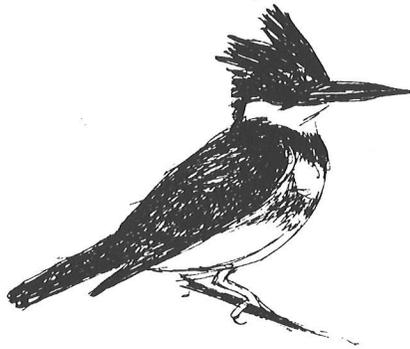


December 23rd. White Rocks Trail.  
0°. Clear. Dawn approaching.  
Crunchy snow underfoot.  
Powdery vapor crystals on every blade, branch, and twiglet.  
Familiar mountain profiles turning rosy red with the first sunrays.  
Communion.



*Tally for the creature-watchers:*

- 3 red-tailed hawks
- 3-4 eagles (too distant to know which)
- 2-3 kingfishers
- 1 northern shrike
- 1 blue heron
- 1 harrier
- 1 killdeer
- a symmetry of snow-geese, maybe 15
- several flickers and countless tree sparrows, magpies, starlings, Canada geese, mallards
- group of white-tailed deer

*Special sighting:*

- 1 kingflasher (all)
- 2 vultures (Lynn)
- 2 condors (Roger--not to be outdone)
- 1 reticulated flycatcher (Steve)
- several red-naped burrisuckers (all)

*Note:* no eggnog was consumed by participants at any point, even during breakfast at Rev. Niwot's in Taylor.

The scenery is spectacular, the snow superb (we hope), and the company congenial. The annual BCNA ski trip to the Mt. Elbert Lodge in Twin Lakes is guaranteed to be a memorable event. Join us on Feb. 2 - 4.

Accommodations at the historic stage stop bed and breakfast are luxurious (for BCNA!), and we've reserved all 6 rooms, accommodating up to 14 people. The breakfasts are bodacious. Our potluck dinner Saturday evening will be sure to provide a few delicious surprises.

Ask anyone who has attended for impressions of previous trips. They'll tell you about... gorgeous skiing 8 miles up a wilderness valley... incredible snow... cruddy snow... too much snow... thrashing around in willow bogs up to our waist in snow... being stuck for hours in a blizzard on I-70... having a bonus day skiing in two feet of new powder.. All these impressions are accurate, depending on which year you attended.

What will it be like this year? Who knows! Be adventurous and sign up. Send a check for \$45 per person (which covers both nights) to Marty Dick, 3992 Sunshine Canyon, Boulder 80302. Checks received before January 20th will be "confirmed reservations" in the order received. Additional people will be put on a waiting list. ***(Lodging costs can only be refunded if replacement people can be found).*** Call Marty at 444-0473 for more information.

**See inside:**

Calendar.....	page 2
Action! options.....	page 3
The Raptor's Eye, mini and maxi-reports.....	page 5
Ecosystem Symposium 1996.....	page 9



## BCNA CALENDAR - WINTER TO SPRING

- Sat.  
Jan. 13  
8:00 am
- **Coordinated winter raptor survey day.** A team of "experts" (plus other interested parties) will survey each of the routes. Surveying all routes under the same weather conditions and time constraints will help reduce the variability of our data, as part of an experiment to see what changes we might make to expand the uses of our data. We hope to repeat this experiment again twice, but you do not have to commit to all three. To participate, call Holly Devaul, 786-0479, or email devaul@horton.colorado.edu.

- Mon.  
Jan. 15
- **Mt. Elbert registration deadline.** See page 1 for details.

- Sat.  
Jan. 20  
6:00 pm
- **Annual potluck and membership meeting.** Bring a dish and a drink to share and, if you wish, some slides of a past adventure which evokes good or exciting or funny memories. Elections will be held and a very short informal board meeting afterwards. Location: home of Roger Jakoubek, 3065 24th St., Boulder. Tel 449-3503.

- Sat.  
Jan. 27  
7:00 am
- **Sneak assault on Niwot Ridge** for purposes of birdcounting for the Indian Peaks winter count, as well as to see how far up we can get on skis or snowshoes. Can we beat the record? Join Linda and friends, but call for details and last-minute plan changes: 543-9404. Gourmet fudge guaranteed to all participants.

- Weekend  
Feb. 2-4
- **Mt. Elbert Expedition.** See page 1 for details.

- Sat.  
Feb. 17  
Midnight
- **Mystery destination <sup>secular</sup> ~~angel~~ voodoo field trip.** Bring a tiny effigy of your favorite local or national bureaucrat, sadducee, pontiff, pundit or pooh-bah to hang on a bush in an unspecified location on non-public property. P.S. Just kidding.

- Sat.  
Feb. 24  
8:00 am - 11:00
- **Mystery seed eater field trip.** Outing to mystery location to look for seed-eating creatures. Call Steve Jones for directions, tel. 494-2468.

- Sat.  
Mar. 16  
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
- **5th annual Ecosystem Symposium.** Theme: "Finding Common Ground: Recreational use of natural lands in Boulder County." See page 9 for details.

### 1995 BCNA Board *(outgoing members in italics)*

President: *Tim Hogan (444-5577)*  
V.P.: *Scott Severs (442-1322)*  
Treasurer: *Dan Murphy (499-2771)*  
Secretary: *Marty Dick (444-0743)*  
Members-at-large:  
Bev Johnson (938-8483)  
Cherie Long (447-0922)  
Jim McKee (494-3393)  
Roger Jakoubek (449-3503)  
*Mike Figgs (447-1899)*

### 1995 Committee Representatives *(subject to revision after Jan. meeting)*

Prairie dogs - Randy Gietzen (530-4355)  
Ind. Peaks Bird Count - Dave Hallock (258-3672)  
Bodr. Cnty Land Trust - Joe Mantione (417-0948)  
Field Trips - Steve Jones (494-2468)  
Col. Envir. Coalition - Jim McKee (494-3393)  
Trails; Partners in flight - Scott Severs (442-1322)  
Newsletter - Linda Andes-Georges (543-9404)

### Lining up for the Turkey Shoot

Elections for Board of Directors members, in small associations like this one, tend to be a bit casual, especially if candidates are scarce. But we are always excited to have new people, new energy, and new perspectives joining us. We invite YOU to do so.

Our by-laws require seven to nine members on the Board. Candidates for current open positions (to date) are:

President--Scott Severs  
Vice-president--Steve Jones  
Treasurer--  
at-large--Tom Delaney, Holly Devaul,  
Christine Crandall

If you would like to be a candidate for a position, please call a member of our nominating committee (Naseem, 673-0933, Nan, 447-1899, Roger, 449-3503) and submit your name. Elections will be held at the annual potluck dinner on Jan. 20th (see schedule, at left). **Please note that we are in dire need of a Treasurer. Talented--or even merely motivated--number-crunchers would be particularly welcome!**

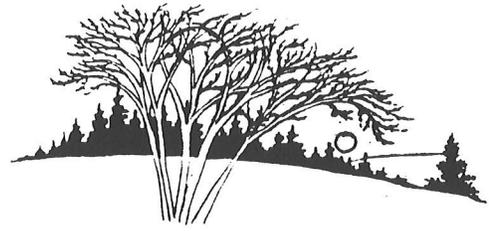


# ACTION! OPTIONS

Things we can do now for a positive impact on wild creatures and natural places.

## Utah

The strength of the Boulder County Nature Association rests in its focus upon our home region. Nevertheless, because so many of our members have an abiding relationship with the wild lands of Utah, we include this call to action.



## PUMA: not restricted to Cats

Anti-wilderness bills have been introduced by the Utah congressional delegation that will make 90% of Utah's wildlands available for development, opening 20.2 out of 22 million acres and never allowing them to be considered for wilderness again. The House version (H.R. 1745) has passed out of committee and will be up for vote in the Senate soon (S. 884). An alternative bill, the American Redrock Wilderness Act (H.R. 1500) has been offered by Utah conservationists for the protection of 5.7 million acres. Although 70% of Utah's population supports this latter legislation, the congressional delegation, in complicity with the extractive industries, has pushed for the current proposal.

Last year in response to the incipient revision of the Forest Service Management Plan, a group of Magnolia Road residents joined together to give the USFS citizen input from that area. That process is still ongoing since the draft plan has not yet come out. However, the original group of residents has developed into a permanent association which has adopted a name with the acronym, "PUMA," for the Preserve Unique Magnolia Assoc.

**What we can do:** Senator Campbell has been ambivalent about his stance on this issue despite an unprecedented response from Coloradans in support of Utah wilderness. Call and/or write him today and ask him to vote against S.884. [The Hon. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20500; tel. 303-866-1900/ 202-224-5852]

Recognizing the unique ecosystem in the area along Magnolia Road, as well as the pressures of growth and development there, PUMA is concerned about preserving a "reasonable balance" between human use and the natural environment. Members of the group hope to educate themselves and their neighbors to appreciate and care for their natural surroundings. To this end, PUMA has formed working groups around specific areas for action: Land Use (open space, trails, development), Transportation (roads, trails, DIA impact), Fire Mitigation (home protection, forest protection--including working with various fire and forest agencies--campfires, etc), and Wildlife/Ecosystems protection.

**Also,** urge President Clinton to veto the Utah Public Lands Management Act of 1995, H.R. 1745/S.884, and any other environmentally detrimental bills that reach his desk. [The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500]

The Eldora Plan is a model for long term efforts by this group. Help is needed from interested individuals, particularly in design and implementation of appropriate studies to delineate exactly what is in the area and how best to protect the resources. Speakers at monthly meetings, articles in the PUMA newsletter about wildlife, trails, and noxious weeds, and scheduling enviro-hikes have marked the group's early efforts. Call Cherie Long (447-0922) or Jennifer Stewart (442-7460) to join, help, or participate in any way. ...

*submitted by Cherie Long*

*Tim Hogan*





### For the Non-literati

No, of course we don't mean to imply that you are illiterate. But if, by chance, you are not fond of writing letters as your form of action, or if you are simply tired of penning pleas and protests to the current Congress, you might like to try getting outside for a bowlful of fresh air, and at the same time, adding to our accumulating "fowl" data.

**The Indian Peaks Bird Count** goes into its 15th year in 1996, as teams move into 25 sectors for the winter and then the spring counts. At present, many of the sectors have team leaders with crews who agree to meet four times a year, and while some leaders prefer small, intimate groups, others (like myself) prefer to have more eyes and ears in the group. The current open sectors are mostly those which are difficult to access in three of the four count seasons, but overcoming that challenge is part of the fun.

If you would like to adopt a sector, call Dave Hallock (258-3672). If you would like to join a current group, call Linda (543-9404), Bev (530-9934) or Tom (443-9418). ....LVAG



### In Which a Search is Organdized and Piglet nearly meets the Tangerous Danager

Unfortunately, if you are not a fan of Pooh Bear, you will not recall the famous search for the Heffalump. (See Book Bin, p. 11, for information on this sad flaw in your literary background). It is not too late for you to learn to enjoy such hunts. One which can bestow "Official Organdizer" status upon you is the Tanager Project, operated jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The Project began in 1993 as one of three National Science Experiments at the Cornell Lab, and was designed to involve birders across the continent in

scientific study, in this case, to address a critical question: Does forest fragmentation reduce the chances that these birds will breed successfully? (Even if you think you know the answer, as a good Scientist and "Organdizer," you must pretend total neutrality as you proceed).

Before Project Tanager began, other studies had suggested that Scarlet Tanagers in the East may not breed in small woodlots, but scientists know little about the forest patch-size requirements of Western, Summer, or Hepatic tanagers.

The goal of this project is to test the hypothesis that tanagers are more likely to breed successfully in large patches of forest than in small ones. The work of accumulating data depends on volunteer birders across the continent. In participating, people become part of a huge network of experienced volunteer researchers who can be called upon to study other important questions in the future. The ultimate goal, of course, is bird conservation.

A typical Tanager Project outing consists of visiting the forest patch to which you are assigned at several different times during the spring, breeding, and fall seasons. Clad in your "exoptition" (not necessarily Banana Republic) outfit, with a small tape recorder and good binoculars, you call and observe your "prey." You write down what you see and hear. You commune with nature, and if it's not against your religion, you get some exercise and a good tan. Often you see interesting things, both animal, plant, and human, that surprise you.

If you want to be an "Organdizer" too, call Bev. Baker at 530-9334. ....LVAG



### BCNA Abroad, Part I

One of the worker-bees of our association has been noticed--and even thanked for her efforts--in the media. Elaine Hill received the Daily Camera's "Monday Morning Rose" last month for helping a friend stricken with Lou Gehrig's disease to feel a connection with nature. Three cheers for the worker bees of the world, and for Elaine in particular!





## THE RAPTOR'S EYE

Mini- and maxi-reports on a variety of local issues.

### BCNA Abroad, Part II

Boulder area hikers should be delighted with the publication of Boulder Hiking Trails by association members Ruth Carol and Glen Cushman. This clearly written and well-illustrated guide to over 40 hikes in Boulder County includes nearly all Open Space hiking trails in both the plains and foothills. In addition, it lists 30 of the most frequented trails in the nearby mountains including Brainard Lake, Arapaho Peaks, Hessie and East Portal areas.

The description for each hike begins with its distance, elevation, highlights, difficulty, and topo map. Then two pages of up-to-date text give detailed trail-finding description followed by a short history of the area. Connections are noted that can be made to other trails in the area, including ones only accessible by skiing. Finally, the section ends with road directions to the trailhead. Included on the pages with the text is an extremely clear, uncluttered map of the nearest roads, the trailhead, and the trail destination. These maps are much preferable to area maps or fuzzy reprints of sections of topo maps (often woefully out of date) found in other guides.

The specific nature of this guide makes it much more useful to Boulderites than the myriad of general hiking guidebooks which attempt statewide coverage with only a few hikes listed in any particular area. Although Boulder Hiking Trails is straightforward enough for a hiker new to the Boulder area, it offers additional historic and natural tidbits to enrich the trips of experienced hikers, as well as an excellent index and a thoughtful appendix of ethical and safety tips. Published by Pruett Press, the guide (\$18.95) is available in local bookstores. .... *Marty Dick*



Prairie-dog

### City of Boulder Open Space Prairie Dog Management Plan *Mini-report*

The proposed plan update will decrease the net number of prairie dog colonies on City Open Space from around 19 to 9, but it will compensate by creating two "mega-colonies," one north of Boulder on the Beech/Axelson/ properties and the other south of the city on the Vara/Marshall/Flatirons Vista properties. (The Open Space Dept. believes the larger, fewer colonies will better replicate natural conditions and be easier to manage and monitor than numerous smaller ones).

The plan also includes provisions for annual monitoring of prairie dog populations and associated raptor and mammal populations, and pledges the Open Space Dept. to work with the Col. Div. of Wildlife toward the reintroduction of burrowing owls. BCNA Prairie Dog Committee reps Randy Gietzen and Steve Jones asked that the following additional provisions be included in the plan: (1) that the total acreage of active prairie dog colonies equal or exceed the acreage under the previous plan; (2) that no poisoning of existing colonies be carried out until the big colonies are established; (3) that the plan be submitted for public review annually.

The updated plan will be submitted (perhaps has been submitted, by press time) to the Open Space Board for approval. For questions or comments call Steve Jones (494-2468), Randy Gietzen (530-4355), or Mark Gershman, Boulder Open Space Resource specialist (441-4142).





(Raptor's Eye reports, cont.)

## Gray Bird "Singing" in the Dead of Night

Well, the Beatles said it was a black bird, but some of us know better. And for lack of mockingbirds and nightingales, a number of us have been enjoying the gentle whinny of the eastern screech owl, as we attempt to take an (approximate) census of these hardy little birds during the winter months.

Most of our transect areas are within the City or Open Space limits. So far, each route has been visited at least once, a few twice. The process is 9/10 chilly boredom (or serene alertness, depending on your mentality), 1/10 thrilling connection, as a small plaintive voice answers your call.

The head count to date: 3 - 4 along the S. Boulder Creek corridor between Centennial/Baseline/S. Blvd Rd. and south toward the S. Mesa trailhead, 3 - 5 along Boulder Creek between Eben Fine Park and Sawhill Ponds, 2 - 3 along St. Vrain Creek, none so far at Coal Creek. ....LVAG

### Trail Issues

***Oh, no! Not Bobolink AGAIN!***

The trail linkages between the Flatirons Golf Course (paralleled by Centennial Trail and the Wellman Canal) and the Bobolink Trail south of Baseline, as well as with the East Boulder Recreation Center, will be a hot subject of discussion this winter and spring. We urge everyone to become as informed as possible about the various linkage proposals.

Which trail line will be followed and (almost literally) set in stone? Who will be allowed to use it (or--horrors! forbidden to do so)? What habitats will be impacted? A City Open House will be held to inform the public about various proposed options on Jan. 18th.

Surprisingly, one of the best, or shall we say, least harmful, options may be to put a permanent trail along the current Bobolink design: the area is already popular, heavily used, and tremendously impacted, yet it still leaves a few wetland areas in a more solitary state. If some "solitude" in these last irrigated areas can be protected, the diminishing

bobolink population may yet survive. Please attend Open Houses and Open Space Board meetings, listen and learn, and be vocal when you have reached your decision.

Furthermore, the BCNA may wish to develop an Association position on the subject of trails in the new year. While most of us make frequent use of them to gain access to the "wildness" that we love, their braided proliferation, both official and "social," is creating havoc in some natural areas in the City and County. Resolve to attend meetings--read the newspaper--help make decisions. ....LVAG

### Grazing

This autumn the Forest Service issued an environmental "Assessment of Livestock Grazing on the Boulder Ranger District." The document addressed many of the issues surrounding grazing in the county and presented a preferred alternative that would mitigate many of the impacts. BCNA submitted comments to the Boulder District in which we expressed our appreciation for the steps the Forest Service proposed. We also expressed our concern that those steps might not be sufficient to ameliorate many of the human conflicts and environmental effects caused by livestock grazing.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) documents the impacts that grazing has had on riparian systems, meadows, and inherently fragile alpine environments. Without exception, the impacts compromise the integrity of these ecosystems. The EA seemed to make unrealistic assumptions concerning permittee cooperation and the ability of the Forest Service to monitor the allotments in order for the preferred alternative to be effective. None of the permittees are full-time ranchers dependent on public land grazing for their livelihood, and the EA shows that the impact of closing the allotments on the local economy would be insignificant.

While appreciating the multiple-use mandate of the U.S. Forest Service, this is not equivalent to allowing for all uses on all Forests. In the case of the Boulder District, BCNA feels that it may be time to recognize that livestock grazing is no longer appropriate given the many ecological and social conflicts it engenders. ....Tim Hogan







(Raptor's Eye, cont.)

## CEC Wildlife Issues Steering Committee

Furbearer regulations established by the Wildlife Commission (WC) in July are under attack on at least three fronts - by the Wildlife Legislative Interim Committee, the state Department of Agriculture (DOA), and animal rights groups.

The Interim Committee has proposed four bills, parts of which severely threaten the ability of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) to manage wildlife in the state. For example, in one bill, "The division is prohibited from adopting rules that restrict the taking of raccoons and coyotes to a specific season. The General Assembly is required to appropriate annually from the General Fund, rather than the Wildlife Cash Fund, the amount of money estimated to be sufficient to pay damage claims resulting from black bear activity. The killing of coyotes does not require a permit if the killing is necessary to prevent damage to property, livestock, certain big game, or human life."

A concerted letter writing campaign to the governor and to your state senators and representatives may be needed later during the 1996 legislative session. Remember, the members of the Interim Committee are from the house and senate Agriculture Committees.

Tom Kourlis, State Commissioner of Agriculture (and a sheep rancher from Meeker), after participating fully in the furbearer stakeholder process, became concerned that the new CDOW regulations were too restrictive. In mid-November, Kourlis gave the CDOW a short time to reach agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) before he proposed legislation (giving DOA exclusive jurisdiction over predators, traps, killing snares, etc.). Late November meetings between Kourlis, the WC, CDOW, and the Division of Natural Resources resulted in disagreement. Kourlis drafted legislation with limited public input and submitted it to the legislature. In early December, the CDOW began work on an MOU and requested public input. The WC sent a copy of the

proposed MOU to stakeholders on 12/8/95. The draft legislation by DOA proposes to give them primary jurisdiction over the control of depredating animals (which are any animals or species that has ever threatened any agricultural product, or might do so in the present or the future). The proposed legislation could, in effect, negate most or all of improvements in trapping methods and hardware that were achieved during the stakeholder process. I will be sending a letter from BCNA to Governor Romer regarding this issue and stating our preference that the professionals in the CDOW be allowed to manage Colorado's wildlife, rather than the DOA and the sheep ranchers.

Finally, animal rights advocates, including the Humane Society of the United States are preparing a ballot initiative that would ban all trapping on public lands in the state and would require that CDOW regulations be followed on private land. I would prefer that our wildlife be managed by wildlife professionals, rather than by ballot. However, if Kourlis or the Legislative Interim Committee are successful, most environmental groups in the state would probably support this initiative. A better initiative would be one that granted sole control of predators and rodents to the CDOW.

I have been continuing to participate in a mini-stakeholder process regarding hound pursuit seasons. The next stakeholder meeting is on January 8, and will focus on when pursuit seasons for coyotes and raccoons will be allowed outside of the November 1 - February 28 season when killing of animals is allowed. The WC will take action on this subject at their meeting on January 11 and 12.

.....submitted by Jim McKee

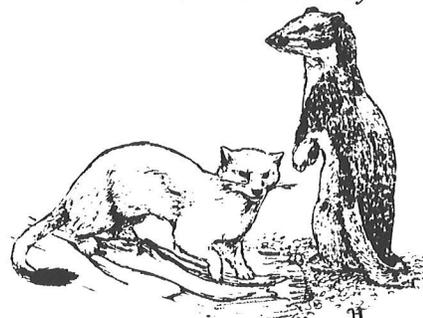


Figure 41. Weasels: winter pelage at left, summer at right



# **Fifth Annual Boulder County Nature Association Ecosystem Symposium**

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## **"Finding Common Ground: Recreational Use of Natural Lands in Boulder County"**

**Saturday, March 16, 1996**

**Boulder Public Library Auditorium, Boulder, Colorado**

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This year's symposium will address the current issues facing the many recreational user groups of Boulder County's open and natural lands. In the morning, presentations will focus on historical and current use and access issues involving local groups as well as national organizations. In the afternoon, workshops and panel discussions focusing on riparian corridor issues will look at how different groups codes of ethics might be developed, looking for that "common ground" on which to develop policy for the future. The symposium is an opportunity for all interested parties; ecologists, planners, naturalists, and recreationalists to gather for a day of discussion about issues facing all of us as we work to protect as well as enjoy Boulder's natural lands. Attendance is free and open to the public.

**Time and Place:** The symposium will be held in the auditorium of the Boulder Public Library, located southeast of the intersection of Canyon Blvd. and 9th Street in the City of Boulder. The symposium will begin at 8:30 a.m., and end at 4:00 p.m. For lunch, many restaurants are within walking distance or you may wish to bring your own and eat in the adjacent park. It is not easy to find parking in close proximity to the library- most is metered or limited to 2 hours. There is a parking lot at the County Justice Center (SE corner of Canyon and 6th) that allows up to 4 hours of free parking and is a short walk along the Boulder Creek path to the library. Buses stop within a block of the library and bike racks are plentiful.



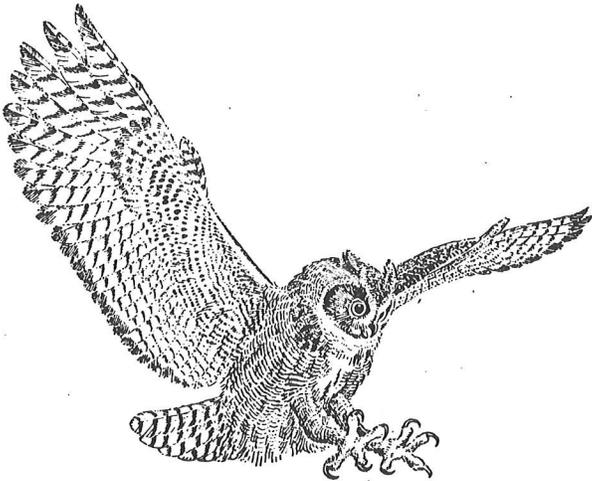
# POT FRAIS AND POT POURRI

A collection of odds and ends which may be of interest to BCNA members.

## The Green Network

Do you have Internet access? We are trying to assemble an e-mail list to facilitate rapid BCNA member communication. Faster than a speeding plane (or a telephone grapevine), a green network would be useful in reminding members of important issues or dates.

Please e-mail your address to [randyg@csn.net](mailto:randyg@csn.net). We will eventually distribute the address list to all.



## Are you about to be extinguished?

Remember that all BCNA memberships are for the calendar year. Check the label on your newsletter. If it says 1995, you are about to join this mouse in rodent heaven.



See back page for a reminder of some of the benefits you enjoy as a member. Please don't keep our new treasurer gnawing his nails in worry--RESOLVE TO RENEW for the New Year, now.

## Kudos for County Weed Management

On a recent field trip to the southern edge of Boulder County, the City Trails Committee was immediately impressed by the almost complete lack of knapweed on County Open Space, while adjacent land was almost totally covered by it.

After asking whether the County land had been as seriously affected as the weedy land, the group learned that County "weed manager" Cindy Owslev has indeed

(cont. from column 1)

turned the tide on this alien invasion by using a carefully considered and intergrated approach to weed management. The program included three years of nurturing the native grasses that had been overgrazed by previous owners, while attacking the invading Diffuse Knapweed.

Perhaps ironically, nurturing the native grasses also involved some grazing by domestic livestock, carefully timed in order to set back the knapweed and reduce its seed production, while giving the native grasses (Western Wheatgrass, Buffalograss, Sideoats Grama and Little Bluestem, etc.) a chance to recover. There have also been experiments with mechanical mowing for the same purpose.

Two chemical herbicides have also been used judiciously, at low rates--among the concerns has been maintaining a healthy diversity of native broadleaf plants. One of the herbicides, working through foliage, targets just three plant families, and generally does not affect grasses or trees. The other affects a greater range of plants and is more persistent.

Very likely, after nurturing a healthy stand of desirable native grasses and greatly reducing the weed population, the combination of competition from a healthy stand of desirable plants, together with moderate, well-timed grazing, will economically and safely maintain an attractive grassland ecosystem similar to that which was originally here.

Let's hope for similar success at Walker Ranch, where several additional strategies are being used. In the meantime, kudos for our local "weed control wizard," and may we all learn from some important successes.

....submitted by Jim Knopf

## Quick outrageous Quote

"Yuppies are like knapweed. They blow into a community, root, and then breed like crazy, eventually choking off the native population. I will seek to control the yuppie problem with a comprehensive program of citywide spraying."

....attributed to Hans Bjordahl, during campaign for City Council position



## Gracias, Merci, Danke, and Thanks a lot, Guys

Our heartiest HOORAY for a job well done by outgoing BCNA Board members Tim Hogan, Mike Figgs, Roger Jakoubek, and Dan Murphy. A glimpse of their "hours totaled" for various BCNA projects would humble the most ambitious among us. They will remain active, no doubt, but are (temporarily?) relinquishing all the glory and fame that go with our Board positions.

### Little Seabird Lost

The ancient murrelet that made headlines in November with its unexpected landing in Louisville, well off course for southern California where it winters, was sent on its way with the best care humans can provide, but unfortunately, did not make it "home."

As it migrated south from the northern Pacific, the little arctic bird had been blown into town and rescued by a caring citizen and a vet, then looked after by Sigrid Ueblacker of the Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Foundation. It seemed to be doing well enough to risk taking a plane trip with Joe Harrison of BCNA in an effort to get it back on course for its original destination.

But a day or two after being confided to a rehab center in California, the little murrelet succumbed to *aspergillosis*, a respiratory disease. Sigrid, who had hoped for an immediate successful release, and Joe, who had optimistically banded it so it could be recognized if ever recovered again, are very sad, as we all may be. Such stories always carry more meaning than simple individual rescue attempts: they represent to most of us a hope that nature can recover from human clumsiness and sometimes, from plain old bad luck. We yearn for happy endings, and grieve when it is not to be.

...LVAG

### Book Bin

Read 'em and review 'em--the editor would love to have your comments and criticisms of the following:

The Company of Wolves, by Peter Steinhart (Knopf, 95): "Steinhart talks to all sides--trappers, environmentalists, ranchers, hunters, and scientists--in an attempt to articulate the forces that nearly drove the wolf out of America... ultimately his book is as much about humankind as it is about wolves..." (reviewed in Outside magazine, 6/95)

(cont. from column 1)

Coyotes and Town Dogs, by Susan Zakin (Viking, '93): "When they emerged from that appropriately wild land of lava dikes and volcanic craters, Dave Foreman and company had evolved into Earth First!--a group that vowed to protect wild places by whatever means necessary. Susan Zakin traces the history of the organization over ten years to its splintering after Foreman and three other Earth First!ers were arrested for conspiracy to destroy an Arizona nuclear power plant in 1989..." (reviewed in Outside magazine, 10/93, p. 141). Cheep thrills, by Bruce Cochran (Northword). Bird cartoons!

Winnie the Pooh, by A.A. Milne (Dutton, 1926): while a book about a teddy bear may not sound like your cup of tea, you should know that this particular bear & friends have profound things to say about innocence, human nature, serendipity, and kindness. You might say Pooh was the original Forest Gump, and much better written, too.

...LVAG



### Consigned to the Fire

The post-Halloween party and bonfire held at Mike Tupper /Naseem Munshi's little house on the prairie was Boulder's social event of the fall season. In keeping with the theme of Wild Things, the company included a tree stump, a witch (*de rigueur*, my dear), a bunch of furriners (some disguised and some as themselves), a columbine, and other assorted merrymakers.

Among the items consigned to the fire of purification, or of destruction (depending) were the singles ads (Mike), remodeling brochures (Elaine), and the quarterly reports (Dave). Conversations ranged from "how to put up a tent in the dark" to "how to use a cheat bar to get your oil filter off" and "how to fix yams, authentic African Guinea style."

