

Time and again, people are encouraged to give back to their community's natural resources and reduce their footprint on the planet. Urban wildlife refuges like Two Ponds serve an oasis for native wildlife and migrating birds throughout the year. So, get outside and come help us improve the Refuge for animals and people alike. Tools and materials will be provided - and reservations are not required.



Follow us on our new and improved social media sites:



Website - www.fws.gov/refuge/Two_Ponds/



TWO PONDS TUESDAY
(volunteer day at the Refuge)
Every Second Tuesday of Every Month
at 8:00 a.m.

Ripples on the Pond

Newsletter of the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation

Greetings to our Foundation Members and Supporters By Daryl Christensen

The Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge was a destination for large numbers of visitors this year. Among those were many school children and families enjoying their first experience. We hope you enjoy reading more about the diverse activities and the folks of all ages who took the opportunity enjoy all that the Refuge has to offer.

We also want extend a special "thank you" to the wonderful volunteers who contributed so much to another successful summer and fall season. It is their dedication to

maintaining the Refuge and the natural habitat that helps make all of our visits such a wonderful experience.

The Two Ponds Preservation Foundation has officially launched our Capital Campaign to raise funds to build an environmental education facility at the Refuge. It is our vision to create year around destination for students and visitors throughout the Front Range. The "School House at Two Ponds" will provide a legacy of learning and appreciation for the natural habitat and preservation for generations to come.

We have partnered with the Arvada Young Professionals group in this Campaign to secure support from members of our business community who share the goal of

making this vision a reality.

You also have the opportunity to support the Foundation's goals through your participation in Colorado's largest online giving event presented by Community First Foundation and 1stBank. Read on to learn more about how you can participate in this opportunity to contribute to the charitable Colorado organizations of your choice.

As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Daryl Christensen,
President, Two Ponds Reservation
Foundation
303 640 6247

Brother Eagles By Seth Beres

Brandt and Xander Strandt, along with several members of their troop #334, spent countless hours and hundreds of dollars planning and implementing the latest Eagle Scout projects at Two Ponds NWR. Brandt did a commendable job improving our pollinator garden by planting a diversity of native plants and nurturing them with care. He and his team of scouts solicited local nurseries, rented equipment, dug holes, tilled the soil, planted the seedlings and watered the garden for several weeks. His older brother, Xander greatly improved our trail system on the Prairie Management area. He, along with a devoted group of scouts and parents, worked long and hard to tackle the erosion issues and surface conditions by purchasing and installing water bars and placing new crusher fines along key areas of the trail. Both of these outstanding contributions have made a significant difference at the Refuge - and will be enjoyed by wildlife and people for years to come. So many visitors frequenting Two Ponds are amazed when they hear these jobs were completed by kids and not contracted out by professionals! On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I am extremely grateful for the Strandt brother's efforts - and congratulate them on achieving the highest honor of Eagle by effectively serving both their community and the environment. Thank you!



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| <p>Refuge: Visit Us Soon! http://twoponds.fws.gov Phone (303) 289-0867</p> | <p>Foundation: Keep In Touch! https://twoponds.org Phone (720) 306-1992</p> | <p>Refuge Hours: West side: Open year round, dawn to dusk East side: May - Sept. Tue - F: 8am-4pm; Sat. 8am-7pm; Sun.-Mon. CLOSED</p> |
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Memberships Make Great Gifts!



Return Service Requested

Arvada, Colorado 80006-0748
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Two Ponds Preservation Foundation

New Wings! By Seth Beres

The 2017 Junior Duck Stamp Program has officially begun! This contest engages K-12 students in an integrated arts and science curriculum, culminating in a design challenge to create a North American waterfowl art piece for submission to their state contest. All participants throughout the state receive recognition and the top 100 entries in every state are awarded a host of fine prizes at a ceremony in May. The Best of Show winners from all 50 states and territories advance to the national contest where one piece is selected to be printed as that year's Junior Duck Stamp - available for purchase at the post office for \$5. This Junior Duck Stamp is both a collector's item among philatelists and is a tool that generates funding for conservation education across the country. This is a wonderful environmental and educational program to be involved with! For more information, please contact Seth Beres # (303) 289-0867 or <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>



Trailblazers By Seth Beres

On Saturday, June 4th, Two Ponds NWR joined again with Majestic View Nature Center to host the 13th annual National Trails Day at both locations. Trailblazers came out in force again. This fantastic event reached over 1000 people, setting attendance and participation records, and provided high quality environmental educational activities for the entire family!

National Trails Day focuses on our natural environment and the many opportunities offered by our nation's Trails and National Refuge system. Highlights of this year's event featured hosted walks between both resources, a guided bike tour, live raptors, wildlife contraband display, art contest, face painting and other wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities! In addition, free shuttles ran regularly between both sites and complimentary refreshments were available throughout the day.

This annual event continues to be a great opportunity for all to experience and learn more about two great nature facilities in Arvada. Thanks to each and every organization as well as the general public who participated! We hope to see you back next year!



A Sanctuary in the City By Kevin Fish

Whether you grew up in a suburb, in a big city, or in the country you probably spent a lot of time playing outside, getting dirty, and exploring the new world of nature. I spent hours climbing trees, studying ants and worms or contemplating the drifting clouds. It seems that children today do not have as many direct experiences with nature. That is why the Two Ponds Wildlife Refuge is so important for children to learn and find adventure. It is a sanctuary in the city. Studies have found that kids who have direct access to nature are better learners. Also, exposure to nature has been shown to reduce stress and increase attention spans. Nature creates a sense of wonder, an understanding of the natural world and a desire to discover. Please support us throughout the year and on Colorado Gives day.

Colorado Gives Day 2016

Colorado Gives Day 2016 is Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016. Please help raise millions for Colorado nonprofits. You can donate at ColoradoGives.org anytime. Please help strengthen the state's nonprofits through online giving. You can donate to Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge System or other local charities. Support the "Schoolhouse at Two Ponds" campaign on Colorado Gives Day! Colorado's largest one-day online giving event, presented by Community First Foundation and 1stBank, is coming up and we need your support. On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, thousands of donors will come together to support Colorado nonprofits like ours. About Colorado Gives Day Colorado Gives Day is powered by ColoradoGives.org, a year-round website featuring nearly 1,500 nonprofits. To donate visit: <https://www.twoponds.org/donations.html>

If you chose to make a donation, it is important that you press the dark green "CO GIVES DAY" button. This is the only way to assure that your donation will be supplemented by the Community First Foundation Incentive Fund for donations received between now and Colorado Gives Day on December 6th. Learn more about the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation at our website: twoponds.org. (hyperlink) or visit us on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/SchoolhouseAtTwoPonds>

I WOULD LOVE TO JOIN THE TWO PONDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION!

The Foundation is a totally volunteer organization and 100 percent of your donation is used for the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge. The Foundation receives and administers gifts for environmental education, preservation of wetlands and the development of the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge. Please make checks payable to Two Ponds Preservation Foundation. Your gift is tax deductible.

\$10 Turtle
 \$25 Beaver
 \$50 Red Fox
 \$100 Black-Crowned Night Heron - engraved brick
 \$500 Swainson's Hawk - engraved flagstone slab
 \$1,000 Golden Eagle - engraved park bench

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mail your tax deductible contribution to:
 Two Ponds Preservation Foundation, P.O. Box 740748, Arvada, CO 80006-0748
 Or contribute online through <https://goo.gl/apww3>

TWO PONDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

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