

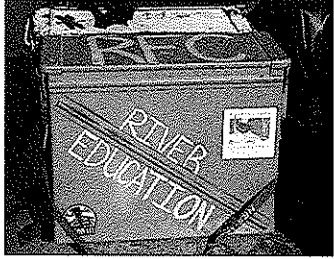
Real, Relevant Experiences

by Sarah Johnson

Roaring Fork Conservancy's Education Program reached more than 7,000 students and adults in 2008. These programs give students and adults a priceless thing – real experiences and relevant education that stays with them forever. The result is knowledgeable participants who positively influence their communities.

High school students have made formal recommendations to the Roaring Fork Watershed Collaborative to increase monitoring on Cattle Creek. Middle school students are discussing ways to make sure Colorado has enough water for future use. Elementary students are getting to know their neighborhoods through direct experiences at the river. Learning to read maps and learning how water moves through a watershed allows students to see how rivers connect our communities. Snow science lessons with middle and high school students are creating a greater understanding of the value of snow as our primary water source. Water law lessons and discussions are creating educated future voters. Multi-day river trips on the Colorado and Green Rivers in Utah are connecting local students with the greater Colorado River Basin. Adults are learning the importance of conservation easements, of the value of their drinking water sources, and, of exploring the trans-mountain diversions at Independence Pass. River cleanups allow families to contribute to their local community and make a difference.

All these direct relevant experiences are creating more responsible citizens who will act, vote, and contribute to our communities in many ways. Relevant, hands-on, direct learning experiences are making great impacts on both our kids and our adult community.



River Educator of the Year



Kayo Ogilby

The River Educator of the Year Award recognizes one teacher from the Roaring Fork Watershed who has created innovative and inspiring river and water education that impacts our community.

River Educator of the Year: Kayo Ogilby

Teaching at Colorado Rocky Mountain School on the Crystal River in Carbondale since 1996, Kayo Ogilby creates authentic and relevant learning experiences for his students. Kayo, the Science Department Head, organized his entire faculty team to collaborate on a semester-long study of the Cattle Creek subwatershed including water quality and land use studies with more than 60 students and three other faculty members: Michael Hayes, Darryl Fuller, and Jim Gaw. Their preliminary research resulted in a high-quality student presentation at the Watershed Collaborative in December 2008. This research study will be continued for years to come with refinement each year. When Kayo is not teaching science in the classroom he is coaching students in the CRMS kayak program where he is giving them an opportunity to fall in love with rivers. Kayo not only understands the value of water and rivers, he instills this understanding and passion in his students as well.

2009 Watershed Explorations Calendar

May

- 6 Heron, Eagle, and Osprey Watching
- 9 Crystal River Clean Up
- 12 5th Annual State of the River Public Meeting
- 20 Heron Watching at James H. Smith Northstar
- 27 Riparian Birding at Jaffee Park
- 28 Bike Carbondale's Ditch System

June

- 6 River Float 2009
- 10 Seven Star Open Space Wildflower Hike
- 17 Exploring James H. Smith Northstar by Water
- 26 Meadowlands River Walk
- 27 Roaring Fork Headwaters Diversions Tour

July

- 7 Filoha Meadows Firefly & Rare Orchid Walk
- 9 Filoha Meadows Firefly & Rare Orchid Walk
- 15 10th Annual River Rendezvous
- 17 Meadowlands River Walk
- 18 Filoha Naturalist Guided Walk
- 22 Aspen Hydropower Tour
- 28 Mining Water: A Historical Look at Aspen's Rivers

August

- 12 Maroon Wetland Walk
- 16 12th Annual Basalt River Days
- 21 Meadowlands River Walk
- 22 Filoha Naturalist Guided Walk
- 26 From the Source to You: Carbondale Water Tour

September

- 19 Filoha Naturalist Guided Walk
- 23 Elk Bugling & Fall Colors at Filoha Meadows
- 30 Inside Ruedi Reservoir and Dam Tour

For more information and to register for these events: www.roaringfork.org/events