

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

JULY - AUGUST, 2007



Lynda & Tom Cummings



Ann Fitzwater & Kathy Turner take a break along a trail at Cheyenne Mountain State Park.



Jim Baker presents the Catsis Hiking Award to Al Perry



Falcon demonstration at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs

## Conference Inspires Presidential Thoughts

Whew! What a conference. Jack, Cecilia and Don (and, of course, Barb) really outdid themselves. Great programs, fantastic field trips and, of course, our membership set the stage for another successful conference. As Lynda and I drove home, I reflected on our annual event and several thoughts came to mind.

Once again, the photo/writing contest was a real success. Frank Zurey and Maryann Gaug do a great job of handling this portion of our conference. So many more entries this year and the quality just keeps improving. Members Choice had so many entries it was difficult to display all of them and even more difficult to select our choices.

I'm sure you appreciate as I do the tremendous amount of work and hours our conference committee puts in to prepare for the one time a year event when we all have a chance to get together. Just think, each year a new location with its own set of challenges of housing, field trips and programs. By the time we arrive, everything is in place, ready for another successful conference. But the one thing that stands out to me each year is our membership.

Our membership sets the tone for this successful yearly event with our friendly, warm, informal atmosphere toward one another and especially toward our new members and attendees. This year we had 4 first-time conference attendees that also participated in our 2007 photo workshop. Each of

them made a point of telling me how wonderful we were, how we made them feel comfortable and a part of the group right away. And each of them said they would be back next year. This is our strength and it's what sets us apart from other organizations.

Our challenge will be to continue to grow without losing our identity. We need to add new members and to encourage existing members to become involved in the conference and our organization. But, as we grow, we must exercise caution not to lose our closeness and character by morphing into a completely different organization. After attending the auction and Hawaiian shirt contest, I don't think I see that changing in the next few years at least. How could you top having John Catsis and Jim Baker as our auctioneers? And the inaugural Hawaiian shirt contest was a resounding success and I can only imagine what we will see next year.

I encourage all members to become involved this year. For those who attended the conference, now is the time to let us know what you liked and what you would like to see in the future while it is still fresh in your mind. For those unable to attend, what would it take to get you to next year's conference? Let us know your thoughts and ideas about the conference and our organization by contacting Don Laine or myself. With you, we can continue to make Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers a "user friendly" organization.

*Tom Cummings, RMOWP President*



#### **Officers**

President, Tom Cummings, Cushing, OK  
Vice President, Maryann Gaug,  
Silverthorne, CO  
Secretary, Betty Minor, Golden, CO  
Treasurer, Lee Carr, Cedaredge, CO

#### **Board of Directors**

Becky Minor, Golden, CO (2008)  
Jack Olson, Denver, CO (2008)  
Cecilia Travis, Golden, CO (2009)  
Jim Blakeslee, Cody, WY (2009)  
Richard Holmes, Boulder, CO (2010)  
Joe Zinn, Monte Vista, CO (2010)

#### **Awards Co-Chairs**

Maryann Gaug, Silverthorne, CO  
Frank Zurey, Golden, CO.

#### **Conference Committee**

Don Laine, El Prado, NM  
Jack Olson, Denver, CO  
Cecilia Travis, Golden, CO

#### **Webmaster**

Barb Laine, El Prado, NM

#### **Photo Workshop**

Coordinator:  
Tom Cummings, Cushing, OK  
Instructors:  
Jack Olson, Denver, CO  
Tom Ulrich, West Glacier, MT

#### **Scholarship Chair**

Mike Hammond, Lubbock, TX

#### **Past-Presidents' Council**

Jim Baker, Stillwater, OK  
Barb Laine, El Prado, NM  
Lee Carr, Cedaredge, CO  
John Catsis, Chandler, AZ  
Kelly Gatlin, Datil, NM  
Beto Gutierrez, Edinburg, TX  
Jack Olson, Denver, CO  
Dusty Fullinwider, South Fork, CO

#### **Communications Director**

Don Laine, El Prado, NM

#### **Supporting Member Liaison**

open

#### **Medical Advisor**

A.H. "Beto" Gutierrez, MD, Edinburg, TX

## **Rocky Mountain Outdoors**

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

Editor: Don Laine

Send editorial materials to Don Laine, laine@newmex.com; PO Box 1200, El Prado, NM 87529; 505-758-8922.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding month of publication.

Newsletters are published:

Jan/Feb

Mar/Apr

May/June

July/Aug

Sep/Oct

Nov/Dec

Copyright © 2007 by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the author or editor.

## **Annual Contest Sets Records Again**

Plenty of top-rate entries made the judges job challenging this year, but it was a challenge they appreciated. Al Perry practically stole the show, grabbing five first place honors and also winning Best of Show for both photography and writing and taking first place in the Members' Choice Photo Awards, but numerous other members took home honors for their writing and photography.

This year's contest was a notable success, according to awards co-chairs Frank Zurey and Maryann Gaug, with substantial increases in both the number of individuals entering and the number of items entered. A Humorous Photo Challenge was initiated and eighteen entries were received, and member Angelo Sciulli prepared an entertaining Power Point presentation of the entries that was shown Saturday evening.

A total of 37 individuals entered the contest this year, compared to 24 last year and 15 the year before. An interesting statistic, Zurey and Gaug said, is that 93% of the photo images this year were submitted as digital files, compared to 80% last year and 42% the year before. Three years ago digital files were not accepted.

The photography judge, RMOWP member Tom Ulrich, has been a freelance photographer since 1975 and is highly acclaimed around the world for his nature photography skills. Tom has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the North American Nature Photographers Association Fellow Award in 2005. For many years he has been leading photo tours to remote parts of the world, and he also conducts photography seminars and workshops. Tom is one of the instructors at the annual RMOWP workshop.

The writing judge was longtime RMOWP member Ron Hellbusch, who tells us that the outdoors is his passion in life. He enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking and photography, and looks for every opportunity to enjoy nature. A resident of the Denver area, Ron writes an outdoors column for six north metro suburban weekly newspapers, as well as occasionally writing for Hunting & Fishing News and ESPN Outdoors.

*(Comments in the writing awards listings are by the writing judge.)*

## **Photography - Best of Show**

Al Perry - Red-tailed Hawk Attacking Mexican Free-tailed Bats

## **Writing - Best of Show**

Al Perry - "Brazilian Free-tailed Bats", natures-capes.net, April 2006

*(We have to go with Al Perry's Web Writing first place entry for Best of Show. Al combines topnotch professional writing and photography. This submittal demonstrates an individual's extended commitment of time to a writing and photography experience. We all can benefit from Al's avenue to explore outdoors writing and photography over an extended period of time and to see the results we can encounter by having ample time to watch, listen and observe. Al's commitment of time, patience and planning that produced both strong writing and creative photography is deserving of Best of Show recognition.)*

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

### **Image from Last Conference**

1st Tom Cummings - Arches 2  
2nd Kathy Turner - Moab 2  
3rd Tom Cummings - Arches 1  
HM Al Perry - Flower and Courthouse at Arches  
HM Sherry Zurey - Jim Baker  
HM John Catsis - What a View!

### **Scenics**

1st Al Perry - Sunset on Rio Frio River  
2nd Nicholas Showalter - Bale Train  
3rd Al Perry - Sunset on Plateau  
HM Linda Martin - Foggy Road Contrast  
HM Richard Youngblood - Flowing Water with Flower  
HM Frank Zurey - Sunrise in Coal Creek

### **Flora**

1st Richard Youngblood - Water Lily  
2nd Lynda Cummings - The Cactus Flower  
3rd Richard Youngblood - Underside of Leaf  
HM Frank Zurey - Blanket Flower  
HM Richard Holmes - Desert Flowers  
HM Linda Martin - Purple Flower

### **Fauna**

1st Tom Cummings - Dancing on Water  
2nd Beto Gutierrez - Trophy Buck  
3rd Linda Martin - Elephant Seals  
HM Randall Ennis - Painted Bunting  
HM Frank Zurey - Bald Eagle  
HM Kathy Turner - Bee

HM Al Perry - Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

## **People in the Outdoors**

1st Beto Gutierrez - Sunrise Capture  
2nd Jack Olson - Windows Arches  
3rd Randall Ennis - Surf Fisherman  
HM Frank Zurey - The Hard Route  
HM Al Perry - Dune Buggy on Sand Dune

## **Historical**

1st Frank Zurey - WW II Artillery Placement, Dutch Harbor  
2nd Tom Cummings - Locked Out  
3rd Al Perry - Bodie, California 3  
HM Mary Peachin - Zagreb Sun Dial, Croatia  
HM John Catsis - Arches Cabin  
HM Lynda Cummings - Machu Picchu 2

## **Cultural**

1st Kathy Turner - Balloon Fest 1  
2nd Tom Cummings - Ride-em  
3rd Frank Zurey - Santa at the Aquarium  
HM Jack Olson - La Strada del Arte, Denver  
HM Linda Martin - Girl 1  
HM Kenita Gibbins - Venice Carnivale

## **Events**

1st Linda Martin - Eroding Rocks  
2nd Richard Youngblood - Clouds During Ice Storm  
3rd James Baker - Frosty Morning  
HM James Baker - June Snow

## **Altered/Composite**

1st Al Perry - Sandhill Crane and Moon  
2nd Frank Zurey - Essence of Devil's Tower  
3rd Frank Zurey - Devil's Tower Framed  
HM Richard Youngblood - Elk in Mountains  
HM Sherry Zurey - Teapot Arch

## **Black and White prints**

1st Al Perry - Teton Mountains  
2nd Frank Zurey - Church of the Holy Ascension 1825  
3rd Frank Zurey - Arches National Park  
HM Maryann Gaug - Come In  
HM Tom Cummings - Hard Life

## **Photography - Published Images**

1st Al Perry - Red-tailed Hawk Attacking Mexican Free-tailed Bats  
2nd Jack Olson - Colorado National Monument  
3rd Sherry Zurey - Auroral Loop  
HM Al Perry - Bats and Sunset  
HM Randall Ennis - Happy Holidays

## **Photography - Novice**

- 1st Barbara Bradley - Hibiscus
- 2nd Carolyn Ennis - Bathing Cardinal
- 3rd Lynda Cummings - Yellowcrown High Heron

## **WRITING**

### **Published Article on '05 or '06 Conference**

1st John Catsis - "Weekend Getaway" Pilot Getaways, Jan/Feb 2006 (*The passion he has for this community shows in this well written and documented article. Few questions go unanswered. The article has both historical and present day information, as well as complete what to do, where to go, and related cost related to enjoying Silver City. John did an outstanding job of photography support.*)

### **TV/Movie/Video**

1st – 3-way tie:

Andy Lightbody - Outdoor Adventures - Fishing with the King

Andy Lightbody - Weekend Adventures - Glenwood Springs

Andy Lightbody - Outdoor Adventures - Ice Fishing - Blue Mesa (*Andy knows his craft, presents detail well, while at same time covering most of those anticipated questions a viewer might raise. Andy had three entries of high quality, making it difficult to define first, second and third.*)

### **Books and Scripts for TV/Movie/Video**

1st Don & Barbara Laine - Best Short Hikes in Arizona (*Don and Barbara provided a well written book, but even more impressive, well highlighted headings, good maps and a number of charts and graphs to help the reader learn about the environment of the various hikes.*)

2nd Andy Lightbody - Elk Hunting in Gunnison Country (*Andy's script for Elk Hunting in Gunnison Country has great depth of detail and narrative, all done in a very brief written form to provide background for the video.*)

3rd Robert Stone - Day Hikes in the Beartooth Mountains (*Robert's Beartooth Mountain book is unique in that it defines a very specific routing from Billings to Red Lodge to Yellowstone National Park. The maps and detail of time, distance, and elevation gain with additional references is excellent.*)

### **Newspaper articles/columns/editorials**

1st Mary Peachin - "Spirit Bears of Canada", Arizona Daily Star, October 22, 2006 (*Mary found a new and remote region and topic in the Spirit Bears of Canada, which would draw the attention of the reader. The article is well written, walking a reader through*

*everything one would need to know about the bears and environment; and the piece is well supported by action photography.*)

2nd Dan England - "One Step at a Time", Greeley Tribune, August 6, 2006 (*Dan provides a very personal account of a blind young man accomplishing what few of us have or will succeed at; and he does it with a sensitivity and detail and sidebar insets to allow the reader to get the full story of this adventure.*)

3rd Mary Alice Murphy - "MAM's Musings - Dogs", Silver City Daily Press, November 17, 2006 (*Mary Alice draws a reader immediately to her column by a magnetic opening sentence, then spins a touching story the reader has to pursue to the end.*)

HM Barbara Bradley - "Keeping USS Bennington's Past and Present", The Barnstable Patriot, November 17, 2006

### **Magazine articles/columns/editorials**

1st Lee Allen - "Archery Anglers", Arizona Wildlife Views, Jan-Feb 2006 (*Editors have to like Lee. He provides an inspiring how to and where to go about bow fishing and he does it with good supportive photos. He goes the extra mile by explaining how to enjoy the gourmet values of fish taken by archery methods.*)

2nd John Catsis - "There's More to Groom Than a Cross", Route 66, Fall 2006 (*John's article makes one want to go to Groom, Texas and see the leaning water tank and meet the town's people. Great descriptive photos enhance the well-written article.*)

3rd Tom Bryant - "Mounted Shooting", The Horsemen's Voice, August 2006 (*Tom has taken a very unusual horseback event and described it well with a history of mounted shooting that would draw any reader to the article. He leads the reader beyond his work into where the sport can be enjoyed and even how a rider can get involved.*)

### **Newsletter Writing of Any Kind**

1st Jack Olson - "Canyonlands Needles District", RMOWP Newsletter, March/April 2006 (*Jack makes a very good connection between the annual conference and a call to spend time in Canyonlands National Park. He does it in an inspiring and descriptive manner. Jack whets your appetite to the degree that you just have to accept Jack's challenge.*)

2nd Barbara Bradley - "Scott Sheridan - Fishing for a Cure", The Catfish Connection, Spring-Summer 2006 (*Barbara's writing simply makes you feel that you are a member of the Sheridan family. And she is convincing in her call for support and assistance for the ALS program. Her writing is informative, while at the same time she has a knack for personal sensitivity on the reader's part.*)

3rd Maryann Gaug - "Cloudy Arches", RMOWP Newsletter, July/August 2006 (*Maryann does an excellent job of intertwining the annual conference with various member's coaching skills and inspiration for photography. She describes this experience excellently within the environment of some beautiful Arches National Park scenery.*)

### Web Writing

1st Al Perry - "Brazilian Free-tailed Bats", natur-escapes.net, April 2006 (*Al does an awesome job of combining clear narrative and descriptive writing with outstanding photography. He describes his subjects well and explains how he maximized his shots and demonstrates how effective blending of illustrative photography with clear writing can be accomplished.*)



The youngest registered conference attendee, Rachel Minor, ponders a tree growing out of a petrified sequoia stump at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

© Don Laine

## SULLIVAN'S SECOND ANNUAL SPLENDID SUPERLATIVES REGARDING THE CONFERENCE

Anne Sullivan

Practice certainly makes perfect for the unbeatable team of Barbara and Don Laine, Jack Olson and Cecilia Travis when it comes to arranging a conference. They have got it down pat! The 2007 RMOWP Conference in Colorado Springs was notable for:

- the most meals eaten and enjoyed together as well as
- the most meals devoured in any one restaurant -- the faithful and first-rate Ranch;
- the youngest-looking and acting member -- Ann Fitzwater -- celebrating a birthday;
- the best basic writing rules reiterated by Mary Taylor Young;
- the most professional and stunning photo entries -- every one a gem -- entered in the contest;
- maybe the second-most snow falling on members (anybody remember South Dakota in '95?)
- the biggest fanciest reddest bus we've ever taken the most rides in -- and thank goodness and the conference chairs for it;
- the tiniest and most delicious hamburgers served at the emptiest cafe in Victor;
- the most spectacular chapel we've seen and photographed;
- the most fascinating talk about falcons we've heard (have we heard another?)
- the wildest wind weathered on Thursday, June 7th even surpassing the willful wind on Wednesday;
- the most cookies ever seen outside a bakery, baked by Sherry Zurey, who was also responsible for the bounteous buffet after the opening Happy Hour. Thanks, Sherry. I think the cookies lasted almost the whole conference.
- the largest number of perspiring photographers and wilting writers (50) squished into the smallest meeting room courtesy of the motel's overbooking;
- the saddest funny tale of self-publishing delivered by John Catsis, who just happens to have a few boxes of FULLTIMERS for sale;
- the gaudiest collection of Hawaiian shirts ever worn in one room plus
- the most bizarre bawdy Hawaiian getup seen this side of the moon on our new bizarre leader, Tom Cummings;
- in an act that's tough to beat, the most hysterical auction with The Great Hugger AKA John Catsis and his nimble straight man, Jim Baker;
- the most hilarious presentation of humorous photos designed by the Hilarious Honorific Humorist Himself, Angelo Sciulli;
- the most objects (books, candlesticks, coffeepot,

trivet, cross, unknown) garnered from the auction with the least expenditure (\$5) by yours truly. (You will be happy to know that most of them have found good homes.)

- the most temerarious battle of the Texas titans to triumph in bidding and spending at the auction;
- the most and youngest new members, all vibrant and vital, at any conference thus far;
- the most ebullient noise of earnest discussion, excited chatter and exuberant laughter coming from old and new members at every meal and gathering. In other words, a farrago of fun.

HELP! STOP ME BEFORE I ALLUDE TO ANY  
AMBAGIOUS ALLITERATION ANOTHER TIME!

*\* Ed. note: if it had been anyone but Anne I would have assumed that 'ambagious' was a spelling error. But of course Anne is correct. Look it up in your Funk & Wagnalls.*

## Jack's Jaunts

### The Show Me State Showed Me



Jack Wendleton stalks prairie flowers

By Jack Olson

You can't see the Rocky Mountains from Missouri, but a recent trip there showed me what other kindred spirits are up to. Lessons to be learned are where you find them.

My friend, and new RMOWP member, Jack Wendleton invited me to come back to his home state to put on some programs and appear at the annual conference of the Missouri Outdoor Communicators (MOC). The initial program was a three hour photo seminar for camera club members in Jefferson City. The meeting, with photographers of varied skill levels, went very well.

The main purpose for my trip was the MOC conference in Kirksville, in northeastern Missouri. The Missouri Outdoor Communicators was founded in 1994 and is similar to our organization. When I

joined RMOWP in its fifth year, the majority of our members then, like MOC at this time, were writers, many with their own newspaper columns and contributors to wildlife magazines. Jack and his wife Pat joined MOC a few years ago and have helped begin the evolution of their organization to a broader area of interests, much as has occurred in RMOWP. One purpose for my presentation was to show how photography could be combined with writing to offer an editor the complete package. I also talked to them about photography as a professional pursuit in itself and how they might improve their photography. Jack and Pat tell me the presentation struck a responsive chord.

MOC has a scholarship program, such as RMOWP has. The girl who received the scholarship of \$1,500 was present for the entire conference and took part in the activities. She said the stipend was very helpful to her. She is a senior, majoring in journalism, and hopes to go into interpretation, possibly in a Missouri state or federal park. Scholarship winners also receive a one-year membership in MOC and an all expense paid trip to the annual conference. The scholarship program is funded in part by MOC's auction, which is about as raucous as ours, with antics perhaps just a smidgeon below those of the outrageous John Catsis and Jim Baker.

Another program of MOC, which I found very interesting, was College Day. One day a year, a group of about thirty college students is entertained in Columbia, in the center of the state and home of the main campus of the University of Missouri. Students have a choice of training in hunting, fishing, photography, and other interests. The MOC president said he felt that this, and the scholarship program, were the two most important projects of their organization.

There were a variety of field trips offered during the three day conference. Guided teal hunting and fishing trips were on the schedule, as was photography with yours truly. My group opted to go on a tour of a tallgrass prairie farm near Kirksville. A light rain prevented much photography, but the tour was fascinating. The owner, Frank Oberle, a noted photographer, has generated a rebirth of the tallgrass prairie which originally covered much of the Midwest and Great Plains. He raises native wildflowers for seed. Go to [www.pureairseed.com](http://www.pureairseed.com) or [www.oberlephotography.com](http://www.oberlephotography.com) for more information.

Overall, it was heartwarming to meet with this friendly organization, which welcomes new people just as RMOWP does. We do some things differently, but there are many more similarities. RMOWP has just had a lot more water go under the bridge.

## More Awards

Several special awards were presented during RMOWP's annual conference in June.

The Selected Works Award in Writing was given to John Catsis of Silver City, New Mexico, in recognition of the high quality of his various writing projects. A long-time author of non-fiction books and magazine articles on hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation and travel subjects, John has recently taken the leap into the world of fiction with his first novel, *Fulltimers*, a laugh-laden tale of a motor home and two people with a mission to save America's national parks.

Weldon Lee of Allenspark, Colorado, won the Selected Works in Photography Award for his wildlife photos, which have been published in numerous magazines and newspapers, and in his books - *A Guide to Photographing Rocky Mountain Wildlife and Watchable Birds of the Rocky Mountains*. Weldon also operates Rocky Mountain Photo Adventures, which leads worldwide wildlife photo excursions.

The Spark Plug Award - a wood and metal plaque sporting a prominent automotive spark plug - was presented to Lee Carr of Cedaredge, Colorado, for his enthusiasm in furthering RMOWP's goals. Over the years, Lee has served as president, past president, and treasurer and organized or helped to organize several conferences in Colorado. A heartfelt thanks, Lee.

The above awards are presented at the discretion of the Past Presidents Council, but those RMOWP members attending the conference also had opportunities to have their voices heard.

In the Members' Choice Contest, conference attendees vote for the top three photos of those brought or sent to the conference by RMOWP members. First place went to Al Perry for his photo "Male Painted bunting," second place was won by Carlene Shrum for her photo "A Frosty



Conference attendees discovered strange wildlife in Victor.

© Don Laine

Fog," and third place was won by Tom Ulrich for his "Self-Portrait."

In a spirit of fun, a new contest was held this year - to choose the best Hawaiian shirt - and the participation was amazing. The judging took place at the auction, where participants looked around the room and wrote down the name of the person that they believed was wearing the best Hawaiian shirt. The Best Hawaiian Shirt award - a cute dashboard hula girl on a pedestal - went to Tom Cummings. Second place, a not-quite-so-cute dashboard hula girl on a smaller pedestal labeled "Not Quite the Best Hawaiian Shirt," was won by Al Perry.

Out-going president Jim Baker created another new award for this year's conference by mounting a pair of gilded decrepit shoes on a plaque. The shoes had been worn out by RMOWP member John Catsis in a longer-than-expected trek to Delicate Arch at Arches National Park in Moab during our 2006 conference. At this year's conference, attendees voted to give the award to Al Perry. The plaque reads: "The Catsis Award - RMOWP. This Trophy awarded yearly to the person who has walked the farthest during the annual meeting to get a great picture."



Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument ranger addresses RMOWPers.

© Lee Carr

## Founding Member Swede Scholer Dies

E. A. "Swede" Scholer, 84, one of the founding members of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers and an active member during the organization's early years, died at his home in Albuquerque on June 5. A native of Tacoma, Washington, he served in the Marine Corps in World War II. He earned degrees from the University of Illinois, including the school's first Ph.D in the field of recreation, and was on the faculty of the University of Iowa for nine years and at the University of New Mexico for 21 years. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Aleatha, also a founding member of RMOWP; a son and two daughters.



© Al Perry

Tom Ulrich (left) and Angelo Sciulli during a more serious moment at this year's conference.



© Al Perry

A good time was had by all... New President and winner of the prestigious Hawaiian Shirt Contest Tom Cummings (left) with outgoing President Jim Baker.

---

*ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS*

Don Laine, Editor  
PO Box 1200  
El Prado, NM 87529