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From Lisa's desk

If it's true that life is about who you know then that explains why life here at *EasyChair* has been pretty darn good this summer. The magazine has seen tremendous growth over the last two years, and was recently named the *Mercury 100's* third fastest-growing private company in Boulder and Broomfield Counties by the *Boulder County Business Report*. The reasons for that success, I believe, are the people I now know here in Boulder County.

I am still humbled every day by the generosity of this community. As a newbie to Colorado, I have relied on the advice and support of people who were once strangers. For me it is a culmination of experiences that give my company strength. I value those experiences equally — a wealth of business advice and moral support received from other business owners, a comfortable spot at the breakfast bar at Foolish Craig's on Pearl Street where I escape with a crossword puzzle or plan the edit for the next issue, the nonprofit organizations where I have had the honor of helping serve our community — and I'm grateful for the people I've come to know in all of that. Thank you to my faithful staff and to the advertisers who are the backbone that supports *EasyChair's* mission to highlight positive news in Boulder County.



(L to r): Rosalie Sheffield, *Boulder County Business Report*; Lisa McAlister, *EasyChair* publisher; and Lisa Ray, Coldwell Banker at the *Mercury 100* event.

I wear a thick silver ring that I purchased at JJ Wells in The Village when I first came to Boulder. The word COURAGE is stamped on that ring and when I'm feeling apprehensive I turn that ring round and round on my finger to center me and give me strength. This community has also given me a sense of balance and I want to encourage you to continue to offer ideas to us via email or by giving me a call as to how we can make *EasyChair* a magazine that reflects the real people of Boulder County. Because it's all about who you know.

Lisa McAlister Publisher, *EasyChair* Boulder County
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Cover artist Anne Gifford

To many, Anne Gifford is living the ideal artist's life. Taking inspiration from long walks and hikes in the Boulder area, Anne says she's always on the lookout for new imagery. "When I create a landscape, sometimes I feel as though I am recording the natural beauty surrounding us today for future generations who may not have the opportunity to enjoy it in person — though I hope this won't be the case." When she's not painting landscapes, Anne is creating whimsical images of various scenes from her imagination. "These can range from portraying the quiet corners of people's lives to cartoon-like characters who have resided in my mind for a long time." One of her favorite characters — as seen on *EasyChair's* cover — is Spike the Dhog. Part dog and part hedgehog, Anne says Spike arrives from points unknown. "He's searching amongst the animal kingdom for a home." Anne is currently writing a children's book about Spike's adventures.

If Anne's work looks familiar, it's likely because you've seen it before. She's designed numerous posters, including several for past Boulder 10Ks and the winning choice for Runner's World Magazine's national poster contest in 2000.

Anne has also displayed her art shows across the state and her work is currently on exhibit at the Boulder Arts and Crafts Cooperative, where she is an owner-member and manager. Located at 1421 Pearl Street on the Pedestrian Mall in Boulder's Downtown Historic District, Boulder Arts and Crafts is one of the oldest cooperatives in the United States.

Whatever medium she chooses, *EasyChair* magazine is happy to share Anne's work with our readers. And we look forward to reading more about Spike the Dhog's adventures!



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