



PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Open Space Conf.	1
Jeffco Hall of Fame	5
Master Plan	6
Baehrden Lodge	7
Toadflax	9
OSAC Notes	11
MALT	13

PLAN Jeffco announces
Conference: The Next 40 Years of Jeffco Open Space Conservation
 Saturday **November 16, 2013**
 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Jeffco Fairgrounds, Main Exhibition Hall
 Admission: \$10

Ten experts will discuss recreation trends and the future of Open Space conservation in Colorado.

Save the Date

For more info visit us at: www.planjeffco.org
 Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972

YOU ARE INVITED!!! REGISTER NOW!!!

Join PLAN Jeffco at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds on November 16th, at 9:00 a.m. for a conference focusing on the Next 40 Years of Open Space Conservation in the metro area. The conference is co-sponsored by the Jefferson County Open Space Division and the Jeffco Open Space Foundation and will be held in the Fairgrounds Main Exhibition Hall.

Presenters at the conference are:

Dr. Daniel Jerrett, Regional Economist for the Denver Regional Council of Governments will discuss "Economic and Demographic Trends in the Denver Region."

Dr Jim Hurrell, Director of the Earth Science Laboratory at the National Center for Atmospheric Research will discuss "The Science of Climate Change: from Global to Local Scale."

John Soval, Colorado State University and Pam White, Colorado Natural Heritage Program will review the "Jeffco Survey of Critical Biological Resources/the Benefits of Conserving Biodiversity."

Continued on the next page

Open Space Conference - - Continued

Dr. Sarah Reed, Colorado State University and Dr. Sarah L. Thomas, Center for the American West at the University of Colorado will discuss “Balancing Recreation Access and Conservation Objectives in Open Space Programs.”

Dr. Mat Alldredge, Wildlife Researcher with Colorado Parks and Wildlife will discuss the “Impacts of Humans on Wildlife in the Front Range.”

Dr. Mark Johnson, Executive Director of Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment, will discuss “Health and the Outdoors.”

Dr. Mike Bowker, National Forest Service will discuss “Recreation Trends and Preferences in Front Range National Forests,”

Amy Ito, Planning and Construction Manager, Jeffco Open Space will review the “2013 Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan.”

Refreshments will be available with warm burritos planned for the mid-conference break.

Cost for the conference is \$10, Register on planjeffco.org, which has additional information or call 303 526 1348.

Presenter Subjects and Biographies

effco 2013 Parks Plan Update

Amy Ito, Planning and Construction Manager, Jeffco Open Space

Ms. Ito manages design, planning, real estate and construction staff, and consultants who develop plans for acquisition proposals, park management planning and reporting, construction and associated capital budget plans, as well as the Department's Master Plan. She has worked for Jefferson County for 10 years. Prior to Jefferson County, Amy was the Community Development Director for the Town of Frisco for 11 years, overseeing the building and planning departments. She has a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP), from the University of Colorado at Denver (UCD), and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies, from the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC).

Recreation Trends & Preferences in Front Range National Forests

Dr. Mike Bowker, National Forest Service

J. M. (Mike) Bowker is a Research Scientist with the Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service in Athens, GA. He received a B.A. degree in Biology from Bates College and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University. He holds adjunct faculty positions at the University of Georgia, and serves as Associate Editor for Leisure Sciences and the Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration.

Mike's research includes studies on the economics and social science of forest and coastal recreation, urban forests, non-market valuation of wildlife and natural resources, and exploring linkages between ethnicity, environmental preferences, and recreation demand. He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, while presenting research at over 100 professional meetings. He has taught college classes in natural resource economics, quantitative methods, sustainable tourism, and international development, and mentored more than 15 graduate students.

Before joining the Forest Service, Mike was an associate professor of economics and business at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Between college and graduate school, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Western Samoa, teaching high school math and science. Favorite past times include hunting, fishing, biking, golfing, kayaking, and traveling.

Presenter Subjects and Biographies - - Continued

Health and the Outdoors

Dr. Mark B. Johnson, Executive Director of Jefferson County Department of Health & the Environment

Dr. Johnson has been the Executive Director of the Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment since April, 1990. He was raised in Grand Junction, Colorado, and attended Campion Academy, in Loveland, Colorado, and Pacific Union College, in northern California, before going to medical school at Loma Linda University in southern California. He has served for three years as a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service in the National Health Service Corps, and was discharged as a Lt. Colonel after serving for seven years in the Army Reserves.

Dr. Johnson received his medical specialty training and Masters of Public Health degree at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and became board certified in Preventive Medicine and Public Health in 1988. He served as the Medical Director for the Center for Health Promotion at Loma Linda University, then as the Director for Preventive Medicine Services and State Epidemiologist in Wyoming before moving back to Colorado in 1990.

He is the past President of the American College of Preventive Medicine, has been the President of both the Wyoming and Colorado Public Health Associations, and has served as the Secretary and Treasurer of the American Board of Preventive Medicine. He is the past Chair of the Preventive Medicine Residency Review Committee for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and the past Chair of the Governing Board of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. He currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Board of Trustees for the Adventist Health System in Orlando, Florida, and is on the Centura Health System Board of Trustees in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Johnson was a member of the steering committee for the establishment of the Colorado School of Public Health, serving as the Designated Institutional Official for its medical residency programs, and teaches a course in the school on the history of public health.

Economic & Demographic Trends in the Denver Region Dr. Daniel Jerrett, Regional Economist, Denver Regional Council of Governments

Daniel Jerrett, Ph.D., is a fixed income analyst at Putnam Investments in the greater Boston area, and has been for the last two years. Previously, he was an economist in the Governor's Office here in Colorado.

Dr. Jerrett earned his Ph.D. in Mineral & Energy Economics at the Colorado School of Mines, enhancing the Economics degrees that he earned from DePaul University and the University of Iowa/Henry B. Tippie College of Business.

The Science of Climate Change: From Global to Local Scales

Dr. Jim Hurrell, Director of Earth Science Laboratory at the National Center for Atmospheric Research

James Hurrell is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. He is also a Senior Scientist at NCAR and the Director of the NCAR Earth System Laboratory, and an Associate Director of NCAR itself. Jim is also a former Director of the Climate and Global Dynamics (CGD) Division of NESL, and he has served as the Chief Scientist of the Community Earth System Model (CESM). His personal research has centered on empirical and modeling studies and diagnostic analyses to better understand climate, climate variability and climate change. He has authored more than 85 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and has given more than 140 professional and keynote talks. Jim is a Highly Cited (Thomson-ISI) Researcher, and he is the recipient of the AMS's prestigious Clarence Leroy Meisinger Award and the NCAR Outstanding Publication Award.

Jim has served on a large number of national and international scientific committees. He has been extensively involved in the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), including a six-year appointment as Co-Chair of the WCRP project on Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR). Jim has also served on numerous National Research Council committees, and he has provided briefings and testimonies to both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives on climate change science.

Presenter Subjects and Biographies - - Continued

Jeffco Survey of Critical Biological Resources/the Benefits of Conserving Biodiversity

John Sovall/Pam White, Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program

John Sovell is a Biologist/Ecologist at the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State University. Mr. Sovell acquired a Master's Degree in Zoology from the University of Alberta and B.S. in Wildlife Management from the University of Minnesota. Currently he is involved in numerous projects associated with the conservation of sensitive and rare animal species in Colorado.

Pam Smith is a Field Botanist/Ecologist with Colorado State University and a member of the Botany Team of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. The CNHP Botany Team tracks the location and condition of over 500 globally and/or state imperiled plants in an effort to guide effective management and protection of those species and thereby prevent extinctions or statewide extirpations of Colorado's native plant species.

Balancing Recreation Access & Conservation Objectives in Open Space Programs

Dr. Sarah Reed/Dr. Sarah L. Thomas, Colorado State University/Center for the American West at University of Colorado

Dr. Sarah Reed is an Associate Conservation Scientist with the North America Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society and an Affiliate Faculty member in the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Biology at Colorado State University. Sarah's research focuses on the effects of land development and human activities on wildlife and biodiversity, and she works with communities, government agencies, and decision-makers to apply ecological science to conservation planning and land-use policy.

Dr. Sarah Thomas is a visiting fellow at the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her current research examines the socio-economic, political, and policy implications of land use change in the U.S. West, particularly the impacts of amenity-based development and outdoor recreation for rural communities. She holds a PhD in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management and BA in History and Literature.

Impacts of Humans on Wildlife in the Front Range

Dr. Mat Alldredge, Wildlife Researcher, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Dr. Alldredge has a Ph.D. in Zoology and Biomathematics from North Carolina State University, Masters degrees in Biomathematics (North Carolina State University) and Wildlife Resources (University of Idaho). He began his educational journey at the University of Colorado, where he earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Alldredge is currently a Wildlife Researcher with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and as such he studies large carnivore and hoofed animal ecology, their population parameters and habitat use. In addition, he studies avian ecology and population sampling. Two of his current research projects include "large carnivore-human interactions along Colorado's Front Range – evaluating statistical methods to estimate population density and presence", and "predator-prey dynamics of cougars in relation to prey availability and human density".

In addition to his research, Dr. Alldredge finds time to teach classes for the mark-recapture program (MARK) and for the National Conservation Training Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He is a member of The Wildlife Society, American Ornithologists' Union, and he's chair of the Animal Care and Use Committee. Dr. Alldredge is also an Affiliate Faculty at both Colorado State University and the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Greg Stevinson Named to the Jeffco Hall of Fame by the Jefferson County Historical Commission

On Thursday, October 17th, Greg Stevinson will be inducted into the Jefferson County Historical Commission's Hall of Fame as the 2013 living honoree.

Hall of Fame inductees have been chosen since 1979, one living, one deceased, each year. The reasons for induction are pretty rigorous...nominees must have made significant contributions to County history or the preservation thereof. In Greg's case, he has met the following criteria:

POLITICAL	As a developer, Greg has influenced jeffco's growth and economic base.
INDUSTRY	Greg is being recognized for outstanding achievement as a business and community leader.
PUBLIC SERVICE	Greg's record of achievement for Open Space – as we're celebrating 40 years of Open Space, 100 years of Denver Mountain Parks, and 20 years of GOCO, it seems especially fitting for him to be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year.
CULTURAL	Greg and Sue's contributions to public art in Jefferson County and the many boards on which Greg has served.

To quote Thea Rock, Communications Manager at Jeffco Parks Department, "Greg's contributions to Jefferson County have been numerous and quietly conveyed. From his role as chairman of the Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Committee to his personal interest in capturing local natural assets through art placed in public spaces, this honor is truly deserved."

Greg's role with OSAC included shifting the open space acquisitions process from reactive to proactive; providing significant support to the "Save Open Space" bond issue in 1998, which has resulted in a doubling of the amount of land protected by Open Space; and acquiring properties in the plains areas of Jeffco which are suitable to the needs of our growing population for athletic fields and active recreation.

Consider coming to the Mount Vernon Country Club on the 17th of October, to honor Greg for all the fine work he has done for Open Space, and for Jefferson County.*

* The induction into the Jefferson County Hall of Fame will be Thursday, October 17th, from 6 to 9 PM, at the Mount Vernon Country Club. It will be a free event, open to the public, cash bar. The Historical Commission is requesting RSVPs so they have an idea on food and table arrangements. For more information please contact Rosemary Lewis at jeffersoncountyhistoricalcommission@jeffco.us, or ContactUs@PLANjeffco.org, and she will make sure you get an invitation when they're sent out in September.

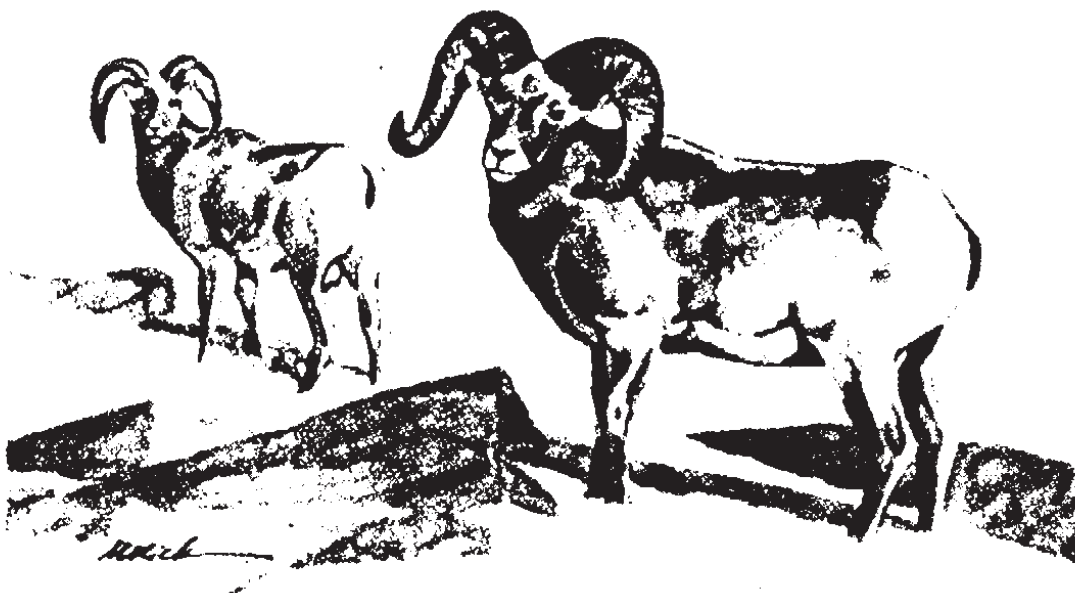
JCOS Master Plan 2013

Jefferson County Open Space updates their Master Plan every five years. The last Master Plan was adopted in 2008, see http://www.planjeffco.org/open-space-oversight_open-space-master-plans.html.

The process for the 2013 update started with a series of public meetings in May at which time comments from the public were solicited. June 6, at the OSAC retreat, staff presented philosophy that was being used to develop the master plan. This philosophy was for the plan to be brief and it would cover all four divisions (Fairgrounds, Boettcher Mansion, CSU Extension, and Open Space) within the Parks Department. A number of OSAC members expressed concern that the missions of the four divisions were different enough that it would be difficult to write a statement that was meaningful. Good points were that metrics were included for Open Space objectives in the next five years.

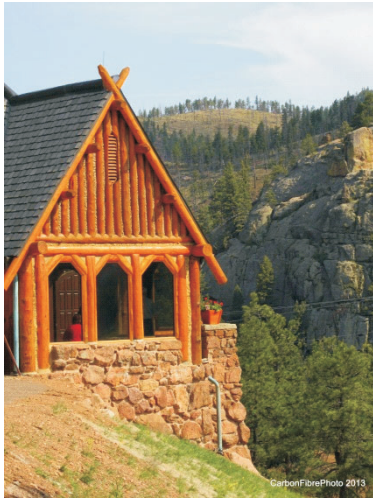
Between June 6 and the August 1 OSAC meeting, staff decided to develop a separate master plan for Open Space. A brief outline of a Master Plan was presented at the OSAC meeting. Again a number of the OSAC members expressed concern that the outlined plan did not focus on the main roles of open space, but on social issues.

An expanded draft Master Plan was posted on the web August 8 see http://www.planjeffco.org/open-space-oversight_open-space-master-plans.html. Public meetings were held during the weeks of August 19 and 26. Comments on the plan were being received by Open Space through September 6. PLAN Jeffco submitted a long series of comments, feeling that the draft plan did not include many items that should be in a comprehensive master plan includes information that was not shown to be relevant to the plan. It is expected that additional information will be provided to OSAC prior to their September 19 meeting. If available, we will post this information on [planjeffco.org](http://www.planjeffco.org) under "Open Space Oversight." This will be the regular September meeting. If there is another draft that will be open for public comment after September 19, we will post notice on [planjeffco.org](http://www.planjeffco.org) under "Open Space Oversight."



Baehrden Lodge: A Place to Call Home

High above the North Fork of the South Platte River, perched on the side of a ridge in a dry pine forest, is a fabulous lodge which was acquired by Jefferson County when they bought what would become Pine Valley Ranch Open Space Park in 1986. For the past few years, Jeffco Open Space, partnering with Denver-based HistoriCorps America, has been hard at work, helping restore this exquisite example of “Rocky Mountain Rustic” architecture to its previous glory.



This lodge, called “Baehrden (Bear-den) of the Rockies” at the time it was built, was the summer home of the Baehr family of Chicago. William Adolph Baehr, president of Chicago’s North Continent Utilities Company, vacationed in Colorado in 1925. He saw Pine Valley, decided that it would make a fine summer home for his family, and bought the ranch.

The land on which the Baehrden Lodge is located was originally the 4L Ranch. The “ranch” was primarily a timber and ice-cutting operation. It was owned by four families – Hildebrand, Busher, Liming, and Eggert. The valley was serviced by a narrow-gauge railroad, part of the Denver, South Park & Pacific line, which used to make the 42-mile trip to and from Denver in a mere 2.5 hours, hauling timber and ice to the metro area, returning with picnickers and fishermen.



Baehrden was designed by Denver architect J.J.B. Benedict, who was originally from Chicago. Benedict rose to local prominence, becoming Denver’s greatest master of the architectural Beaux Art style. The private homes he built in the mountains and public spaces like Chief Hosa (1917), Echo Lake Lodge (1926) and St. Catherine’s Chapel at Camp St. Malo (Estes Park, 1935), however, are exemplary of his “Alpine Architecture” phase – what we fondly call “Rocky Mountain Rustic”.

William Baehr, his wife Mabel, son William B. and daughter Irene Mabel were able to move into the Lodge in record time. Baehrden’s original 15 rooms (expanded to 27 rooms over time), were built by 60 skilled workmen in 90 days, during the summer of 1927, at an estimated cost of \$1.5M.

An estate like Baehrden didn’t run itself; Conrad & Eloise Johnson and their large brood of children were caretakers from the time Baehr bought the ranch. Conrad started as the chauffeur, gardener, and maintenance man, but in 1930 he was promoted to foreman. It was then that he started improving life at the Lodge by building bridges, a garage and equipment sheds, and a powerhouse for the gasoline-powered lighting system that illuminated the Lodge after dark. He crafted a water delivery system with a 10,000 gallon water tank on the ridge above the house and a water wheel at the river below, which pumped water up into the tank so it could flow down to the house, as well as cascade through the hanging gardens and pools which lie just to the east of the Lodge.



The two families spent many fruitful years at Baehrden. William Baehr was an astronomy buff, so Johnson built an observatory for him in 1937. Mabel Baehr had a Japanese-style pagoda build on an island in the river, so she could picnic and have afternoon tea with friends in a private, quiet space. The pagoda is still there, just a few steps from the picnic shelter at the eastern end of the Park.



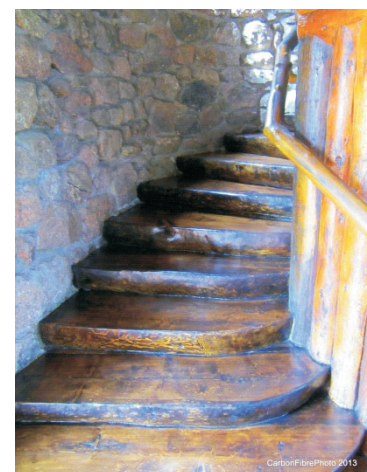
All good things must come to an end. When William died in 1956, the Lodge was sold to a group of Denver investors who used it as a mountain get-away. Upkeep of the Lodge and land was expensive, however, so when this group could no longer afford the property, they sold it. In 1970, the property passed to Pzazz! West, who promptly turned the lodge into a destination hotel and conference center, fitting it out with orange shag carpet and a pool for hotel guests. If you look closely, you can still see a bit of the carpet peeking out from under the left-hand door at the back of the dining room in the photo on the left.

The Lodge is beautifully crafted, full of hand-worked wrought iron fixtures – door and window hardware and electrical lamps and lanterns; even the logs are joined by decorative ironwork straps (like the strap in the picture to the right), hand-made on site by teams of craftsmen. The logs used in the construction of Baehrden were peeled and torched, to give them the darkened appearance found in Bavarian lodges of the time. The log-and-daub used throughout gives the Lodge a heavily Germanic feel.



The Lodge is full of little surprises, one of which our tour group spotted...the dining room ceiling. The style of the ceiling is totally out of sync with the architecture of the rest of the house. It's more consistent with the Art Nouveaux or Beaux Arts style. There was speculation from members of our group that the ceiling panels might have been transported from the Baehr's Chicago house, and installed at Baehrden as a reminder of their previous life.

The builders made extensive use of native boulders and logs, as shown in the photo to the right, of the staircase that leads from the great room up to the dining room.



In June, 1998, the Baehrden Lodge was listed in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

This past summer the Baehrden Lodge was finally opened for guided tours. Seeing the Lodge restored in part to its former glory, being with docents who could relay the story of the Baehrden, was truly a worth-while experience. I highly recommend taking advantage of any opportunity you might have to see for yourself this place that William Baehr and his family called home.

Directions to the Baehrden Lodge: From Denver, take U.S. Highway 285 west to Pine Junction. At the traffic light turn southeast (left) onto Pine Valley Road (County Road 126). Continue 5.8 miles toward the town of Pine. Turn right on Crystal Lake Road. Follow the signs for Pine Valley Ranch Park.

Damnation Toadflax

Or How Pretty Plants become Problem Pests

By Sally L. White

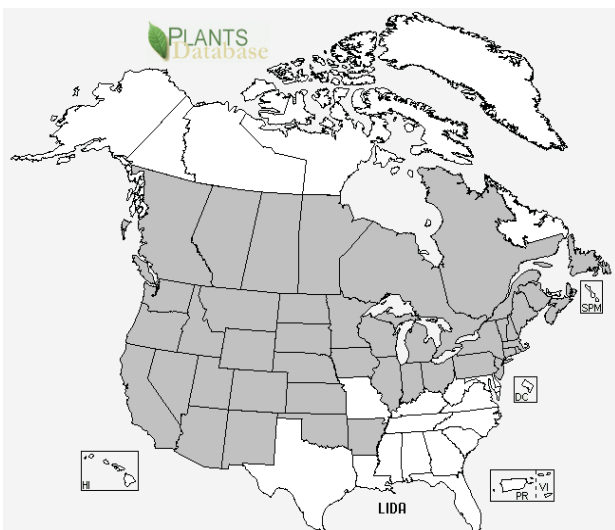
Even a plant-lover, and I do consider myself such, can be challenged by some species, and the mellowest of us can be pressed into trophy hunting when circumstances are right. Summer is the season for bagging the biggest baddest trophies in our neck of the woods. Each year I've been going after my limit, but of course, you never run out of this bad boy. Its beauties, and I'll grant there are some, are only petal-deep.



The object of my disaffection and prejudice this season, as in years past, is Dalmatian Toadflax (variously *Linaria dalmatica*, *Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *dalmatica*, etc.) This gorgeous yellow snapdragon is fast becoming one of the dominant foothills wildflowers of early summer. Its cousin, *Linaria vulgaris* (usually known as butter-and-eggs) is less robust in stature but equally capable of taking over property. It seems to prefer moist areas, while Dalmatian toadflax is doing just fine, thank you, on drier foothills slopes. According to Colorado State University, the two together occupy about 75,000 acres in Colorado, and

“Toadflax invasion is favored by disturbance and they invade degraded areas such as roadsides, abandoned lots and fields, gravel pits, clearings, and overgrazed rangeland. In Colorado, these weed species are found at elevations from 5,000 feet to over 10,000 feet.” [*Biology and Management of the Toadflaxes*, by K.G. Beck; <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/03114.html>]

How did it get here in the first place, you may ask. Remember its good looks. Like many of our noxious weeds, this Mediterranean native was introduced as an ornamental, as early as 1874 here in the western U.S. We can only hope we're learning to be a little more cautious about those pretty faces we bring home from the greenhouse or nursery... be on the lookout!



That this Eurasian species has taken over most of the United States is documented here, by the USDA Plants database (plants.usda.gov). Grey color indicates its non-native status in the U.S. In Colorado, I suspect it occurs in many more counties than shown in the USDA map. Toadflax is sneaky, competitive, prolific, and adaptable. Heaven help our native flora!

[<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=LIDA>]

Controlling toadflax

Although experts often say "don't pull it—it just makes it come back stronger," that never made sense to me. First, if one can get some of the underground parts, repeated pulling has to, in time, exhaust the plant's energy. The key is "repeated." Pulling must continue for 5-6 years to remove root fragments, and lateral roots also need to be followed and removed. Not a task for the faint of heart. Most land managers find "one-shot" spraying easier, as it avoids that constant responsibility. Second, if you can prevent the plant from setting seed, it seems that could also help; after all, one healthy mature Dalmatian toadflax plant can produce 500,000 seeds, some of which can remain present in dead stalks for up to two years.

So I started an experiment in my own neighborhood, ruthlessly attacking every sprig I could find while out walking around the block, especially after rain. Pulling weeds is so satisfying when the ground is wet, and you really feel like you're getting results! When it's dry, and stems snap off at ground level, you have to suspect your efforts are futile.

Hypothesis: Control of Dalmatian toadflax can be achieved by repeated, diligent hand-pulling.

Methods: Repeated diligent hand-pulling, wherever, whenever, but especially in the immediate home territory.

Goal: A reduction in the local population, or (at the least) a drastic decline in recruitment of new individuals by seed. If one can only keep them from flowering, that has to help, right?

Results: Bags of garbage, at least the inflorescences of which have to be treated like the hazardous waste they are, and the opportunity to have roadsides free of these yellow snapdragons! And, I truly believe, considerable success in knocking local populations back and preventing their expansion.



Thus the "bagging" of trophies is literal here, and like any good hunter, I felt compelled to document my success—so here's the traditional shot of selections from my daily limit. (No, I resisted the impulse to have my picture taken holding them by the roots...)

Of course, you could also spray, and several options are available for that (consult an expert for advice on this option). As another approach, at least eight different insects have been introduced for biological control; many of these are available from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, which operates an insectary in Palisade. These include beetles that feed on shoots and flowers, reducing seed production, defoliating moth, and stem- and root-boring weevils and moths. Every little bit helps. But remember, you too can be a biological control agent at home, where you can keep an eye out and attack stragglers.

OSAC NOTES - OSAC NOTES - OSAC NOTES -

June 2013: Study Session was cancelled so that the Advisory Committee could have a retreat at the Prospect Park District's Arbor House.

The retreat began with a presentation by Amy Ito of the vision, mission, goals, and strategies for a Unified Master Plan including Open Space, the Fairgrounds, CSU Extension, and Boettcher Mansion. There was some discussion among the OSAC to the fact that the roles all were different and it would be hard to not minimize the focus on Open Space.

Scott Grossman updated OSAC on the progress towards submitting application for accreditation by CAPRA. At present Golden is the only entity in Colorado that is accredited.

Tom Hoby presented guidelines for public presentations that were used by other agencies. The discussion that followed indicated that the OSAC consensus was that formal guidelines were not necessary.

John Wolforth presented on how the Planning Department and Commission were taking good advantage of using iPads and email for circulating information.

There was a follow up discussion on the potential to shorten the real estate approval process presented at the May OSAC meeting.

Don Klima presented the preliminary, draft budget for 2014

Regular Meeting: Approval was given to Wheat Ridge to set aside the reverter on a small part of the Clear Creek Greenbelt to allow for a controlled surface-drainage system installation for a new subdivision.

Approval was given to Public Service to move a switching box at the Northwest corner of Crown Hill Park. The move would allow Public Service to remove the overhead power lines and bury new lines between 32nd and 35th Avenues along Kipling. This will allow Wheat Ridge to construct a sidewalk along the East side of Kipling.

Scott Grossman updated the Committee on the redevelopment of the lower Apex Trailhead that would be beginning later in June.

July 2013: Both the Study Session and Regular Meeting were cancelled so that OSAC could go to Pine Valley Park to observe the restoration work on the Baehrden Lodge. See article in this newsletter.

August 2013 Study Session:

Don Klima presented the draft budget for 2014. The increasing revenue will allow smaller draws on the present reserves, while retaining relatively constant expenditures.

Amy Ito presented an outline of the draft Open Space Master Plan. Discussion from OSAC members and observers indicated a general feeling that the plan as presented needed much revision.

OSAC NOTES - Continued

Regular Meeting:

The draft budget was approved for submittal to the Commissioners.

Prospect Park District requested having title for Maple Grove, Tanglewood, and Fairmont Parks plus the District Office be transferred to the District. The request was approved.

A temporary construction easement was approved for the City and County of Denver to allow access to repair a bridge on a Red Rocks access road.

Approval was given to renewing leases to Ken Caryl Metro District for two properties along the hogback.

In the Public Comment period, Margot Zallen, PLAN Jeffco Chairperson spoke about concerns that unifying the Boetcher Mansion, the Fairgrounds, CSU Extension and the Open Space Program under a newly named “Parks Department” would diminish the Open Space brand and the Open Space Program’s unique identity. In July, PLAN Jeffco had sent a letter to Tom Hoby expressing some of our concerns, see http://www.planjeffco.org/open-space-oversight_current-initiatives.html (Jefferson County Open Space Program.) The letter and its attachments demonstrated that in 1987 the County Commissioners rejected a movement toward the county open space program becoming more like the cities’ and recreational districts parks and that we are concerned about recent trends that seemed to be a replay of the 1987 controversy. There was spirited discussion by OSAC members these issues and most of OSAC agreed with the concerns raised by PLAN Jeffco. OSAC has scheduled a discussion on this at the October 3rd OSAC meeting which will start at 4PM to allow time for adequate discussion.

Steve Snyder, Assistant County Attorney, reported that a court had ruled in favor of Open Space in relation to an adjacent landowner’s claim of ownership of a part of the northwest corner of Pine Valley Park.

Future OSAC meetings of note: We encourage the public to attend.

September 19, Study Session - 5:30, Regular Meeting 7:00 - Master Plan Second Draft Review

**If the second draft is available prior to the meeting, a copy will be posted at:
http://www.planjeffco.org/open-space-oversight_current-initiatives.html**

October 3, Study Session - 4:00 discussion on minimizing the Open Space brand.

Mountain Area Land Trust adds Gilpin County

If the Mountain Area Land Trust recently decided to extend its energies and expertise into Gilpin County, it's because Gilpin's wealth of ecological and historic gifts make it a natural choice. Conserving mountain-area jewels since 1992 across 3,096 square miles of Clear Creek, Jefferson and Park Counties, MALT has more than 20,000 acres of pristine forests, sylvan meadows and timeless views already to its credit. As it happened, the hard-working nonprofit's standing invitation to Gilpin County landowners was inspired by Gilpin County landowners.

"We were receiving phone calls from people in Gilpin asking who they should contact about getting conservation easements," says MALT director Jeanne Beaudry. "We found out that a lot of Gilpin County was very rural. The Clear Creek Land Conservancy works in Gilpin, but its main focus is on the Clear Creek watershed. There's a statewide land trust that could do it, but there was no local trust that serviced Gilpin County."

Though modest in area – at 150 square miles, Colorado's second-smallest county – Gilpin towers above more expansive and populous districts in some important respects. For one thing, few places of any size can boast a richer treasury of Centennial State history. For another, Gilpin's several drainages, vast montane forests and abundant deer and elk pasturage exert a large influence over the health of neighboring wildlands.

"Northwest Jeffco is biologically important, and it's tied into key wetland and riparian areas in Gilpin County," explains Beaudry. "Our mountain-area ecosystems are interdependent. It doesn't make sense to stop at the county line."

With more than half of Gilpin's 98,500 acres bound up in Golden Gate Canyon State Park to the east, and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests to the west, MALT's focus will be on the broad central corridor along State Highway 119. Its first job will be simply to let the good citizens of Gilpin County know that MALT is at their service.

"We want to let them know how trusts can help preserve the wild character of their communities, and preserve their scenic vistas, open space and wildlife habitats," Beaudry says. "We're here to answer their questions, listen to their ideas, and help them set up conservation easements." While most folks will look favorably on a legal instrument that helps to preserve a unique and treasured quality of life for generations to come, not everybody understands exactly how that instrument works, or how MALT is able to craft conservation easements that suit individual wishes and goals. Explaining the natural, cultural and financial benefits of private land conservation is all in a day's work for MALT's land conservation specialist, Matt Ashley. "An easement is really a very flexible mechanism," Ashley says. "One of the neater things about them is that they can be customized to fit each landowner's specific needs."

MALT's core values emphasize protecting scenic views and wildlife habitat, preserving recreational opportunities and traditional land uses like ranching, and providing links between other open space areas. But MALT can just as easily help landowners craft easements to protect places of historical significance, relieve tax burdens, create buffer zones against development, or ensure water quality factors.

"There's a common misconception that conservation easements have to allow public access, and that's not the case," Ashley says. "Each easement is an agreement a landowner reaches with us, and the landowner can put all kinds of stuff into it. They don't have to allow public access if they don't want to."

Mountain Area Land Trust adds Gilpin County - Continued

Whichever better angel it is that motivates a property owner to seek a conservation easement, and whatever form that easement may take, Gilpin County residents can be certain that a call to the Mountain Area Land Trust is the best first step toward making a tangible impact on their cherished mountain fastness that will inspire and delight long into the future.

“We’re really excited to welcome Gilpin County into our service area,” Beaudry says. “It just makes sense for everybody.”

To learn more, call 303-679-0950, or visit www.savetheland.org.

by Steve Knapp

Trail Additions to South Table Mountain Park

Users of South Table Mountain Park will see activity beyond hiking, biking and horseback riding this fall. Open Space is building three new miles of trail on the western part of the mesa.

Service roads will be included in the trail system and upgraded to accommodate utility-company vehicles. Access for the trail building will from Quaker Street. Trail building equipment will be transported onto park property on the mesa top via Quaker Street.

Users are requested to use designated trails to prevent erosion, protect wildlife habitat and sustain vegetation. More information and a park map are posted on the county web site. <http://jeffco.us/parks/parks-and-trails/south-table-mountain-park/>

For more information on the Baehrden Lodge, go to:

<http://historiccorps.org/baehrden-lodge/>

<http://historiccorps.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/BaehrdenHandout1307.pdf>

<http://jeffco.us/parks/pine-valley-ranch-park/history/>

<http://jeffco.us/parks/news/2013/baehrden-opens-for-sunday-summer-tours/>

For more information on J.J.B. Benedict and his body of work, go to:

http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms_edumat/pdfs/647.pdf

Baehrden Lodge
30400 Crystal Lake Rd.
Pine, CO 80470

If you have not!!! Join PLAN Jeffco or renew your Membership today!

PLAN Jeffco is the county-wide volunteer citizen's group that organized and drafted the Open Space Resolution that resulted in the formation of the Jefferson County Open Space Program in 1972. We currently function as a watchdog group, observing meetings of the Open Space Advisory Committee, participating in subcommittees, and issues groups, proposing and working for important acquisitions, and keeping citizens informed of what is going on in their Open Space Program. PLAN Jeffco provided the leadership for the successful vote for bonds in 1998.

PLAN Jeffco works for open space and we work for you! Please sign up or renew your membership now! Your address label shows the date of your last renewal. More membership information is on www.planjeffco.org.

Our membership rate is:

\$35 per year

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to PLAN Jeffco and send to:

PLAN Jeffco
11010 W 29th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215

Are You wired??

If you are, PLAN Jeffco would like to have you on our email tree, so that we can inform you of special events and items that may be of concern to you. We will not share your email address without permission. Please include with your dues payment or email to

jklitz@comcast.net

Thanks





Toadflax - continued from page 9

So this spring, I ventured out again, attracted by a few sprigs of yellow that had survived my earlier treatments. With soil freshly wet by rain, I was ready to pull—but in the end I stayed my hand. The plants I was about to pull had problems already; they were mere shadows of the robust weeds I expected. Weak, spindly, and browning, they were already under attack. Knowing that weevils and moths had been introduced nearby in previous years, I opted to leave the offending plants in hopes that the insects would triumph! I returned to check in mid-August, to find plants that, despite recent rains, looked nothing like their former selves. Seed pods, if present, were tiny, and one plant would be hard pressed to muster 50 seeds if it produced any. Suddenly, I'm encouraged! Maybe the spread of these damnation toadflaxes can be checked after all.



PLAN Jeffco
11010 W 29th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Email: jklitz@comcast.net
Check our website
www.planjeffco.org

Jefferson County Citizens for
Planned Growth with Open Space

