

CAEE provides a fresh vision and innovative strategies, while including new audiences, for its Colorado Environmental Education Master Plan and continues its stewardship.



Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education 2010 Awards for Excellence in Environmental Education

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) is officially established as a 501(c)(3) organization.

The first members join CAEE and presently there is a membership of more than 850 individuals and organizations.



Colorado Kids Outdoors Grant Program Act passes and creates a pathway for the Colorado Environmental Literacy Plan.

CAEE hosts its first Teaching Outside the Box Conference at Snow Mountain Ranch near Winter Park. At its 10th annual conference, held in the Denver Metro area, over 300 educators participate.



CAEE's Advisory Council sets a new direction with a Diversity and Inclusiveness Initiative.



U.S. Congress reauthorizes the National Environmental Education Act, which creates an Office of Environmental Education within the Environmental Protection Agency.

The first Certified Environmental Educators are recognized by CAEE. Today, there are 35 Certified Environmental Educators in the state.

1989 1990 1995 1996 2001 2008 2010

The Timeless Power of Environmental Education

Call for Nominations!

2011 Environmental Education Awards

Do you know of a successful environmental education program in a school, business, public agency, nonprofit, or local community? Do you know of individuals or organizations working together to provide quality environmental education?

If so, please nominate your program or theirs for a CAEE Environmental Education Award!

Award categories include:
Agricultural,
Best New Program,
Business,
Citizen/Community,
Government,
Higher Education, Media,
Nonprofit,
PreK-Elementary
Education,
Religious/Spiritual, and
Secondary Education.

Pick up a nomination form today, or visit <http://www.caee.org> to download a nomination form.

Contact CAEE at 303-273-9527 or info@caee.org for more information.

CAEE Awards for Excellence in Environmental Education

Environmental educators across Colorado are making a difference in their communities. Through service learning, civic engagement, and encounters with the natural world, environmental education helps learners understand their role in the environment. Since 1996 the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) has taken the opportunity to honor the amazing work and efforts of environmental educators and organizations across the state through the Awards for Excellence in Environmental Education Program.

President's Award

Each year the CAEE Board of Directors selects an individual or organization to receive the CAEE President's Award in honor of exceptional leadership for environmental preservation, sustainability, and education.

Enos Mills Lifetime Achievement Award

This award for significant achievement is named after Enos Mills, "founder" of Rocky Mountain National Park, and is presented by CAEE to an individual for long-term, outstanding achievements and contributions to environmental education. Enos Mills spent his life discovering and experiencing nature, and working tirelessly to preserve it by sharing its benefits with others through nature guiding, writing, and photography. Like Enos Mills, the award recipient has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the field of environmental education through a significant body of work.

Award for Outstanding Retiring Environmental Educators

Do you know an outstanding environmental educator who has retired (or is retiring) from their professional role in education, and whose contributions to the field of environmental education deserve recognition? Are you such an educator? If so, please nominate him/her - or yourself - for the Recognition for Outstanding Retired Environmental Educators! To be considered for this award, the nominee must have been an environmental educator (at any grade level, formal or non-formal, volunteer) for at least five years, plan to retire within one year or be three years or less beyond retirement, and have made a significant contribution to environmental education during their career. Nominations are reviewed on May 1 and October 1 each year.

Environmental Education Program Awards

Initiated in 1996, CAEE Environmental Education Program Awards honor leadership in developing effective, cooperative, cross-sector environmental education programs. The 2010 recipients have demonstrated success in implementing innovative environmental education programs and partnerships.

Please visit the displays to learn more about these outstanding programs and individuals.

Enos Mills' signature nature guiding, more inspirational than informational from the Longs Peak Inn, becomes the basis for the modern field of interpretation.

1902

1885

Enos Mills moves to Colorado from Kansas and builds his log cabin at the base of Longs Peak at age 15.

1889

Enos Mills travels to California and meets naturalist John Muir.

1909

Enos Mills fights to create Rocky Mountain National Park through national speaking tour; writing in books, magazines, and newspapers; and gaining allies.

1912

Colorado Mountain Club is formed and supports creating the national park.

These Awards Made Possible By

Our Sponsors

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education wishes to thank the Colorado State Forest Service, White Wave, Chevron, and Frederic Printing for their generous support of the Thirteenth Annual Awards Celebration.

Our 2010 Awards Committee

CAEE wants to thank the volunteer members of the 2010 Awards Committee:

- Kristin Libberton, Chair, Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Roxanne Brickell-Reardon, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
- Kim Glatz, Environmental Learning for Kids
- Wendy Hanophy, WEH Enterprises
- Karin Hostetter, Interpret This
- Fletcher Jacobs, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
- Sharon Moore, CSU Extension Jefferson County
- Ashley Mott, Volunteer at Bluff Lake Nature Center and Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
- Kathleen Okon
- Daniel Parker, Plains Conservation Center
- Amanda Peterson, Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Jefferson County Open Space
- Tim Sandsmark, Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Jefferson County Open Space
- Liz Wickard, City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space



CAEE's Awards Committee is formed and presents Awards for Excellence in Environmental Education recognizing programs across the state and renames its lifetime achievement award after Enos Mills. Past recipients include:
 George A. "Buddy" Wilson, 1996
 Glen A. Hinshaw, 1997
 CeCe Forget, 1998
 Enda Mills Kiley, 1998
 Roxanne Brickell-Reardon, 1999
 Elizabeth Gardener, 2000

Past recipients of Enos Mills Lifetime Achievement Award include:
 Oakleigh Thorne II, 2001
 Mary Ann Bonnell, 2002
 Shawna Crocker, 2003
 Mike Way, 2004
 Wendy MacPhail-Brigham, 2005
 Dave Sutherland, 2005
 Wendy Hanophy, 2006
 Raymond Tschillard, 2007
 Dave Van Manen, 2008
 Patrick Emery, 2009
 Lisa Evans, 2009

Enos Mills dies at age 52.
 The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) is officially established as a 501(c)(3) organization.

National Park Service is created.

1916 1922 1989 1996 2001-2009

1915 1995 2000

Enos Mills is credited as the Father of Rocky Mountain National Park when established on January 26.

Georg Ek receives Blue Spruce Lifetime Achievement Award from CAEE Board of Directors.

CAEE's Awards Committee presents a one-time Muse Award recognizing exceptional environmental education leaders providing inspiration and guidance for the environmental education community into the 21st century. Muse Award recipients include Jeff Brigham, Georg Ek, Dan Parker, and Laura and Sandy Sanborn.

President's Award

Representative Scanlan and Senator Gibbs

The Board of Directors of CAEE is proud to honor Legislative Director (former State Representative) Christine Scanlan and Summit County Commissioner (former State Senator) Dan Gibbs with the 2010 President's Award for harnessing unprecedented support for advancing environmental education in and out of the classroom through the Colorado Kids Outdoors Grant Program Act (HB 1131). Despite a struggling economy including serious budget cuts at every level of government, their leadership, support, and ultimately their sponsorship in the House and Senate brought Colorado a dedicated grants program getting kids outdoors and connected to nature, as well as a Statewide Comprehensive Environmental Literacy Plan. Their leadership has put Colorado environmental education on the national map. The President's Award recognizes individuals such as Christine and Dan whose work advances the field of environmental education.

Christine served in the nonprofit sector as the Development Officer for the Keystone Center focusing on project development for its education programs. She also served as the organization's Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Christine was appointed to the State House of Representatives in 2008, where she quickly became a trusted education policy leader and effective at bi-partisan work. Additionally, Representative Scanlan was an invited expert and member of Governor Ritter's P-20 Council's sub-committee on Preparation and Transitions. Recently, she has been appointed Director of Legislative Affairs and Strategic Initiatives to Governor Hickenlooper's administration. Christine lives in Summit County with her husband, Tim, and when not away at school, their three daughters.

An avid sportsman, wild land fire fighter, and former outdoor adventure guide, Dan Gibbs is no stranger to the importance of environmental education and the need for youth to connect to nature. Having served in the Colorado House of Representatives, as well as the Colorado Senate, and with experience working for then Congressman Mark Udall, Senator Gibbs is skilled in removing barriers and moving legislation forward. A longtime supporter of efforts to get kids outdoors, he was a natural fit to lead the Colorado Kids Outdoors Grant Program Act through the Senate. Dan lives in Breckenridge and is now serving as a Summit County Commissioner.

CAEE's Board and members thank Christine and Dan for their commitment to natural resources and for their work benefiting youth and the outdoors. We commit to continuing their legacy by implementing the best environmental literacy plan in the country and making sure all Colorado kids have the opportunity to get outdoors.



"It was truly exciting to be part of this effort. Colorado is an amazing place and we made the commitment to ensure all kids in Colorado have the opportunity to learn about their environment beginning with where they live." - Julie Gustafson, CAEE Past Board President

Best New Program

Growing Up WILD

Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children is an early childhood education program sponsored by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Designed to build upon a child's sense of wonder about nature, the activities invite them to explore wildlife and the world around them. The intent of conducting these activities with young children is to light the spark of an environmental ethic at a very early age. The activities are designed to create a vital love and interest in the outdoors, as well as an interest in community service. Through games, stories, art, song, and play, children have opportunities to explore and learn about the outdoor world and wildlife.

The Council for Environmental Education published the *Growing Up WILD* guide in cooperation with the Project WILD Coordinator Network in June 2009. The Council for Environmental Education is home to several other award-winning educational programs including *Project WILD*, *Aquatic Project WILD*, *Flying WILD*, and *Wet in the City*. The Colorado Division of Wildlife Volunteer Facilitator network implements the educator-training workshops. Over 300 educators across Colorado have been trained to use these materials during the pilot year. Training workshops are three to eight hours long and focus on engaging participants in as many activities as possible.

The activity guide is written especially for early childhood educators and parents of children ages three to seven. It features 27 field-tested, hands-on, nature-based activities in a full-color 11"x17" guide that involve social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive domains to help foster learning and development in all areas. The guide also supports developmentally appropriate practices allowing children to learn at levels that are individually, socially, and culturally appropriate and is correlated to the National Association for the Education of Young Children Standards and the Head Start Domains.

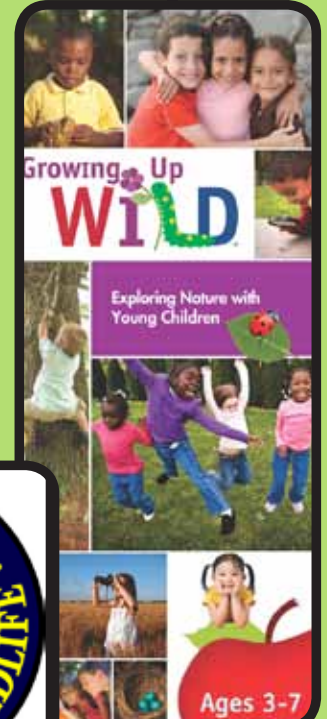
Partner contributions enable the training of educators across Colorado. Project WILD Volunteer Facilitators are a well established network and amazing team of education professionals who step up to provide quality wildlife education materials and training in the form of *Growing Up WILD* workshops. Partnerships with organizations adopting WILD materials as part of their in-service training programs make many of the *Growing Up WILD* training workshops possible. Recommended by the National Science Teacher Association, *Growing Up WILD* serves as a resource for and reminder to early childhood educators of the importance of outdoor exploration at an early age. The hope is to inspire adults to become good role models by going outdoors and taking the children with them!



Project WILD Volunteer Facilitator, Patty Breece, finds out what kids at the Fort Collins Museum think of different animals using the "First Impressions" activity.

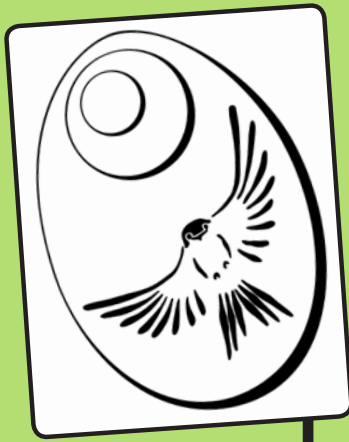


Every activity features ideas engaging all senses such as this snack idea for Spider Web Wonders.



"This is the ultimate example of content integration with creative and critical thinking, while engaging and addressing the needs of all children....an amazing package all in one! The alignment with developmentally appropriate practices is revealed in each and every section of every unit. What a great way to support and encourage all early childhood educators to include nature in many ways." - Dr. Kathryn Jerkins, Assistant Professor in Early Childhood Education at University of Houston-Downtown

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Agriculture

Rock Bottom Ranch

Rock Bottom Ranch (Ranch) is nestled on a rare plot of primarily undeveloped wetland and riparian habitat along the Roaring Fork River. This rare plot is 80 acres of wilderness habitat and 33 acres of developed ranch and was purchased by the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies in 1999. Programming at the Ranch began in 2001 fostering ecological literacy through environmental education, sustainable agriculture, and wild lands preservation. These education and restoration programs are designed with a focus on the connections between healthy sustainable agriculture practices and protection of the natural environment.

Serving a racially and socio-economically diverse audience, primarily from the lower Roaring Fork Valley, Ranch educators are uniquely positioned to meet the environmental education and community connection needs of this demographic. With over 12,000 personal contacts with children and adults per year, Ranch educators aspire to cultivate an awareness and understanding of place and ecological stewardship.

Many participants arrive at the Ranch with little knowledge of their "food shed" or of the process of growing and harvesting food, especially while sustaining a wildlife preserve. When participants get their shoes muddy from harvesting eggs or weeding the community garden, or make a bar of soap from natural oils, they are forging a connection to the land and their place within it. The nature of agriculture is based in experiential education. Many students struggling in the classroom thrive in this setting by experiencing milking goats; making bread, candles, or yarn from farm products; and working in the gardens.

In addition to teaching on site, Ranch educators visit every first-fourth grade classroom at Crystal River Elementary School and kindergarten-third grade classroom at Basalt Elementary School. As well, they teach in a variety of other classrooms in the lower Roaring Fork Valley. The majority of the students do not use English as their first language and over 40 percent qualify for free and reduced lunches. In most cases, Ranch educators provide the cornerstone of science education in these classrooms.

The Ranch is proud to work with its community fostering connections to the land through sustainable agriculture, habitat enhancement and restoration, and environmental education. Presently, Ranch educators are developing opportunities for adult and older student audiences empowering the local community to affect change. Classes on such diverse topics as traditional arts, energy efficiency, natural building, trout fishing, beekeeping, horse training, and more are being offered. The Ranch is excited about the future with its model of community service and developing ecological literacy.



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Citizen/Community Award

Butterfly Pavilion Senior Habitat Gardening Program

Many seniors feel strongly about the natural world, associating it with past positive experiences and future well-being. The Butterfly Pavilion Senior Habitat Gardening Program serves elders in the Front Range community by bringing butterfly habitat gardens to this unique and under-served audience, instead of the other way around. For individuals with limited mobility, a nearby habitat garden provides much needed contact with nature and healthy exercise.

Since 2002, Butterfly Pavilion staff and volunteers and participating senior citizens have installed butterfly habitat gardens at 25 different senior residential and recreational facilities along the Front Range. At least three facilities are selected each year, based on staff and resident interest and quality of the site. These facilities receive free environmental education programs in the spring and a perennial butterfly habitat garden in the summer. The gardens are attractive and sustaining to Colorado butterflies and engaging to seniors through their senses.

By design the Senior Habitat Gardening Program is a joint project between the Butterfly Pavilion Horticulture and Education departments. It is especially successful because of the commitment of Butterfly Pavilion volunteers and staff, as well as residents at the participating senior centers. All these individuals contribute by planting butterfly-attracting perennials, creating related programming, and maintaining the gardens. Some facilities host special planting days, so relatives and friends of residents can participate in the creation of the habitat garden.

Senior residents and staff at the facilities regularly see more butterflies once the garden is established. The other benefit is for the residents themselves; all evaluations note that residents spend more time outdoors after the program. One 2008 program activity director recalls, "The seniors love not only the butterflies, but the beautiful flowers as well." An activity director from the 2010 program notes, "It helps to encourage their going outside to enjoy the plants and butterflies!"

The seniors participating in the Senior Habitat Gardening Program come from a variety of backgrounds. Some have always been passionate about the environment; others may have taken it for granted for most of their lives. By planting a butterfly habitat in their own "backyard," however, these individuals make very personal environmental decisions. Whether it's through a love of gardening, an artistic sensibility, or just the opportunity to socialize in the fresh air, this program encourages our older community members that they can, no matter what age, make a difference in order to preserve living things and their habitats.



Butterfly bush provides food for a passing Monarch butterfly.



A colorful butterfly habitat planted at Broomfield Skilled Nursing Center.



Seniors prepare flowers for planting in their new garden.



"Never before have the seniors spent so much time in the courtyard. Residents who were opposed to fresh air and sunshine went outside."
- Ms. Jennifer Rinoldo, Englewood Meridian Activity Director

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"My best program for 2010!"
Constance Roth,
GOCO Interpreter



Government Award Art in Nature

Art in Nature is a hands-on program connecting participants to nature through the inspiration of creating sculptures using only the natural resource materials easily found in Eldorado Canyon State Park. Eldorado Canyon, just southwest of Boulder, is an extraordinary day-use park and a hidden treasure along South Boulder Creek with towering sandstone cliffs.

The Art in Nature program is based on the work of English artist, Andy Goldsworthy. The goal, for the twelve to eighteen participants during the two-hour long program, is to begin to recognize Eldorado Canyon as a beautiful form of art. After reviewing Goldsworthy's books and video, participants brainstorm and discuss ways in which people have been artistic in the park. After hiking to a selected site and using collected natural materials, participants create their own sculptures, present them to the group, and discuss their meanings. Each sculpture is photographed for an album displayed in the park's visitor center.

Art in Nature was originally created for teens in the Boulder area. Competing with after-school activities and technology, however, makes it difficult to attract teens to park programs. Fortunately, Demetri Medoff, director of Recognizing Opportunity for Change (ROC), a part of the probation department for the juvenile justice system, contacted the park with a program request. The Art in Nature program was perfect for this under-served audience, adjudicated youth, as touching the resource and creating a piece of art would benefit them, both physically and emotionally. Nature stimulates creativity. The youth start out yawning, uninterested, and fidgety, but once outside at the designated site their attitudes change. They become children again, laughing and playing in nature. Program goals are exceeded as a sense of pride and community develops within these youth building their sculptures and working together.

Sam Barnes, current ROC Director, says about Art in Nature, "Nature can be a wonderful teacher especially to our students as it teaches patience, hard work, community, natural consequences, and beauty, just to name a few. It shows them there is a world outside of what they are used to, and they can express themselves in ways that do not hurt themselves or others along the way. They begin to understand that getting out of their comfort zone is not as scary as they may have thought and not all risk taking has to be negative. It is essential if we expect these youth to put aside gangs, drugs, and crime we also show them another side to this world that provides them with dignity, self respect, and achievement."

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Government Award

Roxborough State Park Interpretive and Environmental Education Programs

Roxborough State Park is a day-use park nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in southwest Littleton and is best known for its dramatic hogbacks and spectacular red sandstone formations jutting up to the sky. For many, a visit to the park may be their first exposure to the natural world and what an extraordinary place to visit as Roxborough offers unsurpassed beauty with one billion years of geologic history, abundant wildlife, and diverse plant communities. Its mission is to foster environmental stewardship by developing awareness and understanding of the natural and cultural resources of the park and is achieved through park staff and resourceful Volunteer Naturalists implementing the diverse offerings in the environmental education (EE) program for school, scout, and public groups.

Volunteers are essential for the success and implementation of the EE program as the park has only three full-time employees. Roxborough's renowned Volunteer Naturalist Program began in 1982 and today more than 160 active volunteers, with a lifelong passion for the natural world, are conducting EE programs. These volunteers are highly trained, participating in a thorough 32-hour park course spanning four weeks. In addition to the park manager and park ranger, Roxborough's Volunteer & Interpretive Services Manager, a unique position in all of state parks, provides expertise, experience, and consistency for the volunteers, as well as for designing the multitude of EE program offerings.

Roxborough's EE program offerings have evolved and been revamped over the years to meet visitor needs and program requests from surrounding counties including Douglas, Jefferson, Arapahoe, Adams, and Denver. Boy and Girl scout programs fulfill badge requirements while exposing Scouts to the park's natural resources and are structured for small group interaction to be fast-paced and address multiple learning styles providing the best experience. Pre-kindergarten through sixth grade school programs explore in small groups joined by a Volunteer Naturalist infusing wonder and excitement while creating and enhancing connections between what students learn in the classroom and experience at the park. Specific grade-level curriculum is matched to feature the park's natural resources and school programs are correlated to state standards. Roxborough is alone among 42 state parks for these extensive correlations.

The newest EE program offering is the Junior Naturalist (JN) program created in response to the recent emphasis on getting families out into parks and helping them connect with the natural world together. The JN booklet has many activities to stimulate discovery and the accompanying hikes and interactions with Volunteer Naturalists nurture learning. In 2009, Roxborough's EE program provided offerings for over 7000 participants including over 400 Scouts and well over 2000 students.



Kids participating in EE program.



Volunteer Naturalist, Deb Wright, with her granddaughter, Abigail Scafe, and Angel Tobin. Abigail is the first to complete the Junior Naturalist Program and receive her patch.



Brownie Girl Scouts at Lyons Overlook with Volunteer Naturalists and Angel Tobin.



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A participant breaks her first clay.



Overcoming fears, gaining confidence and self reliance are elements of BOW.



Renowned nature photographer, John Fielder, instructs a BOW class.



Higher Education Award

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

Impacting the future of our world through outdoor education is essential to ensure that our conservation heritage and healthy lifestyles continue and grow with each generation. A key to achieving this goal lies in reaching women. By engaging mothers, their children are more likely to become involved in the outdoor world. Women most often determine how leisure time and expendable income is utilized. Studies by the Outdoor Industry Foundation cite parental participation as the most significant factor related to whether or not children take part in outdoor pursuits. As an adult, a connection to the outdoors through those pursuits translates into the development of an environmental ethic, greater understanding of conservation, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) addresses this challenge and is a national, award-winning program offered by Wildland Awareness and Education Institute (Wildland Institute) in partnership with The Wildlife Experience. BOW is an outdoor skills program encouraging participation in the outdoor world. The program's guiding philosophy is to provide women the ability to learn skills among peers in a non-threatening, relaxed, and fun environment.

The program reaches educators, single mothers, college students, and women of all backgrounds 18 and older. No experience is necessary and all equipment is provided. The two-and-a-half day workshop is divided into four blocks of instruction. Participants choose their top choice of 24 courses, six offered concurrently during each instructional period. Courses range from wildlife identification to getting children outdoors, fishing basics to shooting sports, and orienteering to outdoor photography. Each class offers quality information about the outdoor pursuit, such as stream ecology in the fishing course and ensures that course skills can be duplicated post workshop. The workshop is offered with continuing education units through Colorado State University's Department of Continuing Education. These units qualify towards teacher recertification with the Colorado Department of Education.

BOW is the first training program recognizing and addressing the unique barriers of engaging women in the outdoors. This innovative program focuses on the many facets of the outdoors. To broaden its impact, Wildland Institute works with numerous natural resource agencies in the creation of new courses. Its strongest partner is the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Evaluations completed by graduates demonstrate BOW increases participation in outdoor recreation and conservation efforts: 70 percent participate in outdoor pursuits, 85 percent purchase licenses from their wildlife agency, and 31 percent join or volunteer for one or more conservation organizations as a result of workshop participation.

"This was the most rewarding experience I have ever participated in." - BOW participant

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Nonprofit Award

Junior Naturalist Field Camp

Junior Naturalist Field Camp (JNFC) is a week-long, summer day camp offered by Durango Nature Studies on its 140-acre Nature Center. JNFC's goal is offering the surrounding community a summer program providing nature, science, and environmental education through unparalleled programming and experiential learning opportunities for children in the Four Corners area. This nature science camp is scheduled five weeks during the summer, for kids ages six to eleven, and is implemented by highly trained staff and volunteer counselors dedicating their lives to education and nature studies.

The 140-acre Nature Center is a truly unique setting in the area and the perfect locale for offering Junior Naturalists a variety of opportunities. The structured games and activities include songs, crafts, hikes, and much more generating curiosity about, appreciation for, and familiarity with the natural world. Additionally, JNFC is Durango Nature Studies' response to an important and missing aspect of present-day childhood: unstructured playtime. Junior Naturalists enjoy unstructured playtime including hours for discovery, river play, observation, and exploration sparking their imagination, problem solving abilities, social and inquiry skills, sense of place, and awareness of the world around them and their role within it.

Besides the amazing setting and the high quality of the summer program, Durango Nature Studies has worked hard to keep costs affordable for families and offers JNFC at a price point competitive with daycare centers and other childcare programs in the area. There are also offerings of several scholarships throughout the summer. Parents and family members celebrate the end of each camp during a Friday Family Fest BBQ.

Parents enroll their children for a summer day camp session giving children the opportunity to bond with their counselors and the other kids in the group. JNFC staff monitors the growth and changes in the Junior Naturalists and their concept of nature throughout the week, the entire summer, and then years to come. Many Junior Naturalists come for all five sessions, if possible, and come back year after year. Many Junior Naturalists come to camp on the first day fearful and unable to name plants growing in the area or to "find things to do" during unstructured playtime, but leave camp on Friday with a strong sense of place and eagerness to show their parents what bobcat tracks look like, why they are different from coyote tracks, and what part of a yucca plant they can eat. And then, of course, Junior Naturalists must show everyone the mud dam they built in the bank of the Florida River and the shelter constructed in the woods during unstructured playtime.



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PreK-Elementary Award

Ecosystem Adventure

Can one idea truly be the impetus for lasting change in a community? Students in grades four and higher investigate this key question while exploring the abstract concept of an ecosystem during South Platte Park's Ecosystem Adventure Program. The one idea came from a Littleton resident who proposed purchasing a river's floodplain, rather than channelizing it. This idea produced lasting change by preserving a riparian floodplain, creating a park, and changing local and federal flood control procedures.

The Ecosystem Adventure Program was developed, using results of a survey and a focus group of local teachers, to aid in the significant challenge of communicating ecosystem concepts. The resulting program model is a multifaceted field trip providing students with in-depth exploration. In the process, students learn the history of how flooding by the South Platte River creates a floodplain and develops the riparian ecosystem of this suburban park.

The program uses a riparian woodland as an outdoor learning laboratory and combines a wide variety of interactive activities challenging and engaging all learners. Through inquiry learning techniques, discussions, and observations, students gain an understanding and a visualization of what an ecosystem encompasses. Introductory activities, such as group map reading and completing an ecosystem puzzle provoke student curiosity about the subject. As students head out on the trails, team exploration activities in various plant communities encourage them to report on what's most important without looking for specific answers. A guided hike then gives students a big-picture view of an ecosystem by seeing its boundaries, evidence of succession, and the major forces affecting it.

Additionally, the program makes use of a very unique resource in Colorado: Carson Nature Center's erosion table – perhaps the largest publicly accessible stream table and the only one with an adjustable flood function! During the program, students observe abstract river dynamics and work as a team to solve community planning issues. With no right or wrong approaches, each group applies teamwork, creativity, and problem solving strategies to the changing conditions of the model. Students quickly realize how upstream activities affect the entire ecosystem, as the river is always seeking equilibrium.

The program is possible with dedicated and passionate volunteer interpreters as it requires four leaders to accommodate schools bringing multiple classes. Volunteers present the story of South Platte Park to students in one distinct theme: The South Platte River shapes all life in our community. By design, students' final impression of an ecosystem, and whether or not this ecosystem is being successfully preserved is left to the imagination of each student.



River erosion table in use.



Inspecting beaver stick?



Hiking to the river.



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"Students have not stopped talking about the trip. They were so excited to find animals in their various forms and habitats. The water table really showed what can happen and how we need to plan. Great trip ... very hands on!" - Jerry Walker, 5th grade teacher

PreK-Elementary Award

Star K Kids

Star K Kids is an action-packed, informal, environmental literacy adventure designed specifically for the preschool learner, ages five and under. The hour-long program is scheduled at two different times every Thursday morning at the Morrison Nature Center in Aurora. The program uses the alphabet as a primary format, using a different letter each week. Three to four words are chosen that begin with the day's letter to highlight aspects of nature in Aurora. Program goals focus on learning about the natural world, listening skills, and learning respect for wildlife, nature, and each other. Activities include puppet shows, movement-oriented activities, and discovery time on the trail.

Star K Kids reaches an audience for which there is a constant demand to find activities that are engaging, educational, and fun. Parents and adult caregivers of young children are always looking for inexpensive ways to enrich the lives of their toddlers. The program is unique as it teaches about nature and uses the ABCs, a recognizable tool, helping to prepare young children for preschool and beyond. Existing for six years, Star K Kids program attendance continues to rise. For the 2009 summer, from June through August, Star K Kids hosted 251 children. Participation in 2010, during the same time frame, was up to 428! Parents and adult caregivers drive from southeast Aurora, Denver, Highlands Ranch, Thornton, and Englewood to be part of the action.

One of the ways in which the Star K Kids program stands out the most is its service to a very diverse socio-economic audience. It's common to hear four different languages being spoken in one hour. It's also common to hear young children translating scientific concepts for their parents.

Star K Kids is made possible with funding from educational grants through Adams County Open Space and by the Arapahoe County Open Space tax. Community members provide support for the program through their attendance and referrals. Montessori schools, at-home day care providers, and mom's and dad's groups make attending the program a regular part of their week. When parents of child care groups find out where their kids are learning all this fantastic information about local nature, they bring the rest of the family out to other programs offered by the Morrison Nature Center and the City of Aurora. Additionally, several of the Star K Kids have older siblings attending local schools and bringing program information into schools, such as Global Village Academy, a language immersion school, and Crescent View Academy, a Muslim charter school.



"As an Aurora resident, I feel very lucky to have this special program within my community and available for my children. Star K Kids is truly a hands-on learning experience for my kids." - Kathy Peters, Star K Kids mom

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Enos Mills Lifetime Achievement Award

George Wallace



George Wallace's professional and civic activities demonstrate a lifelong commitment to interpretation and environmental education (EE). Before EE became a career path, George was using EE as a Peace Corps volunteer promoting environmentally appropriate practices with fishermen and farmers in Central America. After his Peace Corps service, he directed a program for migrant farm workers and their children incorporating a mobile learning laboratory and field activities. George believes in the power of hands-on environmental activities in overcoming the barriers of poverty, language, and instability. Later, as co-director of a Teacher Corps project, he used these concepts while preparing teachers for working with minority students.

After finishing his PhD, George joined the faculty at Colorado State University (CSU). In addition to teaching and research, he founded and directed the Center for Protected Area Management and Training (CPAMT). Under George's guidance, CPAMT has helped develop curriculum, training centers, graduate degree programs, and cooperative studies units in several countries. One renowned five-week CSU field course is celebrating its 21st anniversary. Several of George's former graduate students are now key staff members at CPAMT.

During his years at CSU, George has touched the lives of thousands of undergraduates, more than 70 graduate students, public officials, and hundreds of resource managers, as well as receiving many awards for his teaching and outreach/service in the process. His research, publications, and training activities provided by CPAMT often address the role of interpretation and EE in improving resource management and resolving resource conflicts. One example is George's Authority of the Resource Technique. This powerful technique, for gaining compliance with rules and dealing with undesirable behavior in natural areas, was originally developed for National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service rangers; however, it is now widely used by conservation professionals and volunteers locally, nationally, and internationally.

George teaches by example. Spending 38 years restoring a once degraded farm north of Fort Collins, George and his family have received a Division of Wildlife Landowner of the Year Award and a Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Award for their integration of agricultural and conservation/restoration practices. The farm is used by many as a classroom and field lab. Additionally, some 28 students have lived in the farm's bunkhouse and many have "come under the spell" going on to work in environmental fields.

In recent years, George has focused on "civic environmentalism" (CE). He believes in the power of good information, mutual learning, and an enhanced sense of place to help people come together on environmental issues and conflicts. George is developing activities and collaborative processes for resolving conflicts in national parks and forests and on local open space areas. George sees planning and stakeholder work groups as key venues for EE. As a nine-year County Planning Commissioner, Agricultural Advisory Board Member, and water task force member, he works to bridge the gap between agricultural producers and environmental groups on issues related to water, land health, food security, and sustainability. George feels one frontier for EE and CE is increasing public knowledge of how "working landscapes" function - where all the things we use come from and how they are processed.



George coming down from a week of ecological restoration work with students.



Working with Latin American Protected Area Managers during five-week field course in its 21st year.



"In his inspiring 2009 commencement address to the graduates of Warner College of Natural Resources, George urges his audience to understand the natural and cultural history of the places where we live, be willing to listen to others and compromise, and know when the time is right to speak carefully on behalf of land and community health."

- Michelle Finchum, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Fort Collins Utilities and CAEE Board Member

Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

What is CAEE?

The mission of the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) is to serve all sectors of the Colorado community by improving the collective effectiveness of environmental education (EE). CAEE enhances Colorado's EE community by providing professional development opportunities, coordinating support services, and facilitating communication and networking between Colorado's EE providers and the public. CAEE was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to serve the shared interests of public agencies, businesses, educators, community organizations, and individuals distributing and using EE.

Priority Programs and Activities

CAEE is a national leader in innovative, state-of-the-art approaches to statewide environmental education (EE) capacity building. CAEE is a vibrant and growing community of more than 850 members, including teachers, non-formal educators, community organizations, public agencies, businesses, non-profits, and individual stakeholders who support a common vision of improving environmental literacy in Colorado. To fulfill this role in the wide-ranging EE community, CAEE manages several programs and projects, including:

- Teaching OUTSIDE the Box - the annual statewide EE professional development conference
- EE Directory – the state's on-line "yellow pages" of EE resources
- EE Program Awards - a statewide annual recognition program
- Hosting the state's EE Advisory Council - made up of key leaders from Colorado's EE community
- Diversity and Inclusiveness Initiative
- Maintaining close working relationships with community-based regional EE networks
- Certification of Environmental Educators
- Environmental Literacy Planning - efforts to create a statewide, coordinated plan to advance K-12 EE

CAEE Staff

Katie Navin, Executive Director

Emily Perkins, Program Coordinator

Malinda Mochizuki, Diversity Outreach Coordinator

Roxanne Brickell-Reardon, Communications Coordinator

2011 CAEE Board of Directors

Michelle Finchum, Fort Collins Utilities

Julie Gustafson, National Wildlife Federation

Teresa Higgins, University of Northern Colorado

Kelly Keena, Douglas County Public Schools

Sonja Macys, Yampatika

Jim Moss, Law Review

Sally Shuffield, Durango Nature Studies

Ana Soler, The Civic Canopy

Dave Sutherland, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Katherine Timm, Colorado State Forest Service



CAEE Membership

You are invited to join the largest professional organization for 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
- Discount on Teaching Outside the Box Conference registration
- Invitations to networking functions
- Professional development workshops
- Free placement on the Colorado Environmental Education Directory (for organizational members)

Membership Rates

Student or Teacher: \$15/year

Individual: \$35/year

Organizational: \$65/year

Corporation: \$500/year

A membership form is available at www.caeec.org or by contacting the CAEE Office.



With sincere gratitude, CAEE thanks Kate Peabody for her extraordinary in-kind contribution of designing the 2010 CAEE Awards Program brochure. This is actually Kate's third year designing this prized component of CAEE's Award Program! As CH2M HILL Communications Coordinator, Kate lends her environmental enthusiasm to communications, public outreach, and education in the engineering sector to help shape and improve our global community for generations to come. Kate is a true believer and actor in effecting positive and sustainable development through innovative businesses and business solutions. She earned bachelor's degrees in Communications and Graphic Design and an MBA in Environmental Policy and Management. Thank you Kate!

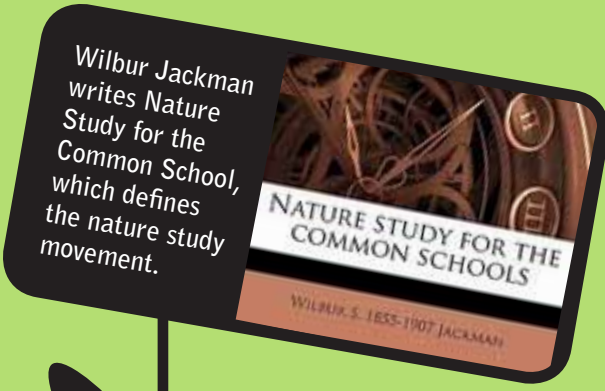
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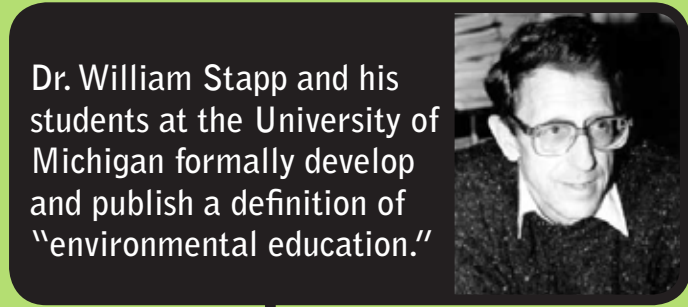


Environmental education is a recognized profession with the establishment of the National Association for Environmental Education (now the North American Association for Environmental Education).

The Tbilisi Conference held in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, lays out the goals, objectives, and guiding principles of environmental education, which environmental educators still use today.



Wilbur Jackman writes *Nature Study for the Common School*, which defines the nature study movement.



Dr. William Stapp and his students at the University of Michigan formally develop and publish a definition of "environmental education."

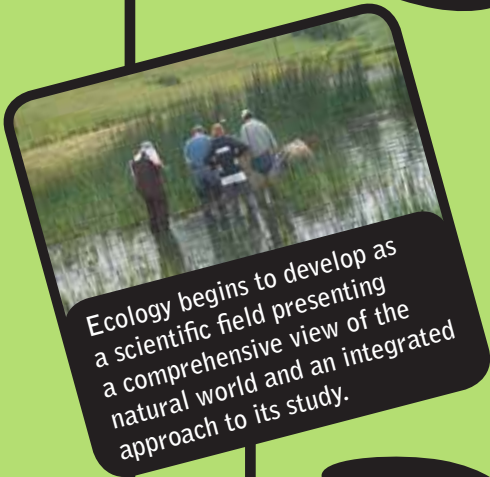


Colorado Department of Education creates the first Environmental Education Master Plan.



U.S. Congress passes the National Environmental Education Act of 1970.

On April 22 over 20 million people across America celebrate the first Earth Day.



Ecology begins to develop as a scientific field presenting a comprehensive view of the natural world and an integrated approach to its study.

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CAEE 2010 Awards for Excellence in Environmental Education