

## COEEA Fund Annual Environmental Education Awards

The **Environmental Education Organization of the Year** is a nature/environmental center, museum, school, land trust, youth program, statewide/national organization or other group dedicated to environmental and outdoor education in the State of Connecticut. Despite size or breadth, the EE Organization of the Year should provide innovative programming, preserve natural space, act as a champion for education and the environment, connect Connecticut residents with our outdoor spaces or any combination of the above. Organizations that are members of and partners with COEEA Fund are eligible for this award.

The **Formal Educator of the Year** is a public or private classroom teacher who promotes individual and societal environmental responsibility and encourages students to make informed decisions about our environment. This individual inspires student action to effect positive environmental change in the school or local community and links student learning to the appropriate science benchmarks, curriculum frameworks or standards.

The **Informal Environmental Educator of the Year** is an EE professional working outside of the formal classroom who makes continuous and enduring contributions to the field of EE in Connecticut. This individual demonstrates capacity for creating and implementing innovative programming and one who successfully works to integrate EE into formal education systems within the state. This individual also demonstrates personal involvement in the local, state or regional EE community.

The **Environmental Administrator of the Year** is a town/state official, executive director, board member or other administrator who communicates the importance of EE to the community at large, makes individual learning and action on the environment a priority, and implements hiring, funding, evaluation and other institutional practices to support excellent EE programming. This individual also promotes staff professional development and organizational partnerships that help expand the impact of EE and inspires staff, volunteers and others to fulfill their potential in contributing to successful EE activities.

The **Member of the Year** is a current member of COEEA Fund who had demonstrated excellence and dedication to the mission and promotion of the activities, endeavors and programs of COEEA Fund. This individual provides outstanding service to the COEEA and the Connecticut EE community and works to advance the EE profession on the local, state and regional level.