

EDUCATION THROUGH NATURE

Soaring Eagle Ecology Center (SEEC) is a charitable non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose primary purpose is to teach hands-on environmental education. SEEC emphasizes scientific concepts while integrating reading, writing, and math into the EE programs. Located on 20 acres south and west of Red Feather Lakes Elementary School, SEEC uses the unique learning environment of the Colorado Rocky Mountain ecosystem to achieve its vision and mission.

This June SEEC offered the following environmental programs to children and teens: Geocaching; Eagle's Eye (using handheld microscope technology); Discovery Hike (highlighting bears and moose); Natural Sounds with researchers from NP); Forest Health; Macroinvertebrates and Chemistry of Water; Soil Investigation, Fire Ecology. SEEC was also co-sponsor with Children's Free Fishing Fest (see info about Fishing Fest on page4).

In addition to interdisciplinary environmental education opportunities, SEEC offers an array of practical outdoor classes: Watershed Adventures, Orienteering, and Survival

Vision:

To inspire and facilitate children of all ages to learn about, enjoy and encourage responsible stewardship of the environment.

Mission:

To offer hands-on, outdoor education to promote understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

Educational Objectives:

- To develop *Guided and Self-Guided Outdoor Learning Stations* throughout SEEC land for formal and informal learning. Look for three learning stations to be completed by Spring/Summer 2014.
- To continue hosting PSD field trips and developing environmental programs to meet students' needs.
- To enhance students' appreciation of the natural world and the interdependencies that exist to sustain life.
- To promote environmental stewardship through informational programs and events.



BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

SEEC EDUCATIONAL CAPABILITIES

CONTINUE TO GROW.

Through the generosity of volunteers, individual contributors, long-term commitments of Founding Members and charitable grants, SEEC has accomplished the following in its third year of operation:

- *In 2013, over 1200 participants have attended SEEC programs and presentations. A special thank you to all the SEEC volunteer instructors.*
- *SEEC is in the process of finalizing our three-part air quality program for students titled *Particles in the Air – We're Not Lichen It!* Many thanks to the CAP grant funded through National Jewish Health and EPA.*
- *Look for three interpretative stations to be completed by spring/summer of 2014 with thanks to Larimer County for their 2013 grant.*
- *Ongoing partnership with Poudre School District to offer free field trip opportunities at SEEC. Brought environmental programs to Linton 3rd graders and Preston MS 6th graders.*

SOARING EAGLE ECOLOGY CENTER

CAPABILITIES CONTINUE TO GROW

DEC 2013

In 2013, Individual and Founding Member contributions covered the baseline expenses related to maintaining SEEC's 501(c)(3) charitable status and the necessary insurance costs. Donations and grants fund materials and equipment for SEEC's environmental programs.

2013 Grants & Donations: *Thank you!*

- **Larimer County Opens Lands Grant:**
 - Three Interpretative Learning Stations: Moss and Lichen, Cloud Formations and Wildflowers
 - Great for guided and self-guided learning
- **Clean Air Project Grant from National Jewish Health and EPA:**
 - Developing three-part program on air quality; Air Quality and You, Air Pollution and Respiratory Health, and Lichens as Bio-indicators
 - Program designed for grades 3 through 8
- **Founding Memberships: *Thank you!***
 - Lease payment, Insurance payments, SEEC program advertising costs and miscellaneous expenses
- **Individual Contributions: *Thank you!***
 - Grant matching & program development/supplies
 - Land maintenance & development costs



WATERSHED ADVENTURES



NATURE JOURNALING
SOIL INVESTIGATION

SEEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Viola – President
Jean Carpenter – Vice-Pres.
Tom Viola – Treasurer
Lucille Schmitt – Director
Amber Ellinger – Director
Teresa Jiles – Honorary

2013 SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

- Red Feather Lakes Elementary School, RFL Community Library, RFL Fire Dept, RF Historical Society, Mountain Gals, Glacier Gals, Chapel in the Pines, local volunteers and organizations.
- Fox Acres Community Services and Fox Acres Golf Club
- CSU, Cooperative Institutes for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA), and Little Shop of Physics
- Poudre School District *Share It* partnership
- City of Fort Collins Utilities-Water and Energy Education Team
- US Forest Services and CO State Forest Service
- Northern Colorado Astronomical Society
- National Park Service Night Sky Program.
- Confluent Design

SEEC 2013 EVENTS

August 3: Fantastic Astronomy Evening

WOW! Over 120 participants attended this great Astronomy event. Many thanks to Fox Acres for their great venue and the following fabulous presenters:

- Dr. Andrew Warnock (CSU) presented three 3-D live presentations with over 90 people in attendance.
- Heather and her great grad students from CSU Little Shop of Physics brought 30 interactive experiments for everyone to enjoy.
- Teresa Jiles (CIRA and SEEC) enthralled all of us with Constellation viewing.
- Venus and Saturn were seen through night telescopes facilitated by Roger Appeldorn and Charlie Davis from NCAS.

September 7: GOLF FUNDRAISER FOR SEEC

Beautiful Fox Acres hosted a golf fundraiser for Soaring Eagle Ecology Center (SEEC) on Saturday, September 7. All proceeds from this fun fundraiser went to SEEC. This generous donation will support the Larimer County Open Lands grant to help complete the three learning/interpretative stations on SEEC land.

October 26: Make a Difference Day was cancelled so people could volunteer for projects helping the September flood victims.

Look for a SEEC volunteer work day spring 2014. Thanks to all our volunteers & supporters..

SOARING EAGLE ECOLOGY CENTER

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

DEC 2013

CHILDREN'S FREE FISHING FEST – WEST LAKE



SEEC on the Shoreline

On June 1, USFS hosted a free fishing festival at West Lake in RFL with over 90 children learning about and enjoying fishing. SEEC was honored to partner with USFS, Rocky Mtn. Flycasters, Trout Unlimited, City of Fort Collins – Water, to help make this such a success. SEEC facilitated learning areas on macroinvertebrates, black bears and solar (UV) protection.

EDUCATION WITH ALTITUDE

www.seecatrfl.org

SEEC is proud to offer quality environmental education at no cost to participants. SEEC appreciates and applauds our instructors who volunteer their time to share their expertise and skills with learners of all ages.

SEEC Invitation to Poudre School

District teachers and homeschoolers.

SEEC is listed on PSD Share It and can offer free environmental classes to meet your students' needs. Outdoor learning at 8,400 feet in a Montane forest environment is indeed Education with Altitude. Some of our programs can also come to your school. Call us for details.

Your participation is needed to assist SEEC in continuing its successful programs: Individual Donations, Founding Memberships, Volunteers, Corporate Sponsors, and Grants are all necessary to implement SEEC's Vision and Mission.

Tax deductible contributions can be made to *Soaring Eagle Ecology Center* and mailed to the following address:

SEEC

P.O. Box 410

Red Feather Lakes, Co.

80545

Call 970-218-9685 for information