



Ripples on the Pond

Newsletter of the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation

June 2014

Taking Flight By Seth Beres

In 2014, over 500 students throughout the state participated in the Colorado Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. Nadezhda Lyapunova, an 18-year-old student from Erie, took top honors again by winning the "Best of Show" in Colorado at the 2014 Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Nadezhda's artwork was selected from hundreds of amazing entries from across Colorado. Her colored pencil and acrylic paint rendition of Buffleheads, titled "Buffleheads on Calm Waters," represented Colorado and was entered at the National Junior Duck Stamp Competition in Washington, D.C. at the end of April where it placed in the top 25.

For those still not familiar with this wonderful contest - the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is an environmental educational contest designed for all public, private, and home schooled students in grades k-12 to learn more about waterfowl and habitat conservation through science and art. Incorporating scientific and wildlife management principles into visual arts curriculum helps create an active awareness of the critical need to protect, preserve and enhance our wetland habitat for waterfowl, migratory songbirds, and the hundreds of other plants and animals that depend on wetlands for their survival. In addition, every entry translates into increased funding for wetlands and waterfowl conservation the following year.

An Award Ceremony was held for all winners, including their teachers and families, at the Arvada Center for the Performing Arts in May. Matt Hogan, Deputy Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, gave the keynote speech, as hundreds attended this special event to celebrate art and conservation together!

Special thanks to Two Ponds Preservation Foundation, Personal Benefit Service, Meiningers, Redistribution Center, U.S. Allegiance Inc., and Friends of The Front Range, for their support and sponsorship. Without them this program would not be what it is today for Colorado.

Once again, the success of this year's outstanding program demonstrates how many people of all ages throughout Colorado care about conservation and actively work to apply that awareness. For those teachers, parents, and students interested in participating in this program in next year's program, it is never too early to begin. Students and teachers can obtain entry forms and learn more about this fun and educational program by visiting <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/junior/junior.htm> or by calling Colorado Junior Duck State Coordinator Seth Beres at (303)289-0867 for details.

We would love to have more kids throughout Arvada and beyond to participate next year.

So take wing - and spread the word!



News on the Schoolhouse

At Two Ponds The Two Ponds Preservation Foundation is leading a capital campaign to raise nearly \$500,000 to build a 2,000 sq. ft. environmental education center called the Schoolhouse at Two Ponds, housed within the Refuge. The Schoolhouse will enable the Refuge to extend its outdoor learning program with indoor studies, interactive displays, themed exhibits, and lectures for school field trips and nature enthusiasts alike.

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

- To date, the Foundation has raised \$24,000 towards its goal, with future funding coming from major donors, corporate sponsors, community groups, and grants.
- The Foundation has secured creation of a project rendering (right) and outlined the floor plan, which includes a small kitchen/break room, an educational display area, indoor restrooms and a drinking fountain.



TPF Education Center Rendering

Events:

National Trail's Day

Saturday, June 7th, 10:00am - 2:00pm
Come one and all to our annual Trail's Day event at Two Ponds NWR and Majestic View Nature Center - in order to celebrate our nation's natural resources! Both sites offer free family-friendly educational activities, arts and crafts, trail walks, wildlife presentations, exhibits, and complimentary hot dogs and ice cream. Parking is available and a free shuttle service is provided between both places. This premiere event is a wonderful opportunity for folks to experience and enjoy nature firsthand - don't miss it!

Self-guided Nature Walks

Daily - during open business hours
In this fast-paced world, reconnecting with nature is more important than ever. To achieve this, people are becoming increasingly interested in exploring wild places on their own. As a result, Two Ponds consistently offers a free self-guided nature brochure with several interpretive locations and descriptions throughout the Refuge - available at the main kiosk.

Home School Habitat

3rd Thursday of each month, 9:00 - 11:00am
What better place to connect with nature than a wildlife refuge near one's own community and home? Every month, Two Ponds offers a free drop-in program that provides experiential learning opportunities outside the classroom for families who educate their children themselves. Visit with a Refuge Manager and come explore the benefits of nature in a non-formal setting. For more details call 303-289-0867.

Refuge:

Visit Us Soon!

<http://twoponds.fws.gov>
Phone (303) 289-0867

Foundation:

Keep In Touch!

<https://twoponds.org>
Phone (720) 306-1992

Refuge Hours:

West side: Open year round, dawn to dusk
East side: May - Sept. Tue - F: 8am-4pm;
Sat. 8am-7pm; Sun.-Mon. CLOSED

TWO PONDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

DIRECTORS

Daryl L. Christensen

President

303-318-8960

Jon Drogheo

720-833-7094

Rich Feely

303-421-5101

Kevan Fish

303-550-4365

Michell Francis

Secretary

720-256-2203

Jeremy Gregory

Treasurer

303-914-4054

Roger Johnson

303-421-6715

Nicki Thompson

303-456-2133

Shannon McWilliams

303-431-7485

REFUGE CONTACTS

Seth Beres

Refuge Manager

303-289-0867

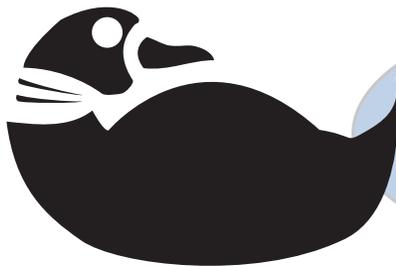
NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Seth Beres

Daryl L. Christensen

Kevan Fish

Michelle Francis



TWO PONDS TUESDAY

(volunteer day at the Refuge)

Every Second Tuesday of Every Month
at 8:00 a.m.

Reflections from the Ponds: A Letter from Foundation President: Daryl Christensen

Greetings fellow members and partners,

We have had a very energetic Spring season so far. A quick look at the calendar of events tells a story of varied activities and opportunities for our members, volunteers, and the community at-large to participate in and experience the wonder of the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge. Thanks to all who have volunteered their time, enthusiasm and creative talents to the Refuge this year.

Since our last newsletter, we have completed initiatives that will build upon our current membership and volunteer base. Our website has been enhanced to allow potential volunteers to sign up online for a diverse range of activities and events that may be of interest to them. Learn more about how you can participate and enjoy a great outdoor experience by contacting Jon Drogheo at: jmedrogheo@msn.com.

An updated Facebook page has been created that welcomes comments and conversations with our members and partners. Like us at www.facebook.com/twopondspreservationfoundation to keep up to date on Refuge events and the Foundation's progress.

We are always seeking community partners, sponsors and donors interested in making a lasting impact. Please contact Michelle Francis at: michelle.francis@20/20stratgyinc.com to learn more.

Our Newsletter continues to serve as a vital communication link between our Board and the community we serve. If you would like to contribute an article or share a personal experience you had at the Refuge, please contact Kevan Fish at: k1705@yahoo.com.

A team of Board members has crafted two grant proposals that seek funds to increase the capacity of our Foundation to complete specific community outreach initiatives:

- Develop an enhanced, interactive website with additional links, updated visual effects, and new video messaging. The Schoolhouse for Two Ponds campaign will be consistently featured and updated.
- Provide funding for a modified Newsletter template that will be easier to edit and manage, while reducing distributions costs. The Newsletter will incorporate a similar messaging theme as the website and will feature ways that our community can support the Schoolhouse campaign.
- Create and produce a Power point presentation featuring the Foundation's mission in supporting

the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, educate our community about the Two Ponds NWR and the importance it plays in our local ecosystem and habitat preservation. It will also feature our campaign to build the Schoolhouse as a legacy of learning. Members and volunteers will be able to use this presentation as a means to communicate our message to schools, civic groups, and organizations in our community.

We'll keep you posted as we move forward. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you on June 7th for National Trails Day!

Two Ponds Tuesdays 2nd Tuesday of each month, 8:00 – 11:00am

Time and again, people are encouraged to give back to their community's natural resources and reduce their footprint on the planet. Urban wildlife refuges like Two Ponds serve as an oasis for native wildlife and migrating birds throughout the year. So get outside and come help us improve the Refuge for animals and people alike. Tools and materials will be provided - and reservations are not required.



Spring into Action By Kevan Fish

Spring is a wonderful time of life! The world seems to be reborn after the cold sleep of winter. Think of all the birds singing, butterflies fluttering, bees buzzing and flowers blooming. Allow yourself to unwind and rediscover how to relax in nature. If you've been exercising indoors, switch to some outdoor exercise to reap the benefits from fresh air and sunshine. Let your creative juices flow! Even if you have never tried it before, drawing is also a fun and relaxing activity to be explored. Painting requires an eye for color, and there is plenty about in spring as the flowers blossom and brighter colors start to emerge. And if you enjoy photography, spring is a great time to experiment with plant, flower and scenery photography too. There is so much to see and do outside this spring - come explore!



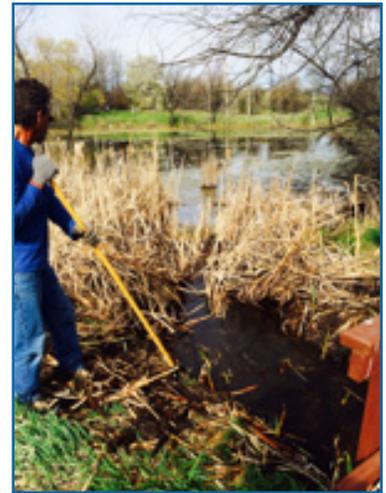
Above Photo Credit: Cindy Souders
Below Photo Credit: Doug Clark



Mother Earth By Seth Beres

Since 1970, Earth Day has been observed around the globe each spring as a day to raise environmental awareness and involve citizens and communities in creating a cleaner, healthier world. While climate change is perhaps the greatest ecological challenge of our time, Earth Day reminds us that we all can take steps to help protect the environment, which touches the human spirit, contributes to human health and well-being and promotes a healthy economy. In addition, Earth Day helped to develop crucial support for some of the most powerful and effective environmental legislation in the United States and abroad. Unprecedented environmental legislation, such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act were influenced by Earth Day.

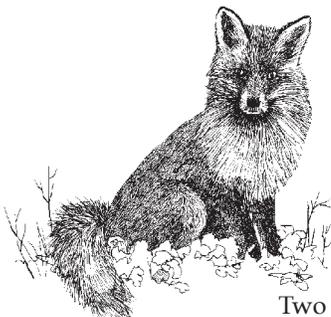
On April 22nd, Two Ponds NWR celebrated Earth Day along with 78 volunteers! The weather was perfect, nature was honored, and the Refuge was greatly improved. Projects included trash and litter pickup, tree pruning and dead limb removal, trail maintenance, weeding & gardening, installing bird feeders, improving water flow and pond levels, bridge and kiosk repair, and native grass seed planting. Thanks to all for getting outside, supporting your local wildlife Refuge, and making the event so special!



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.



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Turtle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Black-Crowned Night Heron – engraved brick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Beaver | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Swainson's Hawk – engraved flagstone slab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Red Fox | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Golden Eagle – engraved park bench |

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mail your tax deductible contribution to:
 Two Ponds Preservation Foundation, P.O. Box 740748, Arvada, CO 80006-0748
 Or contribute online through <https://goo.gl/qpvw3>

Trailblazing Event By Seth Beres

Get outdoors and move your feet, pedal your bike or just enjoy a day of celebrating outdoor adventure, nature exhibits, live animal presentations, eco-friendly activities and booths and information about Arvada's trails and resources. This lively celebration on Saturday June 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. is hosted by Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge and Majestic View Nature Center. Enjoy this outing with family and friends or make a new friend as you walk or bike the trails and participate in the many entertaining activities.

This FREE event is organized by the Arvada Festivals Commission, Majestic View Nature Center, Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, Arvada Parks Advisory Committee and the Denver Bicycle Touring Club. Activities include:

- Two 5K trail walks with a park naturalist along historic canal trails connecting Majestic View and Two Ponds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. for a 9:15 a.m.

departure at either Two Ponds (on 80th Avenue just east of Kipling) or at Majestic View Nature Center.

- A 20 mile free bicycle ride, for this "rough ride" meet at 8:45 a.m. at Majestic View Community Park north parking lot (west of 72nd and Carr) for a 9:00 a.m. departure and travel along Van Bibber Creek, Blunn and Ralston Creek Trails. The ride includes brochure and map, expert guide, port-a-potties, great scenery, and a free gift. Helmets are required.
- A 6 mile family friendly free bike ride, this ride will meet at Majestic View Community Park at 9:15 a.m. for a 9:30 a.m. departure and travel towards Two Ponds and return. Helmets are required. Call us for more information on both rides.

- Live raptors from the Birds of Prey Foundation;
- Environmental education displays and activities;
- Exhibits by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Wild Birds Unlimited;
- Wildlife photography, face painting; interactive Puppet Shows
- Self-guided nature walks along the Refuge trails;
- Live animal presentations by the Denver Zoo

- and Hawk Quest;
- Pet an Alpaca from Ancient Treasures Ranch;
- Nature and outdoor exhibits; Eco-Fair and Arvada trails information;
- Free hotdogs and ice cream prepared by the Arvada Fire Protection District

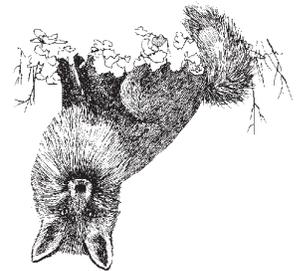
Enjoy the activities at both sites by taking the free shuttle service between Majestic View Nature Center and Two Ponds. Parking is available at Majestic View Nature Center and the Medical Center parking lot on the southeast corner of 80th and Kipling.

Fill-up A. Can Day participants are invited to Majestic View Nature Center to return safety vests and unused trash bags and take part in the festivities. Call 720-898-7760 for information on this volunteer litter cleanup event.

For more information about this and other Arvada Festivals Commission's events and/or to volunteer, please contact 720-898-7400 or visit www.arvadafestivals.com.



Memberships Make Great Gifts!



N ↓	Club Crest	TWO PONDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	Kipling
		★	80th

Return Service Requested

Arvada, Colorado 80006-0748

P.O. Box 740748

Two Ponds Preservation Foundation

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Norfolk, NE
Permit No. 125
«Sequence»