

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

LOCAL

FRIDAY, December 16, 2005

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY'S ACHIEVERS & VOLUNTEERS

Exploring nature's mysteries

*Show host
takes science
to new levels*

BY MONIQUE H. HENDERSON
SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Dr. Reese Halter recognizes the stereotypes some children and teens have of scientists.

"They think all scientists wear white coats and work in the basement, chasing around bunny rabbits," Halter said, laughing. "I want them to see there is a lot more to science than that — that science is about things that matter, like new technology, medicine and the environment."

The Palm Desert resident hopes that his new nature series, "Dr. Reese's Planet," will help get both kids and parents

excited about science and the complexities of nature. The show airs on KVCR-PBS on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. It also is on Time Warner Channel 10 Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m. and Mondays at 9:30 p.m.

Each show highlights a different scenic location in the western United States. Several episodes showcase inland treasures, including the San Bernardino Mountains, Santa Rosa Plateau and Joshua Tree National Park. Other locations have included Sedona, Ariz., the Rocky

Mountains and southern Utah.

"We want to show people incredible things in nature, but we also want to get them thinking about how things work —

how intricate and refined it all is," Halter said. "Once they understand that, it's easier to appreciate it."



Reese Halter

Halter is founder and president of Global Forest Science, which has a team of about 140 scientists working to protect the environment and to encourage children to embrace conservation, science and learning.

The father of three said he realized he had a knack for TV after he was asked to appear on several news shows during the 2003 wildfires.

He holds a doctorate in forest science and tree physiology from the University of Melbourne in Australia, and is considered an expert on forest conservation.

"There are a lot of scientists out there that are quite bright, but they aren't able to present their messages in the TV format," Halter said. "I realize now how much I enjoyed TV. I definitely get a buzz from doing it."