

WILD FLOWER & BLUE BIRD WALKS

by CPVGC Member Kathy Dennis



When we have a cool, wet spring, the wildflowers in Colorado are exceptionally abundant and colorful. Summer is the peak time to enjoy the flowers within our own community. Wildflowers are especially “showy” on the walking trail parallel to Country Club Drive and the “blue bird house” trail beginning at gate 3 then following Daniels Park Road. Purchase a wildflower book so you can identify the flowers found in our area. The Field Guide to North American Wildflowers and both volumes (mountains or plains/foothills editions) of Guide to Colorado Wildflowers by G. K. Guennel are particularly helpful as they contain great color photos of flower specimens.



You may have noticed the blue bird houses along the walking trails near Country Club Drive and Daniels Park Road. These were erected as part of a Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology study being conducted by Gina Gerken to record blue bird activity in Castle Pines. A few years ago Jack Hummel and Jim Horner constructed the 54 new blue bird houses. Community residents check the houses once a week to count the number of eggs laid in each nest, babies hatched and survival rate of the fledging birds.

Since 1996, our garden club has supported a program to bring western blue birds back to Castle Pines. In that time, club member Mary Trotter has provided blue bird houses and placement information to over 100 members. The placement of these 100 boxes, in private yards, along the Country Club at Castle Pines Golf Course, and on Cherokee Ranch property, have helped to re-establish the western blue bird in Castle Pines.