**CALGARY’S POLLY KNOWLTON COCKETT WINS NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD**

CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA, October 22, 2016 — Polly Knowlton Cockett, an Environmental and Geoscience Education Specialist, was recently recognized by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), a leader in environmental education, as the recipient of one of NAAEE’s hallmark annual awards recognizing leadership in the field. At a special awards reception during NAAEE’s 45th Annual Conference in Madison, Wis., Cockett received the award for Outstanding Service to EE by an Individual (Local Level).

Recently, Cockett became an Ecological Literacy representative on the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee for Calgary City Council, ran for the Green Party of Alberta in provincial elections, and founded the nonprofit Grassroutes Ethnoecological Association to promote EE and creative engagements in stewardship, sustainability, and sense of place. In a career spanning over 25 years, Cockett has been a leader in community, school, and city-based collaborative stewardship, prairie reclamation, native biodiversity conservation, and interpretive signage in Calgary, Alberta. Cockett has authored a number of publications and research, led walking tours and workshops, and delivered numerous local, national, and global presentations. Cockett recently completed her PhD on Sense of Place, investigating the connections between people, pedagogy, and place.

"For more than four decades, NAAEE has promoted excellence and impact in environmental education thanks to the determined efforts of our members, supporters, and affiliate organizations," said Judy Braus, Executive Director. “Our award winners are truly inspirational educators and organizations across North America that exemplify the best in our field, showcasing multiple disciplines, approaches, and perspectives–from classroom to community to research–all working toward a more just and sustainable society."

This year, 11 recipients—an impressive slate of individuals and organizations from North America—were selected across 11 categories. For more information about the 2016 NAAEE Awards including eligibility requirements and a full list of winners, visit [www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards](http://www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards).

**About NAAEE**

The North American Association for Environmental Education is a pioneering membership organization dedicated to accelerating environmental literacy and civic engagement through the power of education. NAAEE supports a network of more than 20,000 educators, researchers, and organizational members working in environmental education in more than 30 countries through direct membership and 53 regional affiliate organizations. Through community networks, publications, signature programs, eeNEWS and eeJOBS, NAAEE provides programming and resources for professionals working in all areas of the field. NAAEE’s annual conference, now in its 45th year, convenes leaders from private and public sectors to advance the field of environmental education. For more information, visit [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org) and [www.naaee.org/eePRO](http://www.naaee.org/eePRO).

*# # #*