Waterwise - Wildlife Gardening

Jim Knopf, Well-known Xeriscaping Expert & Author

“Combining the two themes, Waterwise & Wildlife Gardening, creates superb serendipity. The two themes reinforce each other to make gardening great by being something to do ...... It’s affordable, easy, environmentally significant, fun, and even funny. There’s no down side. It’s all good news.” These are words written by Jim Knopf, who will speak to our program meeting on May 12th. The program promises to be both informative and entertaining, delivered by a lively, skilled speaker.

Wildlife gardening involves both pests - raccoons, skunks, rats, mice, etc. and encouraged invitees, such as hummingbirds and butterflies. Attracting the charismatic creatures is appealing, but mischief management can involve a lifetime of learning. Jim claims that, “Learning to curb critter trouble, without culling the critters, becomes so engaging that people often eagerly anticipate the next opportunity to outwit their uninvited garden guests.” He speaks of, “The most fascinating relationships and interactions ... pollination partnerships (sex in the garden), predator/prey relationships (the defenses are astonishing), mysterious migration (it seems impossible), and phenology (how everything happens at the right time). All of this expands wildlife gardening to a wonderful life-long adventure.” Don’t miss a minute of the fun. Share your experiences with friends and family. Learn to create a gorgeous garden full of both plants and animals.


THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM — May 12, 2005
Ludlow Room, Fort Collins Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia Street
Social Gathering - 7:00 PM, Program - 7:30 PM
### MAY - SEPTEMBER

**FIELD TRIPS**

All field trips are free of charge and open to the public. All experience levels are welcome. Attendees should dress appropriately for the weather. Bring snacks, water and binoculars and/or spotting scopes if you have them. Carpooling is encouraged. A $2.00 (unless otherwise specified) contribution per passenger to the driver is suggested. Visit [http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon) for more information. Contact the field trip leader of the field trip you are interested in for signup and trip details or the Field Trip Coordinator, Gary Lefko, at lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org or 970-897-2454.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Leader Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/21/2005 Saturday</td>
<td>&quot;Where do I find birds in my town?&quot; (Cheyenne, WY).</td>
<td>Leader: Gary Lefko at <a href="mailto:lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org">lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org</a> or 970-897-2454. Visit Cheyenne hotspots like Hereford Ranch and Lions Park and F.E. Warren AFB.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/21/2005 Saturday</td>
<td>Burrowing Owls.</td>
<td>Leader – Bill Miller at 970-493-7693 or <a href="mailto:5mcorp@verinet.com">5mcorp@verinet.com</a>. Look for Burrowing Owls and Mountain Plover at their traditional haunts on the Pawnee. Participation limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/5/2005, 7/3/2005, 8/7/2005 Sunday</td>
<td>Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey.</td>
<td>Leader: Cole Wild at <a href="mailto:birdingwild1@yahoo.com">birdingwild1@yahoo.com</a> or 970-310-3735. Fort Collins’ newest natural area, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, is projected to be open in 2006. Fort Collins Audubon performs a monthly bird census for the city. All levels welcomed. Participation limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/11/2005 Saturday</td>
<td>Soapstone Ranch Natural Area.</td>
<td>Leader: City of Fort Collins. Contact Gary Lefko at <a href="mailto:lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org">lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org</a> or 970-897-2454. Sneak peek at Fort Collins' newest natural area scheduled to open in 2009. 12,579 acres of spectacular prairie north of Fort Collins. Participation limited to 7 total.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/18/2005 Saturday</td>
<td>Burrowing Owls and Mountain Plover.</td>
<td>Leader – Bill Miller at 970-493-7693 or <a href="mailto:5mcorp@verinet.com">5mcorp@verinet.com</a>. Look for Burrowing Owls and Mountain Plover at their traditional haunts on the Pawnee. Participation limited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/9/2005 Saturday</td>
<td>Burrowing Owls.</td>
<td>Leader: Gary Lefko at <a href="mailto:lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org">lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org</a> or 970-897-2454. Visit Nunn/Weld County hotspots. All levels welcomed. Please contact leader for signup and trip details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July or August</td>
<td>Herpetology Trip.</td>
<td>Contact Gary Lefko at <a href="mailto:lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org">lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org</a> or 970-897-2454 in July for details. Check FCAS website for details in July. Leaders: Georgia Doyle and Brad Lambert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/3/2005 Saturday</td>
<td>Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey.</td>
<td>Leader: Cole Wild at <a href="mailto:birdingwild1@yahoo.com">birdingwild1@yahoo.com</a> or 970-310-3735. Fort Collins’ newest natural area, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, is projected to be open in 2006. Fort Collins Audubon performs a monthly bird census for the city. All levels welcomed. Participation limited.</td>
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### VOLUNTEER’S CORNER - Ellen Wride, Volunteer Coordinator

“Grassroots refers to local people working together to find solutions to problems in their communities.”

--Jo Anne Schneider, University of America

The energy, resources and direction of Audubon Society begin with the contributions of our individual members acting in their individual capacities as citizens. We need you.

Assistance needed:

* FCAS Ptarmigan, advertising
* Larimer County Parks and Open Space, 3 individuals who like people and like to speak. (See page 3)
* Fossil Creek Natural Area cleanup - June 4 (See page 3)

Contact Ellen Wride, Volunteer Coordinator, for details at EVW9609@aol.com or 970-215-0056.
AUDUBON AT HOME – Bill Miller

A committee of Audubon Colorado has finished its work of putting together the *Colorado Wildscapes* habitat guide and has turned the material over to the graphic designer. A distribution agreement with Westcliffe Publishers has also been worked out. Our May program speaker, Jim Knopf of Boulder, local landscape architect, Xeriscape author and lecturer, assisted in the brainstorming of the development of a theme for the *Colorado Wildscapes* habitat guide.

The *Colorado Wildscapes* habitat guide will feature the gardens and garden practices of regional “Habitat Heroes,” gardeners from around the state. The habitat guide, easy-to-read and informative, is about bringing conservation home. The guide details what each one of us can do to create a healthy, welcoming yard for birds and other wildlife.

In conjunction with the release of the book in late May/early June, Audubon Colorado will offer chapter workshops. The workshops scheduled for June have already been filled, but dates for workshops in September are pending. Susan Tweit, Salida author of Rocky Mountain Garden Survival Guide and contributor to *Colorado Wildscapes*, will facilitate the workshops. Workshop participants will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis. To register for a workshop, contact Connie Holsinger at cholsinger@comcast.net or at (303) 652-2853.

The first print run of the book should be available by late May or early June. The retail cost of the guide will be $12.95. Chapters will be able to obtain copies of the book for resale as a fundraiser. If you are interested in obtaining a copy through FCAS to assist the chapter in its fund-raising activities, please contact Bill Miller at (970) 493-7693 or 5mcorp@verinet.com.

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS CAMPGROUND TALKS

The Larimer County parks and Open Lands Department (LCP&OL) operates and manages three campgrounds within its park system, at Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake, and Flatiron Reservoir. LCP&OL makes extensive use of volunteers for a variety of activities, including volunteer naturalists, campground hosts, and so forth. This year they have asked FCAS if we could provide any volunteers who might be interested in providing campfire talks at the campgrounds on Saturday evenings between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Campfire talks are on a wide variety of subjects, and it is hoped that the subject of birds could be worked into the schedule. I will commit to providing one talk in each of the three summer months, but that leaves two other campgrounds without coverage. I invite you to make your knowledge available to others through this opportunity.

If you are interested in assisting with the Saturday evening campfire talks, please contact Bill Miller at (970) 493-7693 or 5mcorp@verinet.com or Ann Montoya, LCP&OL Education Coordinator at (970) 679-4561 or amontoya@larimer.org.

FOSSIL CREEK WETLANDS CLEANUP

We need your help! As you may know, FCAS participates in the “Adopt A Natural Area” program of the Fort Collins Natural Resources Department. FCAS has adopted the Fossil Creek Wetlands Natural Area (between the railroad tracks and Timberline, south of Trilby and north of Carpenter Road), and it needs some spring-cleaning. Enjoy a half-day in the fresh air--join us and help clean up this natural area. Meet Saturday, June 4, 10:00am – Noon, on the south side of Trilby between Lemay and Timberline, just east of the railroad tracks. Bring gloves, plastic buckets or trash bags, rakes, and plenty of water to drink. Contact Joel Hurmence at jhurmence@hotmail.com or (970) 481-2124 for information. See you there!

STILL TIME TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIP

It’s not too late to apply for a Fort Collins Audubon Society Scholarship toward a course or workshop offered by Rocky Mountain Field Seminars (www.rmna.org, 800-748-7002). Applications must be postmarked by May 24, 2005. Fort Collins Audubon Society scholarships are new for 2005 and are offered in two categories:

- Child and Youth Scholarships for ages 6 to 17
- Educator Scholarships for teachers in public or private schools in Larimer County or the surrounding area

Applicants must reside in Larimer County or the surrounding area. Funding assistance covers the tuition fee, and may also support costs for transportation and necessary equipment or supplies. Selection of applicants is based on merit and level of interest. Scholarship application forms are available at our monthly program meetings and on our website, www.fortnet.org/Audubon/scholarship/.
Sign Up for our 2005 Canoe Trip

There are still seats available for the Fort Collins Audubon canoe trip on the North Platte River, June 10-12 (Friday-Saturday). We will start in Saratoga, Wyoming and paddle to I-80 (33 miles). The North Platte offers beautiful scenery and a variety of paddling conditions. The river is lined with cottonwoods and bordered by large, spectacular bluffs. Slow, placid stretches are interspersed with easy white-water sections. Wildlife is plentiful. In one afternoon, you may see deer, antelope, great blue herons, pelicans, Canada geese and bald eagles. The river is also one of the best trout streams in the West.

Centennial Canoe Outfitters (www.centennialcanoe.com) will provide all safety equipment, river guides, canoes, and all meals. Cost of the trip is $285, of which $50 is donated back to FCAS. You will need to bring a sleeping bag, tent and basic personal supplies. The trip is limited to 23 participants, so sign up early to reserve your place. A deposit of $100 per person must accompany your reservation request. The balance is due by May 20. For further details, see our website (www.fortnet.org/audubon).

To register for the trip, contact Centennial Canoe Outfitters, 1-877-353-1850 (toll free) and be sure to refer to the Fort Collins Audubon trip.

May’s bird garden trivia question!

What are your best 3 plants for attracting hummingbirds?

“Better Living, Better Birding” -- Lynne Hull, Education Co-Coordinator

We kick off our backyard habitat awareness campaign with May’s program by Jim Knopf (see front page). I’m investigating other ways to encourage the community to plant bird and butterfly friendly plants, trees and shrubs as one focus of our educational offerings. At the program we will also have detailed lists of native plants, local “butterfly plants”, and packets of native wildflower seeds to offer, thanks to Sue Kenney from FC Natural Resources. We are also looking for some volunteers to help organize a “wildlife habitat garden tour” later this summer—watch for information and a postcard. It may not be until summer or fall, but if you’d like to help organize it please call me at 970-416-1881. Also, call if you (or people you know) have a wildlife garden or landscape you’d like to share for a day. Your backyard habitat doesn’t have to be elaborate, just attractive to birds or other wildlife with features we can talk about.

The second big offering for the summer is the return of the “Procession of the River Species”, a celebration of art, music, environmental education and our local wildlife heritage. It will be held August 20th, in conjunction with New West Fest. You are invited to come to a community art studio, even if you’ve never thought you were “artistic”, and make a costume, head dress, mask or a cardboard critter to carry on a stick, come to drum or carry a giant wind banner, and become a local wildlife species. Artists will be there to help you make your animal. Or come and watch as over 300 “animals” dance, swim, trot and flow through old town and down to the river. Watch for us on late Saturday afternoon; we’ll be listed in the New West Fest program.

Don’t forget, it’s your chance to take Kevin Cook’s beginning bird watching class running this month—see April’s Ptarmigan or the Audubon website for details.
CONSERVATION CORNER
Carol Fiore, Chair

Next Conservation Committee Meeting
Thursday May 12 at 6 p.m. in the Ludlow Room before the general meeting. For more information call Carol Fiore at 461-8760.
This will be the last meeting until September 8. Everyone is welcome. Come make a difference!

TAKING ACTION!
Nesting season is here! You can help our feathered friends by telling everyone you know to leave those baby birds alone! Remind them that it is actually illegal to disturb nests or nestlings. Take action to protect babies by keeping cats indoors!

America’s Wildest Refuge
What is ANWR? Amazingly, many Americans do not know. The acronym is, perhaps, a way of making this 19-million acre area in the northeast corner of Alaska seem somewhat less important, less wondrous. So let’s use the real name for this pristine area – the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, home to over 180 species of birds (including the beautiful Bohemian Waxwing). About 70 species of birds nest on the narrow Arctic Refuge coastal plain, much of which is contained within the 1.5-million acre area where the Senate has recently voted to allow gas and oil drilling.

The recent Senate vote assures that the drilling measure will be attached to the budget resolution for fiscal year 2006. This is a sneak attack that eliminates a fair and open debate on this critical issue. Senator Allard voted in favor of drilling and Senator Salazar voted against drilling. Remember, you have power because you vote, and it isn’t over till the drilling starts.

Experts estimate there is only a 6-month supply of oil in the Refuge, and it would not be available for another 10 years. Investing in long-term energy independence, technology, and alternative energy sources should be our focus. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge is not the answer to our long-term oil troubles. Shall we destroy this environmentally sensitive area to grab at the last remaining drops of oil?

The impact of drilling in the Refuge would be considerable. Industrial oilfields will fragment and degrade habitat. Human activity disturbs birds, and oilfields also attract predators that prey on birds. Oil spills pose the greatest threat to birds. Have we learned nothing from the legacy of oil spills and pollution in Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (also in Alaska)? Oil drilling there has resulted in more than 350 spills, fires, and explosions. More than 100,000 tons of soil has been contaminated with toxic chemicals, and groundwater has been contaminated at levels 10 times the legal limit established by the EPA. Mutations and birth defects have already been revealed in wildlife.

We can’t let this happen in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Tell your neighbors, tell your families, write and email and call. Take action.

Kudos and Raspberries
Kudos to the Colorado Wolf Management Working Group for developing appropriate recommendations regarding management of wolves that will migrate into our state. Members of the volunteer group, working under the auspices of the Division of Wildlife, included livestock producers, wildlife conservationists, sportsmen, local government officials and wildlife biologists. Comments from public hearings will now be reviewed, and the Wildlife Commission will adopt the final text of the management plan.
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Audubon Society Membership Application
Support FCAS by paying your National Audubon Society (NAS) and/or Chapter (FCAS) dues through your chapter:

- New Member (NAS & FCAS)  $20
  (Receive Audubon magazine and Ptarmigan)
- Renewing Member (NAS & FCAS)  $35
  (Receive Audubon magazine and Ptarmigan)
- FCAS Chapter Member only  $15
  (Receive Ptarmigan only)
- FCAS may share my name with NAS
- Additional donation to FCAS of:  $_______
  Total enclosed:  $_______

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________ State: ______
Zip: ____________ Tel: No.: __________
E-mail address: ___________________

Please make your check payable to FCAS and send along with this form to:

FCAS
PO Box 271968
Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968

I prefer to receive the Ptarmigan via the FCAS website, www.fortnet.org/Audubon. Please e-mail me when posted.

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