



# Ripples on the Pond

Newsletter of the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation

August 2013

## Migrating Bird Day

By Keith Lautenbach

On Saturday May 11th, Hummingbird Migrating Bird Day, a group of nature enthusiasts gathered at Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge shortly after sunrise. It was a cool, windless morning and an ideal place and time to enjoy the natural features of trees, wetlands, ponds and wildlife in the Refuge. The bird watch was to identify bird species nesting in the Refuge and those making their annual spring migration northward through the area.



Black Crowned Night Heron  
Photo By: Cindy Souters

Refuge inhabitants were waking up and beginning to pursue their daily activities. Trees had not yet leafed out so it was easy to spot and observe birds leaving their nests and starting their day long search for food. The trees, shrubs and wetlands reeds provide an abundance of varied nesting sites, from tree tops to just above the wetlands water surfaces, for many different bird species.

The bird watch and listen was led by birding specialists Nathan and Daniel McAdams. They began with the usual procedures of introductions, explaining the purpose of the watch in finding, observing and identifying bird species and outlining the route we would follow through different areas of the Refuge. There would be walking and stopping when sightings were made so that group members could observe and discuss bird features, such as size and shape, coloration of plumage and head markings and in some cases listening to their songs and call, which are all factors that help to identify species. To verify findings the watch leaders had Bird Guide books featuring pictures of birds standing and in flight.

We did not have to take a step to observe our first large bird. While standing at our group meeting point at the north side of Friends Pond we looked across to the far side and saw a black-crowned night heron near the reeds. Perhaps It was watching us or looking in the pond for a fish for breakfast.

Later on as we were slowly climbing up the hill trail I saw a bird land high in a tree above the irrigation canals about a block away. All I had seen was movement so I had no idea what kind of bird it was. I pointed up at the tree and Nathan quickly set up his portable, powerful bird spotting scope and lined it up. Looking through the scope the bird looked like it was only 10 feet away. We were seeing a beautiful, brightly multi-colored bird. Our leaders readily identified it as a spotted towhee. What a special treat for the group.

We observed and identified 38 species of birds. They were:

Robin, Red Tailed Hawk, Common Grackle, Black Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Red Winged Blackbird, Blue Jay, Barn Swallow, Cooper's Hawk, Eurasian Collared Dove, Common Bushtit, Yellow Rumped Warbler, Mourning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Spotted Towhee, Rough Winged Swallow, Chipping Sparrow, Magpie, Green Tailed Towhee, Starling, Song Sparrow, Cliff Swallow, Canada Goose, Northern Flicker, House Finch, Great Blue Heron, Orange Crowned Warbler, Wood Duck, House Sparrow, Turkey Vulture, Eastern Phoebe, Clay Colored Sparrow, Crow, Broad Tailed Hummingbird, Swainson's Hawk, Black Capped Chickadee, American Goldfinch, and Brewers Blackbird.

The next guided bird watch at the Refuge will be this fall. For the date and time, watch the foundation website: [twoponds.org](http://twoponds.org). You are invited to join us.

## Thank You

We extend a very special "Thank You!" to Stephen Grundy for his contribution of a new Hummingbird feeder to the refuge. When he learned that the old feeders we use for our birding program were broken and ineffective, Stephen generously opened his pocketbook to buy a new one. If you, too, would like to contribute stop by Wild Birds Unlimited at 7677 W. 88th Ave. David Menough will help you make a selection from the list of items we need, and he has generously offered to donate 10% of the proceeds from your purchases to the Foundation.

Thank you, David!

## Schoolhouse for Two Ponds Fundraising Campaign

The site for the environmental education center, called the Schoolhouse at Two Ponds, has been selected and approved. It will be located near the main entrance to the Refuge on 80th Avenue overlooking Friends Pond. An U.S. Fish and Wildlife architect working with the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation has developed a design and layout for the center.

On your next visit to the Refuge you can see the site. The outline of the center has been roughly staked out northwest of the Friends Pond. Information on making donations to the Foundation by check or online is shown in the coupon on the bottom of page three of this Ripples.

## More Than A Neighbor, She Was A Friend

By Joanie Jonell

If you visit the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge and rest on one of the benches outside the refuge, look for one dedicated to the

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

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Seth Beres

*Refuge Manager*

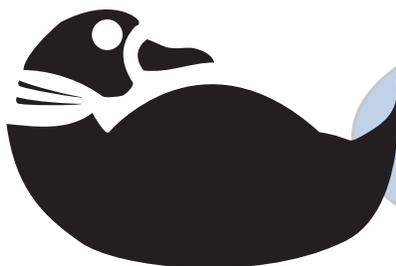
303-289-0867

## NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Keith Lautenbach

Joanie Jonell

Barb Lautenbach



## TWO PONDS TUESDAY

*(volunteer day at the Refuge)*

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

memory of Mary Ellen Feely. Mary Ellen died unexpectedly on August 25, 2012. Mary Ellen's husband, Rich, has been a long time member of the Two Ponds Wildlife Refuge Friends Board and the Feely family has been long time supporters of Two Ponds.

When Mary Ellen died, the neighbors lost one of the most caring and generous residents of the area. Their grief soon turned into action and almost overnight, a fund was set up to donate a bench at Two Ponds to remember and honor Mary Ellen's life and contributions to the Two Ponds neighborhood.

The Feelys moved to their Arvada home bordering Two Ponds in 1977 and raised their three children with a view into the Refuge. From the beginning, Mary Ellen was known as "Mama Melen" in this close knit neighborhood. When neighbors had deaths in their families or someone's children were injured or a new baby was coming home, it was Mary Ellen who organized meals, baked cookies, visited and kept the neighbors apprised of what was needed.

Although not an avid outdoorswoman, Mary Ellen quietly helped in the development of the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge. She attended City Council Meetings and worked tirelessly along with Rich, opening the Feely home for meetings, mailings and always had a fresh dessert and coffee to feed volunteers.

Mary Ellen's spirit of generosity and "get it done" approach led her to be a Girl Scout leader, (the Feely's living and family room once held the entire Arvada order of Girl Scout Cookies), a Classroom Helper and tutor at Swanson and Warder Elementary schools as well as at Moore Junior High School. She helped organize a "Penny and Soap" drive for an African mission and she volunteered in her church nursery. She taught "Colonial Crafts" when students were studying Revolutionary History and assisted her daughters in the classroom for Challenged students as well as in the school library. Rich and Mary Ellen volunteered for several years at the Pomona High "After Prom All Night Party" and once even travelled to Las Vegas so Mary Ellen could sketch pictures for the decorations at the party!

Mary Ellen had many talents and hobbies and as a quintessential Irish woman, Mary

Ellen ran a small business from her home, "Melen's Makings" when her children were young. Later, Mary Ellen developed a greeting card and craft business, "Anam Cara", translated "spiritual advisor" or "soul friend." Her Celtic cards and beautifully embroidered pillows, clothing and finely crafted ornaments were often embellished with themes and sayings of peace and justice. "Soul friend" embodied Mary Ellen from an early age when after graduation from college, she worked as an Extension Volunteer in inner city Detroit teaching life skills to poverty level teens, even caring for a 16 year old heroin addict for four months. During this time of unrest and rioting, Mary Ellen and her roommates, under guard, brought food and supplies to a riot ravaged area. Over the years, Mary Ellen continued to reach out to underserved people. In 2011, she organized "Fruit Wednesdays" with a group of women who have continued to fix and deliver fruit salad to "Fr. Woody's Haven of Hope" once a month. For several years, Mary Ellen spearheaded the filling of Christmas socks for men of the Haven and this past December, family and friends helped to fill and deliver over 550 socks overflowing with toiletries, snacks and gifts for homeless men.

As you sit on "Mary Ellen's" bench, look also for a flagstone from her family with a shamrock and the words "In Memory of Mary Ellen, Wife, Mother and Grandmother". Mary Ellen was so much more to all of the people who knew her. She was a friend to all. Arvada was brighter with this "gem" of a woman. Luckily, her "anam cara" still lives!

*(If you have a story you'd like to share about a person or event honored by a bench or brick at the Refuge, please send to: jrjonell@yahoo.com. We'd like to publish stories about the people who help keep the Refuge alive for all to enjoy.)*

## Thank You Very Much

*By Keith Lautenbach*

Thank you for your ongoing support of Two Ponds Preservation Foundation in 2012. You are helping us to fulfill our mission of meeting the goals of the Two Ponds National Wildlife

Refuge, especially the conservation of wetlands and natural wildlife habitat and providing environmental education opportunities for the public. Your contributions have been both financial and in-kind donations of labor and materials, products and event spaces. We also note with appreciation numerous volunteers who have contributed their time and energies to the benefit of the Refuge.

We would also like to thank you for your participation in sponsored environmental education activities such as guided bird watches, nature hikes and Trails Day events and for helping to publicize them. Thanks to the students who have engaged in the Colorado Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program and the parents who have encouraged them.

The Refuge staff and the Two Ponds Reservation Foundation Board of Directors would like to express our appreciation by recognizing the following donors and volunteers for 2012.

**INDIVIDUALS:** Keith Lautenbach, Brian Hoffmeyer, Doug Magee, Tom Scott, Paul Hartmann, Shirley Bredine, Jack Harlan, Joanie Jonell, Brian Allison, Karen McNerney, Bob Frie, Pat Dougherty; Shanna Paulsen, Joan Schubert-Drelor, David Meyer Family, Ben Juskiewicz, Linda Curran, Andrew Jones, Megan Wisell, Mary Jane Parkinson, Patricia O’Neill, Janet Torma-Krajewski, Luann Feely, Jan Archuleta, Connie Ford, Bob & Gail Feustel, Lynn Bird, Frederick Mischnick, Rich Feely, Joyce Persson, Faith Anderson, Michael Day, Rob Zerr, Roger Johnson, Bini Abbott, Sandra & James Primack, Kent Penoyer, Roberta Avery, Larry Kaiser, Jan Eckhardt, James Sullivan, Virginia Trumpolt, Roger Bredine, Marion Haley, Sue Wood, Mark McGoff, Nathan McAdams, Daniel McAdams, Dave Menough, Barbara Lautenbach, Roger Bodine, Neil Skau, Ed Holroyd, David

Rhoades, Stephen Grundy.

**CORPORATIONS:** Alpha Graphics, Frie, Arndt, Danburn; Sooper Credit Union; 1st. Bank; Echter; Arvada Art Guild; O’Toole Nursery; Arvada Center for the Performing Arts; Sollohub; Costco; King Soopers; Safeway; Target; China Club; Two Rivers Coffee Shop; 40 Weight Coffee Shop; Pyramid Print; Silver Vines Winery; Grizzly Frame Shop; City Pizza and Pasta; Personal Benefit Services Wealth Management

You are invited and encouraged to continue to support Two Ponds. Your giving is an indication of community involvement and interest in the habitat preservation and environmental education efforts of the Foundation. Community involvement is an important element of the information requested in the applications for grant funds we submit to corporations, foundations and governmental agencies in our current major fund raising activities.

## Scouts At Work

By Seth Beres

This summer, Austin Espo and Joe Zinke, both from Troop #667, combined forces to implement 2 new Eagle Scout projects at Two Ponds NWR. Their contributions included the staining and restoration of bridges, benches, amphitheaters and enclosures as well as the roto-tilling and re-seeding of trails and barren patches throughout the East side. Throughout the process, they both worked long and hard to solicit and gather donations for materials from several sources throughout the Denver Metro area. Collectively, they spent over 300 hours and were able to raise over \$1500 for supplies and materials! Their entire troop had to work together to prepare their projects, purchase materials, sand structures, till soil, stain boards, seed grass, lay mulch and beyond. Ultimately,

both projects were extremely well thought out and executed; and the finished product thoroughly exceeded our high expectations. These structures look like new and the trails have never looked better. On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I am extremely grateful for their troop’s efforts - and congratulate them on accomplishing their Eagle Badges by effectively serving both their community and the Refuge. Thank you, Troop #667!



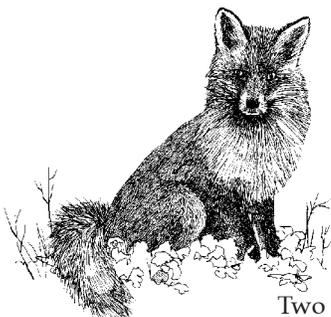
## Junior Duck Stamp Program

In 2013, over 450 students from throughout the state participated in the Colorado Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. Nadezhda Lyapunova, a 17 year old student from Erie, took top honors winning the “Best of Show” in Colorado. Her colored pencil and acrylic paint rendition of Black-winged Teals, entitled “Teals on Sunrise Pond” represented Colorado at the National Junior Duck Stamp Competition in Washington, D.C. this past April. Recognition for all Colorado participants and prizes for the top 25 drawings (grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12) are awarded each year. This year’s Awards Ceremony was at the Arvada Center on May 11. For information on participating in this year’s Junior Duck Stamp Program, call the State Coordinator: Seth Beres at (303) 289-0867.

# 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.



- \$10 Turtle
- \$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

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>

# Dawn Chorus

By Joyce Persson

Life is a series of tough choices, and so it was on Sunday, May 5th,

International Dawn Chorus Day. The choice wasn't to

crawl out of bed in time to arrive at Two Ponds by 6:00 am. Hearing the first Robin chirp outside my window at 5:10 am made it easy to jump up and head outdoors. No, once on the Refuge, the tough choice was whether to stand with the other birders watching a spectacular sunrise cast its glow over Friends' pond, or to keep my binoculars focused on the Great Blue Heron perched along its banks. Lucky for us, the big bird was enjoying a lazy Sunday morning and lingered long enough for us to enjoy both. Master birder David Rhoades knew when the time was right, and eventually moved us further along so we could hear and identify the many other birds that joined us that day. He led us to places of discovery that the casual visitor to Two Ponds might easily miss, and over breakfast following the bird walk, the learning continued. As we said goodbye, everyone was eager to repeat the experience at Two Ponds, because "The more you know, the more you see"

We identified 25 species of birds.



Wood Duck at Two Ponds  
Photo By: Cindy Souters

# Annual Foundation Meeting

By Joanie Jonell

The Annual Meeting of the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation will be held on Tuesday, October 29th from 6-8 p.m. at Majestic View Nature Center. A welcome and description of programs at the Nature Center will be followed by a presentation by Cindy Souters, a nature and wildlife photographer. Wildlife from the Arvada area and Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge will be highlighted. The election of directors for the coming year will conclude the meeting. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. Directions to the Nature Center:

Majestic View Nature Center is located at 7030 Garrison Street, 720 898-7405

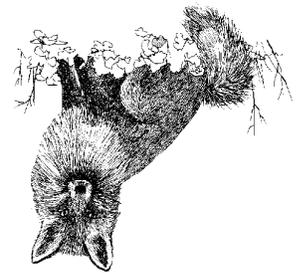
Wadsworth to 68th Avenue, west to Garrison Street, north to Center.

From the West: Oberon Road to 66th Avenue, east to Garrison Street, north to Center.

Additional parking area open on 72nd Avenue, just west of Carr S.



Memberships Make Great Gifts!



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

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P.O. Box 740748

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