



Urban Wildlife Photo Club

February 2022 Newsletter



Next Membership Meeting: **February 14, 2022**

Online meeting at 6:45 PM

SEE BELOW FOR MEETING LINK INFORMATION

Club Contact Information

Address: COUWPC
PO Box 270501
Louisville, CO 80027-0501
Email: uwpc@comcast.net Website <http://www.couwpc.com>

A link for the online meeting will be sent out a few days before the meeting and again as a reminder about an hour before the meeting.

February Program:

Our Speaker will be Lynn Riedel. Join us to learn how a small but important state program is conserving biological and geological diversity across Colorado. Since 1977 the Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) has recognized and protected natural areas in Colorado with unique or high-quality features of statewide significance. From prairie floodplain meadows to high elevation habitats, more than 250 rare, threatened or endangered species and communities are monitored and cooperatively protected at 95 designated sites across the state. Unique geological and paleontological sites are also highlighted. CNAP-designated areas overlap with State Land Board Stewardship Land Trust sites, state parks, Nature Conservancy preserves, National Park Service land, US Forest Service land, city and county properties, private land, and include some National Audubon Society Important Bird Areas. We will start with an overview and sampler of CNAP's contributions to conservation across the state, and then focus on the four biologically diverse state natural areas in Boulder County: Colorado Tallgrass Prairie, Boulder Mountain Park, South Boulder Creek and White Rocks.

Lynn Riedel has spent her career in natural areas management in Colorado – initially working with the National Park Service. Her academic background is in biology and science education.



Since the mid-1990's, she has worked as a plant ecologist with the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department, specializing in grassland ecology. In Dinosaur National Monument and in Boulder, her work has included rare plant monitoring and habitat management, native plant community monitoring and mapping, and comprehensive natural area management planning. Currently, she serves on the Colorado Natural Areas Council which helps guide the work of the Colorado Natural Areas Program.

PHOTO CONTESTS

Some thoughts on Photo Contests:

Whenever you think about entering a photo contest you should very carefully read the Ts and Cs. I know that the legalese can be daunting but there are a lot of contests out there that are a "rights grab." Make sure that the ones you enter specifically lay out the image ownership agreement. Whenever you send in images to a contest you are entering into a contract. You really should consider only those contests that have very limited usage of your photos and state in their rules that YOU retain full ownership of the image. When you read the fine print on image usage, watch out for those contests that demand the right to use all your entries for their own purposes, not just the winners.

BBC Wildlife Magazine Monthly Photo on-going Contest Information at:

<http://www.discoverwildlife.com/your-photos/photo-contest>

Contest Information Website;

If you'd like a resource that has just about all the contests out there, take a look at Photo Contest Insider at

<https://www.photocontestinsider.com/contest/all-themes/>



MEMBER MONTHLY IMAGE SUBMISSION

Members and first-time guests are encouraged to submit images for a gentle critique. We are not a competitive club, but we do strive to help our members learn and improve their photographic skills. Guidelines are below.

We have both open and theme image categories:
February Critique and Theme images due by February 7th

Send to: uwpcimages@comcast.net

- February Theme – Rock Formations
- March Theme – Small Mammals

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMAGE LABELING, ESPECIALLY THE USE OF SPECIAL CHARACTERS (NO @) AND NAMING NEEDS. If I get really busy, I may not be able to accept images that don't follow these "rules."

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE DATE & SIZE REQUESTED -1MB or less

Two categories at each meeting - THEMED AND OPEN

- Maximum of 4 images total and no more than one themed image
- Email files one week before the scheduled meeting to

uwpcimages@comcast.net Please use this one!

- Send themed category images in an email titled 'themed images'
- Send open category images in an email titled 'critique images'
- If your image is selected to appear on the club website, the website caption will be derived from the file name. **Be sure that your name and the image title as you would like them to appear on the website are included in the file name.** Use only letters (a-z and A-Z), numerals (0-9), dashes (-), underscores (_), and the single dot before ".jpg" in file names. Avoid using blanks. Use dashes (-) underscores (_) and capitalization to indicate word boundaries (e.g. Bob_Dean-Trees_In_Snow.jpg or BobDean-TreesInSnow.jpg). It is acceptable to include other information that identifies the image in file names, but you risk the possibility that this information will be misinterpreted by the webmaster. Although it's unlikely, the image BobDean_TreesInSnow_27583.jpg might end up on the website with the title "Trees in Snow 27853."



MEMBER MONTHLY IMAGE SUBMISSION CONT'D

OPTIONAL Descriptive information for each *critique image* should be as follows:

Exposure data should, for example, include f/stop, shutter speed, ISO, any exposure compensation, and any filter information. Post processing enhancements should include only those things beyond simply cropping, sharpening, noise reduction, etc. such as HDR, panorama work, color enhancements, exposure changes, etc. If you can put the image data (if you choose to include it) **as text** in the body of the email as opposed to an attached word or excel file, it would be appreciated! Makes life easier if everyone does the same thing.

Sample table for exposure details

IMAGE	IMAGE TITLE	SPECIES	LOCATION	CAMERA	LENS	EXPOSURE DATA	POST PROCESSING ENHANCEMENTS
Critique 1							
Critique 2							
Critique 3							

Please don't use an @ in the exposure information as when I copy it into the slide presentation, the computer sees it as an email address, and I need to retype rather than copy.



Kudos

If anyone has an image published, places in a contest or gets any kind of recognition for their work, please let us know and we'll get it into the newsletter. Also, if you are doing something for the wildlife in our state shoot me an email. Please do use email: uwpc@comcast.net to alert us. (If you tell me verbally at the online meeting or on the phone, I can almost assure you that I'll forget!)

The results are in. We had several members receive recognition in the Share The View Audubon Contest:

Karen Fiant won the Colorado Nature (sponsored by [Colorado Life Magazine](#)) Special Award plus had another image in the top 250.

Jim Picardi had two in the top 250

The following folks each had an image in the top 250:

Vaughn Cottman

Tom Loucks

Andy Long

Julie Picardi

Congratulations to all!

If I missed anyone, please let me know and I will include it next month.



Announcements and Notes

The other website!

Contributions to oururbanwildlife.org have been stagnant for a few months. At this point, we don't need any administrative help with the site, but we do need contributions. Here are some of the ways that folks could help:

- Contributing photos
- Contributing blog posts (Curtis *might* edit posts, but only lightly for clarity)
- Links to blogs or websites.
- Soliciting others to write blog posts – any friend, acquaintance, or family member with special interest or knowledge of wildlife would be welcome
- Contributing articles
- Finding articles that we can reprint and getting permission to do so.
- Promoting the site to other clubs. I've found that promoting the site in person has been more effective than other methods.
- Promoting the site on social media. We already have a Facebook page set up for it and could add folks as admins to that page. We can work together to set up Twitter or other social media accounts.
- Contacting “celebrity” photographers for contributions – written or photographic. These folks could be known as photographers – such as John Fielder – or known for other work (journalism, politics, business, etc.) with an interest in photography – such as Tom Green on 9 News.

Please consider doing something to help this project along! If you have questions, contributions or ideas and are not sure what to do, contact me at uwpc@comcast.net or Curtis Johnson at curtis.e.johnson@comcast.net



Announcements and Notes

Annual Dues will be “due” in March. We are holding our dues at \$20 for a person, couple or family. Please send your check to the P O Box address on Page 1. Thanks to those who have already sent them in.

Spring Field Trip

We’re in the early planning stages for our Spring field trip. The date is fixed for May 15th to photograph the total lunar eclipse.

We’re working on possible locations as the eclipse starts pretty close to moon rise, so we need a place with a clear view of the southeast horizon (any ideas?). The eclipse will be over by midnight so (at least for night sky photography) it will be an “early” evening. Several folks have expressed interest so if you wish to join them, please send me an email at uwpc@comcast.net. As with our meteor shower field trip last year, I’ll be providing assistance on getting great images before and during the trip.



Writers Wanted for our newsletter

We are ALWAYS looking for material to put in the newsletter and on the Urban Wildlife website. If you want to be “published,” feel free to write (and add images if you want) on any subject about which you think the members would like to read. Don’t worry about grammar or style, we’ll do a bit of editing if you’d like. Send them to uwpc@comcast.net

Articles

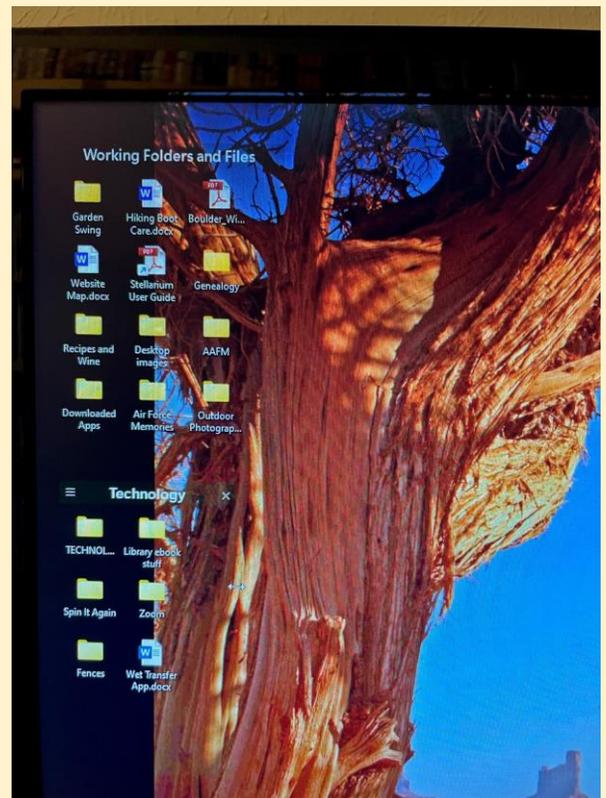
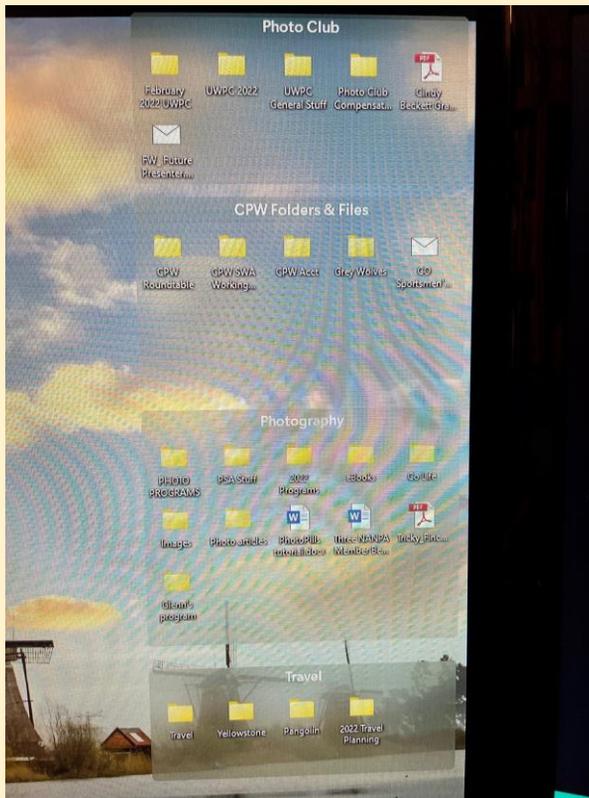
Software Application Review

I was wondering in your computer desktop is as cluttered as mine USED to be. I was tired of searching through all the icons, file folders, pdf files and documents every time I wanted to use one. I did a little online research and found a tool that has made organization a breeze. It's called "Fences" and it's published by Stardock

(<https://www.stardock.com/products/fences/>).

It is a Windows app, sorry MAC users; I do believe there are equivalent MAC applications out there.

Fences 4 for Windows 10 and 11 is breeze to download, install and configure. It allows you to collect icons, file folders, etc. into a group and then name that group. I use two monitors with my desktop computer – see the images below. It has been a real help for me. Fences 4 costs about \$10 for one computer and about \$30 for 5.



Articles



We are ALWAYS looking for material to put in the newsletter and on the Urban Wildlife website. If you want to be “published,” feel free to write (and add images if you want) on any subject about which you think the members would like to read. Don’t worry about grammar or style, we’ll do a bit of editing if you’d like. Send them to uwpc@comcast.net