

The Short Tale of a Very Big Head

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Last August, Evergreen Audubon/Evergreen Nature Center had a call from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), asking if we would we be interested in having taxidermy mounts, including a “cinnamon” bear, a mountain lion, a bobcat and several skins, bones and skulls. In a previous post, we introduced you to these critters, which had been confiscated by CPW and were no longer needed as evidence. Shortly after saying “yes,” CPW delivered them to us, along with a surprise bonus, a colossal bull elk head mount.



Roxborough Ranger, Tiffany McCauley, loads Thor

Quickly nicknamed “Thor,” his magnificent head measured 6 ft from top to bottom with a 12 point rack measuring 3 ½ feet across. Additionally, the mount itself was more than 3 feet deep, meaning that’s how far he would have stuck out from wall, if there had actually been a wall to hang him on. As handsome as Thor was, we simply had no suitable place to display him. He languished in the work room for months, staring at the ceiling and getting in the way every time anyone actually tried to work there. Did I mention that he was also quite heavy, extremely awkward and very difficult to move?

When notice came this spring that our Education Center building had been sold and it became clear that we would soon be moving to a much smaller space, Dina and the Board set out to rehome Thor. We wanted him to go to someplace where he would be appreciated for the magnificent creature he is, and where he could make himself useful by educating the public about his species. We were very pleased when Roxborough State Park stepped up, offering to adopt him. Tiffany McCauley, a seasonal ranger with Roxborough, picked Thor up this week and transported him to his new home at the Roxborough visitor center, there where he now hangs in a place of honor over the fire place.