

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Earth Day

Join TENAS on April 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Evergreen Lake House for fun activities and timely ideas to help the environment. Then visit Evergreen Nature Center for its open house.

Dawn Chorus

The Dawn Chorus welcome to spring will be held Sunday, May 4, at Evergreen Lake. For details, contact Sylvia Brockner at 303-674-4851.

Bear Creek Atlas

For questions or to get involved, call Mike Foster, 303-456-2647.

Speakers: TENAS Monthly Meetings

May

Nathan Pieplow: *Birding by Ear*

June

Paul Marinari: *North America's Rarest Mammal—the Black-footed Ferret*

July

Picnic: *Everyone shares a few fun slides at the picnic.*

August

John Drummond: *The Birds of Sri Lanka*

Address Change

Please send articles for *The Dipper* to Margaret McDole at editor@dipper.org.

Colorado's Great Plains

Join photographer and author Dave Showalter as he presents beautiful photography from his new book, "Prairie Thunder—The Nature of Colorado's Great Plains," at our next chapter meeting.

Dave will take us on a journey across the vast landscape of Colorado's plains while discussing conservation and habitat protection for grassland wildlife. The book, with an essay dedicated to "Common Birds in Decline," is endorsed by Audubon Colorado and supported by numerous conservation groups.

Dave's four-year project traversed all of the eastern plains, including the Pawnee and Comanche national grasslands, foothill transition zones, private ranches and Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, where Dave is the volunteer photographer for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The book presents conservation essays with beautiful landscape, wildlife and close-up photographs.

"Prairie Thunder" is published by Skyline Press in Pueblo. Skyline returns a portion of profits to Audubon for books sold to Audubon Colorado members. Dave will be signing books at the event and the cost is \$20.

The Thursday, April 3, meeting will take



Burrowing Owls. Photo © by Dave Showalter

place at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills (28628 Buffalo Park Road, across from Evergreen Library, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall). Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the program.

Nature Center 'Friendraiser'

The next few months will be especially exciting for TENAS members. Not only will our nature center at the lake open on Earth Day, April 19, we are also having a "Friendraiser" on Wednesday, June 11, at the Lake House.

This event is to raise money to make Evergreen Nature Center the best we can. We are asking our membership if they know people who might be interested in donating funds for the center and/or coming to the party. We will send them an invitation so they will be informed.

As usual, we will need volunteers to help address invitations in mid-April, and on June 11 to put up tables, set chairs, replenish food, clean up, etc.

Please call or e-mail Polly Phillips, Sylvia Robertson or Jane Conrad with possible donors (and addresses) and ways you will help. Thank you so much. This will be a LOT of fun!

Polly: 303-674-7744, maryaphillips@mac.com
Sylvia: 303-674-1715, sylbob1@msn.com
Jane: 303-674-5133, rj.conrad@comcast.net



President's Message

Contributions

I wish to acknowledge and thank two members for donations they have made to TENAS.

Walt Phillips donated the computer to TENAS that he purchased and used as treasurer. Not only does his gift represent a generous contribution, it will make the treasurer's job much easier using the same equipment.

Dave Balogh made a generous contribution to the Evergreen Nature Center (in addition to the considerable time and expertise he is giving toward the startup effort). We thank you both very much for all you do for TENAS.

Karen Knutson Resignation

I regret to inform everyone that Karen Knutson had to resign as treasurer as of March 5 for personal reasons. The board of directors selected Walt Phillips to replace Karen temporarily until the position is filled by someone who can complete Karen's term.

2008 Officers

President	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648
Vice President	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Secretary	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
Assistant Secretary	Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715
Treasurer	Karen Knutson	303-674-7686

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Ginny Boschen	303-674-3438
Jane Conrad	303-674-5133
Heather Johnson	303-670-0101
Marilyn Kaussner	303-674-7520
Michael Stills	303-670-1781
David Wald	303-674-0417

Committee Chairs

Audubon Colo. Rep.	Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
Bear Creek Atlas	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Bird Business	Bill Brockner	303-674-4851
Conservation	Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779
Dipper Editor	Margaret McDole	303-679-1779
	editor@dipper.org	
Education	Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
Field Trips	Mike Foster	303-456-2647
	Mike1.foster@comcast.net	
Hospitality	Marge Peterson	303-670-4310
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
	ksimon414@earthlink.net	
Program	Heather Johnson	303-670-0101
Publicity	Barbara Klaus	303-674-1102
Way & Means	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402
	irmasonny@aol.com	
Weeds	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610
	sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com	
Webmaster	Natasha Currin Japp	
	jappnc@terra.com.br	

Thank you, Karen, for your contributions, although too brief. We wish you well. And thank you, Walt, for being willing to step in again.

Improved Blue Bird Box Construction

Every year we have the nest-box sales where we provide newly built boxes so bluebirds (especially), chickadees, wrens and swallows have good places to nest. This year, Tom Boschen, with input from many others, designed a new bluebird box that will be much better suited to successful nesting.

The casual reader might assume that the annual sale was just like previous ones. But in our quest to make our efforts as effective as possible, some of our dedicated members worked long and hard to produce the best boxes they could.

The new boxes were an immediate hit and we sold out

Continued on Page 3



• **Bird Box Construction.** To **Jim Shelton, Kay Niyo, Eric Hogan, Bud Weare, Jane Conrad** and **Tom Boschen** for their work building the bluebird boxes. **Tom** designed the new bluebird boxes with an improved predator guard, a larger box for the chicks and using higher-grade wood. **Jane** offered the use of her garage as the workshop.

• **Bird Box Sales.** To **Walt Phillips, John Ellis, Bud Weare** and **Dave Balogh** for heading up the teams selling the nest boxes at Bergen Park King Soopers, Evergreen Safeway and Conifer Safeway. To **Marilyn Kaussner, Tom and Ginny Boschen, Margaret McDole, Mark Meremonte, Peggy Durham, Lynne Price, Sylvia Robertson, Marge Petersen, Irma Wolf, Louise and Bill Mounsey, Kent Simon, Bill Sperry** and **Carolyn Fraker**, who joined the leaders for selling. To **Tom Boschen** for designing the new bluebird boxes and organizing their construction and to **Jeff Geiger** for building the new flicker boxes. To **Lisa Wald** for designing and creating new posters for display at the three sites. To **Ginny and Tom Boschen** for hosting the soup and salad supper after the sale for all those who participated. And especially to **Bud Weare** for organizing the entire sale. What an effort by so many people!

• To members **Brad Andres** and **Mike Foster** for presenting the March program describing the new birding project, the Bear Creek Atlas.

• To **Bill Brockner** for his continuing interest in and reporting of the species of birds that are seen in the Evergreen vicinity. His monthly column, Bird Business, in *The Dipper* and his report at the chapter meetings keep us all informed of the usual and unusual birds to watch for.



Support Your Local Earth Day Fair!

Mark your calendar now for Saturday, April 19, to attend the annual Mountain Area Earth Day Fair at Evergreen Lake!

Yes, folks, it's hard to believe, but for the 19th consecutive year, many local organizers, including TENAS, are making preparations for one of the best and biggest Earth Day fairs in the state.

This important free community event is an excellent way to learn about new trends and local projects you can get involved with or use to gauge your own personal environmental efforts.

Not only will you learn a ton, you'll see everyone here including your friends, neighbors, co-workers and community activists. Every year I delight in meeting someone new who comes to the TENAS booth wanting to know more about birds and their habitats.

Quite often, these are newcomers to Evergreen or vacationers visiting our beautiful state and wanting to know more about our local wildlife. This also will be a day to take an exciting sneak peek at the new Evergreen Nature Center in the old warming hut where TENAS volunteers will be posted.



There are still a few open volunteer slots at the TENAS booth inside the Lake House. We will focus on informing the public about our upcoming events, such as Dawn Chorus and the new

Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas project, as well as directing folks to check out the nature center, and handing out bird tattoos and bird posters to the kids.

The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteer shifts at our booth are two hours in duration. Please call me at 303-670-9377 soon to reserve your spot. I look forward to seeing you there as a volunteer or a fair-goer!

- Susan Harper

Books, Binoculars Needed

The Exhibits Subcommittee for the new Evergreen Nature Center is in need of books and binoculars for the nature center.

We are looking for nature books, including field guides, natural history, children's storybooks or conservation-related topics.

In addition, we would like to have a few pairs of binoculars for people to view the birds on Evergreen Lake.

If you are interested in making a donation, please call Heather Johnson at 303-670-0101, or send her an e-mail at johnsonheather97@yahoo.com.

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

shortly after noon the first day. Our teams that monitor the boxes over the course of the summer will report how well these new boxes fared in terms of producing fledglings.

Margie Bailey Memorial

TENAS has lost one of our stalwart birders. Margie Bailey lost her battle with cancer on Feb. 16. She is survived by her dearest friend and husband, Sherman Wing.

Anyone who birded with Margie was struck by her uncanny ability to hear birds and identify them by their sounds. Her legacy in Mt. Falcon will be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to hike around with her, especially when

we approached the area of the Canyon Wrens. Margie was a musician, which may account for her sensitivity to bird sounds.

A memorial service will be held at Evergreen Lake House on Saturday, April 26, which would have been Margie's 60th birthday. The service will begin at 9 a.m.

Digital Dipper

Again, I encourage *Dipper* readers to sign up for the digital *Dipper* for several good reasons. First, you will get *The Dipper* in your computer usually a week earlier than by snail mail. And you'll always know where to find it in your good filing system.

Second, many of the pictures are

in color, making the bird pictures especially attractive (and people pictures too). If you are out of town and checking e-mails, you'll still be able to get your *Dipper* as soon as it is available.

And finally, TENAS is an organization that supports environmentally sound practices; cutting down on paper use would save trees, and printing and distribution costs.

Try it for a month or two and see if you don't prefer it.

Please notify membership chairman Kent Simon, ksimon414@earthlink.net, or *Dipper* editor Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org if you wish to join the digital *Dipper* team.

- Peggy Durham



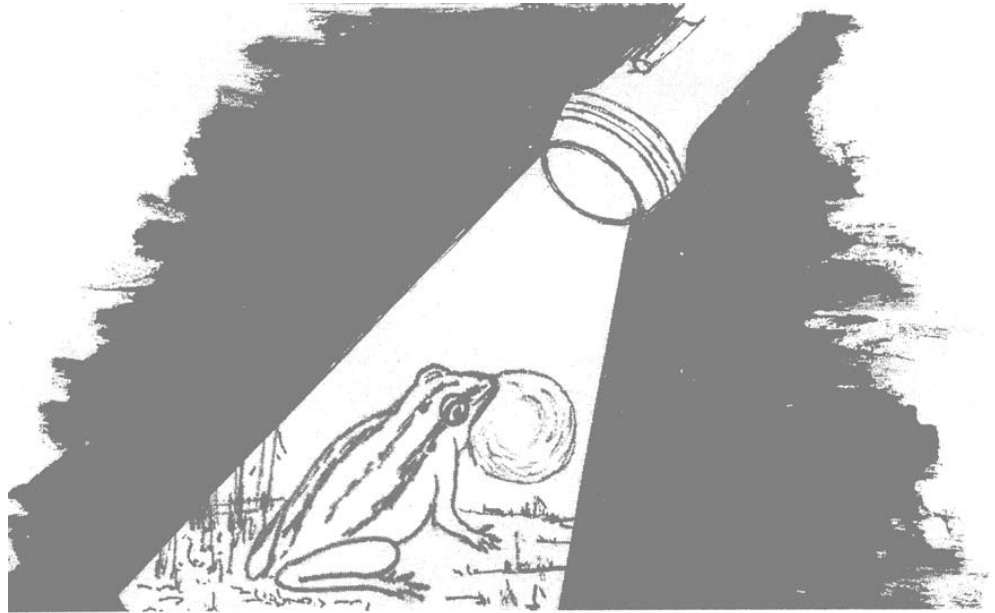
Bird Business

Leap Year has arrived. The extra day paid off with Mountain Bluebirds showing up around Evergreen. On Feb. 27, two were spotted near Bailey by Michael Quaintance. On Feb. 28, John Sears watched a pair checking out bluebird boxes number 8 and 9 on Stagecoach Boulevard.

February was a poor birding month. The weather and tons of snow knocked out birds. This has been a good year for all subspecies of Juncos at our feeders. Oregon and White-winged Juncos were quite common.

We all miss Margie Bailey Wing, who left us on Feb. 16. She was developing into a great birder. Her hearing was outstanding and she was excellent at picking out bird songs. We all join Sherman in deeply missing a remarkable person.

If you haven't done so already, get your bird boxes out. The birds need them. In addition to bluebirds, Downy



and Hairy Woodpeckers and flickers need homes. All the nuthatches and chickadees also need our help.

From the last week in March, more

migrating birds will show up. Check Evergreen Lake for ducks and shorebirds. Besides Mallards, watch for all teal, mergansers, shovellers, scaup, Ring-necked Ducks and surprises.

Sometimes loons and grebes also will put in an appearance. Avocets and Willets like the wetlands and sandbars. Along Bear Creek watch for herons. Great Blue Herons can be seen daily.

Check our Bird Record Chart on the boardwalk at Evergreen Lake for all the latest sightings in the area. Oh yes, when will the first Chorus Frog call?

- Sherman Wing

- Bill Brockner

Tribute for Margie Bailey

Margie loved the outdoors and everything nature had to offer. In the summer, she swooned when she could smell the caramel sweetness of the Ponderosas, and ooohhh'd at the sound of the wind as it blew through the trees.

Margie Bailey. Photo by Sherman Wing

In the spring, her face would light up when the newborn fawns showed themselves. She was captivated by the sounds of birds, especially in the spring and early summer; she would say the cacophony of songs was outrageous.

Later in summer, you could find her in our meadow, in the middle of the night, watching the meteor showers. Margie just loved living in the woods,

here in the Evergreen area. She loved life.

Please join us at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at Evergreen Lake House to pay tribute to Margie. This day would have been her 60th birthday.

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Weed Season is Here!

Believe it or not, it is time to think WEEDS. The Community Weed Awareness team will be kicking off the 2008 weed season at the April 19 Earth Day Fair, followed by a “Garden Smart” Weed program at Evergreen Nature Center on May 31.

We’ll be discussing ornamental weeds and how to plant your garden without introducing new weeds to our area. The big event of the year, Commu-

nity Weed Day, will be held Saturday, June 21, at Evergreen Lake. Mark your calendars now so you can join us.

It is not too early to keep your eyes open for two of the early spring weeds, Downy Brome (Cheatgrass) and Myrtle Spurge. Both have already been seen rearing their unwelcome heads in the foothills.

Downy Brome (*Bromus tectorum*) is called Cheatgrass because it emerges in early spring and “cheats” other native plants out of moisture. It is unpalatable to wildlife or livestock and since it matures and dries early, it is a fire hazard. Cheatgrass is an annual so control is possible with perseverance.

Myrtle Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) is taking over many Jefferson County neighborhoods. Originally planted in subdivisions as a xeriscape plant, it

has proven to be an aggressive noxious weed. It exudes milky latex that causes burns and allergic reactions serious enough to require medical attention.

Myrtle Spurge can be hand-pulled but caution must be used to prevent contacting the sap. Protective eyewear and nitrile gloves are recommended.

Be sure to revegetate weeded areas to help limit the return of these and other invaders.

For information on appropriate control methods for these weeds, contact your county weed manager.

Contact names and phone numbers are available on the TENAS website, www.dipper.org, under “Weeds.” You can also contact the CWAC weed team at sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com.

Keep on pulling.

- Cathy Shelton

Membership

We thank the new and renewing TENAS local members for their support.

NEW

Holly Garrod–Evergreen

NEW FAMILY

George & Ruth Krauss–Evergreen
Pamela & Peter Lindquist–Evergreen

RENEWING

Mary Lou Seeliger–Columbine Valley
Diane Sudmalis–Evergreen
Sandy Sykes–Golden

RENEWING FAMILY

Sylvia & Bob Robertson–Evergreen
Jack & Ruth Salter–Evergreen
Martin & Joan Strand–Evergreen



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TENAS Members Save 10% Every Wednesday
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303.679.2786

Located at 32156 Castle Ct. #111 Evergreen
(across from Fire Station #2)



Demeter's Torch: Open Space

©Mike Foster
mike1.foster@comcast.net

What is open space? Essentially, it is a place that is not developed. Most familiar open spaces are not wilderness areas, but open spaces share a common purpose with wild places.

Open space and wilderness are reminders of humanity's origins and continuing place in the natural world. Yes, despite our many proud achievements, we are still a part of the natural world. Consider the surprising number of genes we share with birds, beetles or bacteria, indeed with all living creatures. All life is connected.

To the extent that humans still love and appreciate the natural world, open space becomes a symbol and a means of connecting—connecting not just with land and water and animals and scenery and natural processes, but also with the spiritual dimension, however you define “spiritual,” and no matter whether you

judge that life evolved from natural processes or from divine intervention.

By not developing a site, we are not denigrating or in any way denying our splendid material and cultural achievements. We are recognizing that those proud achievements are only a part of our whole being. All land, not just open space, is valued for more than its practical use or its price.

Land has always had an intangible value, indeed the intangible qualities of land contribute to its dollar value. Increasingly communities are realizing that their open spaces and wilderness areas have a greater dollar value if left undeveloped.

From the back of the room, I now hear the whining voice of Jack Make-money: “You tree huggers want to put us back to the Middle Ages. Don't you realize that material progress has made this country great?”

Not to quibble overmuch, but in de-

bating the gentleman, I would ask him to define “progress” and “great,” and to consider the implications of unrestrained growth. But no, I don't want to revert to the lifestyle of a medieval peasant, and I believe a certain amount of material well being is a good thing—provided it does not overwhelm other values.

Native Americans, and all indigenous peoples, have used land for the practical purposes of making a living, while simultaneously appreciating the spiritual, esthetic and psychological dimensions of land.

The concept of private property, while important in an economic sense, overlooks and diminishes those intangibles. So we need a balance: practical uses for making a living and intangible considerations for making a life.

Maintaining that balance depends on making good choices. Thus, inevitably, we are back to Aristotle and ethics,

Continued on Page 7

Monitoring Elk Meadow Nest Boxes in 2008

You may recall reading in the November issue of *The Dipper* about our nest-box monitoring in Elk Meadow. We recorded use of 30 of the 31 boxes we placed around the three-mile loop in the meadow.

As we stated in that article, we plan to continue the monitoring effort in 2008 and would enjoy having you participate in this endeavor. The idea is to visit all the boxes every two weeks beginning in March and concluding in July.

Most of the activity occurs between mid-April and mid-June. Tentative dates are the weekends of March 29, April 12 and 26, May 10 and 24, June 7 and 21, July 5 and 19.

If you would like to assist with the monitoring effort, please contact Brad, 303-670-0101 or heatherbrad1@yahoo.com, or Kay, 303-679-6646 or Kay@KayNiyo.com, to indicate your interest.

We will gladly show you around the

trail before asking you to monitor the boxes yourself. We will again report the results of the 2008 effort in an autumn

issue of *The Dipper* and will keep Jeffco Open Space apprised of our efforts.

- Brad Andres and Kay Niyo

Boxes Sell Briskly

Ginny Boschen (r) helps a friend purchase a new bluebird nest box. Sales were brisk this year and all boxes were sold on the first day.
Photo by Mark Meremonte



Demeter's Torch: Open Space

Continued from Page 6

which, in large part, is the art of making good choices.

So let's choose for ourselves, instead of letting advertisers, salesmen, marketers and the imagined pressure of peer groups impact our decisions. We matter. Our choices matter.

Making choices involves reflecting on goals, a willingness to plan, and to exercise discipline. Recently, we have been seduced into thinking more about comfort, convenience and material gain, as if those luxuries would fulfill us. Of course they don't, they merely fill the coffers of those who promote such addictions.

Open space reminds us of our deep

connections to the natural world, it symbolizes our appreciation for intangible values and it reinforces our understanding of community, for all species thrive in conditions of diversity and choice.

Here's an exercise that I guarantee will enhance your life, especially if you practice it regularly. Go take a walk in your favorite park or open space. As you stretch your muscles, expand your imagination.

Observe your surroundings, noticing how little the furniture of the landscape depends on humankind, yet how much we depend on it. Drink in the scenery. Contemplate whatever creatures you encounter, including other humans.

Notice the impact this dance with

nature has on your mind, your body, your spirit. Some psychologists equate this kind of exercise with therapy. Gurus would say it is the gateway to enlightenment. New Age folk call it centering. Some religions find the basis of miracles here.

What it boils down to is you reconnecting with your deepest, truest self by noticing and appreciating the natural world around you—all of it, from the pulsing life in the soil beneath your feet way out to the farthest star you can imagine.

Editor's note: The views expressed by the author are not necessarily those of the editor, directors, officers or members of TENAS.

Field Trips and Outings

Saturday, April 5

Dinosaur Ridge South

Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

Meet at 9 a.m. where Alameda Parkway crosses Dinosaur Ridge. From I-70, take Exit 259 (Morrison, Red Rocks), head south for 1.3 miles, then turn left onto Alameda, and drive to top of the hill. We'll practice recording birds by habitat and breeding codes. Dress for the weather and bring water and snacks. Half-day trip.

Sunday, April 20

Echo Lake area

Leader: Brad Andres, 303-670-0101

Meet at 9 a.m. at Echo Lake Lodge (intersection of Highway 103 and Highway 5). We'll explore subalpine habitats in the area, perhaps walking up Captain Mountain Trail a ways, or up Highway 5 (closed) toward Lincoln Lake. Bring snowshoes just in case. Dress for the weather and bring water and snacks. Half-day trip.

March 29-30

Grand Valley Audubon's Owl Prowl

Leader: 29th, John Toolen, 970-985-9089

30th, Ron Lambeth

Five species of owl nest in the Grand Valley: Western Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl and Burrowing Owl. There is potential to see other owls such as the Boreal Owl seen by Karel last year. You must register in advance. More information at www.audubongv.org/field_trips.htm.

Weekends March 29-April 20

Greater Prairie Chicken Viewing

Wray, CO

Leader: Colorado Division of Wildlife

View the age-old mating ritual of the Greater Prairie Chicken. See these awesome birds at their finest. Watch them do their unique dance and hear their distinctive booming sounds. More information at www.wraychamber.net/prairiechicken.html or call 970-332-3484.

April 19-20 and 26-27

Greater Sage Grouse Viewing

Walden, CO

Leader: Colorado Division of Wildlife

Guided viewing trips to see the greater sage-grouse. For more information, call 970-723-4600.

Note: Both Wray and Walden field trips are sponsored by Colorado Department of Wildlife and local chambers of commerce. Both provide tours to viewing sites and both provide an evening program, lodging and meals, but space is limited. Karel Buckley has been on these trips. She says, "Both are exceptional trips, very close to birds on LEKS! Amazing. Great photographic opportunities. Highly recommended." Contact her for more details at www.kbuckley@att.net.

Always call the leader on the Thursday before the trip to confirm arrangements!

Calendar

March 29-30	Grand Valley Audubon Owl Prowl
March 29-April 20	Greater Prairie Chicken Viewing in Wray
April 3	Chapter Meeting
April 5	Dinosaur Ridge Field Trip
April 19	Earth Day Fair
April 19-20 & 26-27	Greater Sage Grouse Viewing in Walden
April 20	Echo Lake Field Trip
May 1	Chapter Meeting
May 1-31	Art Exhibit at Evergreen Library
May 4	Dawn Chorus

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

First Thursday at 7 p.m.
Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, 7 p.m.

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130
www.auduboncolorado.org

TENAS website: www.dipper.org

***The Dipper deadline for the May issue is
Thursday, April 3. Please submit articles to:
Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org***

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society
Local Membership Application
Please enroll me/us in The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive *The Dipper* newsletter, and vote (both Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain local.

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- Earth Day Fair
- Weed Season is Here
- Monitoring Elk Meadow

In This Issue

Time Dated Material

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The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.

THE DIPPER

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