

News Release



For Immediate Release
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The Historic Colorado Chautauqua on a quest to reduce environmental impact

BOULDER, Colo. (April 21, 2010) — Determined to make the Colorado Chautauqua the most environmentally sustainable and responsible National Historic Landmark in the U.S., the [Colorado Chautauqua Association](#) has established a [Greening Laboratory](#) to research, test and apply green building techniques and tactics on historic buildings. Core to the mission of Chautauqua's Greening Laboratory is preserving history while increasing resource efficiency and reducing environmental impact. Leading the charge is Jeff Medanich, CCA facilities and preservation manager and "Green Champion."

To date, all 58 cottages available for rent through CCA have been equipped with water conserving shower heads and faucets and are currently undergoing insulation upgrades. High-efficiency toilets that comply with the [EPA WaterSense](#) program, along with high-efficiency whole house fans, are making their way into each cottage as well.

[Cottage 703](#) (pictured) is the latest building at Chautauqua to undergo green rehabilitation. Energy efficient upgrades include:

- Tankless water heater and a high-efficiency furnace.
- Low-E insulated glass windows, hybrid insulation systems, and strategic air sealing.
- Energy Star approved high-efficiency bath fans equipped with timers.
- High-efficiency whole house alternative cooling device.



Additionally, paints and finishes low in VOCs, or volatile organic compounds, were used and the green team made use of existing materials and fixtures, recycling what would have ended up in landfills. Following Greening Laboratory protocol, Medanich and his team conducted preliminary testing on [Cottage 703](#) that included blower door tests, infrared photography and a full energy rating to identify specific areas in need of greening. At project's completion, the building underwent identical testing protocol to measure results. Through this testing CCA has proven that the energy efficiency and occupant comfort of historic buildings can be dramatically increased.

"As we move forward with cottage rehabilitations, we continue to experiment with insulation, air sealing and other sustainable building techniques to emphasize the Greening Lab concept adopted in our initiative to be the Greenest National Historic Landmark in the country," said Medanich. "In May, which is National Preservation month, we'll be sharing successes, failures and lessons learned in our ongoing efforts and research."

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The Colorado Chautauqua Association

The Colorado Chautauqua Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that preserves, perpetuates and improves the site and spirit of the historic Chautauqua, enhancing its community and values through cultural, educational, social and recreational experiences. The Chautauqua experience is based on lifelong learning, love of nature, voluntary simplicity, and music, oration and the arts. Historic significance, traditions, cultural relevance, respite and enrichment are among the community benefits provided by the Colorado Chautauqua. CCA serves as the steward of the historic Chautauqua. It leases from the City of Boulder and has full responsibility for preservation and use of 26 acres of Chautauqua Park, home to many public buildings, gardens and 99 cottages, 58 of which are available for rent. The Colorado Chautauqua was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006.

For more information about the Colorado Chautauqua and the CCA, visit www.chautauqua.com or www.facebook.com/coloradochautauqua. For access to historic and current photos, or to arrange interviews with executive director Susan Connelly, call Claire Tindall at 303-449-2108, ext. 24.