LISA BARDWELL

For over 35 years, Lisa Bardwell has been an exceptional role model for innovation, research, and leadership in environmental education (EE). Her vision for people working together to understand their relationships to environmental systems has had a profound impact locally and nationally. A Colorado native, Lisa grew up in a family committed to social justice and fighting for a fairer and truly democratic society. These values drove her to see the possibilities, potential, and power of collaboration.

She left Denver in 1984 for graduate school at the University of Michigan. There she met and worked with researchers, leaders, and peers who helped her express those values within EE—insisting on civic action, elevating the role of community and youth, and pushing the hard conversations around privilege, social justice, and environmental equity.

Lisa’s commitment to civic action in EE emerged from her dissertation, which looked at the impact of how we frame a problem on people’s sense of efficacy around addressing it. These findings, validated in her work with Front Range Earth Force, gave her a platform to advocate for the revolutionary approach of young people as stakeholders in environmental work. She pushed that EE is more than getting youth out into the environment; it’s about connecting them to a sense of place, elevating youth to leadership roles, and helping them develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be engaged and lifelong environmental citizens. For 17 years, Lisa played a critical leadership role at Earth Force, co-founding the Front Range office and becoming CEO of the national organization.

Her unwavering dedication to communities that are politically marginalized and environmentally degraded emphasizes her ability for putting the voice of the community at the center, giving it priority in community-focused work. Lisa adopted the idea of “uncommon collaboratives” as a way of bringing groups to the table where the agenda is shared, not stacked, and the dialogue is deliberative, not divisive.

Lisa’s determination, compassion, insight, resourcefulness, and enthusiasm combine to make her a coveted thought leader and mentor. Currently, Lisa continues what she most cares about through academia and by nurturing the growth of leaders and organizations that see the value of supportive environments, be they built, natural, or informational, in ensuring a healthy, sustainable future for all.

Donny Roush, former Earth Force Program Manager, shares, “Our community, our state, and our profession are stronger and more resilient because of Lisa’s work, and the multiplier effect of those inspired by Lisa’s work. Her leadership is quiet, sustained, and often visible only in its results. She does not seek the spotlight...though I hope it finds her once again with this award.”

PAST ENOS A. MILLS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Georg Ek, 1995
George A. “Buddy” Wilson, 1996*
Glen A. Hinshaw, 1997
CeCe Forget, 1998*
Enda Mills Kiley, 1998*
Roxanne Brickell-Reardon, 1999
Elizabeth Gardener, 2000
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
George Wallace, 2010
Marcella Wells, 2011
Cynthia Dietz, 2012
Mark De Gregorio, 2013
Jeff Brigham, 2014*
Dan Parker, 2015
Rafael Salgado, 2016

* in memorandum
PROGRAM AND EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AWARD RECIPIENTS

E Guidelines, E Movement and Samantha Messier, Boulder Valley School District
The E Guidelines lay out a scaffolded, whole-child approach to environmental education including head (cognitive), heart (social-emotional), hands (service), and feet (sense of place). Led by Samantha Messier, various stakeholders worked collaboratively over three years to create the new guidelines.

Colorado EE Founders: Carol Bylsma, CDOW; Jeff Rucks, CDOW; and Don Hollums, CDOW/Colorado Department of Education
These individuals were instrumental in paving the way to environmental literacy in Colorado and in the establishment of CAEE. In their roles with the former Division of Wildlife (DOW), Carol built a strong statewide network of facilitators to popularize the Project WILD program; Jeff’s leadership in knitting the state’s EE programs together reinforced the power of collaboration among the EE community. Independently, Don was able to build several important bridges between the DOW and Department of Education and advocate for EE as a credible learning methodology.

INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS

TREE Semester, Colorado College and Catamount Center
The Teaching and Research in Environmental Education (TREE) Semester is a 16-week, residential semester program where undergraduate students learn by researching how K-12 students develop and participate in more than 100 hours of experiential teaching.

E3 (Elevate Environmental Education), Catamount Institute
In partnership with Woodland Park School District RE-2, E3 brings ALL K-8 students outside of the classroom, during the school day, to study science and grow their sense of ecological stewardship. In 2016, the program served more than 1,600 students.

On the Wing, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
On the Wing is a ten-day, residential summer camp for teens that gives them the opportunity to design and conduct their own field investigations related to ornithology.

OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Kay Phelps, Fort Lewis College
In her position at Fort Lewis College, Kay teaches what she loves most - science for educators with an emphasis in Environmental Literacy. She also is a facilitator and champion for Project Learning Tree, Project WET and several other collaborative efforts throughout Colorado.

Allison Plute, Colorado Springs Utilities
Allison initiated the state’s first Brewshed® Alliance, engaged her community in the largest water clean-up effort in the state of Colorado, and was a core member of the planning committee of the first Pikes Peak Children’s Water Festival in 2017.

Maria Talero, Climate Courage LLC
Using an innovative approach called "embodied cognition,” Ms. Talero uses a spectrum of activities, including movement, meditation, audio-visual resources, tools and props to create an energizing environment that catalyzes hope, inspiration, and action on climate change.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Yesica Chavez, Environmental Learning for Kids
With no outdoor experience, Yesica began as an Urban Ranger with ELK three years ago. She has since impacted hundreds of young people through her position as the College Lead Urban Ranger and the Youth Ambassador for the CO Outdoor Recreation Industry Office.
JOHN FIELDER
PHOTOGRAPHER, PUBLISHER, TEACHER, and ACTIVIST

John Fielder has been capturing the beauty of Colorado for 45 years. From majestic sunrises over the Rockies to colorful Colorado wildflowers bordering alpine lakes, his photos portray Colorado in all its glory. John is the author of 50 exhibit format and guide books, including Colorado’s all-time, best-selling, regional title, *Colorado 1870-2000*, in which he matches his modern photographs with classic photographs of the same scenes taken in the 19th century by pioneer photographer William Henry Jackson.

Mr. Fielder first visited Colorado at the age of 14 during a school field trip from North Carolina: “In all my life, I have not forgotten my first sight of the Rockies rising up before me over the plains. I was simply smitten by this wall of snow-capped peaks above a treeless plain. And the word C-O-L-O-R-A-D-O, it was the most poetic name for a place I had ever heard. I realized at that moment that someone or something had guided me to this place, and that I belonged here for the rest of my life.”

John Fielder has worked tirelessly to promote the protection of Colorado’s open space and wildlands. His photography has influenced people and legislation. In 1992 he worked to pass the Great Outdoors Colorado initiative and was appointed by Governor Romer to its first board of trustees. Since then more than 2 million acres of open space, parks, trails, wildlife habitat, and ranches worth $2 billion have been protected with Colorado lottery profits and other monies.

His photographs were used to pass the 1993 Colorado Wilderness Bill by acquainting people and politicians with the beauty of the places they talked so much about. This bill protects some of Colorado’s last remaining wild places, mostly in the mountains. Fielder has earned numerous recognitions including the 1993 Sierra Club Ansel Adams Award, in 2011 the Aldo Leopold Foundation’s first Achievement Award ever given to an individual, and in 2017 Colorado Mountain College presented him an Honorary Degree in Sustainability Studies. Today, John Fielder spends about half of his time photographing and teaching photography workshops, and the other half speaking to thousands of people each year to promote awareness about conservation issues in Colorado.

2017 CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

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<tr>
<th>Certified Environmental Educators</th>
<th>Master Certified Educators</th>
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<tr>
<td>Koki Atcheson</td>
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<td>Nina Avila</td>
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<td>Emily Brown</td>
<td>Heather Berry</td>
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<td>Lara Carlson</td>
<td>Charlotte Cadow</td>
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<td>Sian Cuffy-Young</td>
<td>Nicolai Calabria</td>
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<td>Adam Fedyski</td>
<td>Barrett Donovan</td>
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<td>Atiya Harvey</td>
<td>Katie Phillips</td>
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<td>Kelsey Head</td>
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Thank you to the 2017 Awards Committee

- Roxanne Brickell-Reardon
- Natalie Brower-Kirton
- Bevin Carithers
- Karin Hostetter
- Kristin Libberton
- Deb Matlock
- Mary McCormac
- Sharon Moore
- Kathleen Okon
- Tim Sandsmark
- Kim Weiss

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