



# THE DiPPER

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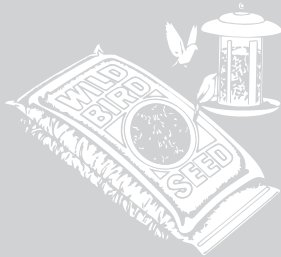
EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

[www.EvergreenAudubon.org](http://www.EvergreenAudubon.org)



## **Buy Your Nest Boxes!**

We will be selling our handmade cedar nest boxes on March 11 & 12 outside of the King Soopers stores in Conifer and Bergen Park. They are \$20 and \$25 each. We will be taking cash or checks. Come early as they sell out fast!



## **Don't Forget to Pick up Your Bird Seed!**

If you placed an order for bird seed, come to our Chapter meeting on Thursday March 2nd. You can grab your seed before the meeting between 5:30 and 7:00 pm.

## **Volunteer with Us!**

Your time is invaluable and makes a real difference to the people of the mountain community. If you want to get involved in research, education, writing, graphic design, or fundraising we can use your expertise. Check out the many ways you can share your time with us on our website.

[www.EvergreenAudubon.org](http://www.EvergreenAudubon.org)

## **CHAPTER MEETING: GOOD NEWS ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES!**

ED FURLONG

We who inhabit the Bear Creek Watershed are used to encountering wildlife—Elk, Bear, Deer, Fox, an abundance of birds, trout and other fish in Bear Creek, and as Evergreen Audubon members, we are conversant in the issues that bring species to the point of becoming rare and endangered. Each day we learn of more threats to wildlife and habitat.

However, in spite of this gloomy news, there are reasons for hope. We will be celebrating the success stories regarding threatened and endangered species at our next Evergreen Audubon Chapter meeting, on **Thursday evening, March 2, 2017.**

Susan Krause, who is flourishing as a recent Evergreen transplant, Chapter member, and volunteer, will present *Endangered Species Success Stories!*. Come at 6:30pm to the Evergreen Audubon Education Center at 29997 Buffalo Park Road to visit with your fellow members and Evergreen neighbors, and stay for a rousing and lively discussion after our brief business meeting.

I know we will all be cheered and encouraged by Sue's presentation and I look forward to seeing you there!

*Image Courtesy of Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife*





# Evergreen Audubon

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Chapter Meetings first Thursday, 6:30 p.m. except January, at the Audubon Education Center, 29997 Buffalo Park Road.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KATHY MADISON

It certainly feels like spring outside, but as I work on the 2017 birding challenge I'm still seeing lots of our year-round feathered friends. I know our migrating and summer species will soon be here. In the meantime I'm enjoying honing my duck identification skills. During yesterday's Third Saturday Birding Trip I had the opportunity to compare Canvasback and Redhead ducks and Greater and Lesser Scaups. What a treat! If you haven't taken advantage of these walks, I highly recommend you do! Chuck is also starting to do his monthly Wednesday walk. I wish I could join him but I'm still working full time.

At my work, one of my responsibilities is to increase membership in the professional organization we manage. In our marketing literature we use the phrase *Membership Matters*. I'm going to start using it for Evergreen Audubon. Your membership does matter and it's a win-win proposition. The organization benefits from your support and you benefit from being involved. You're part of a community dedicated to conserving and protecting wildlife and the natural environment and to educating others about the natural world. With your membership you will:

- Become an important supporter of our project, The Evergreen Nature Center, one of our community's best resources for nature education. You are entitled to free or discounted fees on programs offered by the Nature Center and a 15% discount at the Nature Center's gift shop.
- Have many opportunities to socialize and network with other Evergreen Audubon Supporters. Events include the Annual Banquet (Jan), Dawn Chorus (May), Summer Picnic (July), Bash & Benefit (Aug), monthly birding hikes, and of course, our monthly chapter meetings which feature interesting and intriguing presentations about natural history, conservation and wildlife ecology.
- Be able to participate in fun and educational projects, such as, the Christmas Bird Count, bluebird nest box monitoring, and invasive plant awareness and control.
- Receive the monthly Dipper e-newsletter which will keep you up to date on local Audubon and Nature Center events.

Thanks to all those who have already renewed their 2017 membership. If you haven't renewed yet, consider this a friendly reminder. For more details on membership and to renew visit:

[www.EvergreenAudubon.org/membership](http://www.EvergreenAudubon.org/membership)

**Spread the word... Membership Matters!**

- Kathy

# REGISTER FOR SUMMER DAY CAMP NOW!

Evergreen Audubon is offering three different weeks of day camp this summer at our Education Center, located at 29997 Buffalo Park Road in Evergreen, adjacent to Alderfer/Three Sisters Park. Each week the kids will spend time hiking at Alderfer and learning about nature. They will enjoy a variety of crafts and games as well. Campers who are 6-10 years old will need to bring a lunch. The shorter session for 4-5 year olds will provide a healthy snack.

Registration for Evergreen Audubon Members is open now and non-members can start registering March 3rd.

## Nature Detectives

6 – 7 year olds  
June 19 – 23; 10am – 2pm  
\$250.00 (\$225 Evergreen Audubon members)

Who, what, where, when and why? What makes nature work? Take a look inside our very own scientific lab called the Great Outdoors. You'll become junior naturalists and learn all about our local critters and plants.

## Wildlife Myths

8 – 10 year olds  
July 31 – August 4; 10am – 2pm  
\$250.00 (\$225 Evergreen Audubon members)

Coyotes eat people, bats fly in your hair, and owls turn their heads all the way around! Is that really true? Hear the folktales and explore the truth behind some of nature's oldest myths and misunderstood creatures.

## Wee Creatures

4 – 5 year olds  
July 17 – 21  
morning session: 10am – 12pm  
afternoon session: 1pm – 3pm  
\$125.00 (\$112.50 Evergreen Audubon members)

It's a small world after all. All animals originate as a teeny tiny baby. Let's take a look at infant animals and compare them to their mature parents. Come and explore the realm of babies!



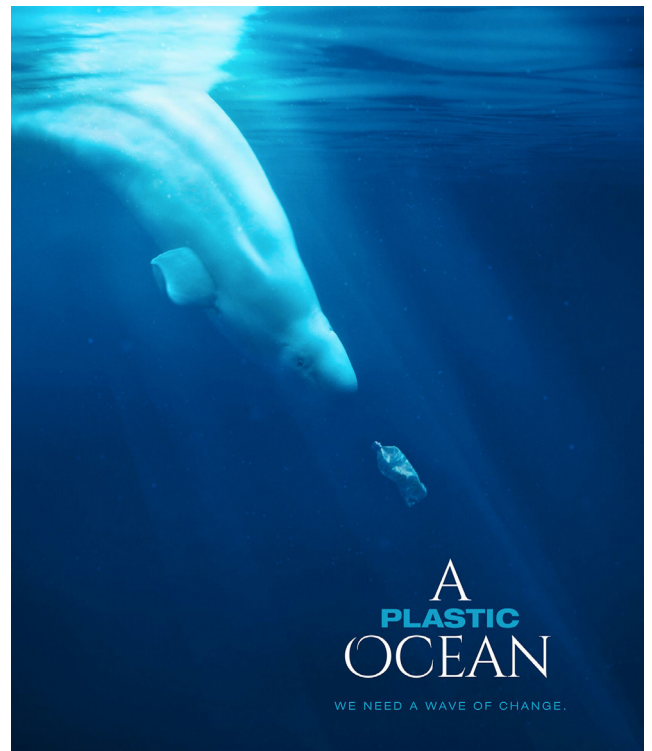
# EVERGREEN ENVIRONMENTAL FILM NIGHT

Evergreen Audubon is partnering with Evergreen Alliance for Sustainability (EAS+Y) to offer a free environmental movie night. We will be screening *A Plastic Ocean*, directed by Craig Leeson, and *American Psychosis*, directed by Amanda Zachem on Thursday, March 9 at the Evergreen Audubon Education Center, 29997 Buffalo Park Road, in Evergreen.

*A Plastic Ocean* is an adventure documentary highlighting the effect of our modern day disposable lifestyle on our oceans and ultimately on human health. Filmed in stunning detail at 20 locations around the world, the film captures never-before-seen images of marine life and plastic pollution and introduces the audience to workable technologies and policy solutions that can, if implemented in time, change things for the better. To watch a trailer, go to: <https://youtu.be/6zrn4-FfbXw>

In addition, *American Psychosis*, a short film directed by Amanda Zachem, will also be screened. In *American Psychosis*, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, author and activist Chris Hedges discusses modern day consumerism, corporate power, and the effects of living in a culture dominated by illusion.

A pre-film reception starts at 6 pm; the screening at 7:00 pm. There is no charge for the event.

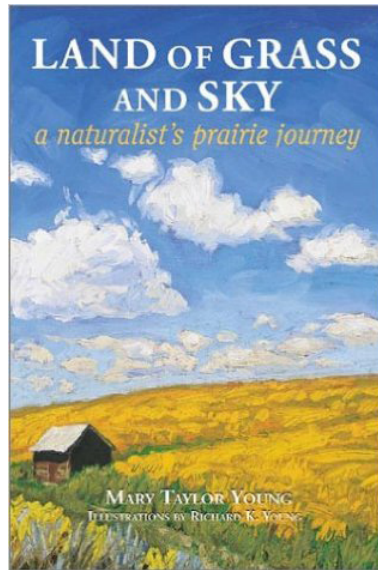


## LAND OF GRASS AND SKY - BOOK REVIEW JOANN HACKOS

Mary Taylor Young is perhaps best known for her **Colorado Wildlife Viewing Guide** and her history of **Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years**. Yet, her newly revised tale of her love for our state's short-grass prairie reveals much about her as a naturalist and as an individual. The first edition was published in 2002, the second in 2016. If you love the prairie as I do, you will enjoy reading her account. If you don't already love the prairie, Young's story will help you understand what makes the prairie so compelling.

Young's very first experience with the short-grass prairie was far from positive. In the early 60s, her father drove the family in an un-airconditioned car from San Antonio to her grandparents' cabin near Rocky Mountain National Park. The trip for her was miserable, trapped in a hot car, wedged between her two sisters in the back seat—all she really saw was "boring brown land."

A change of mind happened after Young moved to Denver. One morning, free of other responsibilities, she drove westward along what was likely County Line Road south of Littleton, before it was surrounded by new development. She met a band of pronghorns that kept pace effortlessly with her sports car, speeding along at 47 miles per hour. When they turned in front of her to cross the road, she nearly collided with them, stopping just in time, and then they vanished. Her experience and understanding of the prairie was beginning to change and grow.



*Land of Grass and Sky: A Naturalist's Prairie Journey*, Mary Taylor Young, Earth Tales Press, 2016.

Each chapter of *Land of Grass and Sky* focuses on a different prairie experience. We find detailed accounts of Plains Cottonwood, Buffalo Grass, Prairie Dogs, Tumbleweeds, Longspurs, and Blue Grama, among others. I was especially taken by her description of picking chokecherries and making chokecherry wine. If you've ever picked and eaten a chokecherry, you know they are about 90% pit. They are also bitter, astringent, and unpalatable. But if you crush and simmer them in water, they render, she tells us, "the



*Choke Cherry*

most pure, the most wonderful, the most truly wild cherry flavoring imaginable."

She picks chokecherries from the lower branches of the bushes around her house, leaving the upper branches for the Robins and the Cedar Waxwings who love them too. She makes them into wine, following a recipe from Euell Gibbons' *Stalking the Wild Asparagus*. She also harvests wild currants and wild plums. She learns how to use rose hips and mariposa lilies. Finally, she decides to buy and cook bison and make bison jerky. She is learning to use the bounty offered discretely by the prairie.

Young provides a nearly opposite view of the short-grass prairie by recounting the stories told her by her mother about the Dust Bowl. Her grandfather drove the family each summer from eastern Kansas to Estes Park. One trip was like no other. In an un-airconditioned car again, the family endured the dust coming in the open windows, soon coating everyone with grit. She tells us "theirs was usually the only car on the highway and meeting another vehicle was an event." Her moth-

## BOOK REVIEW CONT.

er remembered that the worse part were the ghost towns; once thriving farm communities completely abandoned except for the tumbleweeds. The few people they encountered were barely surviving.

That year, once the family crossed into Colorado near Burlington, now on I70, they saw “something dark and ominous heading towards them.” Her Granddad floored the gas pedal, racing to make it to Burlington before the dust storm engulfed them. At the Burlington hotel, they jumped out of the car just as the dust descended on them. The hotel owner was waiting, holding the door open for them as they raced inside. They put damp towels over their faces and sat in dim candlelight as the world turned pitch dark outside.

Young ends her own account with a trip to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in the chapter, Blue Grama. As you know, the Arsenal is one of the most contaminated sites on earth and is now a Superfund cleanup site. But because it has been mostly an unoccupied area, wildlife began to find refuge on the Arsenal land, including Bald Eagles, Mule deer, Coyotes, Jackrabbits, Badgers, Burrowing Owls, and more. The Arsenal, now a national wildlife refuge, has become the largest prairie restoration project in the west.

No true prairie, Young explains, exists now. Even the remnants lack a critical ingredient, the bison herds. But the scientists at the Arsenal are doing their best, nurturing the Blue Grama Grass. On her trip to the

Arsenal with Carl Mackey, the plant ecologist, she finds Blue Grama, Purple Spiderwort, Sand Verbena, and even a native thistle, called “wavy-leaf” (*Cirsium undulatum*).

At the end of the Blue Grama chapter, Young remarks: “It is so easy to travel the open country and see nothing but emptiness. ... A prairie is not empty, but its vitality projects downward into the earth instead of up. ... The prairie turns its life force inward. To look beyond the open space, to truly know a prairie and its secrets, I must look inward also, see with other than my eyes. I must look with my spirit. In this lies the prairie’s greatest lesson.”

If you love the short-grass prairie, you will revel in the stories Young tells and the science she recounts. If you don’t as yet, her stories will help you learn their lessons.



*Blue Grama grass*

## WE'RE HIRING A SEASONAL NATURALIST

We are searching for an eager naturalist/environmental educator interested in gaining a wide range of experience in program publicity, program development and leadership, interpretation, volunteer coordination, nature center administration and fundraising.

The Seasonal Naturalist assists with staffing and managing the Evergreen Nature Center along Evergreen Lake. This includes working with volunteers, engaging visitors, opening/closing the nature center, cleaning, maintaining exhibits, and data entry regarding attendance and the gift shop. Time may also be spent along the trails at Evergreen Lake doing roaming environmental interpretation. Additional work will involve facilitating the summer

day camps as well as other educational programs that are held at our Education Center located at 29997 Buffalo Park Road, adjacent to Alderfer Three Sisters. These camps will require regular hiking outdoors and managing groups of children.

Roughly 75% of the Naturalist’s time will be engaging with our visitors and program attendees. The other 25% of the time will be dedicated to planning programs and exhibits and administrative tasks.

**The Deadline to apply is March 20th.** Please visit our website for details about the job requirements and how to apply.

The position is roughly from mid April to mid October.

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## MARCH

Wednesday, 1st	Rosy Finch Bird Walk	7:30-11:30 am	Bergen Park, Park-n-Ride
Thursday, 2nd	Bird Seed Pick Up	5:30 pm	Education Center
Thursday, 2nd	Chapter Meeting	6:30 pm	Education Center
Friday, 3rd	Volunteer Field Trip	8:30 - 3:30 pm	Rocky Mt. Arsenal
Friday, 3rd	Summer Camp Registration Opens for Non-Members		
Thursday, 9th	Environmental Film Night	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Education Center
Wednesdays	After School Program	3:30 - 5:30 pm	Education Center
March 11 & 12	Bird Nest Box Sales	9 am - 3 pm	King Soopers (Conifer & Bergen Park)

## APRIL

Saturday, 22nd	Earth Day Festival	10 am - 3 pm	Evergreen Lake House
Saturday, 22nd	Opening Day	10:00 am	Evergreen Nature Center
Wednesdays	After School Program	3:30 - 5:30 pm	Education Center

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## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

### Evergreen Audubon Local Membership Application

I/we would like to join the Evergreen Audubon. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive the newsletter electronically, and vote (two Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain locally.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family member name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
(include to receive electronic newsletter and updates)

	Individual	Family
Annual dues	\$ 25	\$ 40
Additional donation	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total enclosed</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Enclosed is my check payable to: Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437.

I DO NOT want solicitations from National Audubon.

If you would like to join or donate to the National Audubon Society directly and receive the AUDUBON Magazine, call 1-800-274-4201 and use chapter code C9ZD090Z.