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We welcome your feedback! Email info@caee.org with your comments and suggestions.

**Colorado Alliance for
Environmental
Education**

EE InfoLink

**Connecting
Colorado's
Environmental
Education Network**

Volume 12, Issue 9

September, 2006

CAEE

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Student/Teacher: \$15

Individual: \$35

Organization: \$65 (allows up
 to 4 contacts)

Visit www.caee.org to join
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 CAEE at 303-273-9527.

Overview:

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Calling all CAEE Members for the
**Colorado EE Advisory Council
 Meeting**

*Your chance to help shape the future of EE in
 Colorado!*

Friday, November 3, 2006 - 2:30-5:00 pm

**At The Wildlife Experience
 10035 South Peoria - Parker, CO 80134**

*The EE Advisory Council is a twice-yearly assembly of the state's EE leaders.
 Share your vision... Voice your concerns... This gathering is your chance to be
 heard!*

The Fall Advisory Council Meeting will offer you a first glimpse at the results of CAEE's recent Online Stakeholder Survey - a broad-based assessment of EE in Colorado that will chart the future of CAEE's services and programs. Join us as we discuss the implications of the survey results for CAEE and EE - this is your chance to speak up for the future of EE in Colorado!

**If you haven't already completed the survey, please do so by visiting
<http://www.caee.org> before September 30th.**

CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS!

The Advisory Council will also elect new CAEE Board members at this meeting. CAEE is seeking individuals who are excited about the work that we are doing and want to help CAEE by serving on a personal level. To request a nomination form, contact

CAEE at 303-273-9527 or info@caee.org or visit <http://www.caee.org>. Self-nominations are encouraged.

RSVP to CAEE at 303-273-9527 or info@caee.org by November 1.

What is the Advisory Council?

The Statewide EE Advisory Council is the heart and soul of CAEE, setting long-term direction, goals and objectives of the organization. It establishes priorities for organizational activities and helps develop the annual workplan. Through its network of committees, the Advisory Council plays an important role in building statewide EE capacity. The Advisory Council also nominates and elects CAEE's Board of Directors.

Plan to Stay for the EE Celebration and Benefit!

Friday, November 3, 2006

6 o'clock in the evening

The Wildlife Experience, Parker

After the Advisory Council, take a break to tour The Wildlife Experience's outstanding exhibits, and then join us for CAEE's annual gala, an evening to celebrate our community and raise funds for CAEE's programs. Don't miss dynamic guest speaker and sustainability expert Hunter Lovins, live birds of prey from HawkQuest (have your picture taken with an eagle!), or the chance to find one-of-a-kind items in the silent and live auctions! What could be better than a fun evening enjoying the company of friends and supporting your statewide EE organization? Tickets are \$45 per person, or \$200 for a group of 5.

RSVP today [online](#), by phone (303-273-9527), or [email](#).

About Keynote Speaker Hunter Lovins

A worldwide recognized leader in helping companies and communities profit from more sustainable practices, Hunter Lovins has authored and co-authored numerous books and hundreds of papers and articles. She was named as a Time magazine Hero for the Planet in 2000. Hunter has consulted for governments and the private sector, briefing senior management at such groups as Interface, Mitsubishi, Bank of America, Royal Dutch/Shell Group, and numerous utility companies. She is a founding Professor of Business at Presidio School of Management.

For more info, visit <http://www.natcapsolutions.org>.

CAEE would like to recognize: Natural Capitalism Solutions, The Wildlife Experience, HawkQuest, and the Colorado State Forest Service for their support of this event.

**Executive
Director's Corner:
Ali Goulstone
Sweeney
(303-273-9527 or
director@caee.org)**

**This Month's Topic:
Certification for
Environmental
Educators**

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Well, we've been talking about it for a long time. When we started planning the resource review process, we were talking about it. It has come up in many advisory council meetings, and certainly when we were drafting the new EE Master Plan. When we developed the *Guidelines for Environmental Educators in Colorado*, we were obviously talking about it.

It is time to stop talking, and start building a certification program that will improve the effectiveness, validate the credibility, and strengthen the consistency of how EE programs are delivered in Colorado!

Last year, a diverse committee worked to answer the question - *What makes an environmental educator?* and developed the *Guidelines for Environmental Educators in Colorado*. This solid foundation will help us jump to the next stage - and build the Guidelines into an active certification process that sets specific standards of knowledge, skills, and experience that highly qualified environmental educators should be able to demonstrate. These standards will better define the environmental education profession.

Just as with the EE Resource Review process, the intent of the program will be on encouraging quality and professional growth. Defining our profession will help build support and respect for the field, and break misperceptions. The challenge is to develop a process that is inclusive, inviting, and worthwhile, while meeting the needs of a very diverse field.

Luckily there are several existing certification programs (see below) that we can learn from - but what will be best for Colorado? For instance - will the program be experience based, criteria based, course based, mentor based, or some combination?

One thing is for sure - a successful program will be developed through a consensus approach, by the leaders in Colorado's EE community. Therefore, we are forming a committee to discuss and determine the best way for Colorado, and you are invited to join us.

If you can't join us on the committee, there are other ways to participate - and as the committee formulates a plan, we will be asking for your feedback via this newsletter. So, I hope this column gets you used to the idea that we are moving from words to action on certification -- you'll be seeing, hearing, and reading much more about certification in the future. As always, my door, phone, and email are open - send me your concerns and questions.

The first meeting of the committee will be **September 26, 2006 from 3-5pm at the CAEE office in Golden**. Conference phone services are available, you do not need to travel to Golden to be present. Please contact CAEE's office at 303-273-9527 or info@caee.org if you plan to participate in this meeting.

What we will use to get started:

- Guidelines for Environmental Educators in Colorado:
<http://www.caee.org/quality/guidelines-for-environmental-educators-in-colorado-1/>
- Existing State Certification Programs:
 - Utah Society for Environmental Education: <http://www.usee.org/capacity/certification.html>
 - Texas Environmental Education Partnership:
<http://www.texaseepartners.org/certification/index.htm>
 - Kentucky Environmental Education Council: <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/envred/certification.htm>
- North American Association for Environmental Education Certification Accreditation Requirements - <http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/national-certification-initiative/ee-certification-program>
- National Association for Interpretation Certification Program:
<http://www.interpnet.com/certification/index.shtml>

Time Running Out to Take CAEE's Online Stakeholder Survey! Gift Certificate Drawing Extended!

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CAEE is conducting a broad-based survey and we need to hear your thoughts, ideas and concerns. And now there's even more incentive to complete the survey! To encourage more educators to complete the survey and help CAEE reach our goal of 500 responses, the **Pikes Peak TENS (Teaching Environmental Science Naturally)** has generously matched CAEE's \$100 Gaiam gift certificate prize offer, and CAEE will extend the opportunity to enter the drawing to anyone who completes (or has completed) the survey by September 30th. The survey should take about 20 minutes, though you can start the survey and return to it later simply by clicking the link from CAEE's website: <http://www.caee.org> (you must use the same computer to do this). If you have already completed this survey, THANK YOU, and please encourage friends, family, and colleagues to do the same. We hope to receive input from throughout the state, from people familiar with environmental education as well as those who are not.

Visit <http://www.caee.org> to complete the survey today!

Your input is greatly appreciated! Your comments will make a big difference for environmental education in Colorado. If you have any questions please contact info@caee.org or 303-273-9527.

Call for Auction Items

Call for Auction Items!

Every year at CAEE's Celebration and Benefit (see above), many of the most popular auction items are donated by CAEE's highly creative and generous members! Is there something that you could offer to help make this a one-of-a-kind event? If so, please contact CAEE at 303-273-9527 or info@caee.org. Donations are tax deductible, and your generosity supports CAEE's programs to promote environmental literacy in Colorado.

Bulletin Board

Upcoming Events

Visit
www.caee.org/calendar.html

for an online listing of
 upcoming events!

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High Country Citizens' Alliance 8th Annual Sustainable Communities Symposium, "Alpine Tropics? Climate Change in the Rockies," September 28 and 29.

At this two-day event, designed to heighten awareness about what a change in climate could potentially do to our bread and butter, we will take an in-depth look at the implications rising temperatures and changing weather patterns hold for the American West. For more information, please contact Amy at 970-349-7104 or amy@hccaonline.org.

The 2006 Elk Fest Project WILD II Workshop, September 30, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Learn about elk history, habitat, seasonal behavior and the future of elk. Educators guide Wild About Elk with standards based lessons is included. McLaren Hall near the Park Ranger housing and below the south visitor center of Rocky Mountain National Park. For Educators of children grades 4 - 12. Credit: Colorado School of Mines - .5 credit available (\$34.00 payable during workshop). Cost: \$15.00 registration fee. Sponsors: Colorado Division of Wildlife & National Park Service (Rocky Mountain National Park). To reserve a space contact Toni or Jim Philips by Monday, September 25 at (303) 666-5663.

Schoolyard Biodiversity-Linking Children to Nature, Sept 30, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

The Colorado Urban Wildlife Partnership Presents a teacher and community workshop. Learn about the importance of biodiversity and how to do a schoolyard biodiversity survey with your students. Learn to use the on-line database at www.allspeciescount.org to record your students' findings and help track biodiversity in the Metro area. Participants in this workshop receive: BioBlitz Activities, Colorado's Eight Ecosystems poster series from CDOW, Ranger Rick Magazine + Educators Guide from NWF, optional credit from Colorado School of Mines (CSM) and FREE LUNCH. For 3rd to 10th Grade Educators (formal and non-formal) + those working to connect young people to nature! Location: Fairmount Cemetery (This is a great example of a biologically rich, diverse metro location!). Workshop fee: \$20 Workshop Only, Additional \$34 for CSM credit (payable at workshop). Contact: Debbie Lerch Cushman, CDOW, 303-291-7328, Debbie.Lerch@state.co.us.

Project Learning Tree and Project WILD Workshop. Sept 30 & Oct 1, 8:30am-4:30pm.

Learn to efficiently plan thematic units that incorporate a field trip component, and receive PLT and WILD Curriculum books (including more than 200 activities). Cost: \$20. Registration Deadline September 25! Where: Ridgway State Park: 12 miles north of Ouray and approximately 22 miles south of Montrose on US Hwy 550. One Semester Credit is available from Colorado School of Mines. Contacts: To register, Contact Tami Root (CO State Forest Service) at (303) 202-4661 or coloradoplt@yahoo.com. Additional questions: Leigh Gillette (Colorado Division of Wildlife) at (970) 375-6709 or Arleen Crawford (Ridgway State Park) at (970) 626-5822 ex21.

Annual Watershed Conference - Sustaining Colorado Watersheds: Science and Restoration through Collaboration. October 4-6, Great Divide Lodge, Breckenridge.

For registration and information: <http://www.ser.org/cerser/2006conference.asp>, or contact Carol or Kathryn at 303-492-1293 info@coloradoriparian.org or Jeff at 970-872-2433, jeffcrane@coloradowater.org.

2nd Annual Northern Colorado Bird Fair. October 7th, 7am- 1pm at Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space in South Fort Collins.

Guided bird walks at 7am, 8:15am, and 10am; Guest speakers hourly from 8:30am-11:30am; live raptors on display with rehab. releases at 8am and 1pm; continuing ed. credits available for teachers; t-shirts for kids; door prizes; and many exhibitors and activities to increase your bird knowledge and provide lots of fun! And, IT'S FREE!!! For more info. call 970-679-4534 or ggood@larimer.org.

Geoscience Adventure Classes, Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation Department

- The Fossil Record: An Introduction to Paleontology. October 7, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. This outdoor-based class offers an unmatched opportunity to understand the basics of paleontology and the fascinating world of fossils. The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument will be the center of our studies. The course fee includes two field trips, admission to the national monument and a commercial collecting

quarry.

- Field Studies in Paleontology: Exploring the Shelf Road From Cripple Creek to Garden Park, October 14, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Starting in Cripple Creek, this field-oriented class offers an unsurpassed opportunity to explore the geological and paleontological wonders along the Shelf Road. The class will view the famous Garden Park dinosaur sites and examine dinosaur tracks. Transportation, course guide, admission to the Dinosaur Depot, and snacks are included.

Fee for each course: \$69. To register call Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation at 719-689-3514. Participants may earn an optional 0.5 graduate-level semester credit from the Colorado School of Mines for an extra fee of \$30 per class.

Conversations with Migratory Birds: Considerations While on the Move and What to do in a Changing Climate. October 16, 7:00 pm.

Presentation by Dr. Reuven Yosef, Director of the International Birding & Research Center in Eilat, Israel. Learn about the world famous research station in Israel and how climate change and other factors affect migratory birds. National Center for Atmospheric Research, Main Seminar Room, 1850 Table Mesa Drive in Boulder. Reception to follow. For More Information: 1-866-334-3330 or 970-393-1183, <http://www.birdday.org>

River Watch Training, October 17-20 at Camp Cedaredge, southeast of Grand Junction.

This four day, overnight training event will be geared to both new and existing River Watch participants. Veteran River Watch volunteers will benefit from sessions covering data management and advanced stream ecology, while new members to our organization will be taught about water quality sampling and analysis, and the nuts and bolts of River Watch. Sessions on bringing River Watch home to your organization and exploring non traditional teaching methods to implement River Watch. There is a cost of \$60 per person to attend, all meals and lodging are included in the fee. Registration Deadline: September 25. Up to 4 credits from CSM are available at this training. Contact: Michaela Taylor at michaela.taylor@state.co.us.

Earth Charter Community Summit: "Practical Applications of the Earth Charter Principles." October 19, 6-9pm.

International House University of Denver Campus, 2200 South Josephine, Denver. Presented by Earth Charter Communities Alliance of Denver in partnership with University of Denver and SGI-USA. For more information visit <http://www.EarthCharterSummits.org>.

Colorado Bioneers: Visionary and Practical Solutions for Restoring the Earth and People, October 20-22, University of Colorado at Boulder.

Bioneers (<http://www.bioneers.org>) is the preeminent international gathering of leading scientific innovators and environmental visionaries who offer practical solutions to the most pressing environmental and social issues of our time. Bioneers connects the dots between environment, health, social justice and spirit. Bioneers offers virtual conferences to educational institutions and community centers around North America. The program is designed to support individuals and organizations in learning about their own ecosystems, including urban environments, and how they can take action locally. The Colorado Bioneers companion event offers a weekend of sharing, learning and action, and is a uniquely affordable community event that brings together people from all walks of life working for social change. The conference will feature a live satellite feed of the main Bioneers plenaries, and is locally enriched with sessions and workshops on regional issues and community solutions, community service projects, networking and entertainment, and a green living marketplace. For more information, contact bioneers@colorado.edu, 303-492-8308, or visit <http://ecenter.colorado.edu/bioneers06>.

Project Learning Tree, October 21, 8:30-4:30

K-12 Preservice Teachers & classroom teachers, scout leaders, or home school parents come experience this award winning national curriculum taught by expert facilitators. Discover exciting, inexpensive ways to incorporate the natural environment into your curriculum. Regis University, 7450 Campus Drive, Colorado Springs. Credit: Optional .5 graduate credit from CSM for additional \$34. \$20.00 registration & materials fee (includes the PLT curriculum guide!!). For more information, call Liz Tarpy, Regis University, at (719) 264-7034. Registration Deadline Oct 14.

National Master Naturalist Conference, Flagstaff, Arizona, November 7-9.

	<p>The conference is for professionals who manage natural resource outreach and service programs, such as Master Naturalist or Master Watershed Steward. Conference topics include: Volunteer recruitment & program marketing, Liability issues & background checks, Initiating a new statewide program (funding, identifying key players, etc.), Curriculum development & delivery, Creating partnerships, Volunteer retention, Program evaluation, Working effectively in partnerships, Group dynamics & conflict resolution, Grant writing. For more information, visit http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/nationalconference/. Mini-grants are available for presenters to cover travel expenses!</p>
<p>Career</p> <p>Note: these announcements are only position highlights and are not intended to be all-inclusive.</p> <p>NAAEE/EE-Link offers a jobs database service for EE job seekers or employers seeking EE staff.</p> <p>To view job postings, visit: eelink.net/eejobsdatabase.html</p> <p>To submit a job to the database: eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/add_job.cgi</p> <p>Back to Top</p>	<p>Environmental Education Specialist and Program Coordinator, Thorne Ecological Institute at Waterton Canyon, Littleton. Closing date: October 6. Starting Date: November 6. The Environmental Education Specialist and Program Coordinator will be responsible for: (1) leading Project BEAR programs in elementary school classrooms throughout the Denver-metro area including Douglas County, (2) instruction and coordination of Thorne Natural Science School programs year round; (3) administration duties including contacts with schools/parents, and (4) special events, field trips, and open houses. Pay begins at \$11/hour; pay shifts to TNSI instructor pay scale for TNSI week long courses. Potential for increase in hours and pay as Waterton Canyon program builds. Flexibility and high energy required. For more information see http://www.thorne-eco.org. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Kelly Keena, kelly@thorne-eco.org.</p> <p>Part-time Exhibit Interpreter, Downtown Aquarium, Denver. Deliver information, and monitor guest interaction at the Aquarium's interactive station. Experience or comfort with speaking in front of an audience is required. College level coursework or equivalent experience in a related field are preferred. Ability to stand for six hours is required. 3-5 evenings per week, including weekends and holidays. If interested, please send your resume to atodd@ldry.com or mail to Downtown Aquarium; attention Education Department; 700 Water St. Denver, CO 80211. This position is open until filled.</p> <p>Public Lands Community Organizers, National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Positions will be located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Western Slope of Colorado, and Lander, Wyoming (location in WY is flexible). Organizers will engage in establishing state-level conservation priorities by: Developing and supporting a state public lands working group; collaborating closely with NWF affiliates and other conservation partners; creating networks of hunter/angler organizations; communicating regularly with various media sources, tracking local news and assisting in the development of communication plans; and presenting conservation information to local sporting clubs, conservation groups, and government entities. NWF is an equal opportunity employer committed to workplace diversity. Please apply online at http://www.nwf.org/careergateway.</p>
<p>Grants</p> <p>Back to Top</p>	<p>Captain Planet Foundation Supports Environmental Education Programs The mission of the Captain Planet Foundation is to support hands-on environmental projects for youth in grades K-12 throughout the world. Support is provided to nonprofit organizations and schools for environmental education programs that promote interaction and cooperation and that help young people develop planning and problem-solving skills. Grants range from \$500 to \$2,500. Requests are reviewed four times per year, and the remaining application deadlines for 2006 are September 30 and December 31. http://www.captainplanetfdn.org</p> <p>Preserve America Grant Program. Deadline: November 1. The National Wildlife Refuge Preserve America Grant Program provides competitive grants of \$10,000 to \$15,000 each, to help fund national wildlife refuge interpretive and education projects. http://www.nfwf.org/programs/nwrgp_pa.cfm</p>
<p>Resources and Announcements</p> <p>Back to Top</p>	<p>Sustainability Resources available through the Northwest Earth Institute. The Northwest Earth Institute, a Portland, OR based non-profit, offers six self-facilitated discussion courses on Choices for Sustainable Living, Discovering a Sense of Place, Exploring Deep Ecology, Globalization, Voluntary Simplicity and Healthy Children-Healthy Planet. Their newest course, due to be released in early 2007 will be on Climate Chaos. These discussion course materials are only \$15 and included readings, thought provoking questions for discussion, and guidelines for the role of the facilitator. Small groups meet throughout the country to dialogue about lifestyle choices, values and how to take action in service of the Earth. Please contact Deb McNamara at 503 227 2807, Deborah@nwei.org or visit http://www.nwei.org for</p>

more information.

e-Newsletter Available for Four-Corners Educators. The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) is pleased to announce a brand-new electronic newsletter called "Learning on the Land", a conservation education-based publication for teachers and educators in the Four Corners region. Each monthly issue provides background information on a thematic natural resource, classroom activities, and suggestions for field studies on local public lands sites. This e-newsletter is part of SJMA's ongoing efforts to enhance conservation education efforts and to create direct connections between people and their public land. The September 2006 issue called "Wonderful Wetlands" is now available. To subscribe to this complimentary e-newsletter, contact Gabi Morey - gabi@sjma.org or 970-385-1256.

October is Children's Health Month and EPA is promoting Healthy School Environments! Join one or more webcasts to see what you can do to create a healthier school environment. For more information go to <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/chm.htm>. Contact: Alicia Aalto, EPA, Region 8 Children's Environmental Health Coordinator (303)312-6967, aalto.alicia@epa.gov

Use Texas Instruments Sensors with Students in the Field. There is an opportunity for an educator to use, on loan, TI field probes during the coming year. In turn for being loaned the kit, the educator will present a sample experiment or demonstration at the Teaching Outside the Box conference on April 27-29, 2007 (also consider the Technology In Education Conference in June and the Colorado Science Conference in November). The kit will be available from now until the conference in April. If you are interested, contact Kent Simon - ksimonbib@earthlink.net or 303-674-3017

Posting of resources or events does not constitute endorsement of those materials or activities by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education or sponsors of CAEE.

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