



# PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2014

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Volunteers Needed	1
Coyote Country	3
Dinner Speaker	5
On Golden Clouds	6
Communications	8
Jefferson Conservation District	10
OSAC Notes	12

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

*vol-un-ter-ism ( ,väl, n'ti(, )r,iz, m), the policy or practice of volunteering one's time or talents for charitable, educational, or other worthwhile activities, especially in one's community.*

PLAN Jeffco has been working as the steward of Open Space, and we are asking for volunteers to help with the work load. Let's not kid ourselves; organizations like PJ don't run on wishful thinking. There's no magic to getting things done.

In the past, PJ has thought – wrongfully, as it turned out – that there might not be a need for Open Space oversight. Lessons learned; we are needed. We ensure that the voters' will is respected and that Open Space continues to deliver to the people of Jefferson County the wonderful experiences that we have come to expect since 1972.

“The interior joy we feel when we have done a good deed is the nourishment the soul requires.”

— [Albert Schweitzer](#)

Open Space stewardship is about sharing and caring, and a great way to do that is to share your photos and park experiences with others. PJ has created a Facebook page with albums for each park. We would love to post

your photos and stories, so even those who cannot get out into the Open Space parks can experience their loveliness.

Here's what you can do to help:

- Join us and become stewards of Open Space; ensure the continuation of the voters' will and the excellence of our Open Space program by becoming a member of PLAN Jeffco.
- Share photos and stories – best if you tell us where you were when the photos were taken (park name will do) and when (month and year works, or even season and decade, such as 'Summertime, around 2002'). Yes, even old photos are welcome, as long as they're in a digital format (we use primarily JPG, but we can probably convert other formats, too). The stories should be in your own words, please. Tell us about your experience(s), we'd love to post these on Facebook so others can enjoy. Contact Michelle Poollet at [mapoollet@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mapoollet@ix.netcom.com).

Continued on page 2

## *Volunteers Needed!!!, Continued from page 1*

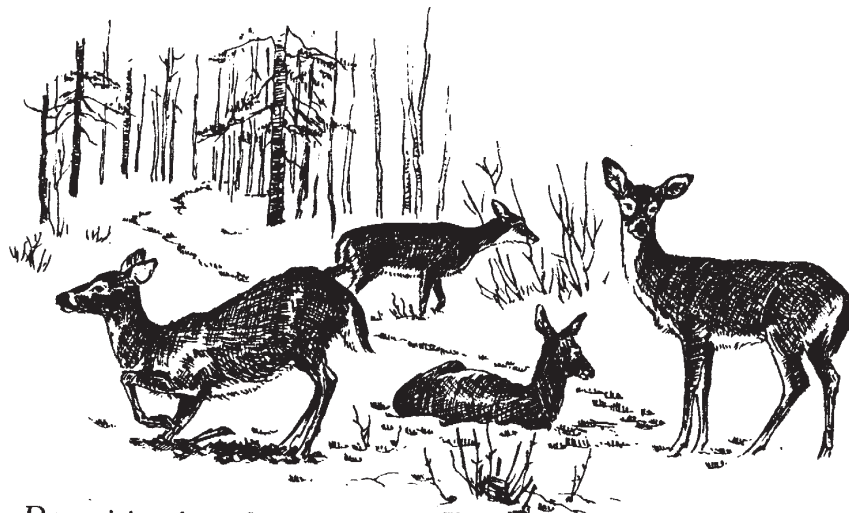
- Send us articles for our quarterly newsletter – we'd love to have more guest writers join our newsletter team. Stories about the open space environment, wildlife and plants, thoughts and emotions experienced while in an Open Space park – whatever you want to write about. You'll work with our editorial staff to ensure that your piece is ready for publication. Contact John Litz at [jkultz@comcast.net](mailto:jkultz@comcast.net), or use our web contact form, .
- Let us know Open Space issues of concern and importance to you – these should be posted on our Action Alert blog ([http://planjeffco.org/news\\_action-alerts.html](http://planjeffco.org/news_action-alerts.html)). While we'd love to give everyone the opportunity to post on the blog, it's best to contact Michelle at [mapoolet@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mapoolet@ix.netcom.com) with your information, or use our web contact form, <http://planjeffco.org/contact-us.html>.
- Send tips and suggestions; they should go to our PJ Board Chair, Margot Zallen, [margotzallen@comcast.net](mailto:margotzallen@comcast.net), or use our web contact form, <http://planjeffco.org/contact-us.html>. You can be sure she'll share with us at our next Board meeting!

### How to stay connected:

- Like us on Facebook (PLAN Jeffco)
- Follow us on Twitter, @PLANjeffco
- Follow our blog ([http://planjeffco.org/news\\_action-alerts.html](http://planjeffco.org/news_action-alerts.html))
- Join our email list, and be informed of current events and issues related to Jeffco open spaces-be the first to know. Use our web contact form, <http://planjeffco.org/contact-us.html> and check "Yes, add me!"
- Become a member or renew your membership; give \$3 a month to help protect & preserve Jefferson County Open Space, [http://planjeffco.org/join-or-give\\_membership.html](http://planjeffco.org/join-or-give_membership.html) (you'll automatically be added to our email list).

*"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."*

— [H. Jackson Brown Jr.](#)



*Deer rising from bedding area*

## *Living and Playing in Coyote Country*

by Mary Ann Bonnell  
 Visitor Services Supervisor, Jefferson County  
 Open Space, Co-Principal Investigator, Denver  
 Metro Area Coyote Study

Creating coyote-savvy open space users and residents helps reduce conflict between coyotes, pets and people throughout Jefferson County. Educating and motivating citizens to help preserve open space and the wild species that use it is at the core of the PLAN Jeffco mission. This is the first of two articles designed to improve our understanding of and to stimulate conversation about coyotes and their presence in our parks and communities. The comments and observations quoted below are actual observations and thoughts from Jefferson County residents and park users and are taken directly from the comment section of the Denver Metro Area Coyote Hazing Survey (Winter 2014). Please join the conversation and send your coyote comments or questions to [mbonnell@cojefferson.co.us](mailto:mbonnell@cojefferson.co.us).

### **Coyote Savvy Concept #1: Coyotes Make Great Open Space Managers**

*"We like [coyotes] because they take care of rodents such as mice and prairie dogs."*

*"Frankly, I LIKE the coyotes. I avoid my neighborhood park because of the geese and their "leavings" - the coyotes keep Crown Hill clean!"*

Simply put, it pays to have coyotes living in open space. Coyotes help manage populations of would-be nuisance or economically damaging species such as mice, geese, rabbits and insects. Coyotes enrich our open space experience with a rare opportunity to watch an apex predator in action.

*"Coyotes enforce the leash laws. They are helpful."*

*"Off-leash dogs are an invitation for [coyote] conflict."*

*"What we need is more responsible actions on the numerous people I see letting their dog run off leash. This is not good for the dog or the coyote."*

While coyotes are not officially part of the Jefferson County Open Space Volunteer team, they might as well be. Coyote-savvy dog walkers know that the best way to keep a dog safe when walking in coyote country is to keep it on a leash. As the local "top dog", coyotes sometimes are compelled to see our domestic canines as direct competition for resources such as food and territory. This competitive urge tends to peak during breeding, denning and pupping season. In parks, this competitive urge can play out in "escorting" behavior where a coyote will trot, at a distance, alongside or behind a dog walker. Dog walkers experiencing this unnerving behavior should be prepared to shorten their lead and actively "haze" or scare the coyote off by yelling, waving arms and using noisemakers such as a whistle or air horn. Dog walkers should never allow pets to approach pups or known den sites. As pups emerge and begin to explore their surroundings, coyote parents can exhibit heightened aggression toward dogs that get too close to pups or den sites.

*"The majority of dog owners that I have seen...are morons, countless owners take their dog up to "play" with the coyotes...can you put up signs encouraging people to haze the stupid dog owners as well?"*

Dog owners should never let their dog play with or chase coyotes. Coyote has earned its "trickster" reputation for many reasons. One is its ability to trick dogs into thinking they're on a play date only to find the whole thing was a set up for an aggressive ambush by one or more coyotes. No matter how big your dog is, it is no match for a family group of coyotes. As some pet owners know all too well,

## *Living and Playing in Coyote Country* *continued from page 3*

coyote's "top dog" behavior is not limited to open space. Unattended dogs left in backyards can also be perceived as direct competition for a local coyote's food or territorial resources. Fences mean nothing to a coyote if it is feeling threatened by the presence of a domestic dog. Don't take any chances with your best friend. Make sure you supervise backyard time, particularly at dawn, dusk and through the wee hours of the night. It may seem like a burden, but it is always better to be safe than sorry.

### **Coyote Savvy Concept #2: Which Came First, Coyotes or People?**

*"THE COYOTES WERE HERE FIRST  
...LEAVE THEM ALONE AND THEY WILL  
LEAVE YOU ALONE."*

*"Coyotes need places to live since humans keep developing land where animals were living."*

*"I feel we're intruding on their territory, not the other way around."*

*"They were here first. This is their land."*

*"I hate coyotes, period. They're too big a predator to be tolerated in a city."*

While there is no question that coyotes lived and thrived on the Colorado Front Range long before humans colonized it, the research community largely agrees that the presence of people has made being a coyote a bit easier in many important ways. The best thing humans did for the coyote was eradicate wolves, which are the only animal known to successfully manage coyote populations. With the absence of wolves and the addition of rich, irrigated landscapes with fruit trees and locally abundant rabbits, squirrels and mice, many note that urban coyotes live lives of luxury and excess far beyond the wildest dreams of their

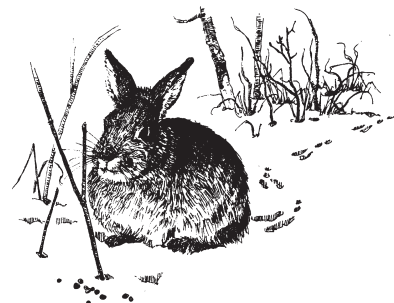
shortgrass prairie-scrabbling ancestors. If you look at it through the eyes of an incredibly opportunistic and flexible creature like the coyote, humans may have invaded the coyote's original territory, and we have arguably improved upon it in some key ways.

### **Coyote Savvy Concept #3: Humans Have a Direct Role in Reducing Coyote Conflict**

*"My impression is that most conflict is human-created."*

*"Education is the best way to preserve these animals in such an urban area."*

Regardless of how you feel about coyotes, knowing more about them, their behavior and ecology in urban environments can reduce your chances of experiencing direct conflict with them. Simple acts of stewardship like keeping your pet leashed, supervising your pet in the yard and keeping cats indoors, particularly at night, are a great start. Taking care not to inadvertently feed coyotes by leaving pet food and water out or leaving food scraps in parks is another way to do your part in coyote conflict mitigation. Taking a moment to scare coyotes away that come too close, engage you, or enter your backyard is a more active way to help reduce conflict. I think this survey respondent said it best, *"Being cautious and aware, along with exercising a little common sense has served me well."*



*Cottontail with scats and chewed twigs*



## *Dinner Speaker Describes Elk Mountains Retreat*

By Vicky Gits

Ian Billick, PhD, the executive director of one of the nation's renowned biological laboratories, founded 80 years in the Colorado ghost town of Gothic, spoke May 8 at Plan Jeffco's annual dinner with the commissioners at the Applewood Golf Course. Dr. Billick introduced the dinner attendees to the activities of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL), a scientific research outpost eight miles north of Crested Butte and the Crested Butte ski area. The summer program at this famous biological study center attracts students, scientists, and tourists.

Ian Billick was appointed to head the nonprofit 501c(3) organization in March 2012. He is a graduate of the University of California at San Diego and previously was a student and worked at the lab. He was a visiting professor at Truman State University and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Houston, conducting ecological research on population and community biology prior to accepting the RMBL opportunity.

The RMBL provides living facilities, access to research sites and laboratory sites and helps manage the information generated by resident scientists. The lab employs a staff that varies seasonally from 10 to 75 people and maintains 70 buildings on 1,300 acres. The lab is a gathering place for leading scientists and provides an outdoor classroom where the next generation of field scientists can be mentored.

The lab is inaccessible to the public in the winter but in the summer months welcomes visitors and offers workshops and special classes for children. It operates on a budget of about \$2 million a year.

The RMBL Education Program offers students the opportunity to decide if a career in field biology is right for them in an active scientific community

with up to 160 scientists, postdocs, graduate students, staff and family members.

RMBL has had the opportunity in the last 80 years to document the positive and negative effects of climate change on the ecology surrounding Gothic. The recent effects are that some migrating birds are arriving earlier in the spring, before some of the insects have hatched. The climate change also is affecting those mammals that inhabit the higher altitudes as the warmer temperatures are forcing them to even higher altitudes where there is less forage.

More information on the laboratory is available at [rmbll.org](http://rmbll.org).



*Balsam Fir*

## *On Golden Clouds*

By Sally L. White

Perhaps city folks don't notice, but few who live in mountains and foothills escape knowing when the pines are doing their thing, and this spring was certainly one of the obvious ones. We see pollen adrift on spring puddles, pollen gathered from the roof to collect in rain barrels, pollen like golden dust all over our decks--marking the tracks of squirrels that have passed. We may fuss at the inconvenience of this annual deposition, especially if we're the ones that sweep up, and we may question whether all the mess is truly necessary. Along the way to your deck, though, aren't there a few compensations?

Pollen of pines and other conifers appears in great golden clouds loosened by spring breezes to drift and swirl across mountain landscapes. A combination of events makes this special sight possible, and you ought to consider yourself lucky to catch it. The dark green background of conifer dominance gives these seasonal clouds their dramatic visual setting, surprising newcomers and delighting residents with a familiar, yet mysterious, phenomenon. Probably there are other golden clouds--of grass, or cottonwood, or willow pollen--destined to remain invisible only because they lack the necessary dark backdrop to display themselves effectively.

The air is so filled with this evidence of male energy taking wing that even the evening news begins to notice. When mentioning pollen, does the weatherperson report that this massive outpouring ensures future generations of Colorado's forests? Not so. Too often we take the presence of airborne pollen to be yet another inconvenience. But look at it from the other point of view for a moment. Perhaps the pollen grain finds it inconvenient to be forcibly snuffed up into a foreign and inhospitable land--our noses--where its germination processes can't possibly aid the procreation of its species and can only annoy our

own. Far from its intended destination, the inhaled pollen grain attempts to initiate a pollen tube on the moist surface of our nasal passages, chemically eating its way through the tissue, much to our continual discomfort.

Had the errant grain landed on a more hospitable surface, sifting down between the scales of a developing female pine cone of the correct species, its life would likely have been longer and more productive. The successful pollen grain spends the entire summer growing a pollen tube--dissolving its way through the soft tissues of the female cone. During the winter it is dormant, its growth arrested by cold. A new surge of growth in spring brings the tube within reach of the developing egg, where it deposits a sperm cell about 13 months from the time the original pollen grain left the parent tree. That's a substantial lifespan for a single cell, and just the beginning for the seed that's to mature in fall. But surely only a tiny fraction of pollen grains enjoy such a fate.

What good are all those unsuccessful grains? Besides the allergy-annoyance and resultant boost to the pharmaceutical economy, pollen grains collectively have plenty to tell. Carried by the slightest breeze and its own bladder-like wings, pine pollen spreads far and wide--in space and in time. Its abundance and resistance to decay make it an important fossil marker. Fossils and fossil pollen closely related to our pines have been found in Colorado from rocks deposited in Cretaceous time, as much as 100 million years ago. Other fossil conifers--and their typical two-winged pollen grains--date to the Carboniferous Period, some 300 million years ago. The distinctiveness and widespread occurrence of this pollen type have made it useful to us in another way--as evidence of past climates and environments. Pine pollen, for example, is regarded as an indicator of warm, dry climates, and is used extensively to document the comings and goings of glaciers during the last million years.

## *On Golden Clouds*

*continued*

Pollen chronologies ought to be unreliable. After all, pollen can be carried far above the Earth on air currents, or it can be washed into rivers and transported out to sea. So far from its source, it may not be telling us what we think. You would expect strong winds and varied source environments to create

an incomprehensible mix--a regional pollen stew from our golden clouds. The wide dispersal of wind-borne pollen surely blurs the distinctiveness of the record it creates. Despite such concerns, pollen dating works--ask any oil company who has profited by trusting the usefulness of this tool.



by Jan Ratcliffe

## COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The long-desired goal to develop a Jeffco Open Space Communications and Community Involvement Plan was completed in July and approved by the Advisory Committee at their August meeting. Multiple events garnered momentum for this plan, from the public input during the Crown Hill Park project to the process which updated the Jeffco Open Space Master Plan. Also, as a requirement of the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), Jeffco Open Space has to have this plan in place.

**The Overall Communications Goal** is to provide accurate, consistent and timely information to Jeffco Open Space customers — Jefferson County residents, users of parks, trails and facilities, program participants, and service beneficiaries.

Increase awareness of Jeffco Open Space benefits, services, responsibilities and results by increasing Panorama subscriptions, Facebook fans and Twitter followers. Jeffco Open Space will collect email addresses and organize them by park, region and division for various communications.

Produce an annual report from the information contained in the Quarterly Management Reports and post on the Jeffco parks website (<http://jeffco.us/parks/>).

Improve communication and information management by:

Conducting a statistically valid, quantitative survey prior to updating the Master Plan.

Identify what the audience wants to hear, needs to hear, and already knows, while designing messages that address misconceptions and convey benefits.

Seek feature reporting for compelling topics. Use a monthly feature on KUSA-TV's "Colorado and Company" to address specific issues.

Support rangers in creating materials related to health, safety and natural resource protection issues in our parks, including Share & Care messages.

Employ multimedia communications

Traditional media – Issue news releases to media -- newspapers, radio and television stations. Solicit coverage from individual reporters.

Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube) – Create compelling messages, initiate contests and invite participation. Utilize videos to help convey complex information and highlight enjoyable recreation and nature/history experiences.

Brochures and other printed materials - Use graphic standards and warm, friendly and easy-to-understand messages.

Website – Continually improve and update the website. Review analytics quarterly. Keep content fresh and succinct.

Signs/Kiosks/Displays – Follow style guide, graphics and sign standards. Develop attractive and engaging displays to invite public dialogue at community festivals and promote attention at parades. Construct and maintain a photo database for easy retrieval of images by location and subject.

Increase employee motivation and satisfaction by:  
Providing opportunities for employee dialogue and recognition

Supporting the acknowledgment of extraordinary work through award nominations and media placements  
Supporting continuing education, networking and training for Communications Team members.



## COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN *continued*

**The Community Involvement Goal** is to increase public involvement that allows Jeffco Open Space to receive information from the community on an ongoing or project-specific basis. This will help Jeffco Open Space formulate decisions related to their projects, programs and services.

- Define and promote methods for citizens to communicate needs and interests.

- Invite public involvement and make processes apparent.

- Build stronger relationships through better community relations.

- Develop and implement community involvement guidelines and strategies suited to each circumstance.

- Employ email lists and newsletters to invite participation.

- Use contacts at Homeowners

Associations to invite participation.

- Continually improve and provide opportunities for feedback and input.

- Engage the public through participation in community festivals, parades and events hosted by partner organizations and neighboring municipalities.

- Invite participation through communication mechanisms.

- Acknowledge public participation through posting of comments in listening logs, or showing polling results for a particular effort on the website and in media releases.

### **Marketing Goals-**

- Increase awareness of Open Space and Parks and our role in enriching life.

- Help connect outdoor recreation with health.

- Collect, provide and maintain email contacts and subscriptions to promote the benefits and opportunities of life-enriching experiences.

**Key Messages** to be featured in the planned communications include:

### **Enriching Life**

Jeffco Parks and its divisions enrich life. We provide quality experiences for our customers, visitors, participants, staff and volunteers. With unique and accessible parks across the County and knowledgeable, caring staff, we offer an enduring value for businesses, their employees and the community at large.

### **Share & Care**

Knowledge is powerful. By having an understanding of the value of the outdoors and the amenities within Jeffco Parks, our customers will have a greater appreciation for the park resources that we steward. The Share & Care message is reinforced by Leave No Trace ethics, natural resource management expertise, and programs provided by Colorado State University (CSU) Extension, Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Hiwan Homestead Museum. A variety of volunteer opportunities allows the public to engage in sharing and caring for their parks in a deeper way, and extends the work of the organization.

Lifelong learning and award-winning programs may be emphasized under the banner of Share and Care.

### **Nature-Health Connection**

Enhance the ongoing partnership with Jeffco Public Health to call attention to research connecting outdoor recreation with better health. Produce monthly news releases shared with cities and districts for their communication outlets. Promote healthy opportunities for citizens, promoting physical and economic vitality in the process.

## *Jefferson Conservation District*

The **Jefferson Conservation District** is a local unit of state government (a Title 32 Special District), one of 76 conservation districts in Colorado that work to provide a local voice on natural resource issues, and work collaboratively with private landowners, residential communities, and local, state and federal government entities to protect the natural resources of Jefferson, Gilpin, and Clear Creek Counties of Colorado's Front Range. The district was formed 73 years ago in 1941.

### **What is a Conservation District?**

Conservation districts grew out of the Dust Bowl of the Great Depression. Originally called the "Soil Conservation Districts" they were formed to bring landowners together to protect against widespread soil erosion. Since then their mission has evolved to include conservation of all natural resources, such as water, land, air, vegetation, and wildlife.

### **What does JCD do?**

JCD, like most conservation districts in Colorado, works alongside local, state and federal partners to conserve natural resources within the district boundaries. Within our district, a few concerns dominate:

#### *Wildfire Mitigation*

The Front Range is subject to wildfires every summer from roughly April through November. Each summer brings the renewed threat that a wildfire will damage public and private property; degrade air quality, cause injury or loss of life. As more people chose to move into the "Wildland-Urban Interface" (the area populated by humans but not fully urbanized), the risk to property and safety become greater. JCD works with local landowners and agencies to reduce these risks with a selection of fuels treatment projects.

#### *Forest Health*

The majority of the land within the District's boundaries is forested with a variety of common tree species. Human impacts such as timber production and wildfire suppression over the last 150 years have frequently left stands of uniformly-aged, uniformly-sized trees of a single species. These stands lack diversity and can be highly susceptible to insects and disease offering up massive amounts of readily-combustible fuel during a wildfire. JCD works with private landowners to encourage a healthy, resilient forest with a variety of forest management methods.

#### *Source Water Protection*

Over half of the drinking water supply for Denver and surrounding communities comes from streams and snowpack within our District boundaries. JCD works collaboratively with water providers, landowners and local communities to meet water quality standards and to conserve water.

#### *Urban Agriculture*

Increasing access to nutritious, local foods within our District is important to us, particularly as more residents become overweight and are disconnected from the source of their food. We work with a multitude of partners to educate the public on how to grow one's own food and to encourage home and community gardens and farmers' markets that are inclusive for people of all income levels. We also provide technical assistance to beginning urban farmers to implement appropriate conservation practices.

#### *Noxious weeds*

Noxious weeds are ever-present on the Front Range

## Jefferson Conservation District *continued*

and represent a threat to biodiversity and natural ecosystems' stability. They are often water-hungry and spread quickly onto lands where they were never planted. JCD provides educational materials to landowners and communities, and sells a native grass seed mix designed specifically for the conditions on the Front Range.

JCD is housed by a long-standing agreement within the Denver Metro offices of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the U.S Department of Agricultural. Our office is located in Building 56 of the Denver Federal Center.

Our mailing address is:

Jefferson Conservation District  
DFC, Bldg. 56, Room 2604  
PO Box 25426  
Denver, CO 80225-0426

Our phone number is:

720-544-2870

Our web site is:

[www.jeffersonconservationdistrict.org](http://www.jeffersonconservationdistrict.org)



WESTERN MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY  
*Cercocarpus ledifolius*

## OSAC NOTES

### APRIL 3, 2014 STUDY SESSION

Wayne Forman and Tom Hoby introduced the New OSAC Members - Jacy Rock and (PLAN Jeffco Board Member) Paul Murphy. Mat Alldredge, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, made a presentation on his project: monitoring cougar' activities along the Front Range.

### REGULAR SESSION

Margot Zallen, PLAN Jeffco, spoke in support of the Master Plan being approved by the Board of County Commissioners. She requested a working group be established for acquisition strategies and metrics.

The deed for the Apex recreation property located at 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Simms Street was given to Mike Miles, Executive Director, and Jim Whitfield, Board Member, for Apex Park and Recreation District. This facility is the location of their Pickle Ball courts.

Lisa Kluesner, Natural Resources Specialist, presented the Natural Resource Summary for the Ranson/Edwards Homestead property within Coal Creek Canyon Park as a part of the Master Plan's Land Stewardship Goal. The purpose of these documents is to present a succinct summary of the natural resources identified within each Park; introduce the resource elements of concern; and address specific natural resource management considerations. The findings within the summary were enlightening. Summaries of other parks will be presented as they are completed.

Following a presentation by Joy Lucisano and Tom Hoby, relating to a new lease of the Alderfer House property within the Alderfer-Three Sisters Park, the Advisory Committee directed staff to go back to the Evergreen Park and Recreation Board for further discussions as they were not willing to approve the terms at this time.

### MAY 1, 2014 STUDY SESSION

Tom Hoby outlined the potential steps for an acquisitions working group. These included: 1. Creating a Working Group – comprised of staff, two OSAC members and 4-6 other members with specific expertise.

2. Creating and assigning participants to an Advisory Committee Sub-Committee.
3. Developing these steps with the entire Advisory Committee at several future Study Sessions.

### REGULAR SESSION

Jennifer Anderson, Staunton State Park Manager and Tony Romano, Colorado Natural Areas Program Technician, reviewed the State's newest Park with the Committee, provided an overview of the first year of operation, and reviewed the Park's Natural Area Designation.

Tom Hoby reviewed the Jeffco Open Space recent sales tax revenues with the Committee. The tax revenue has increased at a higher rate than projected in the budgets. The sales tax income in 2013 increased by 7% versus the 2% in the budget and 2014 is showing an increase of 5% versus 3% used in the budget. These updated projections will allow for more flexibility in funds for acquisitions and other projects, such as the Peaks to Plains Trail.

Scot Grossman stated that cost estimates for the Peaks to Plains Projects were discussed during the April 3, 2014 Advisory Committee Director's Report, and that staff and several Advisory Committee members toured the project on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Grossman reviewed both events and discussed the project in greater detail. Higher costs on the trail have been incurred, primarily from having to move the trail around a Preble's Mouse habitat which has required shifting from the idea of a creek-side bench for the trail, to having to cut the trail into the hillside above the creek, plus add one more bridge. The present budget will



*OSAC NOTES**continued*

allow completing the Jeffco portion of the trail from the County line to Mayhem Gulch. This will provide four miles of trail including two miles in Clear Creek County and two miles in Jeffco.

**JUNE 5:** A field trip was held to view two properties on Douglas Mountain. Both the Study Session and the Regular Session were cancelled.

**JULY 10, 2014 STUDY SESSION**

A field trip to Peaks to Plains Trail Segments 3 & 4 was held in lieu of a study session. These segments will be East of the Mayhem Gulch parking area.

**REGULAR SESSION**

Joy Lucisano presented the quarterly real estate update for the Committee to review proposals that meet one or more Open Space Master Plan criteria or values. She highlighted projects that have been completed, new proposals, and those that have a higher level of staff activity. The review included maps for 12 completed projects, maps and a summary of 16 projects in process, and maps of the 17 new proposals.

Regina Elsnor reviewed a presentation of the Mountain Plains Industrial Center property along Highway 93, North of the West Rocky Flats entrance, proposal and staff's recommendation to forgo consideration for acquisition. The Advisory Committee unanimously approved to forgo. Mr. Foreman thanked the owner for bringing the proposal to Open Space and stated that the Committee's vote to forego was not a reflection on the property, but that it came down to the cost of the commercially zoned property versus the value to the system, and therefore the forego seemed to make sense.

Scot Grossman reviewed slides of the Peaks to

Plains Trail Segments 3 & 4, including areas that the Committee toured during their field trip, and then discussed the project details, which include the need for an elevated trail crossing of Highway 6.

Don Klima reviewed the proposed 2015 Jeffco Open Space Budget as well as business cases for two new staff positions. He also provided an overview of the Five-Year Financial Strategy for 2015 - 2019.

Tom Hoby reviewed the findings from the Jeffco Shooting Range Working Group and the staff recommendations.

#1, Site A, The Arvada-owned property adjacent to Highway 93 where Pioneer Sand & Gravel has a lease for their quarry property. The site and the adjacent Patridge open space (bought by JCOS for the City of Arvada) are within the corridor for the proposed Northwest Parkway. The Patridge property has a reverter clause on it, but Tom Hoby believes that the reverter can be moved to some other property);

#2, Pike National Forest;

#3, further exploration of existing quarry re-use.

Tom Hoby presented a proposal for a series of mountain bike events that staff has been working on with the Jeffco Outdoors Foundation and Team Evergreen Cycling as a possible fundraiser for the Foundation. The Foundation has proposed using some of the Open Space Parks as a venue for these events. The proposal still is in its initial stages and no specific events were described.

The Advisory Committee approved requests from Golden and the Evergreen Audubon Society for supplemental grants from the Local Grants program. Golden's request was to complete the 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue trail and the Audubon's request was for additional improvements to the Evergreen Lake Nature

## OSAC NOTES

*continued*

Center.

Advisory Committee officers were elected for 2014-2015: Wayne Forman, Chairman; Bob West, Vice Chair; Janet Shangraw, Vice Chair; John Litz, Secretary; and Ken Morfit, Secretary *pro tem*.

### AUGUST 7, 2014 STUDY SESSION

The Study Session was cancelled. The Committee made a field trip to the Indigena property that primarily is an inholding within Coal Creek Canyon Park.

### REGULAR SESSION

Amy Ito reported on potential Real Estate Acquisition Strategies. The staff recommended the following:

Work with PLAN Jeffco on the Conservation Café agenda and partners, which will be held November 20, 2014, with a focus on the Land Preservation goal of the 2014 - 2019 Master Plan.

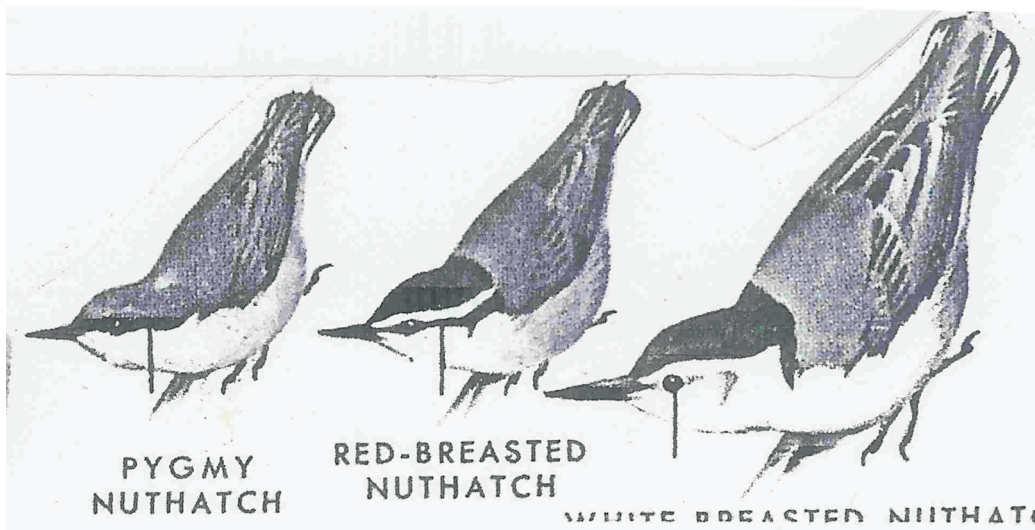
Continue to provide quarterly real estate updates to the Advisory Committee.

Thea Rock presented an overview of the Communications & Community

Involvement Plan. The plan is detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. While many of the processes and strategies have been part of JCOS' regular communication efforts, this plan documents the strategies, resources, options and preparation process for developing and delivering communication and garnering community involvement. After many positive comments, the Advisory Committee accepted the plan

The Advisory Committee accepted the 2015 Open Space Budget Recommendation. The Commissioners will determine the actual budget during their November review of all County budgets.

**SEPTEMBER 11:** A field trip was held to view the new restroom at the lower Apex Park trailhead, the need to move the West parking lot at Van Bibber Park due to it being flooded three times in the last year, and the Arvada properties that are within the Northwest Parkway corridor, one of which may be suitable for siting a shooting range. Both the Study Session and the Regular Session were cancelled.



# 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. Call 303.237.9493 for membership information.

**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

or you can pay on our website  
[www.planjeffco.org](http://www.planjeffco.org)

## 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](mailto:jklitz@comcast.net)

Thanks







PLAN Jeffco  
11010 W 29th Avenue  
Lakewood, CO 80215

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Prsrt Std  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pine, CO  
Permit No. 36

Email: [planjeffco@planjeffco.org](mailto:planjeffco@planjeffco.org)  
Check our website  
[www.planjeffco.org](http://www.planjeffco.org)

Jefferson County Citizens for  
Planned Growth with Open Space

PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER