

# The Cottonwood

Winter 2011/2012

Newsletter of the Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo

Volume 31 Issue 4

## Running for Raptors

Jay Zarr & Ron Dehn

### NRCP Hosts New Benefit Run With the Southern Colorado Runners Club

Runners – New Year's Eve is just around the corner and here are some suggestions on how to begin your New Year's celebration. Consider this traditional idea with a new twist.

#### How about this:

1. Show up at NRCP's Yurt at 9:00 a.m. with your running or walking shoes on, and be ready for your last workout of 2011.
2. Commit one or more 2012 resolutions to paper.
3. Run or walk a beautiful out and back course along the Arkansas River.
4. Join your friends in the yurt for refreshments afterward.
5. Hope you are one of the winners because you have never seen race prizes like these.

#### Interested yet?

Here are a few of the details. The inaugural **Raptor Resolution Run** (R<sup>3</sup> or R cubed, for

short) will be held at the Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo at 10 am on December 31st. The Run will be 5 miles on a relatively flat and beautiful course paralleling the Arkansas River. The Walk will be a 2012 yard (1.143 mile) walk in the same area.



We all want to improve some aspect of our lives, right? You will have the opportunity to write down some resolutions for 2012 and place them in a self-addressed envelope and about six months later, your resolutions will show up in your mailbox so you can see how well you are doing.

Warm refreshments will be served in the yurt after the race in case December 31<sup>st</sup> happens to be a cool day.

And... you have never seen race prizes like these. The first place overall male and female finishers will be awarded with a raptor release. Yes, that's right, these two lucky individuals will be able to participate in the release back into the wild of a rehabilitated raptor. Or they could choose a raptor presentation at a location

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### Upcoming Events & Activities at the Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo

**Weekend Raptor Talks**  
Saturdays & Sundays  
1:00 p.m.

**Winter Solstice Walk**  
Friday, December 23  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Raptor Resolution Run**  
Saturday, December 31  
9:00 a.m.

**Outdoor Adventure Series**  
Skins and Skulls  
Saturday, January 28  
2:00 p.m.

**Pueblo Eagle Festival**  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
February 3, 4 & 5

**Green Living Series**  
Vermi-Composting  
Saturday, February 25  
2:00 p.m.

For more program information see pages 4 & 5.

#### Winter Hours

**NRCP Office**  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tues. - Sat.  
12 noon - 4:00 p.m. Sun.

**Raptor Center**  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tues. - Sun.

#### Holiday Office Closures

December 24, 25 & 26  
January 1

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



**Staff**

- Manager  
M.T. Summers
- Assistant Manager  
Charlotte Tournay
- Raptor Center Director  
Diana Miller
- Program Director  
John Gallagher
- Office Assistant  
Aurelia Ward
- Facilities  
Dennis Gonzales  
Reynaldo Pacheco
- Raptor Rehabilitation  
Assistant  
Marion Scroggins
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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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P.O. Box 8295  
Pueblo, CO 81008

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

**Director's Report**

Jay Zarr, Board President



**Editor's Note:** *The following excerpts are from the speech given by Jay at NRCP's annual Season of Change Breakfast.*

Welcome this morning to the 3rd annual *Season of Change* breakfast. We very much appreciate your being here. It is because of your support, as well as the staff and all our volunteers, that NRCP is the dynamic organization that it is.

Did you know that NRCP has been around since...  
 ...there was a Southern Colorado State College.  
 ...before Pueblo West had 30 thousand residents.  
 ... the Arkansas River had water in it all year round.  
 ...Pueblo had more than one movie theater.  
 ....you could play in Fountain Creek.  
 ...the Shamrock was the Irish Pub.  
 ...Pueblo was known for the steel mills, the state hospital and the dutch lunches at Gus's.

Who would have thought that Pueblo would be the community that it is today, with the wonderful River Walk, the spectacular Rawlings Library, the longest white water park in the state, 38 miles of rugged mountain bike trails at Lake Pueblo State Park, and a river trail system that runs from the university to the North Shore Marina. That Pueblo would be the home to one of the top children's museums in the country, an amazing zoo, the slopper, the home of heros, and home to your Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo.

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**To our "Bluegrass on the River" volunteers, campers, participants, vendors and attenders**

November 30, 2011

It is with disappointment we announce that the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo will not be hosting the Bluegrass on the River Festival this upcoming year. The host band, felt it would be better served to move the festival to a different site. This year, the festival will be held at the Colorado State Fair grounds.

Currently we are developing a number of "On the River" events, with the first one being the Raptor Resolution Run at 9 a.m. on December 31<sup>st</sup>. For this run, we are looking for 10-15 volunteers. If you would like to help with this or any of the other special events we are planning, call us at 719-549-2414.

The staff and board of NRCP hopes the bluegrass festival continues to be successful and encourage you to be a part of this new Pueblo tradition. For additional information concerning vendor space, volunteering, camping and cost please contact Dani Griffith, 719-240-2013, at the Colorado State Fair.

Sincerely,  
NRCP Staff and Board

# Raptor Report - Empty Cages!

Diana Miller

Emptycages,emptycages! That's the cheer around the raptor facilities this time of year. Empty cages are a good thing. Empty cages mean birds have returned to the wild. Empty cages also mean time for repairs and maintenance. And that's exactly what's been happening the last few weeks.

One big project that's underway is the painting of the outdoor raptor enclosures. Our former AmeriCorps staffer, Elizabeth Williams, put her connections to work and enlisted Habitat for Humanity of Pueblo for the job. Habitat volunteer coordinators Joanne McKinney and John Blauwkamp had a few volunteers in need of work, but no home building project. Thanks to Elizabeth's efforts, they went to work at the NRCP. On a couple of Saturdays in October, the Habitat Volunteers met at the Raptor Facilities and spent the days painting our resident raptor enclosures. It was obvious that Habitat's John Blauwkamp had painted before. His organizational skills were amazing. I definitely learned a bit about organizing a crew by watching John. The Habitat volunteers did a great job and the old cages have never looked so good. Thanks Joanne, John, Elizabeth and Habitat volunteers!

Local scouts have also made contributions to the raptor center. Eagle Scout candidate Damian Bordenave and his troop completed renovations to one of our older enclosures. They put a

new roof on the cage as well as painting a couple of the rehab cages. A local Girl Scout Troop has been working on a project to aid our raptor rescues. The girls have been putting together rescue kits for use in the field on injured raptor calls. I can't wait for them to be delivered.

One of the best projects completed is a new indoor enclosure for our resident turkey vultures. Lurch and his new roommate Izzy are very happy to be warm (and inside) on the cold winter nights and not in the small cages in the ICU. (Not much room to spread out those long vulture wings in the ICU.) Volunteers Sarah Parks and Chrisanne Galvez framed a very nice cage for them inside the raptor building. The ladies didn't have time to finish, so a few of our Raptor Care Team volunteers completed the job. The cage is on the opposite side of the wall of their outdoor enclosure. When warm weather returns we plan to re-open the old doorway so that the birds can move in and out. Our resident Mississippi kites have a system like that already. It's great! On warm winter days they can be outside, and when the weather is too cold for them they are comfortably tucked indoors.

The raptors hope to see you at the Raptor Resolution Run on December 31 and Pueblo Eagle Festival, February 3, 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>. The feathered creatures at the NRCP (and Marcus the cat, and the rats, and the mice, and the humans) wish you happy holidays and a brilliant new year!

## Raptor Rehabilitation Summary

2011 Figures (as of 8/25/11)

### Admission Statistics

Raptors	150
Other Wildlife	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>

### Disposition Statistics

Released	60
Transferred	12
Died	86
Convalescing	18

### Species Statistics

#### Raptors

American kestrel	16
Burrowing owl	1
Common barn owl	2
Cooper's hawk	4
Ferruginous hawk	2
Flammulated owl	1
Golden eagle	7
Great horned owl	44
Long eared owl	2
Merlin	1
Mississippi kite	18
Northern goshawk	2
Peregrine falcon	3
Prairie falcon	1
Red-tailed hawk	26
Rough-legged hawk	1
Saw-whet owl	1
Sharp-shinned hawk	5
Swainson's hawk	6
Western Screech owl	3

**Total** **150**

#### Other Wildlife

American coot	1
Collared dove	1
Common poorwill	2
Common raven	2
English house sparrow	5
European starling	1
Mourning dove	2
Northern flicker	1
Ornate box turtle	1
Ring-billed gull	1
Turkey vulture	7
Unknown songbird	1
Western grebe	1

**Total** **26**

*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.*



Like us on Facebook - natureandraptorcenter

# Upcoming Programs & Events

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We're excited to offer a great line-up of activities for the Winter. 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. Parking fees for NRCP facilities apply to all programs. For information on any of the following activities, please call 719-549-2414.

## Ongoing Programs

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### Weekend Raptor Talks

**When:** Saturdays & Sundays

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

**Age:** All Ages

**Fee:** FREE

**Location:** Raptor Center

**Presenter:** NRCP Docents & Staff

**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:** January 28

February 25

**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:** 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.

**Age:** All Ages

**Fee:** \$5 per class

**Location:** NRCP

**Registration:** None required.



## Upcoming Winter Events

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### 3rd Annual Winter Solstice Walk

**Date:** Friday, December 23

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Fee:** Free, Donations appreciated

**Location:** River Trail at NRCP



Celebrate the winter solstice, the longest night of the year (Dec. 21) by taking a self-guided walk through the nature center on the River Trail as it is lit by over 200 luminarias. At the end of the trail, enjoy a cozy fire with hot cocoa and treats. This event is fast becoming a Pueblo holiday tradition. Dress for the weather.

### From Scales to Tails

**Date:** Saturday, January 14 **Time:** 2 p.m.

**Age:** All ages

**Fee:** Free, Donations appreciated

**Location:** NRCP Yurt

Discover some amazing facts about our native reptiles, and meet a few up close and personal.

### Raptor Resolution Run

**Date:** Saturday, December 31 **Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Registration Fee:** \$20 before Dec. 18th

\$25 after Dec. 18th

**Age:** All Ages **Location:** River Trail at NRCP

Join NRCP and the Southern Colorado Runners for a benefit 5 mile run/2012 yard walk. Prizes include a raptor release for the first place male and female finishers. For more information see cover.

### Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds, to create a real time snapshot of where birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It's free, fun, and easy - and it helps birds. Both NRCP and the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society (AVAS) will be providing opportunities during this weekend where you can get involved in this Citizen Science project.

### NRCP GBBC Walk

**When:** Monday, February, 20, 9:00 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** in front of NRCP's Riverfront Building

**Info:** NRCP 719-549-2414

See back page for more NRCP Winter events.

# Free Tot Program!

Hey all you 2-4 year olds out there, grab your favorite adult and join us for our popular TOT program, **Knee High Nature Hour**. Thanks to an Early Childhood Reading grant from **TARGET** the program is free of charge through May, 2012.



## Knee High Nature Hour

Explore nature with your toddler through stories, music, crafts, and games.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Fee:** FREE

**Age:** 2-4 year olds with an adult

**Registration:** Space is limited, pre-registration required. Call 719-549-2414

## KHNH Winter Dates and Themes

December 14 - Grow as We Go

January 11 - Animals in Winter      January 25 - Trees in Winter

February 8 - Eagle Day                      February 22 - Snow Day

## Outdoor Adventure Series

Join us 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.

**Age:** All Ages

**Fee:** \$5 donation requested per family. Free for Members

**Location:** NRCP Yurt

**Registration:** Space is limited, pre-registration required.

Call 719-549-2414

## Skins and Skulls

**Date:** Saturday, January 28    **Time:** 2:00 p.m.

Animal skins and skulls can tell us many things about them and how they once survived in their natural environment. A few relatively simple observations of an animal's skull can tell us what the animal ate, whether it was a predator or prey, and which senses were most important to the animal's survival. We'll look at some skin and skull features that can give us clues on how the animal survived; then we'll look for these features on some mystery skulls to help us understand each animal and maybe even identify them.



## 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.

**Age:** All Ages

**Fee:** Free

**Location:** NRCP

**Information:** 719-549-2414

## Vermi-Composting

**Date:** Saturday, February 25

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

Would you like to know what to do with your leaves, or fruit and vegetable scraps? Maybe you already know that you want to compost, but you just don't know how to get started. Maybe you are looking for a fun way to spend time with the kids. Then come and learn about a great way to "recycle" with nature's head composters - Earthworms.



## Pueblo Eagle Festival

The Bald Eagles are back for the winter and we're ready to celebrate. Join us at Lake Pueblo State Park and NRCP for guest Lectures, displays, live birds of prey, wildlife viewing and much, more.

### NEW THIS YEAR!

For the 2012 Eagle Festival, a Nature Photography Contest has been added. Call any of the Festival Sponsors for more information and how to submit photos.

**Dates & Times:** Friday, February 3, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 4, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday, February 5, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Fee:** No Fee for Festival, but entrance fees to Lake Pueblo State Park apply.

**Location:** Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Lake Pueblo State Park. Sunday NRCP & Pueblo Zoo

**Festival Sponsors:** Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, Black Hills Inc., CO Division of Parks and Wildlife, Colorado State University-Pueblo, CSU Extension, Lake Pueblo State Park, Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, Pueblo Zoo and the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo

For more information, go to the eagle day website:

[www.eagleday.org](http://www.eagleday.org)

# LEGACY CIRCLE



Become a member of our **LEGACY CIRCLE** and help sustain the mission of the Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo to provide quality educational, recreational and conservation programs related primarily to the environment, natural and cultural history.

Your tax-deductible contribution each year will help assure that our children grow up with a deep appreciation and understanding of our unique environment.

## LEGACY CIRCLE PLEDGE LEVELS

Your commitment may be a one time donation or split over 5 consecutive years.

### Eagle

**\$50,000** will support programs for 100 children and/or rehabilitation for 100 birds of prey each year.

### Owl

**\$25,000** will support programs for 50 children and/or rehabilitation for 50 birds of prey each year.

### Osprey

**\$10,000** will support programs for 20 children and/or rehabilitation for 20 birds of prey each year.

### Falcon

**\$5,000** will support programs for 10 children and/or rehabilitation for 10 birds of prey each year.

For more information on becoming a member of the **LEGACY CIRCLE**, call 719-549-2414 or visit our web site at [www.natureandraptor.org](http://www.natureandraptor.org)

A portion of your pledge may be designated to our special endowment fund, which will ensure quality educational programing and wildlife rehabilitation facilities for future generations.

## Meet Charlotte



Hello! My name is Charlotte Tournay. I come from Pretoria, South Africa, and have lived in Southern Colorado for 9 years. Having grown up frequenting South African game reserves, I am a nature-lover and my favorite place to be is in the outdoors, bird watching and hiking. I am an active Sierra Club member and I strongly believe in the individual's responsibility to our natural environment and the impacts we have on it. I volunteered at the Raptor Center in 2011, helping Diana and Margie with the Raptors. This has been a wonderful

experience and I have learned so much. Diana is an excellent teacher and I am always amazed at what I learn from her! This summer, I helped lead Nature Camps at the Fountain Creek Nature Center as I enjoyed sharing my interest in nature with children. I also have a Bachelors degree in Accounting and have decided to use my office skills to take on the role of Assistant Manager, helping MT Summers in the office. I look forward to contributing my time and passion to this special place and meeting the members who make this Nature Center what it is today!



Where Charlotte is from.

## Running for Raptors

continued from cover

of their choice. How cool would that be for your kid's birthday party, classroom event, or your own family get together?

Those speedy individuals who take first place within their age / gender divisions will win a free NRCP family membership. Second and third place winners will be awarded Nature Center pins.

As a bonus, your R<sup>3</sup> runner's bib will give you and your family (up to 5 individuals) a 10% discount on meals purchased immediately after the awards ceremony at the Coyote Grille; so have a great lunch in a great setting at a great price. Also, NRCP's Arkansas River Coffee Co. will award all participants a 2 for 1 coupon.

The award ceremony will be at 11:15 a.m. and there will be some additional prizes drawn from bib numbers. All runners who meet the early registration deadline will be guaranteed t-shirts, refreshments, and we will do our best to guarantee a good time. December 18<sup>th</sup> is the early registration deadline. Registration is \$20 by that date and \$25 after.

What a GREAT way to run or walk into a New Year!



**Rocky Mountain  
Nature Association**

## Big Holiday Sale at NRCP's Bookstore

**December 10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>  
MEMBERS ONLY DISCOUNTS**

**10 - 30 % off all merchandise**

Gifts for all ages:

Books, stuffed animals, hand and finger puppets, NRCP T-shirts and hats, NRCP Primo Birdseed, bird feeders, bluegrass shirts, hats and more.

# Thank You NRCP New & Renewing Members

## August 21 - November 30 2011

### LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

#### OSPREY LEVEL

Jim & Barbara Hadley • Dr. Richard & Joyce Lawrence

#### FALCON LEVEL

Cynthia Ayala • Carrie Archeleta • Elissa Ball & Jay Richter • James & Marsha Coberly • Ellen Cooney & Tom Webb • Carol Fortino • Marguerite & Eugene Granat • John & Edie Holiman • Doris Kester • Flo Mendez & Jim Beatty • Harry & Pat Rurup • Jarvis & Mary Jo Ryals • Bob Roberts & Marianne Wood • Sally Smith • Bob & Sara Tonsing • Charles & Desi Vial • Jay & Cleo Zarr • Lura Zimmerman

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## Director's Report

continued from page 2

The Nature Center is the ecotone where the city meets nature, where at times the most important thing one needs to do while visiting is just to stop, think, observe, and practice truly listening, while observing mother nature.

In the last 5 years...

... the total visitation to the center has increased by 89%.

...the attendance for our educational programs has increased by 52%.

...NRCP volunteers have raised \$1,586,754.

...the raptor center has released over 450 beautiful wild animals back into the wild.

...NRCP has operated without a paid director, instead relying on a dedicated board of trustees who act in that capacity.

...NRCP started a Friday field trip

program that went from 4 students last year to 11 this year.

...we have seen an increase in weddings, memorials, birthdays, and organizational gatherings.

NRCP is a place...

...where individuals and families go to be educated about nature and each other.

...where individuals and families go to rehab wild raptors and themselves.

...to learn about conservation and how to conserve.

...to recreate, so we can re-create ourselves.

However, NRCP is at a crossroads. The reality is that we had amazing growth in all areas except funding. During the last five years we have experienced a decline in governmental funding of 41%. For the last four years, thank goodness generous gifts from community members of \$50,000 that allowed us to make our budget.

So we need your help to

reach our goals: adding at least one more professional staffer to help in all that we do, adding more programming, and improving and maintaining the grounds.

With your help, we will continue to change people through nature, conservation, education and rehabilitation so that we will all become better stewards of the environment and active members of this community and the world wide community.

### Veterinary Associates

Jack Gregorich, D.V.M.  
Martin Ottersberg, D.V.M.  
Sarah Bridgmon, D.V.M.



651 S. Pueblo Blvd.  
Pueblo, CO 81005  
719-564-0330

Services for small animals. The Doctors and Staff of Veterinary Associates have donated their services to the raptors for the past 27 years!

# Don't Miss

## Sage-ing Circle™

**What:**

Sage-ing is wonderfully inclusive and enjoyed by most individuals wishing to explore and cultivate wisdom for themselves and with others. Especially for those nearing retirement, already retired, individuals with aging parents, anyone working with an older population, or anyone who, one day, expects to face the challenges of aging. Learn and interact with friends to experience first-hand the benefits of a Sage-ing Circle™.

**When:**

Free introductory session - Tuesday, January 24  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the month after that.

**Location:** NRCP Yurt

**More Information:** Cleo Corsi-Zarr - 719-251-8774

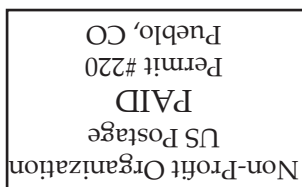
## Mark Your Calendars

NRCP's 2012 Earth Day Dinner - April 22.

## NRCP Holiday Wish List

- Chain link security fence for north side of flight cage at Raptor Center
- New raptor enclosures (to replace aging structures)
- Digital Camera
- New leach line for Raptor Facilities
- New sprinkler system for Raptor Facility gardens
- 4 New desktop PCs to replace outdated staff computers
- Storage shed for Raptor Facilities
- 4x4 SUV for raptor rescues and transport to raptor education activities
- Left-over wild game meat

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo  
P.O. Box 8295  
Pueblo, CO 81008