

## TWO PONDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

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303-424-4562

Bini Abbott  
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303-424-0037

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303-423-8555

Joye Persson  
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Janet Torma-Krajewski  
303-423-2069

Roger Johnson  
303-421-6715

Janice Eckhardt  
303-421-1334

Joanne Jonell  
303-423-8085

1 Vacant  
Director Position

### REFUGE CONTACTS

Tom Ronning  
Refuge Manager  
303-289-0406

Seth Beres  
Refuge Officer  
303-289-0867

### NEWSLETTER

Janet Torma-Krajewski  
Editor

Paul Hartmann  
Editor



## Ramblings Around The Refuge

Refuge Manager, Tom Ronning, spent two weeks on a fire detail in California the first two weeks in July. He was part of an interagency fire crew being trained as a squad boss. The Rocky Mountain Arsenal Refuge Complex volunteers one staff person each year for fire duty somewhere in the U.S.

The Big Sur fire consumed 68,000 acres. Firefighters worked sixteen-hour days for fourteen days straight and were able to save all the houses in the area. There were no reported injuries; however, all 21 firefighters came down with poison oak.

DEER have again been spotted on the refuge. A doe and two fawns were seen on the West Side near the Church Ditch. Sadly, however, a fawn was also reportedly found dead in a neighbors yard, apparently, the result of a kill by a coyote or a pack of dogs (just speculation).

THE REVEGETATION project on the West Side is still scheduled for this fall, probably in October or November, provided there is ample moisture. Invasive introduced grass species will be replaced with native grasses similar to what was done two years ago in the same vicinity.

## Our Nation's Trails

Trailblazers came out in force again! On Saturday June 7th, Two Ponds NWR joined forces with Majestic View Nature Center to host the 6th annual National Trail's Day at both locations. This fantastic event reached over 600 people, setting attendance and participation records, and providing high quality environmental educational and entertaining activities for the entire family.

National Trail's Day focuses on our natural environment and the many recreational opportunities offered by our nation's Trails and National Refuge system. Highlights of this year's event featured a hosted walk between the Refuge and Nature Center, a guided bike tour, up close



Mr. Bones at Trails Day



Wildlife Contraband display at Trails Day

FARMER'S HIGHLINE CANAL traversing through the refuge has undergone some rehab on parts along the south boundary. Those who frequently walk the trails may have noticed some re-sloping and re-contouring along their canal to protect the private properties to the south.

FINALLY, we will pass on an unconfirmed rumor that the proposed Walgreen's store previously scheduled for the southwest corner of 80th & Kipling has been cancelled in-lieu of the new store under construction just south of 80th & Wadsworth. The proposed store at 80th & Kipling was of some concern to the refuge due to the potential increase in traffic, noise and parking lot lighting that could impact the movement of wildlife throughout this area.

A CALL FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Many of the refuge visitors frequently encounter items of interest while visiting the refuge, whether it be some form of wildlife, plant, scenic view, solace, or some other experience while at the refuge.. We would be interested in including your stories in this newsletter, so please share with us.

Send your stories to our mailing address or email them to [phhartmann@msn.com](mailto:phhartmann@msn.com).

and personal with live raptors, performances by Mr. Bones, wildlife contraband display, hunter safety education, and other wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities! In addition, free shuttles ran regularly between both sites and complimentary refreshments were available at both locations. The Arvada Fire Department grilled and served the hot dogs.

This annual event continues to be a great opportunity for all to experience and learn more about two great nature facilities in Arvada. Thanks to each and every organization as well as the general public who participated!

We hope to see you back next year!

## SUMMER TIME AT THE REFUGE

Now is the time to explore both parts of the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge. All year there is access to the westside, the Prairie Management Area. However, the east side Environmental Education Area - containing the three ponds at Two Ponds, the wetlands and the northeast corner timberland is open for public visitation only from May through September, on Tuesdays through Saturdays. This eastern area may also be visited at other times by special appointment for groups or special events.

During the open times there are two points of access to this interesting east side area. One is from the Refuge parking lot just off of 80th Avenue near Club Crest Drive. Proceed from the parking lot along the surfaced walkway displaying the Foundation Funds Donor's recognition bricks, flag stones and park benches through the covered portal gate and information center. The other, if you are interested in doing more walking, is to start in the western area of the Refuge and go east to cross the footbridges over both irrigation ditches and turn right along the short trail to the south entrance gate near the ditch.

Along the ponds and in the wetlands area the cattails are in bloom. A number of red wing blackbirds are always flitting about and chirping. It takes a little time to look into the ponds, but they are clear enough to be able to see some of the varieties of fish swimming around. They also provide habitat for many waterfowl. On most visits there will be ducks and maybe geese swimming. Some visitors have reported seeing great blue herons or black-crowned night herons or egrets. Occasionally some deer have been seen near the wooded area. Last

week I watched a cormorant sitting on a log in the Friends Pond with its wings spread out catching some sun. There is a turtle nearby but even some searching doesn't always find it. He or she was there last week. It is much easier to get a picture of a turtle than it is of a bird, so that's what I took. This



natural pond setting is a pleasant place just to take a break, sit and observe, enjoy the peace and quiet and maybe meditate and contemplate.

Near the entrance gate there is a "garden" in which different types of plants are displayed and identified. This fall the trees and shrubs in this plant habitat area will turn to red and gold.

On the hillsides above the ponds there are easy to walk loop trails. The trails on the east side overlooking the ponds offer park benches with great vistas of the mountains to the northwest including Long's Peak. Last fall one of the trails southeast of the ponds was relocated, with switchbacks added, to make this area wheel chair accessible. The trail reconstruction was done with minimal impact on the vegetation. A continuation of that trail goes up the hill from the loop to reach the south gate.

Take some time this summer or fall to discover this wildlife and plant habitat in your neighborhood.

## WANTED!

The Foundation is looking for a volunteer with desktop publishing skills to produce the *Ripples on the Pond* newsletter, published three times a year.

If interested, please contact

Janet at:

[iei1@comcast.net](mailto:iei1@comcast.net).

Volunteer(s) to fill Vice President and Director vacancies on Board of Directors. No prior experience necessary.

Call 303-424-4562 for more information



## I WOULD LOVE TO JOIN THE TWO PONDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION!

The Foundation is a totally volunteer organization and 100 percent of your donation is used for the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge. The Foundation receives and administers gifts for environmental education, preservation of wetlands and the development of the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge.

Please make checks payable to **Two Ponds Preservation Foundation**. Your gift is tax deductible.

( ) \$25 Beaver ( ) \$50 Red Fox ( ) \$100 Black-Crowned Night Heron - engraved brick  
( ) \$500 Swainson's Hawk - engraved flagstone slab  
( ) \$1,000 Golden Eagle - engraved park bench



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