

Boulder County Nature Association



"The Boulder County Nature Association is a private, non-profit membership organization committed to preserving the natural history of our region through research, documentation, and public education."

Volume 32, Number 2
Spring 2014

21st Annual Boulder County Ecosystem Symposium EXTINCTION: CAN OUR NATIVE SPECIES BE SAVED? Saturday, April 12th, 2014 Ramaley Auditorium, University of Colorado Free and Open to the Public

8:30- 9:00 **Registration**

9:00 – 9:05 **Welcome and Announcements** Jeff Mitton,
University of Colorado Boulder

9:05 - 9:35 **The Brave New World of Restoration Ecology: Looking Forward While Looking Back**
Katharine Suding, University of California Berkeley

9:35 - 10:05 **Can Citizen Science Monitoring Provide Reliable Data to Assess the Vulnerability of the American Pika to Climate Change in the Front Range of Colorado and Beyond?** Megan Mueller,
Rocky Mountain Wild

10:05 - 10:35 **General Overview of the Updated Environmental Resource Element of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan and its Application to Environmental Conservation** Mac Kobza,
Boulder County Parks and Open Space

10:35 - 11:00 **Break**

11:00 - 11:30 **When Protection is Not Enough - Managing for Resilient Bristlecone and Limber Pine Populations in the Southern Rockies** Anna Schoettle,
USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station

11:30 - 12:30 **Rights of Nature Panel Discussion** with Pricilla Stuckey, Boulder Rights of Nature; Tim Seastadt, University of Colorado Boulder; Pete Fogg, Long Range Policy Team, Boulder County Land Use Department; Rick Casey, East Boulder County United. Moderated by Steve Jones, Boulder Rights of Nature

12:30 - 1:30 **Complimentary Lunch**

1:30 – 2:00 **State of the Birds in Boulder County: Threatened, Endangered, and Extirpated Breeding Species** Steve Jones, Boulder County Nature Association and Boulder County Audubon Society

2:00 - 2:30 **Potential Flood Effects to Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals** Lynne Sullivan, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

2:30 **Closing Remarks** by Jeff Mitton (continued on page 2)



See BCNA Class Schedule on pages 4 and 5

***A Message from our Outgoing President,
Peter Kleinman . . .***

Having served as President of BCNA for the last two years, I am happy to have had the chance to serve our organization and am so glad to leave the next period of time to Sue Cass, who couldn't be a better person to take over at this time.

I think we are in good shape. I haven't counted the number of members, but am reassured by the steady, strong flow of memberships that we remain a popular and valuable community organization. People will be pleased by the continuing high quality of ecosystem courses we are able to offer by local people and by the roster of talks and panels planned for this spring's Ecosystem Symposium. The level of interest in the goings on in our natural environment remains high and bodes well for the future.

We also remain a fairly small organization that has depended on the dedication of a fairly small group of people. I hope we can expand the number of people willing to serve on the Board and plan various projects. Always there is a need to organize and professionalize various functions of a non-profit. Howard Witkin has taken on an enormous task in doing this with our financial records as Treasurer. Cindy Maynard has been producing the "BCNA Buzz," which gives notice of important news as it comes up. We have developed some position papers on local issues, but there is a need in the future to give more thought to how we go about advocacy so that we have informed, evidence-based positions. And there is plenty of room for members to be increasingly involved in community projects and volunteer work.

As is true of many people, BCNA has evolved into an important part of my life in Boulder. I have learned an enormous amount, and hope I have given back a little bit of value. Let's all keep this good thing going.

And from our Incoming President, Sue Cass . . .

Our traditional annual meeting and elections were held the evening of February 8th. Your 2014 Board of Directors includes yours truly, Sue Cass as President; Megan Bowes, Vice President; Shirley Jin, Secretary; Howard Witkin, Treasurer; and At Large members Peter Kleinman, Cindy Maynard, Claudia Van Wie and, new to the Board this year, Kerrie Bryan and Mary Stuber. Welcome aboard, Kerrie and Mary, and thank you for your generous commitment of time, energy, and expertise!

Those of you who were unable to attend missed an eye-opening presentation by City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Education and Outreach Coordinator Dave Sutherland on damage done to OSMP infrastructure during the floods in September. Despite the difficult-to-watch images of trails ripped asunder and bridges vanished throughout the entire range of open space properties and the realization we will be many years in recovery mode, Dave put the entire event into proper perspective. Floods of this nature have been shaping our landscape for eons and we were humbled, if not privileged, to observe an event of geologic proportion. At the time, there wasn't one among us who didn't fathom the enormity of the experience. Thank you, Dave, for sharing your keen insight into and grasp of nature in its rawest form!

I am very much looking forward to working with my amazing fellow Board members on your behalf for the next two years. We will keep you "plugged in" through this quarterly newsletter (thank you Dianne Andrews and Carol McCasland), the "BCNA Buzz" and our brand new Facebook page (thank you Cindy Maynard), electronic posts on Nature-Net (thank you Scott Severs) and check out our fantastic new website (thank you Claudia Van Wie and George Oetzel). We're a dedicated and talented group! Join us!

(Ecosymposium, continued from page 1)

If you are able to help with this year's conference, either with planning or with registration and hospitality on the day of the conference, please contact Steve Jones at 303-494-2468 or Megan Bowes at megan.bowes@yahoo.com.

Donations will be accepted for the Boulder County Nature Association's Research Grants program. Don't forget to bring your own reusable plate, cup, and utensils for the complimentary lunch.

Many thanks to the sponsors who make this symposium possible: Boulder County Nature Association, Colorado Native Plant Society, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, Boulder County Audubon Society, and University of Colorado Boulder.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Natural Resource Monitoring

Boulder County Parks and Open Space is now accepting applications for the 2014 class of natural resource monitoring volunteers. Get outdoors while collecting important scientific data about wildlife, agricultural lands, forests, native plants, or noxious weeds. We are looking for people who have experience collecting field data, a background in natural resources, and familiarity with scientific protocol. For more information on the various programs and an application, contact Michelle Bowie at 303-678-6219 or mbowie@bouldercounty.org.

Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network

Do you get excited when you see a butterfly? Do you care about the health of ecosystems? Then volunteering for the Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network is the perfect job for you! We are currently seeking energetic volunteers to assist in a new project monitoring Colorado butterfly populations in parks and open spaces throughout the state. Volunteers will observe and record butterflies along a set census route at least six times between May 15 and September 30 2014.

Volunteers are required to attend a full day training on either April 27th (9 am to 3 pm) or May 7th (10 am to 4 pm) at Butterfly Pavilion. After training, volunteers will be expected to identify 25 regionally common butterfly species and understand how to observe them in the field. For more information please contact Sarah Garrett (sgarrett@butterflies.org) or Amy Yarger (ayarger@butterflies.org) at Butterfly Pavilion.

BCNA to Participate Again with Myrtle Spurge Eradication

BCNA will partner with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV), Boulder County Parks and Open Space, Boulder County Audubon Society and the Colorado Native Plant Society in multiple eradication efforts of the "List A" noxious weed myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*). This escaped ornamental is a truly dangerous stranger on many people's property and is designated for statewide eradication by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. BCNA members can assist this effort by participating in one of several volunteer weed pulls to help remove this species on private property where the landowners may not have the resources to do so themselves. Visit WRV's website, <http://wlv.org>, and click on Projects and Trainings for more information and to secure your spot on the team. (continued on page 7)

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2013
Howard Witkin**

For the year 2013 we had a net positive cash flow of \$4,798.37. Our income was \$16,382.05 and expenses were \$11,583.68.

The two main contributors of income came from Membership Dues, \$5,503 (33.6%) and Education (BCNA Classes) (\$5,190.50 (31.7%).

On the expense side, Instructor Fees for BCNA Classes, \$3,641.24 (22.2%), Research & Grants, \$3,495.00 (21.3%) and Newsletter Printing, \$1,901.52 (11.6%) made up the majority of our expenses, along with postage.

During the past year we had the financial books reviewed by an accountant and they were found to be in good condition. This was not an audit but a review and correction of any errors that occurred since August 30, 2012. We are continually looking to simplify the financial reports by updating accounts which are no longer relevant to the association. As of December 31, 2013 the Balance Sheet showed the following:

Total cash on hand:	\$55,220.36
Restricted Funds:	9,563.72 (*)
Total unrestricted	\$45,656.64

(*) Restricted funds are those that can only be used for the following projects:

Allegra Collister Fund	(\$6,952.57)
Native Cat Fund	(\$1,291.50)
Woods Foundation	(\$1,319.65) (**)

(**) After much discussion, the Board ascertained the Woods Foundation fund would be set aside for scholarships for BCNA classes.

A budget has been created to give the board a measurement tool to guide it in making future financial decisions. One of the major upcoming expenditures will be the publication of the new dragonfly book just being completed. Projects like the dragonfly book and possibly paying to have speakers come in from other parts of the country are a major factor in having funds on hand to pay for these activities. When large expenditures are committed for one-time activities the board now has the knowledge of how the expenditures will be repaid, allowing the association to maintain a solid financial footing.

BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION 2014 SUMMER CLASSES

(Please review the class policies at the bottom of page 5)

**Butterflies Are Survivors!
Jan Chu**

Explore how butterflies are surviving after the horrendous flood. We'll look at classification and identification of some of the species we are likely to see outdoors, along with life cycles, necessary habitats, host plants, and survival challenges. This class is geared both to beginners and to those who wish to review.

Indoor class: Thursday, June 19, 6 to 8 pm. Preceded by optional potluck supper and butterfly viewing in Jan's garden from 5 to 6 pm.
Field class: Saturday, June 21, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
Field class: Saturday, June 28, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Tuition: \$85 (\$75 for BCNA members). Limited to 12 participants. For information, contact Jan Chu (303-494-1108 or chuhouse@hotmail.com with "Butterflies" in the subject line). To register, contact Pam Piombino (piombino.pam@gmail.com).



Rocky Mountain Dotted-Blue

Jan Chu, a retired biology teacher, is co-author of *Butterflies of the Colorado Front Range*. As a volunteer naturalist for Boulder County Parks and Open Space, she has conducted over 11 years of inventories on butterfly species. Jan has also organized Fourth of July butterfly counts at the Cal-Wood Education Center in Jamestown for 35 years.

**Bats
Rick Adams**

Investigate the natural history of these enigmatic mammals by delving into their ecology, physiology, morphology, and behavior. In addition, we will see bats up-close-and-personal by conducting field work. The class will consist of a "getting-to-know-bats" lecture and discussion followed by a night of mist-netting at a local pond. In addition, we will listen to and record echolocation calls of several species and watch them drinking by using a night-vision camcorder with infrared lighting.

Indoor class: Wednesday, June 25, 6:30 to 9 pm
Field class: Thursday, June 26, 7 to 11 pm

Tuition: \$50 (\$45 for BCNA members). Limited to 12 participants. For information, contact Rick Adams (battings@yahoo.com). To register, contact Pam Piombino (piombino.pam@gmail.com).

Rick Adams has studied bats in the West since 1984. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Northern Colorado and is founder and president of the Colorado Bat Society. Rick is also the author of *Into the Night: Tales of Nocturnal Wildlife Expeditions* and *Bats of the Rocky Mountain West: Natural History, Ecology and Conservation*.



Photo by Rick Adams

Native Bees: Diversity and Natural History Virginia Scott

Learn about Colorado's native bees. Acquire the skills to identify some of the more common and noticeable local bees. Discover how and where our native bees nest. Explore their relationships with plants. Consider the benefits and basics for encouraging bees to thrive in your habitat. Then, venture out in the field to look for bees and observe their behaviors on flowers and at nest sites.

Indoor class: Thursday, July 10, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Field class: Saturday, July 12, 9 am to 12 noon

Field class: Saturday, July 19, 9 am to 12 noon

Tuition: \$65 (\$60 for BCNA members). Limited to 12 participants. For information, contact Virginia Scott (virginia.scott@colorado.edu with "Bee class" in the subject line). To register, contact Pam Piombino (piombino.pam@gmail.com).

Virginia Scott has been the Collections Manager of the Entomology Collections at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History in Boulder since 1994. She is lead author of *The Bees of Colorado*. She is also the scientific advisor to The Bees' Needs, a Citizen Science Project focusing on some of Colorado's native bees (<http://beesneeds.colorado.edu>).



Bumblebee on Sunflower
by Virginia Scott

Microphotography: Wildflowers, Butterflies, Beetles and Much More Steve Jones



Praying Mantis, by Steve Jones

Get up-close-and-personal with the colorful inhabitants of Boulder's tallgrass prairies and montane meadows, from praying mantises to assassin bugs. Discover how to achieve dramatic lighting and stunning sharpness while making your subjects really stand out. Enjoy a casual photo-sharing session after completing the class.

Indoor class: Thursday, July 24, 7 to 9 pm

Field class: Saturday, July 26, 7:30 to 11 am

Field class: Saturday, August 2, 7:30 to 11 am

Recommended equipment: Any close-focusing (to within 15") camera, sturdy boots and pants, a day pack to steady your camera on.

Tuition: \$75 (\$65 for BCNA members). Limited to 8 participants. For information, contact Steve Jones (303-494-2468 or curlwsj@comcast.net). To register, contact Pam Piombino (piombino.pam@gmail.com).

Steve Jones is author of *The Last Prairie* and co-author of *Peterson Field Guide to the North American Prairie*, *Wild Boulder County*, *Colorado Nature Almanac*, and *Butterflies of the Colorado Front Range*. He taught in the Boulder Valley Public Schools for 33 years and has taught BCNA field classes for 20 years. His consulting work includes more than 25 breeding bird surveys for local agencies and private companies.

BCNA Classes Policies

Refund policy: Participants who cancel at least two weeks before a class will receive a tuition refund minus a \$25 processing fee. No refund is given if a participant cancels less than two weeks before a class begins.

Recommended equipment and reading lists will be provided to participants upon class registration.

Mileage rate for field classes: Non-drivers will be expected to pay drivers 12 cents per mile per person for field class car trips.

Partial Tuition: There will be no discounting of fees if you cannot attend all of the classes scheduled.

Children 16 or under and accompanied by a parent, receive a 50% tuition discount or may apply for a scholarship. Contact individual instructors for the minimum age for each class.

Scholarships: BCNA offers partial scholarships for class tuition. To apply, go to www.bcna.org and fill out the online application form. Then, send it to: Pam Piombino: piombino.pam@gmail.com

BUTTERFLIES ARE AWAKENING

Jan Chu

Butterflies are as anxious for spring to arrive as we are. Already two overwintering adult species have been seen. Dan Foscos photographed a Milbert's Tortoiseshell on February 19 and Steve Jones saw one on February 18. A Mourning Cloak was seen by Elvira Glenn on Feb. 19. We expect these species to be among the first species to emerge on a sunny day.



Milbert's Tortoiseshell, by Dan Foscos

Dan photographed a Checkered White Feb. 19. Sharon Daugherty saw a Cabbage White on February 27. So here's a mystery. The Whites are not likely to survive over the winter as adults. We've had a very cold winter. Did they overwinter in some dry crevice or did they emerge from a chrysalis already?

On February 28, Scott Severs found two early caterpillars on Eagle Wind Trail doing their "walk-

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH BCNA
Claudia Van Wie

Although Boulder County Nature Association is an all volunteer organization, we will endeavor to answer any inquiries or emails promptly. Current contact names and emails are listed in each newsletter. A general email address for the organization is goldfinch@bcna.org.

If you would like to send in pictures for the web site, please save them as jpgs. We can resize them to fit the web page or you can do so (350-400 px wide, 300 px/in resolution). Please send them to webmaster@bcna.org.

We hope to keep adding references to the links for naturalists and the books of local interest pages to make these pages a great resource for Boulder County naturalists. Please send ideas to add to these pages, along with a short description of the link or book to webmaster@bcna.org.

Our snail mail address is: Boulder County Nature Association, P.O. Box 493, Boulder, CO 80306.

BCNA Board of Directors

President Sue Cass 720-684-6922
 Vice-President Megan Bowes 303-561-4883
 Treasurer Howard Witkin 303-789-4950
 Secretary Shirley Jin 303-499-1574
 Kerrie Bryan 303-834-8151
 Peter Kleinman 303-554-5320
 Cindy Maynard 720-203-8211
 Mary Stuber 303-644-9773
 Claudia Van Wie 303-494-2250

Committees and Contacts

- *Avian Species of Special Concern*
 Dave Hallock dhaldora@rmi.net
 Steve Jones curlewsj@comcast.net

- *Conservation*
 Chair Position Open

- *Ecosystem Stewardship*
 Steve Jones 303-494-2468

- *Education*
 Steve Jones 303-494-2468

- *Facebook Page and BCNA Buzz*
 Cindy Maynard 720-203-8211,
cmaynardre@gmail.com

- *Indian Peaks Bird Counts*
 Dave Hallock 303-258-3672
 Bill Kaempfer 303-954-8998

- *Membership*
 Cindy Maynard 720-203-8211
 Terry Stuart 303-449-2232

- *Nature Net Moderator*
 Scott Severs scottesevers@gmail.com

- *Newsletter*
 Dianne Andrews, content editor
dandrews@boulder.net
 Carol McCasland, layout 303-635-6433

- *Publications*
 Sue Cass 720-684-6922

- *Research Grants*
 Peter Kleinman 303-554-5320

- *State and Regional Wildlife Issues*
 Peter Kleinman 303-554-5320

- *Website and Support for Newsletter*
 Claudia Van Wie 303-494-2250,
webmaster@bcna.org
 George Oetzel 303-543-3712

- *Wintering Raptor Survey*
 Sue Cass 720-684-6922

Connect with nature:
nature-net-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Mary Stuber: I come to BCNA with a broad interest in the natural world around me. Primarily self-taught, my knowledge has been gained through many curious years spent in the outdoors. I came to Colorado in 1970 and moved to Boulder County in 1997. The first class on the county's ecology that I took was one on wild orchids through BCNA. In 2010 I became a Volunteer Naturalist for BCPOS. I enjoy presenting programs and guiding hikes and birding tours for the public and for various groups. My approach to continued learning and how I share it with my own audiences has been shaped by these experiences.

I love to lay my head down with that good kind of tired – from a long snowshoe or a day rowing down a river – and fall asleep under a dark starry sky, watching for shooting stars or listening to sounds in the night. I need to feel hot, tired, cold, dirty, scared, sad, exhilarated, and relaxed. I can have all these experiences when I put myself in my natural surroundings as part of them and not separate from them. By learning all I can about this world I begin to be comfortable in it. Then I feel the awe and wonder that some call a higher being. To cherish and protect something, you must love it. To love, you must know it. To know, you must learn about it. To learn, you must be exposed to an idea. This is why I've offered my efforts to BCNA. I want everyone to cherish and protect this wonder of a natural world we have. My work is to help them find their way there.



Watch the summer issue of BCNA's newsletter for a profile on new board member, Kerrie Bryan.

NEW BCNA FACEBOOK PAGE

BCNA has a new Facebook page. If you use Facebook check us out and "Like" us on Facebook to receive tidbits of great information and news.

Volunteer, continued from page 3

Colorado Native Plant Society Field Trip leaders! Do you have a favorite hiking trail or other place you like to view wildflowers? The Boulder chapter is looking for individuals to help lead field trips this summer. Leaders need not be experts. They simply need have a willingness to share their favorite hike with others. Contact Megan Bowes at bowesm@bouldercolorado.gov or (303-561-4883) to help.

City of Longmont Raptor Nest Monitors and Weed Control Crew

Help monitor nesting raptors throughout the city. Information about nesting activities will help the City make informed management decisions for the protection of nests, management of surrounding natural resources, and planning of new trails and amenities appropriately. Volunteers are expected to spend at least 30 minutes once per week observing and recording observations at their assigned nest(s). All ages and experience welcome.

Noxious weeds are one of the most serious threats to our public lands. They degrade the environment, reduce agricultural production, and interfere with outdoor recreation. Weed control volunteers will help control these invaders by digging, pulling, and clipping on public lands throughout the city, including some properties not open to the public. Meet new friends, explore new lands, and make a real difference. Volunteer for a day or all year long. We can use your help! All ages and experience welcome. For more information or to apply, please contact Jim Krick at 303-651-8451 or Jim.Krick@ci.longmont.co.us

SUMMER CAMP

Registration is now open for the Thorne Nature Experience (formerly Thorne Ecological Institute) Summer Camp classes for children and youth. Go to www.thornenature.org for list of classes and to register. For questions, call Gwen at 303-499-3647, ext. 100. Thorne is celebrating its 60 Anniversary this year!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Be sure to renew your membership by May. After May you will no longer receive the Newsletter or BCNA BUZZ if we have not received your renewal.

If you are not getting the BCNA BUZZ it means I don't have an accurate email address for you. Please email me at: cmaynardre@gmail.com so I have your current email address. Thanks!
Cindy Maynard, Membership Chair

Support the Boulder County Nature Association

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____ required if you wish to receive the BCNA BUZZ

Type of Membership:

_____ Student/Senior (65 or over)	\$15
_____ General Member	\$20
_____ Family or Household	\$30
_____ Supporter	\$40
_____ Founder	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$300
_____ Corporate	\$500
_____ Donation to General Research Grants	
_____ Donation to Evenson Big Cat Research Grants	
_____ Donation to General Research Fund	

The membership year is January 1 to December 31. Those who join after October 1 are considered members in good standing through the following year. All members receive this quarterly newsletter. Supporter-level members and higher also receive a complimentary copy of each BCNA publication.

Please make checks payable to "Boulder County Nature Association" or "BCNA" and mail to:
P.O. Box 493, Boulder, CO 80306.

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P.O. Box 493
Boulder, CO 80306