CPW volunteers, staff, and community partners—this is your newsletter about volunteer engagement and volunteer-related educational events, people and happenings within Colorado Parks & Wildlife. We welcome all contributions and ideas for articles. If you would like to contribute, send articles and photos to Fletcher Jacobs, Statewide Volunteer Program Coordinator at fletcher.jacobs@state.co.us. Please keep articles to 250–300 words in length. We reserve the right to edit any contributions.

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2015 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

This spring and summer are times to Celebrate CPW Volunteers! During Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 12 - 18, 2015 several volunteers were highlighted on the CPW website, Facebook page and Twitter. We feature them along with many others in our summer issue of Tracks, Trails & Tales. Thank you to all of our AMAZING volunteers!

We Appreciate Your Patience Most of All

CPW volunteers are known for their hard work, dedication and for staying until the work gets done. We would also like to thank you for your patience with us as we migrate thousands of records of volunteer data over to our new tracking system. Most of you by now are into your volunteer accounts and have reset your passwords, for those of you who needed to (mostly the wildlife volunteers).

Volunteer coordinators appreciate your honest feedback and to hear about what you’re seeing when you login. Rest assured that your coordinators and CPW staff are working hard to streamline the new system and make it work best for us. We have support staff on hand to make the transition as smooth as possible.

You’ll see a few changes as we go but keep us notified of how things look. Your input is important! We are handling 600-700 project files and literally thousands of volunteer files but the system will make all of our jobs of tracking time and miles much easier in the coming year.

Thanks again for your hard work, your diligence and your passion for the Colorado resource. And thanks for being so good about turning in hours and helping us through this latest and greatest data conversion. Good times ahead! Have a Safe Summer. –Your Volunteer Coordinators
Cutthroat Trout Unlimited Supports River Watch

By Barb Horn, Statewide Water Quality Specialist & River Watch Coordinator

In 2005, Cutthroat Trout Unlimited decided to join the River Watch network and attended our annual training. Up until 2015, Bill Honeyfield was the ring leader of the Cutthroat Chapter River Watch team.

Monthly, Bill and his fellow TU members would head out to Deckers to the Lone Rock Campground and collect water quality samples. According to Bill, “I always tried to make our trip to the Deckers area a little more interesting by scheduling side trips to fishing areas or allotting a couple of hours to fish various places of the S Platte River in the area. Sometimes, scheduling would not allow this extra activity. But generally we would work in a hour or so for lunch at Bud’s or other local eatery. I think this was the highlight of our outings.”

Not only has Cutthroat TU been collecting water chemistry samples, but annually, they have been collecting macroinvertebrates at the Lone Rock site. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) are an easy and useful way to check the quality of river water. Bill and the others would make a day of the bug collections, “Probably the most interesting job was the days we would do a bug collection and count to see what was in the river in the way of fish food. We were always amazed at how it would change with both the season and the year. We would always recruit several more club members for this trip which made these days extra enjoyable.”

There is no value we can place on the impact and importance of what Bill and the other members do for River Watch and really appreciate the effort and time they spend getting outdoors to protect the waters they fish in. Thank you Bill Honeyfield and the other members of Cutthroat TU for all you do!

CNAP Honors Volunteer Stewards

By Raquel Wertsbaugh, Colorado Natural Areas Program Coordinator

The Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) has been recognizing and conserving Colorado’s most important natural places for over 35 years. By working cooperatively with landowners we protect the state’s most unique and extraordinary examples of rare species habitats, geologic features, fossils, and representative ecosystems. Our hardworking and dedicated volunteers are vital to the Program’s success. The CNAP Volunteer Stewards are a group of nearly 100 volunteers who are dedicated to the protection and preservation of Colorado’s highest quality and most unique places. In 2014, our stewards volunteered nearly 2,000 hours of their time throughout the state!

Volunteer Stewards act as citizen scientists for the program by monitoring high quality natural areas, rare plant populations, weed infestations, and other indicators of ecological integrity. The knowledge they provide helps CNAP work with landowners to address management concerns and achieve conservation goals. We can’t thank our volunteers enough for helping us protect Colorado’s most important places!
Statewide Raptor Monitoring Program Celebrates Volunteers
By Samantha Holm, Resource Stewardship Biological and GIS Technician

We celebrate the citizen scientists that collect invaluable information on the raptor species in our State Parks through their work in the Volunteer Raptor Monitoring Program! Our volunteers play a fundamental role in CPW’s ability to manage our natural resources, contributing thousands of hours each year to tracking raptor nesting and habitat use of our Parks. Over the years this program has expanded to 22 State Parks, covering every Park in the northeast and southeast regions. We currently have 141 hard-working raptor monitors that cover 111,796 acres searching for raptors and monitoring 300 nests!

In 2014, our volunteers monitored 96 active nests that fledged 147 young. Many of Colorado’s most sensitive raptor species (i.e. bald eagles, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, burrowing owls, and ferruginous hawks) can be found in our State Parks. Thank you Volunteer Raptor Monitors for your dedication to raptor conservation!

Incubating Great Horned Owl at Chatfield State Park. Photo by: Larry Glass.
NE Region Volunteers Recognized for their 2014 Contributions

By Lori Morgan, Northeast Region Volunteer Coordinator

Northeast Region volunteers who contributed 10 or more hours in 2014 were invited to attend the annual Northeast Region Volunteer Recognition Banquet on Saturday, May 2nd. This year’s banquet was held at the Butterfly Pavilion. Some volunteers were brave enough to hold Rosie, the tarantula, while others watched a small butterfly release. Either way, a great time was had by all!

Big congratulations to Ray Scherbarth for being Grand Volunteer of the Year with 564.5 hours! Thanks Ray for all of your help!

Northeast Region Thanks Fishing Clinic Prep Volunteers

By Bryan Posthumus, Northeast Region Hunting and Angling Outreach Coordinator

Thank you to the 17 volunteers that assembled, strung, and tied on tackle at the 2015 “Pole-a-Palooza” event on April 2nd! This group assembled 500 rods that will be given away to youth and new anglers at the many fishing clinics throughout the Region, supporting the outreach efforts of several District Wildlife Managers. Volunteers that pitched in were John Breed, Rod Davis, Jerry Donovan, Jon Freed, Dan Geyer, Derek Hankins, Sandy and Brady Hewitt, Gary Ingram, Mary Kiesling, Doug Kieswetter, Bill Mock, Jean and Ron Nutter, Logan Posthumus, and Cheryl and Palmer Rugh. Thank you all for spending your time.
Regional Highlights

Northeast

Northeast Region Thanks Hunter Outreach Volunteers

By Bryan Posthumus, Northeast Region Hunting and Angling Outreach Coordinator

Thanks to volunteer Dave Shickle for his many efforts supporting outreach efforts and staff. Dave, pictured with his highly trained hunting partners, has helped on numerous outreach efforts, including classes, clinics, and mentored hunts. He has also supported outreach staff by fixing and maintaining archery gear used in clinics throughout the region. Thanks Dave!

Big thanks for helping on a soggy day!

By Kristin Cannon, District Wildlife Manager - Boulder N/NE

I just wanted to say THANK YOU to Jim Dill, John Martyny, Mac McAtee and Zach Weaver for volunteering at the Erie Fishing Clinic on Saturday, May 9th. It was wet, rainy and cold and you all showed up early with smiles on your faces and enduring good attitudes.

I could not do this clinic without volunteers so I really appreciate all of your help. Hopefully I’ll see you all again next year!

Barr Lake Appreciate LDS Volunteers

By Michelle Seubert, Park Manager - Barr Lake State Park

A group of Latter Day Saint Missionaries have been coming to Barr Lake for the past two years. These are young men and women that are from all over the country staying with host families in the Brighton area. The LDS kids come out once a week and do a wide range of activities from weed removal to shoveling. They are often giving back to the community of Brighton with their service hours. We are very lucky to have them at Barr Lake.
Thanks to Volunteer Naturalist Cathy Fischer

By Corrine Servis, Park Ranger - Chatfield State Park
(formerly Park Ranger - Castlewood Canyon State Park)

Castlewood Canyon Volunteer Naturalist Cathy Fischer has jumped right in and shown that she truly has a passion for our park. Cathy has led a number of exciting hikes for the visitors that range from wildflower viewing, photography, history, and day hiking essentials. Cathy is always available to help out wherever it is needed and Castlewood Canyon would not be the same without her. Thank you so much to Cathy Fischer for everything she gives and all the time she spends at Castlewood Canyon State Park.

Chatfield Volunteer Avid Fisherman

By Derek Holden, Park Ranger - Chatfield State Park

Jerry is a three-year CPW volunteer and serves most of his time at Chatfield State Park. He regularly participates in DOLA clean-up and patrol activities, capacity management on holiday weekends, the “Pole-A-Palooza” rod assembly activity, the CPW booth at the annual International Sportsmen’s Exposition, fishing clinics, new volunteer training and monthly volunteer meetings. He also produces the Chatfield Chatter, a six to eight page, quarterly e-newsletter that is designed to recognize and inform the Park’s volunteers and staff.

An avid fly fisherman, Jerry oversees as many as 12 groups, during the summer, at the CPW Lake Lehow facility south of Chatfield. He completed the CPW Angling Instructor Course in 2014. In 2014, he recorded 213 volunteer hours for 56 CPW activities or events.

Jerry also volunteers for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (military veteran rehabilitation) and is a former member of the Board of Governors of the Denver program. He retired in 2012 after working 40 years for the Gates Rubber Corporation, Denver. Jerry had responsibilities for employee communications, internal sales publications, product publicity and annual business-to-business advertising programs for several domestic sales divisions. He also managed the Gates website. His last position was Public Relations Manager, North America Operations. He was a board member of the Public Relations Society of America and the Automotive Public Relations Council. During his Gates career Jerry was also active with Junior Achievement of Colorado and the Colorado Business Marketing Association.

He earned his BA Journalism degree from St. Bonaventure University, and completed a partial MA advertising degree, University of Missouri, before enlisting in the US Army.
Cherry Creek State Park
Volunteer Award Presentation

By David Close, Park Manager - Cherry Creek State Park

Brady Hewitt, 13 years old, was presented the Cherry Creek State Park Meritorious Service Award on May 10th, 2015.

Brady Hewitt and his mother Sandy Hewitt, the Youth Director for Colorado Wildlife Association, were volunteering at Cherry Creek State Park during the Colorado Walleye Association’s annual fishing tournament. Approximately 30 minutes before the tournament boats were to come in for weighing, the courtesy dock became unanchored and floated into the lake.

Brady Hewitt jumps right in to assist

Park staff was attempting to retrieve the dock, when Brady donned chest waders and went into the lake. Brady was able to wade far enough into the lake to throw a line to a gentleman stranded on the dock. Brady brought the line back to shore and helped position the dock back to its original location. Brady also assisted park staff in making sure the dock was properly anchored and realigned.

Brady’s quick thinking, initiative and selfless service saved the day by allowing the fishing tournament to finish on time without interruption.

It is Cherry Creek State Park’s honor to recognize such an outstanding young man with a bright future in natural resource management!

Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning helps Cherry Creek State Park

By David Close, Park Manager - Cherry Creek State Park

In April 2015, the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning volunteers assisted with erosion issues at the West Shades Picnic area which will reduce the amount of sediment washing into the reservoir, improving water quality and habitat for Cherry Creek State Park. Thanks Claudia Mead for organizing this volunteer opportunity.
Colorado School of Public Health helps Cherry Creek State Park

By David Close, Park Manager - Cherry Creek State Park

In April 2015, Colorado School of Public Health volunteers provided 100 hours of labor improving access along the Cherry Creek Trail. The improvements and beautification of the area will reduce trail hazards and provide a better recreational experience at Cherry Creek State Park.

Cherry Creek State Park hosts free Family Fishing Clinic on June 6th, 2015

By David Close, Park Manager - Cherry Creek State Park

On June 6th, 2015, Cherry Creek State Park, Cabela’s and Clif Bar teamed up to offer a free fishing clinic to visitors along the Dixon Grove picnic area shoreline. It was an amazing success. Over 50 children and 25 adults attended the event from 8:00 am to noon. Families received one on one instruction from GOCO Intern Dan Geyer and volunteer Park Ambassador Erik, lead fishing coordinator for the Park. Cabela’s supplied 50 poles with reels, discount coupons and educational flyers. Colorado Parks and Wildlife supplied 25 poles with reels, bait and tackle. Clif Bars were enjoyed by all participants.

On behalf of Cherry Creek State Park, we would like to give a great big thank you to all the sponsors that made this a very memorable experience for our park visitors.

CPW Volunteers are truly Impressive

By James Kloosterman, Staunton State Park visitor

On July 3 my wife and I had a chance to do a day hike at Staunton State Park. We were greeted near the trailhead by Dick Densch. Dick was friendly in greeting us, asked if we had been at the park before and offered a map. Dick also offered a few routes to our destination and warned us about a small storm that was rolling in. Just before hitting the trail, Dick totally exceeded my expectations by asking if he could give our black lab a dog biscuit; that warranted this note to you and a photo (attached). Dick clearly has a passion to serve and did a great job of representing Colorado Parks and Wildlife. We didn't know Dick before that day but with any luck we'll see him again near the trailhead.

BTW, the park was so amazing that we talked to other family members about joining us on the next day hike.
After Four Years, Lory Volunteer Jim Boyd “Retires”

By Karen Wheeler, Friends of Lory State Park *Adapted from Friends Newsletter

On Jan. 27, the staff and management of Lory State Park said a fond farewell to one of the park’s most dedicated and respected volunteers. For the past four years, rain or shine, heat-wave or snow flurries, Jim Boyd has driven the 20 miles from his home north of Wellington, two days a week to arrive at the Lory State Park Visitor’s Center at 7:30 a.m. prepared for whatever the day might bring. His quiet, cheerful presence became a fixture at the window, selling park passes, hunting and fishing licenses, boat registrations, and providing information to visitors about Colorado’s State Parks.

“It’s been a real pleasure,” Boyd said during a farewell party held in his honor. “I just didn’t think it would be four years! I can’t say enough good things about the staff and their exceptional commitment to making this park the very best it can be.”

Boyd began volunteering with Lory State Park in January, 2011, after noticing the Visitor’s Center was often closed when he came to run the trails. Chatting with newly-appointed Park Manager Larry Butterfield, he discovered that Butterfield was between full-time rangers and running the park alone, so he simply offered to help. The rest is history.

“Jim has been reliable, consistent, and an important force for keeping the Visitor’s Center running,” said Butterfield. “He did whatever needed to be done. He also brought life experience and an amazing knowledge of computer systems and digital engineering that has been invaluable to us.”

CATS care for Lory trails!

By Larry Butterfield, Park Manager - Lory State Park and Bob Johnson, President - CATS

A tremendous group of volunteers has helped us care for our trails. They have been working over the past year on improving Shoreline Trail, which leads from Lory State Park over the hogbacks and down to Horsetooth Reservoir.

Seven CATS (Colorado Addicted Trail builder Society) members descended on Lory State Park’s Shoreline Trail to close down the end piece (unsustainable trail) and whack in a rough design for a new realignment. Four hours of fun and sweat, 220’ of closure and about 250 or more of rough in trail…they even bypassed several thunderstorms and enjoyed a hike out at dusk.

They helped in creating new habitat and were careful not to destroy any existing creature’s spaces. The Shoreline Trail is almost done in all its maintenance and uplifts. This last section will be a blessing for hikers/bikers/horses to enjoy.

Many heartfelt thanks to Denny Auciello, Jim Broderick, Lynn Formanek, Connie Johnson, Anthony Langlois, and Dean Sindorf. What a Crew!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<th>DATE(S)</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front Desk Assistance</td>
<td>Northeast Region Service Center</td>
<td>1-2 volunteers are needed at each service center to help the Customer Service Representatives answer hunting and fishing questions and sell licenses. Knowledge of hunting and fishing is required. Assist with stocking brochures in front lobby and general office support.</td>
<td>Ongoing, Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Denver – Jenny Campbell <a href="mailto:jenny.campbell@state.co.us">jenny.campbell@state.co.us</a> 303-291-7353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:00am-5:00pm</td>
<td>Fort Collins – Jody Hergott <a href="mailto:jody.hergott@state.co.us">jody.hergott@state.co.us</a> 970-472-4327</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fort Collins Office</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>317 W Prospect Ave, Fort Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife Host</td>
<td>Tarryall Reservoir State Wildlife Area</td>
<td>The duties of the host consist of informing visitors regarding camping and fishing regulations, trash pickup, light maintenance and some painting. Medical facilities and groceries are available in Fairplay, 25 miles to the northwest. The camp host at this SWA must provide a self contained shelter. Fresh water available at the house we have there but if trailer is in one of the campgrounds, there is no electricity.</td>
<td>Memorial Day – Labor Day</td>
<td>Ty Anderson <a href="mailto:ty.anderson@state.co.us">ty.anderson@state.co.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leftover Day</td>
<td>Northeast Region Service Center</td>
<td>Variety of areas to assist (license purchases, line control, answering questions, parking, etc.)</td>
<td>8/4/15</td>
<td>Denver – Jenny Campbell <a href="mailto:jenny.campbell@state.co.us">jenny.campbell@state.co.us</a> 303-291-7353</td>
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<td>Denver</td>
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<td>7am-2pm</td>
<td>Fort Collins – Jody Hergott <a href="mailto:jody.hergott@state.co.us">jody.hergott@state.co.us</a> 970-472-4327</td>
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<td>Fort Collins Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>317 W Prospect Ave, Fort Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature's Harvest Fest</td>
<td>Gardens on Spring Creek - Fort Collins</td>
<td>2-4 volunteers needed to help set up and run CPW booth (answer questions and run Bird Hurdles kids activity)</td>
<td>9/12/15</td>
<td>Nancy Howard <a href="mailto:nancy.howard@state.co.us">nancy.howard@state.co.us</a></td>
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</tbody>
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Valuable Volunteer Supports Aquatic Projects Near Hot Sulphur Springs

By Jon Ewert, Aquatic Biologist- Hot Sulphur Springs

I’d like to recognize Steve Ostdiek of Granby for his volunteer efforts. Steve tirelessly helps me and our area out on multiple projects every year. He helps me in the spring with my annual reservoir net surveys, often in terrible weather out on the lakes, without a word of complaint. He is a huge asset to our area personnel in the fall with CWD sample collection efforts, taking multiple days of his time to transport samples where they need to go.

Steve’s most valuable contribution is that he takes complete ownership in maintaining our kokanee salmon trap that we install every fall in the Colorado River below Shadow Mountain Reservoir to capture kokanee migrating out of Lake Granby. This allows us to harvest eggs from these fish, take them into our hatchery system and restock Lake Granby and other waters with the fry the following spring. Keeping the trap clean is not a pleasant job - it involves working in the water for hours, nearly every day in October and November, when the weather can become miserable in Grand County. Without Steve’s tireless daily efforts keeping the trap clean and intact, our egg collection efforts would be far more difficult and expensive. A significant part of the fact that we continue to have kokanee salmon in this state is directly attributable to Steve’s help. He is an indispensable part of our crew. I would like to recognize Steve as one of our most valuable volunteers.

Grand Valley TEN (Teaching Environmental Science Naturally) class for teachers a great success!

By Trina Romero, Northwest Region Watchable Wildlife/ Volunteer Coordinator

Thank you to our volunteers, including local teachers and Grand Valley Audubon members for helping to make the “Seasons of Change” TEN class a fun-filled and great learning experience for teachers. This year teachers participated in activities during the day and night. Some activities the teachers learned and will teach to their students included activities ranging from frog habitat to bats and astronomy. The teachers hiked, biked, and braved rain storms to participate in this class. The volunteers that assist with this class help plan the activities many months in advance, and we appreciate all of their assistance to make this a great class!
SHOUT OUT for tremendous work and dedication in Hunter Education

By Brian Gray, District Wildlife Manager / Rifle North

I want to give a big shout out to Terry Burkhard. Terry is the Hunter Education instructor that I work with all of the time. He gives 100% every class and he is a very valuable instructor and volunteer.

We have been teaching HE together for several years and he always steps up to help in class and at the range. He is extremely knowledgeable and helpful. I appreciate his help.

Area 8- Glenwood Springs has been busy with everything from bighorns to bears!

Photos submitted by Area 8 AWM Perry Will

Volunteer Ayla Cacho with a bighorn sheep ewe. This was a collaring program in Grizzly Creek, Area 8.

Denning bears from the Silt Rehabilitation facility – pictured from left to right are volunteers Kristi Groves with Korbin, Ayla Cacho, Britney Young and Laurie Smith. Can you spot the “visitor” with DWM Dan Cacho?
## Regional Highlights

Northwest Upcoming Opportunities

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<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Sulphur Springs SWA Host</td>
<td>Lying in an intermountain basin midway between the towns of Hot Sulphur Springs and Parshall is the Hot Sulphur Springs SWA.</td>
<td>Hosts will be responsible for maintaining and monitoring a rifle/shooting range, talking with campers in a small rustic campground and with visitors along the CO river. Additional duties</td>
<td>Memorial Day through Labor Day, opportunity can continue into the fall.</td>
<td>Doug Gillham at 970-725-6219 or <a href="mailto:doug.gillham@state.co.us">doug.gillham@state.co.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rifle Falls Hatchery</td>
<td>Rifle Falls Hatchery, the largest hatchery in the state, is located in Garfield County, 11.5 miles north of the city of Rifle.</td>
<td>Two camp host couples are required for this site. Primary duties will be conducting walking tours of the hatchery, providing information about the fish and operation. Hosts will also be responsible for lawn care and tractor/brush-hog operation.</td>
<td>Memorial Day through Labor Day</td>
<td>Mark Jimerson at 970-625-1865 or <a href="mailto:mark.jimerson@state.co.us">mark.jimerson@state.co.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado State Forest Moose Festival</td>
<td>Moose Visitor Center 56750 HWY 14, 1 mile east of Gould, CO</td>
<td>Fun for the whole family. Games, arts and crafts, biology and facts about moose, Possum Bob, Pioneer Picnic, etc.</td>
<td>Saturday – August 22nd, 2015 10 am – 4 pm</td>
<td>Warren Coker at 970-723-8366 or <a href="mailto:warren.coker@state.co.us">warren.coker@state.co.us</a> Deb McLachlan at 970-723-8366 x12 or <a href="mailto:deb.mclachlan@state.co.us">deb.mclachlan@state.co.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bob Hickey – Volunteer Extraordinaire!

By Rose Bayless, AHRA Administrative Assistant

Bob Hickey has been an integral part of the volunteer naturalist program for Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) the past 7 years. Bob has a passion for geology and it definitely shows when he is presenting, whether to adults or to children. Throughout the past 7 years, Bob has conducted numerous programs and hikes throughout the AHRA, covering local geology, volcanic and glacial activity and gemstones. Bob’s topics vary from basic geological features of the Arkansas River Valley to the more complex process of metamorphism, and he is able to fascinate people of all ages and interests with his enthusiasm and explanations.

Bob Hickey is completely dedicated to volunteering. He gives 110% on a “bad” day, and his worth to AHRA as a volunteer year-round is priceless! In 2014 Bob volunteered over 450 hours and thousands of miles to share his love of the outdoors with folks from far and near.

Smokey Bear and Bighorn Sheep Fest Volunteers

By Jena Sanchez, SE Region Volunteer Coordinator

This is SE Volunteer Jeff Govin, helping out at the Bighorn Sheep Fest at the Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs in February. Most visitors got to see bighorn sheep from the Park with the help of many great volunteers! Smokey Bear was also a big hit with everyone.

SE Biologist Thanks Volunteer Raptor Monitors

By April Estep, Wildlife Biologist Area 14

I want to thank all of the Southeastern Region Raptor Monitoring volunteers that assisted with locating and monitoring 459 new nests (plus additional known nests) for the first 2 years of our program. This Raptor Monitoring Program covers all areas outside of our state parks. Way to go team!
Crane Festival Volunteers Are Extraordinary
By Luke Hoffman, DWM, Monte Vista - Area 17

I would like to recognize the Crane Festival volunteers for their extraordinary efforts each year during the annual Monte Vista Crane Festival. These volunteers interact with the public by staffing a CPW booth during a craft fair and also by staffing crane observation areas around the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. The volunteer names are: Haydee and David Ullrich, Mike and Sara Oldham, Jim and Carol Ozzello, Dan Frankowski, Debbie and Lon Ackley, Kevin, and Diana.

Volunteer Supports Durango Black Bear Project
By Heather Johnson, Wildlife Biologist

I would like to appreciate Richard Fultner. He volunteered approximately 50 hours on the Durango Black Bear Research Project last summer and fall. He primarily helped collect data on bear-human conflicts, which required starting work at 5am! In addition, he helped our crew canvas neighborhoods as part of a Bear Aware education effort, and trap and mark bears for the study. I’ve attached a photo with one of our largest collared sows at her den this winter.
NASRF Recognizes Volunteer Tim Carden

By Ted Smith, Hatchery Superintendent

In December 2014, Tim Carden moved to the San Luis Valley of Colorado from the United Kingdom after graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Biology from the University of St Andrews, Scotland. His plan is to pursue a career in fisheries research and management and thought by volunteering with Colorado Parks and Wildlife at the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (NASRF), located in Alamosa, he could gain some valuable experience in Colorado native aquatic species conservation. Tim already had prior experience in habitat restoration, invertebrate sampling and water quality analysis of streams from his village in Southern England, working with a local group for Sea Trout conservation.

NASRF Hatchery Superintendent, Ted Smith, said, “Tim is everything we look for in a volunteer. He’s very dependable and always calls in if he’s not able to commit for a day. Thus far he’s been averaging over 40 hours a month with us. The whole crew at NASRF is very impressed with Tim.”

Tim adds, “The best part about volunteering with at NASRF is knowing I’m helping to restore wild populations of threatened and endangered fish and toads.”

The J. W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility, located in Alamosa, Colorado, was constructed in the year 2000 to facilitate the conservation of rare aquatic native species through captive propagation, genetic conservation, scientific research and public education and awareness. Currently there are 11 fish species and one amphibian species housed on the unit. Many are State Threatened, Endangered or Species at Risk and one, the Bonytail chub, is federally listed as Endangered and given full protection under the Endangered Species Act since 1980.


Highline Lake Hosts Are The Best!

By Patty Hedrick, Highline Lake Administrative Assistant

Paul and Kari Bennett are THE BEST! This couple from Georgia have volunteered and worked at Highline Lake for the past five years out of six, and they have returned for the 2015 Spring, Summer and Fall seasons. They tell us they will stay until it snows, and then they are out of here. This year Paul is a Volunteer of Many Trades, which means he drives a golf cart all over the park, picking things up – like trash, clothes, toys and even a bicycle, which he found out on one of the trails. The owner never did come to claim it. Our park would not look nearly as nice without Paul, his cart and his grabber, making the rounds every morning before most people are even out of bed.

Kari is Volunteering in the Visitor Center, and since she is a computer and social media whiz, we turn her loose on our Facebook page as well as our other programs and projects. She is amazing!

Paul is a quiet, “sweet southern gentleman,” to quote one of our campers, and if he ever gets rattled, he doesn’t let it show. He always has a smile and a cheery remark for everyone in the park. He just says, “It’s another beautiful day!” even when it’s raining and the wind is blowing at 50 mph! You just have to smile when you’re around Paul.

Kari has an amazing, infectious laugh, and the Visitor Center really livens up when she comes in to work. She will do anything and everything, including washing one hundred windows inside and out (it seems like one hundred!), vacuuming the entire building and she doesn’t even mind bathrooms! We are very fortunate to have a great volunteer couple such as Paul and Kari. We hope they continue to return at least part of every year to Highline Lake. Thank you, Paul and Kari!

Ron and Sandy Stuck are returning to Highline Lake in 2015, which will be their second year in a row. They were volunteers at Highline Lake in 2012 also. The Stucks are awesome campground hosts; they treat all of our campers like friends as soon as they pull in. Sandy has the nicest smile and a can-do attitude that gets the job done. Ron is a laid-back kind of guy who seems kind of reserved, but he is generous and enjoys life, and is also great with our campers. You can just tell he is having a great time in the campground.

Ron and Sandy started the geocaching program at Highline Lake last summer! They set up eleven caches, and even with a GPS, a couple of these caches have stumped even the experts geocachers! We can’t thank Ron and Sandy enough for spending their free time plotting, searching out unusual caches, and discovering locations that are amazing and unusual! Not only that, but Ron can fix just about anything, and Sandy makes wonderful banana puddin’. We feel extremely fortunate to be the park where Ron and Sandy want to spend the summer and fall this year, volunteering. They are amazing people, and we welcome them to Highline Lake, anytime.
Lake Pueblo Campground
Host Denise Lopez Gives Excellent Customer Service
By Jillian Biggs, Lake Pueblo Park Ranger

I would like to recognize Denise Lopez for her outstanding commitment to volunteerism. As a camp host in Arkansas Point Campground, Denise provides top notch customer service to all visitors. Her warm, welcoming demeanor makes campers feel instantly at home in the campground. It is not unusual to see Denise talking with visitors around a campfire in the evening; answering their questions, sharing stories, and creating long lasting friendships. If there is any doubt about Denise’s customer service, one need only to ask her about her long list of campers she still stays in touch with and the number of returning visitors to Arkansas Point Campground. In addition to her excellent track record of customer service, Denise is a role model for all campers. Denise is extremely knowledgeable about park rules and regulations and follows them to the tee. She is fair, honest, and respectful—treating everyone equally regardless if they are long term friends or visitor she just met.

In addition to being an outstanding camp host Denise volunteers at the Visitor Center on the weekends, assists with volunteer trainings and open houses, and is always willing to donate her time if help is needed. Furthermore she gets others, especially youth, involved in volunteering as well. She is an excellent mentor to Lily, an extraordinary youth volunteer, and her grandson, John Michael, assists in greeting campers and those stopping by the Visitor Center on weekends.

Denise embraces her role as a volunteer and is a stellar representative of Lake Pueblo State Park. All in all, there are not enough good things I can say about Denise.

Park Hosts really make a difference at Barr Lake State Park
By Michelle Seubert, Park Manager-Barr Lake State Park

The park hosts are a big part of the operations of Barr Lake State Park. They work in many different areas from park maintenance to working in the nature center. This group of volunteers will be leaving the park for the season and moving on to new adventures. It is always sad to see them go but know they have definitely made a difference. Big thank you to them and see you next year!
Friends groups are generally defined as nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations established primarily to support a specific Colorado State Park or a group of parks.

Statewide Friends and Partnership Conference

- We held our first annual statewide Friends Rendezvous at the Partners Conference, connecting with nearly 40 individuals and several state park groups and representatives.

- The concept of a statewide Friends group was well-received, and an affirmation to focus on building out our website with resources, ways for folks to connect across the state, and a portal for state park users to see our work, was well heard.

- Thus, we are focusing this summer’s work on finalizing and launching our website which will be both the public face of the organization AND the portal for local friends groups and state park administrators to access resources and this powerful network.

- Also evident at the conference was enthusiasm for reinvigorating some of the less active local park Friends groups among the current network of 18 local groups, and for starting up a few new groups.

- By the end of the summer, we’ll be moving into strategic planning for 2016, which will include additions to the website, fund development plans, assistance to local groups, and sharing our brand statewide.

Friends of Lory State Park Recognized

By Daniel Sprys, Lory Park Ranger

Lory State Park would like to recognize the Friends of Lory State Park for their continued support of all things Lory. Sarah, Rick, Diana, Connie, Bob, Trish, Barb, Mick, Dean, Tom, Lynda and Jupe all work hard to assist in essential park functions. Their most recent success was launching the Get The Kids Outside Scholarship, aimed at providing funding for schools to help them reach the park to partake in educational programs. Lory Park Staff is grateful for all of the support and look forward to continuing to grow together in the future!
Chris and Jasper Exploring the Wonders of Barr Lake

Chris Humphreys and her dog Jasper have been volunteering at Barr Lake for the past 3 years. She is our photographer for all our special events and takes nature pictures for the park. You will often see Chris walking the trails with her dog Jasper helping visitors explore the wonders of Barr Lake.

Saints of St. Vrain

These are the “Saints” of St. Vrain State Park! We could not do it without each and every one of them! They are the BEST! ~ Linda Richards, Administrative Assistant

Venison Cheddar-Jalapeno Summer Sausage

(Adapted from http://allrecipes.com/recipe/venison-cheddar-jalapeno-summer-sausage)

Recipe by Emily Tisdale

“This is a nice change from regular summer sausage. The cheddar and jalapenos give it a bit of a spicy kick that is sure to please at gatherings. We serve this at the ‘Beast Feasts’ we host every year where all the dishes are from wild game. This recipe works well with beef as well.”

INGREDIENTS

Original recipe makes 2 sausages

- 1 cup cold water
- 3 tablespoons sugar-based curing mixture (such as Morton® Tender Quick®)
- 2 teaspoons mustard seed
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons liquid smoke flavoring
- 3 pounds lean ground venison
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and minced

Prep time – 30 minutes. Cool 1 hour and 30 minutes. Ready in 1 day and 2 hours

Directions

1. Stir the water, curing mixture, mustard seed, garlic powder, black pepper, and liquid smoke in a large bowl until the curing mixture has dissolved. Mix in the ground venison, Cheddar cheese, and jalapeno peppers; mix until evenly blended and somewhat sticky, about 3 minutes. Divide the mixture in half, and roll each half into 2 inch thick logs. Wrap each log tightly with aluminum foil, and refrigerate for 24 hours.

2. Preheat an oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C). Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil, then remove the foil from the sausage logs, and place them onto the baking sheet.

3. Bake in the preheated oven until the internal temperature reaches 170 degrees F (75 degrees C), 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Cool the sausages on a rack until they have cooled to room temperature. Dab occasionally with a paper towel to absorb excess grease. Slice thinly to serve.
We Appreciate Our Wonderful Hunter Education Volunteers!

We are appreciative for having over 400 wonderful volunteers that pass on the hunting heritage by teaching hunter ed (along with our District Wildlife Managers) to our potential hunting license buyers.
~ Todd, Kris and Chris

Ode to Hay Bale Decorating

Roome and Victoria Paget having been decorating the hay bales at the entrance of Barr Lake for the past 3 years. They have made many designs from a lady bug, Santa Claus to the current Eagle. They have done a FANTASTIC job. They are retiring this year for hay baling. It will be hard to replace their creativity but thank them for all their work!
~ Park Manager, Michelle Seubert.

Walleye Spawn Volunteers Help Out Year After Year

Thanks to all of our AWESOME volunteers
~ Paul Winkle, Aquatic Biologist

Hunter Education Instructor Knows His Stuff

 Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor, Steve Prentice is a hard working, caring guy. He’s always willing to help when we put a call out asking for help. He is an excellent teacher who knows his stuff, whether it be hunting, shooting, riding, or working with others.
~ Kris Eng, Hunter Education Assistant

Easter Bunny Visits Barr Lake

Attached are pictures of our Easter Egg hunt this past Saturday. We had 74 kids and a total of 159 people attend. Volunteers stuffed 600 eggs with chocolate and a nature fact. We had an egg program by RMBO, crafts and a face painter. It was a great day! Even the Easter Bunny(me) had fun.
~ Michelle Seubert, Barr Lake Park Manager
September 2015

National Public Lands Day is September 26th

Stay tuned for more information on volunteer opportunities at your State Parks

For more information on the national event visit:

http://publiclandsday.org/

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