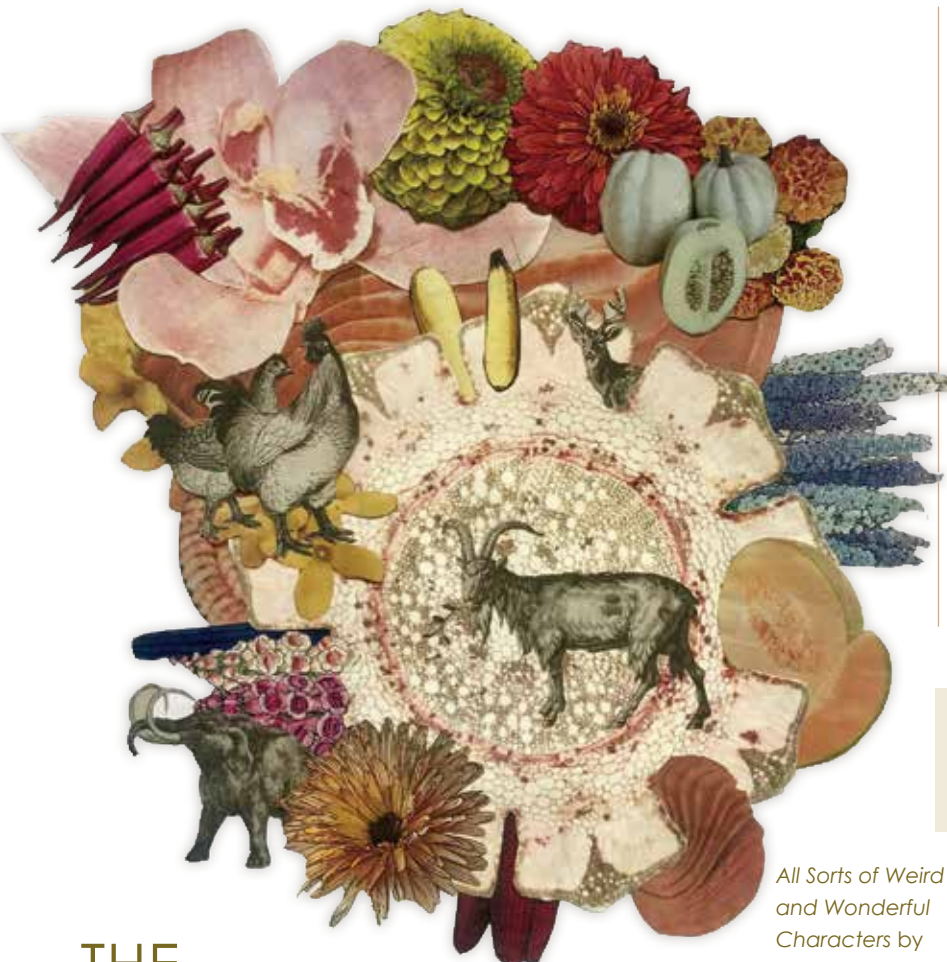


The Sage Page

Vol. 13 | Num. 1 | Spring 2019

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



Inside This Issue

BCA Updates	2
The Watershed of Boulder <i>continued</i> . . .	3
Firefighter 411	3
“1,292,000 Miles”	4
BOSS Turns 50	5
<i>To the Bobcat in the Canyon Yesterday</i> . . .	5
Bioregional Class	6
Recycling	6
Boulder Cemetery	7
Music in the Park	7
Letter from the President	8
Community Calendar	8



ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

Sage Page continues to accept original poetry, photographs, and feature submissions. Email ed@bouldercommunityalliance.org with ideas.

THE WATERSHED OF BOULDER

By Matt Cochran,
with Utah Water Guardians

Poet and ecologist Gary Snyder speaks of water as part of the commons. To care for the town of Boulder, we must extend our reach to the watershed. We would not last long without an ample supply of clean water. Ancient cultures would say if you care for the water, it will care for you.

East Fork Boulder Creek has been managed for fish by the UDWR and USFS for many

All Sorts of Weird and Wonderful Characters by
Bobbie Robinson

decades. When it comes to fish management, unfortunately, the national protocol is that it can't be done without aquatic poisoning. In 2009, while wandering in the King's Pasture area, Constance and I came across a huge fish kill. It was a management event in which the government agencies failed to notify the Town of what they were up to. We pursued the issue as we thought something should be done.

Here is the problem. That water from top to bottom is used by all of us. It flows from Boulder Top, the upper meadows into King's



Pasture through the penstock to spin the turbines at Garkane then empties out into all our ditch systems. That water runs the ditches and goes into our sprinklers, waters the pastures, our farms and gardens, is drunk by cattle, and creates places to swim and to play for our families. What happens upstream affects downstream.

...continued on page 3



Please let us know if you have updates to your address or would like to be on the *Sage Page* mailing list by emailing ed@bouldercommunityalliance.org. You are also welcome to visit bouldercommunityalliance.org and click the publications tab to view our online issue archive.



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Caitlin Gorman, *BCA Board Member*

Design: PFD

Thank you to this issue's contributors!

Please email comments, questions, or article contributions and high resolution photos to: ed@bouldercommunityalliance.org

OUR MISSION:

To actively champion the unique and vibrant community of Boulder and its spectacular, fragile landscape.



BCA UPDATES



Dear friends of the Boulder Community Alliance,

The BCA board would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Lisa Varga, Treasurer and Board Member, and Katie Coleman, Bookkeeper, who are moving on from their administrative positions with the BCA.

After 3.5 years with the board, Lisa has decided to resign her positions in order to begin a new year filled with possibilities and adventures. You may have read articles that she wrote in the Sage Page, received a thank you note from her in the mail, or attended one of the many successful events that became a reality under her careful dedication and planning. Her experience as a business owner in Boulder and longtime resident added a valuable perspective to the initiatives we took on and continue to pursue. We honor Lisa's commitment to preserving what makes Boulder so special. She has strengthened the community over many cups of coffee at the Burr Trail Outpost and honored the landscape through Earth Tours, the guide service she runs with her husband, Keith, to educate visitors about the fragile and awe-inspiring wilderness that surrounds us.

Katie Coleman served on the BCA board beginning in 2012 and in recent years supported the team as Bookkeeper. We are thankful for her generous ideas and insightful historical information. Her love of the wide open spaces of Southern Utah and the rural character of Boulder drove her commitment to the BCA's mission. From volunteering with the Boulder Fire Department to running the 4-H program, Katie has spent countless hours dedicated to the families and community of Boulder. Her decade behind the window at the Boulder post office highlighted her amazing knack for connecting people and her seemingly infinite willingness to help orient new residents. Katie will be focusing on continuing to run a grass-fed cattle operation with her husband Shane and daughter Audrey, as well as her role as the business manager for Hell's Backbone Grill.



Lisa and Katie will surely be missed as a part of the Boulder Community Alliance, and we wish them the best in future endeavors!

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

As we say goodbye to two veteran members, the BCA is proud to welcome Haylee Apperson as Bookkeeper and Project Manager.

With an immense passion for food and a desire to share the abundance of Boulder's harvest, Haylee and her husband Garin opened Magnolias Street Food, a farm to bus café, in the fall of 2014. While continuing to manage Magnolias, Haylee is finding her niche in the world of remote work: writing web content, bookkeeping, project management, and even Excel data entry; the possibilities are seemingly endless. Now, raising two little girls, the importance of living a life built on resilience, knowledge of where our food comes from, and a deep connection with Mother Nature are at the forefront of her family life.

THE WATERSHED OF BOULDER...continued from cover

Beyond the common sense that you don't poison your water sources, the UDWR uses a "natural" poison called Rotenone, along with its "neutralizer" potassium permanganate, and then a kerosene-based carrier. Rotenone once widely used as an agricultural pesticide, has been banned entirely in the EU and banned for agricultural use in the US in 2012; its sole use in the US now is as a freshwater fish poison (piscicide). Increasingly its correspondence to Parkinson's Disease has been publicized. The other two chemicals are toxic as well, not something you would cavalierly throw in the water.

To care for the town of Boulder, we must extend our reach to the watershed.

This reintroduction of the Colorado Native Cutthroat is a noble cause, but it is also a "greenwash." It sounds good but the means to the end is terrible. "Saving" one species at the expense of an ecosystem is not good ecology; it kills all life in a stream, has consequences up the food chain, and designates us as downstreamers. The check to see if poison has gone downstream is to put a bucket of fish in the creek below the neutralizing station. If these sentinel fish live, the poison is assumed to be neutralized. This plan of course makes us in Boulder, the sentinel humans. The question

remains: how do Colorado Cutthroat benefit the ecosystem compared to the existing Brook Trout? How does poisoning actually improve a habitat? How does it make better fishing?

This issue has been complicated by the government arrangement with Garkane Power. The water of East Fork Boulder Creek is used to produce energy and provides some local jobs. Garkane is required by law to mitigate this use with some beneficial water project. UDWR, USFS, and FERC as a result have managed to have Garkane fund the Colorado Cutthroat project at the risk of losing their license to operate. We as shareholders should be aware of this.

As guardians of our watershed, we've been running the gauntlet since 2009, with a little luck and a lot of persistence from many capable individuals in the community—and we've delayed this process for 9 years. The government agencies returned this past spring with a new idea, and met with 70 Boulder residents at the Town Hall. The new idea was the old one; they were just inviting us in to monitor their poisoning project. All of the people who spoke made passionate, intelligent, and eloquent arguments against such measures. It was gratifying and despairing to be in that room. It seems we have stalled UDWR again but only for a while.



As a community we are all watching and acting now, caring for our watershed. Thank you for considering the water for its own sake. The water is a great reason for a community to be unified. I know of no other issue in which we have all been so closely allied and in agreement. It shows our strength, our values, our courage, and our unique character. Legalities aside, in my mind, Boulder truly belongs to the water.

For more information about the history of the Utah Water Guardians and educational resources, please visit utwaterguardians.org.



Torrey Butte, Early Morning
by Scotty Mitchell



FIREFIGHTER 411

By Josh Ellis

Last year was one of our busier years here in Boulder, starting intensely in the spring with a full-on house fire. That was the closest I've ever been to a war zone, bullets whizzing by from ammo stored inside the house as car tires and gas tanks exploded all around us! Since then we've had a field fire that burned a

shed, another field fire that miraculously didn't burn a few houses, a few vehicle accidents, and even an airplane wreck to keep us on our toes. I'd like to give a shoutout to Scotty for her painting raffle (pictured left) and subsequent donation to us firefighters; we all really appreciate the generosity!

“Hats Off” is a feature of *The Sage Page* recognizing people in Boulder who go above and beyond in service for our community. If you would like to nominate someone for recognition, please email ED@bouldercommunityalliance.org.



“1,292,000 MILES”

By Lisa Varga



Vard Coombs reckons that in his 43 year career with the Garfield County School District he has driven his school bus back and forth from Escalante to Boulder over one million miles.

This number does not include any of the field trips, sporting events, or other excursions that took Vard and his precious cargo all over the state of Utah, so actually this estimate is low. The point is, Vard Coombs has kept the children of Boulder safe and secure on his route over many miles and many years.

Vard grew up in Boulder, number 13 of 14 children. He was born in a log cabin next to where his sister Elaine currently resides. He was 9 years old when the family got electricity. As a child, his job was milking 10-12 of the family’s cows. This milk was shipped to the cheese factory in Panguitch. Vard honed his ranching skills before serving in the Air Force. After his service, he moved to Orange County, CA to work for a friend who introduced him to a smart and lovely gal from Saint Paul, Minnesota. Vard and Mary Jane were married in the autumn. The following spring the couple made their home on the Redwing Ranch (now Boulder Canyon Ranch) where Vard was employed as the Ranch Manager. Those early years were tough. The house was rough and cold in the winter. When the Coombs children started arriving, it always seemed to be a winter birth, preceded by a harrowing drive to Panguitch or Cedar City through ice and snow in a VW bug.

Vard started driving the school bus in 1975. He was to take over driving from Doyle Moosman a couple of years before, but passed the job to an Arizona man who needed work to support his family of 7 children. Two years later, when the family returned to Arizona, Vard began his career behind the wheel. The winter after Vard started driving the bus,

Always observant, he witnessed the new light of early morning playing on the canyon walls and the perishing shift to gold of cottonwood leaves as the weather cooled.

Boulder had record snowfalls. The National Guard was called in to plow the roads and dig out the cows. Vard would wait at the top of the Calf Creek grade for the plow to come before he’d venture down the canyon.

There are many stories Vard shares about his years on the road between Boulder and Escalante. As a child on Vard’s school bus,

were you surprised when one Spring Friday you found the Easter bunny driving? Or how about that day at the end of October when there was a jailbird behind the wheel? Vard had to be ever watchful of the shenanigans of inattentive drivers (including logging truck drivers!), and ever watchful of his passengers caught being naughty in his rear view mirror. All you grown up kids who got called up to the front seat behind Vard, well, you know who you are....

I asked Vard if he ever got tired of the drive back and forth. He said he never did as there was something new to see every day along the way. Always observant, he witnessed the new light of early morning playing on the canyon walls and the perishing shift to gold of cottonwood leaves as the weather cooled. The landscape always had something to offer. He saw children too, caught by his eye in the rearview mirror, transformed into instant angels before he could blink.

Now that Vard has retired, the school bus will be parked in someone else’s yard, and he and Mary Jane will be able to spend more time with their kids and grandchildren. Generations of parents thank you, Vard, for delivering their children home safe and sound every school day. Friends and neighbors will miss the dip of your black hat as you drive by.

Hats off to Vard Coombs for 43 years of service to our community!

BOSS TURNS 50

By Eli Loomis, BOSS Executive Director

BOSS saw some big changes in 2018. We marked our 50th season and we transitioned to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We also worked out financing to purchase Schoolhouse Property. We're grateful to have been based out of Boulder for more than 40 of those years, with over 15,000 students coming through our programs. Last year, in addition to hosting Wilderness First Responder certification courses and the Slickrock Gathering, we ushered 140 students through our regular field program.

What we teach has changed very little since Larry Dean Olsen and his team developed the original programming at BYU in 1968. Those early courses traveled through much of the same territory in and around Boulder that we still frequent. That BYU course eventually became BOSS's 28-Day Standard Field Course. When Doug Nelson brought the program to Boulder as BOSS in the 70s, he incorporated it as a private business, yet our mission has always been educational.

Becoming a nonprofit is an exciting, natural development for us. Aside from being able to offer donors tax benefits for their donations, we now also have a board of directors thinking about the school's long-term vision and a new leadership team guiding our operations. We know that our programs can be financially out of reach for many, which is why we launched BOSS's scholarship program in 2015. Originally we funneled charitable donations through the fiscal sponsorship of the Community Foundation of Utah. Being a nonprofit now ourselves makes offering financial aid more seamless. In 2018, BOSS granted significant financial aid to 23 students—a new benchmark. We have a few types of discounts and grants, and Boulder residents have always enjoyed priority consideration! If you're curious, take a look at our website and don't hesitate to give us a call.

After 50 years and thousands of students—and many former BOSS instructors putting down permanent roots here in town—Boulder is most definitely home. We love it here and can't think of anywhere we'd rather be!



To the Bobcat in the Canyon Yesterday

By Sam Van Wetter

A little about myself: I, too, have lain in desert during rain to hear sand stiffen under me, the sound of saturation, plants yawning and chlorophylling, getting full.

I too have heard the cacophony thousand footsteps of raindrops and mistook it for safety. I too have had my head filled with earthbloom and cloudburst with my nose to the dirt and my stomach rumbling like the sky.

But I suspect you have patience. Not I. I am perpetually antsy and rarely find comfortable places to sit. But for you I have waited a long time.

I meant to ask you about your home and family, the places you love, if you know this one well, if you could show me. I meant to ask you if you've been enjoying this rain, if you still find pleasure in the routine, the hunting and the eating, the sleeping and waking again. I meant to ask you if you are bored sometimes or lonely often or tired occasionally, like you'll never move again, and if I changed something when I came around the corner and grabbed you with my eyes and flew you bounding away up canyon.

I meant to ask you if we could do the same thing again but slower but the only word I spoke was *woah* and it was more to the bob of your tail than to your face, which didn't know to hear my questions and so had already left.



BIOREGIONAL CLASS

By Tessa Barkan

Smell of American licorice between fingers: sour-musty-sweetness, small warm waftings lifting from fractal leaves. The tall curves of stems weave collectively through an air co-mingled with featherlight sun and cricket vibrations. We sat amongst the licorice, slowly chewing the root, a group of about eight of us, trying to experience, well, whatever there was to be experienced.

That is largely what we practiced throughout the two days of John Slattery and David Holladay's Bioregional Herbalism Course in June, which I am grateful to have been able to take part in, helped by generous support from the Boulder Skills Foundation (BSF). The BSF aims to facilitate the acquisition of local skills to promote community resilience and self-reliance. Throughout those two days I learned, alongside other community members, about how the land can support us and equally how we can support the land.

We learned that licorice can be a digestive tonic, a gut-soother, a liver-supporter, a cortisol-reducer. We learned practical knowledge about the plants who live here, their medicines and edible properties. Yet, in attempting to put voice to the course, I find that it does not feel adequate to simply list the uses of the plants we discussed,

though they are many and powerful. To be in a group setting and have the opportunity to sit quietly with the plants, delving into relationship- that was what will stay with me, closer than the notes I took and the names I learned.

So how to put voice to these relationships? Probably in something closer to poetry:

*each leaf cranes upwards to taste sky
nodding in soft-spun cadence cry
and I can feel, echoing, deep in my belly,
my own cells align,
the craning upwards to taste
some greater intangible.*

We sat in a circle and shared our experiences, sour-musty-sweet root between our teeth. The plants spoke to us in myriad languages, pulling up old memories or inducing digestion, a feeling of calibration or the quelling of a sun-induced aching head. Deeply personal and yet collective, our meditations often shared similar undertones. Consciousness can grow rhizomatically too; it spreads through and between us in ways both inexplicable and simple.

It takes exceptional teachers to guide without imposition, to allow each individual as well as the group itself to develop dynamically, without set schedule or exact plans. I am grateful for David and John for providing this space, and for the BSF for helping me to attend.

About the Teachers:

David Holladay has been an outdoor skills instructor and advisor for several decades and is known for his exuberant energy for all things wild and free, his extensive knowledge of living in the desert wilderness simply from what one may find while walking the Earth, as well as his vivid and memorable storytelling.

John Slattery is an herbalist, instructor, and author who is dedicated to the development of bioregional herbalism across the country, in order to help people rise to their greatest potential through the power of working with wild plants.



RECYCLING

By Fernando Rendón

We have been recycling in our community of Tucson, Arizona, for a long time, but it was only when our garbage collecting service started doing it for residences that we really embraced the program.

It was about three years ago, when I noticed that my granddaughter, Liliana Sanders, was collecting aluminum cans in Boulder, Utah, that I started saving them for her.

It has now become a grandfather-granddaughter tradition that any time she comes to visit, she brings her stash of cans and, along with the ones I collected from

friends, concerts in the parks, etc., we go to the recycling center to sell them. She gets spending money, plus the experience of doing something good for the environment.

This last time a good portion of the cans came from the annual highway clean-up that was done in Boulder at the end of May. It was a big chunk of the 25.5 pounds that Liliana got to sell this time. Thank you to the Highway 12 clean up crews for the donation!

These are the small things that make life more enjoyable.

BOULDER CEMETERY

The area for an official cemetery site in Boulder was leased from the US Forest Service by Bishop Claude V Baker, of the L.D.S. Church, in May of 1928. The L.D.S. Church was the official owner of the cemetery until the 1990s when the property was then turned over to Boulder Town for ownership. Keith Gailey, a former mayor of Boulder and L.D.S. Bishop, compiled a record of all the burials in the Boulder Cemetery up to 2009. Each entry included a picture of the “headstone” and a brief biography of the person. This record can be viewed at the Boulder Library if you are interested.

Boulder Town has an ordinance governing who can be buried at the Boulder Cemetery. This ordinance can be found on the Boulder Town website. Because of the interest in burial plots and a need for funding maintenance expenses, the Boulder Cemetery Committee is recommending to the Town Council that they charge a fee for cemetery plots. There is interest for reserving cemetery plots so this will also be considered.

At the present time we will try to locate burial plots near family members already there, in areas that are already used for gravesites and where possible, if only a headstone is needed (as in cremations), we will fill in areas where there is limited access for “earth moving” equipment.

If you have questions, concerns, or wish to make a donation, please feel free to contact a member of the cemetery board: Gladys LeFevre, Camille Hall, Chylene Mackey, Stacy Davis, or Carrie Ryan.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
MAY 17TH, 2019**

9 am | Boulder Community Center

Every May, volunteers clean designated sections of Scenic Highway 12 in honor of Mike Putiak, who pioneered this BCA Program. Details for the upcoming event will be posted on Pegboard and Facebook.

Join us in keeping Bodacious Boulder Breathtakingly Beautiful by Bagging!



By Cheryl Cox

In trying to find an event to fill some of the void from the Boulder Heritage Festival, the Boulder Arts Council came up with the idea of a concert in the park series. Each event includes one headliner band from outside the area with local musicians opening for the event. These were set at the Boulder Town Park pavilion on the first Saturdays in June, August, and September. There was no need for a July event with the great 4th of July weekend events created by Boulder Community Alliance and the talent show hosted by Hell’s Backbone Grill and the Boulder Mountain Lodge.

June included the Virgin River Band from St. George playing rock and country songs from the seventies. There was a certain age group of Boulder residents who sang all the words while they danced the night away. The opening local musicians for this event included Eric Feiler, Jabe Beal, Jessica Frogley, and Carl Dede.

The August Music in the Park saw the return of one of the Boulder Heritage Festival favorites, The Fiery Furnace Marching Band from Moab. They play songs most of us have never thought to dance to with a lot of percussion and brass but there was no way to sit this one out. Everyone crowded the dance floor to shake, shimmy, and march across the dance floor. Bob Phillips, San Sanchez, and Michael Atwood got things started.

They were followed by the Salt Gulch All Stars with Eric Scott, Anthony Bertucci, Kak Urpani, Michael Atwood, and Alan Day. It was an incredible night with a display of our most beautiful monsoon clouds.

The final event was held on Saturday, September 1st with Mountain Country, a band from Salt Lake. Local band the Gypsy Boyz opened the event followed by our favorite Australian, Vikki Thorn. We want to thank the Garfield Travel Council, Utah Arts and Museums, and the National Endowment for the Arts for their support in funding this event.





**BOULDER
COMMUNITY
ALLIANCE**

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Dear readers,

This issue of the *Sage Page* really highlights the diversity of life in Boulder: governmental threats to the purity of our water, our love for enjoying, learning about, and interacting with the land, the longstanding organizations that significantly influence our community day in and day out, music and DANCING, the grit it takes to grow up and live here, and even what happens when we die! We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to live in such a unique time and place on Earth. I am grateful to everyone here for doing what you do.

— Josh Ellis, *BCA Board President*

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SAGE PAGE: Donate online at bouldercommunityalliance.org. Visit us on Facebook!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

1ST Thursday (OF EACH MONTH)

Boulder Town Council Meeting | 7 pm
Boulder Community Center

2ND Thursday (OF EACH MONTH)

Planning Commission Meeting | 7 pm
Boulder Community Center

2ND Sunday (OF EACH MONTH)

LDS Church Potluck

2ND & 4TH Thursday

(OF EACH MONTH)

Senior Citizen Dinner/Lunch
Boulder Community Center

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

March 28TH ONWARD

Bookmobile
Boulder Elementary School | 12–2 pm

Burr Trail Outpost

OPEN: Thursday–Tuesday
March 8:30 am – 3 pm
April–October 7:30 am – 7 pm

March 15TH

Hell's Backbone Grill Reopens

March 21st

School Board Meeting
Panguitch High School | 4–7 pm

March 23RD

Magnolias Reopens

April–May

Youth Art Celebration Exhibit
Boulder Community Gallery

April 1st

Sweetwater Kitchen Reopens

April 6th

Boulder Tree City Arbor Day

May 12th

Boulder Community Market Opens

May 17th

7B's Highway 12 Clean Up
9 am | Meet at the Community Center

May 24th

Last Day of School

June 15th

MUSIC IN THE PARK
Fiery Furnace Marching Band

The Sage Page

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Contact *The Sage Page* at:

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Josh Ellis, *President*

Pamela Furches, *Secretary*

Scott Bigler, *Board Member*

Caitlin Gorman, *Board Member*

Ron Johnson, *Board Member*

Haylee Apperson,
Bookkeeper/Project Manager

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