

# *images*

OF BOULDER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



*summer 2011*

## Images

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*The mission of the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department is to conserve natural, cultural and agricultural resources and provide public uses that reflect sound resource management and community values.*

**COVER PHOTO:** Grasshopper at Rabbit Mountain. Photo by Geoff Goss

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# 2010 Land Conservation Award Recipients

Since 1992, the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department has honored individuals, families and organizations with Land Conservation Awards for outstanding contributions made to the conservation, preservation and protection of the county's land-based environmental resources. The Boulder County Commissioners presented the 2010 awards in April to the following:

## Land Conservation Award: Ruth Almquist

Ruth Almquist has been a great steward of her 219-acre irrigated agricultural property that borders the western and southern shoreline of Panama Reservoir critical wildlife habitat.

It has always been important to her to improve the property; she wants to make it as agriculturally productive as possible. She also wants to maintain the historic residence and outbuildings. In 1997, Almquist ensured that the property would always be protected as prime agricultural land by selling conservation easements and an interest in the water rights to Boulder County. Almquist cared deeply about leaving the farm in good hands in the future, so she arranged to spread the sale of the conservation easements over 11 years so that her young neighbor, Jules Van Thuyne, Jr., who had farmed the property since 1980, would be able to purchase the fee interest in each parcel simultaneously with her conveyance of the conservation easement to the county.

Almquist continues to live on the seven-acre lot created around the original homestead in the architecturally significant two-story colonial revival-style brick home built in 1897. An architecturally significant barn with its 1 ½-story gable roof barn was also built circa 1897, which Almquist had restored through the BARN AGAIN! Program.

## Heritage Award: Gold Miner Hotel

The Gold Miner Hotel is an 1897 two-story commercial log building located in the center of the Eldora National Register Historic District in Gold Hill. Owned by Scott Bruntjen and Carol Rinderknecht since 1986, the Gold Miner is one of the most important buildings in the town because of its long history serving the needs of the community as a hotel and social meeting place. The Gold Miner was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 and as a Boulder County landmark in 2007.

Today, the building is the home of Bruntjen and Rinderknecht, and also serves as a bed and breakfast. Since 2001, the two have obtained grants and provided considerable funding of their own to restore the building back to the 1898 and mid-1940s period. So far, improvements include restoring the dilapidated front porch, rehabilitation of the "Social Room," and replacing windows and doors. The heating system was also replaced in 2010.

Three more planned phases include foundation work, removal of aluminum wiring and undergrounding of electrical service in 2011, followed by roof replacement, unsafe chimney removal, addition of integrated solar power and insulation. The final phase in 2012 will focus on chinking and daubing the logs.

## Environmental Stewardship Award: Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) is a non-profit organization that has worked with Boulder County since its inception in 1999. Their first official volunteer project was stabilizing the east bank of Heron Pond at Pella Crossing. In 2001 they helped seed and stabilize slopes on Walker Ranch following the Walker Ranch wildfire, and worked to re-vegetate the road through Plumely Canyon at Heil Valley Ranch.

Their local knowledge of the area, volunteer recruitment strategies, and terrific coordination skills make these projects a success year after year. The results of their work are visible throughout Boulder County, from the Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm to Betasso Preserve, from Hygiene to the Indian Peaks Wilderness area. WRV is great at coordinating team leaders, recruiting volunteers, and providing meaningful work for them from planning to implementation. The result is a group of community members whose minds become educated about land stewardship, whose hearts are connected to the natural areas around them, and whose hands help restore some of our most degraded habitats.

## Partnership Award: Smartwool

Smartwool has been a Property Steward at Betasso Preserve since 2009, and has participated in numerous work projects to enhance and maintain the open space property. They consistently show up for projects with a great attitude and enough people to complete the project. They are more than willing to take on any task at hand and don't mind getting dirty.

In 2009, Smartwool was the biggest contributor to this program, recruiting 26 staff members on two projects accumulating 156 volunteer hours. Last year they scheduled four projects, recruiting 34 staff members who contributed 195 hours. Smartwool has shown dedication to open space by their willingness to participate in any project offered, and completing projects with outstanding quality. This company worked in very rugged terrain and endured through the harshest weather without thinking of ending the project early. (*See page 10 for more details.*)

## CSU Extension Services' Volunteer Award: Clare Shier

Clare Shier has been an active leader in the Boulder County 4-H Program for 30 years. For the last 10 years, she has been the Organizational Leader of the Rocky Mountain Snowbirds. She is the 4-H Superintendent for Leathercraft with vast experience in all the levels of the project. Shier also is an active participant in the 4-H Leaders Council where she currently holds the office of Vice-President.

Shier volunteers as the Boulder County Fair Poultry Superintendent. Within this capacity, she organizes workshops throughout the year for members and leaders interested in learning more about market and breeding poultry, teaches showmanship, and arranges speakers who share their knowledge of caring for and raising poultry. In the absence of a Livestock Agent in Boulder County, Shier has been generous with her time to field poultry questions. Because of her willingness to help, the poultry program for 4-H has grown from a part-time exhibit, to filling Barn A with poultry exhibits for the entire Boulder County Fair. Longmont recently adopted a Backyard Chicken program in Boulder County, and Shier actively attends meetings and offers assistance to our Backyard Chicken Program coordinator.

## Parks and Open Space Volunteer Award: Jenn Archuleta

Jenn Archuleta has been a longtime volunteer for the department. Her efforts have included many trail construction, maintenance, and restoration projects. She has taken it upon herself to organize volunteer crew leaders for these large-scale projects as well as meet staff after work hours to do walkthroughs to ensure the project will meet the department's expectations.

In 2009 and 2010 she helped organize six volunteer projects for trails. These efforts included National Trails Day events that involved over 120 volunteers on each project.

Archuleta spent a lot of time finding sponsors for volunteer projects and recruiting trail crew leaders. Multiple times, Archuleta has saved the county money by asking businesses for donations. She also played a significant role in restoration efforts on multiple projects. This dedication shows her understanding of the multiple disciplines involved when managing public lands. She played a large role in closing unsustainable social trails while promoting the construction of new, sustainable trails.



*Rachel Steel, Commissioner Will Toor, Amy Iwata, Jean-Pierre Georges, Bill Alexander, Jenn Archuleta, Ed Self (Founder, WRV), Mary Eldred, Sarah Egolf, Ruth Almquist, Darrin Young (Smartwool), Clare Shier, Karen Whittier (Smartwool), Carol Rinder Knecht, Scott Bruntjen, and Commissioner Cindy Domenico*



# Tungsten Boom at Mud Lake

by Kristin M. Turner



*A tungsten mine near Nederland. (Photo: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder CO)*

You may be surprised when you arrive at Mud Lake, a Boulder County Parks and Open Space property just north of Nederland. Rather than a muddy swamp (which you may expect due to its name) you will instead be greeted by the summertime sight of a sparkling mountain lake surrounded by cattails and lodgepole pines.

As you follow the winding trail, you discover groves of elk-chewed aspens and bunches of blooming columbines. Or you may be welcomed by the wintertime sight of cross-country skiers enjoying the snowy forest. Its unassuming name is the first of Mud Lake's mysteries.

Another mysterious feature visitors ponder as they enjoy the trail are the small pits, approximately five feet wide and five feet deep, scattered around the lake. These pits are a window into local history, technological evolution, a World War, and a modern legacy of conservation. But what are they? Read on to find out the answer!

## Treasure at Mud Lake

During the 1860s and 1870s, gold and silver mining surrounded the Mud Lake area. As the land was further explored, it was found to be a site rich in an increasingly valuable metal: tungsten.

Tungsten is a metal element found only on Earth combined with other minerals. When it is isolated, it has a very high melting point, density, and tensile strength compared to other metals. Starting in 1855, it was used as an additive for hardening steel. Two companies began industrial tungsten mining at Mud Lake in 1904. The ores were processed at many different mills throughout Nederland and Boulder.

During World War I, the value of tungsten reached its peak as tungsten alloys were used as armament for the war. At this time, the region of Boulder County was producing most of the tungsten ore in the world.

However, the tungsten boom only lasted for a short period of time. By 1918, the war ended, demand for tungsten decreased, and the most accessible tungsten had been collected. Furthermore, tungsten mining and production in China was expanding. These factors led to the collapse of the U.S. tungsten market and the end of extensive tungsten mining at Mud Lake.

Although today tungsten is used in the production of many common objects such as light bulbs, x-ray tubes, rocket-nozzles and jewelry, tungsten mining in Boulder County never resumed to its previous levels.

## From Litter to Legacy

After mining operations in the Mud Lake area ceased, the land was left compromised. The forest had been burned by miners setting intentional fires to expose the geology. Trees had been logged for timber to make mineshafts and buildings and to fuel fires for indoor heating and steam-powered machines. Trees were also cleared to make roads. These activities led to widespread soil erosion and decreased wildlife habitat.

The landscape was also left dotted with many small, crater-like pits. They were dug by the mining operation as exploratory pits that didn't prove worth mining. After mining ceased in this area, the land sat mostly unattended for decades and people began to use the pits as trash dumps. In 1999, the town of Nederland and Boulder County saw the land's potential for restoration and recreation and began the purchase of the Mud Lake area. The Wild Bear Center for Nature Discovery also bought four acres of land at Mud Lake and organized a cleanup project that removed 30 tons of trash from the area.

## Mystery Solved

What created the largest pit, approximately 400-feet wide, right in the center of the open space property? Its size and shape led some people to theorize that it was created from a meteorite impact! To clarify the mystery behind this huge crater-like pit, the Geological Society of America performed a study in 2007 by taking rock and core samples. They concluded that, due to lack of meteoric debris, and due to the presence of apparent mine tailings, it was indeed created by the mining operations. When the area's mining ceased around 1920, the pit was left strewn with piles of broken rocks. It gradually filled with rainwater and snowmelt. Eventually, it became the scenic and valuable habitat of present day Mud Lake.

# Research on Boulder County's Open Space Lands

*The Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department offers grants for research on county open space lands each year. All proposals are reviewed by a team of resource specialists, and awarded research projects are monitored during their activities on open space. The following is a summary of a 2010 study conducted by Janet Chu that focused on inventories of butterflies on 10 open space properties.*

**Abstract:** Butterfly inventories continued by this team during 2010, for the ninth consecutive season. Ten Boulder County Open Space properties were the sites of our studies which we visited during 29 days, March through August. Once we were on site ready to hike, the research hours were recorded, amounting to 84 hours in the field in 2010. Eighty-four of the known 102 species in Boulder County were seen in 2010.

In 2007, while conducting our research on these lands we observed an average of 39 individual butterflies per research hour on seven sites. In 2008 the number of individuals per research hour on the same seven research sites was 46; in 2009 it was 37; and in 2010 the number fell to 29.

During this year, this team observed four species which had not been noted previously during the nine years of counts; Lyside Sulphur *Kricogonia lyside*, Striped Hairstreak *Satyrion liparops*, Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanilla*, and Pale Crescent *Phyciodes pallid*. In addition four uncommon butterflies dispersed into this area from the south-southwest; Sleepy Orange *Abaeis nicippe*, Dainty Sulphur *Nathalis iole*, and Marine Blue *Leptotes marina*, Behr's Hairstreak *Satyrion behrii*.

Detailed studies of natural resources are being provided by this team and other lepidopterists, to help with ongoing efforts to identify local effects of regional and global climate change and provide additional information regarding this phenomenon. Local interest in butterflies has reached an all-time high shown by our coordination with greater numbers of Front Range.

**Conclusions:** Ten Boulder County Open Space properties were visited during 29 days and this team recorded 84 research hours in the field. Field studies proceeded within Boulder County Open Spaces in diverse habitats

from short-grass prairies to mixed grass, montane meadows, Ponderosa Pine and upper montane meadows. This season the Front Range experienced repeated strong winds from the south-southwest which brought numbers of Texas - Mexican vagrant butterflies into our area. Also many days of elevated heat in the southwestern tier of states caused the influx of uncommon butterflies searching for succulent nectaring plants.

In 2006, June was unusually dry and hot affecting the average number of individuals per research hour. But in 2010, June had a near-normal average temperature with five days above 90° and above normal rainfall. We felt weather in 2010 was conducive to successful sightings of many butterflies. In the Front Range we do experience considerable differences in conditions from one year to the next. If a population is unusually high one year, then a typical low cycle often follows. The continuing cycle of butterflies building successful adults, their emergence from chrysalids, mating, ovipositing, and finding sunlight's energy to consume host plants, are all dependent on favorable weather.

Butterflies are fairly easy to observe and monitor and are excellent indicators of healthy environments and therefore should have continued support for research. If global climate is indeed changing, then continued, long-term studies should help document the shifts.

Butterflies designated as rare by the Colorado Natural Heritage Watch List are often found in the open space properties. The Arogos Skipper *Atrytone arogos* was located in 2010 at High Point and the Hops Azure *Celestrina humulus* was found on Hops plants in the mouth of Plumely Canyon, both sites in Heil Ranch. Not sighted by this team in 2010 were Ottoo Skipper *Hesperia ottoe*, Dusted Skipper *Atry-*

*tonopsis hianna*, Moss' Elfin *Callophrys mossii schryveri*, and Snow's Skipper *Paratrytone snowi*. This team has not yet located the Regal Fritillary *Speyeria idalia*, although we have looked for it when a property owner, neighboring the Southeast Buffer, reports a sighting.

*If you want to read the full report, or other funded research, visit the department's website at [www.bouldercounty.org/live/environment/land/pages/posresearch.aspx](http://www.bouldercounty.org/live/environment/land/pages/posresearch.aspx)*



# Grasshoppers!

by Diane Schwemm

All who love the outdoors in Boulder County have hiked through tall grasses in late summer as grasshoppers ricochet off our bare legs. Last fall, while pedaling on the foothills bike path, I had the delightful surprise of seeing a young fox trotting towards me, in broad daylight, pausing every few strides to snap up a grasshopper from the sun-baked sidewalk. Only this year did I notice for the first time that small numbers of grasshoppers are leaping about as early as March and April, and according to Ruth Carol Cushman and Stephen Jones, authors of *Boulder County Nature Almanac*, on the other end of the season a few may linger as late as January, “revved up with ‘antifreeze’” (elevated levels of glycerol).

## So, What’s Up with Grasshoppers?

There are more than 100 different species of grasshopper in Colorado, including the Speckled Rangeland Grasshopper (*Arphia conspersa*) and the Pallid-Winged Grasshopper (*Trimerotropis pallidipennis*). That’s a drop in the world’s hopper bucket: 11,000+ species have been identified, with many thousands more likely to exist.

Grasshoppers have been around since the time of dinosaurs. Remarkable features include their eyes: they have five, including two compound (consisting of thousands of little eyes) that allow them to see in every direction at once. And how about those hind legs? Powerful jumping muscles are augmented by a semilunar crescent in the knee made of elastic fibers that store energy which, when released, explosively propels the grasshopper forward, up to twenty times its body length. PING! Their coloring matches their environment so that they’re well camouflaged, and boy can they CHEW.

## Not Always a Welcome Sight

Which leads us to the fact that grasshoppers aren’t, and have never been, the most popular insect in the American West, or the world. On July 26, 1931 a swarm that blocked out the sun devoured drought-stressed crops across Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota (see “This Day in History” at [www.history.com](http://www.history.com)). This kind of swarm hasn’t been seen in the U.S. since, but “plagues” of locusts (migratory short-horned grasshoppers in the *Acrididae* family) still occur in parts of Africa, the Middle East, Mexico, and Central America. In Colorado, many people—particularly farmers and ranchers—understandably view grasshoppers as pests. Grasshoppers can eat their own weight in 16 hours, and on the range compete with cattle for forage. Some

species prefer a single food source, and that can be corn or alfalfa, though most eat a variety of plants. (*Melanoplus bivittatus* and *sanguinipes* are two of the grasshoppers most destructive to croplands.) Depending on the weather, females can lay up to 400 eggs per season. During last year’s warm, wet summer, thousands of grasshoppers turned up even on the streets of downtown Denver!

I sympathize with farmers, and with urban apartment dwellers who’d rather not have grasshoppers congregating on their fifth floor balconies, but these things happen. In nature, there is always a bigger picture, and grasshoppers are part of it. Remember the fox at the beginning of my story? Grasshoppers provide food for other creatures ranging from wild turkeys and coyotes to skunks and spiders. They pack a powerful protein punch (20 grams of protein in a big one!) and in some parts of the world—notably Africa, China, and Mexico—humans eat them as well (but hold onto your trail mix next time you’re tempted to pop one in your mouth on a hike; they should be cleaned and cooked first). In normal numbers, grasshoppers can help farmers more than they hurt by consuming noxious weeds and depositing nutrients in the soil.

## Grasshoppers and Climate Change

Insects are key indicators of environmental health, and grasshoppers are the center of a current study on climate change directed by Cesar Nufio of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Colorado. Nufio and colleagues created a database out of 24,000 grasshopper specimens from the 1950’s collection of C.U. Professor Gordon Alexander. Now a five-year resurvey is being conducted at the same locations in the Rockies and on the plains, often near weather stations so grasshopper and climate data can be precisely coordinated. Professor Alexander studied the effects of elevation on species, noting population, distribution/range, and stages of development (when they hatched and when they matured). The preliminary results of the comparison between then and now reveal that with only one to two degrees of warming, scientists already see grasshoppers maturing as much as a month earlier than in the 50s.

Let’s end with some music: the sound we identify with deepest summer, when the sun hits the green and golden meadows at a lower angle. “Stridulation” results when grasshoppers scrape their hind legs on their forewings or abdomens; “crepitation” is the wing clattering noises made during short flights. If that’s too unpoetic for you, just call it “singing,” and enjoy.





# Warm Season Grasses in Boulder County

by Sharon Bokan

Boulder County grasslands are considered part of the short grass prairie. Our grasslands consist of a mix of warm and cool season grasses. This mix provides year round forage for wildlife and livestock, as well as cover and breeding areas for wildlife. The cool season grasses provide the early spring forage and late fall forage for winter preparation. Whereas the warm season grasses provide forage during the summer heat. The seeds produced provide food for small animals and birds while the plant structure provides cover from predators and for nesting.

Warm season grasses require higher light and temperatures but less moisture for growth and are more susceptible to frost damage. The warm season grasses produce all of their growth from late spring to early fall. Because they only have one growth time, they tend to produce less forage, so most of our pastures are cool season grasses. Of all the grasses, 46 percent are warm season grasses. This includes crops such as corn sugarcane, millet and sorghum.

Below are some warm season grasses you might see on Boulder County Parks and Open Space properties.

**Little Bluestem** (*Schyzachyrium scoparium*) This native grows up to three feet tall and is a bunch grass. One of its survival mechanisms is a root system that may be five to eight feet deep. It is very distinctive in the fall as it takes on a reddish hue with “fluffy” tufts (seed heads) on the stem ends. It has high forage value in the early growth stages and is a host to butterflies. The Lakota name means “small redgrass.” They would rub the dried leaves and culms into a soft fiber to use as insulation in their moccasins. The Comanche used little bluestem switches in their ceremonial sweat lodges.

**Big Bluestem** (*Andropogon gerardii*) Big bluestem is a major component of the tall grass prairie but is also a part of our short grass prairie. It will grow to three to six feet tall and has a very distinctive “turkey foot” seed head. Big bluestem also has a reddish brown fall color. It is good nesting and cover for many birds and is a host for butterflies. Livestock and wildlife will graze it as it provides forage that is excellent in quality, quantity and palatability. It isn’t very tolerant of over grazing. Native American boys used the stems for their play arrow shafts.

**Blue Grama** (*Bouteloua gracilis*) This is the Colorado state grass. It is a shorter grass at 1.5 feet tall. Its most distinctive feature is the seed head. As the seed heads mature, they curl and appear like eye brows or lashes. The seeds are food for wild turkeys, song birds and the leaves for wildlife forage. Areas containing blue grama make excellent areas for prairie grouse leks (mating areas). Hairy grama (*Chondrosum hirsutum*) is very similar but tends to grow in drier and rockier terrain.

**Sideoats Grama** (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) This native grass grows from 1.5 to three feet tall. The seeds hang from one side of the stem giving it a flag appearance. Early in the year the leaves are bluish green with a slight purplish cast. Fall color may be reddish before the leaves turn brownish/white and curl for the winter. Side oats grama is relished by livestock and wildlife as good summer and fall forage. It is not as drought tolerant as blue grama.

**Buffalograss** (*Buchloe dactyloides*) Buffalograss is a very low growing grass, normally less than six inches tall. It is often found in areas with blue grama. Buffalograss consists of male and female plants and spreads by seeds and stolons (above ground “stems” like strawberries). Buffalograss is very palatable to livestock and wildlife and will actually increase with heavy grazing, producing a very tight sod. The female produces the seed burs very close to the ground making it difficult to collect seeds. The male produces a small spike similar in appearance to blue grama.

**Switchgrass** (*Panicum virgatum*) Switchgrass is a dominant grass in the tall grass prairies. Here, it will get to three to six feet tall. It provides excellent year round wildlife cover and nesting areas for birds. It provides winter thermal cover and seeds for turkeys, quail, and pheasant. Switchgrass can be grazed when green but decreases with over grazing.



Blue grama (top) and big bluestem grasses

# Amazing, Adaptable Lizards

by Geoff Goss

*I am the lizard king. I can do anything.*

~Jim Morrison

What comes to mind when you think of a lizard? Green? Scaly? Hailing from some far-off tropical locale? Or do you think of dinosaurs and movie monsters with expressionless eyes and a penchant for flies? I must confess—my knowledge of lizards just about ends there. I have been known to watch the occasional David Attenborough lizard special on the BBC when the opportunity arises, but this has the annoying side effect of making me talk with a cheesy British accent. But Mr. Attenborough has taught me that, if I look, I can walk out my front door and be amazed.



*An eastern fence lizard*

## Lizards, Colorado Natives

Just out my front door are nearly 3,800 documented species of lizard; 19 native to Colorado. Of these, four are native to Boulder County. They are the eastern fence lizard, also known as the prairie lizard or plateau lizard; the colorful six-lined racerunner; the lesser earless lizard; and the many-lined skink. Both the eastern fence lizard and the six-lined racerunner are common in Boulder County. The lesser earless lizard is rare here, but becomes increasingly common the further east you go. The many-lined skink is expected by the Colorado Herpetological Society to likely exist in Boulder County, although no official record has been documented.

Since all reptiles are cold-blooded, they use the sun's warmth to heat their bodies. Because of this, most lizards hibernate during the winter and reemerge when it gets warm enough to start moving again. Lizards eat all they can during the summer months to store up fat cells for their winter retirement. They decrease their metabolism and shut down everything but their vital organs, entering a state of near-lifelessness. Boulder County's lizards all hibernate, usually hiding out underground. They tend to go into hibernation around August or September and don't come out again until around April or May. The six-lined racerunner can withstand temperatures as low as 21 degrees Fahrenheit!

All of the lizards that can be found here are relatively small. The smallest of these is the 3½-inch (minimum) eastern fence lizard. The six-lined racerunner, the largest of Boulder County's lizards, has a maximum length of 10½ inches. Each of

the four lizards eats insects. The eastern fence lizard isn't too picky—it eats most insects, spiders, centipedes, and even snails! Its mother must be so proud. But a voracious appetite isn't the only thing this lizard has going for it.

In a 2009 study funded by the National Geographic Society, researchers found that populations of the eastern fence lizard that had been in contact with fire ants for longer periods of time had longer hind legs. Fire ants were introduced to the United States from South America in the 1930s. The study showed that

populations of lizards that have had no contact with fire ants had shorter hind legs than lizard populations that have coexisted with fire ants for nearly 70 years. The researchers believe that this rapid evolution is to get better leverage when shaking off fire ants. With climate change rapidly altering our environment, it may be little animals like this that come out on top.

## The Aptly Named "Six-lined Racerunner"

The Boulder County lizard that would come out on top in a foot race would be the aptly named six-lined racerunner. Clocked at 18 miles per hour, the racerunner is Colorado's fastest lizard. What makes it so fast, strangely, is its abnormally long tail, which makes up 70 percent of its body length. In a 1979 study, researchers found that the running speed of individual lizards was decreased by an average of 36 percent when their tails were missing. It is interesting, and a little counter-intuitive, that when tail-weight is removed from the racerunner, it slows down. In some cases, the tailless lizards went toppling end over end when they tried to stop running. Poor lizards. This tail-shedding ability is a defensive adaptation shared by many lizards. If a predator gets hold of the lizard by the tail, the tail comes off. The racerunner seems to be one of the only lizards that is so disadvantaged by its use of this defensive strategy.

Along with the racerunner, it seems that adaptability is a running theme among Boulder County lizards. The next time I am lucky enough to see one, I'll consider this: they have been changing to suit their environment for millennia. And they will continue to do so right outside my front door. Amazing.



# NATURE DETECTIVES

Summer 2011



## Summertime Turkey Vultures

"Look," Sam called, pointing at a large brownish black bird circling in the summer sky. "Do you think it's an eagle? Why does it have such a little head?"

"Well, the head looks small because there are no feathers on that bird's head," Sam's grandma answered. "It has big wings like an eagle, but it's a turkey vulture. Turkey vulture heads are mostly bare wrinkly skin with a bit of dark fuzz. The adult birds have red heads, but it can be hard to see the red up in the sky."

"Weird," Sam snorted. "That one can't be very old because I think it just learned how to fly. It keeps tipping back and forth. Maybe it is still figuring out how its wings work."

Grandma smiled. "Actually, that turkey vulture is tilting back and forth to catch the warm breezes blowing up the hillside. Turkey vultures glide on rising warm air currents. See how the vulture is holding its wings in a wide v-shape. Slight adjustments of their wings and wingtip feathers look clumsy, but that's how the vultures control the way air moves over their wings as they maneuver in the updrafts. Vultures soar for hours, circling up one updraft then diving at nearly 60 miles per hour into another rising air current. Unless they are taking off or landing, they rarely have to flap their wings."

"The vultures are back now from wintering much farther south. I'm really glad we have turkey vultures to clean up around here every summer, but if you want to know more about them, you can't be squeamish," Grandma added.

Sam grinned. "Grandma, I love gross stuff."

### Inside Information

Turkey vultures are expert fliers, but lots of other things about turkey vultures are just plain disgusting. If reading about vomit and poop and putrid dead stuff doesn't gross you out, turn the page for more TV (turkey vulture) facts.





## Riding the Updrafts and Circling for Food

Turkey vultures stir as a new day begins. They've spent the night hunched on cliffs or in tall trees near other turkey vultures. As the air begins to warm in the sunshine, the vultures stretch and groom their feathers. They preen until warm air currents begin to rise away from the land. One by one, they awkwardly flap off from their roosting perch, catch an updraft and begin to circle over grasslands, farms and foothills. They fly alone trying to pick up the scent or sight of something putrid and therefore good to eat. They watch other TVs in the area to see if any act like they are homing in on something suitably dead and tasty. They eagerly follow other scavengers to found food.



Few birds have a keen sense of smell, but the ability to smell dead stuff from a long way away is one of the major ways vultures find their food. They also have very good eyesight.



Vultures almost never eat anything alive. They do not have powerful feet or beaks built for killing. They eat most any animal that has died (**carrion**). Small animals are preferred carrion because larger animals often have hides too tough to be ripped open by the vultures' big hooked beaks. If a dead deer or cow is spotted, a few vultures might circle, waiting for a coyote to come along to open the carcass.

## Anything Rotten is on the Menu

Turkey vulture bodies are perfect for their carrion eating habits. No worries about slime on head feathers as they dig beaks deep into gooey guts. Anything sticking to the bare wrinkled skin on their heads will be baked off by the sun.

Animals die from many causes including predators and accidents and disease. Vultures' tough digestive systems kill any disease organisms so it doesn't matter if the animal was sick when it died. In fact, as the clean-up crew, they help keep diseases from spreading. Vultures ensure that stinky bodies don't start piling up.

TVs sometimes eat grass and seeds, but they also gulp gloppy grass right out of a dead cow's intestines. Other choice vegetables include things like pumpkins left to rot in the field. They will eat cow pies and coyote scat, too. Ick.

## The Dangerous Life of a Roadkill Diet

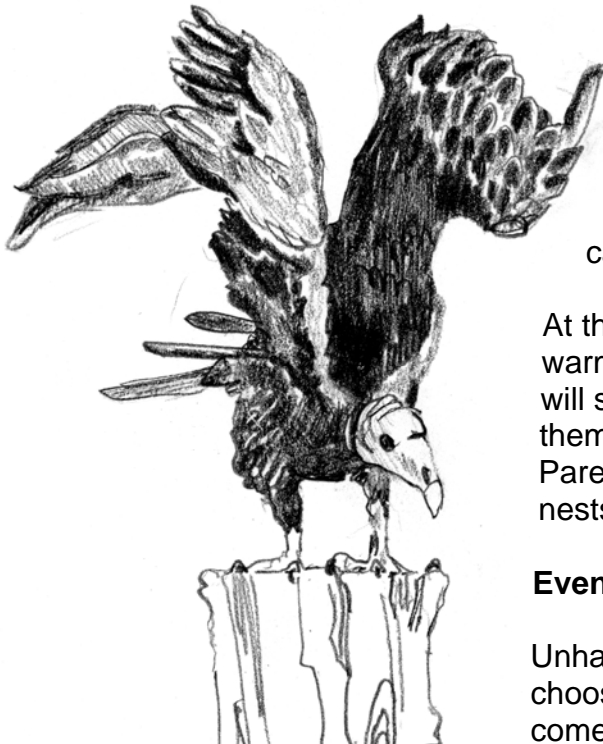
Vultures usually eat their food where they find it, and since the invention of the automobile, they find a lot of dead animals killed by cars. When the carrion is on the road, vultures often become roadkill themselves. Taking flight can be too slow and awkward to avoid a speeding car.

But if a predator appears, TVs will puke up an old bite of food that the hunter might eat while the vulture hops, hisses and flaps away. Or, a grossed out predator may decide to seek a more appetizing meal.



## Beating the Heat

As days heat up, turkey vultures' featherless heads help them cool down. When that isn't enough cooling, they poop on their own legs. The evaporating liquid poop brings cool relief in the heat. Their poop is disease-free, but still...ee-ew.



The vultures' gliding flight doesn't require a lot of energy so they don't need to spend hours eating. A lot of their time is spent preening their feathers. They are related to storks so they like water and will sometimes spend a half hour bathing in a pond. They hold their wings up to catch a shower in rainstorms, too.

At the end of the day or earlier if cool rain stops the warm updrafts, vultures fly back to their roosts. They will stay there until rising air currents make it easy for them to circle aloft the next day.

Parents with eggs or hatchlings to tend will be at their nests rather than in the group roosts.

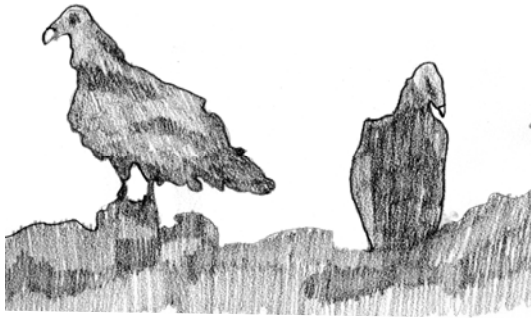
## Even Baby TVs are Gross

Unhappy nesting anywhere near people, vultures choose a wild nest site and will stay away if humans come near. The nests are often hidden in crevices or caves, and the eggs are laid on the ground. The

parent vultures don't bother bringing in nest-building materials. At feeding time, parent birds upchuck remnants of their meals that the babies eagerly consume from their parents' beaks.

TV babies aren't fond of visitors. Even young nestlings can stomp their feet and will vomit on any animals that approach them. That can't make them very appetizing prey, but some chicks are still eaten by raccoons, snakes or other non-finicky predators.





## Turkey Vulture Word Fun

Do you know your vulture facts? The number of letters is indicated by the blanks. What do the letters in the circled blanks spell?

1. Shape of turkey vulture wings in flight.



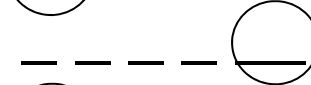
2. Rising current of warm air.



3. Where vultures poop on a hot day.



4. What baby vultures do in self-defense.



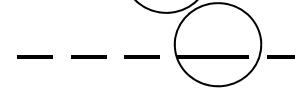
5. Direction warm air goes.



6. Any dead animal.



7. Where vultures often nest.



## Artful Reading

Vultures make their way into many alphabet books. They are an easy pick for the “V” page, but brave is the author who chooses vultures as the topic for a whole picture book. *Vulture View* by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins is a delightful exception. Steve Jenkins’ artwork accents the breezy text deftly summing up the turkey vulture’s world. Further facts, printed in the back, extend the text for curious nature detectives.

## One More Foul Fact

Like owls, turkey vultures hack up pellets of indigestible food. Sometimes they will reach into their beaks with a foot to remove a coughed-up pellet. Yuck.



Answers to TV Word Fun (in random order):  
cave, vomit, V, up, carrion, updraft, legs

# Meadowlark Trail and Coalton Trailhead Now Open

The Boulder County Transportation and Parks and Open Space departments, along with the Town of Superior, have announced that the Coalton Trailhead and the new Meadowlark Trail at McCaslin Boulevard and Coalton Road are now open.

The Coalton Trailhead, located at the new roundabout intersection of McCaslin and Coalton in Superior, provides access to the Coalton Trail and the new Meadowlark Trail, which runs parallel to McCaslin Boulevard.

## Trailhead Amenities

Planned amenities for the two-acre area include a shelter with two picnic tables, restrooms, bike racks, trash cans, a dog station, and an information kiosk. The parking lot will accommodate 27 cars, two handicapped spaces and three horse trailers (one with horse hitching rails). The finished trailhead will also have native varieties of trees, shrubs and grasses.

The new 2.7-mile, multi-use Meadowlark Trail extends from the Coalton Trail at its south end to the Mayhoffer-Singletree Trail at the north end. This trail extension completes an approximate 10-mile loop that includes the City of Boulder's Greenbelt Plateau, and Community Ditch and Cowdrey Draw

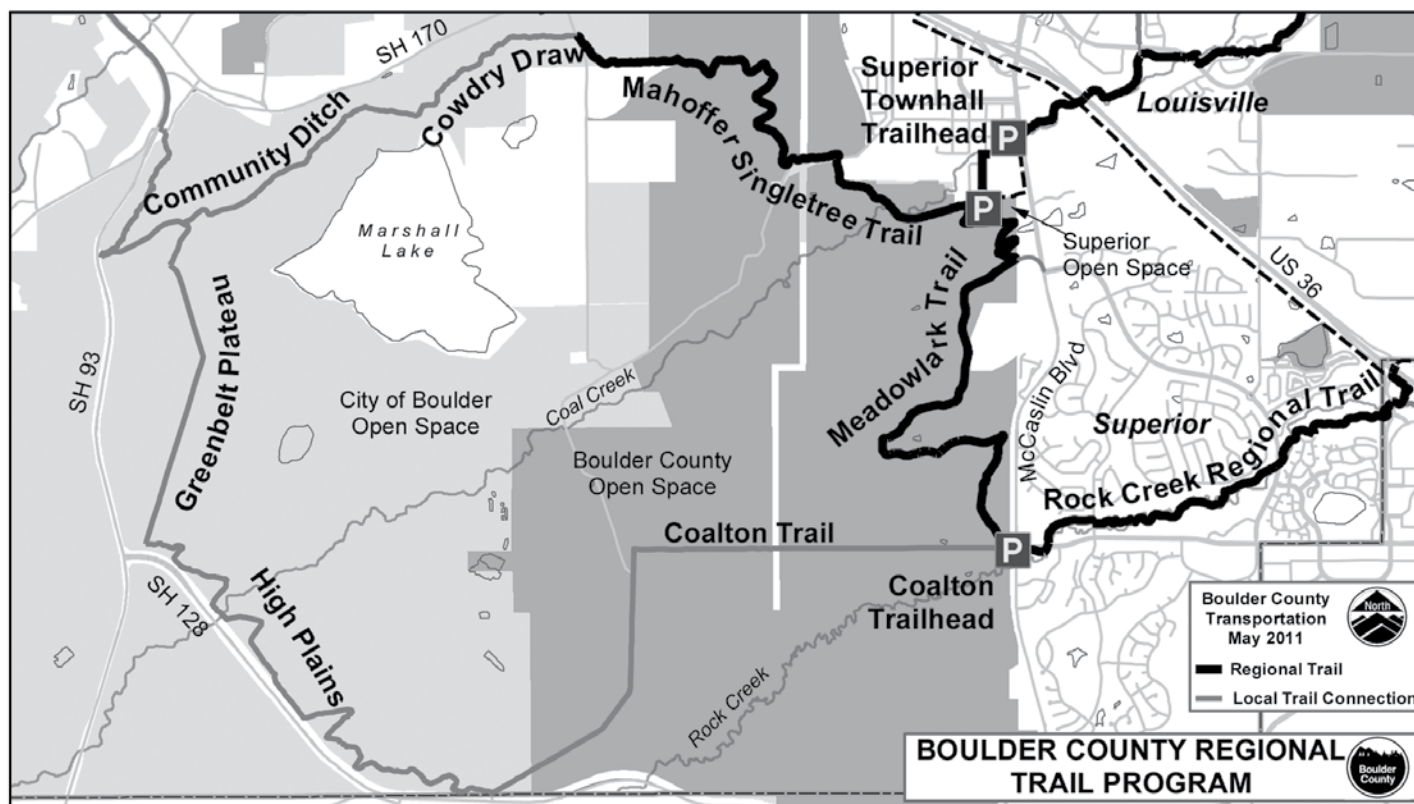
trails that now connect to the Town of Superior and Boulder County trails. The project area includes the former route of the Morgul-Bismarck Loop of the Coors International Bicycle Classic from the 1980s. This new trail also provides a highly anticipated link to the City of Boulder's Marshall-Mesa trails, and the county's Rock Creek and Coal Creek trail systems.

## A Cooperative Effort

Funding for the improved intersection, trailhead, and multiple phases of the trail system has come from the Boulder County Transportation Improvements sales tax, federal transportation funds distributed through the Denver Regional Council of Governments' Transportation Improvement Program, and the Town of Superior. Planning was a joint effort of Boulder County's Transportation and Parks and Open Space departments.

The majority of the land provided for the trailhead and trails is Boulder County open space property purchased with Parks and Open Space sales tax funding, with additional parcels provided by Superior.

**A public ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Coalton trailhead will take place Thursday, June 2 at 3pm.**



# Smartwool: A Community Partner

by Darrin Young

At SmartWool, we make products that keep our customers comfortable from head to toe so they can enjoy the things they love to do outside for longer. So it's very important to give back and support the environment where our product gets put to the test on a daily basis. And, what better place to do this than our own backyard?

## A Partnership Begins

Two years ago we were lucky enough to be able to begin our partnership with Boulder County Parks and Open Space at the Betasso Preserve. With this partnership we work as property stewards for a minimum of two full days a year and often work a number of half days as well. With our product development offices on the west end of Pearl Street, Betasso Preserve is like a good neighbor just down the street. You may not see them every day but it's nice to know they are there, and when you go for a visit it is always rewarding.

## Encouraging Volunteerism

SmartWool gives each of its employees 40 hours of volunteer time each year to give back to their local communities or even communities around the world. Along with this, SmartWool completely closes its offices for two days out of the year so that all employees can head out and serve in the community for those days. With over 1,500 hours in volunteer time last year alone it's an understatement to say we take volunteer work seriously.

I often compare volunteering to the sport of running... you can always find an excuse not to do it... so it's nice to have this hourly incentive to encourage folks to participate as much as possible. Because when you finally get out there and do it, just like running, you always feel good once you complete it.

It's not all serious work though and the staff here always loves to get out in the dirt, sprinkle native seeds, swing large medieval-like metal tools, roll big rocks around, wrestle with stubborn roots, and of course get out of the office with your co-workers for the day! For the past two years, we have been able to tear down and rebuild old fencing, do general trail maintenance, and even get to help build brand a new trail.



*Smartwool employees building a fence.*

## Breaking New Trail

One of our most memorable days was getting to hike into the new Benjamin property and literally carve a brand new trail right out of the forest floor. This is a unique opportunity and one that felt particularly rewarding as the work was hard but you could literally see a very clear before and after. What was once just a line of little orange flags at the start of the day turned into a brand new section of forest trail by the day's end. The other part of the experience that was rather humbling was working in the shadow of the ominous Fourmile Canyon Fire. To

look across the valley and see the vast expanse of burnt timber was a good reminder of the power of nature. While the loss to personal property in the fire was extensive to say the least, it was nice to have the Betasso Preserve spared so that we are still able to enjoy this natural area to its fullest.

## Working Together

The Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff have always been super accommodating to our group size and scheduling needs. They have always been very thoughtful about the weather and worked with us to reschedule on more than one occasion or to even propose a new activity that would keep us out of the snow. As evidenced by starting each volunteer session off with an array of snacks which often include doughnut holes, the staff wants the entire day to be a rewarding experience and is always checking in to see how the crew is doing. Our team always comes back a bit tired and dusty but energized at the same time.

On a final note, we are absolutely honored to receive this year's Partnership Award. While we are humbled to receive this thoughtful recognition, one of the most rewarding parts of the partnership is to get out there with friends, family, and fellow members of the community on the trails that your own sweat and muscle helped to build and maintain.

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*Note: Darrin Young is the Field Service Manager for Smartwool, a recreation sock and apparel retailer. He has helped organize volunteer projects for over three years.*



# Discover Boulder County

## A CALENDAR OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY EVENTS

### Sunset Hikes

Every summer, Boulder County Parks and Open Space offers weekly nature hikes at a variety of parks. These slow-paced hikes cover an array of topics. Volunteer naturalists interpret each park's history, geology, ecosystems, plants and wildlife, and current resource management projects.

Sunset hikes begin at 6:30pm, conclude by sunset, and involve about 2 miles of easy-moderate hiking. No reservations are needed. Sunset hikes are suitable for all ages. An adult must accompany children, and no pets are permitted. Most importantly, bring your family and friends to enjoy an evening exploring your local parks.

Monday, June 6	Rabbit Mountain Open Space
Tuesday, June 14	Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm (meet at Stearns Lake Trailhead)
Wednesday, June 22	Betasso Preserve
Thursday, June 30	Pella Crossing Open Space
Friday, July 8	Heil Valley Ranch Open Space (Lichen Loop Trail; meet at group picnic shelter)
Monday, July 11	Mud Lake Open Space
Tuesday, July 19	Bald Mountain Scenic Area
Wednesday, July 27	Betasso Preserve
Thursday, August 4	Caribou Ranch Open Space
Friday, August 12	Heil Valley Ranch Open Space (Lichen Loop Trail; meet at group picnic shelter)
Monday, August 15	Walker Ranch Open Space (meet at Meyers Homestead Trailhead)
Tuesday, August 23	Bald Mountain Scenic Area



### The Wonder of Walden: A Write & Sketch Hike

Saturday, June 4; 9:30am to 11:30am

Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat Area; 75th Street between Valmont Road and Jay Road; meet at group picnic shelter near Cottonwood Marsh

Volunteer naturalist Ellen Orleans will introduce sketching and writing techniques that anyone can do, and then lead a sensory walk through the wetland ecosystem. Along the way we will sketch cattails, clouds, birds or anything else that catches our eye. All ages and experiences are welcome. We supply paper and pencils or bring your own.

### Fish Hawks of Boulder County

Saturday, June 11; 9:00am to 10:30am

Lagerman Reservoir; off Pike Road, between North 63rd and North 75th Streets; meet at the picnic shelter

What hawk-like bird has a white head, eats fish, and spends the summer and nests in Boulder County, but is not a bald eagle? The answer can only be—osprey! Join volunteer naturalists Cindy Maynard and Kerrie Bryan to observe and learn about this remarkable bird of prey. An osprey pair has nested at Lagerman Reservoir for over 10 years, and with a little luck, we may see adults and young looking for food and trying out new wings. Bring a bird field guide and binoculars if you have them.

### Beavers - At Home in our Lakes and Streams

Saturday, June 11; 11:00 to 11:45am and 1:00 to 1:45pm

Sandstone Ranch Open Space; Visitor Center is located south of Highway 119, one mile east of Weld County Rd 1. Take the second (east) entrance to the Sandstone Ranch area, turning south on Sandstone Drive

Join volunteer naturalists Ruth Martin, Joyce Costello, and Barbara Preese at this beaver program, where children ages 3-7 will learn how a beaver is adapted to an aquatic environment. How will this be done? By dressing one of the children as a beaver, of course! After this fun activity, children will visit stations featuring a beaver mount, pelts they can touch, beaver tracks, lodge information, beaver coloring page, etc. The IMAX Beaver video will also be available to view.

### All Programs

All ages are welcome unless otherwise noted. NO PETS PLEASE! Be prepared for summer temperatures. Bring drinking water and wear hiking shoes. See the back cover for park locations. For information about these programs, or to arrange a volunteer-led program for your group, please call 303-678-6214.

# Discover Boulder County

## A CALENDAR OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY EVENTS

### Grandparent and Grandchild Hike

**Saturday, June 11; 1:00pm to 3:00pm**

**Bald Mountain Scenic Area; 5 miles west of Boulder on Sunshine Canyon Drive (Mapleton Ave. in Boulder city limits)**

Join volunteer naturalists Barbara Willis and Nancy Beaudrot and invite a special person in your life to discover signs of spring and enjoy our foothills open space. This hike is a moderate one-mile loop. We'll look for spring wildflowers, wildlife, and enjoy the view from the top of the mountain. This hike is suitable for older preschoolers, elementary age children and grandparents of all ages.

### All That Glistens Is Not GOLD

**Saturday, June 18; 11:00am to 1:00pm**

**-and-**

**Saturday, August 20; 11:00am to 1:00pm**

**Meeting location will be provided to registered participants**

Try your hand at an activity that led to the settlement of Boulder County—gold panning! Many people came to this area in the 1860s to try to strike it rich—do you have what it takes to travel back in time to do that? Programs are free and open to all ages, but space is limited to the first 25 people who register. For more information or to register, call 303-776-8848. Please leave your full name and phone number.

## Nature Hikes for Seniors

Boulder County Parks and Open Space hosts a nature hike for seniors every month. Programs include information about an area's history, wildlife and current resource management projects.

For more information, call 303-678-6214. Please call in advance if you plan to bring a large group so we have enough naturalists at the program.

**Programs begin at 10:00am and end at noon.**

June 30	Mud Lake Open Space
July 28	Bald Mountain Scenic Area
August 25	Caribou Ranch Open Space

## Night Hikes

Join volunteer naturalists for an evening of exploring nature under cover of darkness. We'll hike about 2 miles roundtrip on a moderate trail, enjoying the starlight, listening for night sounds, and learning about some of the nocturnal habits of the critters that live here. Bring suitable clothing for the weather, a flashlight, and your night vision. (See the map on the back page for location of parks.)

Thursday, June 16; Heil Valley Ranch; 8:30 to 10:30pm

Wednesday, July 6; Walker Ranch 8:00 to 10:00pm

Tuesday, August 9; Bald Mountain Scenic Area; 8:30 to 10:00pm

### Wildflowers of Mud Lake

**Saturday, June 18; 10:00am to noon**

**Mud Lake Open Space; 2 miles north of Nederland on County Road 126; meet at parking lot kiosk**

Celebrate late spring in the high country searching for some of the first wildflowers of the season. We will hike about two easy miles through beautiful montane forests and meadows, identifying and learning about the flowers as we go. Be prepared to hike at an elevation of about 8,500 feet.

### Birds and Rocks of Rabbit Mountain

**Tuesday, June 21; 6:30pm to 9:00pm**

**Rabbit Mountain Open Space; NE of Lyons on north 55th Street; meet at group picnic shelter**

Join volunteer naturalist and geologist Dick Pratt and others for an evening hike to learn about the geology underfoot, and the raptors and other birds overhead. Be prepared for 2-3 miles of moderate hiking geared for adults and older children.

### Fire and Flowers Hike

**Saturday, June 25; 9:30am to 11:30am**

**Meeting location will be given to registered participants**

Join volunteer naturalists for an easy one-mile hike to learn about the natural role of fire in ponderosa pine ecosystems, and some of the forest management practices that can lessen the effects of wildfires. See evidence of the September 2010 Fourmile Canyon Fire, and learn about rehabilitation efforts that have been employed. Along the trail, we will also help you identify a variety of wildflowers. Register by emailing lcolbenson@bouldercounty.org, or calling 303-678-6214 by Thursday, June 23.

# Discover Boulder County

## A CALENDAR OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY EVENTS

### Barnyard Critter Day

**Sunday, June 26; 10:00am to 4:00pm**

**Boulder County's Agricultural Heritage Center  
8348 Highway 66, between Lyons and Longmont**

Come learn about the roles of chickens, pigs, horses and other animals on a farm. Animals have always been part of our lives. Join us as we explore the roles of domestic animals and even wildlife found on the ranch. See demonstrations of sheep herding and horseshoeing, visit with chickens and pigs, and take a ride on a horse-drawn wagon.

Please leave pets at home so our working animals will not be disturbed. For more information, call 303-776-8848 or email [skippen@bouldercounty.org](mailto:skippen@bouldercounty.org).



### Wildflowers of Caribou Ranch

**Saturday, July 2; 9:00am to 11:30am**

**Caribou Ranch Open Space; 2 miles north of Nederland on County Road 126; meet at parking lot kiosk**

Escape the summer heat and enjoy beautiful wildflowers! We will hike about two easy miles through the beautiful montane forests and meadows, learning about the wildflowers as we go. Be prepared to hike at an elevation of about 8,500 feet.

### Circle of Stones Hike: A Woman's Journey to Herself

**Saturday, July 9; 9:30am to Noon**

**Meeting location will be provided to registered participants**

Volunteer naturalist Louise Alderson will lead a walk with nature to experience inner wisdom and to honor the feminine within us, each other, and in the world. This nature program, based on the book *Circle of Stones* by Judith Duerk, will include reflection, writing, and sharing time. Be prepared for a moderate 1.5-mile hike. For women of all ages; register by calling 303-678-6214 by Thursday, July 7.

### Flora and Fauna of the Montane Wetlands and Forests

**Saturday, July 16; 10:00am to noon**

**Mud Lake Open Space; 2 miles north of Nederland on County Road 126; meet at parking lot kiosk.**

Join volunteer naturalists Nancy Beaudrot, Roger Myers and Therese Pieper to enjoy a moderate 2-mile hike through scenic open space while learning about who lives there and the flora that is so vital to this ecosystem's residents. We'll discuss the ways the animals survive, how to identify trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, and observe some of the geologic features of the area. We'll end our hike at a spectacular site for a picnic!

### Junior Ranger Adventure Day

**Saturday, July 30; 9:00am to noon**

**Walker Ranch Open Space; meet at the Meyers Gulch Group Picnic Shelter (entrance will be marked)**

Hey Kids! Here is a great opportunity to have fun outdoors, learn a new skill, and become a Junior Ranger! This new, drop-in program is geared to adventurous kids ages 7-11. Learn what it's like to be found by a search dog, practice your biking safety, discover how to find your way in the woods and investigate a crime scene. You will get to meet real park rangers, too! If you complete all your tasks, you receive the title of Junior Ranger, and get a certificate and prize.

This is a great opportunity to find out what park rangers really do, and how YOU can help us be good stewards of natural places. We look forward to meeting you and your parents too! GPS units will be provided for those who don't have them, however, please bring your own mountain bike if you have one. Feel free to have a picnic at this scenic park after the fun! Contact Ranger Lynette at 303-678-6211 or [lmanderson@bouldercounty.org](mailto:lmanderson@bouldercounty.org) for more details.

### Butterflies and Other Flying Creatures

**Saturday, August 6; 9:00am to 11:30 am**

**Heil Valley Ranch Open Space Lichen Loop Trail; North of Boulder off Lefthand Canyon Drive; meet at the group picnic shelter.**

Volunteer naturalist Jan Chu and others will lead this walk in search of butterflies, birds, and other flying insects. See how creatures find the food, water, shelter, and space needed to survive. We'll talk about butterfly behavior and life cycles, and learn tips on identification. Bring field guides, binoculars, and a snack, if you choose on a slow-paced 1.5-mile hike.



# Discover Boulder County

## A CALENDAR OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY EVENTS

### Summer at Walker Ranch

**Sunday, July 31; 10:00am to 4:00pm**

**Walker Ranch Homestead; 7701 Flagstaff Mountain Road, approximately 7 miles west of Boulder on Flagstaff Road**

Summer is the height of the growing season for those who make their living raising crops and cattle.

Join us at the homestead as costumed volunteers demonstrate various chores associated with rural living in the late 1800s. Activities demonstrated include doing laundry the old-fashioned way, woodworking, wood stove cooking, blacksmithing and children's games. At this event, volunteers also tend to things like weeding the garden, making shingles, and cutting hay. Visitors are invited to participate in some chores.

Guided tours of the homestead will be offered each hour.

We will take a break in the afternoon to enjoy a vintage base ball game where the Walker Ranch Boys will take on their rivals, the Denver Bluestockings.

This event is free and open to all ages. For more information, please call 303-776-8848 or send an email to [skippen@bouldercounty.org](mailto:skippen@bouldercounty.org).

**Please note: Dogs and bicycles are not permitted on the site.**

Visitors are invited to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at nearby Walker Ranch Open Space picnic sites.



### Living in Lion and Bear Country

**Saturday, August 13; 9:00am to 11:00am**

**Heil Valley Ranch Lichen Loop Trail; North of Boulder off Lefthand Canyon Drive; meet at group picnic shelter**

Join volunteer naturalists for a moderate 1.5-mile hike and learn about the ecology and behavior of our local mountain lions and black bears. We'll talk about why the foothills are such good habitat for lions and bears. We'll also discuss hunting and feeding habits, and what to do if you meet a lion or bear.

### Hard Rock Mining Tour

**Saturday, August 20; 10:00am to 3:00pm**

**Meeting location will be provided to registered participants**

Explore our hard rock mining heritage by visiting the mining sites of yesteryear. Tour the Assay Office Museum in Wallstreet, and visit and learn about the Cardinal Mill and the Bluebird Mine. Do a little gold panning yourself and dine on a picnic lunch (please bring a sack lunch). This tour is free, and open to ages 10 and older. Some walking is required. Register or learn more by calling 303-776-8848. Please leave your name and phone number.

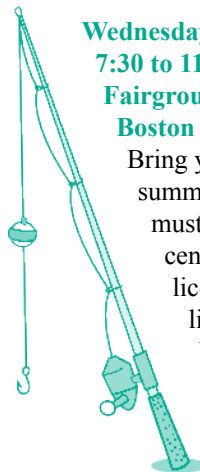
### Summer Catfish Nights

**Wednesdays, June 8, July 13 and August 10  
7:30 to 11 p.m.**

**Fairgrounds Lake, Hover Road &  
Boston Avenue in Longmont**

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a summer night fishing at the lake! Anglers must have current Colorado fishing license (kids under 16 years don't need a license). Open to shore fishing only. No live bait (however worms and stink bait are okay) Check-in required at parking lot area off Boston Avenue.

For more information, call  
303-678-6204.

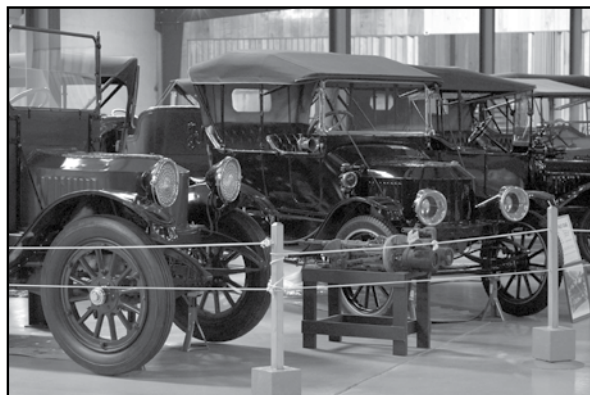


## You Are Invited

The Boulder County Plain Air artist community and the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation are excited to host a Plain Air Exhibit featuring Boulder County Parks and Open Space properties. The show will feature a combination of invited and juried artists.

**When:** August 19 - September 3  
**Where:** Old Firehouse Art Center  
 667 4th Avenue  
 Longmont

## Dougherty Museum Is Open for Summer Season



Visit the Dougherty Museum this summer! It has one of the finest collections of antique automobiles in the region. It opens this year on Friday, June 3.

In 1927, Ray G. Dougherty bought a Circa 1900 reed organ from a music store on Main Street in Longmont. That was the first item of a collection that grew enough to fill a 29,000 sq. ft. museum, which was first opened to the public in 1979.

The collection of beautifully restored and original automobiles—most in running condition—includes models powered by steam, electricity and early internal combustion types.

The museum also houses a 1928 American La France Fire Engine, an 1867 Concord Overland Stagecoach, gas tractors, steam traction engines, horse-drawn farm equipment, cutters, wagons, pianos, reed organs, music boxes, phonographs, and more.

### Museum hours:

Open June, July and August on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

### Location:

One mile south of Longmont on the east side of US #287

### Admission charged:

For details visit [www.bouldercountyopenspace.org](http://www.bouldercountyopenspace.org)

### For more information or to arrange a tour:

Call 303-776-2520

## follow us



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[www.Twitter.com/BoulderCountyOS](http://www.Twitter.com/BoulderCountyOS)

Follow Boulder County Parks and Open Space to get the latest news about:

- wildland fires and flash floods
- free hikes and events
- wildlife sightings
- volunteer opportunities
- trail conditions

## Caribou Ranch Reopens July 1

Caribou Ranch Open Space will reopen to visitors from sunrise to sunset on July 1. If you would like to escape the sizzling summer days on the plains, come discover the diverse vegetation at Caribou Ranch Open Space.

The current trail system, 4.5 miles roundtrip, is open to hikers and equestrians only. Mountain biking is not permitted due to restrictions specified in the purchase agreement. Also, dogs are not permitted on the open space for wildlife habitat and water quality protection.