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Enriching Life

Issue No. 21, April 2014



Open Space / Fairgrounds / CSU Extension / Boettcher Mansion

Sections

[News & Information](#)

[Volunteer Corner](#)

[Nature Notes](#)

[Your Health](#)

[Feature of the Month](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

Quick Links

[Jeffco.us/Parks](#)
[County Government](#)
[Public Meeting Calendar](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Announcing the Trails Talk Forum

Spring is upon us! This time of year in Colorado, we vacillate between sunny 60-degree days and winter's last attempts to blanket us with wet snow; this week is a perfect example. The skiing and snowshoeing were great this year, and soon we'll be experiencing warmer weather and the outdoor activities that come with it.



Dave Davenport
Outdoor Recreation Management Coordinator

This season also brings change for me. After almost seven years in Jeffco Open Space Trail Services, I have accepted a new position as the Outdoor Recreation Management Coordinator. I'm excited about working with the public and staff to continue providing great experiences at our parks.

I'm also excited to announce our upcoming [Trails Talk Forum](#) on Wednesday, April 16, where we will focus on a dialogue about new experiences in the parks and on trails. We'll hold the Trails Talk Forum twice a year to provide updates on current and upcoming trails projects. The forum will also serve as a place to find out more

about making a difference in our parks.

The first meeting will include new programs and ideas, an update on flood recovery efforts, and information on opportunities to volunteer and put boots on the ground. We'll also lay out a path for exploring ideas and solutions through small discussion groups. Join us from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16 at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, 4005 Kipling Street.

Happy Trails,

Dave Davenport
Outdoor Recreation Management Coordinator
Jeffco Open Space

In This Issue

Stewardship Central:

Get an inside look at the the Trail Stewardship Team, which was featured in a recent Golden Transcript article. [Click here.](#)

Nature Notes:

Are you a wildflower enthusiast who wants to learn more about Colorful Colorado's world-famous flora? The Native Plant Master Program is here to help. [Click here.](#)

Your Health:

Myrtle spurge is a noxious plant that can be dangerous to people, wildlife and desirable native plants. Learn more about the upcoming *Purge Your Spurge* event that aims to help eradicate the highly invasive weed. [Click here.](#)

Feature of the Month:

Discovery Days, a youth education camp centered on Colorado's pioneer era, is coming up soon. How can your child benefit? [Click here.](#)

"Spring is when life is alive in everything."

- Christina Rossetti

News & Information

Open Space to Host First 'Trails Talk' Meeting April 16 -- Jeffco Open Space is providing a new format to open the dialog on new experiences in the parks and on the trails. [Trails Talk](#) is a chance to learn how different stewardship methods may be applied and tested on Jeffco Open Space trails, including the new Share and Care initiatives. We will highlight the philosophy behind trail-building, debut a new trail condition ratings system, and explain how the public can get involved in future working groups. Open Space staff members will also provide an update on

flood recovery efforts, the proposed Apex Park Bike Skills area, and other study group opportunities.

Following a presentation, staff experts will be available for one-on-one questions on a variety of topics. The event will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16 in the ballrooms at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, 4005 Kipling Street.

Gladius: The Show Playing at Fairgrounds -- This [dynamic 90-minute performance](#) featuring equestrian theatrics, original music and stunning horses is making its world premiere at the Jeffco Fairgrounds on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through April 20. Tickets can be purchased [online](#) or, if available, at the door.

Closures at North Table Mountain, Cathedral Spires, Crown Hill -- The entirety of Cathedral Spires Park, the Rim Rock Trail at North Table Mountain Park and the Crown Hill Park Wildlife Refuge remain temporarily closed to protect nesting raptors and brooding waterfowl. The Rim Rock Trail and Cathedral Spires will reopen July 31, and Crown Hill will reopen June 30. The full closure at Cathedral Spires will likely be reduced once the falcon nesting location is determined.

4-H Barn Dance -- The Jefferson County 4-H Youth Development Program will hold its first 4-H Barn Dance on Saturday, May 3 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds Event Center. Put on your boots and hats and join us for a fun evening to help support 4-H activities at the fairgrounds! The fundraiser will include a BBQ dinner, silent and live auctions, and a dance featuring The Tyler Walker Band. [Tickets on sale now!](#)

CSU Extension Hires Peer Educators -- Colorado State University Extension recently hired Sandra Goans, Elena Mauricio, Selene Navarrete, and Deb Wilkerson as peer educators for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education (SNAP-Ed). Goans, Navarrete, Mauricio and Wilkerson recently received extensive training at Colorado State University and will be responsible for conducting community classes in nutrition, food safety, stretching dollars and the important of physical activity.

PLAN Jeffco 2014 Annual Dinner May 8 -- Join PLAN Jeffco and the County Commissioners to celebrate 42 years of Open Space on Thursday, May 8. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. at The Vista at Applewood Golf Course, 14001 West 32nd Avenue in Golden. The presenter will be Ian Billick, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Crested Butte and Gothic, Colo., who will be speaking on "Science and Land Conservation: Building a Better Tomorrow." Tickets are \$40 and include a cocktail (cash bar) and hors d'oeuvres reception, buffet dinner and dessert. Purchase online at planjeffco.org or call 303-835-0979 to make a reservation.

[Back to Top](#)

2013 Annual Report



We are very pleased to announce the availability of the Annual Report of Jefferson County Open Space, titled Preservation in Progress 2013. This report reflects the excellent work that was achieved in the last calendar year. Tremendous support was provided by Will Lebzelter and Bob Eriksson from our Communications Team.

For ease of viewing, a PDF version can be found online at jeffco.us/parks and a wonderful "flip book" virtual book format is available [here](#).

We think you'll especially enjoy reading about the talent and passion of our staff and volunteers as well as find useful other information about our financial status, partnerships and our goals for the future.

Please contact Thea Rock, Communications Manager, with any questions at trock@jeffco.us or 303-271-5902, and as always, we welcome your feedback!

[Back to Top](#)

Stewardship Central

The Trail Stewardship Team was recently featured in the Golden Transcript. The newspaper profiled the team of youth stewards and interviewed Trail Services Supervisor Kim Frederick. Here's an excerpt:

"In the 34 years that Kim Frederick has led the Trail Stewardship Team, he has never cancelled a day of work.

Rain or shine, hot or cold, for seven weeks in the summer, Jeffco's youth is out working sections of the county's 225 miles of trail. The Trail Stewardship Team (TST) is a youth work program at Jeffco Open Space that draws 300-500 applications a year. Going into its 39th year, TST will be accepting applications until the end of March before their lottery draw of 80 lucky kids aged 14 to 18 who will get to spend some time outdoors while getting paid for it.



Trail Stewardship Team in action

'It's really a great program, I'm happy to be a part of it,' said a grinning Frederick, trails services supervisor at Jeffco Open Space. "They work hard."

The full article is available on the Golden Transcript's [website](#).

[Back to Top](#)



Native Plant Master Course

Nature Notes

Discover the Wildflowers of Jeffco Open Space

Have you ever wandered down a trail in your favorite Jeffco Open Space Park and wondered what those beautiful wildflowers were?

If you take a **Native Plant Master Course**, you will learn not only the names and

identifying features of these trailside beauties but also discover interesting facts about their lifestyles, friends and foes. You can also delve deeper into special plant topics in an indoor or outdoor Special Class.

New this year, those completing three Native Plant Master (NPM) Courses are awarded a Native Flora Certificate with no volunteer requirement. For those interested in educating others by becoming a certified Native Plant Master volunteer, see [our volunteer webpage](#).

For a full list of events, visit the NPM [Eventbrite page](#). Register soon, as offerings are beginning to

fill. If you would like to receive notices of future openings, contact npmassistant@jeffco.us.

[Back to Top](#)

Your Health

Purge Your Spurge on April 26 aims to help eradicate a harmful toxic weed.

Jefferson County Weed & Pest needs your help in getting rid of the noxious weed Myrtle spurge that takes over landscaping and is a danger to people, desirable plants and wildlife.



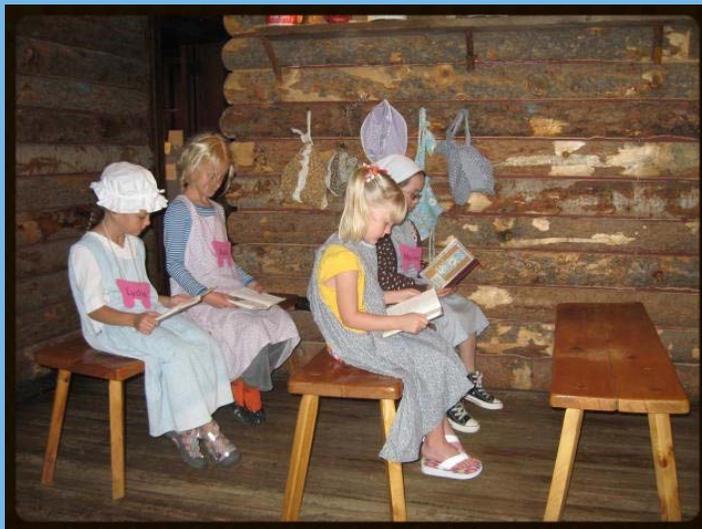
Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*)

Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) is a highly invasive 'List A' noxious weed that is required by the Colorado Noxious Weed Act (C.R.S. 35-5.5-101-119) to be eradicated. Myrtle spurge contains a toxic, milky sap which can cause severe skin irritations, including blistering. This plant is poisonous if ingested, causing stomach and intestinal issues.

Jefferson County Weed & Pest is hosting a ***Purge Your Spurge event on April 26*** at which residents can bring bagged spurge to be disposed of properly. Myrtle spurge that is not bagged, or included with other yard waste cannot be accepted. The **first 50 participants** to bring their bags of Myrtle spurge will **receive a native plant** to take home for their yard. In addition, staff and experts will be available to answer questions about noxious weeds.

Event Information: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26 at the Jefferson County Human Services Building, 900 Jefferson County Parkway in Golden. For more information, visit www.jeffco.us/weeds, or contact Alicia Doran at 303-271-5989 or adoran@jeffco.us.

[Back to Top](#)



Hiwan Homestead Museum

Feature of the Month

Discovery Days at Hiwan Homestead Museum

Discovery Days, the annual event at the Hiwan Homestead Museum, has a new theme this year:

Pioneerpalooza! This program will take your child back to a simpler time as they explore the pioneer history of Colorado through activities, crafts, tours and games.

Children ages 6-13 years will discover the past through enriching and engaging activities in a

wholesome summer experience to remember.

Activities at Pioneerpalooza will center around Colorado's yesteryear, including meeting Buffalo Bill and other famous figures, packing a pioneer wagon, churning butter, gold panning, enjoying pioneer food such as a journey cake, and visiting a 1895 replica General Store. Junior Pioneers (ages 6-8) will make their homestead at the Hiwan Homestead Museum and learn about pioneer life on the Front Range, while Pioneers (ages 9-13) will visit a different Jeffco Open Space park each afternoon and learn about Jefferson County's amazing history.

The program runs **Monday June 9 - Friday June 13 from 9:30am - 3:30pm**. Campers will get a free supervised lunch each day. The cost is \$100 for the week. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. The Hiwan Homestead Museum is at 4208 S. Timbervale Drive in Evergreen.

Registration and More Information: www.jchscolorado.org or contact Andy Spencer, Hiwan Homestead Museum Education Coordinator at 720-497-7654 or aspencer@jeffco.us.

Hiwan Homestead Museum is a 26-room log mansion constructed in the Rustic style of architecture. It is located in Evergreen at 4208 South Timbervale Drive. Hiwan Homestead Museum is a Jefferson County Open Space facility operated in partnership with the Jefferson County Historical Society. The Museum was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

[Back to Top](#)

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
[\(full schedule\)](#)

Hiwan Homestead Museum

Jefferson County Fairgrounds
[\(full schedule\)](#)

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

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



Youth Events



Preschool Nature Nuts: Underground and All Around

10:15 or 11:15 a.m. Thursday, April 3rd (Lookout Mountain Nature Center)

10:15 or 11:15 a.m. Saturday, April 5th (Lookout Mountain Nature Center)

Did you know there's a big busy world that lives under our feet? This program invites Nature Nuts to play in the dirt! Join us to learn about the unique animals, insects, mushrooms, and plant roots that play critical roles in supporting life underground as well as helping sustain life above ground in the ponderosa pine forest. (Ages 3-5, with an adult.)

Junior Naturalists: Raptors

1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 13th (South Valley Park)

Birds of prey are important members of our parks. Learn how to identify these birds and discover what advantages they have to help them survive. (Ages 6-10, with an adult.)

Preschool Nature Nuts: Underground and All Around

10:15 or 11:15 a.m. Thursday, April 17 (Lookout Mountain Nature Center)

Did you know there's a big busy world that lives under our feet? This program invites Nature Nuts to play in the dirt! Join us to learn about the unique animals, insects, mushrooms, and plant roots that play critical roles in supporting life underground as well as helping sustain life above ground in the ponderosa pine forest. (Ages 3-5, with an adult.)

Jr. Astronomers: Night Sky Extravaganza!

8:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26 (Deer Creek Canyon Park)

Who could ask for more? Jupiter, Mars and plenty of stars will be on display during this kids only special astronomy event. Join astronomy team members for activities, viewing and more. (Ages 6-10, with an adult.)

Preschool Nature Nuts: Whatever the Weather

10:15 or 11:15 a.m. Thursday, May 1 (Looking Mountain Nature Center)

10:15 or 11:15 a.m. Saturday, May 3 (Lookout Mountain Nature Center)

What's one thing that is always outside? Weather! Explore some stations, take a hike and be inspired to enjoy to weather no matter what. (Ages 3-5, with an adult.)



Family Events



G.O. Club: Sky Edition

1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 12th (South Valley Park)

Get Outdoors and Explore Club programs are unstructured, playful, nature excursions that feature activities for parents to help their children connect with the natural world. (All ages.)

Jeffco High School Rodeo

8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, April 11 (Fairgrounds)
8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 12 (Fairgrounds)
9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, April 13 (Fairgrounds)

Clever Coyotes

1-4 p.m. Sunday, April 20 (Lookout Mountain Nature Center)
Stop by anytime between 1-4 p.m. to gain an understanding of how coyotes survive and how humans can shape their behavior. No registration required. (All ages.)

Easter Pancake Breakfast

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 20 (Fairgrounds)

Barrel Race, Gymkhana and Jackpot

8 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26 (Fairgrounds)

Barn Hunt

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26 (Fairgrounds)
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, April 27 (Fairgrounds)

Ooops...What Do I Do Now? (A Wildlife Encounter Primer)

1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27 (Lookout Mountain Nature Center)
It's the time of year when the whole family is getting ready to spend beautiful summer days hiking! What can you do to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all? Ooops, if you do meet a snake, bear or mountain lion, what should you do? (All ages.)



A Celebration of 50 Years of Colorado Wilderness

1 p.m. Saturday, April 5 (The Place in Evergreen)
The Jefferson County Historical Society and Hiwan Homestead Museum are excited to announce a special slideshow presentation by John Fielder at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5 at 1 PM at The Place in Evergreen, located at 27888 Meadow Drive. Fielder's presentation is part of a 2014 Colorado statewide tour to celebrate the 50th anniversary of America's Wilderness Act. The tour features a 75-minute slide show with over 200 of John's favorite wilderness images made in the past 40 years, accompanied by beautiful music. Tickets: \$15. Pre-registration required. Contact Meghan Vickers at 720-497-7650.

Fishing Industry Trade Show

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, April 5 (Fairgrounds)
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, April 6 (Fairgrounds)

Master Gardeners in Courage Garden

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

Coin Show

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, April 12 (Fairgrounds)

Military Collector's Show

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sunday, April 13 (Fairgrounds)

Jeffco Open Space Nature Journal Club: Drawing In Pen and Ink

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, April 19 (Deer Creek Canyon Park)

Want to deepen your love of the natural world, notice nature's tiniest details and spend time surrounded by the beauty of the outdoors? Then start keeping a sketchbook nature journal! Join us for a free journaling field trip in a different Open Space park each month and make this activity a habit. A short demonstration on a drawing topic will be followed by ample time to write and draw as well as a potluck lunch. Previous attendance at one of our basic nature journaling classes (which are offered several times a year) is helpful but not necessary. Instruction will be geared for adults, but children are welcome to attend with an adult. (All ages.)

Walk with a Doc

8 a.m. Saturday, April 26 (Crown Hill Park)

8 a.m. Saturday, June 21 (Crown Hill Park)

Join us for a free walk and see how easy it is to get healthy and prevent disease. Bring your family and friends and talk with healthcare providers in an informal setting.

Good News Breakfast

7-10 a.m. Tuesday, April 29 (Fairgrounds)

Brutish Botany Behaviors

9-11 a.m. Sunday, May 4 (Hildebrand Ranch Park)

Walk with a Native Plant Master along easy trails. Discover the various ways that native and non-native plants defend themselves from wildlife and humans. (Ages 10+.)

[Back to Top](#)

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