

# The Cottonwood

Summer 2013

Newsletter of the Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo

Volume 33 Issue 2

## Adults Need Nature Too

**A Special Tour for our members - September 3-8, 2013**

John Gallagher with Peg Abbott

When I called Peg Abbott, owner of Naturalist Journeys, I had one word for her: "CONDORS." She said, "I like it." So we put our heads together and in a short time, we had a plan.

Now that summer has finally arrived, the happy sounds of children, enjoying healthy outdoor experiences

in nature, can be heard daily down here at the nature center. I spend a good deal of my summer leading kids programs because I am well aware of how time spent in nature benefits the physical, mental and emotional health of children. Each summer, I like to try new programs that attract children and their families to the nature center so they can spend more time in nature. Whether it be a new summer camp, weekend program or a family campout, the focus has been on kids.

As I was thinking about what new activity I might add this summer, I wondered what it would be like to spend some of my summer with adults. Heck, adults benefit from nature too. Then I remembered, hey, I'm an

adult, so what kind of experience would I like to participate in? It did not take long for me to work it out in my head, and I thought my idea would be appealing to NRCP's members too. That's when I picked up the phone and called Peg Abbott at Naturalist Journeys, a small eco-travel company based in Arizona that works with nature organizations like NRCP to help put together a well organized and successful nature tour for their members. I knew that Peg's company would be the perfect partner for NRCP to provide the adventure I had in mind.



Narca Moore Craig

*California Condor*

We created a tour called **Canyon Adventure in Condor Country: Exploring Special Places of Utah and Arizona's Four Corners Region**. It will take place from September 3rd - 8th. On this weeklong adventure, we will visit the Four Corners region's spectacular parks and monuments as we focus on understanding the ecology and current status of the California Condor population. We will also experience fantastic geology, lush forests,

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## Upcoming Events & Activities

at the  
**Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo**

### Weekend Raptor Talks

Saturdays & Sundays  
11:30 a.m.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Birdwalk

June 22, July 27, August 24  
9:00 a.m.

### Secret Lives of Reptiles

June 22 & August 3  
1:00 p.m.

### Green Living Series

Native Plants of the NRCP  
June 29 & July 20, 9:00 a.m.

### Outdoor Adventure Series

Wild About Mushrooms II  
June 29, 1:00 p.m.

### Brushmaking and Painting with the Yucca Plant

July 20, 1:00 p.m.

### Summer Hours

#### NRCP Office

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tues. - Sun.

#### Raptor Center

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tues. - Sun.

For more program information  
see pages 4 & 5.

Please visit our web site at:  
[www.natureandraptor.org](http://www.natureandraptor.org)



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## The Cottonwood

The Cottonwood is published quarterly by the Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo.

Editor: John Gallagher

Subscriptions to the Cottonwood are included in a membership to the Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo. All memberships, subscriptions, address changes, etc. should be addressed to :

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Pueblo, CO 81008

The Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo is a member supported, non-profit organization.

## Tour

Continued from cover

open sagebrush-clad valleys and canyons with all the colors of the rainbow.

Tour stops include, Zion National Park, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Pipe Springs National Monument, the ghost town of Grafton, Utah and Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. Our adventure also includes a guided hike in scenic Antelope Canyon and a raft trip on the Colorado River through Marble Canyon.

We will not be roughing it, as the tour includes 5 nights of comfy accommodations and meals in Springdale, UT (Zion), the Grand Canyon Lodge at the North Rim and at the Marble Canyon Lodge.

There is a special price for Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo and Arkansas Valley Audubon Society members. For more information about our adventure, including costs, detailed itinerary and travel

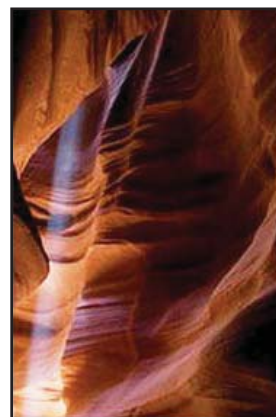
information go to, <http://tinyurl.com/mo2emwc> or call John at 719-549-2414.

So re-awaken your child-like sense of wonder in nature and join us!



Peg Abbott

*The Grand Canyon*



Peg Abbott

*Antelope Canyon*

## About Condors

*California Condors are among the rarest raptors in the world, numbering about 320 birds, half of which occur in the wild. In 1982 the population was a mere 22 individuals. After work to bring numbers up in a totally captive population, release to the wild began, first in California in 1992. In December of 1996, Arizona had six young captive-bred condors released into the wild at the Vermilion Cliffs, not far from the Grand Canyon. Subsequent releases have occurred each year following the initial release in a recovery program coordinated with federal land agencies and The Peregrine Fund. While back from the brink, California Condors are still an Endangered Species and they still face ongoing challenges, particularly that of lead poisoning. Over 70 condors soar over Northern Arizona and Southern Utah, and this population now includes wild-born individuals from active nest caves in the Grand Canyon and the Vermilion Cliffs.*

***The Mission of the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo is to provide unique experiences in education, conservation and recreation that inspire responsible environmental decision making.***

# The Nature and Raptor Center's

## Free Range Children's Camps - Summer 2013

### Knee High Naturalists (4 - 6 year olds)

**Dates:** June 10 - June 13 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon M - Th

**Cost:** NRCP Members \$45 Non-members \$50

Uncover the wonders of nature during this half-day camp. Enjoy nature hikes, be inspired by stories, laugh your way through games, and create nature-themed art during this fun outdoor learning time. Parents are welcome to stay and explore with us.

### Nature Players (Entering 1st - 3rd Grades)

**Dates:** June 17 - June 21 and July 22 - July 26

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. daily

**Cost:** NRCP Members \$115 Non-members \$125

Nature Players is a camp where children can have fun outdoors. This unique experience acknowledges the need for increased unstructured playtime in children's lives. We'll let our imaginations run wild as we create, explore, and play in nature. Our location provides the perfect place for kids to just have fun. Opportunities for digging, hiking, climbing, exploring the river and fort building are abundant here in Rock Canyon. Through creative play and problem solving, children can develop important life skills and a deep connection to the natural world.

### Fort and Shelter Building in the Wild (Entering 4th - 6th Grades)

**Dates:** June 24 - June 28 **Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. daily

**Cost:** NRCP Members \$115, Non-members \$125

Explore the wilds of Pueblo. We'll build forts and shelters, play nature games, sharpen our outdoor skills, while exploring the area's hidden wonders and just plain enjoy ourselves outdoors.

### Raptor Camp (Entering 4th - 6th Grades)

**Dates:** July 8 - July 12 **Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. daily

**Cost:** NRCP Members \$115, Non-members \$125

Wild about birds of prey? Then spend a week among these magnificent creatures. You will spend the week exploring the world of birds of prey through hands on and up close activities. You will also participate in our efforts in caring for the ill, injured and orphaned birds at our raptor facilities.

### Girl Scout Camp

#### Wild in the Outdoors (Entering 2nd - 5th Grades)

**Dates:** July 15-July 19 **Time:** 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. daily **Cost:** \$105

Calling all outdoor gals! Join NRCP and the Girl Scouts of Colorado as we get wild in the outdoors. Girls will explore local wildlife, learn about our ecosystem and experience nature's beauty. Register for this camp through the Girl Scouts of Colorado at: 303-815-7780



**Every Kid  
Should Have a  
Chance to Go to  
Camp!**

The Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo strives to make our camp experiences available to all children. If your family needs assistance to attend our Free Range Children Summer Camp, please feel free to submit a confidential scholarship application. Please submit your application as early as possible. Funds are limited, and scholarships go quickly.

Call 719-549-2414 for a scholarship application or go to our web site [www.natureandraptor.org](http://www.natureandraptor.org) to download an application.





# Upcoming Programs & Events

We're excited to offer a great line-up of activities for the Summer. Unless otherwise indicated, all programs will be held at various locations at the Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo. Program participants are encouraged to wear casual clothing appropriate to weather conditions. Fees for programs are listed in the description. Day Pass fees for NRCP facilities apply to all programs. For information on any of the following activities, please call 719-549-2414.

## Ongoing Programs

### Weekend Raptor Talks

**When:** Saturdays & Sundays

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Fee:** FREE

**Location:** Raptor Center

**Presenter:** NRCP Staff & Volunteers

**Registration:** None required.

The resident raptors of the NRCP welcome you to take a peek inside their lives. Join our Staff for an informative talk on these majestic animals and their marvelous adaptations.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Birdwalk

**Dates:** June 22

July 27

August 24

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Age:** All Ages, under 14 yrs must be accompanied by adult

**Fee:** No Fee for Walk, \$3.00 parking fee

**Location:** Meet at NRCP Riverfront Bldg.

**Presenter:** NRCP & Arkansas Valley Audubon Society

**Registration:** None required.

**Information:** Call NRCP- 549-2414

Join the knowledgeable members of the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society for an easy stroll along the river trail. This is an excellent outing for families, and beginning birders are especially encouraged to attend. Dress for weather conditions.



### Tai Chi on the River

**Dates:** Tuesdays & Thursdays

**Time:** 8:45 a.m.

**Fees:** \$5 per class

**Age:** All Ages

**Information:** 719-549-2414

**Registration:** None Required

Tai Chi is a Chinese exercise system that uses slow, smooth body movements to achieve a state of physical and mental relaxation while also strengthening the cardiovascular and immune systems.

## NRCP Summer Programs

### The Secret Lives of Reptiles

**Dates:** Saturdays, June 22 & August 3

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages **Fee:** Free

**Location:** NRCP

Discover some amazing facts about our scaly friends, and meet a few up close and personal.



### Brush Making and Painting with the Yucca plant

**Date:** Saturday, July 20

**Age:** All Ages **Fee:** FREE

**Location:** NRCP Yurt



We will make our own brushes from Yucca leaves in the style of the Pueblo Indians of the American Southwest. We will then try out our brushes with relaxed, exploratory painting to see how well they work.

### NRCP's Summer Saturdays

**Dates:** Saturdays, July 13 & 27, August 10

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. **Age:** All Ages **Location:**

NRCP Yurt **Fee:** FREE

There will always be something to do at NRCP on Saturdays. Why not make a day of it, enjoy the bird of prey presentation at 11:30 a.m., have lunch at the Coyote Grille and then join our staff and volunteer naturalists for entertaining and educational programs, hikes and activities on Saturdays this summer.



## Green Living Series

A series of programs and earth-friendly workshops designed to provide usable information on green living options that reduce costs and environmental impacts, while making our homes and communities better and healthier places to live.

### Native Plants Here and at Home

**Date:** Saturdays, June 29 & July 20 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

**Age:** All Ages **Fee:** Free **Location:** NRCP Yurt

**Registration:** Space is limited, please call 719-549-2414 to register.

Learn to identify native plants around NRCP from Colorado Native Plant Masters. You'll learn about these plants in the field, and discover their ecological relationships with other plants and animals. You will also learn how these native plants can become part of a **sustainable home landscape** that saves water and avoids pollution from fertilizers and other chemicals. There will be 2 meetings, one in June and one in July, so we can catch the different blooming cycles of different native plants.



Prince's Plume - *Stanleya pinnata*

## Outdoor Adventure Series

Join us each season as we learn new outdoor skills. A local outdoor expert will provide a hands-on demonstration that will help you better enjoy your next outdoor adventure.

### Wild About Mushrooms II

**Date:** Saturday, June 29 **Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages **Fee:** FREE

**Location:** NRCP Yurt



*Amanita muscaria*

Do you like to get outdoors? Curious about the mushrooms you see on your hikes? Join NRCP and Mycology enthusiasts Will and Bill Adams as they continue to fascinate us with an introductory class on identifying both edible and poisonous wild mushrooms. Learn the basic types and forms and how to get to know the fungus among us. This is part 2 of a 2-part class. However, all are welcome and will gain valuable knowledge whether you came to part 1 or not.

## Visit the Coyote Grille



Featuring an awesome Sunday brunch, Coyote Grille also serves Friday night dinner specials along with live music from 5 to 8 p.m. Fantastic burgers, Mexican food, and a dinner menu with some of Pueblo's finest food are the norm.

10% discount with Nature & Raptor Center Membership.



### Coyote Grille Summer Hours

Tuesday - Saturday  
11:00 am - 8:00 pm

Sunday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Closed Monday

719-549-2230  
[www.coyotegrille.net](http://www.coyotegrille.net)



## Raptor Rehabilitation

**Summary** (figures as of 6/3/13)

### Admission Statistics

Raptors	59
Other Wildlife	4
Total	63

### Disposition Statistics

Released	17
Transferred	2
Died	21
Convalescing	23

### Species Statistics

#### Raptors

American kestrel	3
Bald eagle	1
Cooper's hawk	3
Ferruginous hawk	3
Flammulated owl	1
Great horned owl	21
Long-eared owl	1
Merlin	1
Mississippi kite	7
Peregrine falcon	1
Red-tailed hawk	9
Saw-whet owl	1
Sharp-shinned hawk	1
Swainson's hawk	1
Western screech owl	3

**Total** 59

#### Other Wildlife

American crow	3
Common raven	1

**Total** 4

**Total Wildlife Cared For** 63

## Raptor Report

Diana Miller

And the walls ... are up!  
And the birds are moving in. The first inhabitants of our newly constructed enclosures are the Great-horned owlets and their foster mom Aggie. One of the best features of our new cages is that we built them around a tree. The tree has made a wonderful and natural perch for the growing and exploring owlets. The second great feature is a new camera in the owlet enclosure. Thanks to a donation of equipment and labor, we can now keep an eye on our young charges without disturbing them. Stop by the raptor facilities or the nature center office/bookstore, and you can view them on one of our computers. Just ask to see the "kids" when you stop by.

The enclosures wouldn't have been possible without funding from the Summerlee Foundation, kind supporters of our Annual Earth Day Dinner, numerous donors and in-kind gifts from Transit Mix, Drewry Roofing and numerous others.

Almost all of the construc-



*Owlets enjoying the tree in their new enclosure*

tion was completed by volunteers. Over 1000 hours of time, energy and creativity was provided by carpenter Sarah Parks and volunteers, Tom & Rachel Tabling, Bud and Sue Palmer, Russ Dewey, Youthful Offender Services, Pueblo West Twisters 4H and others. I can never express how grateful I am for the kindness of these wonderful individuals and organizations for making our new enclosures possible! I'm already sharpening my pencil for drawing up the plans for the next set of enclosures. Wanna help?

### Resident Raptors

American kestrel	2
Bald eagle	2
Barred owl	1
Common raven	1
Golden eagle	3
Great horned owl	2
Mississippi kite	2
Peregrine falcon	1
Red-tailed hawk	1
Screech owl	1
Swainson's hawk	2
Turkey vulture	2

**Total** 20



*Young owlet safe inside nest box in new enclosure*



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February 23, 2013 - April 27, 2013

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animals.

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services  
to the raptors  
for the past 27 years!

**Returning  
2014!**

## CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

### Ed Posa & Friends 2nd Fine Arts Festival & Sale

to benefit the  
Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo

Mark your calendar for  
**June 13, 14 & 15, 2014**

Exhibitor Packets will be available soon. Watch for the link on our website: [www.natureandraptor.org](http://www.natureandraptor.org) or call 719-549-2414 or email: [info@natureandraptor.org](mailto:info@natureandraptor.org) to be placed on our mailing list or for more information.



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