

# From the Archives: Picnics Past

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In preparation for celebrating Evergreen Audubon's first half-century at the Bash, I've spent some time combing through back issues of *The Dipper*. Being a relative newcomer, I am amazed to discover how many of our current members go WAY back. You know who you are! It's also been fun to discover how many of our favorite activities are long established traditions, going on – well, for decades! Picnics and bird walks; monthly programs and field trips; the Annual Meeting and Dawn Chorus; fundraisers and citizen science projects go all the way back to the beginning.

Here are some tidbits that might make you smile:

In **July, 1971**, the newsletter was called, “*Naturalists' News*” and the familiar Dipper logo, had already been in use for a while. That year, the picnic was held on the Brockner's patio and the entree was provided by Colonel Sanders, supplemented by “covered dish” contributions. Then, as now, “Visitors are welcome on all field trips and at our regular meetings.” By July, 1972, the newsletter had been named *The Dipper* and Evergreen Naturalists had gone on record as opposing Denver's Olympic bid.

Skipping forward to **July, 1979**, we find ourselves feasting on Colonel Sander's fried chicken and covered dishes at the Brockner home again. The most interesting thing about this picnic, held 40 years ago next week, is that the program was a slide show entitled “Mount Evans – a Proposed Wilderness Area.” By now, *The Dipper* had gone from 1 page a month to a hefty 7 pages with a staple!

In the **July, 1989**, issue of *The Dipper*, we see that the picnic was to be held at the Mt. Evans Elk Management area. We had switched from “plenty of lemonade” 10 years earlier, to “plenty of beer and wine.” We had also given the Colonel the heave-ho. This issue includes a full schedule of 12 field trips planned for June, July and August and an announcement about a trip to Costa Rica planned for later in the year.

The issue covering the combined months of **July and August, 1999**, shows a huge leap in professional publication, including modern graphic design, drawings, cartoons and photographs. There are announcements about the garage sale, a weed-pull at the lake and several field trips as well as paid advertisements. It made me a little sad to realize that the EA president at the time was Lynne Price, whom we so recently lost to cancer. The front page of this issue is all about July picnic at Pine Valley Ranch Park near Pine. The menu has morphed into BYOB (bring your own burgers...or hotdogs...or chicken) and calls for “potluck” to round out the menu. This delightful drawing, by Mildred Keiser, is the front page illustration.

“From the Archives” will be posted regularly on our website and in our thoroughly modern electronic *eDipper* over the next few months.

Do you have stories, photos or clippings to share? We’d love to have them! Do you have back issues of *The Dipper* tucked away in a drawer? If so, please contact me. We especially need the September 1993 issue (Vol. 23 #8) of *The Dipper*, which appears to be totally missing. We will also gladly accept any memorabilia you might be willing to donate, and copies of *The Dipper* from January 1999 forward.

I can be reached at [communications@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:communications@evergreenaudubon.org) or by calling our landline at 303-674-6406.

See you at the picnic!

Melissa Leasia



“Let’s Picnic” by Mildred Keiser