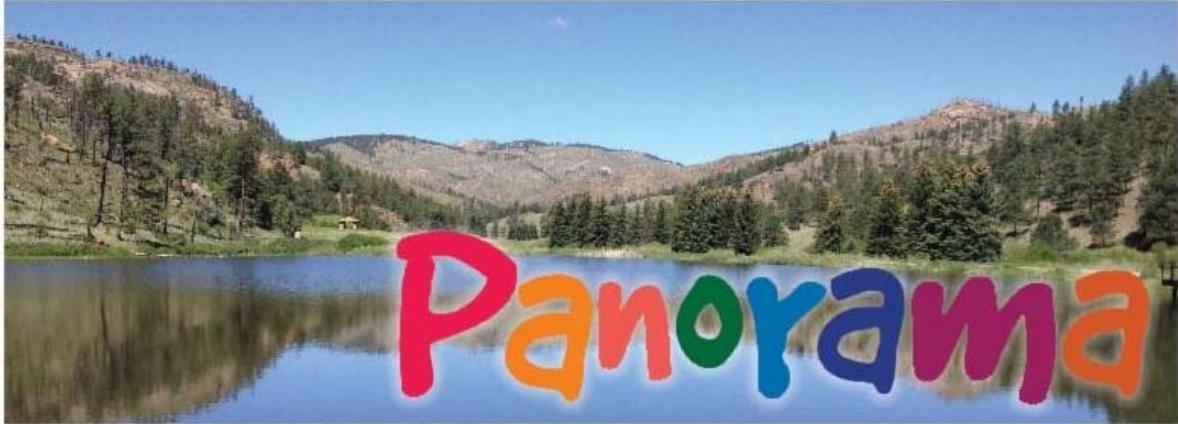


**From:** Jeff Golden  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 07, 2014 12:15 PM  
**To:** Jeff Golden  
**Subject:** Parks Panorama | August 2014

Enriching Life

Issue No. 25, August 2014



Open Space / Fairgrounds / CSU Extension / Boettcher Mansion

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**Learning, the Fun Way**

As summer winds down, flowers are going to seed, animals are preparing for the cold months ahead and students are heading back to school. Jeffco Open Space is also gearing up for one of our busiest seasons for group education programs.



Group program at Lookout Mountain Nature Center

Lookout Mountain Nature Center staff and volunteers are out leading programs at the Nature Center and other parks nearly every day. On these outings, program attendees of all ages examine plants, hunt for insects, play interactive games to learn science concepts or even dress up as wild animals.

Topics include ecosystems, plant and animal adaptations, mountain lions, bears and other wildlife, forest ecology, wetlands and more. All of our group programs correlate with Colorado Academic Standards, and several coincide with specific Jeffco Public School units of study.

Though fall is a busy time, it isn't the only season when groups visit Jeffco Open Space. We offer programs year-round for a wide-

variety of audience types including pre-K, elementary and high school classes, scout troops, home-school groups, child care centers, senior centers and any other organized party of 10 or more people.

For more details, visit the [Lookout Mountain Nature Center](#) page and click on the blue [School & Group Programs](#) link.

Does your Jeffco Public Schools qualify for the Jeffco Outdoors Foundation Free Bus Program? The Jeffco Outdoors Foundation may pick up the cost of transportation and your entire field trip! Please contact Lookout Mountain Nature Center at 720-497-7600 or [lmnc@jeffco.us](mailto:lmnc@jeffco.us) with questions or for more information.

Happy Trails,

Heidi Skiba  
Naturalist  
Jeffco Open Space

## In This Issue

### **Stewardship Central:**

Get updated on recent volunteer flood recovery accomplishments at White Ranch Park and Alderfer/Three Sisters Park. [Click here.](#)

### **Nature Notes:**

With black bears beginning to fatten up for winter hibernation, it's important to remember some basic tips for respecting wildlife and remaining safe. [Click here.](#)

### **Your Health:**

A case of tularemia in a rabbit has been confirmed in Jefferson County. Learn about this disease and how to protect yourself. [Click here.](#)

### **Feature of the Month:**

August is known as the "dog days of summer" for its high temperatures. Keeping your dog safe while recreating in the heat is crucial. Check out a YouTube video providing some helpful tips. [Click here.](#)

*"The summer night is like a perfection of thought."*

- Wallace Stevens

## News & Information

**Raptor Closures Lifted** -- The closures at Cathedral Spires Park and the Rim Rock Trail at North Table Mountain Park have ended. At least one peregrine falcon was fledged at Cathedral Spires this year, along with one prairie falcon and two great horned owls at North Table Mountain. Thank you for adhering to these closures and allowing the raptors to successfully fledge.

**Baehrden Tours Suspended** -- Tours at the historic Baehrden at Pine Valley Ranch Park are suspended until further notice for pest management. For the latest information, please contact the Jeffco Open Space front desk at 303-271-925.

**4-H Showcased at Jeffco Fair** -- Jefferson County has more than 300 4-H members and 80 adult volunteers who support young people from ages 5 to 7 in our Cloverbuds program and ages 8 to 18 in our traditional programs. 4-H'ers participate in hands-on learning activities in the areas of science, citizenship and healthy living through project work in more than 50 different disciplines. Much of this work is showcased at the Jefferson County Fair in displays and shows held August 7-10 at the Jeffco Fairgrounds. We hope you come and enjoy the Fair and experience all that 4-H has to offer. To learn more about 4-H programs, contact Extension Agents Lisa Sholten or Barbie Garnett at 303-271-6657.

**North Table Mountain Parking Revamp** -- Jeffco Open Space staff is reorganizing the trailhead parking lot along Highway 93 at North Table Mountain Park. When completed, the parking area will accommodate 2-3 horse trailers or oversized vehicles, with the remaining space set up for passenger vehicles.

**Jeffco Open Space Celebrates Year of the Horse** -- 2014 marks the Year of the Horse on the Chinese calendar. Help celebrate with the final Share the Trail event involving Volunteer Equestrian Patrollers, Park Rangers and equestrian clubs. Fun and educational displays will center around trail etiquette between equestrians, bikers and hikers. Participants will take away an understanding of sharing the trail with horses and how safety is a rider's primary concern. The final event is Saturday, September 13 at North Table Mountain Park from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Not Too Late for 2014 Native Plant Master Courses**-- Fall is a perfect time to learn about native plants so you're ready for next spring. Upcoming courses include Gardening with Native Plants and a webinar on Colorado's rare species. View a full calendar of offerings on the [NPM website](#). If you would like to receive notices of future openings, contact [npmassistant@jeffco.us](mailto:npmassistant@jeffco.us).

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**Life in an Insta(nt)**



*Rainbow viewed from Elk Meadow Park.  
(Photo Credit: Alex Kersis.)*

*"Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still."  
- Dorothea Lange*

The Jeffco Open Space Instagram feed captures the beauty of nature through the eyes of many beholders. While we post our own photos, we also share many (with credit) from the people out enjoying JCOS Parks every day.

The most liked photo on our Instagram feed so far was of a double rainbow from the vantage of Bergen Peak Trail at Elk Meadow Park in Evergreen. The photographer is Alex Kersis, who recently joined the Park Services section as a seasonal employee.

Check out our account [on your desktop](#) or view it on your phone with the Instagram app @jeffcoopenspace. Tag your photos with @jeffcoopenspace for the chance to be featured.

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## Stewardship Central

## Turnpike Completed at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park

Last month, members of the Jeffco Open Space Park Services and a group of dedicated volunteers finished rebuilding the turnpike on the Wild Iris Loop at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park. This flood recovery effort was completed thanks to months of effort from JCOS staff and volunteers. Kudos to everyone involved!



*Volunteers enjoying a trails day at White Ranch Park.*

## Huge Effort at White Ranch Park

More than 70 volunteers turned out for a July trails day at White Ranch Park, and the result was more than 4,000 feet of repairs made to the Mustang Trail! For more information about ongoing volunteer opportunities in Jeffco Open Space Parks, please visit our [Eventbrite page](#).

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*Black bear captured by a wildlife camera.*

## Nature Notes

### Keep Wildlife Wild

Summertime in Colorado brings new life into the world.

Fortunately for those of us who love animals, that means the welcome addition of deer fawns and elk calves. It's easy to find yourself in awe of these

fuzzy, spotted creatures. Human feelings of protection and survival may also accompany their arrival.

This unfortunately, however, sometimes leads to well-intentioned, but often detrimental actions. An unattended or abandoned fawn or calf is most likely being attended to intently from a distance by their mother. Please, resist the urge to rescue or pick up the fawn or calf. Seeing a newborn calf, fawn, or any other wild critter is a rare opportunity. Seeing one in its wild state is even more special.

Keep wildlife wild by giving them their space and never feeding or approaching them. Nature does in fact know best.

For more information on young wild animals, please visit the [Colorado Parks and Wildlife website](#).

### Black Bears Bulking Up

Black bears are starting to prepare their bodies for winter hibernation. The chokecherry berries are

just starting to ripen in the lower elevations and the sweet sugars of these fruits are attractive eating. Bears will enter a period of behavior called hyperphagia in which they spend up to 20 hours a day feeding and foraging, storing fat in their tissues. As you can imagine, this high fruit diet will pass through their system quickly, leaving piles as evidence of their consumption.

Nature sometimes provides amazing relationships between animals and plant species. These fruits attract bears, but seeds that pass through a bear's digestive tract tend to have higher germination rates. In this way, bears provide a mechanism for seed dispersal.

Bears that can bulk up prior to winter have greater survival and reproduction rates. They also tend to have decreased human conflicts. Open Space provides great habitat along the creeks and connecting drainages for fall feeding.

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## Your Health

**A Jefferson County Public Health report last week confirmed tularemia of a rabbit specimen collected from a private home in the vicinity of the town of Bow Mar in Jefferson County.** With a report to Jeffco Open Space of dead rabbits at South Table Mountain Park, Jeffco Public Health has been called to investigate possible causes.



*Health Alert*

Tularemia is a disease of animals and humans caused by the bacterium

*Francisella tularensis*. It is also called "rabbit fever" and rabbits, hares, beavers and rodents are especially susceptible. Humans can also be infected with the bacteria, which is treatable with appropriate antibiotics.

Tularemia does not spread from person to person. Tularemia occurs year-round throughout the United States, except in Hawaii. In Colorado, there are generally two peak seasons: in May associated with tick bites and in October and November associated with rabbit hunting season. Colorado reports a few human cases of tularemia every year. "Tularemia is not uncommon in Colorado and the risk to the public is very low in this instance," states JCPH Environmental Health Services Director, Jim Rada.

Jeffco Open Space and Jeffco Public Health advise citizens to follow basic safety precautions to avoid exposure to animal-borne diseases, including:

- *Do not handle sick or dead animals, instruct children to leave wildlife alone*
- *Keep pets on leash and do not allow them to disturb sick or dead animals*
- *Wash hands thoroughly following recreation on trails*
- *Use protective clothing and insect repellents to avoid deerfly and tick bites*
- *Conduct frequent checks for ticks*

Symptoms usually appear 3-5 days after exposure and can include high fever, swollen lymph nodes and a sore or lesion at the site where the bacteria entered the body. In addition, if the bacteria are ingested, such as swallowing contaminated water, a person may have a sore throat, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhea. Persons who develop symptoms should contact their

physician or health care provider.

For more information:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Tularemia](#)  
[JCPH Animal Borne Disease Program](#)

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## Feature of the Month



*Share and Care: Dog Safety in the Summer*

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## Events and Classes

*Events are organized by date and color-coded to match their host Park. Underlined text indicates a hyperlink. The list has recently been updated to include the categories of Youth Events, Family Events and Adult Events.*

**Boettcher Mansion**  
[\(website\)](#)

**Colorado State University Extension - Jeffco**  
[\(full schedule\)](#)

**Hiwan Homestead Museum**

**Jeffco Fairgrounds**

[\(full schedule\)](#)

Lookout Mountain Nature Center  
[\(register here\)](#)

Jeffco Open Space  
[\(website\)](#)

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## Youth Events

### **Junior Rangers: Leave No Trace**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 (Lair o' the Bear Park)

*Explore the 7 principles of the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. Kids who complete all 7 stations during this self-paced, interactive program will earn a badge. Drop-in, registration not required. (All ages.)*

### **Forever Temporary**

7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13 (Alderfer/Three Sisters Park)

*Zero to life in 60 minutes. That's what occurs in rainwater potholes. Discover these hidden, brief worlds with a naturalist. (Ages 6+.)*

### **What Would We Do Without Bats?**

7:30-8:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15 (Lair o' the Bear Park)

*Explore the wonderful world of bats and, hopefully, see them over the creek. (Ages 6+.)*

### **Junior Naturalists: What's with the Weather?**

1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16 (Lookout Mountain Nature Center)

*Ever wonder what makes the snow fall, or why thunderstorms form in the afternoon? Experiment and discover why the weather is hard to predict. (Ages 6-10, with an adult.)*

### **Preschool Nature Nuts: Slithering Snakes**

10:15-11 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21 (Lookout Mountain Nature Center)

*Snakes aren't slimy or scary! Explore how snakes eat, move, and hide as we sing a song, listen to a story, and create crafts. (Ages 3-5, with an adult.)*

### **Backyard Astronomy**

8-10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22 (South Valley Park)

*Using a pair of binoculars or even just your eyes you can see the wonders of the universe from your own backyard. Join us for an evening of stargazing. (Ages 6+.)*

### **Why So Blue?**

8-10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29 (Pine Valley Ranch Park)

*From the hottest stars in the universe to our coldest planet (Neptune), the color blue is everywhere. Join us for a night of the blues. (Ages 6+.)*



## Family Events



**Movie in the Grove: Steamboat Bill, Jr.**

8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 (Heritage Grove)

**Jefferson County Fair**

8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 7-10

**Jeffco Open Space Nature Journaling Club: Sunset Sketching**

5:30-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15 (Mount Falcon Park - West Entrance)

*Jeffco Open Space Nature Journal Club Field Trip: Sunset Sketching*

*Record nature's twilight happenings in your journals, discover techniques for painting sunsets, and enjoy a potluck dinner. (All ages.)*

**Lair o' the Bear Campfire: Winged Wonders of the Night (Bats)**

6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20 (Lair o' the Bear Park)

*Many myths about bats exist, but these creatures don't get caught in your hair. Through campfire activities, discover why these nocturnal winged wonders are truly beneficial. (All ages.)*

**Evergreen Fine Arts Festival**

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 and Sunday, Aug. 24 (Heritage Grove)



## Adult Events



**Full Grain Moon Yoga and Meditation**

7:15-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10 (North Table Mountain Park)

*Enjoy an invigorating (steep) hike to the top of North Table Mountain while learning about native animals. Once we arrive at the top, we'll perform a standing meditation and yoga practice. (Ages 13+.)*

**Master Gardeners in Courage Garden**

9-11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13 (CSU Extension)

**Golden Rotary Peach Sale**

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16

**Late Summer Wildflowers**

9-11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 18 (Reynolds Park)

*Walk with a Native Plant Master along easy trails. Discover ways that native and non-native*

*plants defend themselves from wildlife and humans. (Ages 10+.)*

### **District Attorney's Safety and Awareness Day**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23

*The DA Safety day is a great event for the community, offering many different types of safety and awareness information for all ages.*

### **Rocks 'n' Rattlers**

8-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 (South Valley Park)

*Explore the origins and history of fascinating red rock formations. Become better acquainted with the often misunderstood, but important and valuable, scaly serpents that live in this harsh, yet beautiful landscape. (Ages 13+.)*

### **Copper Cowboys Gymkhana**

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24

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