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# THE BEAVER BULLETIN



*Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center (BPEEC) helps people of all ages learn about domestic livestock, horticulture, green energy generation and environmental conservation in a high-alpine, natural setting at Sacramento Creek Ranch near Fairplay, Colorado.*

## MEET ERIC CHATT, OUR NEW SITE MANAGER

Eric has been fascinated by sustainable agriculture and medicine since he was 8 years old. He began learning about medicine by shadowing chiropractors in Omaha, Nebraska from fourth grade through high school. Relieving pain and helping the environment have been Eric's motivating passions. As an undergraduate he conducted two years of research

on placebo response and pain.

Sustainable agriculture became a passion for Eric in graduate school at [Bastyr University](#) in Seattle. In his practice as a naturopathic doctor, he has focused on pain management and organic methods of medicinal herb production and has owned and operated a healing arts center and medicinal herb production company for 5 years in Alma, Colorado. He has been a registered massage

therapist since 2001, and is now a registered naturopathic doctor in the state of Colorado.

He has been an adjunct professor at Colorado Mountain College in Breckenridge for 10 years, teaching Anatomy and Physiology, as well as Capoeira, a martial arts dance. He also tutors in the biology and disability student programs.

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## We've Overhauled Our Website!

The Beaver Ponds' website, [Beaverponds.org](http://Beaverponds.org), had become dated both in style and in content, so we gave it a complete overhaul. We also recognized that sending newsletters as attachments was not the most convenient, technologically efficient way to inform our readers. Hence, our new look.

We've enhanced our website, to contain more information about who we are and what we do at Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center.

Our new website not only offers much more detailed information about topics we touched upon in our prior website, like our animals, but it also includes plenty of information on ecology, research and management, and sustainable energy.

You'll find new tabs to the left. Tabs like Research and Management lead you to individual pages on: phenology, forest and shrubland inventory, our vegetable trials, our pollinator garden, forestry, and a suggested bibliography for further studies. You can find our animals under Sustainable Agriculture, with close-up pictures.

Our Sustainable Energy tab links you to various pages, which cover: sustainable building design, solar, solar water, wind, ground source heat pump, and micro-hydro energy. Under Ecology, you'll find a plethora of information on the ecosystem, wildlife, trees, plants, and our interpretive trail.

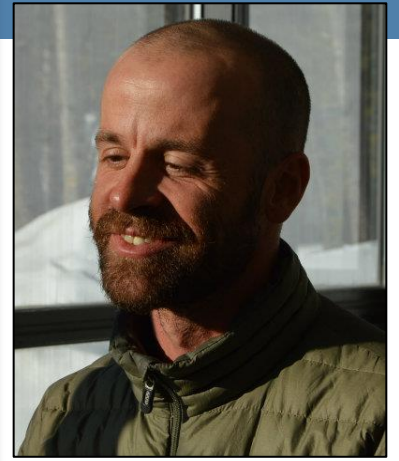
Our Home page offers links about Topics of Interest related to environmental education; updates on what we're doing at Beaver Ponds (so you don't have to wait for our newsletters every time you want to see what's new); and Environmental Issues.

Our website also provides a five-day weather forecast for Fairplay, Colorado, a map, and quick links to our Facebook page, as well as a simple way to contact us or donate to Beaver Ponds.

We hope you like what you'll find on our new site — from more information about our property, staff and board members, to our blog.

Thanks for taking the time to check out our new online site, and, as always, feel free to visit our REAL site, at Sacramento Creek Ranch, in Fairplay.

In addition, we welcome your feedback at [Info@Beaverponds.org](mailto:Info@Beaverponds.org).



“Docere” is the Latin term meaning “doctor as teacher,” and Eric firmly believes in transcending the self and helping others in this way. To Eric, the two naturopathic philosophical principles of Docere (doctor as teacher), and Tolle Causam (treat the cause), are crucial for biodiversity and environmental health, as we know it.

He believes the goals of inspiring stewardship of the Earth and teaching people about sustainability are the challenges of our time. As a biologist and a doctor, Eric is thrilled and honored to care for the plants and animals in this stunningly gorgeous natural setting in Park County, Colorado, while teaching people about sustainable living.

# Beaver Ponds' Needs



Now that we've finished building our new website, we're turning our attention to a few other needs at Beaver Ponds, which we mentioned in our last newsletter. Here's a recap:

**Priority 1:** Complete the Passive Solar Energy Education Classroom. Currently, we are using the first two garage bays located below the office as our classroom. With the addition of glass walls, a tiled floor and new tables and chairs, we will be able to display key components of our energy systems, including solar hydronics and ground source geothermal heating, in a defined classroom.

**Estimated cost:** \$10,000 to \$20,000, depending on window and frame quality.

**Priority 2:** Adding a "Micro-Fodder" system in the greenhouse. The system has the potential to produce 60 pounds of fresh wheat grass daily. The llamas, alpaca, and goats consume close to 40 pounds of dry hay daily. The nutritional benefits of fresh fodder, as well as using the system as a display, address our sustainability and education mission. **Initial cost:** \$2,100.

**Priority 3:** Scientific quality weather station and energy tracking software. We would use the data gathered at the weather station to help us get a better handle on energy usage as compared to current weather conditions. **Cost: \$3,500 to \$7,500**, depending on the suite and quality of the instruments.

**Ongoing Priority:** As always, we can use financial support for animal care. Several of you who have stopped by seemed to develop a fondness for one of the alpacas or goats. To strengthen your connection, you can adopt one of our farmyard friends. The suggested rates for annual feed are:

**Goat = \$125; Alpaca or Llama = \$200; Chicken = \$25**

Beaver Ponds is a non-profit 501(c) (3), and all donations are tax deductible.

Besides the targeted projects, we will always welcome donations to our



general fund. Thank you!

For more information check out the [donate page](#) on our website.