CAEE 2006 Environmental Education Awards

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education wishes to thank the Colorado State Forest Service and CH2MILL for their generous support of the Ninth Annual Awards Celebration.

CAEE would also like to thank the volunteer members of the 2006 Awards Committee:

- Kristin Libberton, Chair, Bluff Lake Nature Center
- Roxanne Brickell-Reardon, Colorado State Parks – Barr Lake
- Holly Loff, High Country Conservation Center
- Mark McCaffrey, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado
- Kim Glatz, Environmental Learning for Kids
- Karin Hostetter, Interpret This
- Dan Parker
- Tim Sandsmark, Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Jefferson County Open Space
- Diane Simmons, Colorado Academy
- Liz Wickard, City of Aurora Parks and Open Space

About the Awards:

**Environmental Education Program Awards**

Initiated in 1996, CAEE Environmental Education Program Awards honor leadership in developing effective, cooperative, cross-sector environmental education programs. The 2006 recipients have demonstrated success in implementing innovative environmental education programs and partnerships.

**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 individuals for their 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 guiding, writing and photographs. Like Enos Mills, the award recipients have demonstrated leadership and commitment to the field of environmental education through a significant body of work.

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

**Call for Nominations! 2007 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: PreK-12 Education, Higher Education, Citizen/Community, Media, Business, Nonprofit, Agricultural, Religious/Spiritual, Government, and Best New Program.

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

Nomination must be sent or postmarked by Friday, July 27, 2007.

Contact CAEE at 303-273-9527 or info@caee.org for more information.
Enos Mills Lifetime Achievement Award

Wendy Hanophy

Wendy’s passion for environmental education (EE) began at an early age and has endured throughout her career. In her early years, Wendy’s dad was instrumental in keeping his kids outdoors. Her first exposure to EE is credited to her 7th grade social studies teacher, who was passionate about the environment. At age 15, Wendy worked for an entire summer at a Youth Conservation Corps camp in Rocky Mountain National Park. It is here she fell in love with wildlife and EE. Later, Wendy served as a camp director for a similar camp in Arizona.

Wendy was a wildlife biology major at Colorado State University. After graduation she was a research assistant on black and grizzly bear studies in Arizona. Her boss, Al LeCount, influenced Wendy by insisting that education was an integral part of the research. As a result, Wendy spent much of her time educating scout groups and the public using information gleaned from the studies.

Wendy earned an MA in Science Education from the University of Colorado at Denver, focusing on curriculum development. Wendy worked as a consultant and taught for Adams County District 12 at Horison High School. With her classes, Wendy restored a 14-acre wetland and developed it as an outdoor classroom for use by the entire school district. Her students became nature guides presenting programs for 3rd grade students, taking part in the RiverWatch program by regularly sampling the South Platte River, participating in conferences, and receiving numerous awards. Wendy found her true passion through the empowerment of her students.

Wendy has taken many leadership roles in support of environmental education. She served on the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education’s board of directors from 1994 to 1996, and has been involved in numerous local and national organizations. Wendy has been instrumental in the development of many national curriculum materials. In 1981, Wendy was involved in the development of the curriculum framework and several activities for Project WILD. Wendy contributed to the creation of Project Food, Land & People (FLP) and Project WET. She also developed curriculum for the U.S. Forest Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. Wendy has facilitated workshops for teachers with four Projects: WILD, WET, FLP, and Learning Tree. She authored several high school curricula about wildlife topics, the Crossroads of Biodiversity posters and guidebook, easy-to-use field guides for some of Colorado’s most neglected species, and fun coloring pages for the Internet. Wendy created a curriculum for the South Platte: Learning and Teaching the Essentials (SPLATTE) teacher workshop and was instrumental in the original correlation of Project WILD activities with the Colorado Model Content Standards.

In her current position at the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Wendy has achieved many lasting successes. Included is the co-development and implementation, with the Denver Zoo, of the Wonders in Nature-Wonders in Neighborhoods (WIN-WIN) program (the largest outreach EE program for underserved kids in the United States). Wendy continues to help and support teachers and other community members in their EE efforts. Wendy is a true leader in wildlife education in Colorado. Her skill in program and curriculum implementation and her creative vision of high-value, leading-edge materials for teachers has set the Colorado Division of Wildlife apart for quality wildlife education.

Throughout her career, Wendy has been an innovator, leader, and mentor. Whether as a researcher, teacher, consultant, or developer, Wendy’s work is characterized by caring, creativity, commitment, and a depth of knowledge and experience. Clearly, Wendy embodies the spirit of the Enos Mills Lifetime Achievement Award.

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“I think that it is human nature to want to steward the environment. One of our responsibilities as environmental educators is to ensure that we set up opportunities for this to happen. It’s one thing to be given knowledge and be told things, but to actually have the opportunity to change one’s world for the better is what empowers long-term commitment to environmental stewardship.”

~ Wendy Hanophy

“Wendy adds her compassion and sensitivity for different cultures and ethnic groups to the work she produces. She incorporates the unique cultural perspectives and values of the groups of people she is reaching. This ability makes Wendy unique and a leader among environmental educators in Colorado.”

~ Jeff Rucks, Chief of Education, Colorado Division of Wildlife
CAEE Environmental Education Awards 2006

President’s Award

**Denver Mayor John Hickenloooper and the Greenprint Denver Team**

The Board of Directors of the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) is proud to honor Denver Mayor John Hickenloooper and the Greenprint Denver team with the 2006 President’s Award in recognition of leadership in sustainability and conservation through the development of the innovative Greenprint Denver initiative. This award recognizes Mayor Hickenloooper and the Greenprint Denver team for bringing together different sectors to make Denver and Colorado a better place to live and work, and underscores the importance of education and communication to the success of Greenprint Denver and the Mayor’s Sustainable Development Initiative.

During his keynote address to the 21st Century Smarter Growth Conference in April of 2005, Mayor John Hickenloooper announced the creation of the City of Denver’s Sustainable Development Initiative and appointed Beth Conover as Director. “Sustainability is a central value of our administration and our community,” Hickenloooper explained. “It requires us to recognize the interconnectedness between the social, economic and environmental impacts of our policies and programs, as we seek to ensure that future generations will enjoy a quality of life characterized by environmental beauty, economic opportunity and resource abundance.” In the summer of 2005, Mayor Hickenloooper joined 49 other mayors worldwide in a U.S. Conference of Mayors pledge to improve the environment of their cities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In his 2006 State of the City Address, Mayor Hickenloooper unveiled the ambitious Greenprint Denver initiative, the City’s action plan for sustainable development practices. The mission of Greenprint Denver is to provide leadership and solutions to ensure a prosperous community where people and nature thrive. The Greenprint Denver action plan centers around energy and emissions, green building and industry, urban design and transportation, water and the environment, and waste reduction. Greenprint Denver charts the city’s course over the next five years and will position the city as a national leader in a global effort to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. Mayor Hickenloooper has attributed Greenprint Denver’s vision to the work of many City departments and members of the Greenprint Council - a leadership group that brings together civic, business and environmental leaders to help shape this sustainability agenda.

**Greenprint Denver Guiding Principles:**

Communicate sustainability as a public value and expand the concept of the city as a steward of public resources  
- Support sustainability as a core business value to improve efficiencies in resource use, reduce environmental impact; and invoke broad cultural changes  
- Incorporate “triple bottom line” analysis, seeking to balance economic, social and environmental considerations into all city policy and program decisions  
- Set clear metrics of success and report on progress through annual report cards  
- Pursue activities that support environmental equity and health for all citizens  
- Partner with community organizations, cultural institutions and businesses to achieve broad impact  
- Lead by example in city practice wherever possible

Photo Credits:
- Bike to Work: Dan Grunig
- Hickenloooper Hybrid: City and County of Denver
- Southeast Corridor Light Rail ribbon cutting: Alan Gass
- Mayor John W Hickenloooper: City and County of Denver

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Religious/Spiritual Award

Animas Valley Institute

Animas Valley Institute (AVI), based in Durango, CO, has been offering contemporary, nature-based programs since 1981. Founder Bill Plotkin and the other Animas guides have created and shaped over 40 contemporary practices that assist people of Western cultures in their quests for more meaningful, fulfilling, and culturally engaged lives aligned with nature, soul and the work of cultural transformation. This work is beautifully described in Bill Plotkin’s book *Soulcraft: Crossing into the Mysteries of Nature and Psyche*.

AVI offers about 35 programs annually, including 12-day contemporary wilderness quests, 5-day retreat-center-based Soulcraft intensives, and advanced intensives on the cultivation of ecological identity, leadership for global change, soulcentric dreamwork and other topics.

AVI’s Soulcraft Apprenticeship and Initiation Program (SAIP) is an advanced training curriculum designed for educators, psychotherapists, health professionals and wilderness guides.

AVI’s mission is to contribute to this time of transformation by helping individuals realign their lives with the rhythms and cycles of nature, with the unfolding stories of Earth and cosmos, and with their own visionary potential - their own artistry as innovators of cultural change. AVI supports each participant to access and embody the world-changing and vital creativity at his or her core.

In all of AVI’s programs, participants are guided into a deeper awareness and appreciation of their core values - security, love, connection, and service, for example - and are introduced to ways of supporting these core values through a close relationship with nature. When people are inspired to live by such values, “sustainability” is no longer just a concept; it becomes a way of being in the world.

People usually leave AVI programs with a deeper appreciation for, awe of, and longing for nature. Many gain a more intimate sense of how a flourishing Earth community is necessary for a healthy humanity, and how people who have completed a series of developmental tasks rooted in nature and their culture can contribute to a flourishing Earth community.
Government Award

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
Junior Ranger Program

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) is jointly managed by Colorado State Parks and the Bureau of Land Management. AHRA stretches for 148 miles along the Arkansas River from Leadville to Lake Pueblo State Park, and encompasses a wealth of geological, historical, cultural and natural features. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) also cooperate with AHRA in resource and recreation management along the river.

The Junior Ranger program gives children ages 5-12 the opportunity to explore their environment and learn about nature by engaging in exciting weekly educational activities. The program is designed to teach young people about the Arkansas River and surrounding riparian areas and wildlife habitat, to engage them in hands-on activities that enhance resource preservation and protection, and to give them a personal connection with the outdoors. As a capstone to the program, kids who complete the Junior Ranger program by attending five or more sessions are treated to a rafting trip on the Arkansas River, compliments of AHRA and local river outfitters.

Inclusion of the AHRA Junior Rangers in both the Salida and Buena Vista summer recreation series has filled the void for positive environmental education for youth in these two communities. Attendance grows each year, and it has become necessary to recruit parents, grandparents and volunteers to assist with the program. Many kids come back to the AHRA Junior Ranger program year after year, and their enthusiasm never wanes. Over the years they make new friends, hone their knowledge of life and, best of all, learn to love and appreciate their river communities.

AHRA has conducted the Junior Ranger Program since 1998. Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) funds AHRA’s summer Naturalist position, which is responsible for planning and presenting the program. Phyllis Cron has been AHRA’s GOCO Naturalist since 2002, and Phyllis is supervised by Rose Bayless, Program Assistant for AHRA. AHRA partners with both Buena Vista’s and Salida’s summer recreation programs, the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, the USFS, the DOW, and local Arkansas River outfitters.

“The first river you paddle runs through the rest of your life. It bubbles up in pools and eddies to remind you who you are.”
~Lynn Noel

“When the children went to search the surrounding shrubs and plants for native insects and spiders, Rose heard more than one child tell another, ‘Be careful so you don’t hurt the bugs!”
~Phyllis Cron

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PreK-12 Education Award

Aurora Water
Aurora Youth Water Festival

Aurora Water provides quality water, sewer and storm drain services for approximately 300,000 people in Aurora, the third largest city in Colorado. The Aurora Water Office of Water Conservation provides water education and outreach programs to the residents of Aurora, including programs for students and youth.

Started as a means to better educate youth about water, Youth Water Festivals have increasingly grown in popularity over the past few years in Colorado. Aurora Water was one of the first entities in Colorado to host a water festival, and has been providing this successful environmental education opportunity to fifth-grade students for 13 years.

The event is a one-day festival full of fun, hands-on learning about Aurora’s watershed, water pollution prevention and water conservation. The Festival, held each year at the Community College of Aurora, features more than 60 presentations and exhibits that cover a wide variety of water related topics through Colorado standards-based activities and experiences. Students experience activities such as Instant Snowstorm, Worm Magic, Mad Science, Fire Hydrant Painting, The Wall of Water, Ph & Cal-C-Yum, and Go with the Flow stories and music about water.

This program exposes large numbers of students to environmental lessons in a fun and interactive environment. It is a completely free field trip. There is no charge to attend the festival, and Aurora Water covers the cost of transportation to the festival. This allows a number of students who would otherwise not experience a field trip to do so. The incredible collaboration of entities and volunteers that makes this festival possible also provides a great networking opportunity for environmental educators. Support from the Community College of Aurora has been tremendous over the last 13 years as their staff provides everything from grounds maintenance, computer support, audio/visual equipment, classroom set-up and presentations.

Comments from teachers, presenters, volunteers and students have remained very positive for 13 years. In 2006, everyone surveyed enjoyed the festival and felt that it was well organized and educational. Plus, each student that returned an evaluation was able to tell us three new things they learned at the festival and a fact about their water in Aurora!

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Nonprofit Award

Children’s Museum of Denver and Butterfly Pavilion
G.R.O.W. Program (Growing Respect by Observing our World)

The G.R.O.W. (Growing Respect by Observing our World) Program is a collaborative between the Children’s Museum of Denver, Butterfly Pavilion and RealeBooks. Now in its fourth year, it provides over 750 children in Denver Public Schools and Adam’s Five Star 12, who meet the federal poverty guidelines, with experiences in non-formal settings that extend and deepen their classroom work. Integrating the learning environments - school, cultural organization, and home - helps children understand that learning occurs in many places. G.R.O.W. was originally designed in 2003 with a task force consisting of The Children’s Museum of Denver staff and Denver Public School teachers to ensure it is developmentally appropriate and addresses the Colorado Model Content Standards for life sciences, reading and writing. In 2004, the Butterfly Pavilion joined the partnership to assist in revamping the curriculum in order to expand the content and to more effectively reach underserved schools throughout the Denver area.

The second grade science curriculum emphasizes lifecycles, serving as a foundation for fostering respect and compassion for the environment and all living things. G.R.O.W. curriculum emphasizes the lifecycle of butterflies and plants and their mutual relationship. The study of this relationship expands to include habitats and the impact of human choices on these habitats. The habitats studies and literacy work is relevant to the child’s everyday local environment and focuses on backyards, parks and schoolyards.

The Museum worked with Dr. Carole Basile of the University of Colorado, Denver on the program evaluation. She found that participating teachers felt the staff was supportive and friendly and provided materials and training needed for them to teach meaningful science in the classroom. There is also evidence of student learning which is apparent in student journals and final writing projects. Journals also illustrate the enthusiasm for learning and the students’ ability to learn multiple concepts through an integrated and contextual approach.
Citizen/Community Award

Cottonwood Institute - Community Adventure Program

The Cottonwood Institute is a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit based in Denver. The Cottonwood Institute inspires students to change the world through an exciting blend of adventure, wilderness survival and environmental service learning.

The Community Adventure Program (CAP) is a unique coed class offered at New Vista High School in Boulder for high school credit. CAP is designed for adventurous high school students who want to practice essential camping and wilderness survival skills necessary to comfortably and competently explore the outdoors, while providing them with the tools and resources to tackle important environmental issues affecting their communities in order to help change the world.

CAP high school students execute a student-directed “Action Project,” or environmental service-learning project, to tackle an environmental issue affecting their community. They identify an issue, research the issue from a stakeholder perspective, collaborate with other organizations to tackle the issue in a sustainable way, implement their plan and reflect on their experience. Students in the past have addressed issues ranging from fire mitigation, to storm drain pollution, to alternative transportation; and have published articles in the Daily Camera, the Boulder Weekly, the Sierra Club Peak and Prairie, and have hosted a radio show on KGNU 88.5FM in Boulder. CAP teaches students important life skills, introduces them to the concept of sustainability and shows them how to reduce their environmental footprint both in the backcountry and throughout their daily lives.

“As a class, our main goal was to educate ourselves and our community about Zero Waste and we accomplished this on several levels. As volunteers for the Farmer’s Market and Eco-Cycle, our class walked around and educated almost 700 people during their last Wednesday market in October. Several artists in our class designed a T-shirt to increase an awareness of Zero Waste at our school. We created a skit and performed it for over 350 students and teachers in the New Vista community. Finally, we put together a flyer to distribute to businesses that produce a lot of waste (e.g. local coffee shops, restaurants, etc.) to educate them about Zero Waste on a larger scale. To put it another way, 13 teenagers educated almost 1,000 people in a little over two months.”

From a Zero Waste Article written by Gillian Warren, CAP Student.

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Business Award

Raytheon Polar Services Company/National Science Foundation

United States Antarctic Program (USAP)
Environmental Education

Located in Centennial, Raytheon Polar Services Company (RPSC) provides administrative, infrastructure and operational support for the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) under contract by the National Science Foundation (NSF). RPSC is dedicated to a partnership with the NSF Office of Polar Programs in order to advance science through the U.S. Antarctic Program. To maintain these efforts, RPSC provides the USAP with science support, operations, information technology and communications systems, logistics support, facilities engineering and construction for three year-round U.S. stations, two research vessels, and numerous field camps in Antarctica.

Both NSF and RPSC are committed to operating in a safe, environmentally conscious manner and utilizing total quality management practices. Employees, grantees, and all other USAP participants are expected to share these commitments, which stem from the Antarctic Conservation Act (ACA), the U.S. legislation implementing The Antarctic Treaty’s 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection. The USAP Environmental Education Program provides all participants an orientation that explains their responsibilities in upholding requirements of the ACA and NSF policies and procedures for environmental protection. Employee performance has a direct bearing on the overall success of the USAP and the world’s perception of the nation’s conduct in Antarctica.

Given the breadth of activities throughout the continent each day, trained USAP participants are an essential piece of environmental protection and legal compliance. Over 3,000 participants in a variety of roles are trained annually in a variety of work locations. Multiple levels of training are required due to the remoteness of some work locations and/or their ecological sensitivity. All USAP participants receive Level I Training (e.g. Protection of the Antarctic Environment, Waste Management, and Conservation) before arriving to Antarctica either by a pre-deployment orientation held in Centennial or via web-based learning. Level II and III Trainings are provided on the continent to personnel deploying to field areas. Different tools are utilized, including group presentations, one-on-one consulting, DVD and web-based media, and a field safety-training program. Additionally, environmental education programs are developed in concert with the New Zealand Antarctic Program, as many projects are jointly operated between both nations and because of the close proximity of the research stations.

Program participants’ concern and willingness to conserve and protect the environment is an integral part of the USAP’s success. Currently, the USAP recycles, reuses, or resells at least 60 percent of all waste generated each year. This achievement would not be possible without the cooperation and efforts from all program participants who help sort generated waste into sixteen categories. For the last two years, water consumption at McMurdo Station has been reduced by five million gallons per year over previous seasons. This was a result of voluntary efforts by the community after adding water conservation suggestions to the Level I briefings. As a result, water conservation efforts have helped reduce fuel usage for power generation, and reduced air emissions associated with power production in the process.

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Higher Education Award

**iCAST (International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology) Service Learning Program**

iCAST is an independent, Colorado-based non-profit organization that works with local partners to develop sustainable solutions for the infrastructure and economic development needs of underserved rural communities. iCAST’s mission is to promote sustainable development using a triple bottom-line approach that integrates environmental health, economic viability and quality of life. iCAST projects are designed to encourage self-sufficiency based on the development, application and commercialization of appropriate and sustainable technologies that use local resources to meet local needs.

iCAST projects bring together a variety of partners representing industry, government agencies, research facilities and educational institutions to serve the needs of local communities. By leveraging technical, financial and intellectual resources, iCAST helps meet the challenges of the future by building stronger communities and a better-prepared workforce.

Fostering community-based learning experiences is an essential aspect of iCAST’s work. iCAST projects provide opportunities through which university students gain valuable experience in their academic fields as well as a better understanding of how concepts such as sustainable development and social responsibility can be practically applied to real-life problems. Students work with faculty advisors, subject matter experts, industry mentors, local community leaders and iCAST staff. Through their participation in community based projects, students develop valuable skills, including leadership, teamwork, communications, volunteerism and ethics that will help them become more effective professionals and better citizens. In return, the students provide the technical and economic research that communities need to achieve their sustainable development goals.

The iCAST community-based learning program involves students from many disciplines including engineering, natural resource management, business, economics and agriculture, from institutions in Colorado and throughout the United States. Approximately 100 graduate and undergraduate students each year participate in iCAST projects. iCAST currently is working with Colorado Campus Compact and service learning professionals throughout the state to create a cross-disciplinary, multi-institutional, experience-based program. In 2005, the community-based learning program received a grant from the Colorado Pollution Prevention Advisory Board in recognition of its efforts.

**Ravi Malhotra, Executive Director**

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Citizen and Community Award

FrontRange Earth Force

Since 1997, FrontRange Earth Force has supported youth-driven service learning programs, encouraging youth to identify and solve real problems in their schools, communities and environment. Over the past decade, FrontRange Earth Force has worked with more than 12,000 youth throughout the Denver Metro area.

Through the Environmental Science and Stewardship Program, FrontRange Earth Force helps committed educators guide their students through a six-step environmental problem-solving process. The youth learn about environmental strengths and challenges in their community, identify an issue they care about, and design and implement their own service project to address that issue in a long-term, sustainable way.

“Youth Voice” is the rallying cry for all Earth Force programs. Earth Force believes that youth can have an impact not just in the future, but right now, as environmental stewards and community leaders. With Earth Force, young people get to direct their own learning experience, as they apply important classroom lessons in the real life “laboratory” of their own neighborhood. The experience sticks with them for years!

Asia Dorsey, a member of FrontRange Earth Force's Youth Action Board, got involved with Earth Force programs in third grade. “Before Earth Force,” she says, “I was shy, insecure and reserved.” Now a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School, she is actively involved in speech and debate, and is passionate about environmental and other social issues. “Good Dirt Radio” interviewed Asia and her YAB peers a story on youth environmental activism, and Asia was profiled in TIME for Kids’ 2006 Environmental Action Guide. “Earth Force gives kids a chance to speak out and be heard,” she says.

Youth involved in the Environmental Science and Stewardship Program have:

• restored wetland habitats,
• constructed trails to protect delicate ecosystems,
• launched educational campaigns about local environmental issues, and
• coordinated school-wide recycling programs!

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PreK-12 Education Award

Manitou Springs Middle School, Falcon School District, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife

Fishing is Fun for Everyone

Fishing is Fun is a program that pairs up special needs students with middle school students with a very special twist: Teaching the art of fishing.

Manitou Springs Middle School students learn all about the art of fishing in class, and then become fishing experts and teachers for a day. Manitou Springs students know that they will be teaching fishing skills to kids with special needs from Falcon School District, and therefore they must focus on how they communicate with these students.

All students learn that fishing is more than just casting out a line. They learn about the fish in the lake and what makes a good habitat for these fish. Rules and regulations and the reasons behind each become a discussion point. Students learn the skill of casting and don’t even realize they are practicing skills related to physics.

After the middle school students become experts, they select a station they will teach during rotations with special needs students. Then the middle school and special needs students come together at a local lake for a day of fishing, teaching, learning and fun. Just picture 100 fishing poles casting out upon a lake with children of all ages demonstrating what they have learned!

Fishing poles are provided for each student by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as part of the angler education program. Each student can then continue to participate in this life-long sport, as well as share what they have learned with their families.

During this program, the students meet many Colorado State Learning Standards, including Science, Physical Education, Geography and Language Arts, as well as the “40 Assets” that every teen should have.

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Best New Program Award

City of Arvada's Majestic View Nature Center

Waterwise! School Program and Water Conservation Contest

The City of Arvada’s Majestic View Nature Center is one of the newest Nature Centers in the Denver metro area. Nestled in an 80-acre park in the heart of Arvada, the Center is a hub for a variety of environmental education activities while offering an oasis for urban wildlife. Since it opened in June 2002, the Center has conducted hundreds of environmental education programs/events. Majestic View Nature Center partners with the City’s Utilities Department. 2007 funding has increased to create additional environmental education/water conservation programs.

The Water Wise! School Program and Contest is an action-packed in-school water conservation presentation to Arvada 5th graders, followed by a home water conservation contest. Students participate in hands-on activities and demonstrations that illustrate the importance of water, the water cycle, the amount of water actually available for immediate human use, where Arvada’s water comes from, the importance of conserving water, and ways to conserve it. Students then participate in a 12-day home water conservation contest and complete daily tasks, ranging from turning off the faucet when brushing teeth and washing hands, to taking shorter showers, to planting native plants. Students receive low-cost water conservation devices such as shower timers, toilet leak tablets, and toilet tank banks. Contestants complete the tasks, install the devices, and receive points for all tasks completed. All contestants receive participation ribbons, and those who accumulate the highest number of points and/or show exemplary effort receive special prizes. The top 5th grade class from each school also wins a pizza party.

This Program addresses Colorado’s critical drought issues in innovative, fun ways while specifically complementing two 5th grade science units taught in Arvada public schools and meeting Jefferson County’s Science Content Standards and Performance Expectations. The Contest provides the opportunity for students to take positive, direct action to care for the earth. Through completion of simple daily water conservation tasks, students gain first-hand experience that can empower them in making a positive difference. Students become aware that their collective efforts can save thousands of gallons of water everyday.

Since its inception in 2004, the Program has served over 1,500 students. Contest participants have completed over 37,600 water conservation tasks! 90 percent of these students installed shower timers, and 85 percent took fiveminute showers during the contest, saving 143 hours of shower time. In addition, 200 leaks were fixed as a result of this contest.
Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

What is CAEE?

Within the enormous array of environmental education (EE) programming, the effectiveness of that collective effort is as important as are the separate results of any individual program or project. 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) non-profit organization to serve the shared interests of public agencies, businesses, teachers, 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 EE capacity-building. CAEE is a vibrant and growing community of over 600 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. CAEE provides professional development opportunities, coordinates support services, and facilitates communication and networking between educators, Colorado’s EE providers and the public. To fulfill this role in the wide-ranging EE community, CAEE manages several programs and projects, including:

• Electronic Information Clearinghouse – the state’s on-line “yellow pages” of EE resources
• Resource Review System - a quality assurance review process for EE programs/materials
• Teaching OUTSIDE the Box - the annual statewide EE professional development conference
• EE Program Awards - a statewide, annual recognition program
• EE InfoLink - A monthly newsletter containing upcoming events, trainings, job announcements, resources, etc.
• Correlations Project - managing centralized correlations between EE programs and the state academic standards
• Stewardship of Colorado’s Environmental Education Master Plan project
• Hosting the state’s EE Advisory Council - made up of key leaders from Colorado’s EE community
• Establishing a state training center for EE
• Maintaining close working relationships with community-based regional EE networks
• Hosting the Colorado Environmental Film Festival – a celebration of the inspirational and educational power of film

CAEE Staff

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2006 CAEE Board of Directors

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You are 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
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• Invitations to networking functions
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Membership Rates

Student or Teacher: $15/year
Individual: $35/year
Organizational: $65/year
Corporation: $500/year

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

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