



Looking for a mountain getaway from the summer heat, an adventure for the bored kids, that is not too far? Take a drive to Buckhorn Lakes, southeast of Montrose. Take your fishing gear. (Joel L. Evans/Special to the Montrose Daily Press)

Fishing at the city park

Picture the last time you took a leisurely stroll through a city park on a summer day. Kids playing on swing sets. Dogs chasing sticks. Families out for a bike ride.

These and other scenes you may envision are typical of a city park in our community and most anywhere else. But sort of like an artist who reaches for a clean piece of paper on which to draw, please clear your mind of those images and begin again with new images of a different city park scene.

At 9,700 feet in elevation, this city park is unusual. Begin with a mountain scene. Add aspen and spruce trees. Best of all, add a lake nestled in a bowl shaped out of the mountain below the peak. Put it all together and you have Buckhorn Lakes, a City of Montrose park. Now this is what I call a park!

Although Buckhorn is located well outside of the city limits, and fails the definition of a standard city park, it succeeds where other parks can't. A short drive from Montrose, Buckhorn excels as a cool respite from the heat of summer. The history of the park is



Outdoors

By Joel L. Evans

interesting. The land was purchased in two pieces by the city for \$1.25 an acre, as authorized by acts of the U.S. Congress. The acts were signed by President Wilson in 1917 and President Harding in 1922.

Using the plural form of the name is intentional as there are two lakes immediately next to each other. One is long and narrow, the other deep and more rounded. Access to both lakes is very good as one can drive to the waters edge at several places, or except for a few marshy areas, one can walk around the lakes along the edges.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife stocks the lakes, providing a good fishery for family and kids. CPW has years of stocking records for brooks, cutthroats and rainbows, in varying sizes from fingerlings to larger catchable

size fish. I've always caught at least a few fish at Buckhorn, sometimes being very good.

The fish always seem to be above average size and fat. Here, one can fish most any way one pleases, including bait, lures, or flies. This is an excellent lake for small hand propelled boats, such as a small raft or float tube; I take a kayak. Kids do well here as there is plenty of open space for casting and good shorelines that allow you to stand without worry of falling in the water.

And because it is relatively close to town, the short drive up or back is advantageous for the younger kids who tire quicker. Or is that an advantage for the parents?

Because of its location near the ridge top, storms can come strong and fast. I've been caught out in the rain there more than once, especially during late summer afternoons. If you should decide to go for only part of the day, mornings are best.

Sometimes by early afternoon, the clouds are building, and with little warning, the sky starts falling. But more often than not, the rain is over quickly and you may see a

rainbow in the sky as you return to the task at hand of catching a rainbow in the lake.

Buckhorn is located on Storm King Mountain, just under the Sawtooth Rocks, southeast of Montrose. Storm King, as well as Water Dog Peak, it's shorter neighbor with the radio tower, can be seen clearly from anywhere in the valley.

Local wisdom is to look for the likeness of the number seven formed by the snow on the mountain in the winter, and when the seven is nearly gone, then the snow has melted enough so that the road into the lakes will be open, and it is time to go fishing.

The road is a good dirt, gravel, and rock road, but can be rough in places. You can get there in a car, but a high clearance vehicle is advisable.

Entrance to the park is free. Pack out your own trash as no trash service is available. Access to Buckhorn starts out of Colona on U.S. 550, heading east up the Buckhorn Road for about 8 miles to the lakes.

Joel L. Evans is an avid fisherman, outdoor writer, and photographer, who has explored Colorado for decades.

Ravens carry many spiritual meanings

I'm not sure who selects the reading assignments for kids in elementary school, but the person is definitely misguided. Reading was never something I was particularly interested in to start with. Add a dose of Shakespeare to my summer reading list and I am a goner.

Nothing put me to sleep faster than Shakespeare. That stuff was obviously written as a feeble attempt to cure insomnia, and he succeeded. The words he used were far from my comprehension. Words like "verily" left me hanging on the edge.

Then one day, Mrs. Erickson, my sixth-grade teacher, decided we would now read poetry. I was less than enthralled, but felt I needed more daytime sleep. That soon changed when she gave me my first poem to read.

As you probably have guessed, the poem was "The Raven," by Edgar Allen Poe. I enjoyed the poem so much that I read many more of Poe's poems and stories. Without knowing it, I fell into that teacher's plan and have read hundreds of classics over the years, and still do today. Ruark and Hemingway are among my favorite classic authors.

The raven has long been used in symbolism and carries many spiritual meanings. In Greek mythology, ravens are associated with Apollo, the god of prophecy. They were a symbol of bad luck and used as god's messengers in the mortal world.

The Viking god, Odin, had two ravens named Hugin (thought) and Munin (memory). Odin would send these birds to fly around the world every day and report back to him as to what they saw.

Native American lore describes the raven as a creature of metamorphosis, and symbolizes change and transformation. In other cultures, ravens are portrayed as a symbol of death.

Ravens and crows are near impossible to tell apart in the field. Both are members of the Corvus genus, and can be found on all the continents except Antarctica and South America. There are more than 40 species in the family that have been identified.

The easiest way to separate ravens from crows is to have them visible together, as they often are. The raven is much larger, about one-third, than the



Tips from the Posse

By Mark Rackay

crow. Ravens also sport a large wedge-shaped tail. A raven can soar for long times on an air current and an observer can see through their wing feathers when they fly.

Even when you can't see the birds, the calls they make will separate the two birds. Crows make the traditional caw-caw sound, as any outdoor person can attest to. The woods wake up in the mornings to the crow calls.

Ravens on the other hand, make a very deep and reverberating croaking or gronk-gronk sound. Occasionally, a raven will imitate a crow's caw sound, but even then, it is so deep that it is fairly easy to distinguish from a real crow.

A raven can have a body length up to 2-feet and a wingspan of 4-feet, making them appear very large in flight. A mature adult can weigh around 3 pounds. Color wise, a raven is completely black, including his eyes, legs and beak.

In flight, ravens are graceful and buoyant, as they soar and glide through the air with very few wing flaps. On the ground, they strut around and bound forward with a series of two-footed hops.

You can see ravens all the way up to the tree line, as well as the desert, sagebrush, alpine tundra and the grasslands. Generally a loner, but sometimes seen in pairs, ravens are not social like crows. The exception would be around the landfill, where many can be seen at once looking for food.

When it comes to intelligence, a raven ranks near the top with dolphins and chimpanzees. In the wild, ravens have been known to push rocks on people to keep them from climbing to their nests, and stolen fish by pulling a fisherman's line from an ice hole.

If a raven knows another raven is watching it hide its food, it will pretend to put food in one place while really hiding it in another. As smart as ravens are, this trick seldom works.

See RAVENS page A11



This raven posed for a kodak moment on top of my antler spirit post. (Mark Rackay/Special to the Montrose Daily Press)



\$10,000 IN CASH PRIZES

6th Annual Smallmouth Bass Tournament

July 11 – Aug. 9 at Ridgway State Park

Every angler has a chance to win!

Most fish caught category:
1st prize: \$5,000, 2nd prize - \$2,000,
3rd prize \$1,000

\$2,000 in raffle prizes
Prizes for the kids!
No entry fee required

Learn how to catch smallmouth bass, tournament rules:
<https://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/Tournament.aspx>

LET'S CATCH SOME BASS!

For information
970-626-5822 • 970-252-6000



Tips for your July garden



Gardening A to Z

By Linda McIntosh

I don't know what you're planning for the Fourth of July weekend, but if you choose to spend the weekend right in your own backyard, here are some things you might want to be aware of and tips for dealing with them.

You may not know it, but you may be having uninvited visitors to your house for the Fourth. One of the unwanted July visitors is earwigs. Most of us hate them, but they can be considered beneficial insects because they eat smaller insects such as aphids and thrips. However, when their populations become large, they can become destructive as well as annoying. They often chew on flowers, causing some pretty severe damage to the blooms. They will also leave tender new vegetable starts looking like a naked stalk. Earwigs often show up around homes in such massive numbers that it can become a bit overwhelming, even if they mean you no harm.

If you find yourself overrun with these little critters, you can make a trap by putting about 1/2 inch of vegetable oil and about a teaspoon of soy sauce in a small butter tub. Cut a dime-size hole in the lid. Then bury the butter tub to the rim. This will allow the earwigs to crawl in but not out. Check the trap in the morning to see what you may have caught and repeat this process until you've gained control.

Baits are also available through local nurseries if you prefer a simpler means of control. Cockroach traps or spray are also effective against earwigs.

Squash bugs are one of those insects that you want to keep on top of. If you're growing cucurbits such as squash, pumpkins, cucumbers or zucchini, keep an eye out for squash bugs. Don't wait until you go to the garden one day and discover your plant has died and turned black almost overnight. Check the underside of the leaves every few days. Look for clumps of eggs that resemble a bunch of little rust colored footballs.

I wear gloves and a long sleeve shirt when I'm working with cucurbits because I think they're prickly and they make me itch. If you find the eggs or little squash bugs, you can remove them man-



Fertilizing your flower boxes and hanging baskets with a balanced plant food will help keep them looking their best. (Linda McIntosh/Special to the Montrose Daily Press)

ually or cut the leaf off and place it in a bucket of soapy water to kill the insects. Diatomaceous earth or pyrethrin applications around the base of the plant are another effective method for controlling squash bugs. These products can even be used in organic gardens.

Of course elm seed bugs continue to be an ever-increasing problem in the area. Try to remove any piles of elm seeds around your house and garden. Spraying the side of the house and nearby plants where the bugs may be harboring on a regular basis may be helpful. All I can say is, these bugs are very mobile and extremely difficult to control.

As the summer heats up, flower blossoms begin to look hot, tired, and fade away. Deadheading, or cutting away the faded flowers will help keep the plant blooming. Your flower boxes and hanging baskets could probably use a little fertilizing about this time of year. A balanced plant food will help them to look great and keep them blooming.

Tomato problems always increase with the heat of summer. Providing shade can help encourage fruit sets. I like to use floating row covers or a shade cloth over my plants. It's not pretty but it protects the plant from the heat as well as bugs, birds, and even deer. Just be sure the pollinators can get to your plants.

Don't prune your spring flowering shrubs after the Fourth of July or you will be cutting off next spring's blooms. Large branches can be removed, but shearing the outer growth will leave you without blossoms next spring.

Whether spraying pesticides or herbicides, it's always a good idea to

spray in the cool of the day. Applying products when it's hot can burn the leaves of the plant. Bees and other beneficial insects are out and about during the day so you will be affecting them also.

Spraying weeds when it's hot is not a good idea. Spraying in temperatures above about 80 degrees can cause the herbicide to drift and kill nearby plants. Read the label of the product that you are using to check the recommendations.

Trust me, I know how hard it is to keep things evenly watered with the heat and wind but it is important. Potatoes can develop hollow heart and tomatoes, peppers, and zucchini can develop black ends because of irregular watering. Mulching around your plants can help hold the moisture.

Your lawn will get a blueish gray cast to it when it is lacking water. If left too long Kentucky blue grass will then turn straw colored. The good news is, it will usually come back just fine if you don't neglect it for too long.

Did you know that you can plant a second crop of beans, beets or radishes at this time? These should mature just fine without danger of frost as they reach maturity.

Should you discover some problems in your landscape and need a little advice, the CSU Extension Office will have a dropbox in front of Friendship Hall. Instructions are on the box.

I hope you have a wonderful Fourth and that no unwanted visitors show up in your garden. Happy gardening!

Linda Corwine McIntosh, Licensed Commercial Pesticide Applicator, ISA Certified Arborist, Advanced Master Gardener

RAVENS

FROM PAGE A10

In captivity, ravens can actually learn to talk, oftentimes better than parrots. They can also mimic other noises such as car engines, and animal or other bird noises. In the wild, ravens can imitate wolves or foxes to attract them to a carcass that the raven is not capable of breaking open. When the wolf or fox is finished eating, the raven feasts on the leftovers. That is pretty smart, considering I have trouble with childproof lids.

An Austrian study found that ravens make very sophisticated non-vocal signals to each other. They actually use gestures to communicate. The study found that a raven would use its beak to point out an object to another bird, similar to what we do with our fingers to point.

These researchers also found that a raven will

hold up an object to get another bird's attention. This is the first time researchers have observed naturally occurring gestures in any animal other than primates.

Ravens are scavengers with a large diet that includes fish, meat, carrion, seeds, fruit, and garbage. They are not above tricking an animal out of their food. One raven will distract the other animal, while another raven will steal the food.

Mating for life, ravens live in pairs and usually in a fixed territory. When the young reach adolescence, they leave the nest and join a gang. These flocks of young birds will live and eat together until they mate and pair off.

In the wild, a raven may live 15 to 17 years. Some birds in captivity have lived beyond 40 years of age.

In the wild, ravens are not friends to farmers or ranchers who raise livestock. Ravens will peck at the eyes of lambs and

calves for food, and can be a real nuisance. The state of Colorado has policy and regulations for dealing with nuisance birds and should be consulted if you have a problem with them. The Federal Migratory Bird Act protects ravens throughout the United States.

I still have no idea what use the word "verily" has in American literature, but I really learned the word "nevermore." Thank you Mrs. Erickson for bringing me the Classics.

Mark Rackay is a columnist for the Montrose Daily Press and avid hunter who travels across North and South America in search of adventure and serves as a director for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. For information about the posse call 970-252-4033 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org.

For outdoors or survival related questions or comments, feel free to contact him directly at his email elkhunter77@icloud.com.

Now more than ever you have to stay informed.



Delivered to your door starting at

\$14 per month

Digital only

\$1.99 per Week

Quality Local Journalism

MONTROSE
Daily Press

970-249-3444
or
montrosepress.com



SIDEWALK SALE!
SATURDAY ONLY
SAVE UP TO 60% OFF

10 SOUTH SELIG AVE • MONTROSE, COLORADO 81401 • 970-249-4226