



WINTER 2011

The 2011 Open Space Volunteer Recognition was an unforgettable morning! Amidst the autumn colors and looking out over the sparkling water surrounding the Evergreen Lake House, 250 Open Space staff, volunteers and guests enjoyed a wonderful breakfast, celebrated some outstanding volunteer accomplishments and milestones, and were captivated by Mary Ann Bonnell's fascinating presentation, "Sex, Lies, and Rattlesnakes."

Even those in the audience who are not generally fans of snakes found Mary Ann's presentation engaging and entertaining. It was largely based on a rattlesnake field study on which she has been working, and was accompanied by some great slides of snakes in their daily lives. Mary Ann debunked some popular snake myths and shared insights based on scientific research; her presentation drew rave reviews from those privileged to enjoy it.

The Open Space volunteer recognition is always a memorable time together to honor all of our Open Space volunteers who help make the Open Space Program increasingly effective and successful. Each year a few volunteers are singled out so we can recognize their contributions that have strengthened and added new dimensions to the Open Space volunteer experience. This year's award winners and nominees included:

Excellence as a New Open Space Volunteer – John Girvan, Park Host; also nominated – Nikko Boca (Park Patroller), Bobby Pendley (LMNC Program Naturalist and Interpretive Specialist), and Jeanne Tucker (Hiwan Museum School Aid).

Special Achievement by an Individual or Volunteer Team – Open Space Video Production Team – Dan Steere and Bob Newman, both Park Hosts; also nominated – Ashley Floss (LMNC Information Specialist), and the Park Host/Patroller Data Entry Team – Kevin Kreiman (Patroller) and Teddy Newman (Park Host).

Sue Poe Inspirational Volunteer – Charlie Horn, LMNC Naturalist and Fly Fishing Team Lead; also nominated – Debbie Jones (Park Host), and Jess and Kalah Hutchins (Hiwan Museum Teen Volunteers).

Open Space Volunteer of the Year – Rob Reilly, Patroller; also nominated – Lorene Kalb (Park Host and Office Receptionist), and Nancy Kranzow and Larry White (LMNC Information Specialists and Park Patrollers).

Congratulations to all of our award winners and nominees! Your special contributions are remarkable and inspiring! We'd also like to repeat how grateful and proud we are of all of our Open Space volunteers! Your commitment, dedication, persistence, leadership and creativity exceed our expectations and inspire others to become Open Space stewards. Thank you!



John Girvan (pictured with Carolyn Tibbles) received the 2011 award for Excellence as a New Open Space Volunteer



Dan Steere (left) and Bob Newman (right), pictured with Carolyn Tibbles, received the 2011 Special Achievement Award



Charlie Horn (at right, pictured with Tim Sandsmark) was named the 2011 Sue Poe Inspirational Volunteer



Rob Reilly (at left, pictured with Shaun Howard) was named the 2011 Open Space Volunteer of the Year

A Dream Assignment!

By Rachel Murray, Park Ranger

If you could spend the day with one person who inspires you, living or dead, who would you choose? Throughout my adult working life my answer to that question has changed, but as my passion for photography grows with every passing minute, so too does the list of those who inspire me. Mr. John Fielder is on that list! He's a successful nature photographer and passionate conservationist.

Imagine my excitement when Ranger Supervisor Colleen Gadd gave me an assignment that was my dream come true! I was to assist my supervisor, Ranger Mark Oline, in showing John Fielder the many Jefferson County properties that have used Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) funding.



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John Fielder is working on a project to photograph 1,000 of the more than 3,000 places throughout Colorado – parks, ranches, even skate parks – that have been protected or made possible by GOCO dollars. John's photographs will appear in a commemorative book to celebrate GOCO's twentieth anniversary in 2012.



Ranger Rachel Murray gets a few tips from John Fielder during their field trip. —photo by Mark Oline

John observed that, "The lottery protects not just the economy, but the ecology." You can find out more about his project at **GOCO.org** where you will discover that John Fielder sat on the citizens' committee that formed GOCO and even served on the original GOCO board.

We started bright and early on a crisp morning, two days after our first snowstorm of the year, and met John in Clear Creek Canyon. Within minutes of meeting John, I shared with him my passion for photography; he immediately told me to grab my camera and join him!

John waited patiently with his Canon G9. Looking down into Clear Creek Canyon from Windy Saddle Park, we started photographing as the sun approached the horizon. A perfect pink light streamed into the canyon as the wind blew cold! From there we drove west into Clear Creek Canyon. As we slowly wound our way through the Canyon, making frequent stops along the way, John took interest in the pictures I was taking and gave me pointers.

John says 90% of photography is "seeing" – not *what* you see, but *how* you see. He reminded me to take advantage of the light that is present, and always be on the lookout for distracting lines in your pictures – Highway 6 was doing just that in my most recent photo.

By our final destination, Centennial Cone Park, John had completely surpassed my expectations! He's a wonderful teacher and mentor. Spending a morning with John was pure pleasure! I hope everyone has the chance to spend time with someone who truly inspires them!

John Fielder's Pointers:

Understanding light:

- The best times to shoot are one hour after sunrise and one hour after sunset.
- In the winter the sun doesn't get that high, so you can shoot longer in the middle of the day.

Sun Direction:

- Sidelight – (sun coming from your right or left) creates shadows and depth in your photos.
- Back light – (sun coming towards you) creates lines that lead you into the photo.
- Front Lighting – (sun behind you) creates great colors in the afternoon.

Design and Composition:

- Isolate an object or person; make them the dominant feature. Put them 1/3 from the right or left of your picture, as opposed to the center of the picture.
- ALWAYS check the edges of your composition before you press the shutter. Make sure there isn't a branch, or anything else distracting, sticking into the frame.

Small But Mighty

By Alicia Vermilye, Lookout Mountain Nature Center

My husband and I walk off the trail and onto the soft moist pine needles covering the forest ground. About 30 feet from the trail and in the sun is a large boulder. It's the perfect picnic spot for two. It's time for lunch and I'm hungry after hiking for three hours. We settle ourselves on top of the rock and my husband looks down and says, "I'm lichen all the lichen." I shake my head and laugh.

Lichens are two organisms, algae and fungi, living together for mutual benefit (symbiosis). Algae, which could survive on its own without the fungal partner, is able to extend its range because of the protection of the fungus. The fungal partner has a leathery cover that resists drying. Fungus has no chlorophyll and cannot make its own food and that's where the algae helps out. This relationship enables each to thrive in harsh conditions where neither could survive alone. My husband offers me a piece of chocolate; I smile and think that we have a similar partnership to the lichen.

Lichen can be grouped into three broad categories based on their growth patterns: crustose; foliose; and fruticose. Spread out all over the rock like splattered paint, I see two of these different growth patterns. While crunching on my almonds, I lightly touch the lichen to my left. Its bright yellow color stands out, but if I close my eyes I can't tell where the lichen edges end. This growth pattern is a characteristic of the crustose lichen. Crustose lichens are a bit like crust. They coat the rock surface thinly and will crumble if you try to pry them off. This is unlike the foliose lichens which are attached only in the middle. I'm sitting on the rock with my legs outstretched in front of me. I'm careful not to rub my hiking boots on the pale green foliose lichen, with "leaves" that curl up, for fear of flaking pieces of it off. The last category for lichen growth is not on my picnic rock. Fruticose lichens are shrubby forms with many branches; they can be found on tree limbs and tree trunks.

As I sit on the rock, I look up into the sky. From the tall trees to the small lichen on this rock, everything is connected. The lichen colonizing this rock will slowly break it down, playing an important role in soil formation providing nutrients for the plants and trees. If any of the lichens die, their organic matter will support plants growing in the small pockets of new soil. Lichen also converts carbon dioxide in the atmosphere into oxygen, for which I'm grateful. Lichens may be small

but they are mighty in beauty and function.

Would you "lichen" more information?
"A Color Guidebook to Common Rocky Mountain Lichens" By Larry L. St. Clair
<http://lichen.com/>



Crustose lichen — photo by Alicia Vermilye



Foliose lichen — photo by Alicia Vermilye



Fruticose lichen — photo by Alicia Vermilye

INTERESTING INFORMATION

Some lichens may grow as little as 1mm a year! Larger forms may grow up to 1cm per year. Some individual lichen colonies have been estimated to be 9,000 years old. That's when woolly mammoths roamed the Earth!

Service Animals in Open Space

By Shaun Howard, Park Ranger

It's a lovely, sunny day at Matthews/Winters Park. While out on the trail, you encounter a gentleman riding a bike with a dog off-leash. Being the helpful Open Space volunteer that you are, you decide to give a friendly reminder informing him that dogs need to be on a leash. The gentleman informs you that while he appreciates your reminder, his dog is not a typical off-leash dog. In fact, his dog is a service dog, and under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), he is allowed to have his dog off-leash. How should this situation be handled?

"Service animal" once was a broad term for any animal that provides a service to a person with disabilities. That has changed. First of all, officially classified service animals are now only dogs (as opposed to monkeys, birds, ferrets, etc.). Service dogs may or may not be easily identified with a special collar or vest.

Working with a service dog allows the handler to take the dog into establishments that might not allow dogs, i.e., the store, the library, etc. However, that doesn't necessarily allow the owner to behave in a way that the abled public is not allowed to behave, i.e., having a dog off-leash in Open Space.

According to the Revised ADA Regulations Title II and Title III put out by the US Department of Justice, "service animals must be harnessed, leashed or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animals' work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal or other effective controls."

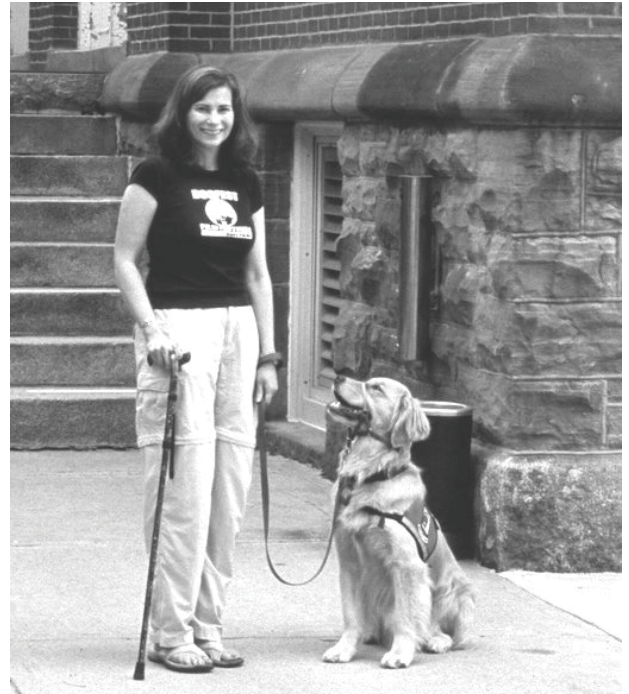
Essentially, you may ask what specific service the dog provides and then assess if the animal is indeed providing that service to this individual.

Examples of service work include:

- Assisting individuals who are blind
- Alerting individuals who are hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds
- Providing non-violent protection work
- Pulling a wheelchair
- Assisting an individual during a seizure
- Alerting an individual to the presence of an allergen
- Retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone
- Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability
- Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or disruptive behaviors

Please note that providing simple emotional support is no longer considered a service. The services that dogs provide are widely varied. Hopefully, this will clear up their expectations of service.

As mentioned above, having a service dog doesn't necessarily equal permission to have an off-leash dog. According to Jefferson County attorney Steve Snyder, "a person with a disability has the right to be accompanied by an assistance dog in public places but is 'subject to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons.' A strict reading of this language would be that the public in general can't have their dogs off-



Suzan Morris, in Maine, with her first service dog, Logan (2010). Although she was diagnosed with MS in 1996, Suzan has been able to maintain her independence and lead a productive life through the help of service animals.

—photo source: <http://giveforward.com/loganslegacy>

leash; neither can a person with a disability."

Furthermore, State law doesn't exempt persons with disabilities from unlawful ownership of a dangerous dog (statute 18-9-204.5). That said, at times it might make sense to allow a person with a disability to utilize an off-leash dog, as long as the dog is in the performance of a service to that individual. However, if this dog is causing harm, or creating a risk of harm to others, the dog would need to be leashed.

Several volunteers have encountered this issue in the parks. I hope this article provides some insight into how to handle these instances. For the research of this article, special thanks go to Carla Zinanti, Animal Control Manager, and Steve Snyder, Jefferson County attorney. For more information on ADA guidelines, please visit: www.ada.gov/regs2010/adaregs2010.htm or www.adainformation.org/service-animals.

When The Snow Falls, The Fire Flies!

By Ryan Skeels, *Natural Resources*

Winter has finally set in for Jefferson County. Here at Open Space that means a time to reflect upon the year's accomplishments, a time to start planning the next season's projects and, for the Natural Resources crew, a time to put down their chainsaws and light up a few fires. Fires...in winter? You betcha! Pile burning season is upon us once again!

One of the Natural Resources crew's accomplishments this year was a Forest Restoration and Watershed Protection Grant project at the north end of White Ranch Open Space Park. This was a 41-acre forest restoration and fuels reduction treatment with the overarching goal of bringing the current forest back into a more historical, open-growth, park-like setting.

We utilized several forest management practices to reach this goal, including dwarf mistletoe



*Log decks from the summer project at White Ranch Park.
-- photo by Ryan Skeels*

left a large amount of residual branch and leaf debris, or "slash," on the forest floor. This is where pile burning comes into the equation.

The Jefferson County Open Space Youth Work Program jumped into the mix in mid-summer and couldn't have been more helpful! This busy crew of youngsters was able to stack this "slash" into over 100 piles throughout the project area in the course of just

light them up and send smoke into the sky, first making sure we're in compliance with local regulations, of course.

If you are a hard-working volunteer and are in White Ranch Park this winter and smell smoke from the north, there's a good chance it's the Natural Resource crew out there knocking off some piles. If you are a hard-hiking park user and see us out there burning piles, please help the crew keep things safe by staying clear of the area. If you have piles of your own that you are interested in burning and would like more information, call the Jefferson County Department of Public Health and Environmental Health Services at 303-271-5700.

More information can also be found at the following websites:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Open Burning FAQ: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/openburnfaq.html>

Jefferson County Open Burning Information and Permit Application: http://www.co.jefferson.co.us/health/health_T111_R38.htm



*Slash piles awaiting necessary snow to burn
-- photo by Ryan Skeels*

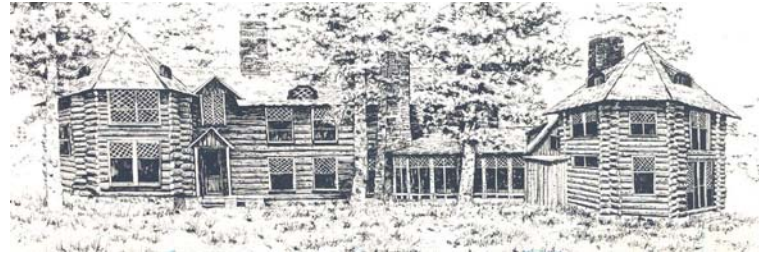
eradication as well as a general thinning to increase forest health and vigor. Both of these operations

a couple of days. Now it's only a matter of time before the ground is blanketed with enough snow to

HIWAN HAPPENINGS WINTER 2011

Create wonderful holiday memories at Hiwan Homestead Museum during December!

The museum has been decorated in a “**Winter Wonderland**” theme, with snowmen, snowflakes, sleighs, reindeer, Santas, elves, and many other emblems of the Christmas season.

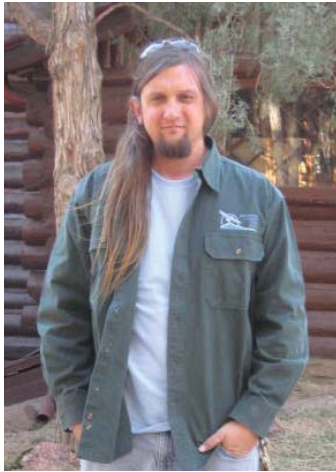


HIWAN HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

Hiwan Homestead Museum Christmas Tea, Monday, December 12th, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Suggested donation of \$15 for the public; registration is required; for registration or information call Hiwan Homestead Museum at 720-497-7650.

Hiwan “Winter Wonderland” holiday decorations will be on display, during normal Museum hours, beginning Tuesday, November 29 through Sunday, January 8, 2012. Set aside the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and escape to a “Winter Wonderland” by visiting this cozy historic home. The entire Museum will be turned into an indoor winter wonderland scene.



Meet Justin Potter

Please welcome Justin Potter to Hiwan Homestead Museum, as our new Maintenance Specialist. Justin is a Florida native. He attended Valencia Community College in Orlando, where he took classes on horticulture, entomology, plant physiology, and ornamental plants. Justin worked for several nurseries in Florida, as well as Disney’s Palm Magnolia golf course and Universal Studios. He was also Senior Groundskeeper at the University of Central Florida. After moving to Colorado, Justin worked for Central Bank in Broomfield before obtaining a seasonal job as a Parks Technician with Open Space. Justin was certified as a Wildland Firefighter in Florida, and led a hurricane cleanup crew when he worked for Universal Studios.

Civil War Exhibit Wins Statewide Recognition

The Hiwan Homestead Museum exhibit, “Fateful Lightning: Colorado in the Civil War 1861-1865,” recently won Honorable Mention in the Caroline Bancroft Award from History Colorado. The exhibit features items used in or relating to Colorado’s involvement in the Civil War. Troops from the 1st Colorado Volunteers fought and defeated Confederate forces at the Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico. The 2nd Colorado Volunteers also combated the Confederacy in Kansas and Missouri, fighting in the largest battles of the war west of the Mississippi River. The infamous Sand Creek massacre was perpetrated by the 3rd Colorado Cavalry, led by Colonel John Chivington. This exhibit included items loaned by ten different collectors from around the Denver area. It was sponsored by

Jefferson County Historical Society and ran from April 12th (the 150th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter that started the Civil War) until November 20th. “Fateful Lightning” was the only major exhibit by a Colorado museum focusing on Colorado’s role in the Civil War.



READER'S CORNER

THE BIG BURN: TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND THE FIRE THAT SAVED AMERICA

By Timothy Egan

From John Steinle, Hiwan
Homestead Museum Administrator

It's summer, 1910, in the mountains of Idaho, Washington, and Montana. Dozens of forest fires are erupting due to months of dry weather and high winds. Fighting the fires are a small cadre of trained Forest Service Rangers, plus a motley crew including hundreds of immigrants from Italy, Ireland, England, and a grab bag of other countries.

Pitifully few, underfunded, and attacked by politicians who are tools of the lumber, paper, and mining companies, the Forest Service personnel are still highly motivated and well trained, due to the efforts of the brilliant and eccentric former Secretary of the Interior, Gifford Pinchot, and former President Teddy Roosevelt. Two Rangers operating out of the Wallace, Idaho office, Bill Weigle and Ed Pulaski, are especially capable and strong-willed.

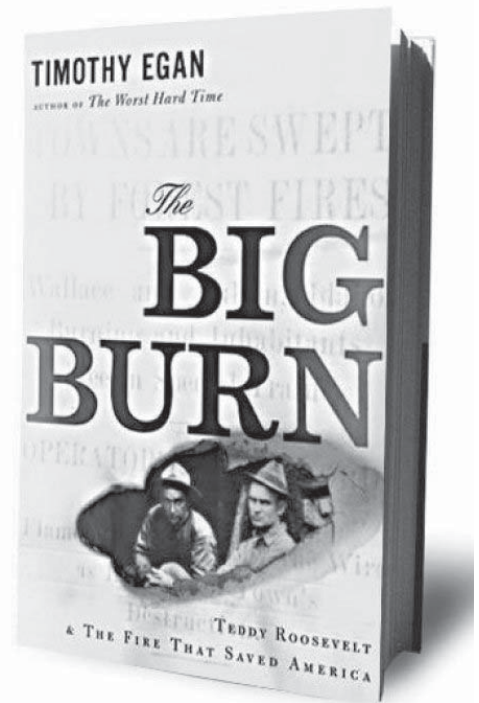
All this is background for Timothy Egan's book, *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America*. Egan previously won the National Book Award for *The Worst Hard Time*, a chronicle

of Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado Dust Bowl survivors during the Great Depression. Egan writes vividly and with passion, befitting a New York Times reporter who covered the Pacific Northwest and who writes opinion columns.

In *The Big Burn*, Egan's narrative reaches its dramatic height when winds flowing out of Washington begin to fan the many forest fires into one gigantic firestorm blasting through three states. Whole communities along the railroad are wiped out, the residents barely escaping with their lives thanks to the efforts of the Forest Service Rangers, their firefighting crews, and the black Buffalo Soldiers of the 25th Infantry.

Firefighters up in the mountains with no avenue of escape die horrible deaths by burning or suffocation. Others, led by Rangers such as Ed Pulaski and Joe Halm, escape due to decisive, sometimes brutal leadership. In the town of Wallace, "respectable" businessmen and community leaders muscle their way onto escape trains, taking places assigned to women and children.

The basic story is dramatic enough, but Egan pumps it up even more by his treatment of President William Howard Taft.



Though Taft wasn't one of our greatest Presidents, he also wasn't the bungling idiot and villain that Egan describes.

In the aftermath of the Big Burn, the Forest Service Rangers became national heroes. The politicians and their corporate masters lost their campaign to destroy the Forest Service and take over total control of the public lands. However, anyone who reads this book will be disturbed by how the issues relating to America's public lands have never really been resolved, and how the battle to save them continues in a way that would be sadly familiar to Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot.



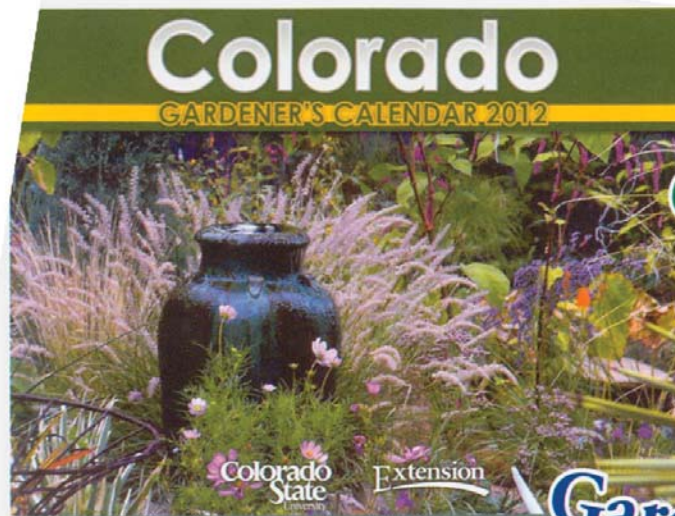
JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE

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<http://openspace.jeffco.us>

Volunteer Park Host Liz Swiech completed the Master Gardener certification program earlier this autumn. An avid photographer, Liz submitted one of her photos for inclusion in the Colorado State University/ Jefferson County Master Gardeners' 2012 Gardening Calendar. Congratulations to Liz—her photo was not only selected, but appears on the calendar's cover page! If you're buying calendars for gifts or your own use, please consider purchasing the 2012 Gardening Calendar, and support CSU Extension, Open Space's "sister" in the Jefferson County Parks Department.



Colorado
Master
Gardeners
of Jefferson
County
present
the
2012
Gardener's
Calendar

The calendar may be purchased,
cash or check only, from

Timberline Garden Center
11700 W. 58th Ave., Arvada CO

O'Tooles Garden Center
1404 Quail St., Lakewood CO

And the **Jefferson County Extension Office**
15200 W. 6th Ave, Golden CO (303)-271-6620