

## **Wildlife Committee 2010 Annual Report**

The unique physical environment and abundant wildlife it encompasses are treasures of life in Castle Pines Village. Part of the privilege, responsibility and stewardship residents assume by living in the Village is to protect these priceless resources. The Castle Pines Village Wildlife Committee's mission is to encourage residents to appreciate the value of and therefore learn to co-exist with our wildlife by providing opportunities for education and community involvement.

In the fall of '08, The Castle Pines Village Bluebird Trail was installed to help promote the breeding success of bluebirds in the Village. The Wildlife Committee hosted a Spring Pancake Breakfast in spring of 2010, attended by over 150 residents, to continue to promote the bluebird trail and wildlife education. Activities for young and old were made available, including a HawkQuest Birds of Prey presentation and information tables sponsored by The Forestry Committee, The Garden Club and The Wildlife Committee.

In the spring and summer of the 2010 nesting season, 60+ bluebird boxes were monitored by 30 + volunteers. This project helps to encourage Village awareness of endangered cavity nesting birds. Data was collected and submitted to the Cornell Ornithological Society for research. After two seasons, over 425 birds have been added to the Village skies.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration is always a huge success. The Wildlife Committee sponsored presentations on reptiles and raptors, featuring HawkQuest's Owls of the World. Several hundred residents interacted with these animals and wildlife photos taken by residents were on display.

Also in 2010, the Wildlife Committee continued a relationship with Cherokee Ranch in order to examine and protect common wildlife corridors and to promote shared goals. CPV wildlife benefits greatly from access to the over 3,000 acres of prime natural habitat on the ranch. The Wildlife Committee has also continued to support Cherokee Ranch in its opposition to the proposed waste disposal area in Sedalia.

2010 saw the start of the Wildlife Committee's nesting raptor platform project, as well as the continuance of bi-monthly newsletter articles and frequent eblasts to update residents about local wildlife. Committee members also continue to answer residents' wildlife questions concerning pet and wildlife encounters, rumors, species identification etc.

Planning for the future, the Wildlife Committee hopes to offer some exciting new programs to reinvigorate Village interest, enthusiasm and appreciation for the

amazing wildlife in our community. On the calendar is a wonderful afternoon with renowned wildlife photographer and naturalist, Paul Bannick. In March, a pancake breakfast will be followed by a new Buteo/Forest Hawk program from HawkQuest and the initiation of a series of walks in the Village presented in conjunction with the Audubon Society of Greater Denver.

The Castle Pines Village Wildlife Committee meets quarterly, on the third Wednesdays of the months of January, April, July, and October. The Committee welcomes residents to attend.