



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

MAY-JUNE 2007



Theresa Mine, Vindicator Valley Trail, Victor

photo by Jack Olson

## IT'S CONFERENCE TIME!

All the pieces are coming together for the 2007 conference of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, which takes place June 6-10 in scenic Colorado Springs, Colorado. Your conference committee has been making its lists and checking them twice, and promises that this year's gathering will prove to be an exciting time for both photographers and writers.

Most of the conference information remains the same as described in the March-April newsletter, but there is some additional information you need to know, and it's posted below. And, if by chance you neglected to register for the Colorado Springs conference by the

deadline, you're forgiven. Late registration is being accepted. For a registration form, see the RMOWP website, [www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org), or contact Don Laine in New Mexico at 505-758-8922 or [laine@newmex.com](mailto:laine@newmex.com).

## A Decision Is Made

Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Colorado's newest state park, will be the Saturday morning field trip. When we say new, we mean new. Actually, the park isn't finished yet, so what we'll be exploring will be a work in progress, so this will be a good opportunity for writers and photographers to get something fresh for their newspaper, magazine, and photo clients.

The park, which goes from prairie into Ponderosa pines, has an abundance of wildlife ranging from raptors to bears, along with a photogenic prairie dog town. Primarily a hikers' park, our visit will include opportunities for hiking along with activities for those who don't want to spend a lot of time on the trail.

Park ranger Monique Mullis will meet RMOWP members to tell us about the park, and take us to some of the areas not yet open to the general public. We also plan a fairly easy walk to some scenic views – and the prairie dog town – and time for some serious hiking for those who want to work up a sweat. We'll have a picnic lunch at the park before heading back to the conference headquarters at Quality Inn and Suites.



Sundance Trail  
Cheyenne Mountain State Park  
~ photo by Jack Olson

### **More Food!**

At the request of several members, more group meals have been added to the schedule. The Quality Inn is located across a parking lot from the Ranch Steakhouse, where the Saturday night banquet takes place, and another dinner and two lunches have been added to the schedule as an extra-cost option. The lunches cost \$13 each and the dinner – an Italian buffet – costs \$18. Both costs include tax and tip. Those who prefer meals on their own will find a Village Inn, Wendy's, Subway, and Quizno's within walking distance of the Quality Inn. FYI: The Ranch Steakhouse is changing its name in June, but isn't sure when the new sign goes up. If you don't see the Ranch Steakhouse, look for The Fire Rock Grill.

### **Dirty Cameras Wanted**

Steve Schweitzer, who is presenting a workshop on keeping digital SLRs free of dust and cleaning up spotted images in the computer, says to bring your

digital cameras to the workshop and he'll help us get the dust out.

### **Calling All Writers**

The Writers' Critique will be informative and possibly enlightening to watch, but even better if you participate. Organizer Anne Sullivan tells us, "We critique, gently, positively, the work of members with the purpose of improving that particular work. If you wish to participate (and I hope you do) please bring in at least 5 copies of no more than 5 pages of double-spaced (or its equivalent) unpublished work. It should not be your best work; it should be something you need help with, and this is a chance to receive help and advice from other writers."

### **Hawaii Moves to Colorado**

At least a few of us have taken to wearing our best Hawaiian shirts at RMOWP conferences, and Past President John Catsis has proposed – no, demanded – that this year's conference include a contest to determine who has the best Hawaiian shirt. The contest is open to both men and women, and the definition of "Hawaiian shirt" will be very loose, so be sure to bring your wildest and most colorful shirt, regardless of the precise style. Judging will take place during the auction Saturday afternoon, and those in attendance will be asked to vote for the person wearing the shirt with the most pizzazz and personality. The winner will receive a cheap and tacky prize.



Quality Inn & Suites  
Conference Headquarters  
~ photo by Don Laine

### **Still Want More Colorado Springs Info?**

For additional information on Colorado Springs, including most of the local attractions we'll be visiting, see [www.ExperienceColoradoSprings.com](http://www.ExperienceColoradoSprings.com), and for more on the entire state, visit [www.colorado.com](http://www.colorado.com).

## RMOWP Conference 2007 ~ Revised Schedule

### Wednesday, June 6

- 1:00-5:00pm Registration
- 2:00-5:00pm Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)
- 6:00pm Welcome: RMOWP President Jim Baker, and Pam Sherfesee & Amy Long of the Colorado Springs CVB  
Followed by Happy Hour and a Taco/Nacho Bar (included in registration fee)
- 8:00pm Presentation of Photo Contest Submissions

### Thursday, June 7

- 8:45am Welcome and Important Announcements
- 9:00am The Art & Craft of Nature Writing: Mary Taylor Young
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am The Big Clean-Up: Keeping your digital cameras, lenses & sensors dust-free, and removing spots from digital photos when you don't, with Steve Schweitzer
- 11:45am Lunch at Ranch Steakhouse (\$13 including tax & tip)
- 1:00pm Bus to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
- 3:00pm Bus to Historic Mining Town of Victor – Jack Olson guided hike, or self-guided walking tour of mines & historic buildings
- 5:45pm Bus departs Victor
- 7:00pm Italian Dinner Buffet at Ranch Steakhouse (\$18 including tax & tip)
- 8:00-9:30pm Photo Critique Session with Tom Ulrich & Jack Olson (Ranch Steakhouse)

### Friday, June 8

- 5:00am Carpool to Garden of the Gods for Sunrise Photo Field Trip with Wendy Shattil & Bob Rozinski
- 8:00am Carpool to Garden of the Gods for late sleepers
- 8:30-9:00am Field Workshop: Scenic Photography with Wendy Shattil & Bob Rozinski
- 9:00am Breakfast at Garden of the Gods Cafe (individual pay) or free time
- 9:30am Depart Garden of the Gods for Quality Inn
- 10:00am Workshop: Panoramic Photography is a Mouse-Click Away with Dave Shrum
- 10:30am How to Self-Publish Your Book – Oh, and You Expect to Make Money, Too? with John Catsis
- 11:45am Lunch at Ranch Steakhouse (\$13 including tax & tip)
- 1:00pm Writing Critique Session with Anne Sullivan
- 2:30pm Bus departs for U.S. Air Force Academy
- 4:45pm Depart Air Force Academy; quick stop at Quality Inn
- 5:45pm Bus to Iron Springs Melodrama Dinner Theater for dinner and show (\$29 adult, \$16 child 6-12)
- 10:00pm Return to Quality Inn

### Saturday, June 9

- 8:30am Bus to Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Colorado's newest state park – guided tour with Ranger Monique Mullis & time to hike and photograph
- 12:30pm Box lunch (included in registration fee)
- 1:00pm Bus returns to Quality Inn
- 2:00-3:00pm General membership meeting
- 3:30-5:00pm Auction to benefit scholarship fund: John Catsis & Jim Baker  
Hawaiian Shirt Contest
- 6:00-7:00pm Happy Hour (cash bar) at Ranch Steakhouse
- 7:00-10:00pm Banquet and Awards at Ranch Steakhouse

### Sunday, June 10

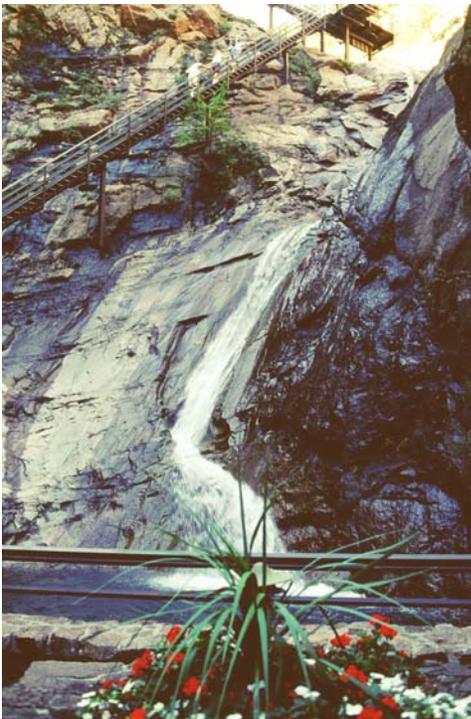
- 8:30-9:30am Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)

**JACK'S JAUNTS ~  
MORE CONFERENCE SIDE TRIPS**

story & photos by Jack Olson

Last issue we covered several locations that members could visit pre- or post-conference. Well, there are more attractions that organizers can't possibly shoehorn into our jam-packed schedule, so I'll outline a few more places you might want to visit around our June 6-10 conference.

There are several attractions in the immediate Colorado Springs area that might be of interest. You received a map of attractions in the area with your registration packet, so I won't go into street directions here. If you've lost the map, e-mail me and I'll give you more complete directions (jackolson1@aol.com).



Seven Falls ~ South Cheyenne Canyon

One of the most spectacular scenes in Colorado Springs is Seven Falls in South Cheyenne Canyon. This cascading 181 foot waterfall can be viewed from a plaza below, a strenuous stairway alongside, and by using a mountain elevator. The view is especially exhilarating at night, when the falls are dramatically lighted.

If you enjoy caverns, Cave of the Winds in Manitou Springs might be a short trip to take. There are various tours tailored to your interests and abilities. Crystals, stalactites, and stalagmites are lighted to provide attractive, colorful compositions. They also present a night-time laser show outside the cavern. The tours are not accessible for those with mobility issues.

Another attraction in Manitou Springs is Manitou Cliff Dwellings. There are some 40 rooms, including a kiva and lookout tower in the cliff dwelling. Pueblo Indian dances are performed daily in the summer. These structures were moved here years ago from the Four Corners area. The dwellings are not accessible to those in wheelchairs, although the dwellings are visible from the Indian dancing area.

If you have the time, a stopover in the Cañon City area may be worthwhile. Located on U.S. 50, Cañon City is situated about 40 miles west of Pueblo. The most famous, and popular, attraction here is the Royal Gorge Bridge, at 1,053 feet above the river, the world's highest suspension bridge. You can drive across the rattling planks and back, or walk the bridge. If you walk, you can peek over the railing "waydownthere" to the Arkansas River. Those sensitive to heights usually walk in the center of the bridge, but they still can't help seeing the river through the cracks in the planks. Those very sensitive never even set foot on the bridge.

There's a great way to see the Royal Gorge – from the bottom. The Historic Royal Gorge Route Railroad makes a two hour trip through the gorge, beginning in Cañon City. You will squeeze through this magnificent canyon, with the Arkansas River right beside. You may even see some rafters paddling the river. And "wayupthere" you'll see the Royal Gorge Bridge. The train offers lunch and dinner rides, as well.

These are good, and some very good, attractions in the Colorado Springs area. But, hey, stick around for the entire conference.

For more information on these attractions, check the following web sites: [www.caveofthewinds.com](http://www.caveofthewinds.com); [www.sevenfalls.com](http://www.sevenfalls.com); [www.royalgorgeroute.com](http://www.royalgorgeroute.com); [www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com](http://www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com); [www.royalgorgebridge.com](http://www.royalgorgebridge.com).



Historic Royal Gorge Route Railroad

## THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Jim Baker

About two years ago, after the Silver City meeting, we headed home, taking the scenic road, Route 152. I was the brand new in charge President of the RMOWP. My wife was a little miffed at me because she does not like roads where she can look out and see down. There was not much talking going on in the car. Then we went around the curve in the road and there was Tom Cummings out taking pictures. That stimulated some conversation—after all that is what we were in New Mexico for—to see pretty things and take pictures.

Soon we were enthralled by some rock formations and stopped to take some pictures. While we were there, Tom honked his horn and waved as he went by. Later, as we were going up the mountain, one switch-back at a time, there was Tom photographing some deer that had just crossed the road. I slowed down, because, if there is a deer in the vicinity, I want to take its picture. I was too slow for Tom and soon he passed me again.

This pattern of leading and following continued until we reached Interstate 25 and then I am sure they ran off from us. My term as president is about over and if Tom Cummings is the one that follows me, I hope that his experiences will be as pleasant as the ones I have had.

I have been a very inactive president. There are reasons for that: (1) The organization was doing well without me. (2) My computer skills are so limited that I didn't want to write a lot of letters—most of my e-mails are one sentence long. (3) Having Don Laine as Administrative Assistant is like taking off your backpack as you climb a steep grade. It really makes things easier.

We have gone two years without a winter board meeting. That saves lot of time, gas, and airfare.

We are having very successful photo workshops with Tom Cumming's leadership. That increases our membership with skilled photographers.

The Silver City meeting and the Moab meeting were both well attended and that allowed a little money to build up in the kitty and keep the wolf from the door.

We changed the 2007 meeting to Colorado Springs because the Convention and Visitors Bureau of that fine city put some money up front for us to come there for our annual meeting.

Thanks to John Catsis and friends, our auctions have been very successful and that has allowed us to keep giving a nice scholarship.

With the best estimate available, our organization has about twenty more members than it did two years ago.

### PHOTO WORKSHOP COORDINATOR NEEDED

Tom Cummings

RMOWP is seeking a member to coordinate our photography workshop. The workshop is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of June each year, and the coordinator is responsible for the organization, scheduling and successful completion of our workshop.

Applicants should be:

- Highly organized.
- Able to plan ahead and anticipate ahead.
- Able to endure long hours during the workshop (before sunrise to 11:00pm).
- Experienced at preparing promotional materials and promoting events through various outlets.
- Willing to be responsible for the safety and well-being of instructors and participants.
- Able to successfully interact with a wide range of participants' skills and personalities to insure each has a positive and fulfilling experience.
- Prepared to adjust quickly during the workshop to address individual concerns by any of the participants.
- Available via e-mail and telephone for prospective participants.
- Possessed of an inner drive to make the photo workshop and RMOWP a success.

For additional information contact Tom Cummings in Cushing, Oklahoma, at 918-225-2721 or [tomc1114@suddenlink.net](mailto:tomc1114@suddenlink.net).



Paint Mines Interpretative Park

~ photo by Don Laine

Photographers, especially those driving to Colorado Springs from the east, may want to take a detour to Paint Mines Interpretative Park, a county park in the community of Calhan. The park is noteworthy for its colorful hoodoos: rock formations comprised of brightly colored bands of clay protected by a hard capstone. For information, contact El Paso County Parks (719-520-6375; [www.elpasoco.com/parks](http://www.elpasoco.com/parks))

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We have had a few problems, but all in all, it has been a great two years. To the best of my knowledge, nobody is mad or had their feelings hurt. If Tom and I are still playing tag, I hope in two years he feels as positive about RMOWP as I do.

\* \* \* \*

### **2007 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED**

Ruth Raupe

The Scott-McKenna Memorial Scholarship has been awarded for 2007 to Julie Sackmann.

Julie began college at Washington State University as an animal science major and then moved to Oklahoma State University to study agriculture communications. In her studies she uses both photography and writing to communicate agriculture to the public. Along with her photography, Julie works with Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop, and Dreamweaver. She maintains a current website and designs, takes pictures, and develops new websites.

Julie graduates from OSU in December of this year.

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### **NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH 4H SHOOTING SPORTS**

The 4-H Shooting Sports Foundation presented the National Wild Turkey Federation a plaque in celebration of their 25-year partnership during the NWTF's 31st annual Convention and Sport Show in Nashville, Tennessee.

"Our relationship with the NWTF is extremely advantageous for us to advance the hunting and shooting sports to the next generation of shooting sports enthusiasts," said 4-H Executive Director Johnny Kvasnicka. "The support we get from the NWTF, both financial and in kind, is immeasurable for the positive youth development to enhance conservation and wildlife management."

For the past 25 years, the NWTF and the 4-H Shooting Sports Program have worked together to promote shooting, hunting and conservation among the nation's youth. 4-H representatives often attend NWTF JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) events, and the NWTF contributes to the 4-H Shooting Sports Program's growth.

"The 4-H Shooting Sports Program has been a great partner," said Bill Torhorst, NWTF board president. "We're honored that they believe in us so much, and we look forward to continuing our partnership for many years to come."

The National Wild Turkey Federation is a supporting member of RMOWP as well. For additional

information on the NWTF, see the group's website, [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org).

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### **GOING HUNTING WITH THE 800-POUND GORILLA: HUMAN POPULATION GROWTH IMPACTS ON OUTDOOR RECREATION**

by Jim Baird

Izaak Walton League of America

"Population growth is an issue that some people might not expect to see in their sports page or a hunting magazine," said Michelle Orzech, Director of the Izaak Walton League of America's Sustainability Education Program, "But if you scratch the surface of any major threat to outdoor recreation—from climate change to hunting access, from habitat loss to dying fisheries—you get to the question of how human needs and numbers affect the resource base.

Forty years ago, population was an environmental story. Paul Erich's book *The Population Bomb* got a whole generation to consider the idea that slowing growth by having fewer children was an environmentalist's duty. Some conservation organizations like the Izaak Walton League and a few outdoor journalists were quick to make the connection. For them the idea that any ecosystem (even the earth itself) has a limited carrying capacity is a commonsense part of wildlife management. The League adopted a policy of stabilizing human population growth through voluntary means in 1968. Outdoor journalists such as George Reiger and Ted Williams used their columns and articles to raise the issue with their audiences.

Two years ago, the League decided to launch a campaign to inspire and assist outdoor journalists to think anew about the topic. They first developed and released a pair of publications: *Population Growth and Outdoor America: Outdoor Writers' Perspectives*, a collection of essays by five prominent journalists on the effects of population growth on outdoor recreation and its companion piece, *An Outdoor Writer's Guide to Population Issues*, which gives background information and tips on writing stories about population growth and getting them published.

Next they took the show on the road, giving presentations at outdoor writers associations conferences. At meetings in Texas, Pennsylvania, Maryland and the Great Lakes and Southeast regions, writers heard first from a local natural resources expert and then from a fellow writer about population impacts at the local and global level and how to talk to audiences about them. This year the league launched an online database of outdoor media articles. It

contains over 100 articles, drawn from a wide array of publications from small town to large metro dailies, national hunting and fishing magazines, specialty newsletters and academic journals. They discuss population growth and its impacts on mainstream outdoor recreational activities such as hunting and fishing, as well as general issues in wildlife and natural resource management.

Says Orzech, "Today, discussion of population issues is often dominated by extreme rhetoric that makes it difficult to discuss practical and reasonable solutions. We hope these articles let people see that discussing how population growth affects us is something that mainstream Americans are doing and should do. These writers are not on an ideological battleground. They write about tying bass lures and appreciating a hike in the mountains. But they also care deeply about conservation and are willing to take a stand when an issue threatens natural resources."

For more information on the League's Sustainability Education Program e-mail them at [sustain@iwla.org](mailto:sustain@iwla.org) or call 301-548-0150. The database will be available on the IWLA website at [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org). New articles can be submitted for consideration to [sustain@iwla.org](mailto:sustain@iwla.org) or by writing to *Pop in the Outdoors*, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

*Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America protects America's outdoors through conservation, education, and the promotion of outdoor recreation.*

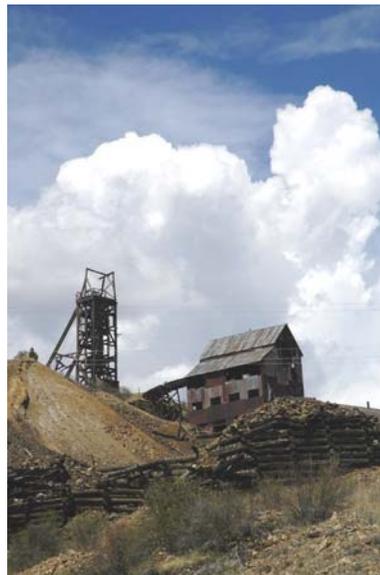
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Portland Mine,  
Battle Mountain Trail, Victor

~ photo by Jack Olson

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Zook Loop Trail, Cheyenne Mountain State Park  
~ photo by Don Laine

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS**

Published bi-monthly by Rocky Mountain  
Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

Editor: Don Laine

Member information, feature articles, news & tips are always welcome. Include photos whenever possible, not forgetting captions. Send to Don Laine, [laine@newmex.com](mailto:laine@newmex.com), or PO Box 1200, El Prado, NM 87529.

Newsletters are published January, March, May, July, September, and November; with a deadline of the 20th of the preceding month.

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*Rocky Mountain Outdoors*  
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El Prado, NM 87529