

An Eagle Facelift
By Seth Beres

Daniel Miles, along with several members of troop #524, spent over 100 hours and \$300 of in-kind donations planning and implementing the latest Eagle Scout project at Two Ponds NWR - in order to help restore our infrastructure and kiosk entrance fencing in the Environmental Education side of the Refuge. He and his troop worked long and hard to solicit and gather donations for materials from several sources throughout the Denver Metro area. Afterwards, they troop spent many hours sanding and preparing the structures - followed by a liberal application of a thick and aesthetically pleasing water-proof stain. The entire project was extremely well thought out and executed; and the finished product thoroughly exceeded our high expectations. These structures look

like new and so many who have since frequented the Refuge are amazed when I tell them these jobs were completed by kids and not contracted out by professionals! On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I am extremely grateful for Daniel and his troop's efforts - and congratulate him on achieving his Eagle Badge by effectively serving both his community and the environment. Thank you!



Follow us on our new and improved social media sites:

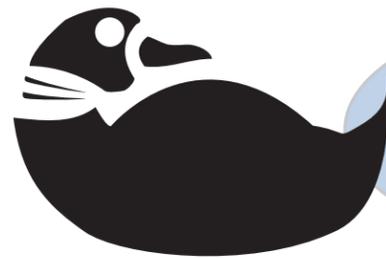


www.facebook.com/TwoPondsNWR



www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtprairie

Website - www.fws.gov/refuge/Two_Ponds/



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

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

November 2015



Reflections from the Ponds
By Daryl Christensen

Dear Fellow Members and Supporters:

As the vibrant fall colors dominate the landscape of the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, we have the opportunity to look back over this past summer's activities at the Refuge. You will be able to read many examples of these events and about the members of our community who shared in the opportunity to participate. As always, we thank our volunteers who have dedicated so much of their time and energy contributing to the ongoing success of these events.

As you read through the newsletter, I am sure you will note an abundance of activity involving the youth of our community. These educational outreach programs capture the opportunities of learning to enjoy and to appreciate the importance of preserving our natural habitat.

As you may already know, one of our Foundation's primary missions is to build a facility that will provide an enduring legacy of learning, encouraging future generations to appreciate and preserve our natural habitat. The goal of "The School House at Two Ponds" fundraising campaign is to complete an on-site environmental educational facility, allowing the refuge to provide year-around programs complimenting existing activities with the addition of indoor class room studies and interactive displays. The campaign to build "The Schoolhouse" is a collaboration between the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation, local community organizations, environmentally supportive business sponsors, and individual

donors. We are excited to announce the planned collaboration with the Arvada Young Professionals Group in helping us achieve this goal. The AYP is a network of young professionals and future community leaders who are dedicated to building a better Arvada.

In the near future, you will have the opportunity help our Foundation build "The Schoolhouse" by participating in Colorado Gives Day. The date to save on your calendar is Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 starting at 12:00 AM. There is an additional Incentive Fund that provides contributions that may be added to your donation on this day only. You can learn more by going to our Colorado Gives Day page at: <https://www.coloradogives.org/index.php?section=organizations&action=newDonation&fwID=36167>

You can also find more information about our Foundation, scheduled activities, and how you can volunteer or support our foundation at: <http://www.twoponds.org>

New Wings! By Seth Beres

The 2016 Junior Duck Stamp Program has officially begun! This contest engages K-12 students in an integrated arts and science curriculum, culminating in a design challenge to create a North American waterfowl art piece for submission to their state contest. All participants throughout the state receive recognition and the top 100 entries in every state are awarded a host of fine prizes at a ceremony in May. The Best of Show winners from all 50 states and territories advance to the national contest where one piece is selected to be printed as that year's Junior Duck Stamp - available for purchase at the post office for \$5. This Junior Duck Stamp is both a collector's item among philatelists and is a tool that generates funding for conservation education across the country. This is a wonderful environmental and educational program to be involved with! For more information, please contact Seth Beres # (303) 289-0867 or <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>



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

**TWO PONDS
PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION**

DIRECTORS

Daryl L. Christensen
President
303-318-8960

Jon Drogheo
303-808-8240

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

**Colorado Colors
By Kevan Fish**



Colorado may not have the variety of fall color as the Northeast, but it is hard to beat the yellow/gold of the Aspen trees. In Colorado, we have the bonus of altitude. This means that you can see the fall colors at higher altitude in early September, and the colors become more apparent at lower altitude as the evenings become cooler.



With over 72 acres, comprised of varied ecosystems, including uplands, wetlands, and small ponds, Two Ponds is the perfect place to observe the fall color changes and the wildlife preparing for the winter.

**Float Like A Butterfly
By Lauren Kurtz**

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) hires interns to work for government and non-profit organizations dedicated to the stewardship of our wild lands. This summer, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) National Wildlife Refuge complex received 3 SCA interns for 6 months to assist in the efforts to protect and enhance wildlife and habitat at RMA, Two Ponds, and Rocky Flats. Hannah Atkinson, Chelsea Wilson and I came aboard in May and have already completed a multitude of tasks gaining incredible experiences that will serve us well as we go forth into our career in conservation. We have led numerous outreach and education programs, restored native habitat, nurtured pollinator gardens, removed invasive species, conducted biological monitoring studies, wrote and submitted a grant, and promoted public relations at both Two Ponds and RMA - and we are only 3 months in!



My co-intern Chelsea and I are working predominantly on tasks relating to pollinators and especially Monarch butterflies, whose population has declined by about 90% in the past three decades. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife service is dedicating many resources to improving Monarch habitat and spreading information about Monarchs and their declining population. We are proud to be a part of this Monarch initiative as we care deeply for this iconic species. The drastic decline of the Monarch is an ominous sign, warning us of the future of pollinating insects and what that means for our natural ecosystems if nothing is done. Our primary duty as Monarch interns is to raise awareness about these impressive insects to get citizens involved in their population comeback and to enhance habitat for all pollinators. Many pollinating species have been on the decline for a number of reasons. The three most significant are habitat loss, climate change, and the mass use of herbicides for agriculture. All of these are caused by human interference and can be reversed. As a result, we hope to educate citizens about the ways to boost their numbers and lessen the detrimental effects of the primary causes of a weakening population.



The most critical task at hand is planting Milkweed. This humble family of plants is the only one that Monarch butterflies will lay their eggs on and the only leaf that the Monarch caterpillar will eat. The caterpillar will spend its entire life, up until it becomes a butterfly, on a single Milkweed plant. There are many species of Milkweed and it is important to plant varieties that are native to your area. The species most commonly found along the Front Range are Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), Swampy Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*), and Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). These can typically be purchased as seeds, as young plants at a local nursery, or harvested in the fall from wild plants nearby. Female Monarch's will lay around 300 eggs in her lifetime, and will only lay one egg per Milkweed leaf; and the adult butterflies will drink the nectar from the flowers.



Another important task to assist Monarch's in their population comeback is to plant native wildflowers. Not only will Monarchs use these as a food source during their migration, but all sorts of other pollinators will visit these flowers for their nectar and pollinate the flowers in the process as well. Pollinators provide incredible ecosystem services and many of our natural systems will suffer if pollinators are not protected. Nearly 30% of food crops around the world rely on pollinators for reproduction. Without these special insects, birds, and mammal pollinators, our agriculture system would collapse. In addition, many wild plants would be harmed if pollinator populations continued to decline. Besides pollinating plants, pollinators also provide an abundant food source for countless species of animals.

In addition to planting milkweed and native wildflowers, it is crucial to support agriculture practices that consider pollinator habitats. Buying organic and locally grown seasonal food is very important for the future of pollinators. Most of the food in the United States is grown using pesticides and herbicides, both of which drastically reduce biodiversity of pollinators and the plants they rely on. By supporting responsible farmers dedicated to environmental stewardship and organic farming practices by purchasing their food, it will lead to a decrease in the use of herbicides in agriculture. Also, every household can make small improvements to their gardens that will have incredibly significant impacts on the Monarch butterfly's population. While beautifying your garden with native flowers, you will also provide a valuable nectar source for a variety of pollinating species.

By simply planting milkweed, native wildflowers and supporting organic farmers, each of us can have a profound impact on the future of the Monarch Butterfly and countless other pollinating species as well. We are doing our best to do our part on Refuges and beyond. We hope you join us! Spread the word and the Milkweed seed! #savethemonarch

**Trailblazers
By Seth Beres**

On Saturday, June 6th, Two Ponds NWR joined again with Majestic View Nature Center to host the 13th annual National Trail's Day at both locations. Trailblazers came out in force again. This fantastic event reached over 1000 people, setting attendance and participation records, and provided high quality environmental educational activities for the entire family!

National Trail's Day focuses on our natural environment and the many opportunities offered by our nation's Trails and National Refuge system. Highlights of this year's event featured hosted walks between resources, a guided bike tour, live raptors, wildlife contraband display, art contest, face painting and other wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities! In addition, free shuttles ran regularly between both sites and complimentary refreshments were available throughout the day.

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!



Colorado Gives Day

Support the "Schoolhouse at Two Ponds" campaign on Colorado Gives Day! Colorado Gives Day 2015 is Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015. It is Colorado's largest one-day online giving event, presented by Community First Foundation and 1stBank, is coming up and we need your support. Thanks to Community First Foundation and 1stBank, Colorado Gives Day features a \$1 Million Incentive Fund, one of the largest gives-day incentive funds in the country. Every nonprofit receiving a donation on Colorado Gives Day receives a portion of the Incentive Fund, which increases the value of every dollar donated.

About Colorado Gives Day

Colorado Gives Day is powered by ColoradoGives.org, a year-round website featuring nearly 1,500 nonprofits. ColoradoGives.org encourages charitable giving by providing comprehensive, objective and up-to-date information about Colorado nonprofits and an easy way to support them online at: <https://www.coloradogives.org/index.php?section=organizations&action=newDonation&fwID=36167>.

Please help raise millions for Colorado nonprofits. You can donate at ColoradoGives.org anytime. Please help strengthen the state's nonprofits through online giving.



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/qpwv3>