

# CSU scientist receives researcher award

**D**arrel Snyder, research associate and curator of collections at Colorado State University's Larval Fish Laboratory, is this year's recipient of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's Outstanding Researcher Award. The award is presented annually at the Upper Basin Researchers Meeting to an individual who has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to the recovery of the endangered fishes and who has made significant contributions to understanding their biology and environmental needs.

Darrel began his studies of the endangered and other fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin in the mid-1970s, and ever since has shown a tireless devotion to these pursuits. He is best known for his work on the identification and classification of fish during early life stages, but his research interests vary.

"Much of what we know about the ecology of fishes in the upper basin and many of the management and monitoring activities for the endangered fishes are based on our ability to identify their young," Recovery Program Instream Flow/Nonnative Fishes Coordinator Bob Muth said during the award presentation. "That ability can be largely credited to the meticulous descriptions of fish



DARREL SNYDER (LEFT) RECEIVES THE OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM BOB MUTH.

early life stages provided through the efforts of Darrel Snyder. He also has advanced our knowledge of effects of electrofishing on the endangered fishes, effective sampling techniques for fish larvae and methods to study the reproductive and early life biology of fishes. Darrel was one of my mentors at CSU, and I can truly say I have never been associated with a more devoted scientist."

Following thunderous applause from the more than 100 in attendance, Snyder expressed his appreciation.

"I am extremely honored and truly treasure your expression of appreciation," he said. "There are so many of you here that I personally would consider more deserving. I salute all of you. With your permission, I would like to consider the award not just for me, but for the Larval Fish Laboratory as a whole." ◀

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