

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

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Items Needed for Silent Auction

Irma Wolf is still accepting items for the silent auction at the Jan. 18 banquet.

If you have any offerings, please e-mail or call her: irmasonny@aol.com, 303-670-3402.

Auction items should be delivered to the banquet by 6 p.m. or to Irma's house prior to the banquet.

Kidney Suet for Our Backyard Friends

This year we are taking orders for good kidney suet, which will be sold in 5-lb. chunks at approximately 75 cents per pound.

The deadline for orders is Friday, Nov. 30. The suet must be picked up at Peggy Durham's house, 29309 Buchanan Drive, Evergreen, soon after you are notified of delivery.

To order, or if you have questions, call Peggy at 303-674-8648.

A Few Holiday Wreaths Still Available

A few holiday wreaths are still available. Contact Marilyn Rhodes at 303-674-6580 or e-mail her at cloverlane@aol.com.

Hone Your Winter Birding Skills

In preparation for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count (see article on Page 6), the December TENAS meeting will focus on describing this year's count and brushing up on identifying winter Front Range birds.

Brad Andres will describe procedures for this year's count, introduce section leaders and provide a brief summary of the Evergreen-Idaho Springs count.

Following this introduction, he and Sylvia Brockner will lead members through a slide show of the birds likely to be seen on the Christmas

Bird Count. They plan to make it a fun, interactive and dynamic workshop atmosphere, so bring a notebook, pencil and your field guide.

We hope this program will be a good review for the Christmas Bird Count and for increasing your enjoyment of our winter birds. Our program will begin with the Christmas Bird Count overview and slide show, followed by refreshments and a short business meeting.

Don't miss this winter bird refresher on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.



Brown Creeper on Bear Mountain
Photos by Kay Niyo



Red Crossbill in Corwina Park

Success! On Oct. 16, Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society board president Peggy Durham and representatives of the Evergreen Park and Recreation District board signed "the lease," giving TENAS use of the Evergreen Lake warming hut for a nature center beginning in April.

The hut is not only in a perfect location, but it is a beautifully reconditioned historic structure along a well-traveled path around the lake.

Acquiring a lease for use of the hut as a

TENAS nature center has been a long time coming. One of the primary purposes of the TENAS Land Acquisition Fund was to find land and a building for such use.

In 1995, when use of the hut for skating was moved to the new Lake House, Dick Wulf, then director of Evergreen Park and Recreation District, approached TENAS to see if we were interested in using the hut as a nature center/classroom site.

Continued on Page 3

Nature Center: Beyond the Lease



President's Message

Nature Center Lease Signed Oct. 16, 2007

TENAS has signed a lease with the Evergreen Park and Recreation District board to lease approximately half of the warming hut at Evergreen Lake to use as a nature center!

In the mid-1990s, TENAS had signed a lease with the EPRD board to use the old warming hut as a nature center, but that structure was soon almost destroyed by fire.

In August 2006, we began negotiations with the current EPRD board for the new warming hut as it was nearing completion.

For many years, TENAS has hoped for a suitable location for a nature center. Evergreen Lake always seemed to be the ideal place, given the wildlife, the many birds and aquatic creatures that depend on the lake, particular habitat features, such as the

creek and wetlands, and the regular visitors who walk the paths around the lake or picnic on the grass.

Going into the negotiations with the EPRD board, TENAS had certain expectations based on the lease of 1995. The EPRD board had issues it needed to consider beyond our wishes.

Over the course of many monthly EPRD board meetings, we continued to press for our concerns while they pursued theirs.

The most important issues that separated us were sharing space, the length of the lease and the extent of oversight.

Regarding sharing space, once we agreed that a folding wall could be erected to separate our section from the other side, we began to feel that our displays would be secure when we were not there. We could still have access to the other side for classes we wish to conduct.

The EPRD board and TENAS started from very different places in terms of the length of the lease. The lease from 1995 was for five years, so naturally that is what we expected, while the EPRD board was thinking of one year.

TENAS expected to spend a fair amount of money for start-up costs, so the longer we could be assured of tenancy, the more we could justify the expenditures necessary.

The current EPRD board had different circumstances to consider, namely potential other users or uses, and wanted a much

Continued on Page 8

2007 Officers

President	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648
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Assistant Secretary	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
Treasurer	Walt Phillips	303-674-7744

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Ginny Boschen	303-674-3438
Jeff Geiger	303-674-4595
Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715
David Wald	303-674-0417
Bud Weare	303-679-8889

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• To **Brad Andres, Dave Balogh, Ginny Boschen, Carolyn Fraker** and **David Wald** for serving on the Evergreen Nature Center Subcommittee in recent months. They have produced the plan and answers to the Evergreen Park and Recreation District board that formed the basic proposal for the nature center we wish to establish at the lake. Their input and perseverance have been invaluable.

• To **Peter Link** for preparing and presenting in October a chillingly beautiful slide show of Antarctica.

• To **Dick Williams** for presenting the November program featuring birds he photographed in the United States and Canada, especially along the length of the Rocky Mountains.

• To **Bill Brockner, Dave Balogh, Bud Weare, Karel Buckley** and **Brad Andres** for serving on the Nominating Committee and for the fine slate of officers they presented.

• To Birds in the Balance leaders **Mike Foster, Bob Santangelo, Ruth Alford, Else van Erp, Warren Roske, Sherman Wing, Brad Andres, Deb Callahan, Gil Schoonveld, Inga Brennan, Larry White** and **Kent Simon** for their excellent work this past summer.



Nature Center: Beyond the Lease

Continued from Page 1

Soon TENAS had a floor plan prepared and had progressed to the point of signing a lease agreement. Under the leadership of Cathy Shelton, then TENAS president, plans for the nature center would no doubt have become a reality at that time except for a sudden turn of events: a fire nearly destroyed the log structure.

The logs supporting the sod roof were burned to the point of being unstable and the log walls badly scorched. Insurance coverage was insufficient to cover all repair costs, so the hut sat in disuse. Restoration finally became possible through a grant from the Colorado Historical Society.

With the passage of time, new boards of both TENAS and EPRD had almost forgotten about the hut as a nature center. Once again Dick Wulf brought the opportunity to our attention. Walt Phillips had preserved the records from the first go-round; however, new approvals and a new lease became necessary.

Though we celebrate the final lease approval, we all know this is only the beginning. Now it is time to build the Evergreen Nature Center. There are substantial challenges posed by the lease as well as the nature of the hut.

For one, the lease requires multiuse of the hut, meaning the winter months will find it occupied as a warming hut for skaters. Nature center displays and exhibits must therefore be portable so they can be stored at the end of the six-month season.

Additionally, we must take care to honor the preservation requirements set by the Colorado Historical Society. The hut also will be portioned, giving the nature center the Lake House side (west) of the building, an area of approximately 900 square feet.

As part of our effort to build a professional nature center, TENAS has contacted the Association of Nature Center Administrators to get a team of experts for advice on all aspects of starting up a center as well as programs, fundraising and volunteer coordination.



Members of TENAS and the Evergreen Park and Recreation District board meet at the warming hut at Evergreen Lake to celebrate the signing of a lease allowing TENAS to establish a nature center there. L to R, Dave Balogh, Carolyn Fraker, Jeff Knetsch, David Wald, Alan Casey, Peggy Durham, Kit Darrow and Walt Phillips. Photo by Peggy Durham

This process, an ANCA consult, is standard operating procedure for developing nature centers from the ground up. Tim Sandsmark, administrator of the Lookout Mountain Nature Center, will head the ANCA consultation team.

Tim, conveniently a local expert, is also a former director of ANCA. The consult will take place on Dec. 14 and 15, with Saturday the 15th in part set aside for ANCA discussions with TENAS members, teachers, local organizations and potential volunteers—effectively an open house at the warming hut for all interested parties to join the effort.

We have been fortunate to be supported in this endeavor by the EPRD board and staff members. As we build the nature center, it is anticipated that direct day-to-day interaction with the EPRD will be primarily with Pat Callahan.

Evergreen Nature Center programs and activities will be coordinated with EPRD to ensure they are well advertised and fit into the activities and schedules of the community at large.

Initial administration, management and development of the nature cen-

ter will be under the auspices of the TENAS Evergreen Nature Center Subcommittee, but these responsibilities will be slowly transitioned to coordinators and volunteers brought on board as the nature center effort progresses.

For those interested in getting in on the ground floor, please get in touch with any TENAS board member, or e-mail the subcommittee (enc@dipper.org) indicating your interest and availability. We can then keep you informed of future organizational meetings and efforts.

We seek all potential contributions: This includes display, volunteer and program coordinators; volunteers to staff the nature center; Eagle Scout projects; and program leaders, as well as many other opportunities. Potential volunteers should come to the meeting on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the warming hut.

The Evergreen Nature Center is envisioned as a center for an experiential learning environment that will attract new faces and voices and help create a more diverse awareness and appreciation of our nature environment.

We imagine families hiking, learning
Continued on Page 9



Bird Business

Fall migration was pretty well finished before the end of October. It was an average autumn. Not too many interesting birds came through our area.

A Clark's Nutcracker showed up in Dick Williams' yard on Oct. 1. Does this mean a tough winter ahead?

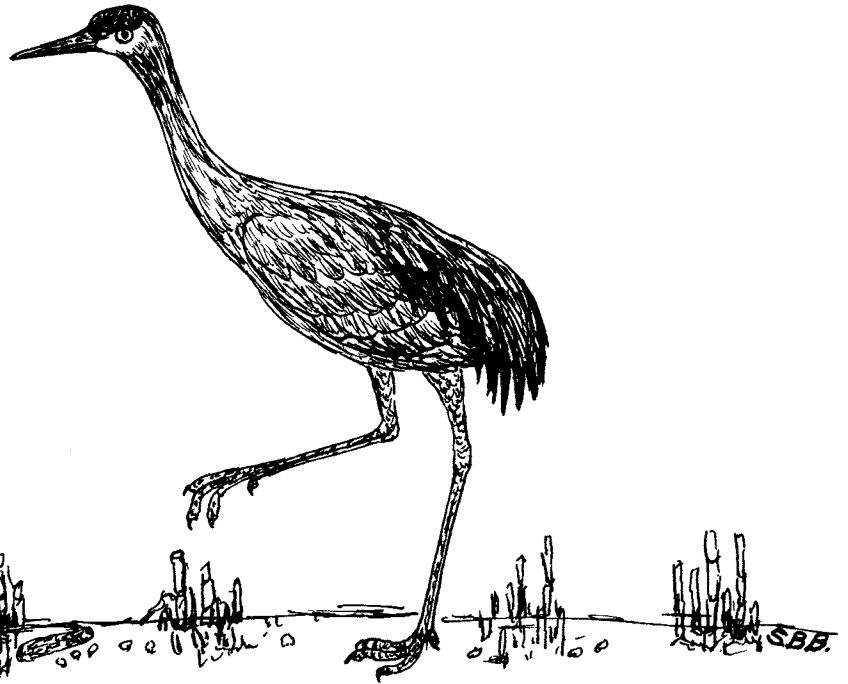
Loie Evans studied two Wilson's Warblers at Evergreen Lake on the 8th of October. This warbler spends the winter in the Gulf states and Arizona.

I was surprised to see two Brewer's Blackbirds in our yard on Oct. 10. Some years a few may winter out on the prairies. Watch for them around barnyards.

Oct. 11 and 12 were fascinating days around Evergreen and the Front Range. Early in the evening of Oct. 11, Larry White called and announced he just had a flock of 30 Sandhill Cranes fly over his house near Upper Bear Creek. This was exciting news!

The next day was fabulous. At 7:45 a.m., Sherman Wing reported big flocks over Mt. Falcon Park. Within minutes, photographer Bob Rosinski called and said he was watching more than 500 Sandhill Cranes on Cherry Creek Reservoir.

Around 9:15 a.m., the Toftes called



and reported flocks of cranes flying over Kittredge. About the same time, Mark Meremonte called and excitedly announced, "Big flocks of Sandhill Cranes flying over Bergen Park."

At 6:45 p.m. the Hogans called and reported "hundreds flying over" their house and the Harpers came through at 7:15 p.m. to report "big flocks" over their house near Evergreen Lake.

There were other calls from Lookout Mountain and Genesee. Art Morse from Genesee said "three large flocks of cranes

were flying over." Five minutes later we got a call from Kittredge that "cranes were flying over."

Welcoming the first snowfall of the season on Oct. 14, Sherman Wing found a Catbird and a Wilson's Warbler in the shrubbery along Bear Creek below the dam. He also watched an Osprey fishing at Evergreen Lake on Oct. 19. This has been a good fall for Ospreys at the lake.

Remember, keep watching where the birds are for our Christmas Bird Count!

- Bill Brockner

Membership

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

New

Mavis Zacrep—Evergreen

New Family

Greg Scott & Betsy Kelson—Evergreen
Sally & Jay Truett—Morrison

Renewing

Mary Arris—Evergreen
Mike Foster—Lakewood
Kathie Kuehn—Evergreen
Elaine McCoach—Evergreen
Bob Santangelo—Wheat Ridge

Renewing Family

Rick & Nana Kurtz—Evergreen
David & Betty Rainey—Buffalo Creek

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Time to Sign Up for Annual Banquet

TENAS' Annual Banquet will be held on Friday, Jan. 18, at Mt. Vernon Country Club. The Social Hour and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be at 7 p.m.

This has always been a special occasion that allows us to gather with old friends, meet new people and enjoy an excellent meal and good entertainment. Irma again will offer her unique collection of items for the silent auction.

Local author Terry Grosz will be our keynote speaker. Terry has written seven books about his 32-year career as a conservation law enforcement officer. He will give us a dynamic slide presentation about his action-packed adventures, filled with his love of wildlife and the great outdoors.

(The January-February *Dipper* will include more about Terry's presentation.)

This year's dinner will be **buffet** style and consist of the following menu: Beef Bourguignonne, Tilapia filet with lemon herb sauce, Eggplant Parmesan, Chef's vegetable medley, Salad Bar with toppings and condiments, egg noodle pasta, wild rice, assorted rolls, flatbreads and butter. Dinner will include rainbow sherbet with cookie and coffee, tea and iced tea.

The country club will plate meals for any guests who prefer to be served

Here's My Reservation for the Banquet

Names: (Print first and last names clearly for each guest attending.)

The Country Club will plate meals for any guests who prefer to be served at their table.

_____ I request that my meal be served. _____ I need a ride to the banquet.

Name _____ Phone _____

Cost is \$32 per person. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____.
Make check payable to TENAS Banquet. Payment must be included with your reservation.

Reservations must be received by Friday, January 4, 2008 – Mail to:

TENAS Banquet, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437-0523

at their table. Please fill out the adjacent reservation form and return it by Jan. 4. The price for this evening is \$32 per

person. YOUR CHECK MUST BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR RESERVATION.

Recommended Reading (also great gift ideas)

• There is a great book, "Last Child in the Woods," by Richard Louv, about saving our children from Nature-Deficit Disorder. The book is for sale in all the national parks and local bookstores. Check it out.

- Karel Buckley

• "Good Birders Don't Wear White—50 Tips from North America's Top Birders"

This paperback presents 50 essays by noted birders, including Peter Alden and Dick Walton, two friends from Concord,

Mass., and David Sibley, whom I wish I could claim as a friend, but regrettably, I have never met.

The articles are helpful to beginners, amusing for experts and enjoyable for all. At \$8.95, this book would be good reading for yourself and a good present for your birding friends.

- Peggy Durham

• "Prairie Thunder" is a great new book about the Great Plains and Colorado. Common Birds in Decline informa-

tion is featured in the book, as is the role of Audubon Colorado in helping develop the book.

It is a beautiful volume that pulls together the conservation values, challenges, birds, bison and people of the plains.

Audubon members can receive a special savings of \$3 off the cover price of "Prairie Thunder," and an additional \$3 will be donated to Audubon Colorado for each book purchased at this special web address: www.prairie-thunder.com/ac.htm.

- Richard Stromp



Join Us for the Christmas Bird Count

Save Dec. 16 for the 108th Christmas Bird Count! Last year, the Evergreen-Idaho Springs count was one of 2,052 counts conducted between northern Baffin Island, Canada, and northern Peru and west to Guam!

We have conducted the count annually for 37 years, and our area includes interesting habitats around Idaho Springs, Genesee, Kittredge, Evergreen Lake, Bear Creek, Squaw Pass and Mt. Evans Wildlife Area.

We divide into 13 small field groups, each led by an experienced birder, and count all the species and individual birds we see. Folks who would like only to count birds visiting their feeders are also encouraged to participate.

In 2006, we set a new record of finding 58 species; two of these were not previously reported on the count (Common Goldeneye and Varied Thrush) and one species had

only been seen once before (White-throated Sparrow).

Please join us as we tally the common species and search for the rarities. You can find out more about the Christmas Bird Count and examine count data at www.audubon.org/birds/cbc. A summary of the 2007 Evergreen-Idaho Springs count will be published in the March 2008 *Dipper*.

After a full day of counting birds, participants are invited to the traditional potluck supper where counts are discussed over good food and drinks. This year's hosts, as in many years past, are Walt and Polly Phillips, who have made their beautiful home available for the occasion. (Leaders will have directions, or call Walt or Polly at 303-674-7744 for directions.)

Lori Hogan again will be making chili and coordinating the supper.

Please either sign up at the Dec. 6 meeting or call Lori at 303-674-4985 to let her know what dish you will contribute. There is a nominal charge (\$2) to offset the cost of chili ingredients.

If you would like to participate, sign up at the TENAS Dec. 6 meeting or call Tom Van Erp at 303-816-4420 or e-mail him at tomvanerp@aol.com. To defray the cost of processing the Christmas Bird Count data, field participants are asked to make a \$5 donation to the National Audubon Society.

If you would like to participate by counting birds at your feeder, please call Barbara Jean Gard at 303-674-3280 to obtain a feeder form and other information. It is free to be a feeder watcher.

- Brad Andres
Christmas Bird Count
Co-coordinator

2008 TENAS Board Election

The nominees for officers and directors are on the adjacent ballot. The membership will vote on the slate at the Dec. 6 chapter meeting.

If you will not be there, we encourage you to vote by mail. This will help meet our required quorum for a valid election. Please fill out the ballot, sign it, enclose your name and address and send it to TENAS, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437 for arrival by Dec. 6.

You also may give your written proxy to someone who will be at the meeting. Remember, those with Family Memberships have two votes.

The elected officers and directors will be installed at the Annual Banquet on Jan. 18.

2008 TENAS Board Ballot

Each Individual local or NAS membership is entitled to cast one vote for each Officer and for up to six (6) Directors. Family memberships are entitled to two votes. Family members please use two separate ballots.

Officers

- President – Peggy Durham
- Vice President – Brad Andres
- Treasurer – Karen Knutson
- Secretary – Kay Niyo
- Assist. Secretary – Sylvia Robertson

Directors

- David Wald
- Ginny Boschen
- Heather Johnson
- Michael Stills
- Jane Conrad
- Marilyn Kaussner

Write-in Candidate

(Indicate if for Officer or Director):

Signature _____



Demeter's Torch: Plumbing and Virtue

© Mike Foster
mike1.foster@comcast.net

During the inaugural meeting of the Colorado Council of The Nature Conservancy, back on June 18, 2004, participants discussed whether the needs for water could be balanced between the natural and the human communities. I took part in that discussion, and I'll start with that question.

Let's begin by recognizing that water use is already way out of balance. The natural world provides all water, for both the natural and human communities, and it controls most uses through a complex system known as the water cycle.

Humans provide no water, but our advanced technological abilities enable us to exercise an increasing influence over most uses. As we continue to find new ways to exert that influence, we have yet to acknowledge our stewardship over water for other "customers" in the natural communities.

In other words, so far our ability has outrun our responsibility. Perhaps it is time to remember that our abilities only evolved over time, and because of resources provided by the natural world, including water.

In the long view of evolution human interference with Nature would probably not have become threatening, if humans had not invented agriculture around 10,000 years ago.

With more food and settled communities those first farmers were able to revolutionize shelter, health, security and how they thought. Civilization as we know it was on its way, complete with religion, art, philosophy, government, wealth, travel and—finally!—miniskirts and football.

Every prosperous person on the planet today can identify with those early farmers. They invented a lifestyle that lengthened their lives, increased their opportunities and essentially made possible the wonderful and dangerous species we have become.

Along the way they pioneered an enjoyment of leisure, a fascination with

more and more things to amuse and challenge us, and a desire for comfort.

But comfort has consequences. One of them is that yesterday's luxuries become today's necessities without anyone ever stopping to ask, "Do I really need that?"

"That" could be our preference, even in the semiarid West, for lawns over natural landscaping, or our growing love affair with golf courses, or the provision in all modern homes of multiple bathrooms. I grew up in a household of three children and one adult, who shared one bathroom. My experience is not unique.

Another consequence is that humans now use over half the globally available supply of fresh water; by 2025 hydrologists think we will be using around 70% (Natural History magazine, November 2007). I leave it to you to imagine the impact on birds, animals, plants and the other natural communities.

Human use of water breaks down as follows, worldwide: 8% for homes, villages and cities, 22% for industry and a whopping 70% for agriculture.

Consider just industry for a moment. Almost everything manufactured requires water at some stage of the process, and most manufacturing depends on electricity, which is mostly generated at hydroelectric plants (i.e., dams).

But dams present massive problems: much of the water they capture evaporates they impede the natural flows on which animals and plants depend they prevent the migration of many aquatic species their turbines kill some species they concentrate pollutants and eventually they all silt up.

Dams are a classic symbol of frantic civilizations, drunk with technological prowess, impatient to "control" Nature and blind to the implications of their muscular haste.

Don't get me wrong: I'm no Luddite. Given the choices we have made, we can no longer live without the internal combustion engine, electricity and computers—all of them produced with vast amounts of water.

But we could do without most electronic gadgets, and we surely cannot afford to go on relying on SUVs and other fuelish forms of transportation. And I haven't even touched on agriculture! I'll get there in another column.

At some point we must remember the distinction between need and convenience. A wise man once said, "Enough is as good as a feast."

Nothing wrong with a feast once in a while, when the occasion warrants one. But a perpetual orgy perverts the appetite, just as any insatiable hunger for the ultimate destroys our ability to appreciate the ordinary events of life.

Restraint is more than common sense; it is also a virtue. And virtues depend on a system of ethics.

Whoa! What do virtue and ethics have to do with water resources? Actually, quite a lot. Consider that 1 billion human beings today lack even a gallon a day of clean water for drinking and preparing food. That's one out of every six people on the planet.

More than one-third of the world's people lack safe sanitation systems, which depend on generous amounts of

Continued on Page 8



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Demeter's Torch, continued

Continued from Page 7

water. In North America we consume more than 150 gallons per person, per day, and that doesn't count our industrial or agricultural uses. To grow enough cotton for a single T-shirt requires more than 700 gallons.

What does it say about our priorities in America that xeriscaping commands so little attention? What does it say about our intelligence that we treat water more as a commodity (selling it in designer brands) than as a precious, limited resource?

What does it say of our environmental awareness that we recklessly draw down water supplies but do very little about conservation, repairing leaks, building more efficient appliances or eliminating wasteful practices?

So it seems we do need virtue and ethics after all. And to reconnect with them, we need Aristotle. Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) was one of those brilliant polymaths who could synthesize several fields at once, and draw from them a common essence.

He looked beyond facts to find patterns. He understood that unity and diversity were parts of a process. He has influenced every division of the modern curriculum, including ethics.

Aristotle taught what I call a deep morality. He reasoned that human behavior conformed to certain principles, principles similar to those governing the natural world, and that these principles

influenced each other, were parts of a larger whole.

For example, politics and ethics have in common the goal of achieving human happiness. (Pause to let that one sink in!) Once you grasp that astonishing proposition, the goals of philosophy, economics, psychology, art, etc. prove to be much the same.

Aristotle excelled at applying reason, and he argued that man was a rational animal, capable of harnessing various stallions to pull the same chariot, so to speak, and directing them toward the same goal.

Thanks to the science of ecology, which also finds connections between human and natural behaviors, we are rediscovering the wisdom of Aristotle.

By the way, Aristotle never said that man was entirely rational. To the contrary, he emphasized that acting rationally was a learned behavior, one that countered or channeled the irrational force of passions.

Ethics for Aristotle—his deep morality—was a deliberate choice among a welter of desires, a path for life analogous to the course of a ship through a stormy sea.

The obsession in America with consumerism, and the assertion of numerous "rights" to do whatever we want, raise doubts about this country's ability to balance the needs of mankind and those of Nature. Worse, our wasteful depletion of natural resources, especially water, raises doubts about our basic hu-

manity.

To borrow a phrase out of context from Abraham Lincoln, but very relevant to this subject, we are now engaged in a contest to determine "whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure."

The answer depends on intelligence, which in turn depends on choices, choices based on deep morality. Of course we have the ability. Do we have the will? Will we exercise our intelligence not to do some things we have the capacity for? Will we exercise restraint? Will we accept living within limits?

Many Americans are capable, educated, informed, idealistic and energetic. Yet all of us are yoked to our electronic devices, our SUVs, our green lawns and more stuff than we need, or (I would wager) more than we really want.

The larger problem is that we all endorse an economic system that has put the planet in peril today, because mankind's relentless quest for more comfort, more leisure and more wealth is endangering the natural resources on which those benefits depend.

Those benefits are part of what Aristotle included in happiness, but Aristotle also counseled moderation. Is it too late for a people, so habituated to excess, to relearn moderation?

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

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

shorter time frame. We finally agreed on two years, renewable yearly to five years, with annual reviews by both parties.

TENAS will establish goals and will keep records to document quantitative and qualitative results. Yearly, both groups will review our accomplishments or, unlikely I hope, our shortcomings.

There will be issues down the road to work through, but I am confident our shared goals will prevail. Both TENAS

and the EPRD board are committed to the success of our community nature center.

In retrospect, it all seems so obvious that I wonder what took us so long to figure it out. But I have to admit that the final plan and other information we submitted was a better product than what we started with.

The questions and requirements the EPRD board put to us made us think through our purpose and how best to accomplish it.

I think that the process we engaged in for these many months made agreement difficult. TENAS never sat down with the whole EPRD board to negotiate, rather we kept responding at their monthly meetings to different issues.

Though the process was perhaps not efficient, ultimately it worked and I think all involved are looking forward to getting the nature center up and running in April.

- Peggy Durham



New Birding Program for TENAS

On the evening of Oct. 9, 14 people gathered at Evergreen Library to discuss the future birding efforts of TENAS. Mike Foster introduced the subject by summarizing why a new program is needed.

Brad Andres then gave a PowerPoint presentation in which he suggested we survey all the feasible public sites in the Bear Creek Watershed.

There are just under 50 of these, so we would be increasing the breadth of our surveys. We would gain more depth by focusing surveys on the breeding season.

It was proposed that five groups of approximately 10 sites each be surveyed on a five-year rotating basis. Most of the sites previously included in Birds in the Balance still would be surveyed and volunteer time in the field each year would be about the same as before.

This program allows for considerable flexibility. Leaders can return to sites as often as they wish, and they can survey more than just one site. Time in the field will not be fixed, and routes will vary according to season and local conditions.

By adopting the whole Bear Creek Watershed as our project area, we will concentrate our efforts in the region surrounding Evergreen that has always been of unique concern to TENAS.

With such a diversely endowed natural area available nearby, we can coordinate most of the chapter's field trips year-round to explore different sites in the watershed.

The reception to Brad's proposal was enthusiastic, and the general sense of the meeting was that he should proceed to create such a program with the help of a steering committee. Once that is done, Brad will present his program to the TENAS board for formal approval.

Larry White gave a summary of his results during the month of June over the past 13 years at Beaver Meadows. His report could be a model for other site leaders trying to decide how to analyze their past findings.

Kent Simon concluded the evening by discussing some history of the chapter's birding efforts.

Shortly after the Oct. 9 meeting, the

steering committee began meeting. An early priority is to study data from Birds in the Balance to determine the feasibility of making those records available to a wide public.

Two other tasks are to choose the most effective way of recording and preserving future data electronically, and to visit a number of the new sites to gain firsthand knowledge of them.

Questions about the steering committee can be directed to Brad Andres, Mike Foster or Kay Niyo.

- Mike Foster

Holiday Trails at Buchanan Park

A community holiday gathering to benefit Buchanan Trails will be held Sunday, Dec. 2, 4-6 p.m. at Buchanan Park Recreation Center. It will feature live music, a slide show and refreshments with games, crafts and Santa for the kids. Cost is \$10 for adults; kids 10 and under are free.

Nature Center: Beyond the Lease

Continued from Page 3

to identify birds around the lake, appreciating the wildlife nearby and perhaps

casting a line to catch fish. Picture a place where beginning birding and other nature classes could be taught and fly-

tying classes and other opportunities to experience nature could be presented.

Hikers and walkers will be able to drop in, get information and see the fragile connection between man, animals, fish and the local environment and how to keep it healthy.

We have a preliminary timeline that will be posted on the TENAS website with updates as plans develop. More details on these plans and the realization of the ENC will be regularly reported via the *Dipper* and on the website.

- David Wald, David

Balogh, Carolyn Fraker, Walt Phillips



Refurbished Evergreen Lake Warming Hut. Photo by David Wald

Calendar

Late November	Wreath Pickup
November 30	Deadline for Suet orders
December 2	Buchanan Park Trails Benefit
December 6	Chapter Meeting
December 15	Nature Center Meeting
December 16	Christmas Bird Count & Tally Rally
January 4	Deadline for Banquet Reservations
January 18	TENAS Banquet

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

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

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130

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TENAS website

www.dipper.org

Reminder: The next issue will be the winter Double *Dipper*,
January and February combined.

***The Dipper deadline for the January-February issue is
Thursday, Dec. 6. Please submit articles to:***

Margaret McDole, mem2@earthlink.net

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society
Local Membership Application
Please enroll me/us in The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon
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- Christmas Count
- Board Ballot
- Banquet Reservation Form

In This Issue

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