

Linda S. Hamilton “Conserving Colorado” Award

Colorado Natural Heritage Program
Warner College of Natural Resources
Colorado State University

Awards: 1

Apply by: February 28, 2019

Linda Hamilton lived and worked in Fort Collins for decades before deciding to pursue a degree at Colorado State University’s College of Natural Resources. After accomplishing this, Linda continued and obtained a Masters in Environmental Studies, proud to be considered a lifetime learner. Linda’s outdoor enthusiasm evolved to include trying to understand relationships within the natural world. She readily recognized value in protecting Colorado’s natural heritage. Over the years, Linda has worked as an environmental educator, interpretive hike leader, service learning program director, and a state park ranger. Linda volunteered for Colorado outdoor projects for many years. It was with pleasure that she established the Linda S. Hamilton Conserving Colorado Award, enabling undergraduate students to pursue interesting and pertinent work through the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) at Colorado State University.

Purpose of Award:

The purpose of the Hamilton Award is to facilitate undergraduate research and discovery in the field of conservation biology.

How the award works:

The award pays for a \$1500 monthly stipend (typically for 2 months) for a student as they conduct field work to study a species or ecosystem in Colorado. The student works directly with a CNHP biologist to develop a project that addresses a species or ecosystem that CNHP has identified as needing conservation information. If the student is an honors student, this project can be used as the subject of his/her thesis.

Expected outcomes:

The student gets hands-on experience designing, executing, and analyzing a field-based research project on a rare plant, animal, or ecosystem in Colorado. CNHP obtains new data on a species or ecosystems that are poorly understood in Colorado.

Applicant requirements:

1. At time of application, student must have minimum overall 3.334 GPA;
2. If selected, applicant must be willing to engage in fieldwork with CNHP during the summer in which funding is provided; and
3. Must be an undergraduate student enrolled in the Warner College of Natural Resources.



Hops blue butterfly

How to apply:

Submit Portable Document Formats (pdf) of:

1. Letter of interest (less than 3 pages) with 3 references;
2. Resume; and
3. Unofficial transcripts

to the Scholarship Coordinator (Roberta Brouwer; Roberta.brouwer@colostate.edu) by 4 pm on “Apply by” date above.

Potential projects for 2019:

1. Density of the rare Bell’s Twinpod along foothills of the Front Range;
2. Density of the olive-backed pocket mouse in grassland communities of the Front Range;
3. Density and abundance of Pagosa skyrocket; and
4. Understanding seed bank and seed fall of Preble’s meadow jumping mouse diet resources

Past success stories:

Blaise Newman studied Preble’s meadow jumping mouse microhabitat use in Boulder County, Colorado. She will be starting her Master’s thesis at Clemson University in 2018 studying tri-colored bat winter roost use.

Callie Puntenney studied hops blue butterfly occupancy and published her study in *Journal of Insect Conservation* (Patch occupancy and habitat of the hops azure (*Celastrina humulus*), a rare North American endemic butterfly: insights for monitoring and conservation).

Tristan Kubik documented the first known mutualism between the hops blue butterfly and multiple ant species. In 2017, he submitted his manuscript to *Entomological News* (Facultative myrmecophily in the hops blue butterfly, *Celastrina humulus*.)

Kira Paik and Toryn Walton conducted radio-telemetry of little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) in the Yampa Valley to understand how little brown bats use day roosts.



Callie Puntenney and
Linda Hamilton at
Callie’s honors thesis
defense



Tristan Kubik
with hops blue
butterfly



Kira Paik and Toryn Walton tracking
telemetered little brown bats