

# Barr Lake Oasis...

A Collection of Exciting Learning Opportunities and Nature Center News

November-December 2012

## Happy Thanksgiving

We hope you all have a safe and tasty Thanksgiving Day. Barr Lake State Park will be open all day Thursday, November 22nd, Thanksgiving Day. The Nature Center, however, will be closed allowing staff and volunteers to share the holiday with their families.

### Visit Barr Lake Nature Center this fall!

Sunday-Tuesday 11am-4pm and Wednesday-Saturday, 9am-4pm

Enjoy innovative wildlife exhibits; shop for great clothing, diverse natural history books, and unique bird gift items; savor a cup of hot coffee or tea; and get cozy on comfortable leather furniture while watching interesting birds at the feeders right outside the windows.

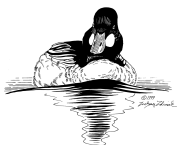


### Sad News

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that Lee Rowe passed away on Tuesday, October 2nd. Lee and his wife Marilyn have led guided bird walks at the park for decades and we are so very grateful for the gift he has given us and our guests for so many years. He will be sorely missed. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family. Donations are being accepted at the Nature Center for a permanent memorial in his honor.

### Guided Bird Walks

Collect your binoculars and field guides, or check out a loaner set of ours, and enjoy an exciting morning of birding at Barr Lake State Park. Enthusiastic Park Naturalists will introduce birders of all ability levels to Barr Lake's feathered residents and migrants. In addition to a variety of wintering songbirds, you may find the raptor and waterfowl watching this time of year to be exceptional! *Program designed for adults on Saturdays at 9am. All ability levels welcome.*



November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Marilyn  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, Ira & Tammy  
December 1<sup>st</sup>, Marilyn  
December 15<sup>th</sup>, Ira & Tammy



**\$7 daily or annual parks pass required for all programs**

## Barr Lake's Week-long Sale and Holiday Open House



### Week-long Sale, Saturday December 1st - 7<sup>th</sup>

#### **Save 15% and shop with a purpose**

Beat the mall crowds and parking hassles! Shop for great gifts and stocking stuffers, all on sale. We carry a wide variety of childrens' books, puzzles, and gadgets; field and hiking guides; natural history books; stuffed animals and puppets; numerous bird items and ornaments; fabulous clothing, and more. Your purchases support great programs at Barr Lake.

### Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 1st

Bring your family and friends to enjoy Barr Lake's Holiday Open House and savor delicious holiday refreshments. It's a day filled with something for everyone, see schedule below!!

- **9am-4pm Save 15% and shop with a purpose**  
All bookstore items and clothing are on sale!

#### - **10:00am Live Bird of Prey**

Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience a raptor up close and personal from the Raptor Education Foundation.

#### - **Noon -3pm Craft making for kids**

Enjoy making a pinecone bird feeder or holiday ornament, and/or create your own wrapping paper to wrap your gifts/purchases.



#### - **Noon - 3pm Hay Rack Rides**

Take a fun winter tour of the prairie while sipping hot cider and singing Christmas Caroles.

### Full Moon Hikes

Envision yourself taking an evening hike while experiencing the rising full moon. Explore Barr Lake at dusk with Park Naturalists and enjoy a fall evening outdoors!



### Trek through History

Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Walk through the history of Barr Lake on this informative stroll through time over the dam. Please meet at the boat ramp parking lot. *Suitable for all ages, dress for being outdoors.*

### Solstice Moon Hike

Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm

Bundle up and share part of the longest night of the year with Naturalist Larry and the last quarter of the moon. Warm up with hot chocolate and cookies at the Nature Center after your Solstice Moon Hike. *Suitable for all ages, dress for being outdoors. All ages welcome, meet at the Nature Center.*

Barr Lake Nature Center ♦13401 Picañilly Rd., Brighton, CO 80603

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www.facebook.com/BarrLakeStatePark and www.twitter.com/BarrLakeStPk

Support for educational programming at Barr Lake State Park  
is provided by the Friends of Barr Lake

## Other Fun Programs!

### Veterans Day

Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Barr Lake State Park salutes our veterans with free park admission and shuttle rides for you and your family. Reservations are required. Please call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to reserve your seats. Enjoy a bowl of warm chili in the Nature Center after your tour. Tours start at 10am.

### Join us for two fun events on November 17<sup>th</sup>!

Purchase your Christmas suet feeders and wildlife pictures from the Friends of Barr Lake at the Holiday Craft Fair from 9am to 4pm at Eagle Ridge Academy, 3551 Southern St. in Brighton.

Talon, park staff, and volunteers will also have a table at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot at the Brighton Recreation Center from 7am to noon. We hope to see you there.

### Meet a live turkey vulture!

Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm

You don't need mashed potatoes and gravy to enjoy this guy! Join us as we explore this fascinating bird of prey provided by the Raptor Education Foundation!



### City of Brighton 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights Parade

Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

Join park staff and volunteers as we showcase our fully-lighted patrol vehicle and boat to join in the celebration of the "Hometown Holiday Tradition" parade in downtown Brighton.

### Winter Birdfeeding Workshop

Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am

Providing suet, seeds and nuts to backyard birds during the winter offers the fats and carbohydrates needed to fuel their internal furnace. Join Ranger Michelle in making striped Suet-sicles for your feathered friends.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Wonders Holiday Trail

Generously Sponsored by United Power

Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 6to 8pm

Join us for a short hike to celebrate the wonders of winter on our lighted bridge and Neidrach Trail. Fun activities will include roasting chestnuts, caroling, and kids crafts. Please visit us on facebook for weather updates!

### School and Scout Programs

Is your school class or scout group interested in a nature program? Experienced volunteer naturalists and staff provide interesting and educational guided visits. Call us at least two weeks in advance to schedule a visit.

## America's State Parks First Day Hikes

On Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013, Barr Lake State Park will be participating in the America's State Parks' First Day Hikes and both of the hikes at the park will be a great opportunity to view bald eagles.

**Reservations are required!** To sign up for one of the two First Day Hikes at Barr Lake on Jan. 1, 2013, please call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005. The Barr Lake hikes are:

#### Hike #1

Starting time: 11 a.m.

Meeting place: Nature Center

Description: 3-mile easy hike with opportunity to observe all types of wildlife, including many species of birds. Limited to 40 people.

#### Hike #2

Starting time: 11 a.m.

Meeting place: Boat ramp

Description: 3-mile moderate snowshoe hike from the boat ramp to Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. Limited to 25 people.

Barr Lake's staff encourages you to start the New Year by enjoying the outdoors and seeing the eagles. Spotting scopes will be available for visitors to use on the hikes. There will also be 15 pairs of loaner snowshoes available if there is snow.

### Themed Birthday Parties at the Park!

Have you ever wanted a unique birthday party to honor your child's birthday? Parties will include a nature related craft and hike. Call the park to schedule your next celebration. Cost is \$2 per child. Accompanying adults are free.

### Give the gift of the great outdoors!

Annual park passes provide entry into over 42 amazing Colorado State Parks, not just Barr Lake. The Annual Park Pass is \$70 and is valid for a year. The Aspen Leaf Pass is \$60 for Colorado-resident seniors who are 64 years or older and is also valid for a year. A lifetime senior pass is available for \$300. Annual park passes make great holiday gifts. Give the gift that keeps on giving.....the great outdoors.

### e-Mailing list

Would you like to receive the Barr Lake Oasis via email? If so, please send an Oasis e-mailing request to [barr.lake.nature.center@state.co.us](mailto:barr.lake.nature.center@state.co.us)

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