

MAY 11, 2022

**News from BOULDER COUNTY  
NATURE ASSOCIATION***Our mission: To conserve resilient natural  
ecosystems in our region through  
science, education, and advocacy***It's time to brush up on your forestry knowledge!  
Join BCNA and the Left Hand Watershed Center to learn  
more about forest management in our area.****Forest Ecology, Collaborative Forest Management, and  
Defensible Space Webinar****Wildfire Partners, Chiara Forrester, and Scott Heffernan**

Boulder County Nature Association and Left Hand Watershed Center have joined forces to bring you a series of classes on forest ecology and fire mitigation. Each class will focus on a different topic, so participants can attend one or any combination. In this evening talk on Zoom, we will provide an overview of some general forest ecology principles, the legacy of fire suppression and changes in the forest that have occurred, and the desired future conditions ecologists see for our forests. We will also discuss the current work that is occurring in the St. Vrain Watershed across many partners and communities to respond to forest management needs across boundaries. Lastly, Wildfire Partners, a resource for homeowners in Boulder County, will provide an overview of defensible space principles, and resources available to home/landowners.

**Wildfire Partners** is a wildfire mitigation program to help mountain and foothills homeowners in Boulder County, Colorado prepare for wildfire. Wildfire Partners, part of Boulder County's Community Planning & Permit Department, is a nationally recognized model for wildfire mitigation that is incorporated into Boulder County's building code.

**Chiara Forrester** is the Forest Program Manager for the Left Hand Watershed Center, a non-profit based in Boulder County that works to protect and restore watersheds using a collaborative and science-based approach. The Watershed Center is the coordinating entity of the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, a collaborative of 100+ agencies, organizations, stakeholders, and communities whose vision is to restore the resiliency of forests and communities in the St. Vrain Watershed. Chiara is an ecologist, and her PhD at CU-Boulder focused on the impacts of climate change on alpine plants and the use of science in land-management decisions.

**Scott Heffernan** is an Associate Conservation Forester with the Boulder Valley and Longmont Conservation Districts. He is an ecologist and geographic scientist who helps increase the resilience of our forests across both public and private lands through developing forest management plans. He has a Master's degree in forest remote sensing and geographic science, and has years of experience working across diverse ecosystems, from stingray population genetics and Northern Spotted Owl surveying to invasive plant management.

**Webinar: June 22nd, 5:30-7pm****Registration: [Opens May 11th on Eventbrite](#)****Tuition: \$10****Forest Forensics Field Trip****St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, Left Hand Watershed Center, and  
Jonas Feinstein**

Boulder County Nature Association and Left Hand Watershed Center have joined forces to bring you a series of classes on forest ecology and fire mitigation. Each class will focus on a different topic, so participants can attend one or any combination. On this forest forensics field trip, we will talk about how ecologists and foresters use on-the-ground observations and historical data to understand what a "healthy forest" should look like in a given location. Participants will walk away with more knowledge of how to get a glance into the past and desired future conditions of the forest through observations. This includes observations of old tree stumps, productivity gradients (soil moisture gradients and associated plant productivity), and topography. We hope you'll join us to get one step closer to being a "forest detective"!

**Jonas Feinstein** is a West Regional Conservation Forester with the USDA's National Resource Conservation Service. He has worked with the NRCS for over 12 years, and works to advance a science based multi-resource approach to achieve traditional forestry and ecology based goals. Through critical partnerships, he collaborates to develop and integrate conservation planning tools that appropriately, effectively and efficiently address resource concerns related to the sustainability and resilience of Colorado's forests and ecosystem services, that include soil, water, air, plant, animal, human, and cultural resources.

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**Field Class: June 25th, 9 am – noon****Registration: [Opens May 11 on Eventbrite](#)****Tuition: \$30. Limited to 14 participants.****SUPPORT BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION**

A big thank you to all who currently support BCNA! Without your assistance, we would not be able to accomplish all that we do for our community and for the natural world around us. Memberships for the calendar year renew in November and December, but you can renew for next year any time.

Please consider renewing today if you have not already done so.

New members are always welcome!

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