

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008

Rocky Mountain National Park is Calling YOU!

Spectacular mountain scenery, elk, marmots and other wildlife, an historic ranch, and even some opportunities to learn something are what to expect at the 35th annual conference of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Sunday through Thursday, June 8-12.

The conference will be based in Estes Park, Colorado, the eastern portal to Rocky Mountain National Park, and offers a variety of workshops and field trips, including four trips into the national park. These include a photo workshop with renowned wildlife photographer Weldon Lee – check out his website, www.rockymountainphotoadventures.com – plus a guided walk with a park naturalist, the always-popular sunrise photo shoot, and a drive along Trail Ridge Road into the high country.

Also planned is a guided tour into Hermit Park, a striking natural area that is just now being opened to the public after 40 years of private ownership. Now a county park, it's 42,000 acres include high meadow grasslands, forested slopes, wetlands, and rounded granite rock formations. And who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? The Estes Park Convention and Visitors Bureau is bringing a

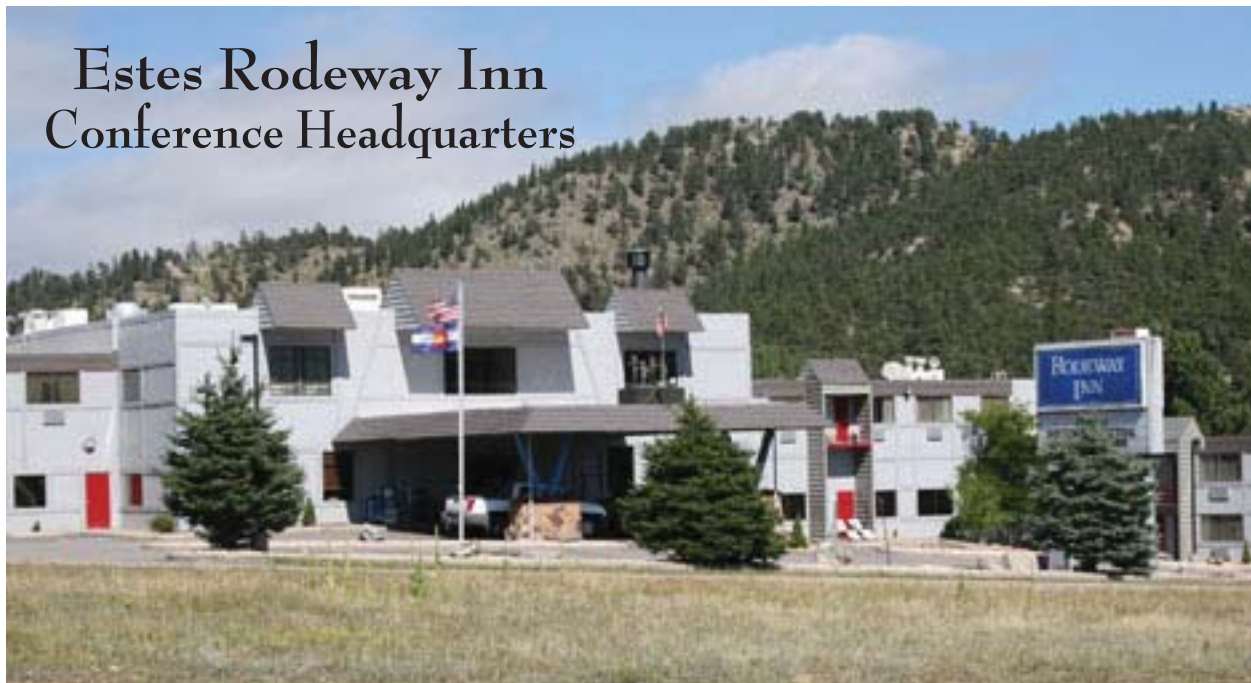
barbecue lunch to the park for us.

Other conference highlights include a talk on the history of Rocky Mountain National Park with local author and historian Curt Buchholz and a trip to the MacGregor Ranch Museum, a working cattle ranch dating back to 1873.

Looking to improve your writing and photography skills? Once again we'll have the writing and photo critique sessions, and workshops include keeping digital camera images spot-free, how to get that winning photograph, and tips on getting the most from Adobe Photoshop's sharpening and selection tools.

Conference headquarters will be the Estes Rodeway Inn, 1701 N. Lake Ave., and the special rate for conference attendees is \$88 per night (one or two people). Rooms have either one king bed or two queens, refrigerators, and microwaves. Rates include a continental breakfast and pets are accepted with a fee and prior notification. We will be using the Rodeway's meeting rooms and having a number of group meals there as well. For reservations, call the Rodeway Inn directly at 800-458-1182 or 970-586-5363, and be sure to tell them you are attending the RMOWP conference. The schedule appears on page 5, and your registration form is enclosed.

Estes Rodeway Inn Conference Headquarters





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Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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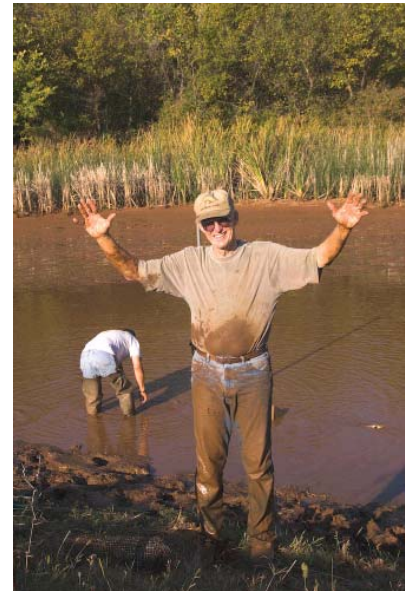
What strikes YOUR funnybone?

Frank Zurey

Send a humorous photo and share the fun!

We have continued the humorous photo challenge this year. It can only be successful if you send your entries. Angelo Sciuilli suggested a humorous photo challenge last year and it was an outstanding hit. Please email your humorous photo entry (two photos per person) to Frank Zurey, zurey.photo@mric.net, by Friday April 4, 2008. The humorous photo should be an outdoor theme and can be in contest Categories 02 through 08. See the 2008 RMOWP Awards Competition Rules for category descriptions. No manipulated humorous entries! Please follow the contest rules for sizing. (Here they are for convenience: Digital image size should be six inches on the longest side at 300 ppi in high-resolution jpg format. If you do not have the software to resize the image, submit the file as produced by your camera.) The file name of the humorous entry should be hum underscore photographer's last name underscore photographer's first initial underscore image title. (Example: hum_smith_r_elk lounging). Angelo will judge the entries and select the top three and we will show all of the entries at the 2008 conference in Estes Park.

The 2008 RMOWP Awards Competition is underway and entries are currently being received. I hope that everyone is getting their entry put together. We look forward to members sharing their writing and photography work through the 2008 RMOWP competition. Submissions can lead to recognition for your efforts in the past year. Your material will also provide professional growth and enhancement for everyone in RMOWP.



© Kathy Turner

"How about a hug?"
2007 humorous photo entry

notes from nic

Nic Showalter
Photo Workshop Coordinator

My participation as a student in the 2006 RMOWP Photo Workshop was one of the best weeks of my life. So when the opportunity arose for me to coordinate the workshop and help extend the workshop opportunity for others, I jumped at the chance! I'm thrilled to be coordinating this year's workshop and I am grateful to the wonderful work done by my predecessors: Tom Cummings and John Catsis. I look forward to continuing the tradition and growing it into the future.

We will gather this year in Estes Park, Colorado, June 24-28. As in years past we will be based at the YMCA of the Rockies and will make multiple daily excursions into Rocky Mountain National Park for hands-on learning. Classroom time will include instruction, resourcing and image-critiquing sessions. We plan our classroom time when the light outside is not optimum and we go into the park for photo shoots when the light is most favorable.

Tom Ulrich and Jack Olson are returning as our teaching professionals. Tom brings his expertise with wildlife, and Jack concentrates on the scenic opportunities. We are so fortunate to have both of them giving leadership to our participants!

We maintain a limit of 15 participants so that everyone gets individual instruction and teaching. The ratio of 3 leaders to 15 participants gives us the best of both worlds: the benefits of the group dynamic and the luxury of individual instruction.



© Jack Olson

Sprague Lake Sunrise
Rocky Mountain National Park

As photography evolves, so does our workshop. Film shooters – especially those with limited experience – are dwindling in numbers. Many with little or no experience or knowledge in photography now own digital cameras. Technology and post-processing of digital images is increasingly important to today's photographers. While we continue to be open to the multiple opportunities for instruction and learning, we are maintaining a commitment to teaching the core fundamentals essential to the art of photography: composition, exposure and technique.

The workshop fee is the same as last year: \$795. Housing packages are offered separately by the YMCA of the Rockies and include a room and 3 meals a day for a very reasonable price.

You can help to spread the word about the workshop by promoting it among photographers you know. Flyers describing the workshop are available for posting at your local library or camera shop. I welcome your questions or feedback – feel free to contact me by e-mail at photoworkshop@rmowp.org. Or call me at (217) 714-2905.

I am thrilled to give leadership to the photo workshop on behalf of the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers!

RMOWP Loses Member & Friend

Long-time RMOWP member Paul Homan of Colorado Springs died February 9 at the age of 81.

An active outdoorsman who especially enjoyed hiking and skiing, Paul served in the 10th Mountain Division during WWII before receiving his Bachelors Degree at the University of Rhode Island, his Masters Degree in Education at Colorado College and his Doctorate at Denver University. He was a teacher and elementary school principal for many years, and an accomplished photographer who sold his work and also taught photography workshops.

Paul also enjoyed fishing and target shooting, and writing about local history. He was active in numerous organizations, including the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon, a local county park, and he single-handedly put together RMOWP's 1990 conference in Manitou Springs. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Hyla, and three sons.

The family has requested that remembrances be in the form of donations to the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon, P.O. Box 60275, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80960.

Conference Add-Ons

Jack Olson

The 35th annual RMOWP conference will be held in Estes Park on June 8-12. We hope you'll be attending because this is a spectacular setting for a meeting in our name-sake national park. Some of you may be traveling from a distance and will have an opportunity to enjoy sights and activities on the way or return. Here are some suggestions from an unnamed old-timer.

One way to enter Estes Park is a drive up Big Thompson Canyon. The river has carved a deep, rugged gash through steep rocks. Site of a terrible flood in 1976, the canyon is an exciting and peaceful entry to Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. If you're driving north on Interstate 25, take Exit 257 onto U.S. 34 and head west to Loveland. Continue through the city, cross through the hogback formation, and begin ascending the canyon. There's good fishing in the river and pull-offs for viewing and photography. Incidentally, as you enter Estes Park, the highway passes right by the Rodeway Inn, our conference headquarters, on the right.

We can't go everywhere in Rocky Mountain National Park during the conference, and we will not be traveling to the west side of the Continental Divide. This part of the park has its own beauty and is more forested with some unique qualities. If you want to check this area out on your way in, from Interstate 70 traveling west into the mountains from Denver, take exit 233, U.S. 40 over Berthoud Pass. Continue down through Winter Park and on to Granby. On the west side of town, turn right on U.S. 34 to Grand Lake and the entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. On your way to Grand Lake, you'll pass two large reservoirs, Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain.

Right after you enter the park, you will be driving parallel to the creek-like headwaters of the Colorado River. You may be fortunate enough to spot a moose, which have migrated to the west side of the park. There are also easy trails along the Colorado River. Soon, Trail Ridge Road begins to climb toward the Continental Divide. Strangely, the Divide is on 10,758 foot Milner Pass at Poudre Lake, well below timberline. There are trails to hike, and you may be lucky enough to come across some bighorn sheep. Continue over Trail Ridge Road east to Estes Park.

We will have a three hour tour on Trail Ridge Road on Thursday, June 12, at the end of the conference. You could take the trip, detailed in the last paragraph, in reverse. Or, either before or after the conference, take time to hike nature trails and poke around the stunning sweep of high altitude tundra on Trail Ridge.

I mentioned Berthoud Pass, off I-70 exit 233 on U.S. 40. Want to climb on the Continental Divide the easy way? Park on top of the pass and go around a gate on a dirt maintenance road on the east side of the highway. The trail is marked as the Continental Divide Trail. You begin in the woods, but soon break out above timberline into lovely meadows and expansive views. The climb to the top of Colorado Mines Peak (about 12,500 feet) is some 1,200 vertical feet in a couple of miles. Or take the cutoff of the Continental Divide Trail in the woods and enter the James Peak Wilderness Area. Hike at least to the saddle toward Mount Flora and look carefully down the sheer east side of the Divide.

Conference time will be a little earlier than the most prodigious display of wildflowers, but there should be plenty of the early flowers in the tundra and more in wooded meadows. They are so different from those seen at lower elevations, and in other states, that you should look for them and delight in them.

Some of you may want to take the Aerial Tramway in Estes Park. Gondolas ascend 1,100 feet in five minutes to an observation deck on Prospect Mountain. Take in spectacular panoramic views over the town and the Continental Divide. Take your camera, too. Rides begin at 9:00am. Also on top, there's a gift shop, snacks, and hiking trails. For more information, go to www.esteemtram.com, or call (970) 586-3675.

Any questions for more ideas of stops pre- or post-conference? Call me at (303) 777-8998 and maybe we can put together a personalized schedule.

New Airline Rules Announced for Lithium Batteries

Effective January 1st, airline passengers may not pack spare lithium batteries in checked baggage, but may take most lithium batteries aboard a plane in carry-on baggage. The Transportation Security Administration said the new rule was imposed to reduce the risk of lithium battery fires.

Most lithium batteries installed in cameras, computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices are permitted in checked luggage and carry-on; it is primarily spare batteries that are affected. However, the new rules also limit the amount of lithium in larger batteries, such as some extended life computer batteries and batteries used in some professional audio-video equipment.

For details, see http://safetravel.dot.gov/whats_new_batteries.html.

RMOWP Conference 2008 Schedule

(Subject to Change)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, Estes Park, Colorado

All meals and workshops at Rodeway Inn unless noted otherwise

Sunday, June 8

- 1:00-4:30pm Registration
2:00-4:30pm Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)
5:00-7:00pm Estes Park Museum Meeting Room: *Opening Reception, Happy Hour and Light Buffet* (included in registration fee). Welcome by RMOWP President Tom Cummings, and Suzy Blackhurst and Julie Nikolai of the Estes Park CVB
7:30-9:30pm *Presentation of Photo Contest Submissions*

Monday, June 9

- 8:45am Welcome and Important Announcements
9:00am Workshop - *The Big Clean-Up*: Keeping your digital cameras, lenses & sensors dust-free, and removing spots from digital photos when you don't, Steve Schweitzer
10:30am Break
11:00am Bus to *Hermit Park* - Guided tour with time to hike and photograph
12:30pm Barbecue Luncheon at Hermit Park courtesy of Estes Park CVB
2:30pm Bus departs Hermit Park for Rocky Mountain National Park
3:00-5:00pm *Mountains, Meadows & Moraines*: Nature's Story in Horseshoe Park, Park Naturalist Jeff Maugans
5:00pm Bus departs Rocky Mountain National Park for Rodeway Inn
6:00pm Dinner - Italian Buffet (\$21 including tax & tip; beer & wine cash bar)
7:30-9:30pm *Photo Critique* Session, Tom Ulrich & Jack Olson

Tuesday, June 10

- 9:00am *Writing Critique* Session, Anne Sullivan
10:45am Break
11:00am A brief *History of Rocky Mountain National Park*, local historian and author Curt Buchholz
12:00pm Lunch - Pizza Buffet (\$11.00 including tax & tip)
1:30pm Workshop - *In Pursuit of the Winning Image*, Weldon Lee
3:00pm Break
3:30pm Bus departs Rodeway Inn for Rocky Mountain National Park - *Field Photo Workshop*, Weldon Lee
6:00pm Picnic Supper (included in registration fee)
8:30pm Bus departs Rocky Mountain National Park for Rodeway Inn

Wednesday, June 11

- 4:45am Carpool from Rodeway Inn to Rocky Mountain National Park for *Sunrise Photo Shoot*, Jack Olson
8:30-9:30am *Fixing the Fuzzies*: Sharpening, Selecting, and More from Adobe Photoshop, Joe Zinn
9:45am Carpool to *MacGregor Ranch Museum* (Guided Tour & photo time)
12:00pm Depart MacGregor Ranch Museum for Rodeway Inn
12:30pm Lunch - Deli Bar (\$13.50 including tax & tip)
1:15-2:00pm General membership meeting
2:00-2:30pm Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)
3:00-4:30pm *Auction* to benefit scholarship fund: John Catsis & Jim Baker
6:00-7:00pm Happy Hour (full cash bar)
7:00-10:00pm *Banquet* (buffet with prime rib, baked chicken, etc. \$25.00 including tax & tip) & *Awards Ceremony*

Thursday, June 12

- 5:30am Depart Rodeway Inn for *Guided Trail Ridge Road Tour* (Return to hotel by 10:30am for 11:00am checkout. *Note*: Depending on the number of participants signed up this will be either carpool or bus, and if bus there will be a charge of \$12.50)

That's All Folks!!!!!!!

Support Our Supporting Members

Coleman Company, the world's leading manufacturer of camping and outdoor recreation equipment, including the legendary Coleman lanterns, camp stoves, and coolers. www.coleman.com.

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