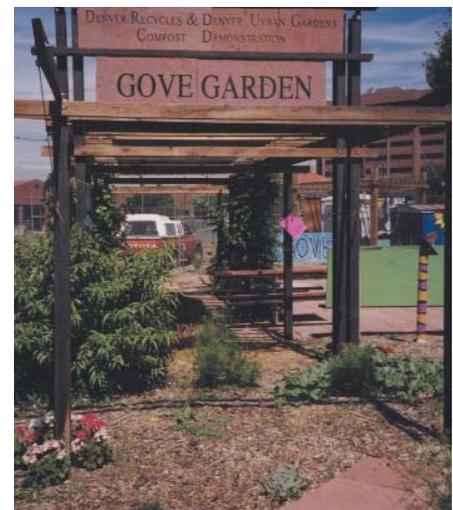
Master Composters are trained at the Backyard Composting Demonstration Site located at the Gove Community Garden and managed by Denver Urban Gardens (DUG). Denver Urban Gardens manages over 70 community gardens in the Denver Area as well as the Delaney Urban Farm. The Denver Recycles/DUG partnership has allowed the expansion of both programs by better managing financial, human, and factual resources.

While the focus of this outreach is to educate residents about composting and its benefits, a side effect has been increased awareness of recycling and waste reduction practices and methods. When composting is used, the health and appearance of lawns and gardens is improved while reducing the amount of water and fertilizer needed.

## Citizen/Community Partnership Award



Master Composter MacKenzie Helton teaches Denver residents the simple steps to creating a successful worm box.



Denver Backyard Compost Demonstration site is an oasis in an urban setting, located within Gove Garden at 13th and Colorado Blvd.

**Since the Denver Master Composter partnership began in 2000, program presentations have soared.**

- 47 educationally and environmentally minded volunteers have been trained as Master Composters.
- By June of 2001, programs had reached 7,624 Denver residents, including 1000 DPS students in 2000 alone.



Charlotte Pitt, Denver Recycles, 3377 Blake Street, Suite 113, Denver, CO 80205, 720-865-6816, charlotte.pitt@ci.denver.co.us, web site: <http://www.denvergov.org/DenverRecycles>

Beth Lokkesmoe, Denver Urban Gardens, 3377 Blake St. Suite 113, Denver, CO 80205, 303-292-9900, dirt@dug.org, web site: [www.dug.org](http://www.dug.org)

# awards 2001

## FrontRange Earth Force



FrontRange Earth force (FREF) is committed to building lasting, collaborative relationships that engage youth from school classrooms, after-school programs and summer programs in environmental problem solving in their communities. From guiding primarily middle and high school students through community service-learning programs to training classroom teachers on mentoring the process.

FrontRange Earth Force begins with a partnership with a school program. Participants brainstorm environmental issues in their community. After investigating possible solutions, one project is chosen. FREF facilitates the planning of the solution and helps participants contact necessary community resource people, but it is up to the group to make final decisions and take actions. Throughout it all, students must gain knowledge about the environment and interact with members of the community such as local businesses, government agencies, politicians, and environmental specialists.

Partners vary by community project. Some major contributors include: Denver Public Schools, Denver Housing Authority, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Department of Transportation, Coalition 4 Better Schools, Community College of Aurora, St. Elizabeth's Retirement Center, Subway, EPA, Denver Parks and Recreation, Mayor's Club of Denver, University of Denver, Campfire Council, Grounds for Learning, Project Learning Tree, Hands-On Learning, Denver Zoo W.I.N.-W.I.N. program, and Americorps.

## Non-Profit Partnership Award



### In four years of Denver operations, accomplishments include:

- installing drinking water filters in older homes with lead pipes
- planting trees along the S. Platte River to increase habitat and prevent bank erosion
- creating schoolyard wildlife habitats
- implementing school and community recycling programs
- stenciling storm drains with the education warning "Dump No Waster, Drains to River"
- improving neighborhood parks and pools
- designing hazardous waster disposal campaigns
- testing water quality and monitoring storm drains
- building bird houses
- organizing bike repair and safety clinics
- planting terrariums and flowering plant gifts for seniors in a nursing home

### In addition, FREF

- has trained over 80 educators and worked directly with over 3,000 youth
- holds an Annual Summit every spring for all sites to come together to share, educate, and celebrate with each other as well as with other interested groups



For more information Lisa Bardwell, FrontRange Earth Force, 2120 W. 33rd Ave., Denver, CO 80211, 303-433-0016, [fronrange@earthforce.org](mailto:fronrange@earthforce.org), website: [www.earthforce.org/fronrange/](http://www.earthforce.org/fronrange/)

# ee partnership

## Guidestone CSA Farm and Center for Sustainable Living

Located on a 150 acres just west of Loveland, Guidestone CSA Farm provides a model partnership between farmers and community members.

“Community Supported Agriculture” — Guidestone Farm operates as a CSA operation, in which over 200 local families invest in the farm to help establish a local food economy for natural meats, milk, honey, herbal products, bread and produce. The farm provides a share of the weekly harvest of vegetables to their customers who have paid in advance of the growing season. The customers get the rewards of the harvest in bumper crops and take the risk along with the farmer if disaster strikes, such as hail.

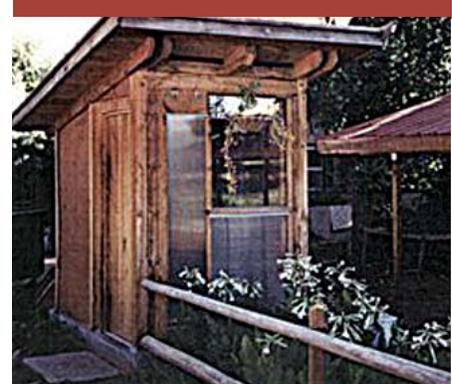
**Farmhands Program** — A farm curriculum is available to children of all ages in Northern Colorado. The program provides hands-on experiences to assist in understanding where food comes — from connecting children back to the land and the farmer who grows the food (milking a cow, collecting eggs, feeding livestock) to the importance of practicing sustainable agriculture.

**Adult Education Program** — Featured are on-site educational workshops about natural building technologies, renewable energy, permaculture design, organic farming and gardening, nutrition and food preservation.

**Internships** — College-age students come to Guidestone Farm for season-long internships to learn about all aspects of operating a CSA farm — from growing and cultivating vegetables, and production of dairy and meat products, to managing an organic farm, and learning how to run a business, operate a farm store and welcome customers.

**Guided Tours** — Guidestone Farm staff provide Saturday tours to the public of its fully diversified working organic farm and sustainably designed facilities.

## Agricultural Partnership Award



*The Sunny John is a composting toilet built of natural building materials, vented and heated solely with the power of the sun and wind. It is used year round by the Farm hands and guests, and provides compost for shrubs and trees in the field landscapes.*



*Farmhands Program participants getting to know a horse.*



*Students practice milking a cow.*

### Some of Guidestone CSA Farm's current partners include:

- Wilderness Education Institute
- Colorado Academy
- Compass Montessori High School
- Solar Energy International
- High Altitude Permaculture Institute
- Havern Center



For more information, contact: David Lynch & Judie Anders, Guidestone Farm, 5943 N. County Road 29, Loveland, CO 80538, 970-461-0271, [Guidestone\\_Alliance@msn.com](mailto:Guidestone_Alliance@msn.com), web site: [www.stewardshipcommunity.org](http://www.stewardshipcommunity.org)

# awards 2001

## Ridgway State Park EE Program

The San Juan Mountains in SW Colorado offer an outstanding, natural outdoor classroom. Utilizing this unique setting, plus the expertise of local natural resource agencies, the naturalists at Ridgway State Park have created three highly successful EE programs which fill an important niche for teachers and students on the Western Slope. Since 2000, approximately 3,500 students and 50 educators have been reached through Ridgway State Park Programs.

**The Parks In Education Program** brings students to the park's outdoor setting for interdisciplinary programs each fall and spring, extending their classroom lessons. Students experience nature first-hand investigations of life, physical and earth science, making observations on issues ranging from wildlife management to habitat restoration. The activities are adapted for different age groups and developmental stages, socio-economic backgrounds, and special needs.

The Park also offers **The Teachers At Parks Program**. This weeklong seminar allows educators to have field experiences with resource professionals including wildlife managers, foresters, birding experts, geologists and others. Educators then develop standard-based units using their field experiences and nationally recognized nature education materials. The educators are also provided with a Ridgway State Park's Teachers Guide to further assist with integrating environmental education into their classroom curriculum.

**The Nature Detectives (Junior Rangers) Program** takes place on Saturday mornings during the summer for children staying at the park and from surrounding areas. These Junior Rangers dive into hands-on activities about their natural surroundings, cultural history and Native American history. They earn a badge after completing an activity and service project.

## Government Partnership Award



*At the gold panning station, Kristi Drexler explains how early settlers in the area sifted through soils. Students can do some panning to identify rocks.*



*Kathy See leading an activity to compare and contrast crayfish to other arthropods.*

In the development and delivery of these programs, Ridgway staff partner with a broad range of resource management professionals, including: Colorado State Forest Service, Division of Wildlife, school districts in the surrounding area, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State Forest Service, Friends of Ridgway State Park, National Audubon Society, Colorado Native Plant Society, Great Outdoors Colorado and Colorado State Parks.



For more information, contact: Kirstin Copeland, Ridgway State Park, 28555 Highway 550, Ridgway, CO 81432  
970-626-5822 [kirstin.copeland@state.co.us](mailto:kirstin.copeland@state.co.us), web site: [www.coloradoparks.org](http://www.coloradoparks.org)

# ee partnership

## New Belgium Brewing Company

## Green Business Practices Education Award



*A wind turbine at Medicine Bow, Wyoming provides all of New Belgium's electricity.*



*At the end of 2000, New Belgium minimized its production's environmental impact by recycling 96 tons of glass, 31 tons of cardboard and 9 tons of shrink wrap.*



*Light tubes provide natural lighting in the warehouse.*

New Belgium Brewing Company, in Fort Collins, is a business with a strong social and environmental commitment. How strong?

- New Belgium was the first and currently the only wind powered brewery in the United States.
- Heat is recycled in the brewhouse, maximizing energy efficiency. Sun tubes and motion sensor lights have been installed maximizing energy efficiency in the warehouse.
- Induction fans pull cold air in during winter months to chill the beer warehouse.
- The office features furniture and carpet made of recycled materials.
- Construction will soon be complete on its own process water treatment facility. The on-site facility will produce methane gas that will then be used to produce electricity and heat energy.

All of this is smart business practice. The Brewing Company goes one step further by reaching out to share its knowledge of green practices and creative strategies. Staff take advantage at promotional events and at the brewery to present their environmental practices. New Belgium also donates funds to environmental education endeavors and sponsors environmental events. At every opportunity, staff encourage audiences to take personal environmental steps.

### Tours

Tours are arranged, frequently, by request. Tour guests include students and professors at Colorado State University, beer distributors, community groups, and corporate and government visitors (such as Pepsi-co and the National Renewable Energy Lab).

### Presentations on the Road

The New Belgium Guest Relations Team travels to conferences to explain how the brewery operates. Recent presentations have been made for the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education and WRIST.

Demonstrating environmental stewardship through minimizing resource consumption and maximizing energy efficiency and recycling, New Belgium brings its corporate values to reality. As a business role model, New Belgium Brewing Company is stimulating social, environmental and cultural change.



For more information, contact: Hillary Kaufman, New Belgium Brewing Company,  
500 Linden Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 970-221-0524, hkaufman@newbelgium.com,  
web site: [www.newbelgium.com](http://www.newbelgium.com)

# awards 2001

## Pikes Peak Teaching Environmental Science Naturally

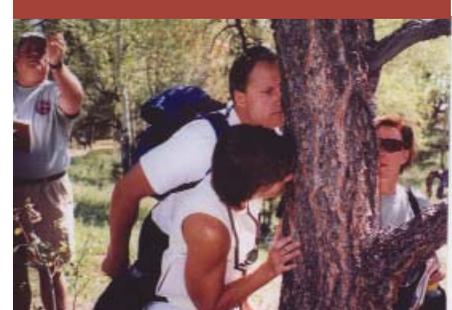


T.E.N. was conceived by Colorado Division of Wildlife personnel in 1991 as a way to bring the environmental resources of a city to the students of the community through well trained teachers by increasing local, field-oriented education opportunities. Teachers (K-12) attend a 3-5 day workshop, visiting outdoor classroom sites and learning about the area's natural history and resource management.

Trips to a T.E.N. site are not mere field trips. The activities and lessons demonstrate how classroom knowledge is used in field situations and management decisions. Each outdoor classroom site has an instructional kit to aid educators when they visit with their class. Site kits contain materials such as field guides, water quality testing kits, binoculars, and soil testing kits and are correlated to Colorado State Model Content Standards. Students gain an understanding and appreciation of science and the natural environment leading to citizens that make educated decisions about the environment regarding the many challenges present in protecting wildlife and the environment.

Since 1991, more than 650 teachers have participated in these workshops reaching more than 5000 students in 10 Colorado cities.

## Higher Education Partnership Award



**Teachers attending a 5-day Colorado Springs T.E.N. workshop have a unique experience.**

- On-site visits at 5 environmental organizations
- 45 hours of instruction
- Classroom activities and curriculum
- Real world field experience
- Final project ideas from all participants

### **Colorado Springs partners include:**

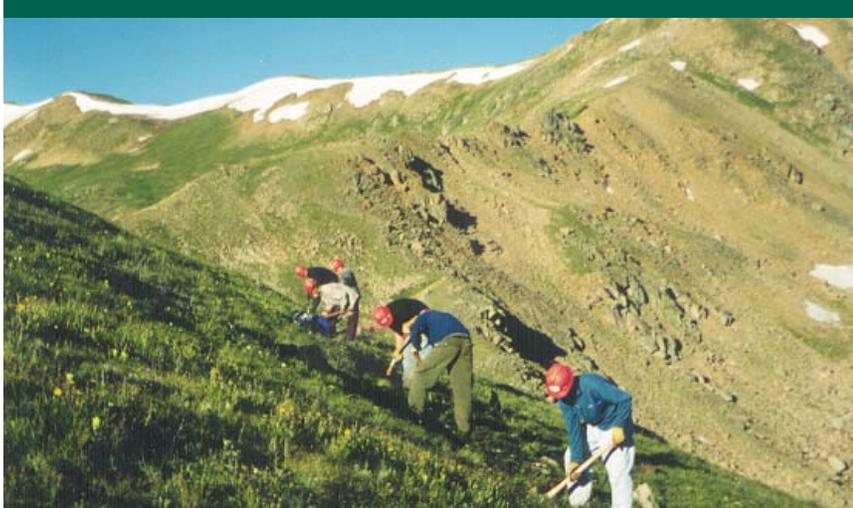
Starsmore Discovery Center, Fountain Nature Center, Fort Carson, Beidleman Environmental Center, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Mueller State Park, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Aiken Canyon, Chico Basin Ranch, Pikes Peak America's Mountain, National Wildlife Federation, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and School Districts 2, 3, 11, 12, and 14.



For more information, contact Steve Lucero, Colorado Division of Wildlife,  
2126 N. Weber, Colorado Springs, CO 80907, 719-227-5203, [steve.lucero@state.co.us](mailto:steve.lucero@state.co.us)

# ee partnership

## Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Environmental Education Mentors Program

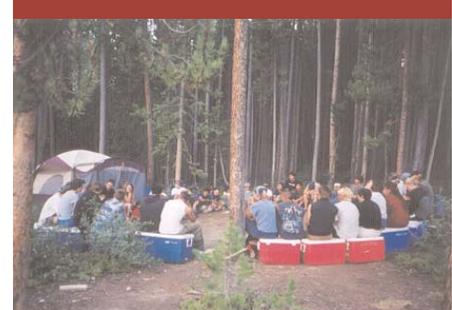


The Environmental Education Mentor Program (EEMP) at the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) provides opportunities for young adults from throughout NW Colorado to provide place-based environmental education to youth and peers through two summer programs.

**Yampa Valley Science School** is a place-based educational 5-day summer camp for sixth graders throughout Routt County. It provides experiential and mentoring activities for 6th graders, by intergenerational facilitators-high school Junior leaders, college student Senior leaders, and adults.

**Conservation Corps Programs** — EE Mentors and youth crews work together on one of three conservation projects for 4-8 weeks. Participants learn to cooperate with others in a community living situation. Each evening, mentors facilitate an experiential learning session from the RMYC “Project Seed” curriculum. Discussions focus on environmental issues, job skills, leadership & teamwork, personal growth, social and political issues, as well as projects they are completing.

## Best New Partnership Award



### In 2001, the ten RMYC Mentors, (ages 19-23):

- Taught 215 6th grade students over 3 weeks at the science camp.
- Built and maintained forest trails, cleared and revegetated riparian zones, thinned timber stands, build fences, developed campgrounds, and restored wildlife habitat.
- Facilitated 462 hours of RMYC’s Project SEED curriculum.
- Successfully worked with 58% medium/high risk participants
- Played key roles in 95% completion rate of corps members in programs (compared with 80-85% in non-Mentor years)
- Completed 58 total crew weeks. Each participant received a full Education Award (\$2362.50) and 11 college credits.

Curriculum activities are taught by professional staff and the EE Mentors. Activities are composed by the staff and resource specialists Yampatika/Partners in Interpretation, The Nature Conservancy, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, and Route County Cooperative Extension Office. Other partners include the Carpenter Ranch, Friends of the Yampa River, Steamboat Lake Outfitters, Yampa Valley Legacy Education Initiative, Colorado Mountain College, and of course the Steamboat Springs and Hayden School Districts.



For more information, contact Gretchen Van De Carr, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, P.O. Box 775504, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477, 970-879-2135, rmycl@springsips.com

# what is caee?

“Serving those who serve the cause of environmentally responsible behavior.”

There is an enormous array of environmental education (EE) programming, and the effectiveness of that collective effort is as important as are the separate results of any individual program or project.

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) facilitates communication, cooperation, collaboration, and coordination among the varied environmental education programs in the state.

CAEE was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1989 to serve the shared interests of public agencies, businesses, teachers, community organizations and individuals distributing and using EE materials and programs. It is a neutral and objective source of information related to EE in Colorado, and a voice for EE's important role in the balance between societal needs and environmental quality.

## CAEE's Current Projects

- Establish an information clearinghouse and communications network.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive website and database of programs and resources.
- Link EE programs and state curriculum standards through the EE Correlations Project.
- Maintain a statewide EE Advisory Council.
- Provide outreach to key EE stakeholder groups & regional area networks of EE providers.
- Manage an annual recognition and awards program.
- Provide professional development opportunities, such as Teaching Outside the Box, May 3-5, 2002.

## CAEE Membership

### CAEE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

You're invited to join the largest professional organization of environmental educators in Colorado. By supporting CAEE as a member, you will receive the following benefits:

- Monthly newsletter
- Announcements of upcoming EE events and EE Job openings
- Discounts to CAEE functions
- Invitations to networking functions
- Professional development workshops
- Free placement on the Colorado Environmental Education Database (if you are a CAEE Organizational Member)

### CAEE Membership Rates

Student or Teacher	\$15/yr
Individual	\$35/yr
Organization/ Agency/ or Institution	\$65/yr <i>(allows up to 4 contacts, field offices or program managers to be listed)</i>

*A Membership Form is available at [www.caee.org](http://www.caee.org) or by contacting the CAEE office.*



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colorado alliance for environmental education

