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# Environmental Education 2002 Awards



colorado alliance for environmental education

CAEE Environmental Education Awards 2002

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education wishes to thank the Coors Brewing Company and The Wildlife Experience for their generous support of the Fifth Annual Benefit and Awards Celebration.



*The Wildlife Experience  
Museum*

Special thanks to CH2M HILL for the design and printing of all awards and auction materials.

**CH2MHILL**

CAEE would also like to thank the volunteer members of the 2002 Awards Committee:

**Dean Winstanley**, Chair, Colorado State Parks, Statewide Programs

**Cheryl Armstrong**, James P. Beckwourth Mountain Club

**Roxanne Brickell-Reardon**, Colorado State Parks -- Eldorado Canyon State Park

**Patty Breece**, Manitou Springs Middle School

**Susan Buhr**, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences

**Paula Cady**, Denver Zoo

**Kirstin Copeland**, Colorado State Parks — Ridgeway State Park

**Stacie Gilmore**, Environmental Learning for Kids

**Wendy Hanophy**, Colorado Division of Wildlife

**Karin Hostetter**, Interpret This

**Gwen Pratt**, Beidleman Environmental Center

**Jeff Rucks**, Colorado Division of Wildlife — Project WILD

**Diane Simmons**, Colorado Academy

**Janna Six**, CAEE Staff



*In the tradition of Enos Mills, you guide others to the secrets of the nature with your renaissance talents, contagious passion and genuine enthusiasm. We celebrate you!*



*Mary personifies Enos Mills' philosophy by getting children outdoors, awakening their senses and provoking their thoughts, which encourages them to develop an appreciation and understanding of nature.*



## MARY BONNELL - ENOS MILLS AWARD 2002

Mary Bonnell exemplifies the distinctive characteristics and qualities of Enos Mills in numerous ways. Mills wrote that an educator/naturalist is one "Who can guide others to the secrets of nature." Mary accomplishes this calling through her vast knowledge and genuine enthusiasm as a gifted interpreter, skilled trainer, professional artist and creative designer. Mary emits a contagious passion during her walks, programs and training sessions.

As an employee and volunteer for organizations such as Colorado State Parks (currently the Interpretive Services Ranger at Barr Lake State Park), Jefferson County and Colorado's Ocean Journey, Mary has been a leader and innovator in the field of environmental education. She has created and conducted inspirational programs for thousands of PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and the public.

Mary pursues opportunities to create educational experiences for others. She is a master at taking difficult, abstract scientific concepts and environmental processes and developing activities, models, simulations and demonstrations that are easily understood by school-age students, volunteer naturalists and the public. Mary was the lead coordinator with 58 Front Range parks in a unified "Ancient Denver Project" interpreting geology for students and the public for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. As team leader, Mary assembled an outstanding group of scientists, writers, graphic artists, and exhibit designers to create a major new geology exhibit for Roxborough State Park's Visitor Center. This year, Mary was the designer of the highly successful Colorado State Parks educational exhibit for the State Fair in Pueblo.

Mary is highly sought as a trainer inspiring and mentoring thousands of volunteers, interpreters and other professionals because she has a propensity for forming immediate and deep connections with audiences. She is the designer and instructor of Colorado State Parks "Introduction to Interpretation" training for new rangers. For the Western Regional Interpretive Skills Training, Mary has been the lead trainer since 1997. In addition, she volunteers as a trainer for the Native Plant Master Program with Cooperative Extension Service, which attracts many because Mary is the teacher.

As a testament of Mary's special talents, Tim Merriman, Executive Director, National Association for Interpretation recently wrote, "Mary is extraordinary to say the least. She is one of the top two or three interpreters and trainers I have observed in my 32 years of working with thousands of people in this profession throughout the world."

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### The Enos Mills Award

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

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Mary shares her gift by inviting others to discover and care about the outside world. One can imagine that Mary had the opportunity to study with and learn directly from Enos Mills. She epitomizes his vision and strategies so completely—Mary is a 21st century Enos Mills!

### For more information

#### Mary Bonnell

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President's Award

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Now in its 16th season, Colorado Getaways airs about 40 half-hour shows a year, with six stories in each program. Colorado Getaways is the definitive TV source for getting outdoors in Colorado. This half-hour show airs on NEWS4 each Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

**Colorado Getaways**  
*Doug Whitehead, Producer*



**For more information**

**Doug Whitehead, Producer**  
**NEWS4**

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coloradogetaways/](http://news4colorado.com/coloradogetaways/)

## COLORADO GETAWAYS

Colorado Getaways has its origin in the “gas crisis” of the late 1970s. To help people take trips without burning much gas, Channel 4, then KOA TV, offered a feature called “Denver 100s.” They were travel features with ideas within a hundred mile radius of Denver. The range was later expanded to include the entire state and the name was changed to Colorado Getaways. The weekly half-hour program began airing in 1987 and the show has been a staple of Denver television ever since.

After a series of producers, Doug Whitehead started producing the show in 1992. NEWS4 Anchor Bill Stuart serves as host of the show, but Doug writes, produces and voices many episodes himself. Doug quickly learned that it would be impossible to exhaust the reservoir of stories about Colorado.

A huge diversity of history, culture and the outdoors exists in the state. While Colorado is known for many of its famous spots like the Great Sand Dunes and Rocky Mountain National Park, the program has regularly sought out the smaller, lesser-known, out-of-the-way places that would not otherwise be able to get their messages out to a large, state-wide audience. Nature centers, interpretive trails, outdoors programs, volunteer opportunities and the like offer an un-ending source of material.

The program staff work hard to ensure that Colorado Getaways covers all corners of Colorado. And, the audience continues to let NEWS4 know that these stories are important to them. Doug hopes these stories help in raising awareness of the state's resources and how to better care for and appreciate them.



*Whitewater rafting at  
Gore Canyon*



*Hiking at Beaver Creek*



*Fulford Cave near Eagle*





**My Favorite Type of Science:  
By Gretchen Rachlis, 5th Grade,  
Globe Charter School**

*"This year I learned about the water cycle. That helped me to understand where the water goes. We wrote stories and had a great time. The YES Program helps you to learn great things about science. In the program it's not like school - you actually like doing some of the work that we do (except we need more homework). Just joking."*

# YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS: EXPLORERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW

YES is an *after-school program* and *summer camp* for minority and under-served youth. It promises to be a local educational model with national significance. Minority and under-served students in the YES Program study science, leadership and technology in order to understand what it means to be a good community steward. From the Garden of the Gods to Cheyenne Mountain, from the steps of City Hall to our wastewater treatment facilities, students learn about community responsibility using the natural and social environment as their guides.

## UNIQUE COMPONENTS

### Field Excursions: *Opening Students' Eyes to Our Diverse World*

Imagine living in Colorado Springs and never having had the opportunity to hear the call of a coyote, to crawl through cracks at the Garden of the Gods, or to climb a mountain. YES bimonthly field excursions offer the first chance for many YES participants to be inspired by the beauty and complexity of the natural world.

### Science: *Researching Connections by Getting Down and Dirty*

YES students get their feet wet, their hands dirty, and play! Why do we teach the program this way? We want science to come alive to students through rigorous, hands-on, inquiry-based teaching methodologies.

### Leadership: *Committing to Community Responsibility*

The YES Program begins with students at a young age, full of hopes and dreams, and works towards the goal of inspiring them to become community leaders. We provide a global community perspective that is multi-disciplinary, engaging and challenging. At the same time, we encourage students to lead each other (through YES Mentorship), the community (through YES Service Projects), and themselves (through YES Career Seminars).

### Technology: *Applying Creative Technological Solutions*

YES helps kids use technology in fun, imaginative and educational ways to promote stewardship skills. Technology enables students to creatively integrate diverse disciplines.

### Long-Term Participation: *Reaching Students for Many Years*

The YES program offers opportunities for students to continue participating in the program from 4th grade all the way through college. Older students mentor younger students and every year builds on the theme of diversity.



## Best New Program Award

### PARTNERS

The Catamount Institute (TCI) is a sustainable field campus where education, leadership and research programs enhance our understanding of natural systems and inspire ecological stewardship.

The Urban League of the Pikes Peak Region promotes equality by securing equal opportunities for African-Americans, other minorities and the disadvantaged through education, economic self-sufficiency, community-building and advocacy.

### For more information

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**Agriculture Award**

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What makes this program even more amazing is that the program actually educates many more people than just program participants through the community service requirement. In 2002 alone, 30 Boulder County Master Composters have educated nearly 2,000 people at outreach events!

**For more information**

**Melanie Nehls Burow**

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compost/mcomp.htm](http://www.co.boulder.co.us/recycling/compost/mcomp.htm)

**B** **OULDER COUNTY MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM**



The Boulder County Master Composter Program is a six-week course that teaches students to be experts in the art of composting. It includes classroom training, hands-on experience, and field tours. By the end of the program, participants are highly skilled in the methods of backyard composting and vermicomposting (worm composting) and are certified as Master Composters.

After completion of the training, participants also spend fifteen hours of community service time educating the public. Community service opportunities include helping at workshops, working at demonstration sites, contributing to written materials, staffing booths at various outreach activities such as community fairs and farmers' markets, and other various activities.

The Boulder County Master Composter Program is run by a unique partnership between the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, the Boulder County Resource Conservation Division, and the Boulder Energy Conservation Center. This successful program is a great example of how a university extension office, a local government agency, and a local environmental non-profit organization can work together toward common goals.

In this program, the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension acts as the certifying body for program participants and offers expertise throughout the program. The Boulder County Resource Conservation Division is involved by funding the program through their grant program. They have a special interest in the Master Composter Program because it aids in reaching Boulder County's goal of diverting 50% of municipal solid waste from landfills by 2005. The Boulder Energy Conservation Center, whose mission is to lead Boulder County in the sustainable use of energy and natural resources, orchestrates the program. Boulder Energy Conservation Center staff coordinate content and speakers for each class, field tours, compost demonstration piles for the class, all administrative duties, and community service time.



*First ever Boulder County Master Composter Program, Compost Bin Sale, September 15, 2002*



*Master Composter leading a workshop on the basics of backyard composting.*



## RESOURCE ACTION PROGRAMS: LIVINGWISE AND WATERWISE



Resource Action Programs from the non-profit National Energy Foundation represent a truly innovative approach to conservation education – an approach that actually saves energy and water while building resource-wise habits for two generations of participants. Designed as a cost-effective way for utility companies to educate families about conservation and reduce residential consumption, the programs combine school conservation education with the direct installation of water and energy-efficient technologies by students and their families.

Resource Action Programs are funded by utility companies, government agencies, foundations, and local businesses. Funding is arranged on a local or regional basis, and partnerships of multiple sponsors are often formed to support specific programs. Programs are offered at no charge to schools or teachers. When teachers sign up for the program, they receive a complete set of classroom enrichment activities and every student in their class receives a kit containing efficiency devices, such as a high-efficiency showerhead, faucet aerators, and compact fluorescent light bulbs. Each kit also contains a conservation computer game, hands-on activity guide, and measurement devices.

Students learn about conservation in the classroom, then they install the devices at home with their parents' help, measuring energy and water use before and after installation. Classroom lessons and home activities are matched to state standards, providing a meaningful and integrated educational experience that kids can relate to. This fun “home-work” reinforces the knowledge learned in the classroom, influences resource awareness and habits of other family members, and – best of all – delivers measurable and lasting water and energy savings.



Water Class



Water Wise Kit

### Non-Profit Award

There are two Resource Action Programs – *WaterWise* and *LivingWise*. *WaterWise* addresses water conservation, while *LivingWise* covers both water and energy. Both combine take-home kits with classroom lessons for grades 4-6 and deliver remarkable resource savings.

The Programs have been used in Colorado for seven years and are a favorite of teachers statewide. The standards-based lessons give a real-world context for core subjects, teachers can earn graduate credit, and program timing is extremely flexible to accommodate teacher schedules. The biggest draw is the kits and true hands-on activities which motivate students and also involve parents with their children's education.

### For more information

Please visit [www.getwise.org](http://www.getwise.org) or contact Dave Munk, Program Manager, National Energy Foundation 2724 Upper Cattle Creek Road Carbondale, CO 81623 970-963-7476 fax: 970-963-4119 [dm@getwise.org](mailto:dm@getwise.org)



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**Community Award**

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**Public Lands Center Visitor Information Center and Interpretive Bookstore**

SJMA manages and maintains a bookstore, several interpretive displays, a public resource room, a children's educational area and visitor resource information at the Public Lands Center in Durango, Colorado.

In addition this year, SJMA coordinated 6 trail maintenance projects, taught Leave No Trace ethics in area schools, co-hosted several educational workshops and conferences, proved trained Stewards of the Land at popular trailheads in the San Juan's to educate recreation users about minimizing their impacts, monitored Wild Horse Herds in Wilderness Study areas, produced several informational brochures, and coordinated more than 20 summer campground interpretive programs.

**For more information**

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**SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION**



The mission of the **San Juan Mountains Association** is to enhance personal and community stewardship of natural, cultural and heritage resources and participation. Some of the outstanding SJMA programs include:

**SJMA's Mountain EDventure™ Programs**

Interpretive and educational year-round programs at Durango Mountain Resort include guided naturalist hikes, kids EDventure™ camp, morning bird walks and special programs such as interpretive hikes with a llama and nature photography. They reach out to a wide audience of all age ranges and have been well received among locals and tourists.

**SJMA's Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP)**

The CSSP program was created to help preserve and protect our irreplaceable cultural resources by training volunteers to adopt and monitor cultural sites in Southwest Colorado in addition to educating site visitors about proper resource stewardship. A key CSSP goal is to enhance heritage and cultural education by disseminating accurate preservation information through community outreach programs and developing educational materials that focus on site etiquette. This spring, SJMA coordinated an exhibit for children in conjunction with the Durango Children's Museum which reaches approximately 1,000 students a month. This fall, SJMA has 30 classroom visits planned for K through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

**SJMA's Stewards of the Land Volunteer and Education Programs**

A core group of more than 600 trained volunteers offer public land managers a wide range of services ranging from visitor information, education and interpretive programs, trail restoration, and cultural site stewardship monitoring. This program includes Wilderness Information Specialists (WIS) who are located in the backcountry to educate users about proper backcountry ethics, as well as Ghost Riders, the horseback equivalent of WIS.

**Fire Education and Information Program**

SJMA has spearheaded a new fire education and information program this year. SJMA has created educational literature, organized fire restoration projects in burned areas, held open houses on reducing wildfire risk with Fire Ready, assisted with Fire's Natural Role Curriculum K-8 and 9-12, and presented fire education programs at Durango Mountain Resort.

