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OF BOULDER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



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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: Non-native bull frog

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Native Seed Collection Program

by Erica Christensen



Since 2003, the Boulder County Parks and Open Space department's plant ecology staff have been combing rangelands and hillsides for native plants willing to donate their seeds to local restoration projects! The native seeds we collect are important for local restoration projects since we know the plant material used has adapted to thrive in the climate and soils of Boulder County. In addition, some native species are not available for purchase, and those that are available are often either expensive or were collected from several states away. Using local seeds ensures the success of local restoration projects. Following the steps below, staff has restored more and more land each year.

Step 1 - Selection of Species List: Ecologists from partner agencies meet every year to develop and revise a working target species list for hand collection and increase. Staff has found it most efficient to develop a long species list of everything desirable for collection, knowing that each year climate and phenology determines which of these species may be available for collection. While the list helps set priorities, over the years we've found that it's also very important to be opportunistic and collect other native species if the timing and seed production is right.

Step 2 - Training of Volunteer Seed Collection Crew Leaders: Partner agencies work with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) to train volunteers as Seed Collection Crew Leaders. Crew leaders are trained in basic ecology and botany, collecting techniques, noxious weed identification and group management. With their help, one staff member can manage a project of 50 individuals, knowing that small groups will get the instruction and attention needed from volunteer crew leaders to ensure success.

Step 3 - Identification of Wildland Seed Collection Sites: Once target species are selected, properties are scouted to find large enough sites for collection and the plants are monitored to determine the optimum time for seed collection. The plants are checked during flowering and seed development, and seed collection events are planned based on this information.

Seeds are collected across many public land ownership agencies. Thanks to a 2010 grant, we are now collecting in the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding areas. In 2011, over 213 bulk pounds of native seed

was collected from land owned by Boulder County, City of Boulder, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Step 4 - Wildland Seed Collection Projects: Seed are primarily collected by volunteers, some of which come to us through public projects organized by WRV. Others come as groups, often through our department's Partnership Program. Volunteers are trained on-site about the target species to collect and species to avoid, including look-a-like undesirable species or noxious weeds. Some species available only in small quantities or that are difficult to collect are collected by staff or experienced volunteer crew leaders.

Each year, staff and volunteers collect seeds at 25 to 30 projects between late June and early November—that's one to two projects a week! We also use volunteers in several support activities including sewing and repairing seed collection bags, and cleaning seed by hand.

Step 5 - Seed Cleaning, Labeling and Storage:

Immediately after seed collection, individual bags are checked for noxious weeds and undesirable species. Contaminated bags are eliminated from the collection. After eight years of collection, we've found that these quality control measures have greatly reduced the amount of contamination and increased the quality of the native seed collected. After this first level of cleaning and sorting, seeds are set out to dry in paper bags for two weeks or more.

Uncleaned seed can be as little as 10 to 50 percent pure, depending on the species. Once the seed is dried and hand sorted, certain species are shipped off to be cleaned at the U.S. Forest Service Bend Seed Extractory in Bend, Oregon. Other species that lend themselves to hand cleaning are cleaned by volunteers and staff. Cleaned seed will be stored at the temperature and humidity controlled seed storage facility at our headquarters to keep seed viable for many years.

Step 6 - Seed Testing: As part of the seed cleaning process, the Bend facility tests each batch of seed for purity, x-ray fill (from which germination can be estimated), and seeds per pound. Pure Live Seed (PLS) can be calculated from this data, which helps us use the seed more accurately in restoration projects.

"All the flowers of the future are in the seeds of today."
-unknown Brazilian author

Step 7 - Seed In increaser Fields: Species capable of seed production with minimal difficulties are directly entered into Seed In increaser Fields at NRCS Plant Materials Centers. Fields are established using greenhouse grown stock and field transplanted, or by direct seeding in the first year. These fields will be used to produce seed for direct use in ecological restoration projects, and/or saved for several years to be sent to Crop Improvement Associations.

Four species currently in Seed In increaser Fields include Little Bluestem, Prairie Dropseed, Mountain Muhly, and Prairie Junegrass. Other species currently being investigated



Opposite page: Evening seed collection projects provide spectacular views as the monsoon rains leave the foothills. Above: Volunteers clean seed by hand in January, 2012.

for increase in 2012 include: Green needle grass, Porter's aster, Blanketflower, Dotted gayfeather and Sidebells penstemon. Big bluestem and Griffith's wheatgrass have been increased for four years, and the seed increaser fields were recently terminated due to diminishing production. We now have enough seed from these species to send to the Crop Improvement Associations for production at a larger scale.

Step 8 - Seed Utilized in Restoration Projects: As projects are identified for restoration, staff determines what species to plant. Some seeds are stored for several years for future projects. Seeds collected from the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding areas will be made available to local land management agencies for restoration uses in that part of the county. But most of the seeds collected by hand are used immediately for small scale restoration efforts such as slash pile restoration and restoration of impacts made during road and trail construction. These projects are often completed by volunteers, completing the full circle of volunteerism!

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We are recruiting Seed Collection Crew Leaders for the 2012 season! If you are interested in leading groups of volunteers in field situations, learning and teaching about native plants, you might be a good candidate. Crew leaders are expected to attend three projects between June and October, and attend a mandatory training class on June 16. For more information and an application, contact Erica Christensen at echristensen@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6329. The application deadline is June 8.

To volunteer at one of our many projects, please visit the WRV website to register: www.wrv.org.

2012 Parks and Open Space Land Conservation Awards

by Vivienne Jannatpour

On April 18, the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department held the annual Land Conservation Awards ceremony. Here are highlights from the special gathering.

Land Conservation Award recognizes notable achievements in preserving Boulder County's agricultural lands. Jan Burns was honored for her outstanding achievement in land preservation and stewardship. Burns worked for Boulder County for 18 years and was the Manager of the Real Estate Division for more than a decade. Jan's total contributions have led to the protection of almost 81,000 acres. Burns personally worked on 114 real estate deals resulting in the protection of 14,611 acres. When Burns retired in 2010, she left a legacy of superior public service that has protected thousands of acres of land and a staff that is well-seasoned.

Environmental Stewardship Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have promoted land conservation and stewardship practices that respect the interdependent relationship between our community and its valued ecosystems. Steve Jones was recognized for his outstanding achievement in Environmental Stewardship through founding and leadership of Boulder County conservation-based organizations. Jones has been instrumental in creating and leading many conservation-based organizations including the Boulder County Nature Association and Boulder County Audubon Society. He has also been key in countless Boulder County wildlife projects, including the Avian Species of Special Concern List, Burrowing Owl Volunteer Monitoring Program, Winter Raptor Surveys, Annual Boulder County Eco Symposium, and Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

Heritage Award recognizes achievements in preserving Boulder County's heritage through substantially privately funded historic preservation projects. Skip & Marva DeFalco were recognized for their voluntary efforts to restore and preserve the historic buildings at Oreo Farms in Longmont. Oreo Farms is a rehabilitated early 20th century small scale farm that was once prominent in Boulder County. The house, barn, granary and blacksmith shop were bought and rehabilitated starting in 2006 and today serve as home

to Oreo Farms, a hay and cattle company. All of the buildings needed new roofs, windows, siding repair, and paint. Restoration work included installing underground drainage pipe around the barn and replacing an old, cracked concrete floor with hand-laid flagstone, as well as replacing the wooden Model-T-sized garage with concrete. While all the building renovations were going on, the land needed a new life too since 90 percent of the farm was covered with noxious weeds. The field was plowed and replanted in grass hay and irrigation water was purchased. Through a cost-sharing program with Natural Resources Conservation Services, the DeFalcos obtained a pivot sprinkler. The farm now has a lush green grass hay field and a herd of belted Galloway cows on it.

Partnership Award recognizes alliances with businesses and organizations around the county that foster a community-based stewardship ethic for the preservation and care of open space. Amgen became a partner at the inception of the Partnership Program and has performed at least two projects each year since 2009, averaging over 130 hours of volunteer service each year. Tangible results include planting and watering 42 trees, wrapping 20 wetland trees with protective fabric, removing 15 Russian Olive trees, installing 19 posts for a wire fence, removing 150 feet of fence, building four bluebird boxes, scraping and priming a shed, collecting litter on three acres, installing three signs, restoring 20 slash piles and cleaning 800 feet of ditches. This year Amgen went beyond the call of duty when they spent a day cleaning one of our farmers' water ditches! We appreciate their devotion and willingness to work hard and get dirty!

Outstanding Volunteer Awards recognizes individuals whose leadership and support of the department's volunteer programs have enhanced our community partnerships and improved public service. This year there were four recipients.

David Davia has been a volunteer with CSU Extension Colorado Master Gardeners program since 2002, and a Wildlife Masters volunteer since 2003. He has been an outstanding master gardener volunteer, helping clients with plant and landscape problems, constructing and staffing information booths at area events, and facilitating



Rick Burdick from Amgen; Barb Kirchner, Alan Carpenter; Marva DeFalco, Skip DeFalco; Boulder County Commissioner Cindy Domenico; David Davia; Boulder County Commissioner Deb Gardner; Kathie Kennedy; Steve Jones

seminar rooms at the regional ProGreen conference. Wildlife Masters answer phone calls from the public on wildlife issues. It takes time and patience to ask the right questions to get as much information as possible before making a recommendation. Davia is definitely a master at asking the questions to determine what critter is the problem. He handles each client, whether in person or over the phone, with professionalism and respect. His easy-going manner and sense of humor comes in handy when mentoring new volunteers, teaching them to work with clients in a fun, yet considerate, manner.

Kathie Kennedy has been an active Cultural History volunteer since 1999. Though Kennedy's main work site and first love has been at the Walker Ranch Homestead, she is also active at the Agricultural Heritage Center. Kennedy excels as a living history demonstrator. She will take on any task — washboard and wringer laundry, wood stove cooking, or butter churning. Kathie has also developed and researched historic demonstrations of her own including soap making and sausage making. In historic costume or not, in any kind of weather, Kennedy

promptly reports to volunteer. She always provides humor and comic relief with a treasure trove of intriguing stories to tell about various life events and experiences.

Alan Carpenter and Barb Kirchner are a special duo that helped coordinate the Fourmile Canyon Fire Reseeding efforts. They served as technical advisors and planners for all the rehabilitation seeding projects. They participated in meetings with Boulder County Parks and Open Space, Wildland Restoration Volunteers, and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado as dates were chosen, maps were created and logistics planned. They dedicated a large amount of their time, as well as their knowledge and skills in project management and ecological restoration, to the multi-agency cause of restoring these degraded areas. Barb and Alan led crew-leader trainings, answered technical questions, and spoke eloquently when addressing large groups of volunteers, local residents and media. Their skills, dedication, and help with cooperation between agencies were instrumental to the success of these 10 large volunteer projects.

Partnership Program: Backpacker Magazine

by Shannon Davis, Associate Editor, *Backpacker Magazine*

Without trails there'd be no *Backpacker Magazine*. It's that simple. So it's of obvious importance for us to get out and swing a pick mattock, roll some boulders, reroute a problematic stretch, and otherwise break a sweat once in a while to directly preserve at least one trail's integrity. Plus, it's a lot of fun. Our staff is pretty tight-knit (that happens when you camp together for a living), but the type of camaraderie we build while working on the trail is something big corporations would make it rain to acquire even a hint of.

This is our fourth year as a corporate stewardship partner with Boulder County Parks and Open Space, and we're honored to have been one of the first local businesses asked to participate. It was a massive no-brainer, like Ford Motor Company saying, "yeah sure, we'd love to partner with your race track." This is a great opportunity for our staff.

We maintain the Lichen Loop at Heil Valley Ranch, a 1.3-mile circuit through a fetching mix of knee-high grasses and ponderosa pines — quintessential Front Range foothills terrain. It's one of the few trails in the county's open space system limited only to foot traffic, which makes it a safe bet for wildlife sightings and deep quietude. We've seen mule deer, turkey, and a host of songbirds I couldn't begin to identify.

When we started working on the Lichen Loop it was already in pretty good shape. Now, it's in pretty great shape (if we do say so), and we've spent our past three outings working on projects in other areas of Heil Valley Ranch.

Last fall, 12 Backpacker staffers built a 75-foot fence from pine trunks and spikes to help direct trail traffic and shored-up the heavily used and greatly eroded view point on the Ponderosa Loop. Many of us ride that trail regularly, and it's nice to see the improvements at work, with plenty of area

hikers and bikers enjoying them.

We're a small staff and don't bring huge numbers like some of the other partners (hello Amgen), but we bring the same unblinkingly enthusiastic and eager teamwork that we bring to our magazine, website, maps, and apps and have never left a

project only partly done. Andy Tyler, the former stewardship

project coordinator, and Kevin Grady, the Heil Valley Ranch resident ranger — always impeccably prepared — do a good job of lining up work that challenges our ambitions. And providing plenty of ClifBars and Gatorade to fuel our efforts.

Backpacker Magazine is a brand that exists to inspire people to get outdoors and gives them the tools they need to make it happen. The best way to reach our audience starts with being authentic trail hounds ourselves. We hike, bike, run, climb, and paddle. Now we volunteer, build, and maintain too. It's been the link we never knew was missing.

Editors' Note: Backpacker Magazine has a circulation of 340,000 and is headquartered in Boulder, CO.



Staff from *Backpacker Magazine* help maintain the Lichen Loop trail at Heil Valley Ranch.

Drilling on Open Space

by Matthew Adeletti

There are currently over 230 producing oil and gas wells on Boulder County open space, including on land that the county owns and land the county owns a Conservation Easement interest in. And more drilling is expected to happen in the future. While the county purchases land for trails, preserving agriculture and wildlife habitat, the purchases sometimes come with an oil and gas lease.

Oil and gas exploration on county open space is taken very seriously. Boulder County has not, and has no intention to enter into additional oil and gas leases on open space, but must recognize oil and gas rights under existing leases. Also, oil and gas development is not permitted under the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan's definition of open space, and is not permitted under open space sales tax resolutions. When an oil and gas company notifies the county that they wish to drill a new well, county staff takes many steps in ensuring that the company does have the legal right to drill, enters into Surface Use Agreements that ensure proper reclamation of the property, and hold the oil and gas company to be respectful to the land.

Not all open space has an oil and gas lease on it, however the majority of the land in eastern Boulder County does. Before the county purchased the land, or a conservation easement interest in the land, the previous owners had entered into a lease with an oil and gas company which gave them the legal right to explore for oil and gas. Those leases are tied to the land, no matter who owns it. The lease usually gives the owner of the property a percentage of all oil and gas that is sold. This cash infusion is helpful to many landowners.



This oil and gas wellhead is located on the Washam Open Space in central Boulder County.

Drilling Details

When a well gets drilled, the oil and gas company clears about two or three acres of land to fit all the equipment, which includes lots of tanks holding anywhere from 500,000 to five million gallons of water. The drill rig operates for about seven to 14 days, 24 hours a day, for one well. The typical wellbore is anywhere from 4,500 to 8,000 feet deep. Oil and gas can be extracted from geological formations within the Denver-Julesburg Basin, which is the underground basin that extends from Colorado into southeast Wyoming, western Nebraska, and western Kansas. Within this basin are many oil and gas fields. The big field in Boulder County is called the Wattenberg Field, which is the seventh largest oil and gas field in the United States.

The first commercial oil well in the Rocky Mountains was drilled near Canon City, Colorado in 1862. Boulder County saw its first oil well drilled in 1901, and some oil and gas exploration occurred in the 1950s, which significantly increased in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Another increase in exploration occurred from 2003-2008.

The drilling site is active for about three months in order to drill the well and build the infrastructure that supports the well. Then the area is reclaimed to its prior condition, so what you typically see is a two-track road going to the wellhead. It looks like some pipes sticking out of the ground surrounded by a heavy fence which protects it from stray horses, cows, or tractors.

An Open Window

In most of Boulder County, eight wells per 160 acres, or 32 wells per square mile can be drilled, but they have to be drilled within certain operating windows, as established by the State of Colorado. In the past the wells were not bundled together in one spot, but were drilled, one per operational window. Lately we have been seeing more wells being bundled where older ones are, so it has less of an impact on the land.

Typically, oil and gas leases do not terminate until the well is abandoned and no longer producing oil and gas, and those wells can keep producing for 30-plus years. When the county buys a conservation easement interest in a property or buys it outright, and that property has an oil and gas lease on it, the county does so knowing that oil and gas exploration has and could occur, but it was still worth it to buy the land and preserve it from other types of development.

Gone Fishin'

A quick guide to your local fishing holes and activities

| Where to Fish | |
|--|---|
| Site | Location |
| Pella Crossing Heron Lake Sunset Pond Webster Pond Poplar Pond Dragonfly Pond Clearwater Pond | South of Hygiene; on 75th Street |
| Boulder County Fairgrounds Fairgrounds Lake Cattail Pond | Boston Ave at Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont (east of Hover Road) |
| Lagerman Reservoir | Southwest of Longmont; on Pike Road between 75th and 63rd |
| Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm Stearns Lake | South 104th Street (southeast of Louisville) off Dillon Road |
| Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat Wally Toevs Pond Seniors 64 and older and people with disabilities and their companions 15 years or younger. Other Ponds Bass Pond Duck Pond Ricky Weiser Wetland Cottonwood Marsh - closed to fishing | Northeast of Boulder; on North 75th Street; between Valmont Road & Jay Road |
| Walker Ranch S. Boulder Creek | West of Boulder; up Flagstaff Road and Gross Dam Road |
| Rogers Park Boulder Creek | West of Boulder on Highway 119, east of Barker Reservoir |

Summer Catfish Nights

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.

Details:

Time: Events run from 7:30pm to 11:00pm

Day: Wednesdays, June 6, July 11 and August 8,

Place: Fairgrounds Lake, Hover Road & Boston Avenue in Longmont

Kids Gone Fishing

Sign up for one of Boulder County's Kids Gone Fishing events. These events are for children between the ages of 5 and 15 who have never fished or who want to learn more about how to fish.

Kids go through stations to learn about casting, baiting a hook, fish handling (and more) and then get to practice their new skills.

There is limited space so reservations are required. When you sign up, you will be assigned a time to arrive at the pond.

For more information please contact Michelle Bowie at 303-678-6219 or mbowie@bouldercounty.org.

Events run from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

- June 16th at Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm
- July 21st at Pella Crossing
- August 18th at Cattail Pond
- September 15th at Lagerman Reservoir

For More Information

Visit www.BoulderCounty.org and search for fishing. You will find links to all the latest fishing news!

Field Notes

A Day in the Life of a Wildlife Biologist

I am scraping road kill off the Foothills Highway between Boulder and Lyons. Cars stream by, all with blurry morning faces turned in my direction as I feed the limp cottontail into a produce bag. I toss the bag into the back of my car, and before I crack the windows, I send a text, “road kill. running late.” I flip my signal and through the rearview mirror see magpies descend onto the remaining opportunity.

For the next few months, I would court plenty of scavenging creatures, but my goal was to lure a bobcat into a trap. Live-trapping and radio-collaring bobcats was part of a local CSU research project comparing the ecology of our bobcats to those of the western slope’s Uncompagne Plateau. The first thing the experienced technicians learned was that Boulder County’s bobcats are a heck of a lot harder to catch than their west-slope cousins.

As a trap technician, my winter mornings began before dawn. I’d tape my cracked fingertips closed, stuff Hothands in my boots and gloves, and set out to check ten to 20 traps scattered throughout the foothills between Boulder and Lyons. Safely trapping wild animals is a tricky business that requires elaborate site staging, daily trap maintenance, and keeping a detailed log of each traps’ status. It’s a job that requires hiking

alone through the forest carrying a chunk of road kill, two types of gland-scented paste, catnip, cat urine, turkey feathers, a leaky bag of tuna and an irresistible plush toy rabbit. After weeks of trapping gullible skunks, I wondered if I’d have more luck trapping cats if I replaced the trap with a paper bag. Most of the time, the traps were empty, but on those rare days when my receiver signaled that traps had closed, another kind of day unraveled.

Letting Go

From the dark far corner of a trap concealed with pine branches, the strange tension of a calm bobcat combusts with real wildness, and sometimes results in a display of incredible physical strength. On one occasion, a surprise blast of snarling cat slammed against the trap door, nearly knocking me on my back before sending me retreating up a trail to catch my breath. As a biologist, one is acutely aware of the price of compromised wildness. The act of trapping, tranquilizing, and fitting any animal with a tracking device is done with a solemn sense of responsibility. During the moments of intense focus as we hover over a creature taking samples and applying ear tags, there is no way to ignore the overwhelming riptide of awe. No doubt, the best thing about trapping is letting it go.



Clockwise from left:

A bobcat naps high in a tree in Boulder County.

After trapping, wildlife biologists take samples (blood drawn, fleas captured, mouth swabbed) take a photo of the coat pattern for individual identification, check teeth (an indicator of age) and tag and collar the animal. The process is fairly quick; body temperature and breathing is monitored the entire time.

Michelle takes traps into the field.

Author Michelle Durant is a Wildlife Biologist Volunteer Program Specialist

NATURE DETECTIVES



Catching Bobcats

Do you wonder how scientists study wild animals? Michelle is a wildlife biologist who assisted researchers studying Colorado bobcats. For one part of this study, the research team needed to catch a few live bobcats. She will tell you that catching a bobcat is hard work.

You have to hike a long way carrying heavy bobcat traps on your shoulders. These cages are sized for a bobcat, purposely too small for a mountain lion to enter. Nevertheless, at one trap a petite and very curious mountain lion managed to squeeze inside. Oh, dear...it is not easy to get an upset cougar, even a small one, out of a bobcat trap.

Traps can attract other animals such as squirrels, rabbits and foxes too. And skunks! Michelle was sprayed twice while releasing unhappy skunks.

Collaring a Wildcat

Whenever any critter tripped the trap door, Michelle would get a radio signal. Right away, she would hike in to check the trap so no animal would be caged long. If a bobcat gazed out of the trap at her, it was time for the research team to jump into action.

After laying out all their supplies, they carefully give the bobcat a shot to make it sleep for 30 minutes. They ease the cat out of the trap and lay it on a soft blanket to help keep it warm and comfortable. They even put little eye shades on the wildcat to keep the sun out of its eyes. While the cat is dozing they take blood samples to check for disease. If a flea leaps out of the fur they try to snatch it for later identification. A radio collar is slipped on so they can study where the bobcat travels.

Wake Up Kitty

The cat is put gently back into the open cage, now with a blanket over the top. While the cat sleeps, the researchers clear a kitty escape path so nothing can injure the cat as it wakes up and makes a mad dash to freedom.



Seeing Spots

Bobcats are about twice the size of a pet house cat, but individual bobcats vary in size and mottled color.

Michelle said she noticed how big one looked as he stared into her eyes from inside the trap. His eyes looked big, the ruffs of long fur at his cheeks looked big, even his nose looked big.

Some bobcats have large dark blotches and others have pale spots that hardly show at all. The spot patterns are so distinctive, researchers can identify individual cats in photos by the boldness, shape and placement of the spots and streaks.

The color of the wildcats is perfect camouflage for the brushy or rocky areas they usually inhabit. Even a bobcat sunning itself in the open on a rocky ledge is seldom noticed. That camouflage helps make them effective hunters.

Hunting Quietly on Tiptoe

Bobcats need to eat meat. They are skilled predators, taught to hunt by their moms. She taught them to crouch along a path used by rodents or rabbits. Hidden in the brush, listening and watching, they will wait patiently for the chance to ambush their unsuspecting prey.

Bobcat hearts are not designed for long running chases so wildcats are experts at surprise attack. Cats walk on their toes. They carefully place their feet to avoid noise as they sneak through the underbrush or around rocks. The soft pads on the bottoms of their feet dampen the sounds of their footsteps even further. They quietly stalk an unaware mouse or rabbit then suddenly pounce when their prey is just a short dash away.

Rabbits are bobcats' favorite food. One rabbit is enough food for a whole day. Researchers sometimes use road kill rabbits to bait their bobcat traps.

Bobcats also eat birds, rodents such as mice and voles, sometimes snakes, frogs or lizards and even insects like grasshoppers. Their honed, curved claws lock onto their prey. To protect their eyes, they close them and use their sensitive whiskers to guide their sharp-toothed bite. Their round face shape gives their jaws the strength to bite hard for a quick kill.

No one worries about bobcats attacking humans, not even little kids. They just don't.

Trap Safety

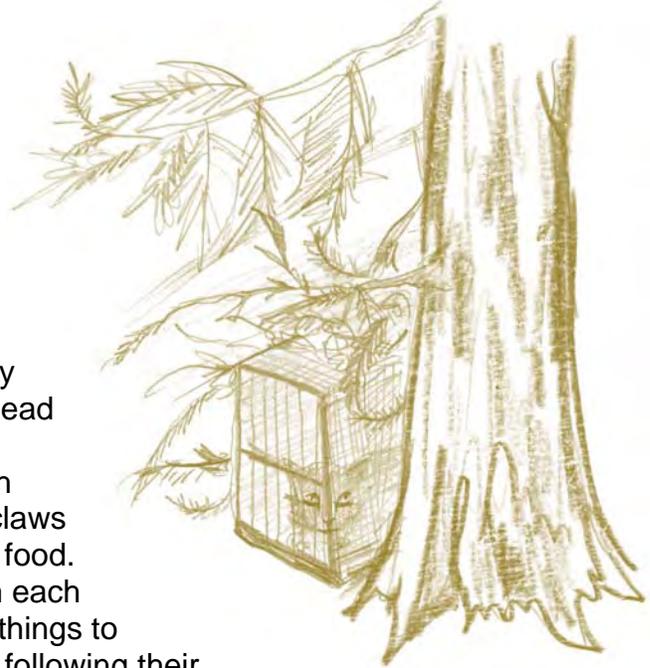
Bobcat researchers are careful about when they catch bobcats for their study. They only put out traps when bears are hibernating so bears won't harm any caged animals. They also avoid trapping when bobcat moms are likely to have kittens.

No biologist wants to keep a wildcat from her kittens for even a short amount of time.

Playful Kitties

Bobcat moms often den under a fallen log or in an opening under a pile of rocks. They like the south side of a hill where the sun will provide a warm nursery for the kittens. Usually a bobcat mom will have three kittens around May.

Much like a pet tabby cat, bobcats seem to enjoy play. Even adult cats have been seen flinging dead prey or feathers into the air in a game of catch. Kittens play rough, stalking and jumping on each other, clawing and biting. They are using their claws and teeth in ways they will use them later to get food. It is good practice. The kittens don't really harm each other because their killing bite is one of the last things to develop. When they are old enough, they start following their mom when she goes hunting. White spots on the backs of her ears and tail help the kittens keep her in sight at night.



Curiosity and a playful nature are what help biologists trap bobcats. Even though traps are disguised with twigs and leaves, clever bobcats tend to be wary of entering. A few turkey feathers swinging in the breeze can tempt a playful bobcat to ignore its sense of caution. Some bobcats are even lured into a trap by stuffed toy rabbits and catnip. The traps are checked every day to make sure the bait or "cat toys" are still there and the traps are well concealed with brush.

Bobcat or Lynx

Bobcats avoid snow. Their footprints up on logs show how they dodge drifts. Since they don't like deep snow or cold, they don't live high in the mountains. Bobcats hang out where they can find good bushy or rocky areas for hiding and hunting.

Lynx look similar to bobcats but are a different cat species just as cougars are a different cat species. Lynx thrive in deep snow where their huge, furry feet allow them to move fast on top of the snow crust. Lynx pick forested areas high in the mountains for their homes.

Bobcats are gray, tan and rusty brown. Some are more grayish than others. Their "bobbed" tails are about 6 inches long, with black spots on top. The tail tip is black on top and white underneath. Lynx are gray with pale spots. Their tail tips are black all around.

Looking for Signs of Bobcats

How many bobcats live in Boulder County? Since the cats are experts at sneaking around without anyone seeing them, no one is sure. Researchers may have a better estimate of bobcat numbers from their study results.



Like a biologist, you might have fun looking for signs of bobcats in natural areas where wildlife live. Bobcats especially seem to travel along ridgelines and overlooks or edges. They often travel on easy paths like trails, dirt roads and beside irrigation ditches. Look for bobcat sign in these kinds of places.

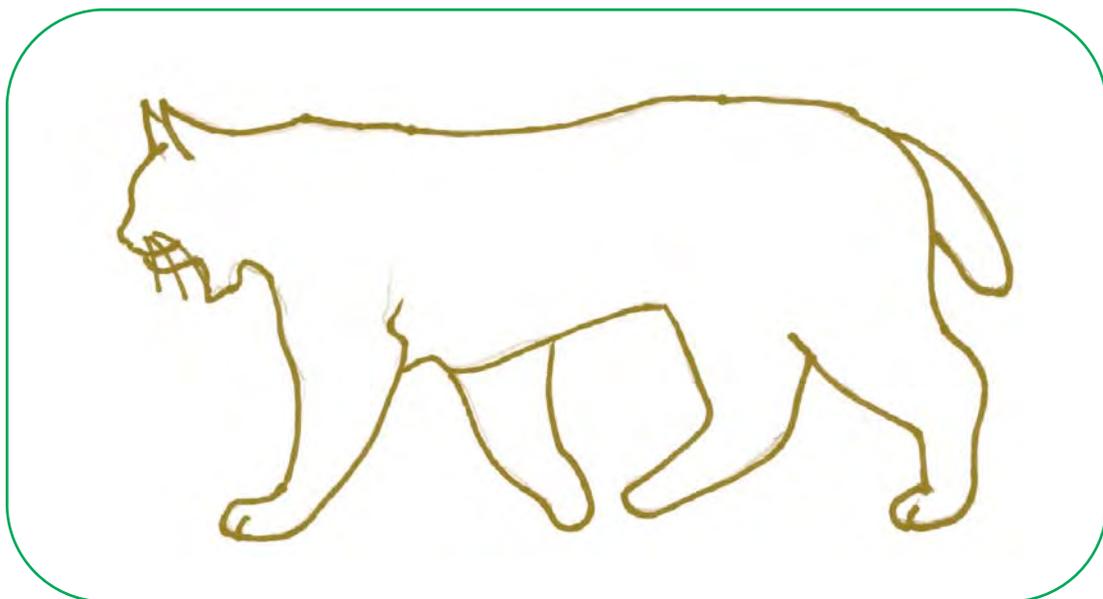
Bobcats leave different signs to mark their territories and communicate with other bobcats in the area. The wildcats see and smell these signs. Signs include scat (poop) and scrapes (where the cat scraped the dirt around scat piles or scraped leaves into a pile to spray with

urine). Bobcats leave claw marks on logs and trees, and tracks in mud or snow.

Bobcat paw prints are round shaped. Their tracks seldom show claw marks since cats retract their claws when they aren't using them. This keeps their claws sharp. Dog family members leave more oval shaped prints and their non-retractable claw marks usually do show in the track.

Your Bobcat

Color this bobcat the way you'd like it to look. Does your bobcat have dark spots and streaks or faint spots? Does your bobcat have more reddish brown fur or more light gray fur?



All About Anurans (frogs, that is)

by Frances Boulding

Ribbit, Ribbit... This familiar croaking chorus evokes images of gallant princes and slimy warty creatures that go bump in the night. Frogs are forever cloaked in mystery. Perhaps the reason frogs are so intertwined with magical lore is because within a single lifetime, they reenact the entire evolution of life. Frogs start their existence as globs of eggs undulating in an aquatic world. The astounding amphibians then proceed to live the life of a fish, complete with gills and fins, until they wiggle and hop their way onto dry land with legs and lungs.

Frogs and toads are both part of the order *Anura* which means tailless. Anurans are found worldwide except in the polar regions and some isolated islands. Frogs are so pervasive that almost every language has an onomatopoeic word to describe a frog's song. The Afrikaans say kwaak-kwaak, Hungarians say bre-ke-ke and the Thai say ob ob. Who knew there were so many languages of frog? Of the 6,033 species of Anurans known in the world, sixteen are found in Colorado, and seven are found in Boulder County. Four of the county's anurans are considered toads; the other three are frogs. A distinction is often made between frogs and toads but there is no real taxonomic basis for the differentiation. Members of the family *Bufo* are called true toads, but many species from other families are also called toads. The delineation between a frog and a toad is based on appearance. Frogs are usually sleek and slimy while toads are warty and dry.

County Toads

The toads that call Boulder County home are the plains spadefoot, great plains toad, boreal toad, and woodhouse's toad.

The boreal toad is a particularly fascinating anuran because it is Colorado's only alpine species of toad. A true mountain dweller, this toad thrives up to 12,000 feet and was once common in Boulder County. The boreal toad experienced dramatic population declines over the past two decades and is now an endangered species in Colorado. The destroyer of the boreal toad, among other forces, was a pregnancy test used by women in the 1930s. African clawed frogs were widely imported as a pregnancy test because urine from a pregnant woman triggers

the frog to release eggs. Many of these frogs were released into the wild after heralding the proverbial stork. Now it appears the African frog carried a chytrid fungus believed to have decimated native amphibian populations.

County Frogs

The frogs that call Boulder County home are the bullfrog, western chorus frog, and northern leopard frog.

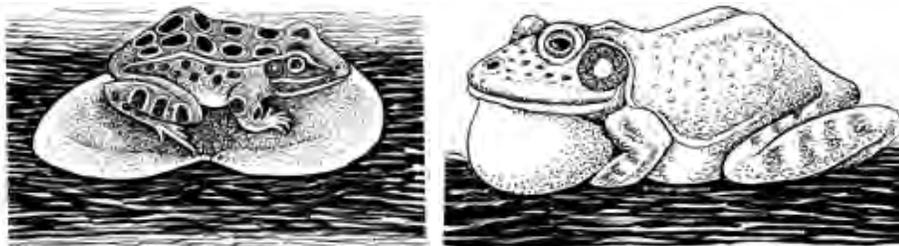
Northern leopard frogs are notable because, like boreal toads, they were once abundant in Boulder County and are now scarce. These spotted frogs flourish in ephemeral ponds because they become adults in one season and are out and about by the time the water dries up. The advantage of ephemeral ponds is that there are far fewer predators. One of the northern leopard frog's preeminent predators is actually the bullfrog. Cannibalistic bullfrogs are invasive in Colorado and would be more aptly named bullyfrogs as they wreak havoc on native frog populations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering whether the northern leopard frog should be labeled as an endangered species in the western United States. Bullfrogs have recently been found on Boulder County Open Space in four locations on the eastern grasslands!

Anuran Peril

Despite the fact that frogs can reenact evolution in one lifetime and dwell almost anywhere, they are not fairy tale creatures but part of the ecosystem all around us. While frogs decidedly earn their magical reputation, they are not invincible. The population decline, so evident with the boreal toad and northern leopard frog in our county, is also occurring worldwide. The 2004 Global Amphibian Assessment found that nearly two out of five New World amphibians are threatened with extinction. The report also found that the declines are recent. Since 1980, four species have gone extinct, and 109 species have become possibly extinct. Reasons for the declines, while numerous, include habitat loss and infection by chytrid fungus. Many environmentalists tout the disappearance of frogs as evidence of the dramatic impact humans are having on the earth.

For two-hundred million years, frogs survived floods, droughts, glaciers, meteorites, volcanic eruptions, and whatever did in the dinosaurs; for two-hundred million springs, through ice ages and fiery cataclysms, they serenaded Mother Earth. Now their song is almost done. Frogs are telling us something about the general condition of earth's environment, and the news is not reassuring.

I hope the anurans pull off some magic and make a recovery. For now, we are lucky to have prime habitat for even the rare species on our open space. Hopefully, we can observe the anuran's metamorphic magnificence for years to come.



One of the northern leopard frog's (left) preeminent predators is the bullfrog. Cannibalistic bullfrogs (right) are invasive in Colorado and would be more aptly named "bullyfrogs" as they wreak havoc on native frog populations.

Life on a High Wire: Ivy Baldwin

by Kathy Lawson

Once upon a time, in a canyon not far away, there lived and died a man of short stature and tall aspirations. With squirrel shooter's eyes and a field marshal's mustache, his name was Ivy Baldwin and he was as much a legend in his own time as he is today. Ivy Baldwin was a daredevil. He is most famous for his high wire crossings of Eldorado Canyon (known then as South Boulder Canyon). From 1907 to 1926 he walked the 7/8 inch woven steel cable across Eldorado Canyon as it was strung 582 feet above South Boulder Creek and stretched 632 feet from Castle Rock (The Bastille) to The Wind Tower. He did it 89 times. The last time? On his 82nd birthday.

Off to Join the Circus

William Ivy, born July 31, 1866 in Texas, ran away from home at the age of 12 and joined the Thayer Dollar Circus. He teamed up with the famous Baldwin Brothers and soon became the mainstay of the trio. In 1889 he officially changed his name to Ivy Baldwin and the legend was born.

In 1890 the Baldwins traveled to Japan to perform their ballooning ascensions and parachute jumps. Ivy offered up his usual 100 foot leap into a small net only 10 feet above ground. One problem—Ivy had advertised the jump to be from 150 feet. "...I got a call at my hotel from four polite Japanese men...saying I'd please make my tower higher, and they showed me some newspaper ads that I couldn't read...I had to add fifty feet to the tower. I hoped for the best, and made the jump. Three days later the same chaps called on me with a brown silk kimono, a present from the emperor!! It had pictures of my tower embroidered on it and some balloons." This became one of Ivy's most prized possessions.

From jumping into the jungles of Java amongst aggressive monkeys to landing amidst head hunters in Borneo (who thought he was God!) to landing in cactus in Mexico and cared for by the natives, Ivy Baldwin found himself moving to Colorado in 1893.

John Elitch was one of the many thousands of people who saw the daredevil do his deed. He asked Ivy to perform for the opening ceremonies of his new Elitch Gardens (sadly, now defunct) in Denver. Ivy said yes, and thus began the Sunday afternoon rituals of Ivy's balloon ascents, tight wire walks and parachuting escapades. Soon Ivy caught the attention of Frank Fowler of the Eldorado Springs Resort.

Above the Canyon

On June 7th, 1907 at the age of 41, Ivy walked his highest walk ever over South Boulder Canyon, now known as Eldorado Canyon. He did it 88 times after that. Frank Fowler strung the cable across the canyon for his friend. He used 32 ropes and two steel guy wires to stabilize the cable. Ivy used a 26 foot pole weighing 10 pounds, with one pound weights at each end. He wore camel soled shoes which "don't get slippery when wet." He walked it forward, he walked it backward. He did headstands and once hung from his knees for 45 minutes while a hail storm came ripping through the canyon. Another time Ivy became blinded by the sun's reflection off the rocks in front of him. He had to holler to Frank's brother Fred at the other end, to start counting out loud so he could use his ears to direct him in the right direction. "I'll use smoke colored glasses tomorrow," he announced to Frank's stepson, Gene Fowler (the author) who aptly described Ivy as, "...a compactly fashioned gamecock of superlative grace and strength."

Forward to July 31, 1948, Ivy Baldwin's 82nd birthday. Frank Fowler's son Jack Fowler is now running the resort. He is very reluctant to allow the old fellow to attempt such a daring feat. Somehow, Jack and Ivy's daughter thought it would be acceptable, but only if he did it on a lower strung cable, only 125 feet high! Three thousand people came to watch the legend grace Eldorado Canyon once more.

Five years later on October 8th, 1953 Ivy Baldwin died in his sleep, in his cabin in Eldorado Springs. He was 87. The cable was taken down in 1974 but his cabin remains. It is estimated Ivy made 1,200 descents with a parachute and 2,700 ascensions by balloon. He is quoted in saying his profession was, "...the greatest poison in the world! One drop could kill ya!..." The legend lives on.



Ivy Baldwin's daredevil accomplishments included walking a high wire over Eldorado Canyon and performing stunts from hot-air balloons. (Photos from Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder Historical Society Collection)

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.

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.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Tuesday, June 5 | Rabbit Mountain Open Space |
| Wednesday, June 13 | Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm (meet at Stearns Lake Trailhead) |
| Thursday, June 21 | Walker Ranch Open Space (meet at the Meyers Homestead Trailhead) |
| Friday, June 29 | Pella Crossing Open Space |
| Monday, July 2 | Heil Valley Ranch Open Space (Lichen Loop Trail; meet at group picnic shelter) |
| Tuesday, July 10 | Mud Lake Open Space |
| Wednesday, July 18 | Betasso Preserve |
| Thursday, July 26 | Bald Mountain Scenic Area |
| Friday, August 3 | Caribou Ranch Open Space |
| Monday, August 6 | Heil Valley Ranch Open Space (Lichen Loop Trail; meet at group picnic shelter) |
| Tuesday, August 14 | Walker Ranch Open Space (meet at Meyers Homestead Trailhead) |
| Wednesday, August 22 | Bald Mountain Scenic Area |



Fire and Flowers Hike

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

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

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 and scale of wildfires. You'll see evidence of the 2010 Fourmile Canyon fire, and learn about some of the rehabilitation efforts. Along the trail, we will also help you identify and enjoy the variety of wildflowers found there.

Geology of Rabbit Mountain

Tuesday, June 12; 6:30pm to 9:00pm

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

Join geologist and volunteer naturalist Dick Pratt and others for an evening hike to learn about the interesting geology underfoot. We'll also keep our eyes open for spring wildflowers and signs of wildlife. Participants should be prepared for 2-3 miles of moderate hiking, and bring water and wear closed-toe hiking shoes or boots. This hike is geared for adults and older children.



Fish Hawks of Boulder County

Saturday, June 16; 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 – and 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. We will also keep our eyes out for other birds frequenting the area. Bring a bird field guide and binoculars if you have them.

Discover Boulder County

A CALENDAR OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY EVENTS

Night Hike at Heil Valley Ranch

Monday, June 18; 8:30pm to 10:30pm

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

Join volunteer naturalists for an evening of exploring under the cover of darkness. We'll hike just over one mile round-trip, 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 water, closed-toe hiking shoes/boots, a flashlight, and your night vision.

Celebrate Summer Hike at Mud Lake

Saturday, June 23; 10:00am to noon

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

Join volunteer naturalist Alan Blixt and others and celebrate the coming of summer to the high country! On this easy 2 mile hike we will explore the natural history of the area including bird life and behavior, wildflower identification, butterflies and other insects, and forest ecology. We will also talk about summer weather patterns and safety in the mountains.



I Spy Bones

Thursday, June 28; 9:30am to 10:30am

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

The bone detectives are on the prowl! Help volunteer naturalist Diane Faigen and others search for evidence, including skulls, vertebrae, and antlers of some of

the animals that live here. This program is geared toward pre-school children, but siblings are welcome. Hands-on activities and a fun craft will also be included.

The Wonder of Walden: A Write & Sketch Hike

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

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

Engage the outdoors through nature journaling. Volunteer naturalist Ellen Orleans will introduce sketching and writing techniques that anyone can do, and then we will take a sensory walk through the wetland ecosystem. Along the way we will sketch cattails, clouds, birds or anything else that catches our eye, noting the sounds, smells, and textures we encounter. Nature journaling is about asking questions, seeing details, and experiencing nature more deeply—all ages and experiences are welcome. We will supply paper and pencils or bring your own unlined journal or pad.

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

Saturday, July 7; 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 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. For women of all ages who want to embrace the rhythm of a natural setting with personal reflection and growth. Participants should wear closed-toe walking/hiking shoes, bring drinking water, and be prepared for a moderate 1.5-mile hike. To register, email lcolbenson@bouldercounty.org or call 303-678-6214 by Thursday, July 5.

Night Hike at Walker Ranch

Thursday, July 12; 8:00pm to 10:00pm

Walker Ranch; approximately 7 miles west of Boulder on Flagstaff Road; meet at the Meyers Homestead Trailhead

Join volunteer naturalists for an evening of exploring under the cover of darkness. We'll hike about two miles round-trip on an easy trail, enjoying the starlight, listening for night sounds, and learning about some of the nocturnal habits of the critters that live here. Bring water, closed-toe hiking shoes/boots, a flashlight, and your night vision.



Discover Boulder County

A CALENDAR OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY EVENTS

Wildflowers of Caribou Ranch

Saturday, July 14; 9:00am to noon

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

Escape the summer heat and enjoy the beautiful wildflowers of Caribou Ranch! Volunteer naturalists will be available along the 4.2 miles (roundtrip) of easy-moderate trails to help you identify and learn about the wildflowers as you explore the beautiful montane forest, meadows, and wetland landscape. Participants should be prepared to hike at an elevation of about 8500 feet, and bring a rain poncho and drinking water.

Flora and Fauna of the Montane Wetlands and Forests

Saturday, August 4; 10:00am to noon

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

Escape the summer heat and 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 and thrive, how to identify various trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, and observe some of the geologic features of the Mud Lake area that affect this ecosystem. We'll end our hike at a spectacular site for a picnic! Bring sun protection, water, walking or hiking shoes, a suitable jacket and binoculars if you have them. All ages are welcome.

Night Hike at Bald Mountain

Wednesday, August 8; 8:30pm to 10:00pm

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

Join Boulder County volunteer naturalists for an evening of exploring under the cover of darkness. We'll hike about one mile roundtrip on a moderately strenuous trail, enjoying the starlight, listening for night sounds, and learning about some of the nocturnal habits of the critters that live here. Bring water, closed-toe hiking shoes/boots, a flashlight, and your night vision.



Butterflies and Other Flying Creatures

Saturday, August 11; 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 1.5 mile hike along trails and meadows in search of mid-summer butterflies, birds, and other flying insects. See how creatures in the foothills find the food, water, shelter, and space needed to survive. We'll talk about butterfly behavior and life cycles, and learn some tips on identification. We'll also look for interesting butterfly behavior, including taking nectar, puddling, courtship, and perhaps depositing eggs on host plants. Bring butterfly field guides and binoculars if you have them.

Living in Lion and Bear Country

Saturday, August 25; 9:00am to 11:00am

Heil Valley Ranch Lichen Loop Trail; North of Boulder off Lefthand Canyon Drive; meet at the 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. As we hike along the loop trail, we'll talk about why the foothills of Boulder County 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.

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 28 | Mud Lake Open Space |
| July 26 | Bald Mountain Scenic Area |
| August 30 | Caribou Ranch Open Space |

All Programs

All ages are welcome unless otherwise noted. **NO PETS PLEASE!** Be prepared for summer temperatures. Bring drinking water and wear closed-toe 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

Cultural History Events

Summer Heritage Day at Walker Ranch

Sunday, July 29; 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.

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.

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

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



Barnyard Critter Day

Sunday, June 24; 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.



All That Glistens Is Not GOLD

Saturday, June 16; 11:00am to 1:00pm
-and-

Saturday, August 18; 11:00am to 1:00pm

Meeting location 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. Register online at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/historyprograms. No internet access? Please call 303-776-8848.

Hard Rock Mining Tour

Saturday, August 18; 9:00am to noon

Meeting location provided to registered participants

Tap into the towns, tools and characters of local hard rock mining heritage by visiting mining sites of years gone by. Join us on a morning's journey to Cardinal Mill, Old Cardinal City, and the Bluebird Mine. The tour is free and open to ages 10 and up. Some walking required. Register online at www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/historyprograms. No internet access? Please call 303-776-8848.



Call for Entries

Land Through the Lens

A juried photography show called, Land Through the Lens, will be held at the The Dairy Center for the Arts in Boulder, Colorado, during the month of March, 2013. The exhibit will feature photographs of county-owned open space land.

Details

- Application deadline is November 9, 2012.
- Open to all living artists; photographs from previous years accepted.
- Interested photographers can submit up to six photographs for a \$25 entry fee.
- A youth category for photographers age 18 and younger is available for a \$10 entry fee.
- Only photographs Boulder County Parks and Open Space properties will be considered.

Visit www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/photoshow for application instructions and a list of recommended areas to photograph. Questions? Contact Karen Imbierowicz at 303-678-6268 or kimbierowicz@bouldercounty.org.

Get on the Ag Bus

Boulder County will again host bus tours this summer to showcase agricultural practices on county-owned open space land. Participants will learn about agricultural production systems, issues, challenges and opportunities on open space lands. The tours will highlight different farms each time, representing field and forage crops, vegetable crops and livestock. Farmers will be available to answer questions.

2012 tour dates are:

June 12

July 10

August 7

Tours cost \$5 per participant.

To register visit:

www.2012agtours.eventbrite.com



Group Wellness Hikes and Rides

Need a little nudge to get out of the house to exercise? Join the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department for a wellness hike or ride this summer. These hikes and rides will be led by rangers and park interpreters who will talk a little bit about the wildlife and plants along the way -- but the main goal is the hike or ride!

All ages are welcome but an adult must accompany children. Dogs are permitted only on hikes where noted below. **For details, call Pascale Fried at 303-678-6201.**

- Saturday June 9, 10am to Noon, Family Bike Ride on Niwot Loop (meet at Dry Creek Trailhead)
- Thursday June 28, 6pm to 8pm, Hike at Heil Valley Ranch (meet at Picture Rock Trailhead)
- Saturday July 14, 8:30am to Noon, Hike at Betasso Preserve (dogs permitted)
- Friday July 27, 6pm to 8pm, Hike at Walker Ranch (meet at Meyers Homestead Trailhead) (dogs permitted)
- Saturday August 4, 10am to Noon, Family Hike at Mud Lake (dogs permitted)
- Wednesday August 22, 6pm to 8pm, Bike Ride on LOBO Trail, (meet at LeftHand Valley Grange Trailhead in Niwot)

New Group Shelter at Mud Lake

Thinking about having a large gathering this summer? If you want to get away from the summer's heat, you may want to reserve the Mud Lake picnic shelter which has a great view of the lake! The new shelter has four picnic tables and can be reserved anytime from sunrise to sunset. Tables and grills are included, although electricity and drinking water are not available. Other county open space properties that have large group shelters that you can reserve for a small fee include Beech Open Space, Betasso Preserve, Fairgrounds Park, Heil Valley Ranch and Walker Ranch. For more details, visit the department's website at www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org.



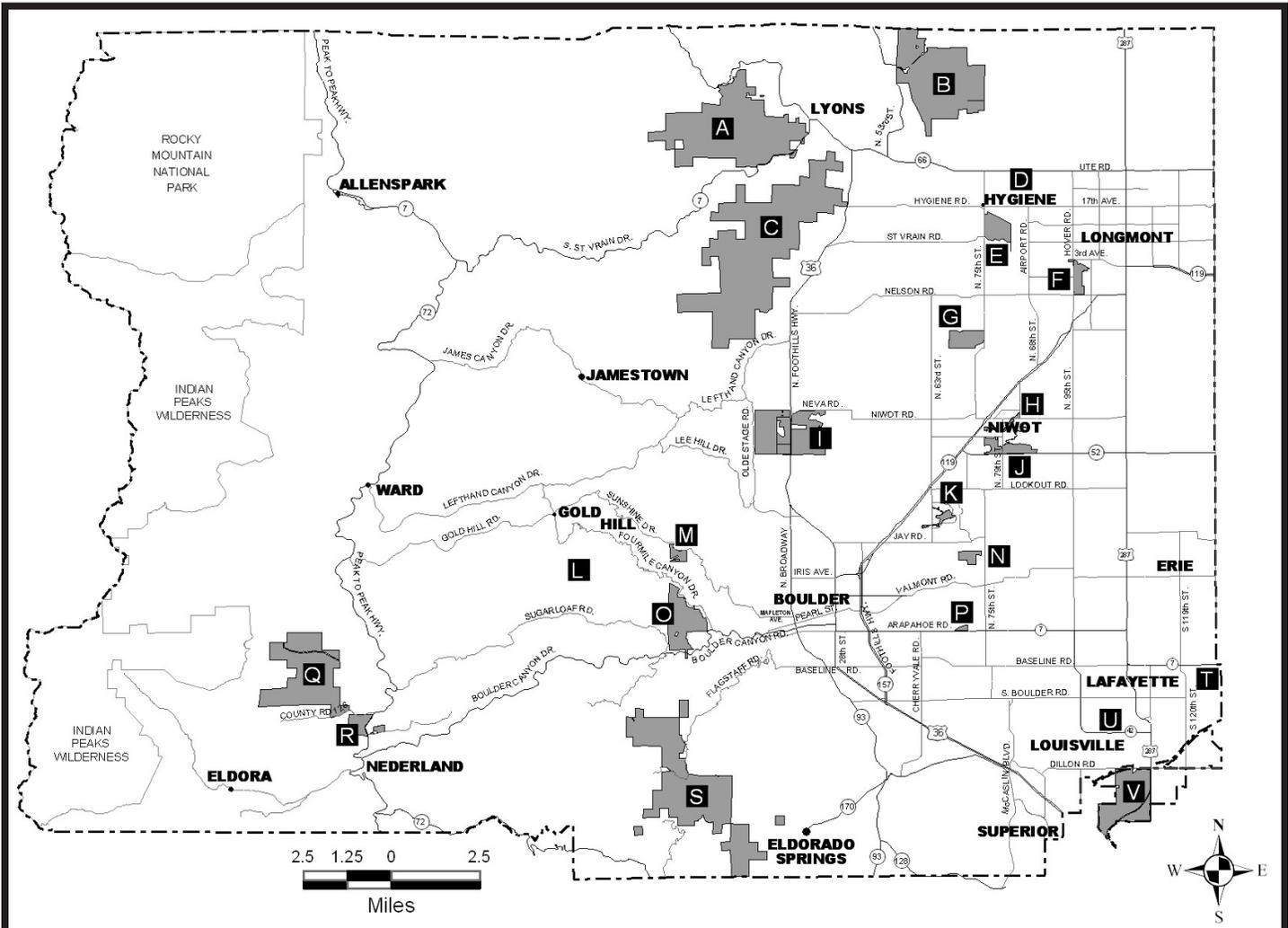
A view at Mud Lake



PARKS & OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT
 5201 St. Vrain Road
 Longmont, CO 80503
 303-678-6200

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| A. Hall Ranch | H. Lefthand Valley Grange | P. Legion Park |
| B. Rabbit Mountain | I. Beech Open Space | Q. Caribou Ranch |
| C. Heil Valley Ranch | J. Niwot Loop Trail | R. Mud Lake |
| D. Agricultural Heritage Center at Lohr/Mcintosh Farm | K. Twin Lakes | S. Walker Ranch |
| E. Pella Crossing | L. James F. Bailey Assay Museum | T. Flagg Park |
| F. Boulder County Fairgrounds | M. Bald Mountain Scenic Area | U. Coal Creek Trail |
| G. Lagerman Reservoir | N. Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat | V. Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm |
| | O. Betasso Preserve | |