

## From the Director: My first month

Emma Vasicek. June 1, 2021 :

---



“Do you ever get desensitized to the majesty of the mountains?” That was one of the first things I asked a Colorado friend before moving here. Her answer was the same as mine is now, “Nope.” Every day as I drive to work, I am in awe of these looming, rocky peaks; I have to constantly remind myself to focus on my driving as I wind my way up the road. There is a lot to be said about the beauty of the Great Lakes in my home state of Michigan, but I have never felt quite so inspired as I do by the mountains.

This first month with Evergreen Audubon has been an exciting one! I have spent my time meeting with partners, schools, and organizations, and am looking forward to the incredible opportunities that are on the horizon. This past year has been so challenging, but we are turning a corner and I can feel the hopefulness throughout our community. This was evident at our Dawn Chorus event on May 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Saturday Bird Walk with Chuck on May 15<sup>th</sup>; it was so good to be outdoors with a group of nature enthusiasts spending the morning searching for birds!



Chuck Aid with students from Montessori Middle School

My favorite program from this past month was with a group of middle school students from Montessori School of Evergreen. On May 14<sup>th</sup> Brad Andres, Chuck Aid, and I spent the afternoon with 17 middle schoolers on a property in Conifer. We provided a short lesson on bird habitats and identification and then the students helped install six bluebird boxes throughout the property. It was the first time I have been able to program with students in person since the summer of 2020, and it was such a joy! Pictured are some of the students with Chuck and one of the bluebird boxes we installed. I am beyond excited to continue hosting programs like this one throughout our mountain communities!

As a final note, I would like to provide an update regarding the opening of the Evergreen Nature Center. I am happy to announce that the ENC will be opening the first weekend in June! We will open **Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** from **11 am – 5 pm**, and hope to maintain our normal hours throughout the remainder of the summer. Per Jefferson County Public Health Department's recent rescinding of their mask order, fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear a mask while visiting the Nature Center. We recommend that people who aren't fully vaccinated wear a mask while indoors at ENC.

We are so thrilled to be opening and I look forward to seeing you in person this summer. Please watch the website for updates regarding summer programs – there are numerous things in the works that I am excited to share with you! I would also love to meet you, so feel free to stop by my office at Evergreen Christian Church and say, "Hello!" Please keep in mind that I am often out of the office for various programs or meetings, so sending me an email in advance would be much appreciated. I cannot overstate how thrilled I am to be here, and how excited I am to experience the majesty of the mountains with you all. I hope that you continually find ways to stay inspired and encouraged.