

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Friendraiser

Save June 11, 6-9 p.m., for a Friendraiser for the Evergreen Nature Center. There will be music, good food, fun and prizes. See details on Page 5.

TENAS Art Show

Stop in at Evergreen Library to enjoy the TENAS art show that will be on display until the end of May.

All artists must pick up their pieces at 10 a.m. on May 31, 2008. We will be there to assist. - Kay Niyo

Monthly Meetings

July 12

Annual Summer Picnic: *Everyone shares a few fun slides at the picnic. Start saving you best--or funniest--photos for all to enjoy.*

August

John Drummond: *The Birds of Sri Lanka*

Botany Group

Contact Sylvia Brockner, 303-674-4851, for meeting dates and times.

Double Dipper

The next issue of the *Dipper* will cover July and August. Anyone submitting articles should look ahead and send them to Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org.

Program: the Black-footed Ferret

No, they are not pets and they are not bandits. They are the only ferret native to North America and they are endangered.

In fact, 27 years ago it was thought they were extinct until a dog owner in Wyoming realized the quarry the dog had in its mouth was a Black-footed Ferret. Since then more ferrets were found and a captive breeding program was begun.

Today the National Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center north of Denver is committed to the recovery of the Black-footed Ferret and its habitat. Joining us at our next TENAS meeting to discuss the goals, programs and current status will be FCC manager Paul Marinari, wildlife biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Paul is one of the leading experts on Black-footed Ferret captive breeding and genetic management. He has extensive field experience with ferrets in their natural habitat.

With his direction the FCC also promotes the Black-footed Ferret recovery through education and public outreach programs that emphasize the prairie dog ecosystem that it and numerous other species rely upon.



A male Black-footed Ferret. Photo by Paul Marinari

Please join us to learn about this remarkable creature and maybe even see one up close on **Thursday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road.** Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the program.

Be a Responsible Gardener

With Earth Day behind us, I am now taking inventory of the things that I can do or undo to make our Earth a more sustainable and less toxic place to exist. One issue I am considering is whether my garden is an environment that is healthy, viable and compatible with our native plants and animals.

It is obvious that our private gardens often reflect the inquisitive side of our personality; we try things to be ingenious and creative. In indulging this adventurous side of ourselves, we also need to be conscious of and responsible to the native lands we cultivate.

When you see this "unbelievable, magnificent flower" while vacationing in Maine, consider the impacts of finding it in a mail-order catalogue, purchasing it and planting it here in Colorado. Sure, it "tolerates poor soil," "thrives in full sun" and even

"requires almost no water," but what is its long-term impact on our environment?

Descriptions such as "tolerates harsh conditions," "self-sows" or "spreads rapidly" foretell that this exotic, exciting plant could escape the confines of our garden and spread into our native lands. We need to be conscious of our impact upon these lands as wildlife relies on the native land's diversity and health, we in turn rely on wildlife, and the cycle continues.

When giving a specific priority to gardening responsibly and consciously, begin with extricating all of the noxious weeds from your space and replanting with native species. If a native species does not suit your idea of creativity or is not available, try a non-native that has been tested or one that assures you of its non-harming effect on our native environment.

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President's Message

The prospect of flowers blooming on my property is irresistible, despite or because of past experience. The challenges are well known and legendary. Alas, I moved here from Massachusetts a few years ago. There, I could grow anything sold in the local nurseries.

Last summer, I managed to find the catalogue from which I used to order Dutch bulbs to plant in the fall. Acting on advice from some resident gardener, I ordered daffodils, which were said to be unappealing to elk and deer.

Planting them was the biggest challenge. The pickaxe was the tool of choice. I managed to get all the bulbs in the ground, right side up, at the recommended depth, covered them with branches and stones to deter the critters, and prayed.

On schedule, in late April, the shoots emerged from their winter hibernation, all the bulbs producing gorgeous flowers. And, whether by accident or design, no elk or deer have eaten a single flower or destroyed them by their particularly irritating

habit of pulling them up and then, finding them unappetizing, spitting them out.

Thusly encouraged, I set forth in early May to buy one pot of pansies for the deck. Pansies weather the cold, so are a good choice for early color. At the store, confronted with row upon

Continued on Page 3

VIP VOLUNTEERS

• To **Kay Niyo** and **Polly Phillips** for collecting the artwork for the art show in the library during the month of May. To **Carmon Slater** and **Walt Phillips** for helping Kay and Polly hang the exhibit.

• To **Sylvia Brockner** and **Karel Buckley** for again organizing a successful Dawn Chorus. The early birders gathered in the new Evergreen Nature Center at the lake for refreshments. Thanks to all who provided refreshments and kept the bird list up-to-date. A special thanks to **Tom Boschen**, who donated a scope to the nature center. He set it up outside at Dawn Chorus so others could share the sights.

• To **Brad Andres**, **Kay Niyo** and **Mike Foster** for establishing the Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas program. We are fortunate to have such expertise brought to our chapter.

• To all those who have been working on the nature center, our continued recognition and appreciation. Without them, the nature center would not exist. **David and Lisa Wald**, **Brad Andres** and **Heather Johnson**, **Dave Balogh** and **Carolyn Fraker**, **Ginny Boschen**, **Carmon Slater** and **Executive Director Michael Stills**. The creation of the nature center has been a tremendous effort by many. Come and see it!

• To **Kent Simon** for extra effort in preparing the labeling for the mailing of the invitations to our nature center Friend-raiser on June 11.

• To the Earth Day volunteers who worked at the TENAS booth, outside with the spotting scopes or with setup and cleanup: **Pam Bixter**, **Peggy Durham**, **Mark Harper**, **Susan Harper**, **Barbara Klaus**, **Pam Little**, **Kay Niyo**, **Walt Phillips**, **Bob Santangelo**, **Larry White**, **Craig Wibert**, **Irma Wolf**.

• To **Jeff Geiger**, **Loie Evans** and **Karel Buckley** for keeping the bird feeders filled at the lake throughout the cold weather. The feeders are filled through Dawn Chorus, May 4 this year. Because bears will be out of hibernation for several warm months, the feeders will not be filled again until next fall.

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Interview with the New Executive Director

Q: First, how do you like being the executive director of the new nature center?

A: As expected, it takes a lot of work. And yes, I like it very much, very pleased to be selected.

Q: Why did you apply for the job?

A: I have always had an interest in the natural world as shown by previous jobs such as trails specialist with Jefferson County Open Space and seasonal park ranger at Mesa Verde.

Also, I have worked extensively in recent years with volunteer management, most recently as volunteer program manager at the American Red Cross in Denver.

And I wanted to be part of this community I live in. This job brings together connections from many previous jobs. Being the ED of a startup gives me the opportunity to make a mark in the community.

Q: What do you see as the main purpose of the nature center?

A: I envision an expanded nature center five or 10 years from now, continuing to educate the local and visiting public. The nature center is more than

a building. It is an opportunity to share knowledge about the natural world as far and wide as we can.

Q: What do you see as the major challenges ahead?

A: 1. Funding so we can continue what we have put together so far. 2. Presenting the programs we have planned throughout the summer. 3) Ongoing recruitment of volunteers. To accomplish our goals we will need a strategic plan to make our vision become a reality.

Q: What help will you need from Evergreen Audubon or the community?

A: Volunteers for the many known jobs and future tasks as they develop.

Q: Are there outstanding issues to resolve with the EPRD?

A: Yes, and of course there will continue to be. We still need final signatures on documents with the organizations that have an interest in the Warming Hut. We hope for signage that will help the public find us. This whole project will be a work in progress as long as we exist.

I remember meeting you and



Michael Stills and Peggy Durham at the signing for the Evergreen Nature Center. Photo by Donald Randall

Meghan the first time at Dawn Chorus in 11 inches of snow about three years ago. A good first impression!

- Peggy Durham

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

row of assorted potted plants that no sane person in Evergreen would ever buy a month before Memorial Day, I lost it. Or gained it.

I felt like an addict (though I don't really know what addicts feel), unable to resist the idea of rushing home with all these beautifully colored, healthy-looking plants, which I drape from the gutters of my garage. (It really doesn't look as tacky as it sounds.)

Buying as much as would fit in my car, leaving room only for the dog, I happily drove home. I cheerfully watered every plant, most of which were on the verge of dehydration, hung them out to dry, and brought them in for the night, which I clearly will have to do many more nights.

What happens to a normally rational

person when the flower season looms? Every year, I do this same thing. ("I won't do this again. Too much trouble. Too much expense. Not enough reward. Too many tomato-eating squirrels. That tomato cost me \$28.73.")

Then, playing Charlie Brown to Lucy, I do it again. I don't care if I have to bring everything in at night. And water every day. And dust the snow off. And watch the weather reports for hail (learned that the hard way). And I know when I see the tomato plants, I'll be elbowing the other shoppers out of the way to get first pick.

The reward is that we see flowers we've selected or nurtured doing their best to put color into our world and joy into our hearts, while providing sustenance to our butterflies and hummingbirds.

It's an annual ritual I never want to be without.

So here's a helpful hint to those of you who want to discourage our local elk and deer populations from enjoying our flowers before we do. A consultant at a local garden center gave me this recipe and it works. Apply it around the edge of a pot or on the ground around a plant.

Happy Gardening Recipe to Discourage Elk and Deer

- 1 cup cheap mouthwash
- 1 cup dish detergent
- 1 cup ammonia
- 1 cup male urine
- 1 tin snuff

Cheers!

- Peggy Durham



Bird Business

Spring migration picked up during the month of April. Evergreen Lake was free of ice by April 25; however, ducks and shorebirds were slightly down in numbers. Cinnamon Teal were noticeably late in coming back.

On April 2, Dick Williams had two Band-tailed Pigeons in his yard. Band-tails will visit feeders.

At Evergreen Lake on April 3, Loie Evans found four Bufflehead ducks. They were on their way north. Two Green-winged Teal arrived at the lake on April 6 and their numbers increased in following days. The next day three Lesser Yellowlegs were in the same area.

Fifteen Bohemian Waxwings were late arrivals at Hiwan. David Wald and his son photographed them on April 12.

April 13 welcomed an Osprey fishing at the lake. Loie Evans added him to the month's list. She noted three Tree

Swallows flying over Evergreen Lake on April 15.

What appears to be the first Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen by Inga Brennan April 15 on Lookout Mountain. They were reported daily in our area after that.

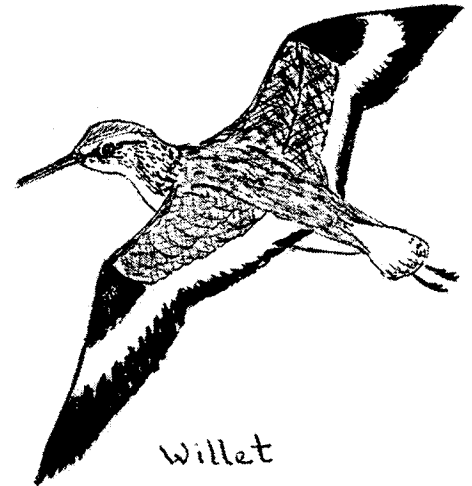
Mark Meremonte found a beautiful Eared Grebe on a Buchanan pond on April 20. This grebe likes small ponds.

Loie Evans continued her searching at the lake and found three Willets on April 22. Normally they show up earlier in the month. The next day she studied a Yellow-headed Blackbird in the cattails.

A returning Mourning Dove came to our feeders on April 24. They were found within days throughout our area.

Dr. Tom Boschen saw two Cinnamon Teal on Buchanan Pond on April 26. This was later than usual.

We welcome Loie and John Evans



Willet

as members of our club. Loie birds the Evergreen Lake area nearly every morning and adds many arrivals to our Bird Chart on the boardwalk. Thank you, Loie!

- Bill Brockner

Be a Responsible Gardener

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Some native or proven cultivated planting alternatives to common noxious weeds are as follows.

• Noxious weed: Myrtle Spurge (*Euphorbia Myrsinites*). Alternatives: Creeping Sedum (*Sedum* spp.), Kinikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) and Purple Iceplant (*Delasperma cooperi*).

• Noxious weed: Dalmatian and Yellow toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* and *L. vulgaris*). Alternatives: Annual Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum* spp.), Threadleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*) and Golden Banner (*Thermopsis rhombifolia*).

• Noxious weed: Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* or *Leucanthemum vulgare*). Alternatives: Native daisies (*Erigeron* spp.) such as shasta daisy, black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and blanket flower (*Gaillardia aristata*), native yarrow (*Achillea lanulosa*), Marguerite Daisy (*Anthemis tinctoria* "Susanna Mitchell").

• Noxious weed: Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium auratiacum*). Alternatives:

Wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*) and Poppies (*Papaver* spp.).

Join us on Saturday, May 31, at Evergreen Nature Center from 10 a.m. to noon for a program on "How to Garden Smart." Registration is required and can be done by sending an e-mail to enc@dipper.org. Or go to dipper.org

and click on the Evergreen Nature Center link.

Participants will receive a copy of the new Colorado Weed Management Association booklet entitled Garden Smart.

- Renee Cormier
CWAC

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Weed Woes?

Volunteers are needed to help keep Evergreen Lake a healthy habitat for native plants, birds and wildlife. Grab your garden gloves, sharpen your diggers, and join us for the 11th Annual Community Weed Day on Saturday, June 21, at Evergreen Lake from 8 to 11 a.m.

We'll start with refreshments at 8, be working by 8:30, and plan to finish weeding the entire perimeter of the lake, plus part of DeDisse Trail, by 11 a.m.

Even if you can't help with the physical weeding, Weed Day is still for you! We will feature a live display of the area's most noxious weeds, and weed experts will help you with identification and appropriate weed management methods.

The public is invited to bring mysterious plants in for identification. (Please

use caution when transporting plants to prevent any accidental spread of weeds.) There are many look-alikes, so accurate identification can save you time and money, and prevent native plants from being needlessly disturbed.

Weed Day is sponsored by the Community Weed Awareness Campaign, The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, the Mount Evans Group of the Sierra Club, and the Evergreen Garden Club, in partnership with Evergreen Park and Recreation District and Jefferson County Weed and Pest.

This is one time when you can be proactive in our mountain environment and see the immediate results of your labor.

For more information, go to dipper.org, call 303-674-8610 or e-mail shel-



Commissioner Kathy Hartman at last year's Weed Day. Photo by Cathy Shelton

tonpublicaddress@hotmail.com. If you haven't come to the last 10 Weed Days, we hope this is YOUR year.

- The CWAC

'Connect with Nature' Friendraiser

Friendraiser invitations were sent to the TENAS MEMBERSHIP in the May *Dipper* newsletter. Please respond by June 4 including the reservation form with your payment of \$50 per person.

The Friendraiser will help TENAS launch the new Evergreen Nature Center onto firm footing. We also invite you to consider joining as a Friend at one of several levels of membership.

Note the new time of the event from 6 to 9 p.m. This allows an additional hour to plan your bids (on some wonderful excursions), visit the nature center, eat and chat with fellow enthusiasts. It will be an enjoyable evening! In addition, one lucky person will win a special door prize.

For this fundraiser to be successful we will need help with various activities. The more, the merrier. To volunteer, please contact one of these organizers: Polly, 303-674-7744, maryaphillips@mac.com; Sylvia, 303-674-1715, sylbob1@msn.com; or Jane, 303-674-5133, rj.conrad@comcast.net.

Please visit the *Dipper* website to see a list of volunteer opportunities at dipper.org and click on "Evergreen Nature Center."



Reservation Form "Connect with Nature" Friendraiser June 11, 2008; from 6-9 p.m.

Your reservation includes supper and wine, dessert, and music.
Dress is Evergreen casual.

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

Cost is \$50 per person. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Make check payable to TENAS Friendraiser.

Payment must be included with your reservation.

Reservations must be received by Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

Mail to:
TENAS Friendraiser, P.O. Box 523,
Evergreen, CO 80437-0523



Dawn Chorus Sets Records!

The International Dawn Chorus at Evergreen Lake on May 4 attracted 54 (yes 54) participants who counted 53 species of birds. Not a bad day.

This 14th annual TENAS event was not just another bird count, but a party. And what a great time everyone had socializing in our new Evergreen Nature Center.

After the count we enjoyed warming up in the aptly named Warming Hut, partaking of delicious refreshments and greeting friends in the nature center. It was the perfect spot for our event, a very special place; we all felt such a calm and inviting atmosphere there.

The nature center committee has done a remarkable job designing and installing this wonderful area for us all to enjoy. Please stop by soon if you haven't been in yet.

Temps were in the low 30s to start and ended at 56 degrees at 9:15. 2008 was a record for our counts, both for humans and avian species. Never before have our numbers been so high for either!



Early birders on the Evergreen Lake boardwalk search for birds at the Dawn Chorus. *Photo by Mark Meremonte*

From the 14 years of the count I have found only nine years of data; from that I have tallied 74 different species, great for a one-day-a-year count! We never know what we will find—it is great!

Sadly we did not have our Sora to record for this year. The Soras are late this year; we usually have them here either audibly or visibly for the Dawn Chorus.

Thank you to all who attended and brought treats to share, thank you to Syl-

via Brockner for helping me and for writing about this event and Bill Brockner for taking the RSVPs, and thanks to Barbara Klaus for the great publicity in the Canyon Courier. Finally, thanks to all who helped us break records this year.

This is a wonderful annual event for our club and its success in 2008 was a team event. What a terrific club we have!

Happy birding.

- Karel Buckley

Membership

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

New

Dan Lincoln—Evergreen

New Family

Jeanne & Terrel Brown—Evergreen

Bob & Elaine Collins—Golden

Joe Nystrom & Lindy Doty—Golden

Ed & Andrea Furlong—Evergreen

Carol Pesell & Carol Stengel—Morrison

Renewing

Judith Bird—Golden

Kathy Danhour—Evergreen

Janet Mallow—Howard

Claudia Peterson—Evergreen

Warren Roske—Golden

Renewing Family

Joan & Bill Ball—Evergreen

Sheila & Stanley Dunlavy—Evergreen

Robert & Sondra Inman—Evergreen

Ron Belak & Peggy Linn—Evergreen

David & Lisa Wald—Evergreen

Mark Meremonte Elected to Board

The board of directors is pleased to announce that Mark Meremonte was elected to be a director, replacing Michael Stills who resigned to become our nature center executive director.

Mark is our Conservation chair, which he will continue.

Learning at the Nature Center

After attending the training session for prospective volunteers at Evergreen Nature Center, I have decided that the people who will learn the most will be the volunteer assistants.

For more info, go to dipper.org and click on the Evergreen Nature Center link.

- Peggy Durham



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Evergreen Nature Center

All programs and classes below are sponsored by the Evergreen Nature Center at Evergreen Lake. There are no fees for any of these classes. Please register at www.dipper.org.

- Saturday, June 7**
A Hike Along the Bluebird Nest Box Trail
Ornithologist Brad Andres will demonstrate the monitoring techniques used at Elk Meadow along the trail of nest boxes. Brad also will teach about the natural history of bluebirds, one of our summer migratory birds. **Ages 6+.** **8 a.m.-noon.** **Class size: 10.**
- Saturday, June 7**
What's That in the Water?
Using homemade collecting tools like a weed grappler and a bottom scraper, Evergreen teacher Ginny Boschen will lead a class around the lake and Evergreen Nature Center investigating the invertebrates in the water, under rocks and in the mud. Wear old shoes, sunscreen, and bring a water bottle. **Ages 9-10.** **10 a.m.-noon.** **Class size 10.**
- Saturday, June 14**
Attracting Hummingbirds
John Sears, owner of Evergreen Wild Bird Store, will lead a class in attracting, feeding and caring for our migratory hummingbirds. (Correction: Evergreen Wild Bird Store is the correct name, rather than Wild Bird Center as listed in the May *Dipper*) **10 a.m.-noon.** **Class size 20.**
- Sunday, June 15**
Learn to Identify Wildflowers
Join Lynne Price for an interpretive wildflower hike in the Evergreen Lake environs with special emphasis on select flower families. Bring hat, sunscreen, water and any flower identification books or viewing materials you like to use. **Adults and young adults.** **3-5 p.m.** **Class size 15.**
- Friday, June 27**
Under the Milky Way
Join amateur astronomer Pam Little in viewing night sky celestial objects through telescopes and with the naked eye. Learn amazing star facts and hear star stories from ancient times. Saturn and Mars will be our guests of honor. Dress for outdoors. Bring camping-type chair or blanket for comfortable night sky gazing and binoculars, if available. **Ages 3+.** **9 p.m.** **Class size: 25.**
- Saturday, June 28**
Seeing with your Ears
A "Sharing Nature with Children" class with imaginative games to awaken kids to the delights of nature at Evergreen Lake. Instructor David Balogh and others. **Ages 5-9.** **10:30 a.m.-noon.** **Class size: 10.**
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Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas Field Trips

All birders, including beginning birders, are welcome on all trips. Call the leader for meeting time and place, and for any other questions.

Sunday, June 1, Summit Lake, Kay Niyo, 303-679-6646
Monday, June 2, Elk Meadow, Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780
Thursday, June 5, Lair o' the Bear, Else van Erp, 303-816-5084
Saturday, June 7, Dinosaur Ridge S, Dave Balogh, 303-679-2799
Sunday, June 8, Bear Cr. Lake Park, Bob Santangelo, 303-477-1367
Monday, June 9, Bergen Peak, Fran Enright, 303- 674-2657
Tuesday, June 10, Dinosaur Ridge N, Warren Roske, 303-526-9725
Wednesday, June 11, Mt. Glennon, Kathanne Lynch, 303-968-4750
Thursday, June 12, Lair o' the Bear, Else van Erp, 303-816-5084
Saturday, June 14, Summit Lake, Kay Niyo, 303-679-6646
Monday, June 16, Elk Meadow, Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780

Tuesday, June 17, Dinosaur Ridge N, Warren Roske, 303-526-9725
Wednesday, June 18, Beaver Meadows, Larry White, 303-674-0535
Thursday, June 19, Lair o' the Bear, Else van Erp, 303-816-5084
Sunday, June 22, Bear Cr. Lake Park, Bob Santangelo, 303-477-1367
Monday, June 23, Bergen Peak, Fran Enright, 303- 674-2657
Tuesday-Wednesday, June 24-25, Shelter House Area, Beaver Meadows, Larry White, 303-674-0535
Friday, June 27, Summit Lake, Kay Niyo, 303-679-6646
Sunday, June 29, Dinosaur Ridge S, Dave Balogh, 303-679-2799
Monday, June 30, Elk Meadow, Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780

Little Park: Sherman Wing, leader, 303-697-8840, or Susan Harper, assistant leader, 303-231-4849, for dates/times
Captain Mountain/Lincoln Lake Trails: Brad Andres and Heather Johnson, 303-670-0101, for dates/times.

