



NEWSLETTER – October 2006

September 24, 2006

It is with great sadness that we inform you that one of our Board Members, Dwayne Flynn, died this past week. Please join the Board of Directors in extending our deepest sympathy to Linda and her family.

Garage Lights: The Board discussed maintenance of the motion sensors and garage lights. In the hope of clarifying this issue and responsibility for maintenance and repair of garage lights and the motion sensors, Greg Bradshaw made a motion that garage lights and motion sensors clearly fall within the definition of "Limited Common Elements" and maintenance and repair of all Limited Common Elements, including garage lights and motion sensors, is the responsibility of the individual unit owner. James Schott seconded the motion with all in favor.

Units for Sale: We now have only one unit for sale: 6952 Buckskin

Pending Maintenance and Repair Issues: The Board has authorized the repair of the retaining wall on the north side of the North Buckskin building. This work should begin September 25th. The contractor hired is Henry Hoffman, Inc. They will be accessing the work area through the space between the two Buckskin buildings. Please make sure to park all vehicles in your garage or in the parking area on the west side.

The Board has authorized Arborist Arms to trim all large trees surrounding the buildings. This work will begin the first week in October.

Living with our Foothills Wildlife: We have received several calls and complaints from some of our owners voicing their concern about residents feeding the many fox that share our space. One of the great pleasures of living in our community is the abundance of wildlife and the joy in watching the wildlife in their natural habitat. We share a delicate balance, and unfortunately, an unnatural food supply upsets this delicate balance and can often cause serious harm to the wildlife we enjoy.

We did contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife to ask for information regarding feeding our wildlife. The Division of Wildlife is very adamant about **NOT FEEDING WILDLIFE** and gladly gave us permission to reprint and distribute to our owners articles and information from their website. Attached to this Newsletter is a copy of information taken from the Colorado Division of Wildlife website: <http://wildlife.state.co.us> Please take time to read the information and visit the website for additional information.

There have been multiple sightings of mountain lion in our area in the past few weeks. One owner had a mountain lion on his deck drinking water from the bird feeder. An unnatural food supply and increased fox and raccoon population draws and attracts unwanted and dangerous predators.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 7:00 pm at 6856 Surrey Trail. All owners are invited and encouraged to attend.

To Help Deer—Don't Feed Them

Feeding Can Do More Harm Than Good

It is illegal in Colorado to intentionally place or distribute feed, salt blocks or other attractants for big-game animals. This problem is mainly associated with deer.

In the winter, deer herds tend to move to lower elevations closer to homes and businesses. Some people may feel the deer do not have adequate food sources in the wintertime and believe that supplementing their diets with grain, corn or hay is helpful. In fact, the contrary is true.

"People who feed deer do more harm than good," said Trina Lynch, a district wildlife manager with the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

According to Lynch, there are several reasons why a Colorado law passed in 1992 makes it illegal to feed big game animals. One important reason is that deer are the primary prey of mountain lions. "Concentrating deer by feeding can attract mountain lions well within the city limits. It may become necessary to kill these lions for public safety," she said.

The normal feeding behavior of big game animals allows them to spread out as they graze or browse. Artificial feeding disrupts that behavior and prompts deer to crowd together in small areas where they are more likely to be chased by dogs and hit by cars.

Deer have a complex digestive system that is not adapted to digest bread and many types of hay. "Habituation to artificial feeds that do not meet their nutritional needs often results in deer that are in poor condition," explains Bob Davies, a wildlife biologist in Colorado Springs. (Concentrating deer by putting food out can also increase stress on the deer and hasten the spread of disease.)

Although commercial feeds are available at many stores, Division of Wildlife biologists warn against using them. "Some of these products may indicate they will attract certain wildlife species, including deer," said Davies. "People should be aware that if they place feed out, and deer consume it, they may be breaking the law." Fortunately, once people learn about the negative impacts that occur when deer are fed, most stop doing it," he said. "The few people that continue to feed cause problems for the deer and their neighbors," he added.

People who attract deer to their neighborhood also run the risk of damaging their property and their neighbor's property. "Some people are under the impression that if they supply a food source to the deer it will prevent the deer from damaging their ornamental plants. On the contrary," said Lynch; "it usually results in greater damage to your plants." Lynch recommends barriers, repellents and landscaping with native plants as more effective alternatives to prevent deer from causing damage to lawn and garden projects.

The Division of Wildlife launches controlled, emergency feeding of big-game animals only during extremely harsh winters when substantial numbers of animals are threatened. In all other cases, big-game animals are better off left to obtain their food naturally.

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Don't Tempt Them with 'Junk' Food

It May Put Wildlife—and People—at Risk

It seemed like such a harmless thing to do. What could be wrong with putting out a little food to help the foxes and deer make it through a hard winter? Besides seeing wildlife in our backyard is one of the many benefits to living in Colorado. So thought a family who set out dog food, hamburger and grains for foxes and deer near their home in the wooded foothills just outside Denver.

But guess who else came to dinner? Tasty treats left in the family's yard lured hungry mountain lions to the neighborhood. Not only did the wild cats like the hamburger, they also had their eyes on one of their favorite prey—deer.

It didn't take long for real trouble to start. Residents' cats and dogs began disappearing from their yards. Fear and anger set in, and people began clamoring for officials to do something about the dangerous mountain lions.

What started as a well-meaning effort for deer and foxes ended in death for another of Colorado's wild animals. The mountain lion was snared and killed in a trap set out to make the neighborhood safe again.

This is just one example illustrating why the Colorado Division of Wildlife is advising people: ***Please don't feed the wildlife!***

Even Though Your Heart's in the Right Place

Colorado is blessed with a diversity of wildlife. Our elk population is larger than that of any other state or Canadian province. In addition, our state is home to an abundant, thriving deer population.

The Division of Wildlife—whose mission is to protect and enhance the state's wild creatures—knows how much people love Colorado wildlife. They love to watch the animals, learn about them, photograph them, hunt them and, even on occasion, feed them.

We know people mean well when they give tidbits to wildlife. But what many don't realize is that feeding big game is bad for the animals and dangerous for people. It's also against the law. There are lots of good reasons why.

Please—Only Our Natural Foods!

Drive up the Mount Evans Road just about any summer weekend, and you'll see bighorn sheep—lambs and all—ready to romp onto the road as cars approach. The bighorns head straight for the car windows, often crossing right in front of the grills of four-wheel drive vehicles. These wild animals show no fear of vehicles or the people inside. The bighorns have learned they can get cookies, chips and other goodies from behind those car windows.

We all know junk food is bad for people, but it's even worse for wild animals. The complex digestive systems of wildlife have evolved over thousands of years. Deer, elk, and pronghorn are ruminants. That means they have a four-chambered stomach that serves as a 'fermentation vat'. They can eat

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Unwanted and Dangerous Guests

What's dinner for the neighborhood fox family is also a meal for other wild animals living near your home. Normally reclusive and wary, black bears will leave the woods and become accustomed to finding a meal in your backyard if you leave them something to eat. Feeding deer also can attract other large predators, such as mountain lions. Where there are lots of deer, there are also lots of mountain lions, prowling for prey.

Over time, predators such as bears and mountain lions, become less wary and more emboldened. They're more apt to attack pets and people, and when that happens, it can spell death to bears and lions, which often must be destroyed to ensure public safety.

What About Birds?

The Division of Wildlife supports and encourages using backyard bird feeders to supplement natural food for song birds. Be sure that the food you provide song birds is fresh and clean. Also make sure you clean the feeder periodically. Common bird foods include sunflower seed and millet. Some birds also are attracted by fresh fruit. In addition to your feeder, be sure to offer a source of water for your backyard birds, year-round if possible. Remember, if you start a bird feeding program, some bird experts suggest you continue all winter and through spring. That way those birds that become dependent on the feeder will still have a source of food.

A word of caution, however. If you live in bear country, be aware that certain bird foods, particularly hummingbird nectar, are very attractive to bruins. Put your bird foods and hummingbird feeders away if you don't want to inadvertently create potentially dangerous conflicts with our state's largest predator close to your home. For more information, [contact your nearest Division of Wildlife office.](#)

It's Against the Law

Anyone still unconvinced that putting out food is bad for wildlife? Those skeptics need to keep in mind that under Colorado law, intentionally feeding big game animals is illegal. The prohibition applies to deer, elk, pronghorn, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, and bears.

Violators face a \$50 fine.

The Division of Wildlife hopes you won't face such a fine and that we've explained why it's best to simply let Mother Nature take care of wild animals. If you don't, you quite literally could end up loving our wildlife to death.

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lots of vegetation and digest it very thoroughly. Unlike natural foods, treats from people often cannot be digested properly by big game. In fact, "human food" can, in many cases, stop a wild animal's digestive system, causing it to get sick and die.

Big game depend entirely on native vegetation, such as grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Those plants provide all the nutritional requirements the animals need to survive in Colorado, even through winter. Eating non-natural kinds of foods can result in nutritional problems for wildlife—or even death.

Conflicts and Disease

When people feed big game, the animals tend to concentrate where the food is set out. That increases the risk of spreading diseases through the herds. Diseases also can spread between wildlife and livestock, as well as to domestic animals and people. The Division is most concerned about devastating diseases, such as brucellosis and tuberculosis, which can be transmitted to humans.

Feeding also can dramatically change the natural distribution and migration of big game animals.

You may delight in seeing a deer grazing in your yard. Your neighbor, however, may become irate seeing his rose bushes chomped to a stub. For farmers and ranchers, the losses can be costly from big game munching on crops or hay. Not only that, luring wildlife to your yard by putting out food could set the wild animals up for death if they have to cross highways to get to feeders or if they encounter harassment from domestic pets.

What's worse, once wildlife stop using their historic ranges, that land could end up being developed, losing valuable habitat forever.

Feeding big game is not a substitute for enhancing and protecting critical wintering areas.

Next: [Unwanted and Dangerous Guests](#)

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