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Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award Honoree: Sylvia Brockner – Evergreen Audubon

4 minutes



Sylvia with Master of Ceremonies, Dave Aquilera. Photo by Kathi LaTourette.

The Jefferson County Hall of Fame Awards recognize leaders in business, government and philanthropy who have made significant contributions to Jefferson County. This year's award ceremony was held August 24, 2016, at Pinehurst Country Club.

Honorees included Steve Camins, Arvada; Eldon Laidig, Arvada; Betty Miller (posthumous), Lakewood; Dan Pike, Evergreen; and our own Sylvia Brockner, Evergreen.

Dave Aguilera, a Colorado native and Emmy Award winning

Meteorologist born in Pueblo, served as Master of Ceremonies at the event. Dave has worked in every television market in the state and has been at CBS4 a long time .. since 1993!



Sylvia at her table surrounded by family and friends. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes.

Several of Sylvia's family members traveled from out of state to attend the event as well as many close friends and members of Evergreen Audubon.

Linda Kirkpatrick, friend, longtime admirer of Sylvia's efforts in our community, and community activist in her own right, nominated Sylvia for the award and introduced her.

Congratulations, Sylvia! We are so proud of you. For those of you not familiar with Sylvia's work, here is the text of the nomination submitted by Linda.





Linda Kirkpatrick introducing Sylvia. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes.

Sylvia Brockner Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award Nomination by Linda Kirkpatrick

Sylvia Brockner, at age 97, continues to write a weekly column for the Canyon Courier in Evergreen. Since 1972 she has written “Our Evergreen World,” which deals with birds, plants and animals; and each article is illustrated by an original pen-and-ink drawing she still does from her room at Elk Run Assisted Living. In the past 43 years, she has written well over 2,200 columns. (She receives minimal compensation for this.)

She and her late husband founded The Evergreen Naturalists in 1968, which has evolved to the Evergreen Audubon and Nature Center. She was president of the organization for two terms and led field trips.

She was an active member of the Evergreen Garden Club.

Sylvia was instrumental in getting Jefferson County Open Space to acquire 319 acres of land for what would become Lair O’ the Bear Open Space Park in 1987 after an unsuccessful bid to make it a sanctuary because of its habitat for both plants and birds. Sylvia considered it to be the last wild section of Bear Creek that was accessible to the public. The park opened to the public in 1991.

She was a founding board member of the Mountain Area Land Trust, an organization responsible for conserving more than 20,000 acres of land.

Sylvia was a licensed bird bander for 30 years, helping to map bird migrations and to gather additional information of value. She was a founding member of the Mountain Area Land Trust in 1993, which has helped to preserve thousands of acres of open lands within 50 miles of Evergreen.

Sylvia and her husband (posthumously) were awarded the Evergreen Audubon Founders' Award in 2001, recognizing them as Evergreen's foremost educators in birds and plants and advocates for protection of the environment.

She was the recipient of the Evergreen Area Community Service Award several decades ago.

Sylvia published a book entitled Birds in our Evergreen World.