

## **Boulder County Nature Association Volume 18, Number 1 Winter 2001**

### **BCNA ANNUAL MEETING "BIRDS, BEANS & BONFIRE"**

Saturday, January 27, 2001 at Mike & Naseem's house, 2595 N. 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette; (303) 673-0933. Time: 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. with Board Elections at 7:30 and Slide Show at 8:00 will be Birds of Colorado and Their Habitat by Richard Holmes. For additional details please refer to the Calendar on page 2.

### **BCNA Ecosystem Symposium**

This year's symposium will focus on Wildlife and Wildfire in Front Range Forests and is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Friday, March 16, at the Boulder Public Library main auditorium. Among the featured presentations is Boulder County Parks and Open Space presenting a slide show on the last summer's Walker Ranch fire. More details in the Calendar.

## **ECOSYSTEM PLAN PHASE 2**

### **In the beginning...**

One of the signature works of BCNA is the Ecosystem Plan for Boulder County. The plan was developed by members in the mid-1980s. It incorporates aspects of landscape ecology and conservation biology by depicting an integrated county-wide system of habitat core preserves and connectors. The core preserves are centered on those areas with the highest remaining ecological integrity and the least amount of human development. They range in size from a 100,000 acre Indian Peaks Core Area to 2,500 acres at Table Mountain. Other core areas are centered on North St. Vrain, South St. Vrain/Foothills, Walker Mountain, Fourmile Creek/Bald Mountain, Winiger Ridge, Hawkin Gulch/Walker Ranch/Upper Eldorado Canyon, Boulder Mountain Park/South Boulder, Rabbit Mountain, Boulder Valley Ranch/Beech Open Space, White Rocks/Gunbarrel Hill, and East County. They represent the best of what is left. Habitat connectors include major stream corridors and overland large-mammal migration paths.

The plan has been used to help guide land conservation and management. The plan was adopted as part of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan in the early 1990s. The core areas are called Environmental Conservation Areas (ECAs). A view of the comprehensive plan map showing the ECAs can be viewed at [www.co.boulder.co.us/lu/bccp/images/ecas.jpg](http://www.co.boulder.co.us/lu/bccp/images/ecas.jpg). The plan also influenced the most recent update to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest Plan: expansions are proposed for the Indian Peaks Wilderness; a "research natural area" prescription is designated for the North St. Vrain Canyon; Central Gulch is designated as "core habitat" prescription; and a "flora and fauna" prescription is applied to many other core areas and habitat connectors. (continued on page 7)

# BCNA Winter 2001 Calendar

**BCNA Annual Meeting "Birds, Beans & Bonfire"** Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. at Mike & Naseem's house, 2595 N. 119th Street, Lafayette; (303) 673-093. **Board elections** will take place at 7:30 p.m. and the slide show at 8:00 p.m. Potluck Food Theme: Beans! Sweet beans, savory beans, bean brownies, bean drinks! Let your imagination RIP! We will have a bonfire for the pyromaniacs. Bring something you want to rid your life of to burn. **Slide Show: Birds of Colorado & Their Habitat** by Richard Holmes. Richard Holmes, wildlife and nature photographer, will present a two-projector slide show on birds of Colorado and their habitat. Included will be all the grouse and prairie-chickens that use leks, a series on six different woodpeckers, and a selection of other birds in the Boulder County and Pawnee Grassland area. The program will conclude with some flight shots using auto-focus equipment.

Saturday, February 24, 8:30 A.M.. Hike the new trail at **Heil Valley Ranch**, a short loop in the center of the property. Meet at the Foothills trailhead north of Boulder. Trip leader is Mike Figgs (303-447-1899).

This year's **Boulder County Ecosystem Symposium**, Friday, March 16, at the Boulder Public Library main auditorium, will focus on **Wildlife and Wildfire In Front Range Forests**. Scheduled speakers include Rick Adams, who will share results of the Boulder County bat survey, and Therese Johnson, who has been documenting effects of elk grazing on aspen groves in Rocky Mountain National Park. Boulder County Parks and Open Space will present a slide show on last summer's Walker Ranch fire. We'll wrap up the day with a panel discussion on how prescribed fire should be used to recreate natural processes in Front Range forests. As always, the symposium is free and open to all. Tentative Schedule: (check BCNA.org for updates) Registration: 9-9:15 a.m.; Wildlife Session: 9:20-11 a.m.; Wildfire Session: 11:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m.. Questions, Suggestions, or to Volunteer: Call or email Bruce Bland, Joyce Gellhorn, Beverly Gholson Tim Hogan, Steve Jones, or Rachel Lee, symposium organizing committee.

**Please note: updates and spontaneous field trips will be announced on the BCNA Nature-Net, and on the BCNA web site. See details under the BCNA Directory on the inside page of the back cover.**

**Solstice Field Trip Report:** Twelve celebrants followed a pair of coyote tracks and a "snow snake" track (later revealed to have been made by a mountain bike) down to the bridge over Boulder Creek, where ducks and geese swam in a cauldron of mist. Along the creek bank, stems of cordgrass, willow, and teasel glistened with hoarfrost. Off to the east, a white-tailed deer tiptoed through a frosted meadow, and a couple of hawks soared over ice-encrusted cottonwoods. It was -6 degrees, but the sun warmed our faces as we exchanged poems and thoughts. Here is one that people found particularly touching:

These words are attributed to Brave Buffalo, Sioux Elder: "I have noticed that all people have a liking for some special animal, tree, plant, or spot of earth. If people would pay more attention to these preferences and seek what is best to do to make themselves worthy of that toward which they are so attracted, they might have dreams which would purify their lives."

Steve, Chris, Nancy, Bob, Rue, Randy, Mandy, Jean, Ed, Clay, Ruth Carrol, and Neal.



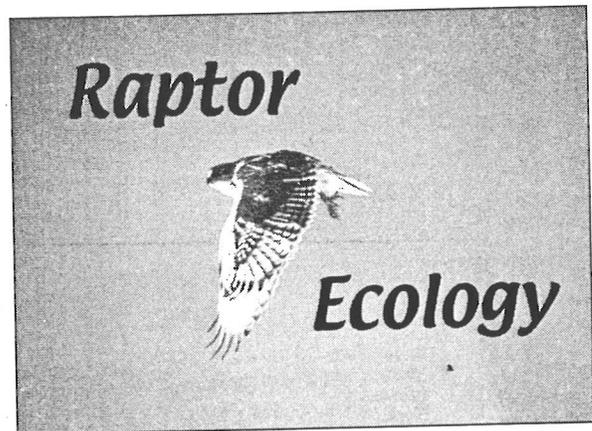
# BCNA EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Winter and Spring 2001 Classes

The next series of 6 classes combines the new and the old. The Raptor Ecology class is a repeat of the class held earlier this winter, and the second class is nearly full again. Three new classes are Winter Ecology with Joyce Gellhorn, Owls with Steve Jones, and the Botany and Geology of Six-Mike Fold with Joyce Gellhorn and Barb Mieras. Two classes in the spring were popular classes last year: Identification of Spring Wildflowers with Joyce Gellhorn and Susan Parks Halabrin, and Birds of Foothill Forests and Canyons with Steve Jones. BCNA education classes are designed to spend a majority of class time in the field, allowing students to observe first-hand many of the principles discussed. Small classes allow participants to interact with each other and the instructors in an informal manner. The education committee solicits your suggestions for class offerings and instructors. Send your ideas to Naseem Munshi at (303) 673-0933 or [naseem@ctdmaterials.com](mailto:naseem@ctdmaterials.com).

### Registration Protocol

Instructors will be responsible for registering students. Where class size is limited, students can reserve a place by mailing the entire tuition amount to the respective teacher. Students who decide to drop the class and wish to receive a tuition refund must notify the instructor at least one week prior to the first class session. However, there will be a \$15 charge to drop a class. Only registered students may attend classes. A \$10 tuition discount will be given to BCNA members. Other discounts may apply to dual classes. A BCNA member is defined as anyone who belongs to the organization at the time they register for a class. Students who register for a class and pay initial membership dues simultaneously will receive the \$10 discount.



**Description:** Improve your raptor identification skills while observing wintering eagles, hawks, and falcons on the plains of Boulder County. We expect to see golden and bald eagles; red tailed, ferruginous, and rough-legged hawks; northern harriers; and American kestrels. Class activities will focus on raptor behavior, habitat use, and conservation.

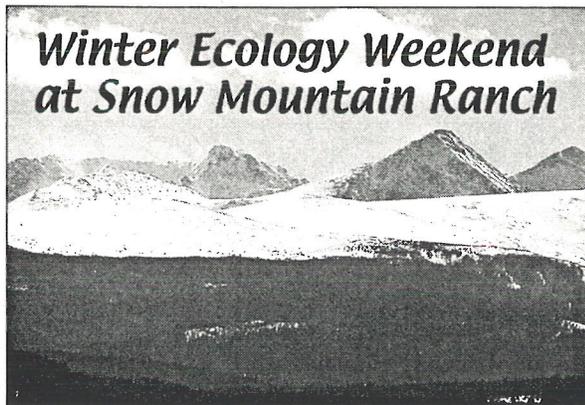
**Instructors:** Steve Jones and Randy Gietzen. Steve Jones is co-author of Boulder County Nature Almanac and Colorado Nature Almanac. Randy Gietzen has studied wintering raptors and worked to protect Boulder County raptor habitat for 12 years.

**Dates and Times:** Thursday, Feb. 8, 7 to 9 p.m., indoor class Saturday, Feb. 10, 8 a.m. to noon, field class Saturday, Feb. 24, 8 a.m. to noon, field class Saturday, March 3, 8 a.m. to noon, optional field class or weather makeup class.

**Tuition:** \$65 (\$55 for BCNA members).

**Equipment:** Binoculars and a standard bird field guide. We recommend the National Geographic, Peterson, or Golden field guides to North American birds; and the Peterson Field Guide to Hawks.

**Register:** Call Steve at 303-494-2468 or email [stvjones@peakpeak.com](mailto:stvjones@peakpeak.com). This class is nearly full so do not wait to register.



## Winter Ecology Weekend at Snow Mountain Ranch

**Description:** This course focuses upon the dynamics of winter weather and changes within the snow cover, as well as, the adaptations of plants and animals to winter conditions. On the Saturday and Sunday field trips, we will ski or snowshoe from Snow Mountain Ranch. Features of winter we shall examine include: (1) snow physics—dig snow pits to look at snow metamorphosis, (2) avalanche awareness, (3) animal tracks and tracking, and (4) identification of plants. The evening program emphasizes special features of winter through slides taken in the Rocky Mountains.

**Instructor:** Winter is Dr. Joyce Gellhorn's favorite season in the Rocky Mountains. She loves cross-country skis and particularly enjoys going up into the alpine. Gellhorn has taught field classes in Boulder County for twenty-five years to students ranging in age from four to eighty-four. She teaches classes at the University of Colorado's Mountain Research Station, and has taught for Boulder Valley Schools, CU Continuing Education, Rocky Mountain Nature Association, Elderhostel, Keystone Science School, and Teton Science School. Currently she is writing a book entitled *Song of the Alpine*.

**Dates:** Saturday, March 3, skiing or snow shoeing from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evening Session: Saturday, March 3, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, March 4, skiing or snow shoeing from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Accommodations:** we have a five-bedroom cabin with kitchen facilities at Snow Mountain Ranch. The cabin sleeps twelve adults. Plan to bring something to share for a potluck dinner on Saturday night as well as you own breakfast and lunches.

**Tuition:** \$100 for the weekend, including lodging; \$ 90 for BCNA members

**Optional Texts:** Marchand, Peter J. Life in the Cold; Halfpenny, James C. and Roy Ozanne. Winter: An Ecological Handbook

**Equipment:** snowshoes or skis and poles, winter clothing with layers, 10 x magnifying hand lens

**Register:** call Joyce Gellhorn at (303) 442-8123, or email [jgellhorn@sprynet.com](mailto:jgellhorn@sprynet.com)



**Description:** Nine owl species nest in Boulder County, ranging from the fist-sized flammulated to the ubiquitous great horned. We'll search for some of these owls and discuss their roles in Boulder County ecosystems. Field class destinations will include Boulder Reservoir, Green Mountain, and Barr Lake State Park.

**Instructor:** Steve Jones organized the Boulder County small owl study. He is co-author of Boulder County Nature Almanac and Colorado Nature Almanac. He has taught in the Boulder Valley Public Schools for 30 years.

**Dates:** Thursday, April 19, 7-9 p.m., indoor class; Saturday, April 21, 4-8 p.m., field class; Saturday, May 19, 6:30-9:30 p.m., field class; Saturday, June 23, 4-10 p.m., field class.

**Tuition:** \$75 (\$65 for BCNA members); there is a \$4/car entrance fee at Barr Lake state Park. Limited to 12 participants.

**Equipment:** binoculars, flashlight, and a standard bird field guide.

**Register:** Call Steve at 303-494-2468 or email [stvjoness@peakpeak.com](mailto:stvjoness@peakpeak.com).



Identification of Spring Wildflowers

**Description:** This course focuses upon identification of flowering plants on the East Slope of the Front Range in Boulder County. General principles of taxonomy will be taught along with identifying features of major plant families. Emphasis will be placed on learning to use taxonomic keys to identify native plant species. Taxonomic and ecological features of flowering plants will be examined during the all day Saturday field trips. Part I is for the beginner while Part II expands on the concepts learned in Part I.

**Instructors:** Dr. Joyce Gellhorn has taught field classes in Boulder County for twenty-five years to students ranging in age from four to eighty-four. She teaches classes at the University of Colorado's Mountain Research Station, and has taught for Boulder Valley Schools, CU Continuing Education, Rocky Mountain Nature Association, Elderhostel, Keystone Science School, and Teton Science School. Currently she is writing a book entitled *Song of the Alpine*. Susan Parks Halabrin teaches biology at Front Range Community College and has assisted Joyce in teaching field courses during the past three years. In her master's thesis Susan examined the forest history around Jamestown, Colorado looking at the influence of fires, mining, and insect outbreaks upon ecosystem development.

**Dates:**

**Part I:**

Thursday April 26 and May 3, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
Saturday Field Trip May 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Part II:**

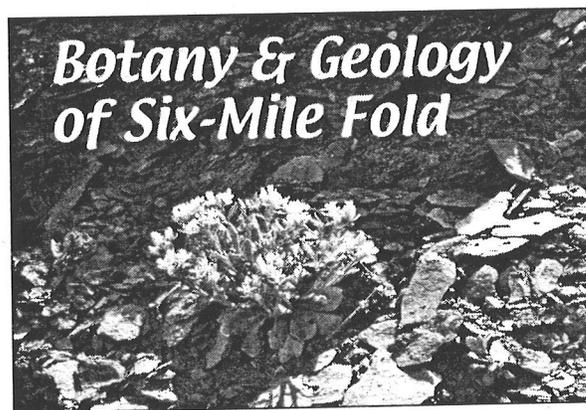
Thursday, May 10 and May 17, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
Saturday Field Trip May 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Tuition:** \$65 for Session I or II; \$120 for both Sessions I and II. BCNA members: \$55 for Session I or II; \$105 for Sessions I and II.

**Texts:** Weber, Wm. A. Rocky Mountain Flora; Wingate, Janet L. Rocky Mountain Flower Finder; Nelson, Ruth A. Rocky Mountain Plants

**Equipment:** 10 x hand lens, dissecting needle, knife or razor

**Register:** call Joyce Gellhorn, 303-442-8123, or email [jgellhorn@sprynet.com](mailto:jgellhorn@sprynet.com)



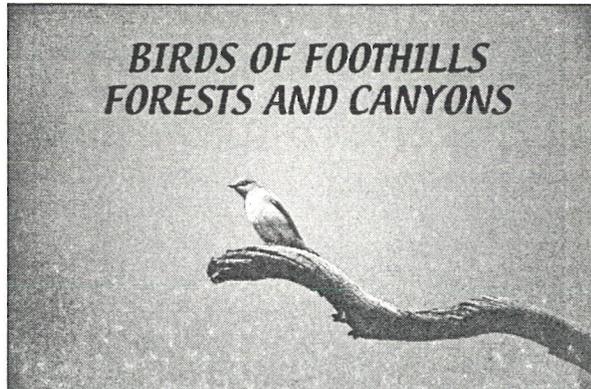
**Description:** What we see around us in the natural world is largely controlled by the interaction of climate and geology and, increasingly, by human impact. Come see how these factors are expressed in the intertwined distribution of plant communities and rock units at Six-Mile Fold. From rare twin bladderpod to ubiquitous yucca, from locally sparse limestones to widespread shales, learn how to use plants and rocks to "read" each other. A Wednesday evening classroom session will be followed by a Saturday morning field trip for a first-hand look at botanic-geologic relationships and how they interface with human activities.

**Instructors:** Dr. Joyce Gellhorn has taught field classes for twenty-five years at the University of Colorado's Mountain Research Station and through Continuing Education, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, and Boulder Valley Schools. Dr. Barb Mieras has worked as a geologist and educator in the Rocky Mountain region for more than twenty years. She specializes in Western Interior Cretaceous stratigraphy and in interactions of natural systems.

**Dates:** Wednesday, May 9, 2001: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Foothills Nature Center Saturday, May 12, 2001: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Six-Mile Fold north of Boulder

**Tuition:** \$ 30, for BCNA members \$ 25

**Register:** Send check made out to BCNA to Barb Mieras, 2307 Tucson Court, Longmont, CO 80501. To ask questions call Barb at 720-320-0921 or e-mail at [wildrock@earthlink.net](mailto:wildrock@earthlink.net) or call Joyce at 303-442-8123 or e-mail her at [jgellhorn@sprynet.com](mailto:jgellhorn@sprynet.com)



**Description:** more than 90 bird species nest in the canyons and coniferous forests west of Boulder. Learn to identify these birds using song, behavior, habitat keys, and field marks. Small group activities will focus on recognizing bird songs (including those difficult flycatchers and warblers) and using bird populations to evaluate ecosystem quality.

**Instructor:** Steve Jones has led field trips for Boulder County Audubon Society for 21 years and taught bird ecology classes for the Boulder Valley Schools and BCNA for 14 years. He is co-author of Boulder County Nature Almanac and Colorado Nature Almanac.

**Dates: Section I:** Thursday May 24 7-9 p.m., Saturday, May 26 7-11 a.m., Saturday, June 9, 7-11 a.m., Sunday, June 17, 6-10 p.m. **Section II:** Thursday, May 31, 7-9 p.m., Saturday, June 2, 7-11 a.m., Saturday, June 16, 7-11 a.m., Saturday, June 30, 6-10 p.m.

**Tuition:** \$70 (\$60 for BCNA members). Limited to 12 participants

**Equipment:** binoculars, a standard bird field guide, notebook

**Register:** call or email Steve at 303-494-2468; [stvjonas@peakpeak.com](mailto:stvjonas@peakpeak.com).

## ***WILD STEPS Milestones in Boulder County Resource Management***

### ***Reynolds Rogers Management Plan***

In mid-November the Board of County Commissioners approved the management plan for the Platt Rogers Memorial Park, Reynolds Ranch, and Rogers Property. These three open space properties total approximately 1,728 acres. Platt Rogers Memorial Park and the Rogers Property are located in upper Boulder Canyon between the Castle Rock area and Barker Dam. Reynolds Ranch is located on either side of Magnolia Road near its west end, and extends north into Boulder Canyon where it meets the southwest boundary of the Rogers Property.

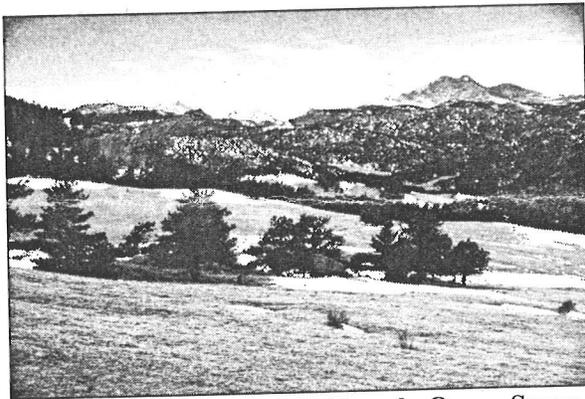
A conservation area designated on the southern portion of Reynolds Ranch includes significant wetlands, part of a wildlife movement corridor, and critical elk winter range. A second conservation area covers portions of the central and eastern segments of Platt Rogers Memorial Park and includes habitat for black bear, goshawks, and breeding birds of special concern, as well as riparian habitat along Middle Boulder Creek. The Hockaday Homestead Cabin dates to at least 1865, and is one of the county's oldest standing structures.

The management plan incorporates many of the existing recreational uses which were present at the time of acquisition. A designated trail system links National Forest Lands and the Reynolds Ranch to the Nederland area. Climbing areas are retained in Boulder Canyon on the Platt Rogers Memorial Park.

Although several controversial issues were raised early in the planning process, the management plan was essentially uncontested in the hearing before the County Commissioners, indicating that Parks and Open Space staff completed a thorough evaluation of the resource and made reasonable management recommendations.

## **Ecosystem Plan Phase II** (continued from page 1)

To date, the greatest accomplishments in carrying out the plan have been in the area of land conservation. The first priority for protection of core areas is to remove the potential of subdivisions and development, for they have the most direct and permanent adverse impact. The cumulative actions taken by the many public and private entities involved in land protection in Boulder County have exceeded what realistically was envisioned when the Ecosystem Plan was developed. A home run was hit when Boulder County was able to pass an open space sales tax in 1993. The purchases of Hall Ranch, Heil Ranch, Trevarton Conservation Easement, and Caribou Ranch, just to name a few, have been key acquisitions which helped remove development potential and fill in the gaps of habitat core areas.



**Antelope Park on Hall Ranch Open Space, looking west to Longs Peak. The foreground view is in the North St. Vrain ECA, the background view is in the Indian Peaks ECA.**

### **What's next? Phase 2 - Land Management**

While much has been accomplished by removing development rights from core areas, there has been increasing interest about how these lands are being managed. Are efforts to reduce wildfire hazards compatible with proper ecosystem management of core areas? Where is recreational use, particularly the proliferation of user created trails and roads, greatly impacting the effective habitat of core areas and habitat connectors?

BCNA wishes to start a new field project (our strength has always been field work) which focuses on the management well-being of

habitat core areas and connectors. Initially, much of the work will concentrate on inventorying what is out there. Hands-on ecosystem management, such as weed pulls and assisting public agencies with management of trail and road systems, will also be part of the project.



**Forestry management for wildfire mitigation in old growth forests is one of the issues to be addressed in the Ecosystem Plan Phase II project.**

Beginning this summer, an initial project will focus on mapping trails and roads on National Forest lands within the core areas and habitat connectors. Over the next decade, the Forest Service will be developing travel management plans for different areas of the Boulder District. We need to help provide information as to what is out there, as well as give input on how the current trail and road system should be changed to better meet ecosystem objectives. Where is motorized recreation occurring in areas designated for non-motorized use? What parts of the core areas should remain off-limits to roads or trails? Where are current trail and road densities too high and causing significant resource damage, weed problems or animal displacement?

We think this will be a valuable and exciting project and one that is sorely needed in a place with an ever growing human influence. Stay tuned through future newsletters and the nature-net about more information of how you can help with this field project. People with an interest can email me at [eldoradh@rmi.net](mailto:eldoradh@rmi.net). – Dave Hallock

## Wildlife Management Reports

### Black-tailed Prairie Dog Update

EDAW finished their population study and has ground truthed about 32% of the available data. The result—Colorado has approximately 214,000 acres of occupied prairie dog colonies. This number may be low because some recently occupied colonies may not be visible from roads. It may be high because the methodology followed (verification from roads and highways) did not always distinguish between colonies and complexes (a complex is a group of colonies within a reasonable dispersal distance). Regardless, we're stuck with it at this time and it's better information than most of the states have regarding their prairie dog acreage. As we move into next spring, this data will be supplemented with the aerial flight inventory discussed in a previous article.

We've reached the end-game regarding recreational shooting of prairie dogs. Out of six alternatives discussed at the wildlife commission workshop in Alamosa in October, staff was directed to bring two to the table at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Commission meeting for a vote. At that meeting, both of the above alternatives were thrown out and the commission opted for the most restrictive alternative discussed – no open season for sport hunting of black-tailed prairie dogs. This alternative still allows landowners, their families, employees, lessees, agents or designees to shoot prairie dogs where damage is occurring. In effect then, we have a state-wide closed season on public lands, with some sport shooting on private property. And, as was pointed out to me, this will probably prevent outfitters from bringing in truckloads of hunters to shoot on private property as is happening in the Dakotas and Wyoming. While this regulation doesn't provide all that we would like, it is much better than I ever expected.



On November 6, we had still another relatively unproductive meeting of the Private Lands Incentives Group. Clearly, the only way that prairie dogs will be acceptable on most private lands is through incentive payments which compensate farmers and ranchers for grazing losses caused by prairie dogs. Habitat quality issues have been addressed and we are currently discussing contract issues. For example, what

happens if a landowner has received an incentive payment for keeping prairie dogs on 100 acres of land and plague kills all of the prairie dogs? And what about buffer distances from cultivated lands or from other landowner's property and who pays for control in these buffers? What about relocation onto the plagued out property? What areas of the state do we focus on with the initial \$100,000 that is available for a pilot program? We'll be attempting to address some of these issues in future meetings.

Finally, there is no perceptible progress towards a permit system for the use of toxicants. The Colorado

Division of Wildlife seems unwilling to move forward on this issue without the support of the Colorado Department of Agriculture and this does not seem to be forthcoming. The toxicants issue is deemed much more important than hunting by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as it considers whether listing will be required to preserve and recover the species. And, at this moment, rumor has it that a bill will be introduced in the upcoming legislative session to require the approval of county commissioners to re-locate prairie dogs within a county.--Jim McKee

## Tools for Education

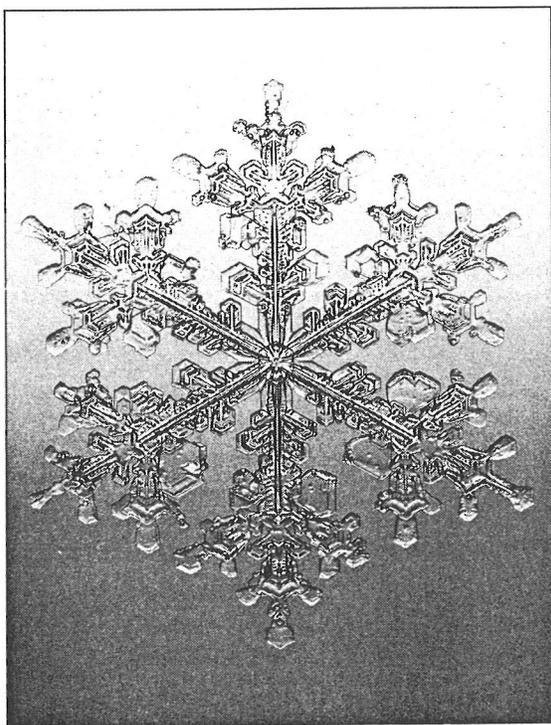
### Books

#### **Water for Children**

*The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks* by Joanna Cole, Illustrated by Bruce Degen published by Scholastic, Inc., New York, 39 Pages.

*A Drop of Water* by Walter Wick, published by Scholastic Press, New York, 40 Pages.

These two books serve as water primers for children (age 4-8). *The Magic Schoolbus* is part



of a larger series that approaches its subjects through a children's story format with nice watercolor illustrations. The story is about a class trip to the local waterworks, but the plot development allows for plenty of diversions into basic notions of hydrology and ecology.

*A Drop of Water* is designed for children as well; however, the first rate photography by the author will definitely get the attention of adults as well. Evaporation, condensation, capillary attraction, and surface tension are explained

through simple text, as well as the various forms of water as liquid, gas and solid. Both publications are available at the Boulder Public Library.

### Web Sites

#### **Colorado Native Plant Society**

This new web site includes pages for the newsletter *Aquilegia*, field trips (including field trip policies), workshops, chapter news (in case you forgot what was happening in the Boulder chapter), other plant resources (including web sites previously reviewed in the BCNA newsletter or on the BCNA nature-net), and conservation (a link that provides widespread and immediate access to conservation issues that request comment from the public.)

#### **Boulder County Beginning Volunteer Naturalist Training**

We are now accepting applications for the 2001 Volunteer Naturalist training class. We are looking for people with a passion for nature, some knowledge of natural history, and a strong desire to learn more and share that passion with others. Training will be held on consecutive Wednesdays, February 7 through April 18, 2001, from 8:30am to 3:30pm. (There will be no training March 28) Participants must be at least 18 years old and attend all training sessions. Because most of our requested programs are scheduled Monday-Friday during daytime hours, applicants must have some ongoing availability during that time. Applications are available at the Boulder County Parks and Open Space office in the Boulder County Courthouse Annex, located at 2045 13th Street, in downtown Boulder. Applications are also available by mail by calling Larry Colbenson, Natural History Program Coordinator, at (303) 441-3899. The application deadline is Friday, January 12, 2001. For more information, please call Larry Colbenson at the telephone number indicated above.

# Tools for Research and Management

## US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station

Forest Service Research Station publications have been a consistent source of important natural resource information for many years. Some of the classics sitting on my bookshelf include management of western non-game birds, status and management of neotropical migratory birds, a technical conservation assessment of flammulated and boreal owls, management of aspen, and numerous publications on bark beetles, mistletoe and other forest pathogens, and wildfire mitigation. The publications based upon Forest Service research have been helpful over the years in developing local environmental policy.

The Rocky Mountain Research Station is headquartered in Fort Collins and includes approximately a dozen other sites in the 13 state region. In the past it was necessary to be on a mailing list and review new publications in a newsletter format to stay abreast of new research and publications. With the development of the world wide web, keeping up with new research has been simplified. The Research Station web site is at <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/main/research.html>. A publications button takes the viewer to the page with a listing of publications available both in hard copy and for download.

A sampling of recent publications from the Rocky Mountain Research Station includes the following:

**RMRS-GTR-17** Vascular plant species of the Pawnee National Grassland.

**RMRS-GTR-22** The northern goshawk in Utah: habitat assessment and management recommendations.

**RMRS-GTR-38** Historic avalanches in the Northern Front Range and Central and Northern mountains of Colorado.



**RMRS-RP-5** Fuel Reduction in Residential and Scenic Forests: a Comparison of three Treatments in a Western Montana Ponderosa Pine Stand.

**RMRS-RP-11** Responses of cavity-nesting birds to stand-replacement fire and salvage logging in ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir forests of southwestern Idaho.

The goal of the research is to develop scientific information and technology to improve management, protection, and use of the forests and rangelands. Research is designed to meet the needs of National Forest managers, Federal and State agencies, public and private organizations, academic institutions, industry, and

individuals. Studies are intended to accelerate solutions to problems involving ecosystems, range, forests, water, recreation, fire, resource inventory, land reclamation, community sustainability, forest engineering technology, multiple use economics, wildlife and fish habitat, and forest insects and diseases.

Some of the information provided may be a bit too technical for the novice, but seasoned naturalists should be able to understand and get the point of the information. If you want to be on top of the latest natural resource research, this is a good place to start.--Mike Figgs

## **BCNA Directory Committees and Contacts**

Allegra Collister Nature Preserve and  
Birdbanding Site--Joe Harrison 772-3481  
Cliff Nesting Raptors--Nan Lederer 447-1899  
Education Committee--Naseem Munshi 673-  
0933  
Indian Peaks Bird Counts--Dave Hallock 258-  
3672 or Bill Kaempfer 939-8005  
National Forest Management--Tim Hogan 444-  
5577  
Newsletter--Mike Figgs 447-1899  
Open Space Liaisons--Jacob Smith 443-5518,  
Scott Severs 442-1322  
Parties, Special Events--Naseem Munshi 673-  
0933  
State and Regional Wildlife Issues--Jim McKee  
494-3393  
Winter Raptor Survey--Holly Devaul 415-0464

### **BCNA Online**

BCNA's online access includes 1) a web site: <http://www.bcna.org>, which posts the newsletter, publications, research results, and other BCNA related information; the web site is regularly updated and includes the latest information for the BCNA calendar and classes; 2) e-mail: [mail@bcna.org](mailto:mail@bcna.org); and 3) the BCNA nature-net. The nature-net address has changed. To post messages on the nature net: [nature-net@egroups.com](mailto:nature-net@egroups.com), and for subscribing, [nature-net-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:nature-net-subscribe@egroups.com). The nature net is a source of late breaking news and in depth discussions on issues of interest to BCNA members. If you have questions regarding online access, please contact Randy Gietzen at [randyg@boulder.net](mailto:randyg@boulder.net).

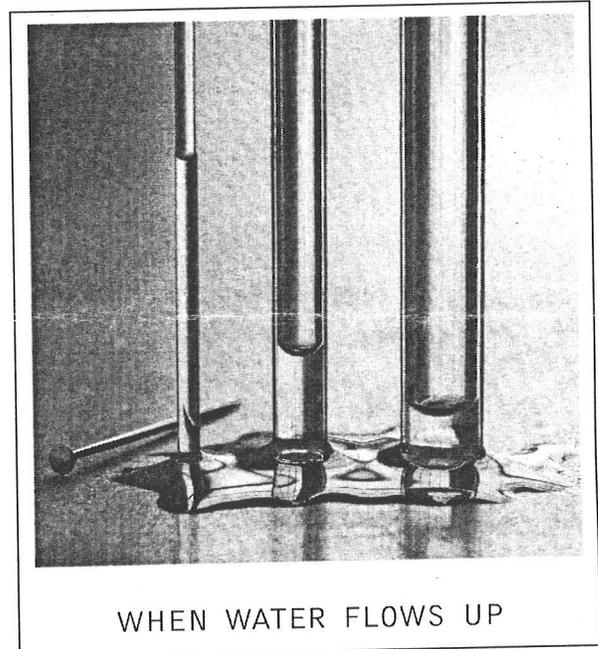
### **Artwork Credits, Acknowledgements, Etc.**

Page 2: Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) from Manual of the Grasses of the United States by A. S. Hitchcock. Steve Jones graciously provided information on the symposium and the field trip report. Page 3: Ferruginous hawk by Steve Jones. Thanks to Naseem Munshi for assembling the class brochure. Page 4: Arapaho and Kiowa Peaks by Mike Figgs; screech owl by Steve Jones. Page 5: Rocky Mountain phlox (*Phlox multiflora*) photo by Joyce Gellhorn; Bell's Twinpod (*Physaria bellii*) by Mike Figgs. Page 6: Mountain bluebird by Mike Figgs. Page 7: Antelope Park on Hall Ranch by Mike Figgs; old growth ponderosa pine woodland by Mike Figgs. Page 8: Cedar waxwing from BIRDNET Bird Clip Art ([interaktiv.com/BIRDNET/CArt.html](http://interaktiv.com/BIRDNET/CArt.html)). Page 9: ice crystal by Walter Wick from *A Drop of Water*. Page 10: pine squirrel and snag provided by the US Forest Service. Page 11: capillary action by Walter Wick from *A Drop of Water*.

## **2000 BCNA Board of Directors**

Current until the annual meeting in January:

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WHEN WATER FLOWS UP

# Membership Application for Boulder County Nature Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

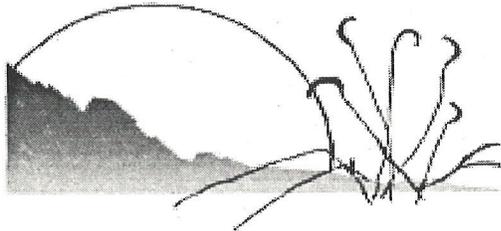
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, Fax or E-mail Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

- Student or senior citizen (65 and over) \$10
- General Member 15
- Family or Household 20
- Supporter 30
- Subscriber 50
- Founder 100
- Life Member 300
- Corporate 500
- Stakeholder 1000

Membership year is January 1 to December 31. \$10  
Members who have joined since October 1 are considered paid through the following year.  
Members receive a quarterly newsletter.  
Supporting members (and above) also receive a complimentary copy of each BCNA publication that is published during the membership year.  
Please make check payable to "Boulder County Nature Association" or "BCNA" and mail to P.O. Box 493, Boulder, CO 80306.

Extra copies of the newsletter are available from the editor or sometimes at the Wild Bird Center. To submit BCNA-related material to the editor, e-mail to [m.figgs@prodigy.net](mailto:m.figgs@prodigy.net) or send a 3.5" or zip disk to Mike Figgs, 2635 Mapleton Ave. #77, Boulder, CO 80304.



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