

Barr Lake Oasis...

A Collection of Exciting Learning Opportunities and Nature Center News

January-February 2019

One last event for 2018

New Years Eve Noon

Monday, December 31st at 11am

Come revel in 2019 before the rush! Bring the family whole to our rockin' raucous New Year's Eve Party without having the kids miss their bedtime! There will be crafts, snacks, party favors, punch toast and a balloon drop plus a countdown for a noon celebration. **Limited to 100 kids. Please RSVP by calling the Nature Center at 303-659-6005.**



First Day Hikes

Tuesday, January 1st at 11am

Barr Lake State Park will be participating in America's State Parks First Day Hikes 2018 and we hope you'll join us. With all 50 states participating, the nationwide effort will help promote healthy lifestyles and encourage year-round recreation at our state parks.

Starting time: 11am @ the Nature Center

Description: 3-mile easy hike with opportunity to observe all types of wildlife, including many species of birds. Dogs are welcome!

Barr Lake's staff encourages you to start the New Year by enjoying the outdoors and seeing the eagles. Spotting scopes will be available for visitors to use on the hikes.

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Saturday, January 5th 9am-1pm



Join families and naturalists from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies for a Christmas Bird Count held especially for kids! Participants will discover local birds that tough out the harsh Colorado

winter, learn what it means to be a "citizen scientist", explore the outdoors and practice birding with experienced birders and help contribute to ongoing bird conservation. Ages 3-18 are welcome! There are special activities for kids age 3-6, including a bird discovery walk and Budding Birders Camp. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Warm drinks, water and snacks will be provided. Cost is \$3 per person plus a \$7 per vehicle state park entrance fee. Pre-registration is required. Register online

at www.birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/education

Toddler Story Time

Thursday January 3rd & February 7th, 10am - Noon

Join your pre-schooler (ages 3-5) years old, accompanied by an adult, to listen to stories about the natural world. Join Ranger Michelle & friends on the first Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. for a different story that is sure to entertain your little one. The January program will be **Eagles**.

Valentines will be featured in February!

Please call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to RSVP. We don't want to be short of snacks.

See our Facebook Page for last minute additions to our event programming and weather updates.



New Volunteer Open House

Saturday, February 16th 10am

Have you always wanted to contribute your unique talents, skills, and passions to helping others? Do you think that being in the outdoor field for a career might be for you? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you! Barr Lake is recruiting volunteers to:

- Entrance station host
- Friends of Barr Lake event coordinator
- School leader
- Park maintenance
- Nature Center host
- Trail host
- **NEW** teen program



We provide initial, on-the-job, and level two training sessions, ongoing educational opportunities, unique experiences, a free Colorado State Parks pass (after you complete 48 service hours), and a great team of current staff and volunteers with whom to work! Volunteer applications are available at the Nature Center and at the Volunteer Open House.

Park staff and veteran volunteers will share some basic information and be on hand to answer questions. This Open House will acquaint you with the limitless volunteer activities available at Barr Lake State Park!

Nature Walk & Talk

Fridays, Jan 25th & Feb 22nd 10 am

Saturdays Jan 12th & Feb 9th 10 am

Share your knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm with other Barr Lake visitors and volunteers as we discover and rediscover the park's hidden treasures. *No RSVP required. Program designed for adults. Meet at the Nature Center, dressed for weather.*

Basic Archery Instruction

Sundays, January 27th & February 10th 11am - 1pm



Join the Barr Lake rangers for this Introduction to Archery event. Loaner equipment will be on hand for use during class. Number of participants limited to 16 students, ages 6 to adult, registration is required. **Call the**

Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to register.

Special Note: The Sunday February 10th event will include a ♥ Cupid's Hearts Shoot. ♥

Saturday Guided Bird Walks at 9am

Grab your binoculars and field guide or check out a loaner set of ours, and enjoy an exciting morning of birding at Barr Lake. **Park Naturalists Tammy & Ira** enthusiastically introduce birders of all ability levels to Barr Lake's feathered residents and migrants. In addition to a variety of wintering songbirds, you may find the raptor and waterfowl watching this time of year to be exceptional!

January 12th & 26th

February 9th & 23rd

Program designed for adults. All ability levels welcome.

Barr Lake Nature Center 13401 Picadilly Rd., Brighton, CO 80603 303-659-6005

dnr_barrlake.naturecenter@state.co.us www.facebook.com/BarrLakeStatePark

Support for educational programming at Barr Lake State Park
provided by the Friends of Barr Lake

\$7 daily or annual
parks pass required
for all programs



Bald Eagle Nesting

The habitat of Barr Lake's wildlife refuge is perfect for one pair of nesting bald eagles. It has large old cottonwoods for roosting, rich food sources, and little disturbance. A pair of bald eagles has been observed in the refuge, every year, since 1986. As of 2018, Barr Lake bald eagles have fledged 59 young!



Make a date to come to Barr Lake in January and February as they are excellent months for bald eagle viewing. In January, eagles begin courtship behavior including tumbling in mid-air, nest building, and staying close together. In mid-February, and often coinciding with Valentine's Day, bald eagles lay one to three eggs. The parents take turns incubating the eggs, so you are practically guaranteed to see an eagle on the nest. If all goes well, eaglets hatch in late March or early April.

Saturday, January 19th at 11am

Join us for a unique opportunity to view our bald eagle population at its peak! Our guided hike travels to the gazebo and back.

Bald Eagle Festival

Saturday, Feb 2nd 10am - 2pm



Seventh Annual Eagle Fest! We'll have crafts for the kids and a live raptor presentation that everyone will enjoy. Weather permitting, we will shuttle guests on the Eagle Express to

and from the gazebo. Kids can join a Naturalist for Build It Big!, constructing a life-sized replica of a Bald eagle nest. The hike is three miles round trip. Join Bird Conservancy of the Rockies for a presentation as well. Please call 303-659-6005 to RSVP.

- Guided hike **10am** starting at Nature Center
- Bald eagle presentation at **12pm** at Nature Center (RSVP required -limited of 75 people)
- Eagle express rides at **10am** and **1pm** (RSVP required to ensure participation, weather permitting)
- Kids crafts **10am to 4pm** at Nature Center
- **Build It Big! 11am** at Nature Center
- Bird Cons. of the Rockies **11:30am** at Nature Center

Love is in the Air

Saturday, Feb 9th at 1:00pm

Kids, ages 4-8, can celebrate the heart of the season this Valentine's Day at Barr Lake. Bald eagles and great horned owls are the early birds of the nesting season. Learn about the unique courtship and nesting habits of these fantastic birds. Get a warm and fuzzy feeling with a related story, craft, and short walk. *Program designed for kids, ages 4-8 years old.*

Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, Feb 16th 10am - 12pm

Come join Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and Barr Lake State Park for the 20th Annual GBBC. Spend a morning learning the importance of being a Citizen Scientist while exploring what local birds are toughing out the winter here in Brighton.

Adult Polymer Clay Workshop

Sunday, Jan 27th & Feb 24th 1pm to 3:30pm

Unleash your creativity while learning how to make a cute nature-themed ornament out of polymer clay. Supplies and instruction provided for this fun make it, take it and bake it (in your home oven) craft. Limited to 10 participants, 16 or older, so be sure to RSVP by calling **303-659-6005**.

Martin Luther King Day Celebration

Monday, Jan 21st 10am-12pm



Are you looking for something fun to do with your kids on this holiday? Please join us as the Nature Center will be open this day. We'll have kids' crafts all day and a nature hike at 10am. The three-mile hike will explore the wildlife refuge and we'll observe our roosting bald eagle population.

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Bald Eagle Watch Training

Saturday, January 19, 2019 9 am - 12 pm

From February through July, participants monitor and collect data on nesting behavior and productivity and report any disturbances that may affect nesting eagles. The data helps wildlife managers ensure continued healthy populations of Bald Eagles in Colorado. Join the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies for training at the Barr Lake State Park nature center. To register or for more information, contact Outreach Biologist Matt Smith via e-mail: matt.smith@birdconservancy.org, or by phone: 970-482-1707 ext. 32 **Parks pass is required for this training.**

Ladies Hunters Education Class

Saturday, Feb 23rd 10am - 4pm

The major portion of this course uses the Internet to complete the mandatory homework. The online portion of this course is \$24.50 and is available at <https://www.hunter-ed.com/colorado/>. Students must show the certificate of completion for the online course to attend the classroom session. For further information <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/133574> Hunter education cards will be awarded to students upon successful completion of the course, which includes attending all class sessions and passing a written test and live fire. Rifles and ammunition for the live fire will be provided. No personal firearms are allowed. Please note, this is a Women's Only Hunter Education Conclusion Course. If you find you are unable to attend, please cancel your reservation in advance. Thank you!

OFF-SITE EVENTS

Birds and Brews - Friends of Barr Lake event

Monday, Feb 25th 6pm - 9pm

Copper Rail Bar & Grill, Brighton, CO

Join the Friends of Barr Lake for food, fun and fabulous prizes, all while helping a worthy organization raise funds for recreational, educational and conservation efforts in the park. See the FOBL website for details:

www.FriendsofBarrLake.org

Join us at these off-site locations to see Talon,

Colorado Parks & Wildlife's Boating Safety Mascot.

Denver Boat Show

Friday January 18th through Sunday, January 13th at the Colorado Convention Center.

International Sportmen's Expo

Thursday, January 10th through Sunday, January 13th 500 companies will exhibit in a single 290,000 square foot hall, offering a staggering selection of outdoor goods and services! Check their webpage at

<http://www.sportsexpos.com/attend/denver/>

Would you like to receive the Barr Lake Oasis via email? If so, please send an Oasis e-mailing request to

dnr_barrlake.naturecenter@state.co.us.

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