

## Wildlife Committee

The Castle Pines Village Wildlife Committee (WC) mission is to encourage residents to appreciate the value of and learn to co-exist with local wildlife by providing opportunities for education and community involvement.

- Committee membership changed in 2018 with the resignation of Sue Kiernan in May. Sue resigned due to family health issues. Gina Gerken re-joined the Committee in October, so we ended the year with a total of eight members.
- The Village Castle Pines Bluebird Trail was installed in 2009 and just completed its tenth year in 2018. Gina Gerken (past chairman) and Cindy Kristensen organized and trained volunteers who provided the monitoring and data submission to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. The Bluebird Trail data was reorganized and put online to allow submission of the entire Village data to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology as a Citizen Science contribution. Our sixty- three nesting boxes produced 322 fledglings this year including:

Western Bluebirds	159
Tree Swallows	104
Mountain Bluebirds	20
Violet Green Swallow	16
House Wrens	12
Pygmy Nuthatch	11
Total	322

The Bluebird Trail has now produced an estimated 2712 Fledglings of all types in ten seasons of the trail. In October the Wildlife Committee hosted a luncheon for the Bluebird Trail volunteers to thank them for the many hours spent monitoring and data entry.

- 2018 Events
  - April 15 - Bears & Coyotes Presentation by Justin Olson Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife. Some 60 people attended this presentation at the CPHA Community Room.
  - May 16 – Forestry Stewardship Committee Chair, Dave Cooper attended the Wildlife Committee Meeting and presented information on fire mitigation and their noxious weed program.
  - September 28 – Elk Rut Event at Cherokee Ranch was attended by 150 Village residents. Cherokee Ranch hosted this year’s event and handled reservations, presentations and food catered by Mama Lisa’s Catering. The evening was exclusive to Village residents and the WC worked with Cherokee Ranch to limit charges to attendees to \$15 per person.
  - October 26 – Critters of the Village was held at the Canyon Club Pavilion again this year and featured an educational presentation by Devin Jaffe of

Nature's Educators. The presentation was well received and was easily heard thanks to the new PA system. Over 100 residents attended including many children, no doubt aided by Mark Larson volunteering to grill hot dogs with over 175 served!

- Other Projects
  - Bob Jondle recommended that the WC work with the Village Garden Club to establish a wildflower garden. Teri Henson, a wildflower landscaper attended our September meeting to help plan the project. A location has been selected for a pilot garden but will not be implemented until next year to optimize the planting time.
  - Colorado Department of Parks & Wildlife produced four excellent Bear Aware videos this year which we shared with residents in several E-blasts and the Village Reporter. Topics include "What to Do if You See a Bear"; "Camping and Hiking in Bear Country"; "Solving Your Bear Problem" and "Bearproofing Your Home". These videos can be found at <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeWildBears.aspx>
  - Village and Happy Canyon Vehicle/Animal Collisions – Unfortunately, there have been many animals killed in the Village and on Happy Canyon Road by speeding motorists including several Elk, Deer, and Turkeys. The WC contacted Lieutenant Chris Washburn of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division about the Happy Canyon Road issue and committed to placing radar trailers to warn speeders and to increase patrolling of the road. However, the radar trailers are on back order and the traffic division has not been able to increase patrols. We also asked for more wildlife signs since there is only one currently but were told that Douglas County Public Works and Traffic Engineers will not support adding more signs. The WC plans to follow up on this issue again in 2019.
  - Wildcat Corner Project – Joe Gschwendtner contacted the WC about assisting with his history project for the Community Room at the CPHA office and offered an entire wall for an educational exhibit of Village wildlife. Cindy Kristensen, Gina Gerken and Ron West have worked on the layout, photos and text for several months and intend to finalize the exhibit in the 1st quarter of 2019.
- Gina Gerken, wrote several articles for The Village Reporter including:
  - Feb/Mar Issue: Remember the Wildbirds of Winter
  - Apr/May Issue: Help Our Bears
  - Jun/Jul Issue: How to Deter Woodpeckers and Other Drilling Birds
  - Aug/Sep Issue: Slow Down and Watch for Wildlife; Elk Rut Ad
  - Oct/Nov Issue: 10th Year Anniversary of the Bluebird Trail
  - Dec/Jan Issue: Village Wildcats
- The WC spent \$2,386 of the \$3,400 allotted budget in 2018.

**2018 Committee Members:**

Ron West – Chairman

Lilli Almon, Doug Drbal, Libby Drbal, Gina Gerken, Robert Jondle, Cindy Kristensen, Arlene Raskin