

Editorial Corner

**Warning Sign!... Warning Sign!....  
I hear it, but I pay no mind!**

....by Scott Severs

Following up on our Summer alert about the proposed trail connection from Centennial trail (south of the Flatirons Golf Course) to the Bobolink section of the South Boulder Creek trail and from there to the East Boulder Community Center, we regret to report that despite the efforts of a few dedicated BCNA members, and many other concerned citizens, the City Council voted 6 to 1 to approve the new trail link.

In addition, Council directed staff to create an "all-weather surface" on this trail (the third within a 200-300 yard corridor) through a sensitive portion of Open Space.

This decision should serve as a wake-up call to the environmental community that our Open Space lands may be targeted by a "wise use" movement in Boulder, spearheaded by staff in the Greenways program. Ignoring statistics that show more frequent accidents on this type of multi-use path than on well-marked street-side bike lanes, they have brainwashed the City Council and some citizens into believing that trails adjacent to existing roads are too unsafe for pedestrian and bicycle use. At the same time, the values of Open Space as remaining habitats for wildlife and native plants are glossed over because of the so-called need for transportation connections. [cont. on page 8]



Illustration from *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak

**Time for Full Harvest Moon Celebration**

BCNA will celebrate its 4<sup>th</sup> annual international fall potluck and bonfire extravaganza on Saturday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, at Naseem's, Mike's and family's, 2595 N. 119<sup>th</sup> St., Lafayette.

The theme this year is Mexican. Come dressed as a Mexican Wild Thing, and bring a Mexican dish to share. You may also bring something flammable and relatively small that you want your spirit to be rid of, or something fragrant and cleansing, that you want to release through fire.

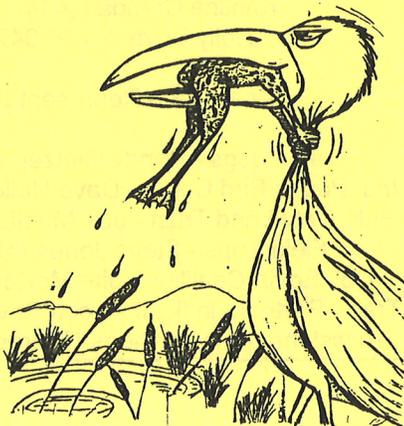
See photos, this page, of the Plain and Fancy Wild Things which attended last year's party.

**Dog Management Plan Goes to City Council**

....by Mike Figgs

The City Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Open Space Board have unanimously approved the Dog Management Plan during August and September. The plan moves on to City Council for final action during October. The plan continues to be based upon five key points. [see page 3 for details]

DON'T  
EVER  
GIVE UP



# BCNA CALENDAR - WINTER TO SPRING

- Sat.**  
**Sept. 21**  
**3:00 pm**  
**(4:00) - ?**
- **Annual Greenman Equinox and Moonlight Madness Hike and Gourmet Supper at Altitude** (in recent years, was held on Mt. Audubon): meet at 3:00 at Settler's Park, or at 4:00 at Rainbow Lakes Campground for sunset hike up Caribou Mountain (2.5 to 3 miles), gourmet potluck supper *en haut*, and return by moonlight. **Contact Naseem, 673-0933 or Steve, 494-2468** if you have questions.
- Tues.**  
**Sept. 24**  
**7:00 pm -**  
**?**
- **Sandhills, sea of grass.** Slide show by Steve Jones, an activity of the B.C. Audubon Soc. Potluck at 7:00 and slides at 7:45. At Unitarian Church, 5001 Pennsylvania Av. **Contact: Steve, 494-2468.**
- Sun.**  
**Sept. 29**  
**5:30 - ?**
- **BCNA Board Meeting** at Linda's house, 5684 Aurora Pl. just north of Baseline, east of 55<sup>th</sup>. Light potluck supper at 5:30, rapidly followed by meeting. All members welcome. **Contact Linda, 543-9404.**
- Sat.**  
**Oct. 5**  
**9 a.m. -**  
**noon**
- **Migrating hawk watch.** Meet at NCAR parking lot at 9:00 with binoculars, and a little rug or pillow, if you like. Hike to the west for best view of thermal hitchhikers. Optional lunch at Rudi's after. **Contact: Steve, 494-2468.**
- Fri.**  
**Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00 pm -**  
**8:30**
- **Screech-owl call.** Meet at Linda's (5684 Aurora Pl.) for a short expedition to the end of S. Boulder Creek trail (south of S. Bldr Rd) to check up on an eastern screech owl for the BCNA survey. Optional return for hot chocolate & cookies. **Contact: Linda, 543-9404.**
- Sat.**  
**Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**10 a.m.**
- **Winter raptor survey Organizational Meeting** at Holly Devaul's, 4800 Osage Dr. #11. Interested participants should plan to attend as protocols (survey "rules") may be modified. Optional quick field trip after. **Contact: Holly, 543-8730.**
- Sat.**  
**Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00 -**  
**11:00 pm**
- **Mexican potluck and bonfire** at Naseem's and Mike's. An annual fall party for Wild Things (come dressed as one if you like), with a varying culinary theme. Turn to page for details. **Contact: Naseem, 673-0933.**
- Sat.**  
**Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**7 a.m. -**  
**?**
- **Winter Solstice Celebration.** Meet at Teller Farms parking lot (on south side of Valmont) and hike to Boulder Creek Bridge on White Rocks Trail. Bring poem or thought to share during brief sunrise ceremony, if you like. Optional breakfast at Rev. Taylors's in Niwot after. **Contact: Steve, 494-2468, or anybody who might like to come along.**

## BCNA Goes High-Tech

View the Association home page on the Internet—and find the information you lost when you misplaced your newsletter. Address:

<http://www.csn.net/~randyg/bcna.html>

## The Green Network

Do you have Internet access? BCNA is attempting to link as many of us as possible in order to facilitate rapid communication. This could be useful for special announcements ("Wine tasting at Linda's place!" or, "Prairie dog photo party this weekend!"). It could also be useful for pressuring local politicians and staffers when their intervention can benefit butterflies, birds, bees, and other beasts.

Note that e-mail wastes no paper, not even the post-consumer recycled kind.

Please e-mail your address, if you have one, to Randy Gietzen: [randyg@csn.net](mailto:randyg@csn.net)

Addendum: please delete Roger Jakoubek's e-mail address from the current network list, as it is for professional use only.

### 1996 BCNA Board

President: Scott Severs (442-1322)  
V.P.: Steve Jones (494-2468)  
Treasurer: Chaya Nanavati (772-3659)  
Secretary: Marty Dick (444-0743)  
Members-at-large:  
Tom Delaney (581-0478)  
Bev Johnson (938-8483)  
Cherie Long (447-0922)  
Jim McKee (494-3393)  
Kristine Crandall (444-1955)  
Holly Devaul (786-0479)

### Committee Representatives

Prairie dogs - Randy Gietzen (530-4355)  
Ind. Peaks Bird Count - Dave Hallock (258-3672)  
Bldr. 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)



# THE RAPTOR'S EYE

Mini- and maxi-reports about ongoing local issues



## Five points of dog management plan [cont. from p.1]

1. "Enhanced" voice and sight control ordinance that includes clarified and more stringent language; also the wildlife ordinance will be amended to include language prohibiting harassment by dogs.
2. Trail designations: all formal trails will be designated "voice and sight control," "dogs on leash," or "no dogs." Two additional no-dog trails are proposed to be added, and several other trails will have year-round or seasonal leash restrictions. Approximately 3,100 acres of Open Space in off-trail areas will be closed to dogs, including the Tall Grass Prairie Natural Areas and the two largest prairie dog conservation areas.
3. Public education program: both departments will develop more aggressive educational campaigns for trail users with dogs.
4. Dog parks: four dog parks are proposed in or at the edge of the City, where dogs may exercise more freely than is otherwise allowed.
5. Charter amendment: dog parks and some trails with voice and sight control that are located within the City limits may require a charter amendment. City Council has already agreed to place this issue on the ballot for the November election.

In addition, a monitoring plan has been added late in the process that includes convening the Dog Round Table every six months for two years (BCNA will be represented), a dog hotline where complaints and questions can be directed to City staff, and analysis of citations, complaints, and problem areas in the Mountain Parks and on Open Space. BCNA members may direct questions on the plan to Mike Figgs (tel. 447-1899), and formal comments can be sent to the City Manager's Office (P.O. Box 791, 80302), or call 441 3090.



## North St. Vrain Bill Close to Approval

....by Mike Figgs

Legislation that would protect the North St. Vrain canyon upstream of Ralph Price Reservoir was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month, and now moves on to the Senate. This legislation prohibits federal permitting or assistance for dams on this portion of the river, and directs federal agencies to process land exchanges in order to consolidate land ownership patterns that hinder effective management of the area.

Your comments of support are needed ASAP to:  
 Sen. Hank Brown, 202-225-5941, or fax at 202-225-6471  
 Sen. Ben Nighthorse-Campbell, 202-224-5852, or fax at 202-224-1933

The North St. Vrain legislation has been rolled into the Hanford Reach Protection Act, HR 2292, which combines several non-controversial Wild and Scenic bills with the North St. Vrain, which is *not* a Wild and Scenic proposal. Call Mike Figgs (447-1899) if you have questions.

## Table Mountain Update

.... by Mike Figgs

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program has completed its report on the Table Mountain needle-and-thread grass prairie and has determined that the plant community is rated "G2 S2," which means *globally imperiled, with less than 20 known sites*. At about 1200 acres, Table Mountain appears to be one of the largest, if not the largest, site for this plant community.. The report also states that the proposed 40-acre gravel mine expansion by the Boulder County Dept. of Transportation will not further endanger the plant community. However, two different independent reports indicate that *these 40 acres, once mined, will be nearly impossible to reclaim*.

BCNA still believes that mining a virgin prairie and ignoring numerous Comp. Plan designations and policies is unacceptable. BCNA recommends that the County *move operations to the Kenosha Pond site*, just north of Erie. This site is already permitted, has been previously mined (by a private operator), and has never been reclaimed. Kenosha Ponds is adjacent to Boulder Creek, which in this area has been channeled and supports a very poor riparian area. *A good reclamation plan here could vastly improve this site for wildlife and become a valuable public asset.*

### North Boulder Valley Open Space

....by Kristine Crandall

The City of Boulder Open Space Department is pulling together a new comprehensive plan for managing the North Boulder Valley open space area (NBVMA). This is no small matter, as it includes a multitude of issues, including recreational opportunities, natural ecosystem integrity, cultural resource preservation, weed control, and ranching operations. Furthermore, the area in question is very large, comprising all City open space bounded by the Diagonal and Jay Road to the southeast, the foothills west of Hwy. 36, and Neva Road to the north.

The City Open Space staff has completed an inventory of the area and its resources, and a "general management direction" has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The direction makes a good attempt at balancing use with preservation. The staff has solicited public input at every step so far, including field trips attended by some BCNA members.

From our point of view, the important points of the management direction, and thus of the future of this expansive and diverse area, deal with where new trails will go, and how carefully sensitive plant communities and wildlife species will be managed.

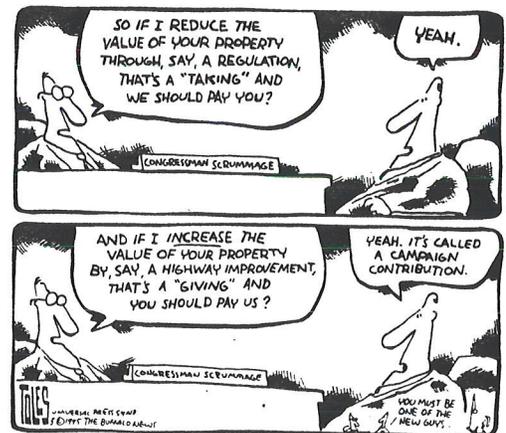
Presently, there is strong pressure from recreationists to create a north-south corridor along the west side of Hwy. 36, from the North Foothills Trail somehow connecting into Beech Open Space. BCNA strongly opposes this idea, given the fabulous foothills-shrub habitat that makes up the area, its current unfragmented, natural state, the presence of threatened Bell's Twinpod (*Physarii bellii*) along the shaly outcrops, and the existence of other sensitive wildlife species. When the O.S. Board accepted the current direction, it did not reject the idea of further trail creation here. This will be a hot topic once the management plan is developed.

BCNA has been pushing for *smart trail alignments* (to minimize fragmentation) in other parts of NBVMA, especially around the Beech wetlands, and the Northern Prairie Dog Conservation Area. Assuring success of the Prairie Dog Management Plan's goals (i.e. establishment of viable prairie dog colony, and thus protection of outstanding wintering raptor habitat) is another crucial point from BCNA's perspective, and one that is included in the general direction. [next col. ☞]

The County Commissioners are currently considering *subdivision approval* for Long Bow Farm, west of the Diagonal Hwy at N. 63<sup>rd</sup> St. and Oxford, and north of Nimbus Rd. This property *includes a section of Lefthand Creek, as well as a section of the N. Water Conservancy Feeder Canal Road*, which many would like to see opened to public recreational use.

Also, being considered for *possible purchase* is the Golden property, east of Roger's Grove and northeast of the County Fairgrounds. It *includes a section of the St Vrain Creek*.

Do not forget to keep an eye on the *approval process* of the Western Mobil Gravel Mining operation plan. This site, a triangle bordered by north 36, Hwy 66 (Lyons) and Hygiene Rd., contains *some important wetlands and a long section of the St. Vrain Creek*. The BCCP (see "jargon," page ) identifies the St Vrain Creek, from Lyons to the Montgomery County Open Space, as Critical Wildlife Habitat, notably because of a considerable winter population of American Dippers, as well as for some declining fish species. The mining company is planning buffer areas, but future groundwater impacts (and direct impact on the creek at a road crossing) are unknown. Presence of Preble's meadow jumping mouse has not yet been tested.



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[North Boulder Valley, cont. from col. 1]

Within the next month or so, the City staff will develop a draft management plan, which will be open for public review/comment. For more information, please contact Kristine Crandall or Scott Severs.

[Raptor's Eye mini-reports cont. on page 8, col. 2]

# POT POURRI AND POT FRAIS

*Environmental, ecological, and culinary odds and ends*



Black Bear, with brown or cinnamon color phase at right

## The B & B Hikes

....by LVAG

September 14<sup>th</sup>. Autumn is primetime for B & B hiking, that is, hunting for Bird and Bear. Although the forest and plains seem silent as the joyous calls of breeding season fade, listening for rustle of mouse and deer, bobcat and bear, is a different kind of challenge. Basking in gold and wine red, the Foothills canyons are full of the last migrating birds, of berries, and natually, of bears.

My first bear hunt was nearly successful last week, as the bear and I shared opposite sides of a thicketful of berrybushes. Alas, a descending hiker with a dog came by to say that he had seen the bear, and since he and I and the dog were now upwind, the bruin quietly moved away before I could see him myself. Or *her*: it appears that a mother and three cubs had been foraging there earlier the same week. That might have been a bit more excitement than I was bargaining for.

How such immense bulk can be so quiet and sneaky is a thing that puzzles me greatly. I long to observe it moving around without intruding on its quest for the perfect all-you-can-eat diet for fall. My bear observation plan would of course require some proximity, but ideally, a vantage point just across the little canyon, for safety.

Alas, nature is not like television: you can't program things to suit you. But you can "channel-surt." Having lost my first B, I turned to the other. Who would be left in town, among the many avian friends I had last seen here in May? In a valley formerly rife with spotted towhees, only a few fussy adolescents were still around, complaining at having been left on their own. "Time to go!" I said firmly.

[cont. on page 6, col. 1]

## Planning Jargon We Need to Know

....compiled by LVAG

**BCCP**—Boulder County Comprehensive Plan. Most of our big government agencies now have long-range plans which give general—and sometimes specific—direction to all kinds of planning; they are periodically updated, but, like the U.S. Constitution, not to be tweaked too often or too lightly.

**BEAUTY STRIP**—strip of land along road, trail or public property characterized by trees, shrubs or other natural features which hide urban/subdivision development, or (more often) clearcutting practices in intensive logging operations. The strip is narrow, so it is of little or no value to wildlife.

**DON'T KNOW**—phrase rarely used in governmental documents or discourse; indicates lack of quotable statistics; usually replaced by layers of jargon

**ECA**—environmental conservation area: place designated as sensitive or special from the point of view of habitat, plant or other wildlife population.

**EIS**—environmental impact statement: report required by Nat. Environmental Policy Act prior to any significant federal actions that may have potential adverse impacts on the environment. For example, building a city water pipeline across Federal land—a Natl. Forest, for example—would require this permit, involving a process of studying all the impacts the pipeline might have on habitats, wildlife, water quality, etc.

**POSAC**—acronym for Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee

**TDR**—transfer of development rights: process adopted to preserve agricultural and other critical and open lands, while at the same time guiding development to areas better suited to residential impacts (like areas near existing city/subdivision services and established infrastructure). Process involves "sending" residential units *off* of lands designated for preservation to "receiving" sites where the development is better suited.

**PUD**—Planned Unit of Development: process of planning the residential development which is being allowed *after* the TDR is set up.

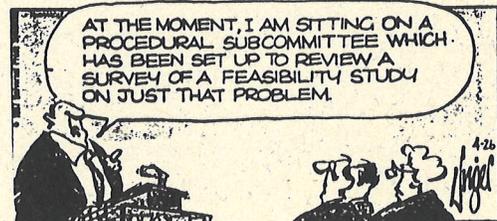
**NUPUD**—non-urban PUD.

**NANUPUD**—non-agricultural, non-urban PUD!

**RTD**—Reason to Drive

**RGD**—really groovy decision (*see page 9*)

**RGAD**—really gosh-awful decision (*see page 1*)



[B & B hike, cont. from previous page]

The catbirds were still there too, enjoying their domination of a formerly overcrowded neighborhood. From time to time, but rarely, I heard the last of the broad-tailed hummingbirds. (Most of these—and their feisty rufous counterparts—have been gone from east Boulder for a week). A Townsend's solitaire, and all three kinds of nuthatches continued a muted background melody, accented by the cries of the red-tailed hawk and the ravens.

Several days later, somewhat lacking sleep thanks to nightly noisy coyote parties in the field near my house, I managed to rise early to meet Kristine for another B & B experience: *breakfast* in the car, and *burrowing owls* on the ground. The Rocky Mountain Arsenal border was our destination, and it—as well as surrounding semi-industrial areas—held some surprises.

Along busy 88<sup>th</sup> St., a snaggy tree 200 yards from the road held several dozen sleepy cormorants. Perched on telephone poles near the Arsenal were many raptors, including four handsome Swainson's hawks, no doubt taking a McPrairie Dog break on their way to Argentina. Red-tailed hawks of several ages and two sexes (if not more), and three kestrels were also waiting for the sun to burn through the fog.

The Thornton Pit, a gravel mining pond on 100<sup>th</sup> St. held a fishing white pelican. Kingbirds, several kinds of sparrows, meadowlarks, and a wintering rock wren kept us busy swinging the binoculars. The *piece de resistance*, of course, was a single burrowing owl, preening and poking around in a prairie dog village.

Make your reservations now for our next B & B. Or sign up on the calendar with your own inspired idea.

### Good night, Marmot

....from *Boulder County Nature Almanac*  
by Cushman, Jones & Knopf

Our yellow-bellied marmots (*Marmota flaviventris*) are close relatives of the eastern marmot, or woodchuck... Neither of these species is likely to appear above ground on Groundhog Day in February. Yellow-bellied marmots usually wait until March or April, when grasses are beginning to green up, to emerge from hibernation.

Marmots may double their weight in summer as they munch grasses and other plants. In fall they enter their burrows for the winter. During hibernation their body temperature drops to around 40 , and their pulse slows to four to five beats per minute.

*Ed. Note:* near Ouzel Falls in Wild Basin, there is a white-muzzled, great granddaddy marmot who waddles over the misty rocks with serene indifference to passing tourists. Who knows how many winters he has seen? Salute him with respect as you pass.

## 1000 Easy Ways to Save the Planet?

....Action! Option by Scott and LVAG

Here's one to try locally: Submit your comments regarding the Greenways trail-building program (next page). This City department is asking for input NOW.

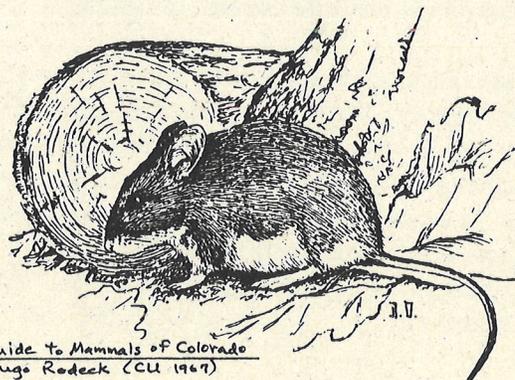
Many members of the bicycle and recreation community are pushing for expansion of trails on Open Space and along sensitive riparian corridors. As members of the environmental community, we should guide this program (and others) in the direction of using the *least sensitive* routes for trail construction, such as trails along or parallel to streets, or along areas (like the Boulder Water Canal) already impacted beyond natural repair.

We must also recognize that the goals of Greenways programs such as Boulder's may be detrimental to the goals and values of Open Space, especially since these trails are really paved roads.

When writing your survey comments, you might want to mention that trail planners need better environmental backgrounds, rather than just engineering backgrounds.

Some out-of-town communities look to Boulder's Open Space for recreational needs while their own town governments vote for more development rather than planning for open space areas within their cities. Routes between and within Boulder and outlying towns already are in place; these are called roads. We should encourage planners to use these for new bike paths, rather than to further fragment our remaining open space.

One example of Greenways planning is the Boulder Creek Path. While a great recreational trail, and certainly not a bad-looking urban creek, it has nevertheless lost nearly all value as a habitat for wildlife and plant communities. The Greenways Program is eyeing the rest of the Boulder Creek drainage as well as Coal Creek for more trails of this type. *The idea of automatically using riparian habitats for trails is an outdated and shortsighted concept that needs revision.*



From *Guide to Mammals of Colorado*  
by Hugo Rodeck (CU 1967)

# Boulder Greenways Survey



*We want your feedback!* Please take the time to fill out the following survey and return it to us at the City of Boulder Greenways Program, P.O. Box 791, Boulder, CO 80306 (or fax 441-4271). Your comments are very important to the future goals of the Greenways Program. Please feel free to elaborate on any answers and attach extra sheets if necessary. Thank you.

1. How good is the trail system at taking you where you want to go?

- very good
- good
- neither good nor bad
- bad
- very bad
- don't know

1a. If "bad" or "very bad:" where would you like the trails to take you that they currently do not?

2. What types of improvements or programs would encourage you to use the Greenway System more?

- improved maintenance
- better connections
- less interaction with streets/cars
- improved safety
- more attractive landscaping, etc.
- other (please list)

**3. Greenway Systems can provide benefits in the areas of transportation, the environment, recreation, and flood control. Recognizing that there may be inherent conflicts, do you support these combined goals?**

- yes
- no
- don't know
- is this a trick question?*

4. If off-street paths are built to connect to surrounding communities, the paths will provide alternatives to the use of the car. Do you support or oppose the construction of bike paths to connect Boulder to surrounding communities?

- strongly support
- support
- neither support nor oppose
- oppose
- strongly oppose
- don't know

5. The City's current plan is to complete our Greenways and off-street system in the next 15 to 20 years. This system could connect every school, park, major employment center, and residential center with a year-round trail system.

5a. In your opinion, how important is this expansion given other City spending priorities?

- very important
- important
- not at all important
- don't know

5b. Do you support or oppose the use of City funds to expand the system at a faster rate?

- strongly support
- support
- neither support nor oppose
- strongly oppose
- don't know

5c. If this type of system were constructed in Boulder, how much more or less would you household use this trail system?

- much more frequently
- the same amount
- less frequently
- don't know

6. Recognizing the fact that the best trail system consists of a combination of both off-street and on-street facilities, which type of facility do you generally prefer to use?

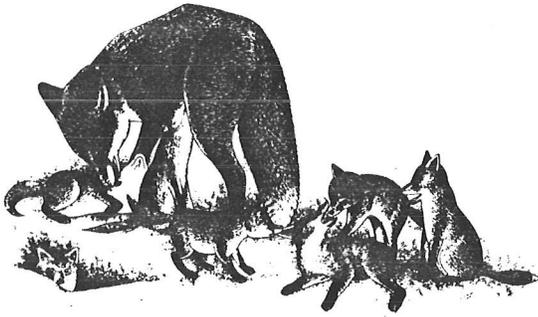
- off-street bike paths
- on-street bike paths
- no preference
- don't know

Whaddya mean, you don't have a place to live? What about all those expensive Russian olives we planted for you right beside the path where you can watch the skaters go by?

I can't believe these creatures are so picky! It's not like we're charging them rent or anything!

And the pretty purple thistles? They're almost as tall as trees, and full of edible seeds, for Pete's sake!





The Greenways program (in Boulder, based in the Transportation Department, but existing state-wide as a trails-by-water concept) is managed principally by a group of engineers with backgrounds in road design. Now they are designing roads for use on Open Space, while they operate under the guise of "improving riparian habitat."

The real environmental community of Boulder needs to step up on local issues. Many residents of Boulder Valley have bought into an idea of trails connecting each and every portion of Open Space as well as the outlying communities east, south and north of Boulder. This vision includes a convenient maze of asphalt along "pretty" streams and grasslands, with little understanding of the implications and destructive results that these "roads" have on the biodiversity of the areas they cross. This saddens all of us who cherish and appreciate Open Space as ...open space, a place with much greater value to the plants and animals that need it for daily survival.

Many newcomers and others need to be educated on topics that are basic to BCNA members, such as habitat fragmentation, core wildlife areas, and the values of wetlands. The Open Space Department must adopt a larger role of educating the public on these values, using the Open Space Charter as a guide and tool for these efforts.

Finally, as the true environmental community of Boulder, we must put pressure on elected officials and city departments to uphold the goals defined in the Open Space Charter. As individuals we need to let these people know that there is another segment of the community that they ignore when they only listen to "rabid recreationists." If we remain silent, we will ultimately see the face of our open space lands change forever.

*For a simple, low-effort place to begin—or to continue—your career as a CCANE (Citizen Concerned about the Natural Environment!), turn to page 6, col. 2.*

Proposed rules pertaining to predatory animal control were completed by the Col. Dept. of Agriculture (DoAg). Public hearings on these rules were held on 9/3, 9/4 and 9/6/96. The draft rules may be modified as a result of the hearings. I attended the 9/3 hearing in Golden and the 9/4 hearing in Limon.

I am not entirely happy with the rules, but neither are farmers, trappers, or animal rights groups, and this kind of compromise is probably the best that can be achieved. Although I don't support some parts of the rules, they are not significantly more permissive than the Div. of Wildlife (DOW) regulations enacted in July 1995. And since these rules are specifically for depredating animals, not for recreational or commercial trapping, we should probably expect fewer restrictions.

I am confident that the rules, if enforced, will not lead to significant risks to any species populations in Colorado. Further, they are among the most restrictive rules governing control of depredating animals in the 17 Western states.

Based on my participation in the DOW Furbearer Stakeholder process and the Predator Roundtable, and on my own values regarding wildlife and their management, I do not plan to support the PAWW amendment because I believe that it will unduly restrict the management of Colorado's wildlife by DOW. Since my values may be different from yours, I am not suggesting that anyone follow my example with respect to PAWW. However, if you haven't made up your mind, I will be happy to provide information regarding trapping regulations in place before July, 1995, the new DOW regulations established in July, 1995, and the proposed Dept. of Ag rules pertaining to predatory animal control.

Also, for your information, I am still trying to get language related to the control of noxious weeds into the CEC Wildlife Issues Steering Committee charter. In addition, I have been asked to represent BCNA at an Environmental Round Table which will soon be established at the Colorado Division of Wildlife.



Figure 12. Porcupine

## City reverses water policies

The City of Boulder has completely reversed important water policies without any public input and little publicity. Just a few years ago, the city was fighting in state water court to protect in-stream water rights so that water could be kept in Boulder Creek as it flows through the city. Now the city manager and members of the utilities department have unilaterally decided that the city should support an attack by Senator Brown on the concept of in-stream water rights. This represents a complete reversal of previous city policy. It is hard to overestimate the damage that will be done in Washington if the City of Boulder supports such attacks on environmental protection.

In a second reversal, the staff of the city utilities department now supports taking water out of North Boulder Creek solely for hydroelectric power generation at a proposed facility on the Silver Lake pipeline. The previous city policy, used for the Betasso hydroelectric facility, was that power generation was only to be done with water that had already been diverted for domestic use. This new policy of taking water out of streams was also made without substantial public debate. The environmental assessment contained only generalities, so that the staff recommendation to reverse previous city policy appeared for the first time only as a note to an agenda for a utilities board meeting.

These policy reversals by the city utilities department are not consonant with the strong public sentiment in Boulder for protection of riparian areas and other environmental features. A strong response by the public and City Council is needed to make it clear to the city manager and the utilities department that they are not to unilaterally adopt policies that threaten our natural resources.

**DANIEL MURPHY**  
732 Ithaca Drive

## Lakewood Pipeline Project

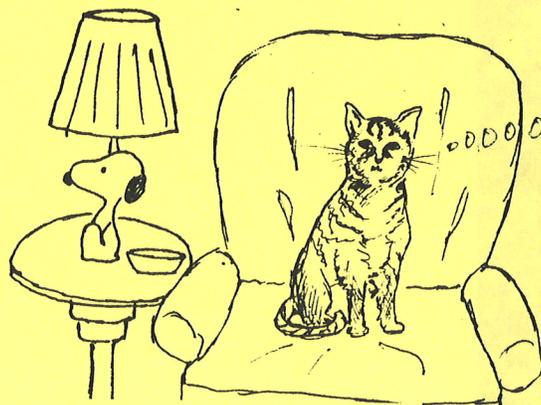
In addition to his letter to the Editor of the *Camera*, Dan Murphy authored a letter to the City Council in collaboration with Steve Jones. This letter contained some material not included in the newspaper: "At the Utilities Board meeting in March, staff argued that the old pipeline should be replaced along the current alignment. They proposed building the replacement pipeline along a 60' wide easement cutting through lodgepole, aspen, and spruce-fir forests, mountain meadows, and wetlands. The original pipeline construction, which required only a 20' easement, left a prominent scar that is still visible on portions of the route. Staff asserted that running the water down the creek from Rainbow Lakes Road to the Lakewood Reservoir, which would avoid the costs and environmental damage of pipeline construction, was not feasible due to problems with icing, turbidity, bacterial contamination, and possible leakage from historic mine sites. *They presented no data to support these assertions.*

Ken Wright, of Wright Water Engineering, spoke at the meeting. He presented a convincing case for leaving the water in the creek. He demonstrated that bacterial contamination levels in the creek are low. There is little or no danger of contamination from mine leakage. Icing problems should be less serious in the proposed stretch than along the stretch (where no pipeline is proposed) from Silver Lake to Rainbow Lakes road. Turbidity problems could easily be solved.

Other speakers at the hearing recommended an alternative pipeline route that would follow Rainbow Lakes Rd. and the Peak to Peak highway to Lakewood Reservoir. This route would create much less environmental damage. It would also leave open the alternative of a continuous, gravity flow (unpumped) pipeline from Silver Lake to Betasso, following Sugarloaf Rd.

*We do not believe that the Utilities Dept. has taken either the "no pipeline" or the Rainbow Lakes Rd. alternative seriously... We would like to cooperate with City Council in creating a forum for citizen input and presentation of expert analysis from a variety of sources so that an informed decision can be made about this important public works project. The scope of this forum should include issues common to both the Silver Lakes Pipeline and the Lakewood Pipeline."*

**Note:** The EIS for this project was to have been presented in October, but it does not seem to be on schedule. Stay tuned.



I got up early this morning, and taking my binoculars and my copy of Peterson's Birds of the West, I went out to the back yard. I identified two new species—and saw 12 individuals. Quite exciting. Later I wrote a poem about the experience...

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                               |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student or senior citizen (65 and over)              | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General member                                       | 15   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household                                  | 20   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter                                            | 30   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Trust/subscriber (\$20 to Bldr Cnty Land Trust) | 50   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Founder (\$70 to Boulder County Land Trust)          | 100  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life member                                          | 300  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate member                                     | 500  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder (\$700 to Boulder County Land Trust)     | 1000 |

**Membership year is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.** Members who have joined since October 1 are considered paid through the following year. Members receive a quarterly newsletter. Supporting members also receive a complimentary copy of each BCNA publication that is published during the membership year. New Boulder County Parks and Open Space Dept. Volunteer Naturalists receive a one-year general membership. Please make check payable to "Boulder County Nature Association" or "BCNA," address below.

Extra copies of the newsletter are sometimes available at the *Wild Bird Center*, or from the editor. To submit BCNA-related material to the editor, e-mail to [andes@rmi.net](mailto:andes@rmi.net), or send a 3.5-in. disk in Word, DOS-text or ASCII text to Linda Andes-Georges, 5684 Aurora Pl., Boulder CO 80303. Typed copy is also accepted.

**Boulder County Nature Association  
P.O. Box 493  
Boulder CO 80306**

Wood sprite and columbine attend 1975 Wild Things celebration. Who will appear this year? See page 1 for your invitation.

