

# ELDORA HIGH COUNTRY

Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association

October 2008

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The ECA Mission is to improve civic conditions, to promote a feeling of good fellowship and sociability, to maintain the historic fabric, and to establish a reasonable balance between preservation and use of the natural environment in the Eldora area.

## Spencer Mountain – Our Mountain!

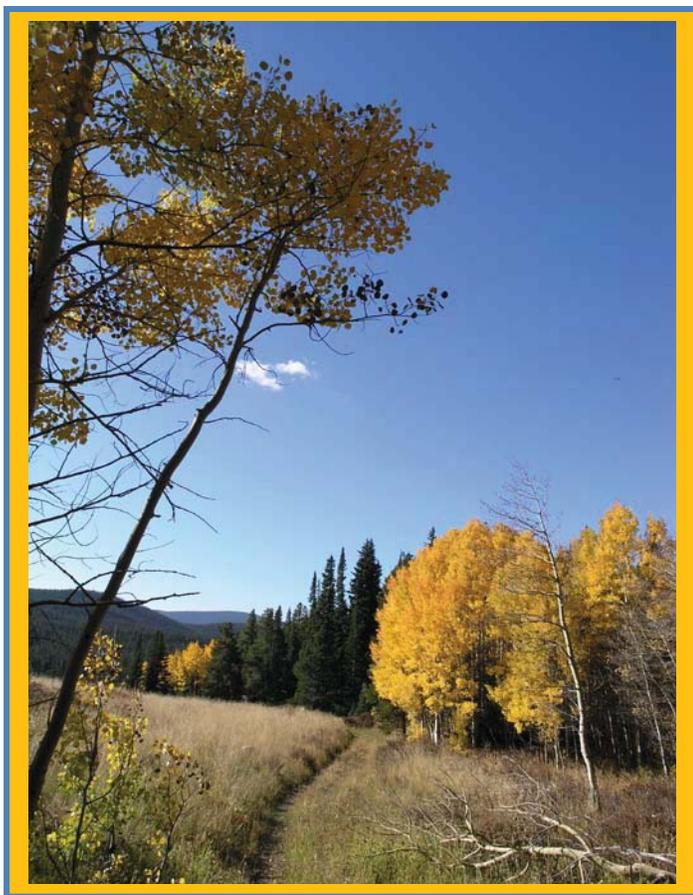


Photo by Diane Brown

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 6:00 PM – ECA Board Meeting at Godells (135 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street)

Friday, November 7, 2008 at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted 303-258-7273)

Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 6:00 PM – ECA Board Meeting at Godells (135 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street)

Friday, December 5, 2008 at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted at 303-258-7273)

Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 6:00 PM – Holiday Potluck at Fishers (1195 Eldorado Avenue)

Bring a generously sized potluck dish to share!

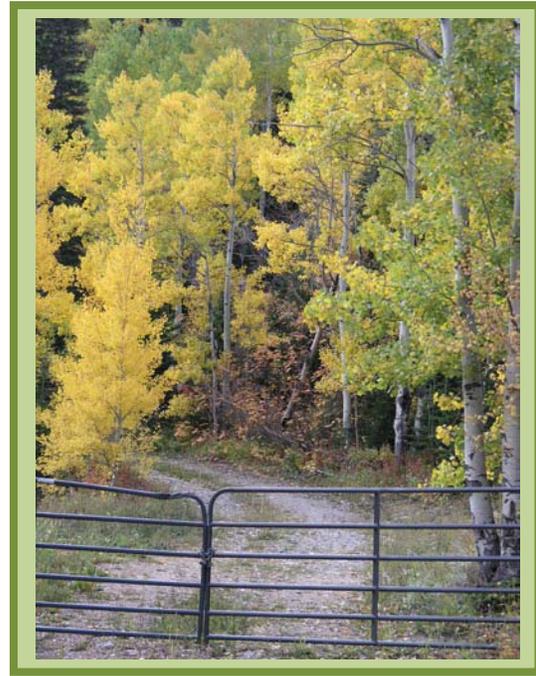
Thursday, January 15, 2009 - DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER!

Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 6:00 PM – ECA Board Meeting at Colburns (551 Washington Avenue)

## October President's Letter

At no time is it more apparent how beautiful a place we have the privilege of living in than in Eldora's spectacular autumn season. Upon our valley's beauty we can all agree. On other matters we do have diverse opinions.

Throughout Eldora's history there have been times when the community was called upon to make decisions that would affect the future of the town. Eldora was platted in 1897. In 1939 citizens voted on whether or not to continue to support the Eldora School. In 1973 when the town was disincorporated, there was a major split in community opinion that lasts to this day in some cases. In 1990 Eldora formed a National Historic District, a giant step in preserving the town's character. In 1999 townspeople considered, but turned down the concept of Rural Community District zoning



This past summer 2008 residents considered, and in a vote too close to consider a mandate, essentially rejected the County's Townsite Initiative proposal. This happened in part because of a lack of information, and in part because many Eldorans feel more secure in our partnership with the County and forestry zoning than in something unknown and poorly defined. In all of these decisions there were two distinct counterforces: development/speculation vs. historic/environmental preservation.

As President of the Eldora Civic Association I have asked the ECA board to explore and present in a factual manner in this and upcoming newsletters those Boulder County mandated issues that are most pressing upon our community at this time. The issues we plan to explore are:

- Road and alley vacations
- Hessie parking lot
- Onsite Waste Disposal Systems (septic systems)
- House size limits/Transfer of development rights/setbacks
- Build Smart/green building materials

Once our membership has had an opportunity to consider the issues, we plan to conduct a survey that will hopefully give the ECA Board a clear idea of how the majority of the membership feels.

Many people in Eldora are concerned about how new county regulations will impact them. Boulder County is not unusual in tightening of regulations. It is happening all over the country. Much like traffic regulations, building regulations are needed for the safety and welfare of the entire community. Water quality is mandated by the State of Colorado. Boulder County's survey of registered voters in the county shows that 74% of the people are satisfied with County government. In unincorporated Boulder County, where land-use restrictions put into place by the county are effective, 67% are satisfied.

Eldora is very complex in terms of how to make it all work for the benefit of people and environment. We will all have to do some give and take. We can solve a lot of problems if we work together and treat each other with respect.

With time comes knowledge. With age comes wisdom. I will work to the best of my ability to provide good leadership for the ECA membership for the next two years.

Diane Brown  
President, Eldora Civic Association

## ELDORA LAND PRESERVATION FUND REPORT

The ELPF is currently at \$14,410.67. The ELPF/BCPOS Foundation is now at \$5660.

Summer 2008 was a busy one with sales of the new 2009 Eldora Cabin Calendars and long-sleeved T-shirts. Many thanks to Jan Tafoya for taking care of sales over the winter and for hosting a Taste of Eldora. The Eldora Garden Tour was hosted by Marc and Laura Fisher this year and took in \$1399 including sales of ELPF merchandise. Thanks to Ted and Peggy Warren for donating the sales of their art prints at the Garden Tour. Earl Bolton walked around town from door to door and sold nearly half of Eldora Cabin calendars. Robert Goolsby donated several cases of honey, which sold out quickly and Joe Gordon donated 10 copies of his new book "Spirit Bears," which is about this area. A new category of memorial has been added in honor of beloved pets. Three unforgettable Eldora dogs, Elvira, Hank and Dinky May, were remembered with donations to the ELPF. We hope cat lovers will step up to the plate next!

At the Annual Meeting on August 23 the ECA Board presented Diane Brown and Dave Hallock with this beautiful watercolor painting by Ted Warren for their long time efforts on behalf of land land preservation in the Eldora area. It now hangs in a place of honor in their living room.



Many thanks to the following people for their generosity in contributing to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund!

### Donations to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund:

Gene and Gail Gitin  
O. H. and Rachel Frazier  
Sara Goolsby  
Carl and Donna Roberts in memory of Virginia Menke  
Gretchen Beatty  
Robert and Janice Bartelma  
Michael and Sharon Postlewait  
Robert Goolsby – honey money  
Bruce and Ann Marron  
Experimental Aviation Association  
Mary Commers  
John and Rita Wallace  
Joe Gordon – "Spirit Bear" books



"I love honey!"

### Donations to Eldora Land Preservation Fund/Boulder County Open Space Foundation:

Audrey Godell in memory of Hank and Dinky May; Paul & Phyllis Rock  
Nancy Conklin in memory of Ray Conklin; Kathryn and James Rolfes

Minutes  
ECA Board Meeting  
September 11, 2008

Diane Brown, president, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.  
Minutes for 8/23 Board Meeting re election of new officers were reviewed and approved.  
Financial Report for end of year 2007/2008 was presented to Board Members.

Beetle Spraying at Eldora Ski Resort:  
Gunda Starkey & John Ooyen presented draft letter against spraying of carbaryl for pine beetles at Eldora Ski Resort. Audrey will edit, Board/John/Gunda will review. Audrey will send final to ski area, USFS, and Boulder County.



Photo by  
Audrey Godell

Annual Plan: 1) Comprehensive study of Eldora street and alley vacation issues; 2) Update of 1994 Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan (EEPP); 3) Survey of membership on community issues summer 2009; 4) Bylaw revisions.

13 ECA Board Committees are still mandated by current bylaws. The 2006 reduction to 5 committees was not approved by members. So far the following people have volunteered:

EEPP:	Mike McCoy, Dave Hallock, Everett Colburn
ELPF:	Diane Brown
Newsletter:	Diane Brown
Weeds:	Diane Brown, Gunda Starkey
Transportation:	Everett Colburn, Liz Ivey, Gunda Starkey
Social:	Everett Colburn
Community Pres:	Everett Colburn, Diane Brown
Ski Area	Matt Phillips, Mike McCoy, Audrey Godell
USFS	Matt Phillips, Mike McCoy, Audrey Godell
Boulder County:	Matt Phillips, Mike McCoy, Audrey Godell
Nominations:	Entire ECA Board
History:	Everett Colburn
Road Cleanup:	Matt Phillips

ELPF Committee Report: Account has \$14,219.80. Dave and Diane are working with Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff to identify another parcel of land to consider for acquisition. Criteria include property not heavily impacted by human activity, riparian property, and/or property that is adjacent to public open space. They are looking closely at Spencer Mountain mining claims.

Preliminary action on Streets and Alleys:

- Audrey to contact Boulder County Land Use re: status of Eldora plat map & availability of GIS layers, and request a copy of the map from Boulder County Assessor's Office.
- Board to review/update current official ECA vacation policy

- Board to compare Boulder County vacation policy with that of ECA policy and resolve inconsistencies.

Remote Board members participation in meetings: Everett to resolve by Oct. 16

Fire House Use for community events: Matt to contact Rick Dirr/Beth Davis re using Fire House for history night (8/12/09 3pm-midnight) and yard sale (7/24/09 noon-7/26 10am).

Two motions were made and unanimously approved:

- 1) In the four 2008/2009 newsletter issues, separately address the following subjects in sequence: street and alley vacations, septic rules, Hessie parking lot, and house size/TDRs/setbacks. The goal of this is to inform Eldorans in preparation for a Community Survey (summer '09) to guide the Board in resolving community concerns with County regulations. Articles will be reviewed and approved by Board. Above sequence subject to change if needed.
- 2) Mike McCoy and Dave Hallock to investigate granting entities to fund ELPF for the \$6,000 needed (above the Boulder County assistance of \$10,000) to update the EPPP. ELPF's 501(c3) status through BCPOS ensures that we can apply for grants using the non-profit status.

Important Dates – 2008-2009:

October 1, 2008	Wednesday		Deadline for content next newsletter
October 16, 2008	Thursday	6pm	ECA Board Meeting at Everett's
November 13, 2008	Thursday	6pm	ECA Board Meeting at Audrey's
January 15, 2009	Thursday	6pm	ECA Board Meeting at Everett's
March 12, 2009	Thursday	6pm	ECA Board Meeting at Audrey's
May 14, 2009	Thursday	6pm	ECA Board Meeting at Diane's
July 9, 2009	Friday		ECA voting member reg. deadline
July 11, 2009	Saturday	2pm	Annual Business Meeting
July 25, 2009	Saturday	9am-3pm	Community Yard Sale
August 12, 2009	Wednesday	7 pm	History night
August 15, 2009	Saturday	12-2pm	Town picnic
August 22, 2009	Saturday	2pm	Annual Meeting

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous approval at 6:30 pm.

Kemp Pasture  
facing Tennessee Mountain  
with aspen aglow

Photo by  
Diane J. Brown



## Eldora's Streets and Alleys: The Future

(This article was reviewed and approved by the ECA Board.)

Boulder County is in the process of formulating a plan for Eldora's undeveloped platted streets and alleys. Up until now requests by property owners to absorb adjacent streets and alleys under their private title (referred to as street or alley vacations) have been dealt with on a case by case basis. The County feels that this system has resulted in inconsistent outcomes, conflicts among neighbors, and has taken too much staff time. Having an over-riding plan in place for the streets and alleys would help to ameliorate these problems.

**Background:** Back around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Eldora was a settlement of miners with dreams of gold and entrepreneurs who made money off of those dreamers. Eldora's founders applied for township from the state of Colorado. As part of this process the applicants mapped out their vision of where the public rights of way (ROWs) would eventually be developed in the town. These platted streets and alleys became the property of the Town, then later became the property of Boulder County after Eldora's disincorporation in the 1970s. Many ROWs were never developed for access or transportation as originally planned. They have remained in a relatively undisturbed natural state for nearly 100 years, forming a collective greenbelt of native vegetation and habitat corridors for wild residents.

Since disincorporation, over 35 requests to vacate one or more streets or alleys have been brought before the County Commissioners by individual property owners. Some of these requests were based on resolving title problems, some on enlarging properties so that planned cabin expansions would comply with setback requirements. Most of these requests for street or alley vacations have been granted, sometimes with conditions such as continued pedestrian access or the prohibition of new building occurring in the former right of way.

Two new precedents were set this year regarding vacations: 1) a "partial" vacation was granted on platted 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to resolve a title problem in which only that part of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street actually occupied by the cabin was vacated (a "footprint" vacation), leaving the rest in the public domain for access to the creek, and 2) a land exchange in which Boulder County granted a controversial large-scale vacation involving numerous ROWs totaling over one acre to a private property owner in exchange for an historic foot trail.

**Status of County Planning:** According to Boulder County Land Use, the County is in the very early stages of formulating a plan for Eldora's ROWs. The plan will be based around the concepts of the County Comprehensive Plan and the goal of preserving the character of Eldora. The plan will be developed working in conjunction with the Eldora community. The County is currently working on gathering the data that will be needed to make decisions. This includes clarifying which properties have been vacated, identifying which streets and alleys have permitted and unpermitted structures and/or septic built within them, verifying property and ROW boundaries against County maps, verifying vegetation maps derived from aerial photos, and identifying on-site wastewater system (OWS) needs. They will need the help of Eldorans in "ground-truthing" the data. The County plans to meet with the Eldora community next summer to present the data they have compiled and discuss and get input on various planning ideas. Currently there is a moratorium on vacating streets and alleys until a set of guidelines is developed.

Though Eldora did not formally adopt the Townsite Planning Initiative this summer (2008), we can still dialogue with the County and influence the future of our undeveloped streets and alleys. Contact information is found at the end of this article.

**Considerations:** Many of the undeveloped platted streets and alleys have remained in a relatively undisturbed natural state for nearly 100 years. They have been called "paper streets," the implication being that since they do not contribute to vehicular transportation they serve no function. However, Eldora's system of undeveloped streets and alleys have functioned to reduce building density and contribute to Eldora's rural character. Under most conditions a community would have to spend millions to plan and purchase a greenbelt system. Eldora already has one in place at no cost.

As an Eldora resident recently put it, "Eldora provides us the opportunity to live in nature." The experience of observing moose, elk, bobcat, pine marten, and native wildflowers is a value that many Eldorans share. If we don't put a high priority on "preserving" versus "using" the undeveloped streets and alleys we will severely degrade this opportunity.

Preserving the undeveloped ROWs is synonymous with preserving Eldora's historic character, as evidenced by the National Register of Historic Places description of the Eldora Historic District: "The Eldora Historic District contains a significant amount of open space, a distinctive component of the district's rural character. Fencing is limited and most blocks contain large blocks of vacant lands. The townsite and the surrounding land contain a mix of open fields and wooded areas."

Other needs of the community must be considered along with conservation of the undeveloped ROWs. This includes 1) resolution of title problems i.e. cases where a ROW runs right through someone's cabin; 2) the impact of the new Public Health rules regarding OWS; 3) preserving historic pedestrian access; 4) protecting property owners from the development of new public trail systems and excessive use of existing historic foot trails; 5) allowing ROWs to be included in calculating setback distances for improvement of structures within existing footprints; and 6) maintaining ROWs if needed for access to cabins. A community-wide assessment is needed to identify, map and rate each undeveloped street and alley for these aspects as well as ecological values, wildlife habitat and movement/migration pathways, native vegetation/seedbanks, and the rural and historic character of Eldora. The assessment would lead to an integrated plan for Eldora's undeveloped streets and alleys.

**Possibilities:** The possibilities are endless. Below are three ideas as food for thought:

- 1) **Wildlife Corridor Designation:** This alternative would place a high priority on preserving as many of the undeveloped ROWs as possible for their wildlife habitat and native vegetation/seedbanks. Boulder County would designate much of Eldora's green network of undeveloped platted streets and alleys as a contiguous "Wildlife Corridor System." This would NOT function as a public hiking trail system but would be a preserve system to protect wildlife, the native vegetation and its seed bank, water quality, air quality, and the natural beauty of Eldora. Title problems of cabins that impinge on platted streets and alleys must be resolved simultaneously through partial vacations or through land exchanges. Properties lying adjacent to ROWs whose OWS requirements would be met by a partial vacation of the ROW would be given special consideration, as would those needing the extra land to allow improvement of structures within existing footprints. Each undeveloped street and alley would be assessed for its "wildlife corridor" significance by a group of local residents and naturalists in conjunction with County specialists. Streets and alleys dedicated to the Wildlife Corridor would never be vacated, and conservation easements would permanently protect them from development.

The following two possibilities would have to include a hydrological assessment regarding the number of septic systems that can be allowed in Eldora before acceptable levels of E coli and other indicators in the ground water are exceeded:

- 2) **Utilize some ROWs for leach fields as appropriate:** An adjacent ROW would be used when such use would enable a property to meet OWS requirements. After the leach field is built, all attempts would be made to restore the leach field to its native state. The ROW would remain in public ownership as a wildlife corridor.
- 3) **Revert all ROWs to adjacent property owners:** A mass vacation of all ROWs would take place, with all ROWs being absorbed under the title of the adjacent property owners. Individual property owners would then be able to decide how they want to use their newly acquired property. This would enable some property owners to now meet the County OWS requirement of 100 ft. distance between leach fields and surrounding wells, and to expand their cabins while staying within the required boundary setback distances. Some owners may choose to put conservation easements on their newly acquired property with the advantage of "cash back" from the state based on their lowered rate of taxation.

Contact Information: Dale Case (Landuse) [dcase@co.boulder.co.us](mailto:dcase@co.boulder.co.us), Will Toor (County Commissioner) [wtoor@co.boulder.co.us](mailto:wtoor@co.boulder.co.us), Ben Pearlman (County Commissioner) [bpearlman@co.boulder.co.us](mailto:bpearlman@co.boulder.co.us), Cindy Dominico (County Commissioner) [cdominico@co.boulder.co.us](mailto:cdominico@co.boulder.co.us). County Commissioner general phone number: 303-441-3500. Boulder County Land Use Dept.: 303-441-3930.

Send your comments to ECA for inclusion in the Eldora High Country to: [db@eldoraweb.com](mailto:db@eldoraweb.com) or [ag@eldoraweb.com](mailto:ag@eldoraweb.com). Depending on the number of comments we receive, we may use excerpts.

## Eldora Civic Association

### Policy Statement on Proposed Vacations of Roads and Alleys June 8, 1997

In keeping with recommendations from the Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan (EPPP) to preserve pedestrian access to local trails and to implement land conservation priorities, the board of trustees of the Eldora Civic Association (ECA) adopts the following policy regarding proposed vacations of platted roads and right of way in Eldora.

In general, vacations of platted roads and alleys in the Eldora valley are discouraged. A proposal to vacate a portion of land is to remove it from the public domain. Therefore, in our opinion, the only type of proposal to vacate that should be favorably considered by the county commissioners is a proposal that clearly serves the public and environmental interests of the Eldora valley.

To help delineate these public and environmental interests, the board has established the following criteria regarding proposals to vacate roads or alley ways:

1. Rights of way should be preserved for: all existing pedestrian trails; trails that that have fallen into disuse; and potential future trails in selected areas.
2. Public access to Middle Boulder Creek should be preserved.
3. Homeowners' access to existing homes should be preserved.
4. Ecologically sensitive areas such as riparian area, wetlands, old-growth forest, critical wildlife habitats, etc., should be preserved.
5. Homes presently sited on public rights of way should be allowed to vacate as necessary to secure clear title.
6. Proposals to vacate to facilitate construction of new homes are discouraged.
7. Regarding proposals to vacate that facilitate development should be compatible with the topography, vegetation, and general character of the Eldora valley.
8. Proposals to vacate that do not meet the above listed criteria should be considered on a case-by-case basis when the property owner makes additional provisions to the proposal that are clearly in the interest of the Eldora community. Such provisions might include the granting of pedestrian easements, land exchanges, or other similar contributions toward open space and land preservation.

This policy statement was affirmed by unanimous vote of the board of trustees of the Eldora Civic Association on June 8, 1997.

"Hmmm,  
do I have  
any say in  
this matter?"



Photo by Diane J. Brown

## **Boulder County Initiates Study of the Platted Roads, Alleys and Rights-of-Way in Eldora**

Garry Sanfaçon  
Boulder County Land Use Department



Photo by Audrey Godell

Boulder County Land Use, Transportation, and Public Health are moving forward with a study of the platted roads, alleys and rights-of-way. As part of the study, the County will be looking at the related issues including, but not limited to: access (pedestrian and vehicle), structural trespass, Onsite Wastewater Systems (OWS), vacations and rights-of-way impacts to lot layouts and sizes.

As a first step, the County is compiling data and developing maps to provide an accurate picture of the existing conditions in Eldora. This data will be made available to the Eldora community for review so people can identify errors and omissions and suggest additional data points.

In addition, the County plans to offer educational workshops on a number of pertinent topics such as SepticSmart, Site Plan Review, BuildSmart, and the Transfer Development Credits Program. Other ideas for topics are welcome.

Once the data has been compiled, analyzed and reviewed by the community, the County will develop possible draft alternatives.

The County will convene meetings during the summer of 2009, when there is the highest number of Eldorans in the community, to provide direction on the desired policy recommendations.

A number of approaches will be employed so community members can participate in all phases of this process including: community meetings, the County website, newsletters, email, and mailings.

The County is committed to make this process as inclusive and transparent as possible. I encourage you to contact me with your ideas and suggestions about helping me reach and include all Eldorans. If you are not currently on my email list and would like to be, please let me know.

Garry Sanfaçon at 720-564-2642 or [gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org](mailto:gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org) or visit the Boulder County Land Use website at [http://www.bouldercounty.org/lu/townsite\\_planning](http://www.bouldercounty.org/lu/townsite_planning).

A Berry Beary Season  
By Diane J. Brown

Black Bear  
Photo by  
Carlye Calvin



Eldora is unique in that its human population seems to delight in seeing wildlife and in learning how to coexist with the many creatures that share our valley. So far no one in Eldora has called the Division of Wildlife to have an animal removed or destroyed, and we hope it will forever stay that way. This season there have been many sightings of bear, moose, mountain lions and more.

The Boltons have been visited by bears for a number of years now, the first time being when a bear smelled the ripe peaches they stored in their shed. The bear had no trouble prying the lock off and proceeded to lustily gorge itself on peaches. It has come back several times to break and enter and get into a container of birdseed. Birdfeeders are often the initial attractant for wildlife because small rodents come for the seed, bringing after them foxes, coyotes and even bobcats.

People who hike on little used trails or who bushwhack into territory seldom used by humans are more likely to encounter bears, lions and moose. Those who are out and about from dusk to dawn are also prone to wildlife sightings. Jeanne McCleery and Bruce and Ann Marron spotted a mountain lion twice in one morning on the Marysville trail. Suddenly they realized that their dog Fuji was missing. After hunting frantically for him, Fuji was thankfully found higher up the trail swimming in Peterson Lake. Greg Massey was walking along Eldora Road at dusk when he surprised a bear in the creek. The bear decided to make a run for it across the road and up the hill, spraying Greg with water droplets from its huge body.

Author Jane Wodening, who lived year round for quite a few years in a tiny rustic cabin three miles up the Fourth of July Canyon at an elevation of just less than ten thousand feet, gave us permission to quote from her book "First Presence" and the chapter entitled "The Bear:" "In the following year, in July, I walked away on a five-day backpacking trip and she (the bear) must have broken into the cabin early on in those five days, because if she had eaten all that she ate at one sitting, she would surely have died. However, she did not disturb my ham radios nor my books, did not go upstairs to rummage at all. She only ate, poking a claw into each container to sniff the contents and decipher if it was worth opening, tearing open plastic bags to eat the contents, climbing onto the counter to reach containers on the high shelf."

Lee Evans of Arapaho Ranch writes in his book "From Happy Valley to the Mountaintop": "I can still smell the wonderful aroma wafting in the air above a good patch of huckleberries. Bears like huckleberries, too. When the smell of a bear overpowered the fragrance of huckleberries, I kept a very watchful eye as I picked. The patches could be found somewhere above 10,000 feet elevation."

My husband Dave also notices the heady scent of huckleberries long before he finds them. No wonder then that bears with their keen sense of smell are attracted to the irresistible ripe huckleberries. Dave almost always hikes with our dog Huck, whose eyes have a wider field of vision than human eyes and are excellent at detecting motion and shapes. Huck's nose smells things far sooner than Dave would. He serves as an early detection system when it comes to awareness of the presence of wildlife. Where there are berries, there are bears; where there are deer, there are mountain lions; and where there are ponds and wetlands, there are moose that munch the aquatic vegetation, whence cometh the moose pies that some dogs love to roll in.

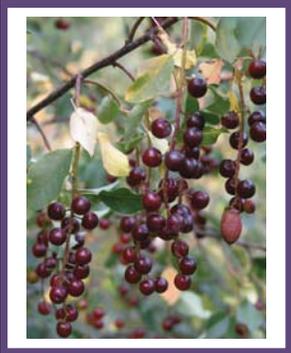
## Eldora Edibles

### Wild Red Raspberry – *Rubus idaeus*



This berry is a favorite of bears chipmunks, ground squirrels, raccoons, foxes, and hikers who pass them on trails. Laura Fisher, AKA, she who cheats the bears, collects raspberries as soon as they ripen and makes them into tasty jam or freezes them. She also uses them to prepare Virginia Menke's recipe for raspberry liqueur from the Happy Valley Cookbook: 2 pkgs. frozen berries, 2 cups sugar and one fifth of vodka or gin. Stir to dissolve sugar. Store in glass jar with lid for 4 to 6 weeks. Strain through cloth. Drinking this reminds you of the warm days of summer on a cold winter night.

### Chokecherry – *Padus virginiana*



The bitter fruits of chokecherry are not palatable to humans unless they are mixed with a lot of sugar. However bears don't mind at all as is evidenced by the large amount of chokecherry seeds in their droppings come fall. Harriett Hansen soaks the cherries in salt water to let any worms float to the top, then rinses them with cold water. Next she boils them, then puts them through a sieve to release dark red juice. She adds sugar to the juice and cooks up a tasty chokecherry syrup to serve with her Danish ebleskivers.

### Squaw currant - *Ribes cereum*



With its bright red juicy fruits squaw currant attract birds and mammals small and large. As soon as they ripen, they disappear from the shrub. Native Americans used this fruit mixed with dried meat and fat to make pemmican. The berries, although described by some as insipid, make a very fine, resinous homemade wine. Deer browse the tender new growth of this shrub. Huck likes to scratch his back on the low branches and get ticks!

### Wild rose – *Rosa woodsii*



After the sweet pink roses bloom, rose hips begin to form. Laura Fisher reports that the red rose hips on Bryan Avenue are enormous this year, the size of crabapples. Todd and Lisa's dogs crave rosehips, perhaps because they are an excellent source of vitamin C. If you dry rose hips on newspaper, and then put them in a glass jar with a lid on a sunny window sill, when you open the jar in the depths of winter, you will smell the sweet fragrance of summer roses.

### Serviceberry or Juneberry – *Amelanchior alnifolia*



Serviceberry, pronounced sarvisberry by some, is a beautiful shrub with reddish bark, lovely white flowers in spring and dark blue berries in fall. Robins and Townsend's solitaires flock to this shrub as soon as the fruits ripen. Chipmunks run up the branches, tipping the fruit downward. Early pioneers used the berries for jam and pies. Laura's dog Maisie fancies serviceberries as a trail snack.

**A Look at Nature**  
**“ Here, Kitty, Kitty, Kitty”**  
**by Dave Hallock**

Though mountain lions are generally reclusive, they are seen around Eldora irregularly, and maybe more regularly than some desire. But we have had a strange lion observed this past summer. What is strange about it? It has a collar, as in radio-collar.

Photo taken  
on Arapaho Ranch  
by Maryanne Flynn  
from the window of  
her truck.

Note collar, radio  
transmitter and  
green ear tags.



The Colorado Division of Wildlife, in conjunction with northern Front Range open space and park organizations, began studying the habits of urban lions in early 2007. There have been a lot of questions over the years as to how these lions utilize an urban/suburban landscape. A common theory has been that older, well-established lions have defined territories centered on the more remote areas, while the younger “teen-agers” spend more time around human settlements getting into trouble. But we really don’t know.

So the Division of Wildlife started capturing lions and putting collars on them to track their locations. The collars gather the animal’s location approximately five times a day using global positioning systems (GPS) and satellites. A field worker getting close enough to the lion to download the information, which is kept in the collar, gathers the data.

What is known at this early date is that male lions have very large territories, and there are several female territories within this area. The Eldora area is only transitional and summer range. The lions follow the deer and elk: when they are not present, neither are the lions.

So the lion seen around town this summer? Well, it was, in the most scientific of terms, a “Boulder Bad Kitty.” It was a lion caught around Boulder and moved up to this area. Well, I figure that is appropriate. We send them our wastewater and they can send us their bad cats!

Bobcats are another cat species seen in our area. They are much smaller than lions, often with more reddish coloration to their coat, and with short, stubby tails. Mountain lions are very distinctive in their movement, with an almost slinking like style, and a very long tail. I stumbled upon a bobcat a few days ago, while returning from Caribou Flats on the jeep road. A group of Steller’s jays were making a lot of raucous calls. That generally means something is there that they don’t like, like an owl or carnivore. As I was conducting an Indian Peaks Fall Bird Count, I was hoping for the owl. But with closer movement, a bobcat sprung from the ground and took off.

Lynx is the last of the cats to inhabit our area. In earlier times they were common in Colorado, but were wiped out. They have recently been reintroduced to the high elevation forests in the western part of the state. Are they present here? Probably, but it is hard to prove.

This past summer there was a photo in *The Mountain-Ear* that was identified as a lynx. Several copies of the photos of this cat were sent to me in hoping to determine if it was a Lynx or not. But, I don’t know if I have ever seen a lynx. So, I sent them on to Jim Halfpenny in Montana. Jim once lived in Boulder County, was director of the Mountain Field Station of the University of Colorado (located off of the Peak-to-Peak Highway

between Nederland and Ward), and is author of the book “*A Field Guide to Mammal Tracking in Western America.*” Jim emphasized that he relied on tracks more than photos, but his leaning was the cat in the photos was a bobcat. He sent the photos off to two other individuals with expertise on the animals. Their conclusions: one thought it was a bobcat and one thought it was a lynx. So, here we have three good resources with the animals, and we get a two-to-one vote of leaning towards a bobcat.



### **Bobcat or Lynx?**

From this experience, I have concluded that it is very difficult in the field to distinguish between the two. We may think that the cat is larger, with larger feet, or with larger ear tufts, but there are bobcats with markings and characteristics that may look like a lynx. Folks that claim they have seen a lynx, may have seen one, but it is hard to prove. For myself, at this time I would only confirm that it is a lynx if: 1) it has a radio-collar (no bobcat studies are occurring); 2) it has a track (foot print) that matches a lynx (this is probably the most distinguishing factor, and best seen during the winter); and 3) DNA of hair or dropping samples can determine that it is a lynx.

Bobcat Kitten  
taken by  
Jeanne McCleery  
in her back yard in  
Tucson, Arizona



Boulder County Audubon Society presented Dave Hallock its 2008 Community Conservation Award for 30 years of unparalleled leadership in studying, monitoring and protecting Boulder County’s wild places.

## ELDORA NOW AND THEN

The Eldora we grew up in and the Eldora of present are becoming very different. The front range is growing rapidly and putting pressure on the mountain towns and wilderness to the west. The mentality is more materialistic and there is less connectivity with the land, the species that inhabit the land and the community. The building becomes the center of attention. When we were young, the house was no more than the base camp that we operated out of. We got up early, met up with each other along with our dogs and were off to build a raft or go on a hike or pick some raspberries, or whatever. We might or might not go back to base camp for lunch or we might pack a lunch and get back in time for dinner. After dinner we would go out and raise hell or go for a walk along the stream until the sun set and beyond and then sleep under the stars or in a tent, a tree house or whatever. Once in a while we pulled out the old tin washtub and took a bath if there was time.

Our parents never put much stock into the house either. It was more of a getaway, a place to come to unite friendship and family. I remember when Mark and your dad built your cabin. They enjoyed building it and even let us help a little or maybe get in the way a little, but it was a place to use as the base camp.

I will always remember the Woodland Flats trip we all took in about 1956. This was a wonderful camping trip where we fished, hiked and read together in the evenings around the embers of a campfire and a kerosene lamp. It was the last great trip of my childhood. It was the last time we really all were able to enjoy what we grew up with the way it was. This trip was the culmination of Eldora in a nutshell. We spent more than a week in a very special place which I visit each year just to remember what it was like. There are still a couple of rocks left from the old fire ring from 52 years ago (Your mom and dad, my folks, our sisters who we fought with constantly and Mark.) It would be hard to pull all this back but we can remember it the way it was and try to hold on to a little piece of it.

I give a course for the Sierra Club each year and have for the past 20 years. I model the course around the way I grew up and what we have lost and are losing. Many of the people who take the course want to continue discussion. I take them on a hike to a desert overlook from a vantage point of about 7000 feet. I think this gives people a sense of PLACE that they have lost or never had. It is powerful because it emits an emotional moment, a moment that they want to retain and revisit.

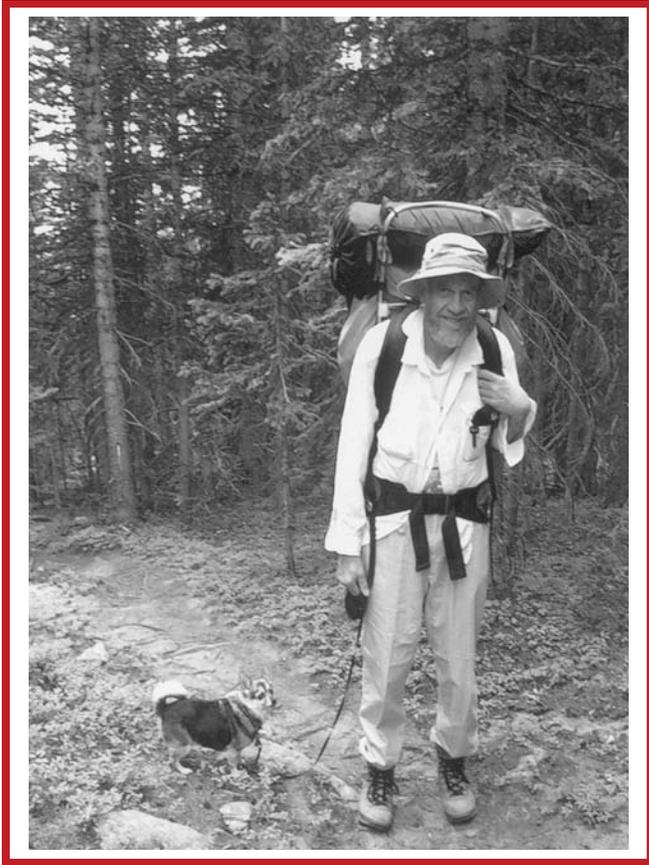
The way you and I see Eldora comes from a deep philosophical construct that resides in our inner core. We are fortunate to retain the essence of this and need to pass it on. It is much deeper than a planning process; it is a connectivity process. Can this be instilled in the newcomers? Can they understand the way it was? I think it is our job to offer discussion that revolves around commitment to a bigger process than personal aspiration.

We need to live within our means. Bigger houses translate into more old growth forest clear cuts, more fuel to heat the home, more water to flush more toilets, more showers to deplete ground water and the list goes on. We need to put more emphasis on quality not quantity of life and this resides in our inner core.

Mike McCoy



Dinky May McCoy  
December 1991 to July 10, 2008  
By Michael McCoy



My staff gave Dinky to me on my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was wrapped in a big box, but shortly had a little black nose protruding through the handle of it, giving away any surprise.

This was certainly symptomatic of things to come. She just fit in the palm of my hand. She was always tenacious and full of energy. As one of my friends put it, "She really was an amazing trail dog and a great hymn singer, too! She led a remarkable life and had definitely gone where no Chihuahua had gone before. Her personality was a big dog trapped in a little dog body."

Dinky never weighed more than ten pounds and went everywhere with us. She went to all the high lakes, including King, Bob, Betty, Devils Thumb, Woodland, Storm, Diamond, Jasper, Dorothy, Caribou, Long, Isabelle and Blue. She crossed most of the local passes and backpacked with us over the Divide into places like Coyote Creek. She walked to all these places under her own power and on one occasion walked from Eldora to Bob and Betty Lakes and then back over the false Divide dropping into the Woodland Lake basin in snow, sleet and ice turning to rain and back to Eldora in one day.

On one occasion John Brocklehurst and I took her on a hike to the top of Mount Audubon. We met a group on the way up having some trouble with new fallen snow and ice on a boulder field. Dinky went right by them and had no problem navigating the conditions. They were amazed at her size and agility. They inquired about her breed. I told them that she was an Alpenstumpf bred in Switzerland for climbing over difficult glacial terrain and the pads on her feet were like suction cups adapted for such conditions. It stopped the winds from blowing her away. They wanted to know more about the breed and how they might acquire a dog like her. They wanted to find the breeder. We spun a little story and then went on. Later in the day we leveled with them in a friendly way, explaining she was a Chihuahua-Pomeranian cross which amazed them more.

One evening a few months ago, Dinky and I were walking along the beach. I had her on a regular leash and felt a tug and a little squeal. I turned around and there was a coyote with Dinky's leg in her mouth. The coyote and I startled each other. I asked Mrs. Coyote what she thought she was doing and she let go immediately. She stood for a moment while we had a short discussion about her poor manners. She seemed to understand, turned and sauntered up the beach. No damage was done and Dinky and I completed our evening walk. We live on the edge of a National Wildlife Refuge, so this was no surprise encounter. I call it living with urban wildlife.

Dinky had a condition known as a tracheal collapse, which was her ultimate nemesis. She was sixteen, almost seventeen years old. She will be greatly missed and will always have a special place in the memories of people who knew her well and loved her.

Dinky has been remembered by Audrey Godell with a generous donation to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund.

## HAPPY VALLEY HAPPENINGS

### Bridging the Community by Jean Kindig

Boulder County issued a permit for the Kyeshong Bridge on 9/17/08! Ken Sheldon arranged for a crane to lift the steel beams onto the abutments, but heavy rains delayed this event. The crane was rescheduled and now the beams are in place. Ken Sheldon and Dave Kindig started work on the planks so they can transport materials across the bridge to the entrance ramp. Volunteers are filling the gabions with rocks. The bridge should be finished by spring 2009. There are additional expenses and donations are appreciated. Send them to:

Kyeshong Bridge LLC Acct # \*\*\*\*\*6778  
Mutual of Omaha Bank  
P. O. Box 69  
Nederland, CO 80466

### Brock's Eldora Weather and Garden Report – September 26, 2008 by John Brocklehurst

What a glorious time to be in Eldora – Indian summer weather, clear blue sky, no wind, temperature in the low seventies. Aspen gold is enhanced with fall color on the wild rose and Rocky Mountain maple. August and September rains extended and added to garden and forest growth, which led to a generous growth of mushrooms. Even the number of wildlife sightings was on the increase with more bear, moose and mountain lions seen by Eldorans.

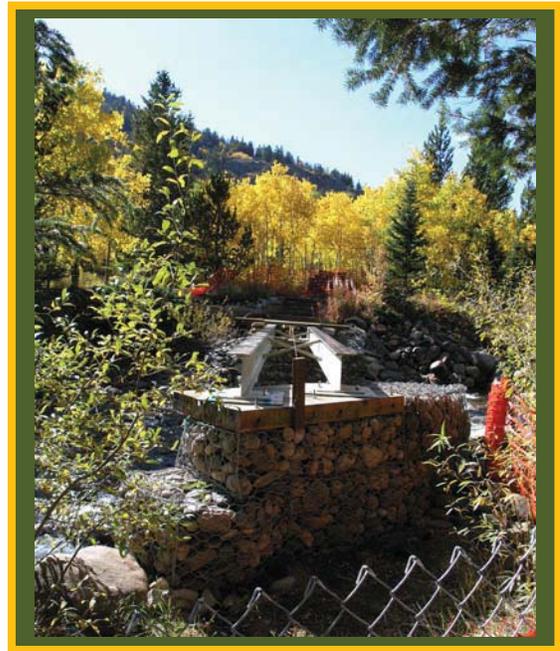
Aspen  
Leaves  
Of gold



I have grown zucchini, summer squash and scarlet runner beans, and tomatoes have ripened for the first time in twenty years at 8,700 feet above sea level. Is this an Eldora record?

We used 90 lbs. of sugar this year to feed the two dozen hummingbirds, which hovered around our garden at the west end of Eldora from May to September.

The Goldminer Hotel has just received a beautiful facelift.



### The Bolton Bear Encounters by Earl Bolton

On August 23 we were reading about 7pm when we heard a crash outside. On going to the door, we discovered a big black bear who had broken into one of our barns and was carrying a 50 pound trash can full of sunflower seed in its mouth. We stood in the doorway as the bear dumped the seed out, and lying down, proceeded to eat. The bear ate about half the seed and then trotted off across the creek. The next evening at about the same time, it came back to finish off the rest.

A week later at 6am there was a crash on the deck by the door and there was a small bear with its head in our trash can digging out empty trash bags. The can was chained so no animals could get to the bags. Don't tell a bear that! I could have reached out and petted it. I stood there for a while and finally told the bear to shoo. It was not aware that I was there, but ran off with the bags.

We measured the upper incisor marks left on the lids and one was 2½ inches and the smaller bear was 1½ inches.



## HAPPY VALLEY HAPPENINGS

### Red Hat Ladies Invade Eldora

The Busy Bee Red Hat Society had their July meeting at the Hartsell cabin at 1104 Eldorado Avenue. They ate a potluck lunch overlooking the creek and toured Brock's garden.



### Gonna Be A Bear submitted by Willi Brocklehurst

In this life I'm a woman. In my next life I'd like to come back as a bear. When you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could deal with that.

Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that, too.

When you're a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you're sleeping and wake up to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that.

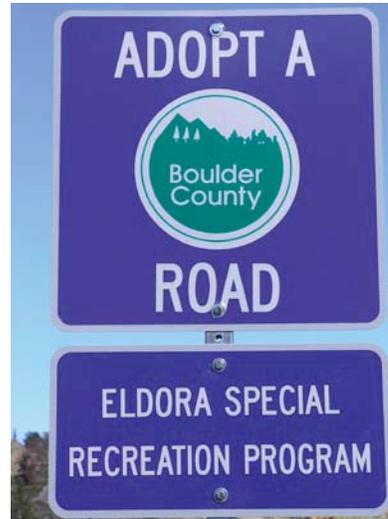
If you're a mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them, too. I could deal with that.

If you're a bear, your mate expects you to wake up growling. He expects that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat. Yup, gonna be a bear!



### Orphan Adopted

Eldora Ski Area Road gets TLC.



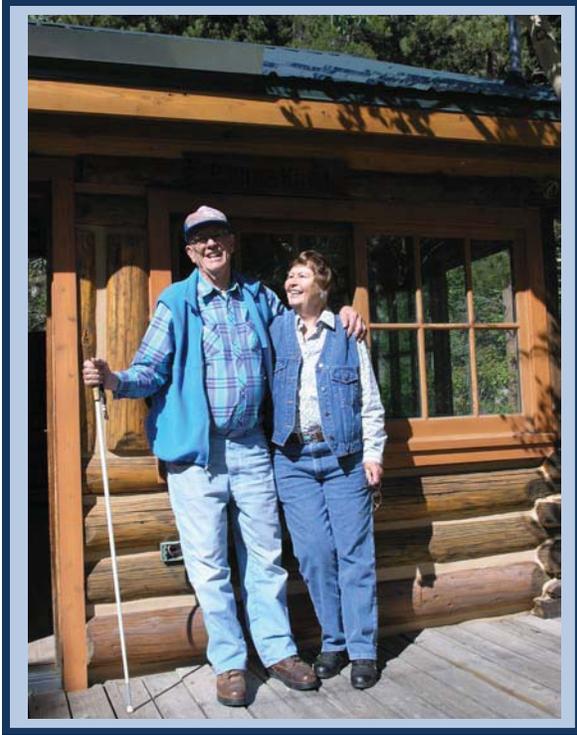
Ski Area Road along Peterson Lake

### Eldora Cabin Calendars Still Available

There is still time to order an Eldora Cabin Calendar as a Christmas gift for family or friends. They cost \$15 +\$2 postage. Contact Diane Brown at [eldoradh1@rmi.net](mailto:eldoradh1@rmi.net) or call her at 303-258-3672. After mid-October call her in Arizona at 928-474-9475.



## A Homecoming at Pine Knot Cabin



Lee and Virginia Evans at Pine Knot

Pine Knot Cabin is situated at the west end of Eldora at Tenth Street and Phillips Place. It was built between 1928-1929 by Joe Lasinsky and Frank Pankowski for Mrs. Jennie Evans, mother of Lee Evans. The cabin logs were felled by Joe Lasinsky from dead timber left by forest fire. Lee Evans, as a ten-year old boy, skidded each log individually nearly a mile through all kinds of tree roots and swamps down Chittenden Mountain with the help of his trusty horse Trixie. It was very hard work for a boy of that age. Mrs. Evans ran a saddle horse business and a retail milk business from this cabin. Lee spent his childhood at Pine Knot.

Pine Knot is now owned by Heidi Anderson and Chris Alber, who have been busy renovating the cabin in an historically correct manner. Eliot Snyder was hired to carefully sand, repair and stain each log, both inside and out. All the old chinking has been removed and replaced with foam inserts and durable Perma chink. The windows have been replaced with double pane windows of the same style as the originals, including the metal pulls.

On September 13, 2008 Heidi and Chris invited Lee and Virginia Evans to come see what the “new” Pine Knot looks like. Lee was thrilled to be able to visit Pine Knot with its many vivid memories. As he stood on the porch, Heidi asked if the Pine Knot sign was the original. Lee looked up at it and said. “Oh, I made that sign. It took forever for the black paint to dry.” As they walked through the cabin, Lee described how the rooms were laid out, where he and Joe Lasinsky shared a room and where his mother slept. He remembered the homemade rectangular kitchen table and where each of them sat. Outside he pointed out where the outhouse had been and where the spring used to be. On the porch stands an old rusty wheel barrow which was found on the hillside above the cabin. In it lie many artifacts that have been found around the cabin. Lee was able to identify and describe the use of each one, including a shears used to cut the horses’ manes, a wagon coupling and a rasp used to file horse hooves. He also noted that a lilac bush in the yard was planted in 1955 for his mother.



Photos and Text by Diane J. Brown

## Full Members 2008-09

Andersen, Tom & Ellen  
Anderson, Bob & Pat  
Anderson, Chris Alber & Heidi  
Bailey, John  
Baker, Charles & Lois  
Barrett, Phillip  
Bartelma, Robert & Janice  
Beal, Barry & Jane  
Beckwith, Tom & Julie  
Billingsley, Cleo  
Billingsley John  
Birkeland, Pete & Sue  
Bolton, Dave & Sue  
Brown, Dave Hallock & Diane  
Buhse, Howard & Moira  
Burns, Sheila Schroeder & Kate  
Burton, Anne & Christopher  
Busch, Ed & Eleanor  
Carson, Edgar & Julie  
Chapin, John & Micki  
Colburn, Everett & Deborah  
Collins, Brian & Lynne  
Commers, Mary  
Conklin, Nancy  
Dibb, Leigh  
Donahue, Jerry and Barbara  
Dugan, Tom and Kathy  
Duvall, Mary McHenry & Jeffrey  
Egaas, Korina Bersentes & Brian  
Eyster, Brad & Tamara  
Figgs, Norma  
Fisher, Marc & Laura  
Flowers, Clifton & Mary  
Frazier, O. H. & Rachel  
Freymuth, Peter & Karin  
Geer, Nan & Richard  
Gitin, Gene & Gail  
Godell, Audrey  
Goolsby, Robert  
Hale, Carolyn  
Hartsell, Rich & Marilyn  
Hill, Jim & Sharon  
Hoffman, Amy  
Hollis, Edna  
Ivey, Lex & Liz  
Johnson, Don & Dorothy  
Kindig, Jean  
Kladstrup, Barbara  
Lopez, Todd Buchanan & Lisa  
Leever, Virginia  
Lovelace, Stuart  
McCleery, Jeanne  
McCoy, Mike & Patricia  
McGuffee, Liz & Cris  
McDonald, Joe & Pam  
Miller, Kent & Kay  
Mount, Robert & Virginia  
Naredo, Daniel & Janice

Newens, Nick & Mary Jane  
Phillips, Matt  
Pierson, Bill & Kathleen  
Pierson, Bill & Kay  
Piper, Bruce & Peaches  
Postlewait, Mike & Sharon  
Postlewait, Tim & Lindy  
Roberts, Carl & Donna  
Rock, Paul & Phyllis  
Rockett, Carol  
Rolfes, Jim & Kathy  
Rouse, Philip & Louise  
Ruhnka, John & Sallie  
Schneider, Harold & Jan  
Schuchard, Carol Crouppen & Pat  
Sheets, Payson & Fran  
Slusher, Tarry & Loretta  
Soyka, Jim & Faye  
Snyder, Eliot & Melisa  
Starkey, John Ooyen & Gunda  
Stepperud, Rolf & Betty  
Sturm, Ron & Judy  
Tafoya, Audrey Windolph & Jan  
Tillotson Family  
Wallace, John & Rita  
Warren, Ted & Peggy  
Weber, Gerhard & Deborah  
Whitworth, Sam

## Associate Members

2008-2009

Barrett-Smith, Allison  
Beatty, M. Gretchen  
Billingsley, Jim & Kris  
Billingsley, Joe & Shelli  
Buhse, Andrew  
Campbell, Esther  
Gold, Dan & Patty  
Goolsby, Ann  
Goolsby, Mark & Ramona  
Goolsby, Sara  
Gross, Bill & Mary  
Gross, Richard & Regina  
Harris, Tom & Lois  
Heitman, Duncan & Christina  
Henningson, Kathleen  
Hollis, George  
Huffman, Vonne  
Johnson, Irene  
Klenk, Anne  
Kinney, Kris  
Leise, Donna  
Malmquist, Barbara  
Massey, Greg  
McCleery, Kathy  
Mount, Carl & Marty  
Mount, Robert & Laurie  
Postlewait, Al & Cindy  
Postlewait, John  
Quarterman, Linda  
Ricke, Matt & Tanya

Roossinck, Marilyn  
Slaven, Pamela  
Smith, Jay Stocker & Russell  
Soyka, Jim & Faye  
Sturm, Ron & Judy  
Vance, Patti  
Wiepking, Robert & Jodie  
Whitworth, Gretchen  
Young, Al & Cindy

\*Nederland Area Historical Society  
\*Nederland Community Library  
\*Boulder County Commissioners  
\*PUMA  
\*Carnegie Library

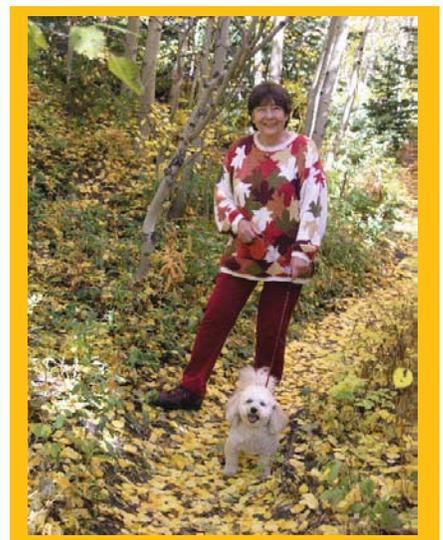
*\* These organizations receive complimentary copies of our newsletter*

If you don't see your name on this page, then perhaps you haven't paid your dues!!

**This is your last newsletter until your dues are paid!!**

Please fill out the form on the back of this page and mail to:

**Eldora Civic Association  
P.O. Box 988  
Nederland, CO 80466**



Willi and Maggie say "Just do it!"