

President's Report – Spring 2018

 evergreenaudubon.org/presidents-report-spring-2018

Brad Andres

March 30, 2018

Spring is here! The bluebirds are back and the hummingbirds should be arriving soon. And of course, the Evergreen Nature Center (ENC) will open in mid-April, on April 21st.

I often associate spring with new beginnings and I always feel like the Nature Center gets a fresh start every season. This year is no exception. We'll keep some of our favorite exhibits and add a few new ones; plus to celebrate the Year of the Bird, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science has loaned us several taxidermy mounts of our local resident and migrating bird species. The Nature Center has come a long way during its 10 year life! Come celebrate our anniversary and plan to stop by this spring (before the lake gets crazy) to see what's new.

Better yet, don't just stop by, have your own new beginning and become a Nature Center visitor assistant. There is nothing like watching someone discover "Heather" our mountain lion or "Bob" the bear, listening to visitors try to guess why some bird eggs are speckled and others are not, being engrossed in a fanciful puppet show put on by creative children, or challenging visitors to jump as far as a grasshopper and hearing them gasp when they learn how far a mountain lion can leap. A volunteer shift at the Nature Center can lift your spirits but it can also expand your mind. Not only can you learn from Colleen, our ENC Director, but you'll be amazed by the breadth of knowledge our visitor assistants have to share about nature, the Bear Creek Watershed and even the history of Evergreen. And, don't worry if you feel you don't know enough to share; there are plenty of volunteer training sessions planned through-out the season and you'll always be working with Colleen, Dina, our new part-time Environmental Educator or an experienced visitor assistant. Don't miss out on all the fun and spend a few hours each month at the Nature Center.

Our board of directors is also getting a fresh start. I am pleased to announce that Dwight Souder has joined the Evergreen Audubon Board of Directors. Dwight has been a long time member of Evergreen Audubon and I look forward his contributions and guidance, especially since he has years of experience serving on other area non-profit boards. We have also decided to invest in additional hours from our Nature Center staff and in some advertising for our summer day camps. We know it takes a couple of years to grow awareness of a new program such as our camps, but our exceptions are still high. We'd love to see the three camp sessions filled to capacity this summer. So, please help us spread the word and remind people that our camps are creative, educational and fun! The camp registrations are beginning to flow in, but there are still plenty of opening.

A special thanks to JoAnn Hackos for all the hard work she's been doing planing a month of activities for when the Audubon Travelling Photo Exhibit comes to Evergreen in June. Besides the opening reception on June 7th, that will be in place of our June Chapter Meeting,

there will be photography, sketching and origami workshops. Stay tuned for more details.

Happy Spring and I hope to see you at the Dawn Chorus on Sunday, May 6th!

Kathy