

Science Education: Gwendolyn Waring  
Webite: [www.waringarts.com](http://www.waringarts.com)

About Gwen:

“Gwendolyn Waring formed WaringArts while exploring the southern Rockies and the Intermountain Region as an artist and a scientist. WaringArts features paintings, pen & ink, handmade paper, a music CD, and in Fall 2010, a book on the evolution and ecology of western ecosystems. Waring conducts research in western ecosystems, including the Grand Canyon. She is currently identifying plants that are associated with critical habitats, such as springs, in northern Arizona. She also offers classes in art and natural history for older children and adults.”

I would like to nominate Gwendolyn Waring for the science education Viola award. I am so glad that you have added a science section to this awards program. In 2011, with the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, she created and presented an educational talk on Buffalo Park ecology that she gave to high school students in the community through partnering with a number of science teachers. In addition she led science learning through hands-on research in Buffalo Park with students and also installed an educational arboretum at the entrance to Buffalo Park, which features many of the plants that are native to the park. They are growing in characteristic microsite settings in the garden and are labeled, enabling Buffalo Park visitors to learn more about this wonderful ecoregion.

Waring has been active and innovative in teaching our community about regional natural history in schools and public lectures in Flagstaff for over 15 years. This passion has been driven by her belief that an understanding of how the world right around us works, makes us better people and better able to protect the remarkable natural resources in our area. Her work has received great support and interest in our community. Standing-room-only audiences, often attended her public lecture series on ‘The Wild World Around Us’. Waring continues to teach and advocate for science in our schools and in public places.

In March 2011, University of Utah Press published Gwendolyn Waring’s new book on the natural history of the Intermountain West, including the Flagstaff area. See a review attached as a jpg. This user-friendly book describes western ecosystems including their fascinating evolutionary history and the issues facing them today. This science education contribution complements and expands the reach of all her educational efforts in a style scientifically accurate and engaging as well as clearly understandable for the reader. It fills a long-standing gap in accessible ecological information about the Flagstaff area and this region. In light of these achievements in 2011, Waring is greatly deserving of recognition by the Viola Awards. Photos of the mini-arboretum are on the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council Facebook page and links to Waring’s book and other items are on her website. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this nomination.

A FlagLive article on Gwen:

[http://www.flaglive.com/flagstafflive\\_story.cfm?storyID=222991](http://www.flaglive.com/flagstafflive_story.cfm?storyID=222991)