



THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Dawn Chorus

Welcome spring and the return of our summer birds on Sunday, May 3. A bench overlooking Evergreen Lake will be installed in honor of Bill Brockner. The May *Dipper* will include all the details.

Meetings

Mark your calendar and join us at upcoming TENAS meetings.

- May 7. Researcher Chris Ray of the University of Colorado will report on the pattern of accelerating losses of the American pika and its link to climate change.

- June 4. Jason Beason will discuss the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's Project ColonyWatch. It monitors a variety of colonially breeding bird species including the Black Swift and American White Pelican.

Garage Sale Needs Place to Park

The committee for the revival of the Annual TENAS Garage Sale is now in place—the only thing missing is a garage. The sale has been held at various homes in the past so perhaps someone else would like to share the honor of hosting this event. All the work is done by TENAS volunteers. If interested, call Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715.

Studying the Pacific Depths

In January and February of this year, Evergreen High School science teacher Cheryl Manning went on the adventure of a lifetime. She joined the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's research vessel Knorr, working as a sedimentologist.

Sailing from Costa Rica to the Galapagos and up to Hawaii, the crew and scientists collected deep-ocean sediment cores from 11 different sites.

Data gathered from these cores will be used to study three questions: 1) How many microorganisms are living in the deep ocean sediments? 2) Where are these microorganisms living? 3) Where are they getting their energy?

This project was sponsored by the University of Rhode Island's ARMADA Project. The ARMADA Project, administered through the Graduate School of Oceanography and Office of Marine Programs, selects eight to 10 teachers a year and places them in research positions on ship, shores and labs around the world.

The program is designed to reinvigorate science teachers who then mentor other teachers in their district and share new knowledge with their students and community.

At our April meeting, Manning will provide an overview of the ARMADA Project, report some preliminary findings of her research efforts, and describe her experiences aboard the Knorr and how this experience will enrich her teaching of earth and



Cheryl Manning (on far right) discusses a sediment core with Drs. Richard Murray (far left, Boston University) and Benjamin Brunner (center, Max Plank Institute, Bremen, Germany).

environmental sciences at Evergreen High School.

Manning serves on the TENAS board. Prior to joining the teaching staff at EHS in 2002, she taught middle school in the Salt Lake City, Utah, area for six years. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in earth sciences from Montana State University. She lives in Evergreen with her husband, Andy, and two daughters, Aidan and Sophia.

To learn more about Cheryl Manning's experience and the ARMADA project, be sure to attend the next TENAS meeting on **Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (just west of the Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.** Refreshments and a business meeting will follow. Guests are welcome.



President's Message

TENAS members are revving up for the busy spring and summer seasons. The **highlights** of the next few months will be Earth Day and opening day for the Nature Center, both on April 18; Dawn Chorus, May 3; Nature Center Fundraiser, June 11; Weed Day, June 27; and our annual picnic, July 11.

This year is the 20th celebration of **Earth Day**. TENAS members Carl Keiser, who now resides in Lakewood, Mary Dickhoff and Etta Satter were the founders of the first Earth Day in Evergreen. It has grown into a great event.

We thank these farsighted people for their vision that still provides our community with the booths, displays and educational materials that guide us regarding environmental issues.

The board met for our **Annual Planning Session** in February. We reviewed our goals of a year ago and were pleased to see that we accomplished most of what we set out to do.

We continued to archive all-important TENAS documents at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. We continued to construct and sell Bluebird nesting boxes. We changed our fiscal year to the calendar year to conform with the IRS year.

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• To **Church of the Hills** for allowing us to use Fellowship Hall for our chapter meetings and a smaller room for our board meetings. The church would appreciate any contributions TENAS members can make to the food bank located between the two main doors.

• To **Tom Boschen** for overseeing the building of the bird nesting boxes this year. Tom purchased the lumber, followed the newly approved design, cut the pieces and hosted the workers who put the boxes together. The builders were **Bud Weare, Brad Andres, Jim Shelton, Kay Niyo, Ginny Boschen** and the Yankee Creek Craftsman, **Jeff Geiger**, who also built all 12 Flicker boxes. And to **Ginny** who fed the crew lunch, wine and supper.

• To **Bud Weare**, for again being in charge of the bird-box sales. The volunteers who showed up despite a threatening weather forecast to sell the boxes were **Walt Phillips** and **John Ellis** at King Soopers, aided by **Marilyn Kaussner, Tim Steckert, Lynne Price, Kay Niyo, Jane Wilson** and **Peggy Durham. Mark Meremonte** and **Margaret McDole**, along with **Ginny Boschen, Sylvia Robertson, Tom Boschen** and **Cathy Shelton** were at Safeway in Evergreen. **Dave Balogh** sold in the comfort of Safeway in Conifer with **Carolyn Fraker, Kent Simon, Connie Greenberg, Heather Johnson** and **Rachel Hutchison**. This project provides nesting areas for many birds and makes a small profit for TENAS.

• To **Sylvia Brockner** for writing her weekly column in the Canyon Courier. The March 4 issue was devoted to the bird-box sales; this publicity was a good reminder to the community.

• To **Brad Andres** for writing the grant application submitted to the SDCFC on behalf of the Nature Center. The application was lengthy and required much general knowledge plus specific information.

• To **Lisa** and **David Wald** for hosting the party given to honor the big donors to the Nature Center. And to **Brad Andres** for showing the special film. We are very grateful for all the support people have given to the Nature Center.

• To **Larry Geiger** for keeping the bird feeders filled at the lake during the winter.

2009 Officers

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Mountain Area Earth Day Fair

TENAS is once again a major sponsor of one of the best Earth Day fairs in the country. Is that a stretch? I really don't think so.

If you've never attended the local Earth Day fair at Evergreen Lake House, or haven't been for a while, this will be a year not to miss. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 18, for the 20th anniversary of our community working together to bring this incredibly fun and special learning experience to Evergreen.

This important free community event is an excellent way to discover what's new in green trends and meet interesting people involved in local projects.

The fair is one of the largest in Colorado and has a reputation for being informative and interactive. Exhibitors share the latest information and technologies and welcome questions and comments of fairgoers.

Environmental questions concerning topics ranging from air, fire and water to weather, weeds, pine beetles, birds and other wildlife, will be answered in one room.

Always the youngsters' favorite, Hawk Quest volunteers educate the public with their rescued live birds of prey and other interesting children's activities abound.

This year the Evergreen Nature Center staff is collaborating with students from Evergreen High School Science Club. Look for their booth outside on the west side of the Lake House as you enter the fair.

The Nature Center will open the rustic doors of the old warming hut on fair day with volunteers standing by to answer questions.

Audubon volunteers will be on hand both inside and outside of the Lake House. Look for them outside with their spotting scopes. Every year we find something interesting to watch through the scopes.

Visitors are amazed at the variety of birds besides the common "green-headed" ducks and red-winged bombers on the boardwalk readily noticed by all.

On recent Earth Days we've delighted in spotting Western and Pied-billed Grebes, Northern Shoveler, Blue and

Green-winged Teal, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawks, Song Sparrows and Belted Kingfisher.

A few years ago, a tiny redheaded girl, barely 4 years old, was peering through my scope toward the wetland. I had it set up as low as it would possibly go. She told me she saw a turtle. I chuckled and said "really?"

She said yes, she saw a turtle. I looked through the scope and darn if that little kid didn't have a Western Painted Turtle in her sights! It wasn't all that close, either, so I was truly impressed she saw it. There are always surprises at Earth Day.

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 and programs, such as Dawn Chorus and the Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas project.

The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteer shifts at our booth are two hours in duration. Please call me soon to reserve your spot and leave a message at 303-670-9377.

- Susan Harper

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

Under the leadership of Brad Andres, Kay Niyo and Mike Foster, the Bear Creek Atlas program was established.

The weed program was very successful both in terms of education and actual pulling.

Among our goals for 2009 we included establishing a Bird Monitoring Committee, chaired by Brad Andres, to oversee bird monitoring in Elk Meadow, the Christmas Bird Count, the bird checklist and the BCA.

Also, we listed bird-box construction and sales, encouraging more people to receive their *Dippers* by e-mail, increasing the number of field trips, continuing the weed program, and continuing archiving.

The Nature Center goals include completing a strategic plan, increasing the number of volunteers, increased funding, and more classes and programs.

The Planning Session, though long, was very useful for taking stock of what has worked, what was found to be lacking and how to proceed in 2009.

We signed a new contract with *Michael Stills* to continue as executive director of the Nature Center from Feb. 9, 2009, through Nov. 8, 2009. Michael expects to receive his master's degree in non-profit management from Regis University soon. Thank you, Michael, for all the hard work you put in.

Once again, I wish to remind TENAS members that we always need *fresh blood*. Any new member or one of longer stand-

ing who wants to get more involved, please let me know. We have one-time and ongoing tasks that benefit from new people and from those who can share their historical memories with others.

We have many events on the calendar for the next few months. I'd like to involve more people, so give me a call, 303-674-8648.

I would like to encourage our photographer members to send photos of birds, wildlife or recent events to our webmaster, Natasha Currilin Japp, at jappnc@terra.com.br to be posted on our website, www.dipper.org. And please do check out our other two websites: www.evergreennaturecenter.org and the Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas at www.tenas.org.

- Peggy Durham



Bird Business

Northern Goshawk

The Stellar Jays and Magpies were making quite a ruckus, so I went outside just before 9 a.m. to see what the commotion was about. Our bird feeders also attract squirrels and I thought the Northern Goshawk was trying to catch a morning snack.

He appeared to be a full-grown male, approximately 20 inches in length. He sat in the tree for about 15 minutes. I was able to get close due to a small gathering of mule deer moving through our property that drew his attention away from me while I took the photo.

- Donna Forrest

Birding Mexico

In early February, five members of TENAS, Dick Prickett, Kathanne Lynch, Karel Buckley, Beth Madden and Sherman Wing, traveled to the Puerto Vallarta area of Mexico for a week of bird watching.

We took a minibus to San Blas and El Tuito, water-taxed down the coast to Yelapa and traipsed the surrounding hillsides. By week's end, we identified 152 species. The list includes 13 species of warblers, nine species of tyrant flycatchers and six species of woodpeckers.

A few of the impressive birds:

- **Military Macaw.** We saw 40 birds one day in flight and observed three foraging in the trees above us in the area known as Paso Ancho.
- **Squirrel Cuckoo.** We saw four on this trip—one was hidden in the thickets, just a few feet from us, and we finally found it as it was calling.
- **Rose-throated Becard.** We saw two males and one female Becard.
- **Bare-throated Tiger Heron** with a fish speared in his bill, seen in a mangrove swamp.
- **Elegant and Citreoline Trogons** were roosting on a snag in an old coffee plantation.

It was a lot of fun.

- Sherman Wing



Citreoline Trogon in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Photo by Sherman Wing

Back in Evergreen . . .

The first week of March saw the return of Mountain Bluebirds. Red-winged Blackbirds are also filtering in. There has also been an influx of American Robins. House Finches and Mountain Chickadees are starting to sing. Canada Geese are starting to form pairs.

Be alert for Eurasian Collared-Doves. They seem to be invading Evergreen.

- Brad Andres

Double Take

In early March at Pine Lake in Pine Valley Ranch Park we saw two pair of Common Mergansers. The males were in breeding plumage and the contrast in coloration with the females made them look like two different species. We had to stop and study them for a while.

- Margaret McDole & Mark Meremonte



A Northern Goshawk visits a yard in Evergreen. Photo by Donna Forrest



Nature Center Opens on Earth Day

While Spring wrestles with Winter, know that Evergreen Nature Center is getting ready to open for the 2009 season as sure as the Mountain Foothills Rotary Ice Melt Barrel has fallen into the lake.

On Saturday, April 18, Earth Day, the Nature Center will open for business. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Earth Day and then the hours will change to our pre-summer schedule of weekends and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Starting in May we will be offering educational programs and classes every month until closing in October. At the time of this writing classes were being finalized, so be sure to visit our website, www.evergreennaturecenter.org, or call

the Nature Center at 303-330-0489 for updates. Also check out the May Dipper for program listings.

May programs include:

- May 9, Birding By Ear with Brad Andres
- May 15, Star Gazing with Pam Little
- May 16, Spring Flowers with Lynne Price
- May 16, Birding By Ear with Brad Andres
- May 30, Gardening Smart with Cathy Shelton.

We had a great opening season in 2008 with more than 14,000 visitors and program participants. Join us again this year and discover our newest offerings.

- Michael Lee Stills



Nature Center volunteers Donald Randall and Jane Wilson open the doors for another season. Photo by Michael Stills

Native Plants Sought by the Posey Posse

The Posey Posse, formerly the botany group or the flower group, is happily anticipating the arrival of the first flowers of 2009. Also, we are pleased that Sylvia Brockner will be able to be more active in our flower walks this season.

We will be visiting the Plains Conservation Center this year, making a first-time group visit to Golden Gate Canyon State Park and viewing Fringed Gentians in South Park, an area we do not visit every year. This is in addition to our trips to the local parks that are on our list of traditional flower-finding locations.

In addition, we are initiating a project to make a public-friendly herbarium (plant library) of Evergreen Lake flora for the Nature Center. Naturally, we will continue monthly keying sessions at the Brockner House. "Keying," which enables precise identification of our native plants, is quite rewarding, especially if exasperation is not a deal-breaker for the participant.

Also, we enjoy identifying plants for people who want to know the name of

that beautiful or pesky mystery plant that inhabits their property.

We also continue to support and promote the Weed Warriors in their endeavors. A few of our members are Native Plant Masters and share their knowledge by leading walks and giving classes for TENAS, the Lookout Mountain Nature Center and some of the state parks.

After such a dry, warm winter, we are wondering what the flower year will be like. Although some years are more glorious and more memorable than others, it is a great pleasure to measure the passage of the years by the flowers of summer and our growing familiarity with and understanding of them. New friends are a bonus reward.

The Posey Moseys begin in April. Please join us on a Posey Mosey or for flower identification. Call or e-mail Lynne Price for further information or to be added to our e-mail list: 303-670-0840 or trailwalker63@hotmail.com.

- Lynne Price

Monitoring Nest Boxes in 2009

You may recall reading in the November issue of *The Dipper* about our nest-box monitoring in Elk Meadow. We recorded use of all of the 31 boxes we placed around the 3-mile loop in the meadow.

As we stated in that article, we plan to continue the monitoring effort in 2009 and would enjoy having you participate in this endeavor. The idea is to visit all the boxes every two weeks beginning in April and concluding at the end of July. Most of the activity occurs between mid-April and mid-June.

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

We will gladly show you around the trail before asking you to monitor the boxes yourself.

- Brad Andres and Kay Niyo



Remembering Bill

Traffic Jam Moment

I remember when Bill was interviewed on NPR about the Baikal Teal. I had moved from Colorado to Houston two years before. While stuck in five lanes of rush-hour evening traffic and not enjoying it one bit, I heard Noah Adams on the car radio say a rare duck had been reported in Evergreen.

I said out loud to myself, "They're going to interview Bill!" Sure enough. What a delight to hear his voice again. I laughed and even tried to get the attention of other unfortunate drivers next to me. I knew then I would get back to Colorado someday to stay—and I did.

Thanks, Bill!

- Dave Balogh

Fine for an Old Bag

When you asked Bill how he was he would say, "Fine for an old bag . . . but HOW ARE YOU? What an example he was to all of us to be more interested in others than he was in himself.

Getting around was such an effort,

but he never complained, and he didn't allow his physical difficulties to get in his way to embrace life! I'll miss you

very much, Bill, but I'm glad you are free to fly like a bird.

- Amy Guido



Bird box sales were brisk again this year. Cathy Shelton, Sylvia Robertson, Cal Gibbons and Tom Boschen braved the cold until all boxes were sold.

Photo by Mark Meremonte

Membership

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

New Family

Jerry Propp & Cathy Greway—Golden

Renewing

Julia Barrett—Evergreen

Julia Bermann—Evergreen

John Ellis—Evergreen

Tory Hurst—Evergreen

Helene Jaeggi—Golden

Art & Judy Lange—Golden

Jean & David Sharer—Evergreen

Renewing Family

Elizabeth & Gerald Emmer—Evergreen

Mark Meremonte & Margaret McDole—Evergreen

Anne & Howard Spery—Evergreen

Bear Creek Atlas Organization Meeting

The Bear Creek Atlas project will kick off this year's season, on Saturday, 28 March, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Evergreen Nature Center (Warming Hut). We will review the 2008 season and gather

suggestions for improvements for 2009. We would also like to have a set of site leaders by the end of the day. Hope you can join us.

- Brad Andres





Weed of the Month: Myrtle Spurge

Myrtle Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) is running rampant in many Colorado neighborhoods. Originally planted in subdivisions as a xeriscape plant, it has proven to be an aggressive noxious weed.

It is a low-growing perennial with trailing stems of fleshy blue-green

leaves. Flowers are inconspicuous, surrounded by yellow-green, flower-like bracts.

All parts of the plant are considered poisonous and exude a 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.

Myrtle spurge was seen green and growing in the foothills as early as the beginning of February, so the sooner you attack this weed the better.

- Cathy Shelton

Greater Prairie Chicken Tours

There is an event in Wray, Colo., starting March 27 that provides a unique opportunity to watch greater prairie chicken courtship dances as the sun comes up on the eastern plains.

Guided tours include an evening educational program presented by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and hosted by the Wray Museum. An early morning bus trip takes participants to a specially designed viewing blind.

Reservations are required. Cost varies from \$120 to \$135 per person and includes motel room and ranch-style breakfast. Tours are scheduled weekends, March 27 to April 26 in Wray, about three hours northeast of Denver.

To register, visit www.wraychamber.net or call the Wray Chamber of Commerce at 970-332-3484.



Myrtle Spurge. Photo by Cathy Shelton

Field Trips and Outings

Red Rocks Park
Saturday, April 11

Leader: Brad Andres, 303-670-0101

Lair O' the Bear
Saturday, April 18

Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

Lair O' the Bear
Friday, April 24

Leaders: Sylvia Brockner & Posey Posse

Brad will lead a refresher hike for those (especially leaders) participating in this season's Bear Creek Atlas program. We'll review how to record birds and habitats. Come with questions. Bring water and snack. Half-day trip. Call Brad for meeting time and place.

Mike will lead the second of two refresher hikes for the BCA program. Same approach as for April 11. Bring lunch. Half-day trip. We'll meet in the parking lot. Call Mike for meeting time.

Meet at noon for a flower identification walk. Bring a sack lunch and weather-appropriate clothing. If it is too chilly to picnic, we will adjourn to a nearby restaurant. Contact Lynne Price at 303-670-0840 or trailwalker63@hotmail.com for further details.

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

Calendar

April 2	Chapter Meeting
April 11	Red Rocks Park Field Trip
April 18	Earth Day Fair
April 18	Evergreen Nature Center Opens
April 18	Lair O' the Bear Field Trip
April 24	Posey Posse Field Trip
April 28	Bear Creek Atlas Meeting
May 3	Dawn Chorus
May 7	Chapter Meeting

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 deadline for the May Dipper is
Thursday, April 2. Please submit articles to:
Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org***

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