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# NEWS

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Fort Collins Resident Recognized for Top Volunteer Efforts with State Forest Service**

**FORT COLLINS, Colo.** – Fort Collins resident Tara Costanzo has been named 2014 “Volunteer of the Year” by the Colorado State Forest Service. The award is bestowed to only one CSFS volunteer statewide each year, for contributing toward the agency’s strategic priorities through hours worked, quality of service, initiative and professionalism. Costanzo received the award at the agency’s annual meeting and awards ceremony this week in Pueblo.

As a GIS specialist with a background in forestry and horticulture, Costanzo has volunteered with the CSFS since 2006, and in 2009 served as the agency’s volunteer coordinator. In 2014, she provided 36 hours of volunteer time, with a focus on educational events and staffing event booths. Her efforts were largely related to promoting education about emerald ash borer (EAB) – a destructive tree pest now confirmed in Colorado – at the National Western Stock Show, Denver Home Show and Fort Collins’ Bath Nursery Bug Day.

“Tara has really stepped up to gain knowledge and information about emerald ash borer, and is passionate about raising awareness on this important issue,” said Jamie Dahl, CSFS experiential learning coordinator, who along with CSFS Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Dadisman nominated Costanzo for the award. “She has taken on unique tasks as a CSFS volunteer, with a solid amount of expertise on forest insects and diseases.”

Dahl says Costanzo, who has a master’s degree in forest science from Colorado State University, brings a passion for natural resources to every event she attends. Past events in which she has participated include Scout Days at the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch, with which she has assisted for the last three years, and Project Learning Tree environmental education workshops for educators. She also has attended trainings on her own time to learn about identification of EAB-infested trees, to better inform her when staffing events.

“Tara’s unique background and work experience make her an invaluable asset to the CSFS,” said Dahl.

To learn more about the CSFS Volunteer Program, go to <http://csfs.colostate.edu/volunteer/>.

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