

NAAEE PRESENTS 2003 AWARDS

Awards to Individuals:

◆ The Walter E. Jeske Award— Carol Fialkowski

The highest honor NAAEE bestows is the Walter E. Jeske Award, established in 1982 to honor Walt Jeske, Chief of the Education and Publications Unit with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. The award is given to recognize service to NAAEE and leadership in the field of environmental education.

Carol Fialkowski, Conservation Education Director for the Field Museum of Natural History, is perhaps best known for her work in innovative environmental education programs in the Chicago area. Fialkowski developed "Chicago Wilderness," a diverse coalition of more than 160 groups working collaboratively to protect, restore, and educate in the natural communities that enrich lives in Chicago. Said one nominator, "Carol is an organizer, an energizer, and a visionary—someone who knows no limits to what can be done to help create environmentally literate citizens. She is my example of what typifies what is best in environmental education."

Fialkowski helped to initiate and develop Illinois' state strategic plan, Environmental Literacy for Illinois, and serves as a delegate to the Illinois Conservation Congress, which is responsible for the implementation of environmental education in the state. She has held leadership roles in the Environmental Education Association of Illinois, the Illinois EE Advancement Consortium (which she initiated), and NEEAP's National Leadership Clinic.

A member of NAAEE since 1986, Fialkowski has served the organization in varying capacities including the Board of Directors (1993-1996) and as chair of the Nonformal Section (1993-1996). She has served on numerous committees of other national organizations including the American Association of Museums and the Association of Science and Technology Centers. In addition, Fialkowski has held posts with such national governmental bodies as the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Panel on Schools and the National Science Foundation Proposal Review Committee. Internationally, she has worked to build capacity for biodiversity-related community action in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru.



2003 NAAEE Award recipients were honored at a special awards luncheon during the Anchorage conference. In addition to the awardees listed on this page, members of the NAAEE staff were recognized for their outstanding work over the past year.

◆ NAAEE President's Award— Maria Isabel Castillo

The President's Award is given at the discretion of the Association's President to honor an individual or group of significant influence or importance within the field of environmental education.

Maria Isabel Castillo is the recipient of the 2003 President's Award. According to NAAEE President Joe Heimlich, Castillo recently demonstrated the "Power of One" in a deeply meaningful way for the field of EE. The National Council for Science and the Environment was planning its annual conference to focus on sustainability and education, the first time education was a part of the title of the conference. Isabel Castillo ensured that education was not only in the title, but in the planning, on the program, and in the seats. Castillo was challenged in many ways: she was a woman on a committee dominated by men; a Latina in a committee dominated by Caucasians; and an educator on a committee of natural scientists. The resulting conference demonstrated, however, the power of an educator to affect change in a very important way.

◆ Outstanding Contributions to Research in Environmental Education Award— William Scott

William Scott, Professor of Education at the University of Bath, has conducted a range of research, development and evaluation studies on behalf of government, industry, NGOs, and other agencies in this country and abroad, most significantly with the World Wildlife Fund.

Scott directs the Centre for Research in Education and the Environment and is Head of the Culture and Environment research group at the University of Bath. He edits the international refereed academic journals *Environmental Education Research and Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, and is a member of the NAAEE's Research Commission and the special interest group on ecological and environmental education of the American Educational Research Association. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a trustee of the Living Earth Foundation. Scott also sits on the executive committee of the United Kingdom's National Association for Environmental Education and works extensively with local and national NGOs with interests in environmental, conservation and sustainability issues.

◆ Outstanding Service to Environmental Education at the Local Level Award— Bernie Samm

Bernie Samm has been the driving force behind the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) since its inception. He was MAEOE's first president in 1985 and has served on its board ever since—for over 17 consecutive years. Samm has attended every MAEOE conference and has helped the meeting grow into a significant professional conference. He has helped a small group of teachers expand into a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency organization of skilled, dedicated professionals.

As outdoor education coordinator in the Montgomery County Public Schools program

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for six years and 12 years as the supervisor of the program, Samm contributed to meaningful outdoor experiences for thousands of students.

◆ Outstanding Service to Environmental Education at the Regional Level Award—Mike Way

Mike Way serves as the Executive Director of Colorado Alliance for EE (CAEE). Under his leadership, CAEE is recognized among the strongest and most innovative EE

organizations operating today. Way has worked to ensure that all environmental educators in Colorado have access to information, research and methods regarding the best practices in the field of environmental education. His innovations include an on-line newsletter; an annual conference that draws more than 200 participants; an advisory board representing approximately 60 key stakeholders in Colorado's EE community; and an EE data

base that has dramatically increased membership in CAEE.

Way has served as a board member of NAAEE, chair of EPA's National Advisory Council, and leader of the Affiliates Network. He continues to play a leading role in expanding the role of the Affiliate Network within NAAEE and is currently chairing the Environmental Education Quality Assurance Initiative. ■

Awards to Organizations:

◆ Outstanding Service to Environmental Education at the Local Level Award—Aspen Center for Environmental Studies:

For more than thirty years, the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES) has worked directly with the Aspen School District to provide year-round field science classes to elementary, middle and high school students at ACES' 25-acre Hallam Lake Nature Preserve.

In 1993, the partnership between ACES and the Aspen School District was formalized and ACES' educational classes were incorporated as an official part of Aspen Elementary School's in-school curriculum. Since then, each Aspen Elementary School student, kindergarten through fourth grade, has attended weekly environmental education classes taught by ACES educators.

The unique partnership between the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies and the Aspen Elementary School/Aspen School District reaches over 450 students per week. Students are provided with the basic knowledge, skills and foundation for learning about, respecting, and caring for the earth.

◆ Outstanding Service to Environmental Education at the Regional Level Award—ForEd BC

ForEd BC is non-profit association established in British Columbia in 1925. Its purpose is to create opportunities for students to become better informed about the natural environment and the resources it contains. Services include: *Landscapes* magazine (quarterly), teacher workshops, classroom presentation training for volunteers, education consultation, curriculum advisory, resources, activities and tours for teachers, and participation in and provision of speakers for teacher specialty associations.

Through their award-winning magazine, *Landscapes*, ForEd stimulates thinking and thereby helps prepare young people for responsible environmental decision-making. One of the most popular learning resources for teachers and students in British Columbia, *Landscapes* was named best association magazine in Canada by the Canadian Society of Association Executives' in July 2001.

◆ Outstanding Service to Environmental Education at the Global Level Award—Earth Force

Earth Force gives more than 35,000 youth a year the skills and knowledge to turn their passion for the environment into lasting change in their communities. Earth Force also works to build the capacity of community-based organizations to better engage educators to help their students take action around environmental issues. Organizations like the Field Museum, Peer Assistance Network of America and others have adopted Earth Force's curriculum and materials. Earth Force programs benefit youth in all types of educational settings, from middle-school classrooms, after-school programs, and honors seminars to summer camps and scout troops.



NAAEE President Joe Heimlich, President Elect Abby Ruskey, and Past President Terry Wilson brought a touch of class to the closing banquet.

A number of years ago, Earth Force added the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) to its array of programs. Earth Force has expanded the GREEN program into Central America, and worked with its offices in Europe and Australia.

◆ Outstanding Affiliate Award—Alliance for New Jersey EE

The Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE) has played a leading role in improving and supporting environmental education in New Jersey. ANJEE has worked diligently for eighteen years to build a network that can ultimately achieve the goal of an environmentally literate citizenry. This includes working—in partnership with the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education (NJCEE), ANJEE affiliates, other environmental and educational organizations, and government agencies statewide—to build and implement a broad, statewide plan for environmental education.

ANJEE is a nonprofit, volunteer-led membership organization dedicated to meeting the emerging and evolving needs of the state's students, educators, families and individuals. Membership in ANJEE includes professionals in both the formal education and nonformal sectors. Each of its projects links to the others so that there is year-round, ongoing statewide support for environmental education. ■

Support NAAEE!

All donations to NAAEE are tax deductible. You can make a gift to NAAEE in several ways:

- Make a contribution directly to NAAEE
- Make a contribution through the Conservation & Preservation Charities of America
- Make a contribution through the Independent Charities of America, a participant in the Combined Federal campaign.
- Contribute to the Bill Stapp Student Scholarship Fund, a fund established in 2001 in honor of NAAEE international leader Dr. Bill Stapp (1930-2001) to help students from around the world attend NAAEE's annual conference.

For more information and contribution forms, please visit www.naaee.org and click on "Give to NAAEE."