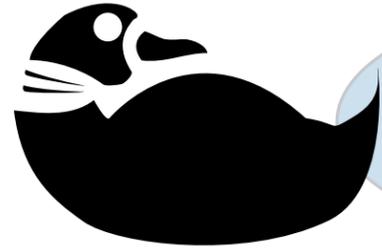


**Two Pond Tuesdays**

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 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.



**TWO PONDS TUESDAY**  
*(volunteer day at the Refuge)*  
 Every Second Tuesday of Every Month  
 at 8:00 a.m.

Follow us on our new and improved social media sites:



www.facebook.com/TwoPondsNWR



www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtprairie

Website - [www.fws.gov/refuge/Two\\_Ponds/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Two_Ponds/)

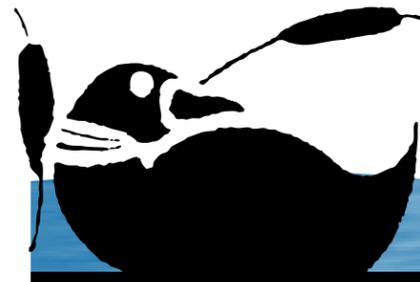
Memberships Make Great Gifts!



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

Return Service Requested

**Two Ponds Preservation Foundation**  
 P.O. Box 740748  
 Arvada, Colorado 80006-0748



# Ripples on the Pond

Newsletter of the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation

**Greetings to our Foundation Members and Supporters**  
 By Daryl Christensen

Spring has arrived at the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge. It's a beautiful time of the year to pack up your friends, family and hiking gear and come out to enjoy the wonders right here in our community.

There were a couple of very memorable family-friendly activities at the Refuge late last year.

In November, there was a Veteran's Day walk at the Refuge honoring veterans who have served our country and reminding visitors of our national heritage. This fine event was sponsored by the Founders and Friends of Two Ponds NWR and Majestic View Nature Center. You will find this event featured below.

The Foundation sponsored a seasonal celebration in December, featuring the Charles Dickens Original Carolers. They charmed our visitors, including students and staff from Weber Elementary and Betty Adams Elementary schools. Everyone had a chance to participate by singing along to their favorite carols.

Warm refreshments were provided by 40 Weight Coffee, with Debbie Evans serving all in attendance with a big smile.

It's already been a busy season at the Refuge and

with the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation as well.

March marked the annual Colorado Jr. Duck Stamp competition, with over 820 entrants from schools all around our state. In May, finalists and their families were invited to attend the awards ceremony at the Arvada Center for the Performing Arts. Refuge Manager, Seth Beres presented awards to the winners of each age category and recognized the great work submitted by all of those who participated. Our Foundation is proud to be the primary sponsor of this event.

In April, Earth Day at the Refuge was celebrated with volunteers joining students and teachers from Excel Academy and Shrine of St Anne School, spending the morning preparing the Refuge for the upcoming visitor's season. Teams were assigned duties, including planting milkweed that provide a food source for the Monarch Butterflies, re-seeding trails with native grass, as well as maintenance, and gathering up debris. To round out the morning, each team had a chance to compete in a scavenger hunt. Participants received a packet of native seeds to plant in their yards along with a "thank you" from the Foundation.

In June, the Refuge will be celebrating National Trails Day. Our Foundation will be joined by Founders and Friends of Two Ponds NWR and exhibitors from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arvada Young Professionals, Birds of Prey Foundation, Butterfly Pavilion, Wild Birds Unlimited, as well as live animal

presentations. Snacks and beverages will be provided by the Arvada Festivals Commission and served by the Arvada Fire Protection District. If you enjoy a nice stroll, the trail between Two Ponds NWR and the Majestic View Nature Center will be open. You will also be able to see the location of the planned School House with the outline freshly staked. Read on to learn more about this upcoming event.

Looking ahead, the Foundation's School House campaign is gaining momentum. In conjunction with the AYP Group we are implementing plans addressing key elements for a successful campaign to complete the School House at Two Ponds. Members of our Capital Campaign group are initiating steps in community outreach, event planning, fund raising and construction. We recently completed detailed research that has placed us in a position to complete a feasibility study and pre-planning that will set the stage for the construction at Two Ponds.

Are you interested in visiting the Refuge, volunteering for schedule activities, or supporting the Foundation with donations? If so, you can learn more by visiting our website at: [www.twoponds.org](http://www.twoponds.org).

We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you on National Trails Day!

Daryl Christensen,  
 President, Two Ponds Reservation Foundation  
 303 640 6247

**Walking With Honor**  
 By Jacey Bonavia

On Saturday, November 7th, community members gathered at Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge and Majestic View Nature Center to attend a Veteran's walk organized and hosted by the Founders and Friends of Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge and the Majestic View Nature Center. People of all ages came together to honor our veterans and to appreciate the land and resources that they have protected through their service, dedication, and sacrifices. The nature walk at Two Ponds was led by Mayor Pro Tem Mark McGoff and attended by local citizens, veterans, their families, and volunteers. In addition, boy scouts and leaders from troop # 2247, 31, 103, 334, and 449 led a ceremonial flag presentation. Together they all enjoyed a profound experience sharing their stories and their family members' service on a beautiful autumn morning in nature. Special thanks to all who coordinated, attended, shared and made this event possible. It was a day to remember – honoring those we must never forget.



<b>Refuge:</b> Visit Us Soon! <a href="http://twoponds.fws.gov">http://twoponds.fws.gov</a> Phone (303) 289-0867	<b>Foundation:</b> Keep In Touch! <a href="https://twoponds.org">https://twoponds.org</a> Phone (720) 306-1992	<b>Refuge Hours:</b> West side: Open year round, dawn to dusk East side: May – Sept. Tue – F: 8am-4pm; Sat. 8am-7pm; Sun.-Mon. CLOSED
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## TWO PONDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

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Daryl L. Christensen

Kevan Fish

Michelle Francis

### Eagle Soars By Seth Beres



This spring, another service-minded young man, Thomas Johnson, earned his Eagle Scout Badge at Two Ponds by vastly improving the infrastructure on the Refuge. Thomas and his troop solicited local vendors and citizens to raise funds to purchase materials. Next, they power-washed, painted and stained the benches, gazebos, bridges and trail timbers throughout Two Ponds. In addition, he utilized his own extended family and fellow volunteer Roger Bodette in order to ensure the project was done in a professional and timely

manner. As a result, our facilities look better than ever and will last much longer due to their combined efforts. Thank you and congratulations, Mr. Johnson on a job well done!



### 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 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. is hosted by Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, Majestic View Nature Center and Ralston Valley Open Space. 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 3 mile guided nature walks** with a park naturalist along historic canal trails connecting Majestic View and Two Ponds. Meet at 8:30 a.m. for departure at either Two Ponds (on 80th Avenue just east of Kipling) or at Majestic View Nature Center – and can ride shuttle back.
- **A 13 mile free bicycle 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.
- **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**, to celebrate the grand opening of the Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail System. Meet at Stanley Lake Library at 11am to observe the event along with local/national officials
- **Live raptors from the Birds of Prey Foundation;**
- **Environmental education displays and activities;**
- **Exhibits by Butterfly Pavilion and Wild Birds Unlimited;**
- **Wildlife photography, face painting; nature hikes**
- **Self-guided nature walks and scavenger hunts along the Refuge trails;**
- **Live animal presentations by the Denver Zoo, Hawk Quest and Aquarium;**
- **Free facepainting and yoga/zumba classes**
- **Nature and outdoor exhibits; Eco-Fair and Arvada trails information;**
- **Free refreshments - prepared by the Arvada Fire Protection District**

Enjoy the activities at each site by taking the free shuttle service between Two Ponds, Majestic View, and Ralston Central Park. Parking is available at the Medical Center parking lot on the southeast corner of 80th and Kipling and the Majestic View Nature Center.

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](http://www.arvadafestivals.com).



### Mother Earth By Seth Beres

For almost the past 50 years, 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 over 150 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, milkweed planting, infrastructure repair, and native grass seed planting. Thanks to all for getting outside, supporting your local wildlife Refuge, and making the event so special!



### Taking Flight By Seth Beres

In 2016, over 820 students (a new state record!) participated in the Colorado Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. Marina Boiko, a 16-year-old student from Boulder, took top honors once again by winning the "Best of Show" in Colorado at the Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Marina's artwork was selected from hundreds of amazing entries from across the state. Her acrylic paint rendition of Northern Pintails, titled "Pintails Swimming," will represent Colorado at the National Junior Duck Stamp Competition in Washington, D.C. at the end of April!

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. Clint Riley, Assistant Regional Director of Migratory Birds gave the keynote speech, as hundreds attended this special event to celebrate art and conservation together!

Special thanks to Two Ponds Preservation Foundation, Meiningers, Friends of The Front Range, Founders and Friends of Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, Redistribution Center, and U.S. Allegiance Inc., 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 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 or [Seth\\_Beres@fws.gov](mailto:Seth_Beres@fws.gov) for details.

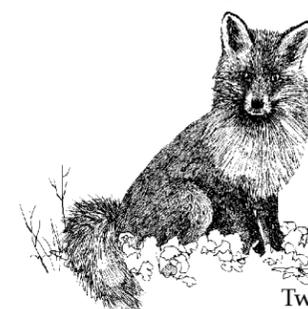
We would love to have more kids throughout Arvada and beyond to participate next year.

So take wing - and spread the word!

## 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       |

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