

THE SAGE PAGE

*Official newsletter of Boulder Community Alliance.
A nonprofit serving Boulder, Utah.*

Our Mission: “To actively champion the unique and vibrant community of Boulder and its spectacular, fragile landscape.”

Boulder Community Alliance
www.bouldercommunityalliance.org
Phone: 435-335-7481
Email: peg@bouldercommunityalliance.org



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BCA FACILITATES RIPARIAN RESTORATION ON PRIVATE LAND

Escalante Headwaters Case Study

By Tanya Collings

This is the first in a series of articles documenting a specific riparian restoration project on 18 acres of private land in the Upper Valley Region of Escalante. As a case study, it is designed to illustrate the restoration process in detail. This is one many past, current, and future private land restoration projects facilitated by Boulder Community Alliance (BCA).

Allysia Angus owns 18 acres of property in the Upper Valley region of Escalante. As a concerned and involved land owner, she has devoted her time and energy to the restoration of the riparian areas on her property. Her goal is to leave the land in, as a dedicated boy scout might say, “better shape than when [she] got it.” At Allysia’s request, BCA and its partners are currently working to develop, design, and fund a plan to repair the streambank on her property.

BACKGROUND

Some work has already been successfully completed on Allysia’s project when she allowed the Conservation Corps to remove Russian olive on her property in 2013. BCA and its partners are well known for their work to remove this invasive tree from private land in Escalante and Boulder. However, the removal of Russian olive is only one step towards a healthy riparian zone.

THE NEXT STEP

Highway 12 runs directly through Allysia’s land, with her strawbale home to the south of the road and Upper Valley Creek to the north. The challenge is visually obvious. Upper Valley Creek has



Various partners meeting on-site with Allysia Angus to discuss restoration tactics. Partnerships like this one are crucial to the success of restoration.

Photo Credit: Tanya Collings

downcut dramatically leaving naked sagebrush roots dangling over the edge of the precipice. The walls of this now incised channel are, in areas, seven times as tall as Michael Jackson. Allysia has personally watched as seasonal storms have eroded enormous sections of the sandy embankment.

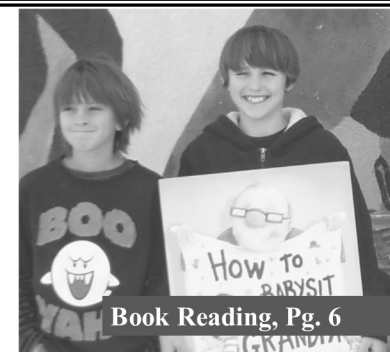
THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

On a windy April morning Sue Fearon (BCA’s Regional Coordinator) and I met with Allysia and eleven additional partners—including a civil engineer, watershed coordinator, soil conservationist, biologist, botanist, and

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SMALL TOWN NEWS

Compiled by Peg Smith

The **Boulder Community Library** celebrated National DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) Day on April 12 by hosting an open house and challenging Boulder to set a record for the number of library visitors checking out books that day. YAY! The Library set a record—46 visitors checked out books (and snacked on Roadkill cookies and Possum Punch). Way to go, literary Boulder!

The library would also like to thank **Steve Dessinger** and **BOSS** (Boulder Outdoor Survival School) for donating over 100 DVDs to the library recently! Great additions to the collection, which will soon consist mainly of DVDs, as VHSs are being phased out. And a “new” PC will soon join the old Mac for onsite, online usage.

Speaking of **Steve Dessinger**, he’s been an employee of BOSS since 2001 and program director since 2010, and is now the new owner/operator of BOSS.

Boulder/BCA will be hosting the 5-year anniversary gathering of the **Escalante River Watershed Partnership** (ERWP) June 3-4.

The event on Tuesday evening, June 3 will be a free dinner and presentation in Boulder Mesa Restaurant, the presentation on “Where does the water live? Sources, sinks, and flow paths in the Escalante Watershed.”

If you’re interested in where our water comes from and where it goes to, you’ll not want to miss this. Be sure to RSVP to Peg Smith (335-7481 or email) to reserve your seat! Social time starts at 5:30 p.m. Presentation starts at 6.

Then, on Wednesday, June 4, the public is again welcome to attend. (ERWP meetings are always open to the public.) At this special meeting, in the Community Center, will host an open house and 5-year commemoration. Come in for a piece of cake and to see what the five year partnership has accomplished in our watershed.

EMT update: **Rebecca Harris** has passed her test and is our newest EMT in Boulder. **Randy Ripplinger** received his 10-year plaque for Advance EMT at the St. George EMT Conference in May.

On March 22 the Boulder Skills Foundation hosted an **Apple Grafting Workshop** for about 18 participants, led by **Becky Crystal**. Its purpose was to spread the skill of tree grafting and to replenish some of our favorite, but aging apple trees in town. After some practice everyone found their groove and were able to take home several new trees. Thank you Becky!

The **Boulder Skills Foundation** is asking for ideas for upcoming Skills Sharing Workshops. Workshops serve to promote community resiliency and the sharing of practical life skills. For example, one recently proposed idea is an Apple Cider Vinegar Workshop, ACV being a useful tonic for humans and livestock. If you have a suggestion or would like to share a skill please contact **Loch** at 7309.

The May 20 **power outage** was caused by a snapped power line at the Escalante River. Once the cause was determined, Garkane was able to switch Boulder power users to the Boulder hydro plant within a couple of hours. Talk about resiliency. Thank you Boulder Hydro workers!



Boulder Elementary students proudly displaying some of their new books purchased with a Libri Foundation grant.

BES RECEIVES LIBRI GRANT

By Cindy Sanchez

Boulder Elementary is the lucky recipient of a Libri Foundation grant. The Libri Foundation provides grants to libraries and schools around the United States. The main purpose of this grant is to provide books to those areas in need of them. Our grant was \$2,000.00 and we were able to purchase over 100 new hard bound books. We are so grateful to have been a part of this grant. We were in desperate need of new books for our library and this grant came to the rescue. We want to thank all of those who donate to this grant and make it possible for schools and libraries to receive new books. Thank you from Boulder Elementary!

* The Libri grant match is made possible by Jacqui Smalley.

ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

Sage Page continues to accept original poetry, photographs, and feature submissions. Please contact Peg Smith: peg@bouldercommunityalliance.org.

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT BOULDER?

Boulder Community Alliance (BCA)

supports local landscape and community projects through the use of generous grants and donations. Help us support the unique, vibrant Boulder community and its fragile, spectacular landscape by making a tax deductible donation today.

DONATE NOW

Donations are accepted through the Paypal button on our Facebook page and website:
www.bouldercommunityalliance.org



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Editors: Peg Smith and Tanya Collings
Please email comments, questions, or article contributions and photos to: peg@bouldercommunityalliance.org

Our mission: *Boulder Community Alliance champions the unique, vibrant Boulder community and its fragile, spectacular landscape.*

BESTSELLING AUTHOR VISITS BOULDER ELEMENTARY

By Tanya Collings

Jean Reagan, NY Times bestselling author and Boulder landowner, visited Boulder Elementary this May to share two of her endearing illustrated books, *How to Babysit a Grandpa* and *How to Babysit a Grandma*. Children and adults alike attended this reading, learning important instructions about grandpa and grandma sitting.

Jean’s books are a playful inversion of the typical babysitting formula. The book begins with, “Babysitting a grandpa is fun—if you know how. When you’re grandpa rings the doorbell, what should you do? Hide!” The book continues with fun ideas about snacks for grandpas, things to do on a walk, playing with grandpas, and how to say good-bye.

After reading the first book, Jean instructed on the writing and publishing process including tips on brainstorming, writing, working with illustrators, editing, and revision. As an example, Jean explained to the students how confident she felt about her first draft of *How To Babysit a Grandpa*. “It was perfect,” she remembered, “I worked on it so hard.” After a pause she continued with an important lesson that all writers must learn.

She asked the class how they felt after they finished all their homework and cleaned their room. Students responded with exclamations of “Yay!” and big smiles. “Then,” Jean continued, “how do you feel when someone taps you on the shoulder and says, ‘Come back here . . . you did it wrong . . . you need to do it again.’ How do you feel?” This time the students responded with dark frowns, frustrated groans, and a few angrily clenched fists.

Jean shared a copy of a rough draft made unrecognizable by editorial slashes and comments. “When I finished the first draft, the editor ripped everything apart,” Jean explained. She went on to describe that editing and revision is an important part of the process. She put her writing away for a while and then came back to it with a fresh, positive perspective. Writers learn how to accept relevant criticism and also how to stick to their guns when they feel specific editorial changes might damage the essence of their work.

Jean has two new books in the works, *How to Surprise a Dad* and *How to Catch a Santa*. If we’re lucky maybe she’ll come back for story time again.



Boulder Elementary Students pose with visiting author, Jean Reagan, and her books, *How to Babysit a Grandpa* and *How to Babysit a Grandma*

Photo Credit: Tanya Collings



Follow the
“Escalante Headwaters Case Study”

Visit our website for additional photographs, monthly updates, and more in-depth information at:
www.bouldercommunityalliance.org

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UDOT and utility representatives—to discuss the next step in riparian restoration: erosion control through streambank stabilization and revegetation.

As BCA’s Regional Coordinator, part of Sue Fearon’s job is to facilitate this process by identifying funding and technical partners. Partnerships like this one are crucial to the success of restoration. Repairing Allysia’s streambank is important to many people and for different reasons. Upper Valley Creek is downcutting dangerously close to the edge of the Highway 12, motivating UDOT to hop on the restoration train for the safety of the highway. As explained

by participant Clint Wirick, biologist with Partners for Fish and Wildlife, the health of these riparian areas also affects the native habitats of songbirds. Amy Dickey, the Watershed Coordinator for the Utah Division of Water Quality, also explained how all of these factors impact the quality of our irrigation and drinking water. Any erosion control and sediment reduction in the Escalante River will certainly benefit the downstream water users as well.

THE BIG PICTURE
In 2013 alone BCA worked with approximately 40 landowners to facilitate the removal of Russian olive on 175 acres in Boulder and Escalante.

However, BCA and its partners are dedicated to sustainable restoration, moving far beyond the removal of invasive species. True restoration in Allysia’s case, as well as in many others, involves streambank stabilization, the reintroduction of productive native plant species, and continued long-term maintenance. Restoration benefits not only the individual landowner but also our community and landscape as a whole.

Questions about our land owner programs?

Contact Sue Fearon
BCA Regional Coordinator
sue@bouldercommunityalliance.org



This photo taken in 2010 shows the riverbank overrun with dense stands of Russian olive. In 2013, the restoration process began with the removal of the Russian olive shown here.

Photo Credit: Craig Sorenson.

LOCH WADE, WATER WHEEL AND RESILENCY

By Bob Phillips



Loch Wade posing next to one of his water wheels. Loch is looking to build a community water wheel-powered grist mill to enhance the long term resiliency of Boulder’s local economy.

Photo credit: Bob Phillips

In an area still blessed with opportunities to create a largely self-sufficient, resilient local economy, one Boulder resident sees great potential in moving toward that goal by recreating a very old technology here —a water wheel to mill grain and accomplish other work.

Local machinist, water master, welder and jack of all trades Loch Wade strongly believes in the value of building a resilient local economy—one buffered somewhat from the uncertainties of relying on outside suppliers—by utilizing local resources for some of the essentials. He believes a water wheel fits into that vision perfectly.

Loch did extensive research into the history and uses of water wheels and is currently investigating possible sites in the Boulder area to create a functioning mill. He believes its availability could create local jobs, locally made products, and possibly even become a draw for tourists.

The idea grew out of the creation of the Boulder Skills Foundation three years ago, an effort by local residents to identify vital skills related to community resiliency, he said. Such skills

range from growing and processing food crops to expertise in construction, textiles, spinning, farming, tool-making, woodworking—the list is long.

Yet fundamental to everyone involved in the Skills Foundation was the need and potential for growing food locally, Loch said.

Water-powered wheels are one of the oldest technologies on the planet and have been used since ancient times to harness the natural power of falling water. A water wheel-powered grist mill could provide the means and incentive for more local farming of grain and other food stuffs, which could then be processed into flour and other items both for local consumption and for sale to visitors, he said.

That in turn could stimulate spinoff businesses, Loch said.

“If we’re going to take natural resources from our area and turn them either into things that can be sold or things we can use for ourselves, power is needed at some point,” he noted. “As long as we can use electricity and motors and tools, that’s all great, but

it seems to me that might be a hard thing to count on.”

A mill could also be useful for a wide variety of other purposes and in conjunction with a variety of machinery—sawing wood, running a blacksmith forge, running a loom, grinding glass or various other materials. The power naturally generated by a wheel can be used in virtually endless ways, he said.

Essential for a successful water wheel are a sufficient vertical drop and sufficient flow of water – the combination of water volume and power associated with vertical fall are what provide adequate power and torque for a water wheel to function successfully.

Loch noted that a number of sites exist in the area that meet those requirements, and also are low enough in elevation to function year round. Various obstacles, such as land ownership and land use regulations, have slowed the effort but he is building the wheel and continues the effort to find a good spot to local a mill.

Loch thinks a gristmill could provide a springboard for innovative people in the area to create their own home-grown enterprises and perhaps even stimulate new jobs and new markets using all local materials. He believes that Boulder residents would be wise to invest in a resilient local economy that doesn’t rely so heavily on tourism to survive, citing uncertainty in the economy and world political events among other factors.

A waterwheel could play a key role in building such an economic buffer and local resiliency from outside events, he said.

“The benefit is creating actual living wages jobs, jobs where people can actually live here, without destroying the environment. To me, just the whole concept works—it makes economic sense.”

BMGR, A SPACE TO RAISE CONSCIOUSNESS

By Tanya Collings

Permaculture is of primary importance to the owners and staff at Boulder Mountain Guest Ranch (BMGR) in Salt Gulch. As Manager Jamie Duby explained, permaculture “is not only about the land. It’s about community, environment, economics . . . everything.”

BMGR owners Ron Johnson and Brandie Hardman Johnson are working to create a space to raise consciousness, and with an increase in consciousness comes the drive to respect our planet, to live with it in a more holistic, sustainable manner.

BMGR has a multitude of programs and policies leading to, as Jamie articulately stated, “creating a space to raise consciousness.” This manifests strongly in their local, sustainable farm-to-table meals and the enjoyment and knowledge shared through their community workshops and events.

FOOD WITH A “SENSE OF PLACE”

Chef Scott Ashley of BMGR’S Sweetwater Kitchen describes their food using the concept of *terroir*, a French term meaning “a sense of place.” When food is “grown and served within the same area,” Scott explained, “it’s a synergy spot ... where the flavors come to represent the landscape.”

The cooks at Sweetwater Kitchen literally walk 100 yards from the kitchen to select fresh greens for their salads. The vast majority of the ingredients, including the meats, come from within a 200-mile radius of the ranch itself. Scott applies Old World techniques to New World ingredients to invent truly regional flavors.

Their current menu offers such delicacies as seared venison loin with Juniper red wine reduction, grilled garden vegetables drizzled with fennel-sage oil, farm fresh deviled eggs, and corn infused ice cream. The restaurant’s relaxed, welcoming atmosphere—the impromptu piano performances, fresh cut flowers, and table service by the chefs themselves—is reminiscent of pleasant dinners at the family table. It feels like Boulder, tastes like Boulder.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

BMGR has hosted a variety of exciting and inspiring events over the years. Permaculture is also about community, providing a place to gather for friendship, communication, and good old fashioned fun.

The upcoming “Fed by Wild Nature” workshop (June 5– 8), taught by Boulder’s own Constance Lynn, is an opportunity to “connect your inner knowing, health, and longings for well-being while immersed in the rhythms of wild nature.” Participants will learn such important skills as how to identify, gather, and prepare wild foods.

Last year, the BMGR Solstice party included a performance of The Dark Side of the Moon and Party Blues played by Andy Frasco and his band. More than a few of us were up dancing to the guest D.J.s until the sun came up. On June 19-21 the School of Rock and Andy Frasco return for another free event, starting June 19 with a Locals Family Jam session.



Constance Lynn will be hosting an upcoming workshop at BMGR entitled “Fed by Wild Nature”. Visit the BMGR website to sign up: bouldermountainguestranch.com.



Shadow Tippets, Sweetwater Kitchen breakfast cook and gardener, preparing to feast on a grilled garden veggie and herb pizza. Call 335-7480 for dinner reservations.

Photo Credit: Tanya Collings