

# Barr Lake Oasis...

A Collection of Exciting Learning Opportunities and Nature Center News

January-February 2017

*One last event for 2016*

## New Year's Eve Noon

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11am

Join us for a NEW event, New Years Eve Noon. This event will take place on Thursday December 31st at 11am. There will be crafts, snacks, party favors, punch toast and a balloon drop plus a countdown for a noon celebration. Bring the kids for the big celebration of 2017! Please RSVP to the nature center 303-659-6005.



## First Day Hikes

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 11am

Barr Lake State Park will be participating in America's State Parks First Day Hikes 2017 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

Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm



Meet at *the Meadowlark Picnic Pavilion*, Barr Lake State Park, 13401 Picadilly Rd, Brighton

This is Bird Conservancy's 5th Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Since over 350 different species of birds have been spotted at Barr Lark, it provides the perfect location for a count.

Participants are broken into teams and given information on local birds, as well as a checklist to tally what species they find in the field. Teams are assigned a local birding expert to guide them on a 90-minute hike around the Barr Lake area to discover and count birds. After the count, all teams meet back at the nature center for lunch, report their findings and take part in other activities.

Kids age 7 and up can participate in the count. There are special activities, including a bird discovery walk and Budding Birders Camp, for kids age 3-6.

Participants should wear comfortable hiking shoes, dress in layers and bring a picnic lunch, binoculars and a field guide (if possible). Loaner binoculars and field guides will be available. Warm drinks, water and snacks will be provided. Cost is \$3 per person plus a \$7 per vehicle state park entrance fee. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**

**To register, please contact Allison Fowle at 303-659-4348 ext. 18 or [allison.fowle@birdconservancy.org](mailto:allison.fowle@birdconservancy.org) by Jan 13th.**

## e-mailing list

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](mailto:dnr_barrlake.naturecenter@state.co.us).



## New Volunteer Open House

Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 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!

## Adult Coloring Workshop

Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> & February 5<sup>th</sup>,

1pm to 3pm

Reignite your child-like creativity, even if you choose to color outside the lines.



Join Ranger Michelle for a coloring party with a wildlife & nature theme. Reconnect with your fellow outdoors enthusiasts. We'll provide coloring pages, pencils, snacks and beverages. You bring your imagination.

**RSVP by calling 303-659-6005 Recommended for ages 10 and up.**

## Immersion in Nature **NEW for 2017!**

Adults only: Friday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 10 am

Family walk: Saturday Jan 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 11 am

Feeling stressed? At your wit's end? Need to quiet a hyperactive mind or just need some time away?

Join us for a de-stressing walk in the park. This program is based upon the Japanese practice of "Shinrin-Yoku", a premise which describes a wide range of healthful and healing benefits of "forest bathing". It will last around 2 hours with no destination or purpose other than to be in nature. A naturalist will lead a gentle walk of no determined length where you will engage 4 of the 5 senses on the trail to breathe, touch, look, feel, and hear the world around you. Meet at the Nature Center. Leave your cell phone and camera in the car, even binoculars can become a distraction. We will walk quietly, examining the world around us. *No RSVP required.*



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

[dnr\\_barrlake.naturecenter@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_barrlake.naturecenter@state.co.us) [www.facebook.com/BarrLakeStatePark](http://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 2016, Barr Lake bald eagles have fledged 54 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.

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

**Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am**

## Martin Luther King Day Celebration

Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Bald Eagle Festival

Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 10am - 2pm

Fifth 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 at the gazebo from 9am - 12pm for a presentation as well. Call 303-659-6005 to RSVP.

**Guided hike-** 10am starting at Nature Center Eagle Express

**Bald eagle presentation** at 12pm at Nature Center- Presented by Nature's Educators

**Eagle express rides** at 10am and 1pm (*RSVP required to ensure participation*)

**Kids crafts** 10am to 4pm at Nature Center

**Build It Big!** 11am at Nature Center

## Your Ticket to the Great Outdoors!

The 2017 annual parks pass is available now for purchase at Barr Lake and provides entry into 42 amazing Colorado State Parks. The Annual Park Pass is \$70 and the Aspen Leaf Pass is \$60 for Colorado-resident seniors at least 64 years old. Both passes are valid for at least one year from their purchase date.



*Give the gift that keeps on giving.....the great outdoors.*

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*

*~Martin Luther King, Jr.~*

## 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 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 7<sup>th</sup> - Tammy and Ira**

**January 28<sup>th</sup> - Betsy**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> - Betsy**

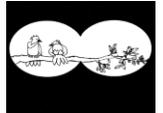
**February 25<sup>th</sup> - Tammy and Ira**

*Program designed for adults. All ability levels welcome.*

## OTHER PROGRAMS:

### Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 9am - 12pm



Come join Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and Barr Lake State Park for the 19th 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.

### Basic Archery Instruction

Sundays, January 22<sup>nd</sup> & February 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> event will

include a Cupid's Hearts Shoot.

### Love is in the Air

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## OFF-SITE EVENTS

### Birds and Brews - Friends of Barr Lake event

Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.FriendsofBarrLake.org)

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

the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Boating Safety Mascot.

### Denver Boat Show

Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Colorado Convention Center.

### International Sportmen's Expo

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 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/>

Or scan this QR code with your smartphone



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