

JULY/AUGUST
2026
EVERGREEN NEWCOMERS
AND NEIGHBORS
PO BOX 2197
EVERGREEN CO 80437
Kathrin Schroeter, Newsletter Editor

*Where Fun and
Friendships Happen*



HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, USA!

**Enjoy
memorable
Summer Picnic
photos on
page 6-8!**

SAVE THE DATE!

**MEMBER OPEN HOUSE
AUGUST 29 AT BUCHANAN REC
CENTER**

Upcoming Happy Hours:

July 21: Revival Brew Pub, 27845
Highway 74, Evergreen

August 18: The Lazy Butcher, 30790
Stagecoach Blvd., Evergreen -
<https://www.lazybutcher.com/>

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**Next Newsletter Deadline:
August 20th for Group Recaps and
September/October
Newsletter information.**

www.evergreennewcomers.com

www.facebook.com/groups/EvergreenNNC

President's Message



Hello Fellow Newcomers and Neighbors!

As we begin our 2025-26 club year, I wanted to take a few minutes to review all that we accomplished together this past year. Here's a quick rundown:

- Our membership increased to 470 members, up from 413 last year. That's a solid 13.8% increase.
- We now have 40 activity groups with 2 more starting last month, for a net pickup of 6 new groups.
- Our open house generated lots of excitement, new ideas and signups for activities, and new members as well.
- Last month's picnic was a huge success with 105 attendees, a little pickleball, and a lot of food, beverage, and good conversation.
- Don't forget last January's Winter Gala with comedy, dancing, and lots of food and wine, not to mention the football playoffs in the back room :-)
- Hospitality organized 11 Happy Hours at 9 different venues building camaraderie and giving us a taste of Evergreen restaurants.
- ENN gave back to the community with record-setting food and firewood drives, helping our neighbors with basic needs, and raising our profile in Evergreen.
- We launched an exciting new speaker series, Evergreen Speaks!, that is open to the public.
- We migrated to a new mass email system that is comparable in cost to our old system but far more robust and easier for recipients to navigate.

- Finally, we announced a new Activity Group Fund that provides financial support for our growing number of activity groups.

Whew! I hope you agree that your enthusiasm + the determination of our Activity Group Leaders + a hardworking, active Board is a winning formula for our club!

We have a lot planned for this coming year, and I hope you stay for the ride. Our membership renewal drive begins in August and, despite rising costs, our dues will again remain the same.

See you around town!

Mike

ENN's mission is to provide opportunities for its members to meet others through social events and activity groups. The ENN membership list is only for the personal use of ENN members and may not be used for commercial or non-ENN purposes. All photos displayed in this newsletter were taken by its members and are displayed with their permission unless annotated with source.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ENN MEMBERS:

Adam Corbett	Kristina Hughes
Ruth McGillivray	Janie Meyers
Tom Meyers	Julie Mueller
Jennifer Nunn	Steve Nunn
Rose Perillo	Marge Regan
Anne Siewert	Jim Siewert
Tamil Singh	Ann Swain

Our 2026/2027 Board of Directors



In the table below are all Board members for our Club in their respective capacities. Please note the duties of the Nominating Chair have been absorbed by the Executive Committee and a new Chair position of Publicity has been created.

President	Mike Ferrari	Official leader of the Club
Vice-President	Chris Schmenk	Steps in for President when needed
Secretary	Gail Kowalczyk	Documents and acts as Parliamentarian of Board meetings
Treasurer	Janet Harting	Manages the Club's finances
Activities	Chris Schmenk	Oversees and coordinates all activity groups
Communications	Sandy Illich	Handles all Club graphics and internal messaging
Community Involvement	Rebecca Balentine	Organizes volunteer opportunities for our members
Events	Mary Ermides	Organizes our annual events of the Club
Hospitality	Lori Main	Organizes our happy hours
Membership	Carol Rapp	Oversees all membership matters
Newsletter	Kathrin Schroeter	Creates the Club's newsletters
Publicity	TBD	Creates awareness of the Club to grow membership
Webmaster	Rob Wilson	Oversees all matters regarding the Club's website and infrastructure

Gail Kowalczyk moved to Evergreen with her husband, Joe, in July 2025 after her daughter Victoria, a student at Colorado School of Mines, suggested they make the move. Born and raised in New Jersey, Gail later spent 20 years in the Boston area and seven years in the Houston area before happily calling Evergreen her home.

After a rewarding 40-year career as a Neonatal Intensive Care and Pediatric Gastroenterology nurse, Gail decided to hang up her stethoscope and retire at the same time as her husband in 2025 so they could enjoy more time together and embrace the many joys of this new chapter in life.

No matter where she has lived, volunteering has always been an important part of Gail's life, and Colorado has been no exception. She cherishes her volunteer time at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden and is excited to serve as the incoming **Secretary on the ENN Board**.

In her free time, Gail enjoys hiking, yoga, paddle boarding, exploring new places, road-tripping, reading, gardening, tackling home improvement projects, and spending time with her husband, daughter, and beloved dog, Lexi.

Gail learned about ENN at Summerfest last year and is truly grateful for the ENN community and the wonderful people she has met.



A warm thank you to **Karen Davis** for her invaluable help in building a strong board of directors over the past years. Karen served as the **Nominating Chair** for ENN for three years and helped bring many board members 'on board'.



Another warm thank you to **Susan Hall**, who served as ENN's **Secretary** for this past term. Susan did a great job capturing our Board Minutes and served as Parliamentarian during our meetings.



Last, but not least, many thanks to **Mike Harrison** for his service to the club as **Membership Chair** in 2025.



Our Summer Picnic and Leader Appreciation Event



On Sunday, June 14, many of the Club members enjoyed our annual Summer Picnic and Leader Appreciation Event. Though the weather forecast was not too great, we went for it – and it turned out GREAT! The pickleball courts were open for those who wanted to work up an appetite; but most attendees opened their gourmet sandwich boxes right away. Drinks were free and we enjoyed a great variety of them! Soon rows of picnic tables and scattered chair groups were joyously munching and having a lively conversation. But the sweet tooth didn't leave us on our seats for long – there was the ice cream stand with 4 different kinds of desserts and any condiment you could think of. This is where it got really colorful...

After our culinary enjoyments, Mike and Chris asked all group leaders to step forward. Since our Club consists of the different activity groups, what would we be without them? The group leaders are fulfilling a very vital role in the existence of our Club! Besides a nice round of applause, each of the group leaders received an ENN baseball cap – quite nice design!

Then the picnic continued, because this is the place “Where fun and friendships happen”!





A big thank you to all of our tireless group leaders, who are the backbone of Evergreen Newcomers and Neighbors!





Pickleballers at play!



Evergreen Newcomers and Neighbors Presents

Evergreen Speaks!

Evergreen Christian Church
27772 Iris Drive, Evergreen, CO

Tuesday, July 7th, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Speaker: Lindsey Breslin

Executive Director, Resilience 1220

Cultivating Resiliency

Empowering young people in our mountain communities to build resilience, strength, and tools they need to navigate life's challenges.



Tuesday, Aug 4th, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Kris Kazian

Division Chief of Fire Operation, Evergreen Fire Rescue

A behind the scenes look at the challenges our local government officials face, from providing safe drinking water and parks, to fire protection and emergency medical systems. As they become more complex, informed, engaged citizens are essential to building strong and resilient communities.





CALLING ALL ENN LUMBERJACKS AND LUMBERJILLS!

2026 ENN Firewood Drive for EChO September 19th and 26th

Our Fall firewood drive is approaching quickly. Thank you to those of you who already reached out to volunteer your time and/or wood. Last year we had 26 volunteers that made it possible for us to collect 18 cords from 8 locations. Due to the number of trees that have been felled recently in Evergreen we are anticipating needing a lot more volunteers to handle additional sites. Can you help?

We need:

Volunteers to move and load wood, operate chain saws, drive trucks and trailers to get the wood to EChO, and folks to prepare lunches for the volunteers.

Wood donations: Additional wood donations are still being accepted. However, please reach out to me soon so we can start finalizing our pickup locations, team assignments and ensuring that your wood will be able to be used by EChO.

Please reach out to Rebecca Balentine (rjbalentine@icloud.com) if you're interested helping out in some way or have any questions.



Happy Hour at the Bread and Cocktail Lounge on May 19, 2026.



ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Bunco Starting!

Sign up for Bunco, a dice game: By popular demand, ENN is starting a Bunco group this September!! Karen Walling will start the group and is looking for someone to co-chair it with her. Please let us know if you're willing... The group will rotate in members' homes, include 16-20 members and encourage co-ed membership. It will meet once a month, likely on a Sunday evening.

Contact activities@evergreennewcomers.com or karen.walling@yahoo.com to sign up or co-chair.

Co-Leaders Needed for Paddleboard, Easy Walkers and Rummikub Groups:

ENN has started a new Paddleboard/Kayaking Group, meeting the first and third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm and every Monday at 9:30 am at Evergreen Lake. Gail Kowalczyk leads the group but would love to have a co-leader. Please email gspgi@aol.com if you're willing to co-lead or would like to join.

Karen Walling is leading Easy Walkers but also needs a co-leader. Contact karen.walling@yahoo.com.

We'd like to start a Rummikub Group but need a leader. If you're willing to lead this group, contact Chris Schmenk at activities@evergreennewcomers.com, and we'll get it started!

If you would like to join or lead any of these groups, please contact Chris Schmenk at Activities@evergreennewcomers.com or 937-303-2790. She'll get you connected!



A day in the life of the BRIDGE Group



Anonymous quote
from the group:
"Only brilliant
people can play
Bridge."

I visited our ENN Bridge group on Friday, June 19 in one of its members' beautiful home. I didn't know much about this card game, only that "tricks" are being played and others have to follow suit... 😊

Group leader Jean welcomed me warmly – and the rest of the rather large group. The evening started out with a potluck-style buffet and drinks, which was enjoyed by everyone attending. There were 20 players present, so 5 tables with 4 players each were set up. I learned that this group is one of our big ones, one day in the past they even had 28 people playing!

Bridge is a card game with a complicated bidding system. It's for deep thinkers and strategists – soon after everyone sat down on their tables there was silence in the room. Even though this group plays Party Bridge, which is the kind of game where people talk and have fun while playing; there is also a kind of Bridge where everyone must be silent. In our Bridge group, everyone brings one dollar, and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd winners will split this as their prizes.

I asked some players why they like the game, and the answers ranged from "so we stay sharp", to "because it's a friendly game and we can talk", to "I come here to keep up with my friends", to "this game is ever new, and I like to strategize and think a lot". Many group members enjoy the opportunity to meet likeminded people in this group, which is said to be a very friendly and easy group.

Many group members learned to play Bridge at high school or college and have played for many years; however, there are also relative new beginners, like Joanne (the co-leader of the group), who only started to play in 2019.



Yummy potluck buffet to start the evening



This game has its origin in France and Italy (per Wikipedia) and was first mentioned in the 16th century.



To my question, 'On a scale of 1 to 10, how much brain power is necessary to play bridge?', the answers ranged from 8 to 11 and a half! 😊



Murphy, the Group's Mascot!

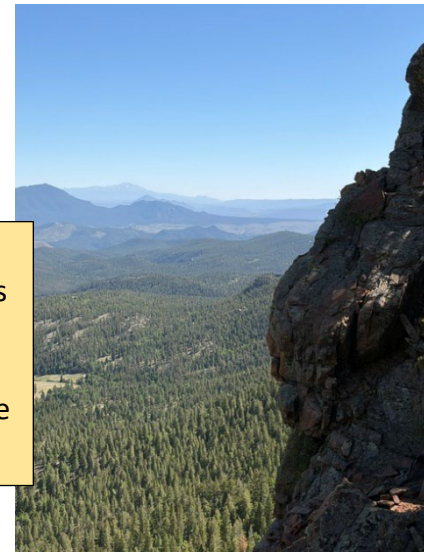


The relaxed atmosphere of the group gives a lot of room for exchanging news and keeping friendships growing.

On May 8, the Guys' Breakfast Group enjoyed a great get together and delicious eats at "The Cow" in Downtown Evergreen with six participants (Mike took the photo).



The Summer Hiking Group's outing on June 11 to Staunton State Park!





The Poker Night Group enjoyed an exciting evening in great company and with delicious pot luck food at Linda's beautiful home on May 15.



The ENN motorcycle group held their first ride of 2026 on May 23, starting with a hearty breakfast at the Evergreen Bread Lounge and then riding up through Nederland to Estes Park and back. A great day for riding with sunny skies, cool temperatures and great asphalt. Riders included Jason, Jax, John G., Gary H., John I., Gary O. and Steve. Our upcoming ENN Motorcycle Group ride is July 11. Details will be sent out as we get closer to the date.



WINE GROUPS

ENN members appreciate a good bottle of wine and enjoy the good company of fellow members! Here is a listing of the current ENN Wine Groups:

Corkscrews
Grape Nuts (& Barley Hoppers)
Guzzlers
EverPour
In Vino Veritas
Les Dégustateurs
The Screwtops
SOLO Winers & Diners
Uncorked
Winos

Donn & Cassie Fishbein
Trish Wilson
Roger & Sheri Matz
Belinda Aber
Bob Fudge
Carrie Garczynski
Jen Delacruz
Donna Lomax
Ray Trevisan
Colette Lambert

3rd Saturday
2nd Friday or Saturday
3rd Saturday
2nd Wednesday
3rd Saturday
1st Saturday (alt. mos.)
2nd Saturday
1st Saturday
2nd Saturday
3rd Saturday

The Ladies' Golf Group enjoyed a fabulous day golfing and having fun together on June 10. Note the blue sky and puffy clouds!!!



The Summer Hiking Group's outing to Chief Mountain on June 18.





Top center and left:
May meeting

Bottom center and right:
June meeting

Hello ENN Friends, **SWAG** has been growing and continues to learn about new and interesting subjects!

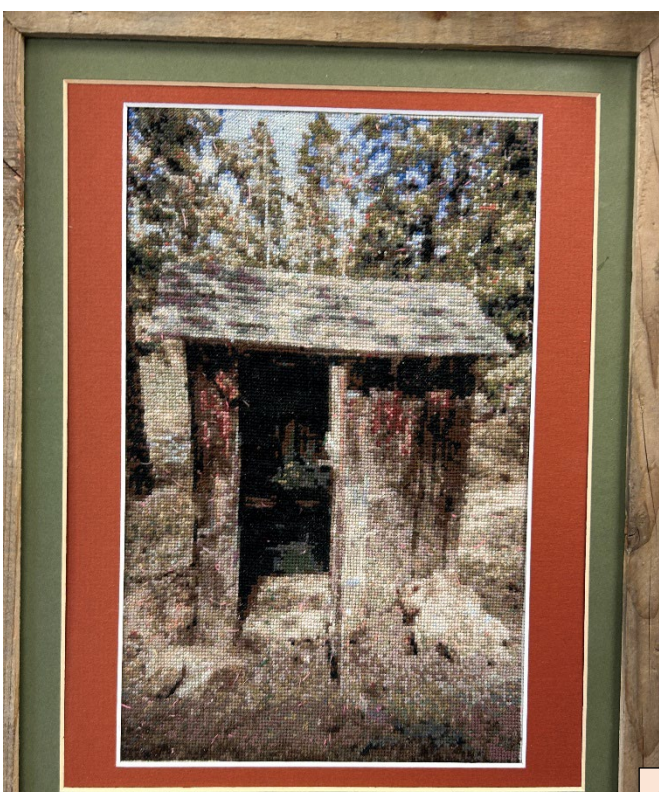
In May, Richard Ratigan from the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado, presented their Building Brain Healthy Habits program on risk reduction and lifestyle changes. It was a wonderful presentation and there were lots of questions from our group that kept it lively! Warm thanks to Karen Davis and Rita Lenn for that month's refreshments.

June brought us to a meeting with Sabrina Fritts, Executive Director of PeaceWorks, a nonprofit serving the survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, and teen dating violence. For nearly four decades, PeaceWorks has provided advocacy, crisis support, emergency safe shelter through Mountain Peace Shelter, and community-based services that help survivors and their families, including pets, move toward safety and healing. We learned about the realities survivors face, the resources available in our community, and the many ways individuals can help create safer, more supportive communities. Refreshments were provided by Joyce Dudley (who is also on the PeaceWorks Board of Directors) – thank you so much!

SWAG (Strong Women Always Growing) is a fun and educational ladies' group that focuses on learning about our community, local businesses, and non-profits as well as other interesting topics. We always ensure that our meetings include refreshments and socialization, plus that month's educational topic.

Upcoming meetings include Gardening at Altitude, a talk on gemology, learning how horses help heal youth (we will be going to a horse farm!) and JOY International.

SWAG meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 1-3pm. We are always seeking new ideas, new members and new energy! If you want to join our group, please reach out to Activities@EvergreenNewcomers.com. Come and make new friends!



The **Blue Sky Quilters** have just started working on a charity quilt for CASA's Light of Hope event, (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children - Denver). We have collected fabrics and divided up the work. We will surely show you the final product when it is done. And as always, we have been quilting away. Please enjoy these projects:

- 1 - Linda's cross stitch of a shed
- 2 - Jo's elephant baby quilt
- 3 - Kim's strawberry Irish chain quilt
- 4 - Rachel's paper pieced stars
- 5 - Diane's red, white and black quilt of houses





The 4x4 Group on their June 27 outing to Hamlin's Gulch and Miner's Gulch. Amazing weather and swirling up dust clouds!





Hamlin's Gulch raised everyone's heart rate with some off-camber sections, especially when seeing a wrecked tow truck on the same trail!



The first 14er hike took place on Saturday, June 27. Three members took the "trail less traveled", had half of the mountain to themselves and summited on Gray's Peak at 11:58 a.m. – just before noon on this beautiful day!





Update from Lora from the Non-Fiction Book Group:

"Do you want to expand your knowledge of science, history, biographies, etc.? Then join us on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm for great conversations. Here are the books we'll be reading and discussing over the next several months.

Date: August 5, 7:00 pm

Book: The Untold Story of the Wreck of the Edmundo Fitzgerald by John Bacon

Date: September 2, 7:00 pm

Book: Enshittification: Why Everything Suddenly Got Worse and What to Do About It by Cory Doctorow

Date: October 7, 7:00 pm

Book: Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI by Yuval Noah Harari

Date: November 4, 7:00 pm

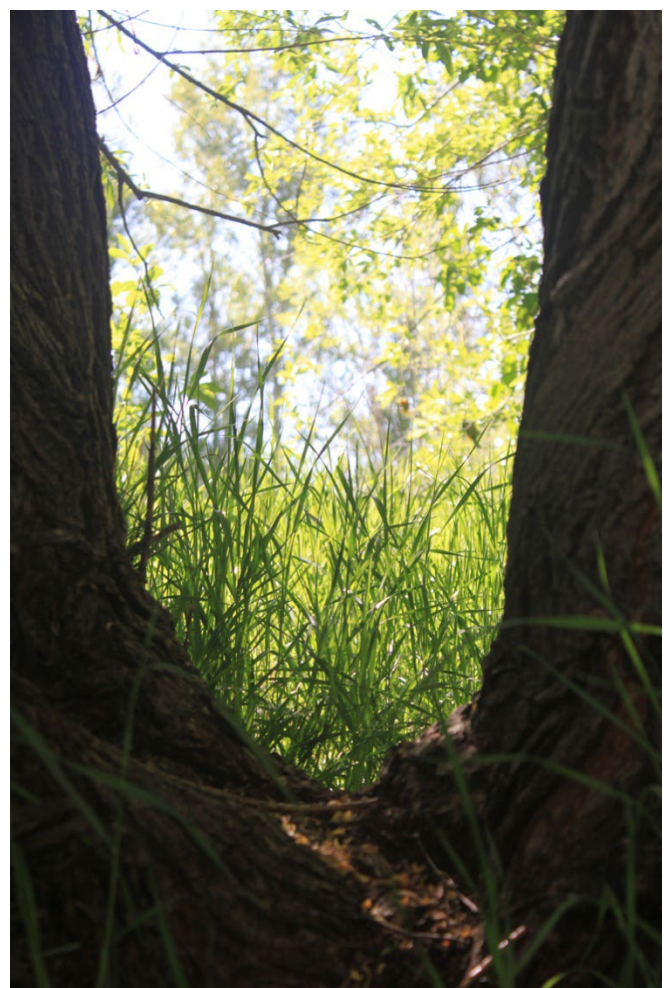
Book: The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times by Jane Goodall

From Jan and the Literally Amazing Book Club:

In May we met to discuss "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See, historical fiction about a woman in 1500's and her cloistered existence. Despite women's lowly status, she is trained in medicine and treats women who were routinely denied care.

In June we met to hear from Sabrina Fritts about Peaceworks, a domestic violence and abuse resource for the mountain area, followed by our discussion of "By Any Other Name" by Jodi Picoult, which follows a young woman struggling to become a playwright and her inspiration, a relation from the 1500's, who may have written plays for William Shakespeare.

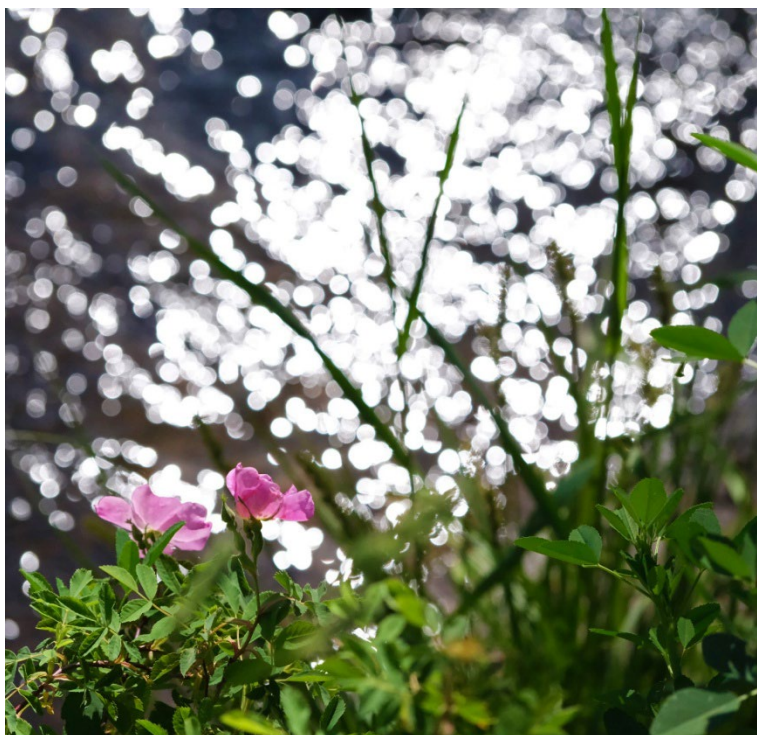
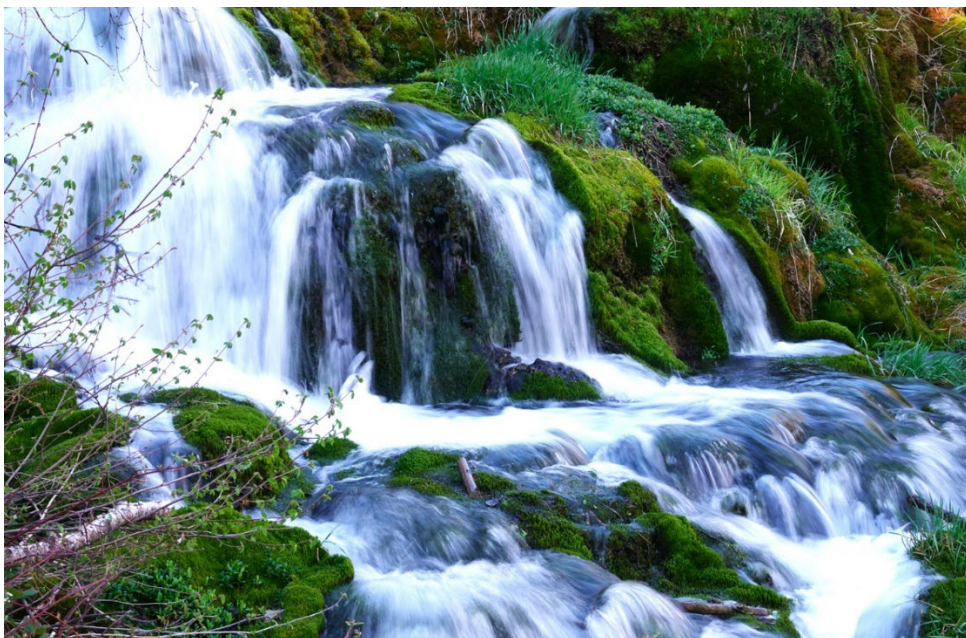




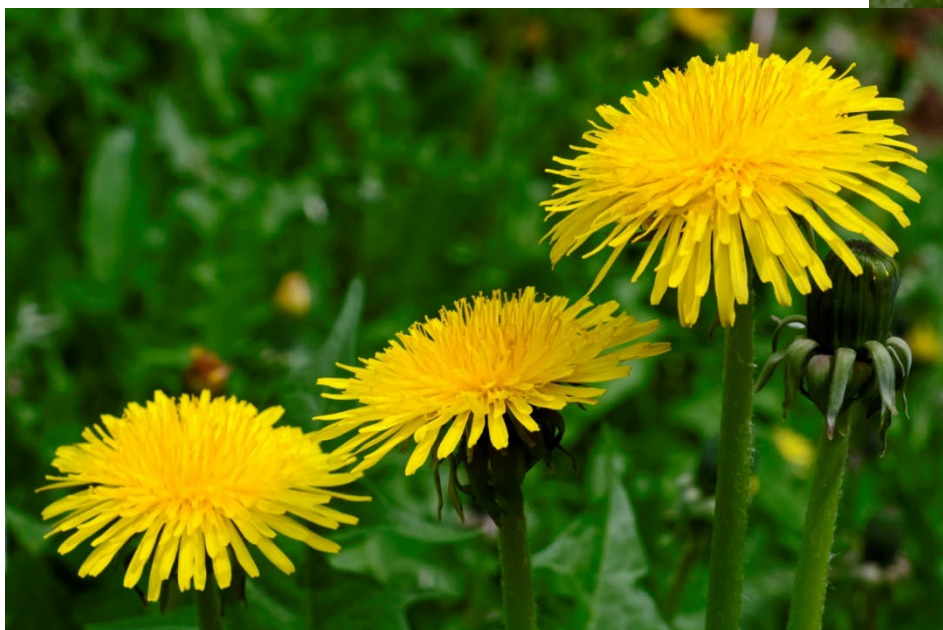
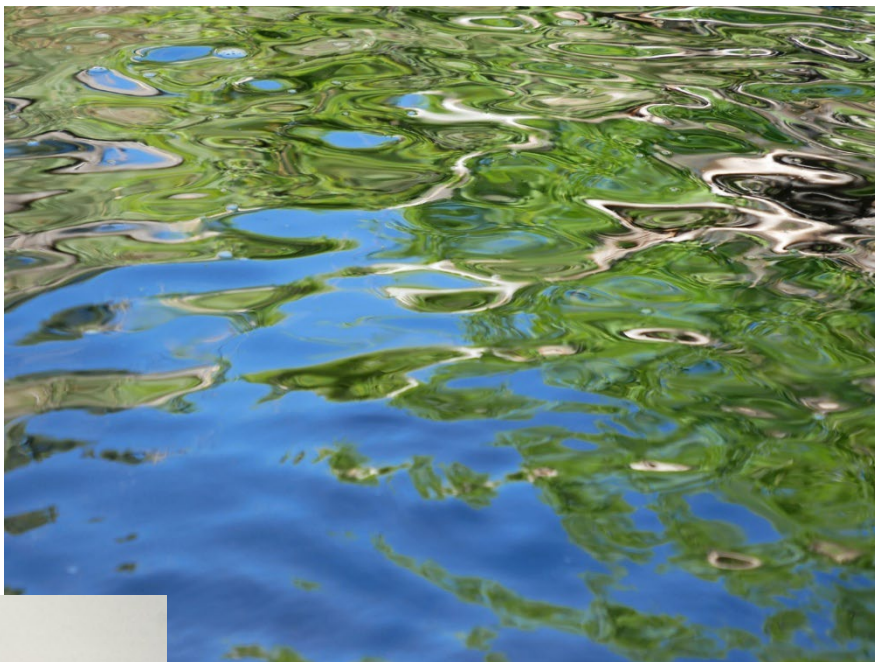
The ShutterBugs activity group continues to explore good photo opportunities around the evergreen area through group shoots and improve our individual skills through photo challenges and sharing meetings. The following are images from our activities over the past two months including a few vacation excursions.











ENN Board of Directors 2026 - 2027

President

Mike Ferrari, president@evergreennewcomers.com

Vice President

Chris Schmenk, vicepresident@evergreennewcomers.com

Secretary

Gail Kowalczyk, secretary@evergreennewcomers.com

Treasurer

Janet Harting, treasurer@evergreennewcomers.com

Activities

Chris Schmenk, activities@evergreennewcomers.com

Communications

Sandy Illich, communications@evergreennewcomers.com

Community Involvement

Rebecca Balentine, community@evergreennewcomers.com

Events

Mary Ermides, events@evergreennewcomers.com

Hospitality

Lori Main, hospitality@evergreennewcomers.com

Membership

Carol Rapp, membership@evergreennewcomers.com

Newsletter

Kathrin Schroeter, newsletter@evergreennewcomers.com

Publicity

TBD, publicity@evergreennewcomers.com

Webmaster

Rob Wilson, webmaster@evergreennewcomers.com

List of ENN Activity Groups:

Activity	Schedule	Group Leader
Outdoor Recreation		
14er Mountaineering	Various Sat	Rob Wilson
4 X 4	Various Sat	Bob Ogden / Tony Oliver
Ladies Golf	Wed (seasonal)	Katy Lynch
Easy Walkers	Various	Karen Walling
Mellow Hikers - Weekday	4th Thurs, 5:30 pm	Mary and Phil Hudson
Mellow Hikers - Weekend	2nd Sat, 9 am	Jen Delacruz
Summer Hiking Group	Thurs Mornings, May-Oct	Paul Butters
Motorcycles	Various Sat (seasonal)	John Griggs
Paddleboard/Kayak	Mon 9:30 am & 1 st & 3 rd Thurs 5:30 pm	Gail Kowalczyk
RV Camping	Various	Lisa and Will Cassidy
Ski Group (EPIC)	Thurs (Seasonal)	Rob Wilson
Ski Group (IKON)	Tues (Seasonal)	Pam Talley
Ski Group (Loveland)	Mon (Seasonal)	Hap Bruce
Sporting Clays	3rd or 4th Tues	Alan Palestine
Indoor Games		
Bowling	1st Tues, 6:30 pm	Lisa Morton
Bridge Evening	3rd Fri Evening	Jean Wells & Joanne Hill
Canasta	2nd & 4th Wed 1-3:30 pm	Donna Lomax
Euchre	Thurs of choice, 6:30-9 pm	Chris Schmenk
Mah Jongg (daytime)	Fri, 10 AM - Noon	Mindy Nitkin
Mah Jongg (evening)	Mon, 6:30 pm	Simone Simpson
Mexican Train	1st & 3rd Wed, 1-3:30 pm	Lori Chaikin
Poker Night	Fri, Monthly	Rose and John Warren
Creativity and Learning		
Blue Sky Quilters	2nd & 4th Mon, 9:30 am	Sandy Illich
Evergreen Speaks!	1st Tues, 5:30 pm	Sergio Mazza
French Conversation	Various	Mark Ellis
Lend-A-Book	3rd Mon, 10 am	Lisa Everet
Literally Amazing Book Club	3rd Thurs, 1 pm	Jan Cryns
Needlework	1st Mon, 10 am	Sheri Matz
Nonfiction Book Club	1st Wed, 7 pm	Lora Mazza
ShutterBugs	1st & 3rd Fri, Mornings	Marko Ginsberg
Social Gatherings		
Casual Cuisine	2nd Sat, 5:30 pm	Dawn Harper
Gals' Breakfast	Last Fri, 10 am	Louise Whiteside
Guys' Breakfast	2nd Tues, 8:30 am	Kevin Kerr
Happy Hours	3rd Tues, 4-6 pm	Lori Mains
SWAG	3rd Tues, 1 PM - 3 pm	Marilyn Innerfeld/Barb Conroy
Wine Groups (10)	Fri or Sat evening	Various

For More Information: Activities@EvergreenNewcomers.com