

# Barr Lake Oasis...

A Collection of Exciting Learning Opportunities and Nature Center News

November – December 2019



We hope you all have a safe and tasty Thanksgiving Day. Barr Lake State Park will be open all day Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Day. The Nature Center, however, will be closed that day as well as December 25, allowing staff and volunteers to share the holidays with their families.

Visit Barr Lake Nature Center this fall!

*The Nature Center hours have changed!*

**Starting November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Open every day 9am-4pm**

Enjoy innovative wildlife exhibits; shop for great clothing, diverse natural history books, and unique bird & nature-themed gift items; savor a cup of hot coffee, cocoa or tea; and get cozy on comfortable leather furniture while watching interesting birds at the feeders right outside the windows. We have a new sound system that brings the outdoors in!

## Guided Bird Walks

Collect your binoculars and field guides, or check out a loaner set of ours, and enjoy an exciting morning of birding at Barr Lake State Park. Enthusiastic Park Naturalists will 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! No RSVP required.



Meet at the Nature Center

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

**Nov 9<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> – Tammy & Ira**

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> – Tammy & Ira**

## Annual Week-long Sale & Holiday Open House

November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 8<sup>th</sup>

**Save 20% on regular retail store items and shop with a purpose**

Beat the mall crowds and parking hassles! Shop for great gifts and stocking stuffers, all on sale. We carry a wide variety of children's books, puzzles, and gadgets, field and hiking guides, natural history books, stuffed animals and puppets, numerous bird items and ornaments, fabulous clothing, and more. Your purchases support great programs at Barr Lake.



Like us on Facebook!



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  
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## Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, all day

Bring your family and friends to enjoy Barr Lake's Holiday Open House and savor delicious holiday refreshments. It's a day filled with something for everyone, see schedule below!!

**- 9am-4pm Save 20% & shop with a purpose**

All bookstore items and clothing are on sale! (*Local artisans items not included*)

**- 9am Bird walk**

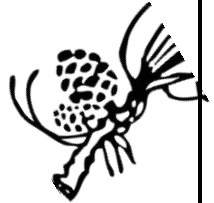
**- 10am - CPW K9 Presentation & Demonstration**

**- 11am – Winter Birdfeeding Workshop**

Learn from the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies-

**- 10am-2pm Craft making for kids**

**- 2pm-5pm – Adult wood slice ornament making class**  
(\$20 to make 5 ornaments, see description below)



## Winter Wonders Holiday Trail

Generously Sponsored by United Power

Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm to 9pm

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual! Join us for a short hike to celebrate the wonders of winter on our lighted bridge and Niedrach Trail. Fun activities will include lighted trail, kids' crafts, face painter and **a visit from Santa Claus**. RSVP by calling the Nature Center 303-659-6005

**Please visit us on Facebook for weather updates!**

*Sponsored by the Friends of Barr Lake State Park.*



## Mostly for Kids!

### Toddler Holiday Party

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 10AM-12PM

Bring the party to the ELF-sized level! Join Ranger Michelle and her merry elves as we throw a party for toddlers ages 3-6. We will light the tree, create a holiday craft, enjoy a tasty snack and hear a story of the season.

**Please RSVP - 303-659-6005. Limited to 100 kids.**

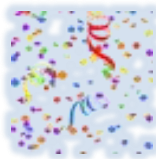


*\$8 daily or annual parks pass require for all programs except Fresh Air Friday on November 29th*

## New Year's Eve Noon

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 11:00AM

Come revel in 2020 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 **BIG**



**COUNTDOWN** for a noon celebration. It's going to be LOUD so gauge how your little one will respond to all the noise of the party. **Please RSVP to the Nature Center 303-659-6005. Limited to 100 kids.**

## Kids Holiday Pajama Party

Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> 10AM - 12PM

A Pajamas Party for kids of all ages! Join us for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual pancake breakfast before settling in with your cuddly blanket and favorite stuffed animal in front of our big screen TV! This year's movie is The Search for Santa Paws! Wear your best pajamas and be sure there's not a hole in your slippers! Bring your puppy if he's well behaved. It's going to be a ton of fun! Please call **303-659-6005** to RSVP for this event. *Limited to 40 kids.*

*Sponsored by the Friends of Barr Lake State Park. Donations accepted to offset the rental price.*

## Toddler Story Time

Thursdays, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 10am

Bring your pre-school child to listen to stories about the natural world. Join park rangers in the Nature Center on the first **Thursday** of the month at 10am for a story, a snack and a craft sure to entertain your little one. The November theme is **Leaves!** Please **RSVP** to the Nature Center 303-659-6005 to reserve your child's spot. *Program designed for children 3-5 accompanied by an adult.*



*Sponsored by the Friends of Barr Lake State Park.*

## Princesses Day! Reindeer Day!

Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 1pm - 4pm

Come by and meet Elsa & Anna, Reggie and Riley! Get your photo taken with them too! We'll also have reindeer arts and crafts and reindeer snacks! No holiday celebration is complete without the Princesses and the reindeer, and these are especially nice! This event will take place at the Nature Center. Advanced registration is required and \$2 per person admission fee will be collected via our Sign Up Genius website. Call 303-659-6005 to get the link. Children under two years old are free. Regular park entrance fee or annual pass will be required as usual.

## Special Archery Instruction FOR KIDS ages 6-16 y.o.

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am-1pm  
Turkey Shoot!!!

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am-1pm  
Snowflake Shoot!!!



Are you a kid who is interested in trying Archery? CPW staff will be on hand with loaner equipment to show you the proper and safe way to shoot. (No REAL turkeys are involved, although there might be real snowflakes floating in the air! Dress for the weather!) Number of participants limited, so registration is required. *Call the Nature Center 303-659-6005 to reserve your spot!*

## Live & Learn Workshops!

### FULL MOON HIKES



Envision yourself taking an evening hike while experiencing the rising full moon. Explore Barr Lake at dusk with Park Naturalists and enjoy a fall evening outdoors! **Please RSVP 303-659-6005 Limited to 15 participants.**

**TOPIC: Trek through History**

Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm



Walk through the history of Barr Lake on this informative stroll through time. Please meet at the **Boat Ramp** area. *Suitable for all ages, dress for the outdoors. DOGS ARE WELCOME (on a 6' leash)!*

**TOPIC: Day After the Winter Solstice Moon Hike**

Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm



Bundle up and share part of the longest night of the year with Naturalist Larry which happens to be two days before the full moon (also called the Cold Moon.) *Suitable for all ages, dress for the outdoors.* All ages welcome; meet at the Nature Center.

### Wood Slice Ornaments

with Gallery on the Go!

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 5pm

This open house style event allows you to come and craft any time during the afternoon. Allow at least 1 hour to create a minimum 5 ornaments; paint and paint markers, transfer paper, and all other supplies provided. Class costs \$20 per person. Call the Nature Center 303-659-6005 to register and to get the PayPal address for sending payment. 20% of your registration will be donated to the Friends of Barr Lake. Payment by cash or check at the Nature Center or by PayPal to **paypal.me/GOTGtarajones** with "Barr Lake" in the notes.

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## Holiday Chalk & Talk with Judy

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 3pm

Join park volunteer/artist Judy Jones for an afternoon of fun, laughs and chatting while making holiday ornaments & custom gift tags. Class costs \$30 per person and all supplies are provided. This event is limited to 15 participants, so call the Nature Center 303-659-6005 to register and to get the PayPal address for sending payment. 20% of your registration will be donated to the Friends of Barr Lake.

## Archery Program

Sunday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> & Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at 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, ages 6 to adult, so registration is required. Call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to register



## Adult Polymer Clay

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm

Unleash your creativity and learn how to make a fun sculpture or ornament out of polymer clay. Limited to 10 participants 16 or older. Supplies provided. Please call to RSVP - 303-659-6005

## Wild For Photography – A Barr Lake Photo

*Club* 2nd Sundays of the month @ 2:00pm



**Winter hours! 2PM!** Join a park volunteer (or two) and fellow park enthusiasts for a slow-paced photo-tour at Barr Lake! Experienced photogs to beginner level snap-shooters and

everything in between – the emphasis is on taking your time and enjoying quiet Sunday evenings in the park. Share tips and stories with fellow photogs. *To RSVP, call 303-659-6005.*

**November 10th** – Eagle Express trip to the Bergman Barn – **limit 10 participants**

**December 8th** – Boat Ramp Shore Stroll

## Take a Hike at Barr Lake!

### National Take-a-Hike Day

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 10am

With over 60,000 miles of trails in the National Trail System across the 50 states, there is no lack of opportunity to take a hike. Come enjoy Barr Lake's many trails while celebrating this healthy holiday with a Ranger-led hike at 10AM.



## Nature Walk & Talk

Fridays, November 15<sup>th</sup> & December 13<sup>th</sup>

Saturdays, November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> & December 7<sup>th</sup>

All walks are at 10am

Share your knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm with other Barr Lake visitors and volunteers as we discover the park's hidden treasures. No RSVP required; just show up in your walking shoes. Program designed for adults but kids are welcome. Meet at the Nature Center, dress for the weather because we're going, rain, snow or shine.

## The Great Waddle Walk-off

*(Also known as Fresh Air Friday Colorado!)*

Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am

Thinking you might over-do it at Thanksgiving? It's all about family, friends and delicious food, but wouldn't it be nice to add an adventure in the great outdoors, where you can stretch your legs and fill your lungs with wonderful fresh air? Come to Barr Lake State Park! We have a peaceful 3-mile stroll planned that is the perfect way to socialize with old friends and maybe make a few new ones, all while enjoying Mother Nature. Dogs are welcome too! Held in conjunction with Colorado Parks & Wildlife's Fresh Air Friday, so enjoy **free admission** to the park! CPW encourages you to take some time this Thanksgiving weekend to explore and make new memories with the people you love. Turn Black Friday into a blue skies Friday, a green trees Friday, a white snow Friday... a Fresh Air Friday! #FreshAirFridayCO! **HAVE FUN!**

## Veterans Day



Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 2pm

Barr Lake State Park salutes our veterans with free park admission and Eagle Express rides for you and your family into the wildlife refuge. Enjoy a bowl of warm chili in the Nature Center after your tour, sponsored by the Friends of Barr Lake. Tours start at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm. **Please call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to reserve your seats on the Eagle Express which is limited to 13 passengers.**

**NOTE:** All programs, services and activities of Colorado Parks and Wildlife are operated in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation as a result of a disability, please submit your request to Tracy Gripp, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, [6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216](http://6060Broadway.com) or 303-291-7485 or [tracy.gripp@state.co.us](mailto:tracy.gripp@state.co.us). To assure that Colorado Parks and Wildlife can meet your needs, please notify Tracy Gripp of your request at least seven working days prior to the scheduled event.

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## Off-site Events

### Brighton Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk

**Saturday, Nov 23rd 8:30am to noon**

If you are running the annual Turkey Trot, please drop by to say "hi" to Talon the CPW Mascot, park staff, and volunteers at the Brighton Recreation Center. We'll have information about Barr Lake. We hope to see you there.

### Operation FreeBird

**Saturday, November 23rd, 10am – 2pm**

#### NEW LOCATION!

Denver Mart

451 E 58th Ave

Denver, Colorado 80216-8470



Operation FreeBird is an event sponsored by the Adams County Sheriff's Office, the Adams County Sheriff's Foundation and 200+ community partners that give back to those less fortunate in the areas they serve. Each family that attends the event receives everything needed for a holiday meal. During the event, the participants are afforded the opportunity to visit with a number of resources to include medical, dental, grooming, job services and public assistance information. Talon the Red-tailed Hawk (CPW's mascot) will be there to cheer on the festivities! For more information, call Sr. Deputy Michael Kaiser at 303.655.3283

### Brighton Festival of Lights Parade

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

Join park staff and volunteers as we highlight our fully lighted patrol vehicle and boat to join in the celebration of the "A Hometown Holiday Tradition" parade in downtown Brighton.



## *Friends Spot!*

There's so much that Barr Lake State Park accomplishes that depends upon the Friends of Barr Lake State Park! From little things like paying to fix or replace broken binoculars, to supplying craft supplies at kids events throughout the year, Friends is there to help. You can help them by becoming a member or participating in their fundraisers such as are listed below.

### ★ BEERS WITH FRIENDS FUNDRAISER ★

**Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 5pm – 8pm**

**Big Choice Brewery** 21 S 1st Ave, Brighton, CO 80601

(303) 498-0150

Join the Friends of Barr Lake at Big Choice Brewery for craft beer and gourmet pizza! A portion of your tab automatically is donated to the Friends of Barr Lake for their Bergman Barn Restoration project! No

special coupons or fancy passwords – just show up hungry and thirsty for delicious, regionally crafted delights! It supports both Barr Lake State Park and a local business. No RSVP required.

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## ★ ANNUAL CHILI CONTEST ★

Held in conjunction with the Winter Wonders Holiday Trail on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 6pm – 9pm. Hit us with your best shot and warm your tummy at the same time. Entry donation of \$5 to go with a minimum 5-6 quarts of chili, or enjoy an unlimited Sampling Bowl for \$1 Toppings included!

### ★ VILLAGE IN "SWEET RETURNS" PIE CARDS! ★ Through December 31st or while supplies last.

This is the sweetest way yet to help the Friends and the park! Enjoy an award-winning Village Inn pie by donating \$12.50 to the Friends of Barr Lake to get a whole pie card! You can use to choose to pick up a pie at a participating Village Inn, such as the one in Brighton on Kuner Rd. Select from the classic fruits like Country Apple, Strawberry Rhubarb or Triple Berry to the smooth chocolate taste of French Silk or the tangy Lemon Supreme. You can use the cards as co-worker gifts, neighbor presents, or even have it handy if you're on your way to a party and need a hostess gift like a delicious pie! Alternatively (and best option of all), redeem it to get a pie as a present to yourself! You'll be doing the Friends a good turn any way you slice it! The cards will be available at the Barr Lake Nature Center. Please use cash or check to make your donation.

### NATURE-THEMED BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE PARK

Have you ever wanted a unique birthday party to honor your child's birthday? Parties will include a nature related craft and hike. Call the park to schedule your next celebration. Cost is \$5 per child or \$7 per child if requesting a themed cake provided by the park. Accompanying adults are free. \$7 per vehicle entrance fee still applies. Contact the Nature Center 303-659-6005 for additional information.

## Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Homeschool Programs

### Ecology Night Hike

**Wednesday, November 13, 2019 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**

Learn all about the crepuscular and nocturnal animals at Barr Lake Ages: 4 and up

Cost: \$5/child, \$1/adult

### Survival Skills

**Thursday, December 5, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - Noon**

Learn what it takes to survive the winter! Ages: 6 and up

Cost: \$5/child, \$1/adult

Register here for Homeschool Programs:  
[www.birdconservancy.org/homeschool](http://www.birdconservancy.org/homeschool)

### Birds of Winter Camp

**Monday-Tuesday, December 30-31, 2019. And**

**Thursday- Friday, January 2-3, 2020 from 9 am to 4 pm**

Join us as we learn all about how birds survive the winter as we go birding along Barr Lake's trails, do fun activities, make bird crafts and more! Ages: 5-12

Cost: \$168/ for all 4 days; scholarships are available.

Registration Opens November 1st at:

[www.birdconservancy.org/birdcamps](http://www.birdconservancy.org/birdcamps)