



NATURE NEWS

Volume 19, Number 1
Winter, 2002

Come to the Colorado Caribbean

The BCNA Annual Meeting will be on **Saturday, January 26 2002** at Mike & Naseem's house at **6:00 p.m.** The potluck theme this year is *CARIBBEAN - hot, sizzling, sweet, and full of sunshine!* Bring some tropical music to share, and dress tropical to get in the mood. The evening will begin with eating and visiting, as usual, followed by a brief meeting and Board elections, and then the slide show. If there is time (and energy), we may also light a bonfire.

This year's slide show will be presented by the renowned photographer Lloyd Williams, entitled: "From microphotography to landscape". Lloyd Williams has been photographing natural history subjects for over 25 years. He is an experienced classroom and field instructor who has led workshops in locations such as Arizona's slot canyons, southwest Colorado, Crested Butte, Rocky Mountain National Park and Grand Teton National Park. His photography emphasizes the use of light and graphic design. Lloyd's work has appeared in many books and magazines. Lloyd will also be teaching a class through BCNA next summer.

For more information or directions, call Naseem or Mike at (303) 673-0933.

So, what happened at the retreat?

By Bruce Bland

On October 20th, the BCNA board and numerous members held a day long "retreat" to review our mission and evaluate our projects in a way we never have sufficient time for at regular board meetings. Much was discussed and accomplished.

Of central importance was the unanimous reaffirmation by all those present that the primary purpose of BCNA is to support and encourage the Preservation of Nature in Boulder County. We accomplish this mission by engaging in research, education and conservation-oriented activism.

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Extra copies of the newsletter are available from the BCNA or sometimes at the Wild Bird Center.

To submit BCNA-related material to the editor, email susanwinter@qwest.net or call 303-581-0783.





jan

Saturday, January 26: Annual Meeting and elections at Mike & Naseem's house at 6:00 p.m. The potluck theme this year is CARIBBEAN - hot, sizzling, sweet, and full of sunshine! See cover article for more details. For directions, call Naseem or Mike at (303) 673-0933.

Sunday, March 3: Contemplative breakfast walk at Sawhill Ponds Wildlife Area. Enjoy an hour or so of silent observation followed by a subdued but convivial potluck breakfast. Bring finger food to share. Meet at Sawhill Ponds parking area, west of 75th Street between Valmont and Jay roads at 8AM. Return around 11AM. Leader: Steve Jones (303-494-2468).

Opportunity Knocks . . .

We're looking for three energetic members to serve as treasurer, member at large on next year's BCNA Board of Directors and to maintain the website. If you have been thinking of becoming more involved, please give one of us a call or email us at mail@bcna.org. No particular experience is necessary (although it would be preferable that the treasurer have good computer skills plus experience with spreadsheets or accounts and the web coordinator also have good computer skills plus experience with the internet or web maintenance).

We're always thrilled to have new members join the Board. We meet approximately five times a year, generally Sunday afternoons. Meetings usually last two hours and are followed by a potluck dinner. Most board members are involved with one or more of the following activities: attending public hearings; helping out with education, field trips, or the newsletter; helping to organize the annual ecosystem symposium; or organizing parties and retreats. Please contact us before January 15 if you'd like to serve.

We would like to thank C. Richard Moulton for his gift of \$100 given in memory of his daughter Dee.

Did you catch the Leonids?

I trotted up old Baldy and plopped down on the ground with my astrophysicist friend and his Southwest Research Associates and Fisk Planetarium pals. There I listened to the PhDs "ooh" and "ahhh" just like the rest of us! It reminded me of 4th of July fireworks.

– Marty Dick

I watched the meteor shower from a sleeping bag out in my back yard in northwest Boulder (in the city limits). I watched from about 3:30 to 4:00. Other than being totally awesome in every way, what struck me was the quiet: Here was this incredible light show with no noise!

– Carron Meaney

No matter what direction we looked, we saw meteors falling in that section of sky. Even when we started getting really cold, we couldn't bring ourselves to go inside, because the meteors were so amazing!

– Dana Kelly

The sky was still obscured to the west, but luckily, the show was to the east. We pulled off onto a dirt farm road and stood outside by the highway. The first car that passed honked like they knew what we were up to.

– Bev Baker

I parked beside the road (tried 3 different spots) and threw a camp mattress on the ground to lie on. Although I didn't position myself well for a 360 view, and the sky was light, I still saw up to 5 meteors a minute sometimes and saw 3 at once a couple of times.

– Susan Harris

We hung on and were very rewarded. Meteors were wonderful all night. They appeared in all directions. Sometimes the eye attempted to see three or more at one time. Some were short and brief and a few were great fat fireballs, sizzling by and leaving smoke trails that lingered.

– Maddy Goldhawk

The globe of the sky was bright enough to see up four, five, or six meteors at once in the peak hour. Some were a mere thought. Other streaked across the darkness leaving long contrails, sometimes ending with a brilliant pulse of light, like the end-magnificence of a firework.

– Ann Cooper



Retreat: continued from cover page

It is our small, but active and engaged membership that helps us accomplish this goal. Thank you all!

HISTORY: The retreat began with a presentation of BCNA's history. Years ago, research by our founders and early members indicated that certain regions in the county were of great value to our natural heritage (e.g. Rabbit Mountain, Hall and Heil Ranches, and numerous other areas). It took considerable effort, but now, thanks to BCNA's early leaders, researchers and activists, many of these lands are in open space programs. The history presentation was followed by a detailed review of all of BCNA's projects in the areas of Research, Education and Activism.

RESEARCH: We have numerous active research programs initiated and conducted by interested members. These projects are of prime importance as we strive for protection of nature. BCNA's persuasiveness lies in our ability to bring high quality irrefutable research data to the policy table. Our Indian Peaks seasonal bird counts are now 20 years old and involve 50 volunteers. We also have a new program which focuses on rare and/or declining bird species. Fifty BCNA volunteers monitor them carefully. Our bird banding program at the Allegra-Collister preserve has banded over eight thousand birds in 11 years. Research generated from this program is particularly important because there are very few bird banding programs in the entire Rocky Mountain west despite the many species we have here. We soon will be initiating a mammal inventory and monitoring program. Our "environmental conservation areas" program is seeking to evaluate and protect important wildlife migration corridors throughout Boulder County. Everyone at the retreat was pleased by the high quality of our research efforts.

EDUCATION: Our education projects strive to help everyone learn and enjoy the many fascinating stories our complex world of life has to teach us. Helping citizens understand that the value of nature extends far beyond its aesthetic beauty makes education a crucial element in our conservation advocacy efforts.

There are numerous programs in the our education sector. BCNA's nature classes are the result of a partnership between highly skilled teachers and our education committee. These classes often fill to the maximum. The education committee hopes to expand this program with new classes on additional topics. We will be focusing more effort on connecting students with other BCNA projects they may be interested in.

Our informal nature hikes continue to be fun and informative for everyone who participates. We will continue to schedule these regularly. We are all very pleased by the

high quality of our newsletter. It is an important vehicle for the dissemination of timely nature-related information and events. By all accounts, our most recent ecosystem symposium was the best ever. We had exceptional speakers and a format which everyone seemed to like. Interestingly, this symposium evolved from a round table discussion of research projects by active researchers who met in a "back room" setting.

CONSERVATION ACTIVISM: This is our toughest challenge. Most people don't join BCNA to speak out at political hearings or write letters to our elected representatives. But, unfortunately, in a democracy, where there are other interests with designs on the land, this is what it currently takes to preserve and protect nature. One BCNA member who is also on a county board pointed out that often environmental votes come down to a "count of noses" at critical hearings. We need to be at these hearings. Because the threats to nature are now larger than ever before, a new "conservation committee" was formed to help direct and effect our conservation efforts.

Just by chance we happen to live in one of the most biologically diverse inland areas of the United States. Boulder County's natural heritage is unique and irreplaceable, but so often under-appreciated. BCNA intends to increase our efforts to better understand it, teach others about it and fight for it politically. That was a clear message from the retreat. And, we expect success. As one of our founders mentioned during the history presentation, "BCNA has accomplished more per capita than any other group around." Indeed, all of us are working, in many ways, contributing our individual talents, to carry on our mission. As we look back at what we've done, this little group can be mighty proud. We're on the right track.



Ecosystem 2002: Issues at the Urban-Nature Interface

This spring the popular BCNA Ecosystem Symposium will again present the results of recent research on the natural ecosystems in Boulder County. The theme this year is "Issues at the Urban-Nature Interface." The talks are presented by the investigators themselves and are targeted to a general audience. The symposium is free and everyone is welcome to attend. This year the symposium will be held Friday, March 22nd from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Boulder Public Library Auditorium. Mark your calendar for this very interesting and informative event.





Black-tailed Prairie Dogs

By Jim McKee



Sport shooting of black-tailed prairie dogs was prohibited beginning September 1, 2001. Since shooting is still allowed on private lands when damage is occurring, this is, in essence, a ban on shooting on public lands. One of the positive results of this action is that we will be able to see whether prairie dog populations on National Grasslands recover or whether it was plague rather than shooting that was suppressing populations.

The pilot Landowner Incentive Program, which will pay landowners not to control prairie dogs on dry grasslands, is now in place. As you may remember, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) has a total of \$600,000 available from GOCO for this program. This money must be spent within three years. Four county Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) have agreed to act as leasing agents for CDOW. They will take competitive bids, evaluate the suitability of habit, and sign contracts with the winning landowners. \$40 million has been designated for fiscal year 2002 Interior Department Appropriations Grants through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to state fish and wildlife agencies for landowner incentive programs. This money will be distributed through competitively awarded grants to states and territories to establish, or supplement existing landowner incentive programs.

Preliminary aerial survey results for northeast Colorado will be available in December to give us a comparison with EDAW acreage data. The acreage target work group established by CDOW is continuing to meet to establish long term acreage goals for active black-tailed prairie dog colonies in Colorado. We are attempting, at the same time to set rules for

what restrictions might be applied (or lifted) when acreage falls below or exceeds certain specified levels.

A preliminary prairie dog management plan is being developed by CDOW personnel and will be available by early 2002. A stakeholder group of all interested parties will be established to revise or modify this plan in order to reach a consensus among interested stakeholders. This activity will be moderated or facilitated by personnel from the CDOW Human Dimensions Group. Judging from past efforts of this kind, this could well be a long and arduous process.

CARA Light?

By Jim McKee

After the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) failed to pass the senate in fiscal year 2000, backers successfully included \$50 million in the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill. This funding has been made available to state wildlife agencies for Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP) grant proposals. All of the \$1 million plus that was allocated to Colorado will be used to support non-consumptive wildlife related projects. \$520,000 was allocated to species conservation projects, \$99,000 to wildlife recreation projects, and \$340,500 to wildlife education projects. Kathy Imel of Denver Audubon and I were invited by CDOW to participate in developing a list of recommended projects for funding.

The following projects were chosen out of an original, pre-screened list of thirty-nine proposals. The projects are listed in order of ranking along with the project lead agency or group. Other groups, sometimes several, are partners in most of these projects.

- Bats in inactive mines - evaluation and gates. *CDOW*
- Tamarisk and Russian Olive mapping. *The Nature Conservancy*



- Project Colony Watch. *Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO)*
- PCR testing of Boreal Toads. *CDOW* (This is a more accurate test for chytrid fungus, a possible cause of boreal toad decline.)
- Preble's meadow jumping mouse inventory. *CDOW (The Colorado Wildlife Alliance is a partner in this activity.)*
- Gunnison sage grouse movements. *CDOW*
- Glade Park conservation easement. *Mesa Land Trust*
- Private land habitat improvement. *American Farmland Trust*
- Prairie Conservation Workshops. *RMBO and Chico Basin Ranch*
- Small Mammals Atlas. *CDOW*
- Boreal toad hibernation. *CDOW* (A study of the role of hibernation in boreal toad captive breeding operations)
- Mountain plover use of agricultural land. *CDOW*

To put the benefits of WCRP funding in perspective, total funds raised through the Colorado state income tax check-off program for non-game funding usually range between \$500,000 and \$600,000 annually. Anyone who wonders what projects didn't make the cut can feel free to call me at (303)494-3393. However, I will tell you at the outset that the CDOW leadership team approved the list of projects chosen by the review team.



Bald Eagle Winter Nest at White Rocks

By Steve Jones

From the White Rocks Trail, looking west a mile or so, you can see a giant nest dangling over the limb of an old cottonwood just south of Boulder Creek. This nest has hosted several occupants during the past three years. It was originally constructed by a pair of red-tailed hawks. It has been augmented and frequently visited during the last two winters by a pair of mature bald eagles. Last spring a pair of great horned owls took up residence in the nest, raising two young.

Bald eagles often construct "winter nests" that are never used for the rearing of young. It could be that in some bald eagles the nesting instinct kicks in before the migrating instinct, or that the act of defending winter foraging territories somehow stimulates the nest-building instinct prematurely. Over the past 10 years, I've seen winter nests at Haystack Mountain, Lykins Gulch, and south of St. Vrain Creek, but so far, there has been no documented nesting (laying eggs and rearing young) of bald eagles in Boulder County.

The nearest nest sites are at Barr Lake State Park and Stanley Lake. Eventually, young from one of those nests may establish a nesting territory somewhere in Boulder County. But for now, it's most likely that the bald eagles at White Rocks will carry sticks to the nest, stand around on the nest, even copulate on the nest--but abandon it once the strengthening rays of the sun lure them northward.

Nevertheless, eagle watching from the White Rocks Trail should be rewarding throughout the winter. On December 1 participants in a BCNA raptor ecology class observed the two adults standing on the nest and then swooping and diving over the White Rocks with three immatures (their offspring from up north?) for over an hour.

Highlights from High Country Nature Notes

By Dave Hallock

The year 2001 could be called "The Year of the Painted Lady Butterfly." They had an unusually large migration this year out of Mexico. We first started seeing them around Nederland during the last week of April, and high numbers persisted throughout the mountains all summer.

This was also a great year for the White-lined Sphinx Moth, the large "hummingbird-like" moth that hovered over blooming flowers, protruding its long proboscis to extract nectar.

Many types of flowering plants seemed to be in a hurry this year. Pasqueflowers were blooming on the tundra of Bald Mountain in early May. The brilliant colors from sulphurflowers and locoweeds on the Arapaho Ranch were a few weeks early. The noxious weed yellow toadflax showed where it needed to be pulled at the end of July, a full month ahead of last year. Arctic Gentians were blooming on the tundra during the first week of August.

This was a good year for native warm-season grasses. Mountain muhly, one of our dominant though sensitive native grasses, had a good year of growth and seed production.

Aspens had a brilliant but short period of fall color. A late spring freeze damaged leaves of various aspen patches.

Some of the aspen leaves never quite recovered during the summer, staying a dull green with a tinge of brown. When fall came, some of these patches never turned color; others did but rapidly fell off the trees.

On a down note, the noxious weed diffuse knapweed is gaining more footholds around the Nederland area. Six new locations have been found in the past two years; all of them related to construction and road improvement projects.

As always, there were some interesting bird sightings this summer. For myself, the most unusual observations were of Brewer's sparrows and sage thrashers in the stunted trees and shrubs just below the tundra on the flanks of Bald and Niwot mountains.

The Indian Peaks Bird Counts concluded their 20th year this fall. We are starting to piece together some trends. Corvids (jays, crows, ravens, magpies, nutcrackers), because of their ability to live comfortably around people and take advantage of resources we provide, are increasing. Some neotropical migrants (flycatchers, warblers, tanagers) are declining, possibly because of impacts from corvids and mid-sized mammals (raccoons, fox squirrels, house cats), which also increase in number around people.



Bird Banding 101

By Ann Cooper

Back in spring I interviewed Joe Harrison and his Allegra Collister Reserve banding team. Their enthusiasm was contagious. Their stories of birds in bags, pooping robins, feisty, pecking chickadees, and of what one learned from having birds-in-hand, were irresistible. So when Joe offered a bird banding class, I jumped at the chance.

The first evening of theory introduces methods, equipment, and reasons for banding. "How many birds do you think are banded? How many are recovered [meaning reported dead]?" Joe asks. Fifty-seven million, about 1.1 million a year, we learn. Roughly 65,000, some 5-5.5% are recovered each year and, with recaptures (those caught in mist nets a second time), they serve to build a database of dispersal and migration patterns, longevity, and relative populations from year to year.

A look at the bander's tool chest offers us hints of things to come in the two field sessions: coded silver bands from minute to chunky; special pliers to hold and close bands; gauges to measure wing cord (the distance from wrist to primary tip); short straws to blow feathers aside to check for molt. I go homeseething with excitement, and apprehension, eager to try the real thing.

We meet at Allegra Collister Reserve on a brilliant, but chilly morning. As the sun hits the sides of the gully, birds began to twitter and forage. A net check yields a white-crowned sparrow, looking like a scrap of dead leaf caught in the wispy net pocket. It's claws are thoroughly tangled and it hangs on for dear life. With skill and patience, it is soon untangled and popped into a small cloth bag for transport to the banding shelter.

Moments later, weighed, measured, identified as a "first-year Gambels white-crowned," photographed, band-

ed, and logged in the record-book, it flies off to a nearby hawthorn bush to preen. The experienced banders handle several delicate bird - ruby-crowned kinglet, a couple of warblers - and it's a thrill to see those tiny birds up close.

"Birds are escape artists," Joe warns, so when my turn comes to band, I cautiously delve into the cloth bag to remove my bird, another white-crowned sparrow, with the approved grip. "Escapes cost you a quarter." I am encouraged as I slip the band over the sparrow's stick-like leg and squeeze. Not enough! The band has a gap, enough to catch on objects and possibly jeopardize the bird. It takes gentle but firm action, I learn.

Later, the catching slows and we begin to furl nets. We find six sparrows in one net in the gully. I get to untangle one, slipping my index and middle finger over its thighs and steadying it with gentle thumb pressure as I tug the net away. I mutter the mantra of banding. . .make sure you untangle from the correct side of the net (the side from which the bird approached). Don't ever try to ease a bird through the net. Untangle claws first, then wings. I have a moment of anxiety when my bird snatches the net with its beak and it snags on the bird's tongue. "Fingernails,"

The next weekend is hawk time. We use a wire box booby-trapped with nylon loops intended to catch a raptor's talons when it swoops down for the lure. But this is not the day; too windy? We have magnificent watching, but no capture; something to look forward to next time?

Joe has banded at Allegra Collister for eleven years and his experience



Naseem and Mike band their first white-crowned sparrow

is impressive. Even more impressive is the friendly way he and his volunteers shared so much information and enthusiasm. A truly marvelous class. Thanks!

Upcoming Classes

Winter Ecology

Instructor:

Joyce Gellhorn

Dates:

Thurs., March 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
indoor class

Sat., March 9, 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
skiing or snow shoeing

Tuition:

\$40 (\$35 for BCNA members)
Limited to 16 participants.

For more info or to register:

Call Joyce at (303) 442-8123, or email at jgellhorn@sprynet.com.

For information on future classes, visit our website at www.bcna.org.





2001: An Open Space Odessey

By Tina Nielsen, BCPOS

2001 was a busy year for county open space acquisition staff. County POS purchased more than 5,000 acres in 50 separate property transactions, spending over \$30 million. This flurry of activity was possible thanks to voters' approval in November 2000 of the proposal to extend the existing 0.10% county recycling tax for eight years for open space purposes.

Mountain Properties

Caribou Ranch II Conservation Easements: Purchased jointly with the City of Boulder, this 1,029 acre conservation easement, located north of Nederland and adjacent to Caribou Ranch and Mud Lake, includes riparian values, transitional range for a herd of elk along with many other mammals, and up to 88 breeding bird species.

Ellis and Walls Properties: Located northwest of Eldora, on the eastern edge of the Indian Peaks Wilderness area, the Ellis and Walls Properties will be designated Environmental Conservation Areas and Open Roadside Corridors.

Kraft Property: The approximately 134 acre property claims, located along the Fourmile Creek in Fourmile Canyon, near Wall Street, offers a large meadow in the upper portion to help preserve the Fourmile Creek area as an open corridor and a stream habitat connector.

Log Cabin Mining Lode: In the Roosevelt National Forest, east of the Peak to Peak Highway in the Allenspark area, the property is situated in the middle of a beautiful meadow with stunning, unobstructed 360 degree views of all of the mountains and snowcapped peaks in the area.

Neumann Property: Providing a link from County Road 83 to the Petersen open space and BLM properties, this property is situated at the headwaters of Fourmile Canyon Creek and houses the popular recreational area, Sunshine Saddle.

Agriculture and Urban Buffer

Adler/Fingru Property: Within the City of Lafayette, this property is currently vacant land under agricultural lease but has been zoned for medium density residential development. This land will create an open space buffer between neighboring cities while limiting development along Coal Creek.

Enright Property: Located on the east side of 87th Street just south of Woodland Road, this acquisition will represent a continuous line of open space property stretching for over 2 miles starting with the Yoakum con-

servation easement on the north and ending with the Redrock outlot on the South.

IBM Property: Located north of the IBM plant, adjacent to Dodd Reservoir and the Dodd Farm Open Space, This land will help the County with its expansion of contiguous preserved lands along the Diagonal Highway's view corridor in the Niwot area.

Mayhoffer Property: In the southeast corner of the intersection of South 104th Street and State Highway 42, the property was designated for rural preservation and will serve as an important buffer.

Suits Property: Containing irrigated farmland, rolling grassland, two ponds, and a significant wetland area, the purchase of this property, located at the southwest corner of 75th Street and Nelson Road, most likely prevented it from being developed.



Procession of the Species Celebration 2002

By Joni Teter

The Procession of the Species is an artistic celebration of the natural world, created by the community, using the media of art, music and dance to give the natural world a greater presence on our streets. Designed as a cultural/environmental exchange rather than an entertainment event, it involves people of all walks of life regardless of age, experience or background.

The Procession started in Olympia, Washington in 1995. Last year, this event drew 3,000 participants and 25,000 spectators in Olympia! This year's Procession will be hosted in 20 cities - including Boulder.

Organization for this April event is now underway, and we need your help! Boulder organizers are soliciting help in a variety of areas, from sponsorship, to art materials, to fundraising, to volunteer participation on the day of the parade. Caroline McLean is the Procession Coordinator and can be reached by phone at 303-524-9489 or by email at ccm@indra.com. The Boulder Procession of the Species Celebration is a project of the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center BEAR cooperative, coordinated by Betty Ball 303-444-6981.



Center for Native Ecosystems, a Boulder-based grassroots conservation group, is pleased to announce the hiring of Jacob Smith as its Executive Director. Jacob, a Boulder County Nature Association board member, is joining Staff Biologist Erin Robertson in the CNE's efforts to protect and recover the native biological diversity of the Greater Southern Rockies and Plains. CNE uses the best available science to forward its mission through participation in policy, administrative processes, legal action, public outreach and organizing, and education. Current projects include a campaign to protect the white-tailed prairie dog, a campaign to protect rare plants and plant communities in the South Park region of central Colorado, and other projects advocating for species such as the Mexican spotted owl and the desert yellowhead (a sunflower in central Wyoming). You can learn more about CNE at their web site: www.nativeecosystems.org.

The Birds of Prey Foundation is opening a thrift shop at 1140 Pine St., Louisville on January 9th and could use donations of clothing, dishes, knick knacks, tools, books, etc. They also need volunteers to sell, sort, price and organize. Please contact Sigrid or Debbie at 303-460-0674 if you can help.

Open Space and Mountain Parks is currently looking for volunteers to help monitor raptor nest sites along the Front Range. Volunteers would have the unique opportunity to witness the courtship, nest development and fledging of local birds of prey. We are looking for people who are skilled at bird identification, and can make a four-hour commitment a week. Hiking to the nest sites can be strenuous. Nests are typically occupied from February until late July. For more information and an application (due the third Friday in January), call Lisa Dierauf at 720-564-2014.



Friends of the Arapaho - Roosevelt National Forest

The Arapaho - Roosevelt National Forest (ARNF) remains one of only two forests in Colorado without a unified citizens' group to watch over it. Just imagine how much we could accomplish if current environmental and recreation groups, along with interested individuals, began to collaborate, share information and identify issues of concern to us all.

The Southern Rockies Forest Network (www.southernrockies.org) is now working to put together this group; so far, we have seen a lot of interest from groups such as the Sierra Club and the Colorado Mountain Club.

This winter, we will bring people together in a variety of venues to meet one another, discuss current issues in the ARNF, and brainstorm ways for the group to take shape. By spring, we hope to have a solid group who will make the "Friends of the ARNF" a reality, along with a comprehensive list of volunteer opportunities which already exist within the forest, thereby linking the many groups which are doing such good work in our forest.

Like the idea? Want to get involved? Your time commitment for the Friends group will be very manageable (we promise!). Initially, we will communicate mostly by email and in very occasional local get-togethers. You will have the opportunity to interact with others who share your interests and together work toward creative solutions for ongoing forest - related issues.

Get in touch! Lisa Dale is the Southern Rockies Forest Network's organizer for the ARNF. You can reach her at dalel@cmc.org or 970-227-9407.

Boulder Chapter of the Colorado Native Plant Society

Join us for free programs on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks offices, 66 South Cherryvale Road. For more information, contact Chapter President Kathy Damas at 303.543.1492.

Thursday January 10, 2002

Vegetation of Mongolia; Similarities to Colorado Flora

Gwen Kittel, a terrestrial ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, will be showing slides of her travels that will compare the Asiatic climate, landscape and flora to our own.

Thursday February 14, 2002

Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site - Flora, Ecology, And Resource Management

Jody Nelson (Botanist/Plant Ecologist for Exponent, Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site) will discuss the flora, ecology, and challenges of resource management at Rocky Flats.

Thursday March 14, 2002

Growing Natives In The Landscape

Mikl Brawner's talk will focus on discussion about the plants themselves and a few tips for successfully growing them in the home landscape.

Thursday April 11, 2002

Gardening And More To Invite Wildlife Into Your Backyard

Ali Steimke, NWF Field Education Coordinator, will focus on the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ program and how you can create wildlife friendly backyards. Ali will discuss ways to successfully incorporate the four basic wildlife needs – food, water, cover and a place to raise young - into your landscape.



2001 BCNA Board of Directors

President Bruce Bland 303-499-8612
Vice President Mike Figgs 303-447-1899
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For the latest news and in-depth discussions on issues of interest to BCNA members

For more information, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nature-net>

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Committees & Contacts

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Cliff Nesting Raptors	Nan Lederer	303-447-1899
Education Committee	Naseem Munshi	303-673-0933
Indian Peaks Bird Counts	Dave Hallock	303-258-3672
	Bill Kaempfer	303-939-8005
National Forest Management	Tim Hogan	303-444-5577
Newsletter	Susan Winter	303-581-0783
Open Space Liaisons	Jacob Smith	303-247-0998
Parties, Special Events	Naseem Munshi	303-673-0933
State and Regional Wildlife Issues	Jim McKee	303-494-3393
Winter Raptor Survey	Steve Jones	303-494-2468

Artwork Credits, Acknowledgements, Etc.

Page 5: Eagle - John Herron, eaglestock.com; Page 7: "Procession of the Species" graphic, Earth & Spirit Council, Portland Oregon website



Support the Boulder County Nature Association

Name _____

Address _____

Phone, Fax or Email (optional) _____

Type of Membership:

- Student/Senior (65 and over) \$10
- General Member \$15
- Family or Household \$20
- Supporter \$30
- Subscriber \$50
- Founder \$100
- Life Member \$300

The membership year is January 1 to December 31.
(Members who join after October 1 are considered paid through the following year.)

All members receive this quarterly newsletter.

Please make checks payable to "Boulder County Nature Association" or "BCNA" and mail to:
P.O. Box 493
Boulder CO, 80306

Thanks for your support!



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