

News Release
For Immediate Release

Contact: Kuvy Ax
The Fresh Ideas Group
720.329.7327
kuvy@freshideasgroup.com

or

Denise Link, Marketing and Development Director
The Colorado Chautauqua
303.952.1645
deniselink@chautauqua.com

Colorado Chautauqua Association hires “Green Champion”, plans to become “Greenest National Historic Landmark in the U.S.”

BOULDER, Colo. (November 26, 2008) — The Colorado Chautauqua Association (CCA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and improve the site and spirit of the historic Chautauqua in Boulder. CCA leases 26 acres of the historic Chautauqua Park from the City of Boulder and has full responsibility for preservation and use of the gardens and historic buildings, including 99 cottages, 39 of which are privately owned and the rest of which are available for rental through CCA. The Colorado Chautauqua was named a National Historic Landmark in 2006, one of only 20 in the state of Colorado.

CCA recently hired Jeff Medanich as its Facilities and Preservation Manager and “Green Champion”. Medanich was the Manager of Building Sciences at McStain Neighborhoods for eight years and responsible for environmental sustainability for the last five of those. Always fascinated by the idea of energy efficiency, he was instrumental in creating, advancing and implementing energy efficient systems at Harvard Communities, a leading high performance building in Denver. Medanich is also on the editorial staff of the national Green Building Advisory.

CCA has charged Medanich with leading the initiative to make the Colorado Chautauqua the most environmentally sustainable and responsible National Historic Landmark in the U.S. In August, Medanich and a team of CCA staff and board members met with some of the best and brightest experts in the area (and the nation) to explore and analyze the possibilities for the “greening” of Chautauqua, which resulted in the development of a comprehensive strategy for implementation of a variety of short and long-term opportunities.

At the top of the “green tactics” list is a plan to increase the resource efficiency of every cottage, including following the National Energy Star Guidelines to make them Energy Star rated. By converting to CFL lighting, employing advanced building materials and practices to upgrade insulation, seals, windows, interior finishes and heating/cooling strategies, Chautauqua will reduce energy demand while also enhancing visitor comfort.

CCA also plans to reduce Chautauqua’s water usage by implementing a smart irrigation system, installing more efficient plumbing technologies (such as low-flow faucets), and establishing landscape design guidelines focused on effective storm water management and the use of native, drought-tolerant vegetation.

“Many construction techniques that we refer to today as “best practices” are directly related to techniques employed by the original builders of Chautauqua. These early builders were efficient and economical by nature,” says Medanich.

The Colorado Chautauqua also is working toward a goal of “zero solid waste” generation through recycling, composting and the reuse of building materials. Electric vehicles for operational support and guest car-share are being considered.

Eventually, the Colorado Chautauqua will be a learning laboratory, educating visitors about the opportunities for ‘High Performance Preservation’ -- applying innovative environmental concepts and technologies that work in tandem with substantial historic preservation constraints.

###

The Colorado Chautauqua Association preserves and improves the site and perpetuates the spirit of the Chautauqua, building community through unique cultural, educational, social and recreational experiences. For more information about the CCA, visit www.chautauqua.com. For access to historic photos, or to arrange interviews with executive director Susan Connelly, call Kuvy Ax at 720.329.7327. To arrange interviews, call marketing and development director Denise Link at 303.952.1645.



Kuvy Ax
The Fresh Ideas Group
720.329.7327
www.freshideasgroup.com