

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS
MARCH-APRIL 2008

Rocky in June ~ Have you signed up yet? Have your motel reservations? The time is NOW!

With less than two months before RMOWP's annual conference, it's time to make the commitment and send in your registration form and check.

The 35th annual conference takes place Sunday through Thursday, June 8-12, in Estes Park, Colorado, at the eastern entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park, and will offer 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 (see the accompanying article), plus a guided walk with a park naturalist, the always-popular sunrise photo shoot, and a tour into the high country on Trail Ridge Road.

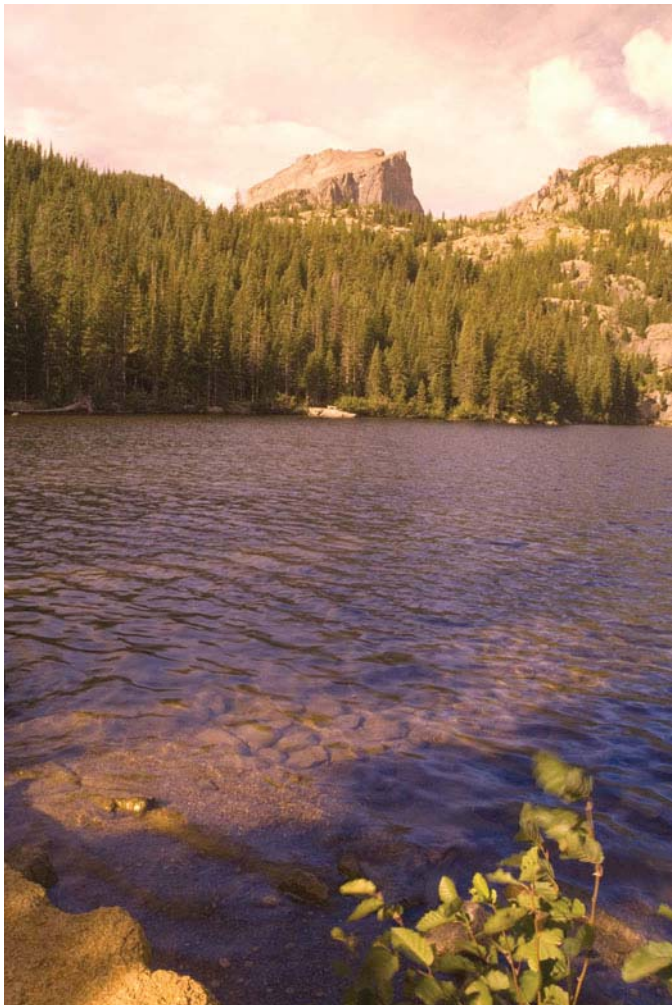
We'll also take a trip into Hermit Park, a striking natural area that is just now being opened to the public after 40 years under private ownership. Now a county park, its 42,000 acres include high meadow grasslands, forested slopes, wetlands, and rounded granite rock formations. And who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? The Estes Park Convention and Visitors Bureau is bringing a barbecue lunch to the park for our group, as well as providing transportation.

Other activities include writing and photo critique sessions, 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 that dates to 1873.

Workshops include programs on 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 is Estes Rodeway Inn, 1701 N. Lake Ave., and the special rate for conference attendees, available through May 9, is \$88 per night (one or two people) for premium rooms, which offer 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. 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.

Registration forms were included in the January-February newsletter, and are also available at www.rmowp.org and from Don Laine, 575-758-8922 or laine@newmex.com.



© Jon Sheppard

Hallett Peak as seen from Bear Lake in
Rocky Mountain National Park

Camping in Estes Park

For those who want to camp, there are more than a half dozen commercial campgrounds in Estes Park, including the Estes Park KOA (800-562-1887; www.EstesParkKOA.com), which is within sight of the conference headquarters Rodeway Inn. There are also campgrounds in Rocky Mountain National Park, and the least expensive camping is in the adjacent Roosevelt National Forest.



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Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June
July/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec

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Conference Instructor No Stranger to the Limelight

Among the many activities planned at this year's RMOWP conference are a sit-down workshop followed by a photo field trip with **Weldon Lee**, described by a University of Northern Iowa photography instructor as "One of the top five wildlife photographers in America." His photos and articles appear in each issue of *Nature Photographer* magazine, of which he is assistant editor, and you've also seen his work in *Peterson's PHOTOgraphic*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Backpacker*, *National Parks Magazine*, and numerous other publications. Lee has also written two books, *Watchable Birds of the Rocky Mountains* and *A Guide to Photographing Rocky Mountain Wildlife*.

His company, Rocky Mountain Photo Adventures, has been leading wildlife photo safaris for 20 years, to destinations around the world including South Africa, Galapagos, Ecuador, Alaska, and Canada, as well as Colorado, New Mexico, and other areas in the lower 48.

A member of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, in 2007 he was awarded the organization's Selected Works Award for Excellence in Photography.

"Wildlife photography is more than capturing an image," Lee says, "It is the opportunity to preserve on film the drama of a fleeting moment in the life of one of my wild brothers and sisters. When I am fortunate enough to capture one of those moments,

I begin to realize that I'm touching something greater than life itself."

Information about Lee, details about his upcoming photo trips, and numerous photos can be seen at www.rockymountainphotoadventures.com.

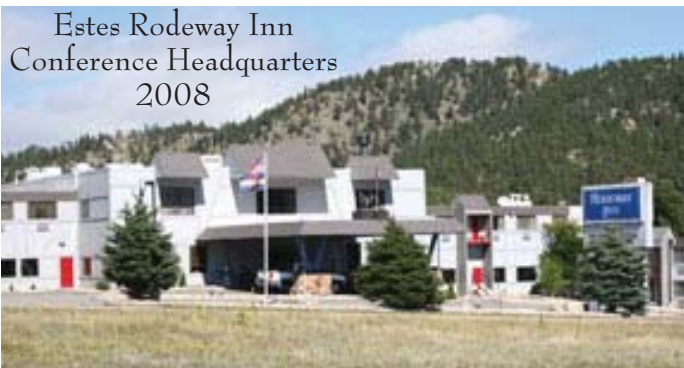


© Lynda Cummings

Ever wonder what RMOWP's president does in his spare time?!!

Supporting Member News

The **American Sportfishing Association** has announced a personnel change in the Communications Department. Ryan Colaianni has taken the position of communications associate, and Leslie Boatman is no longer with the association. RMOWP members seeking help from the American Sportfishing Association on writing and photo projects can contact Colaianni at 703-519-9691, ext. 222, or through the Newsroom section of the organization's website, www.asafishing.org. Mary Jane Williamson remains the communications director, and can be contacted through the website or at the same phone number, ext. 227.



© Don Laine

MEMBER NEWS

Recent additions to the RMOWP family include freelance photographer and photo guide **Larry Ditto** of McAllen, Texas, who specializes in wildlife, landscapes, and people in the outdoors. His professional credits include *Birder's World*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Birds and Blooms Magazine*, *Sports Afield*, *Texas Highways*, *National Wildlife Magazine*, and various state wildlife viewing guides. Nature photography tours go to some of the country's top birding destinations, including South Padre Island, Petersen Ranch in the Texas hill country, and Caddo Lake on the Texas-Louisiana border. You can see Larry's work and check out his upcoming photo tours online at www.larryditto.com.

Member **Robert Stone**, who divides his time between the Rocky Mountains of Montana and the California Central Coast, recently released two new books, *Day Hikes Around Missoula, Montana* and *Day Hikes Around Napa Valley*. Since 1991, Robert has been writer, photographer, and publisher of Day Hike Books, and he tells us that he has hiked every trail in the *Day Hike* series, which now includes 23 titles, many in their third and fourth editions.

The thoroughly revised and expanded third edition of *Day Hikes Around Missoula, Montana* includes 83 hikes within a 70-mile radius of the city. While many hikes are located within the city itself, most are found in the surrounding valleys, mountains, and national forests, and

include easy nature walks as well as high-elevation treks to overlooks with expansive vistas.

This first edition of *Day Hikes Around Napa Valley* provides details on 88 hikes throughout the valley, across nearby mountain ranges, along bays and rivers, and through cool forests. Highlights include secluded redwood forests, the largest freshwater lake in California, a massive petrified forest, and expansive ridge-top vistas to the Pacific and San Francisco. Also included is comprehensive trail access information for dog owners.

For information on these books and others in the Day Hike series, see Robert's website, www.dayhikebooks.com.

Tucson member **Lee Allen** reports that he is currently working on a book on Arizona fishing destinations for *Arizona Highways*. Your newsletter editor also enjoyed one of his recent outdoor columns for *Inside Business Tucson* magazine. The article was primarily about the 807-mile Arizona Trail, and we would have liked it even if Lee hadn't mentioned our book, *Best Short Hikes in Arizona*. (How's that for a shameless plug?)

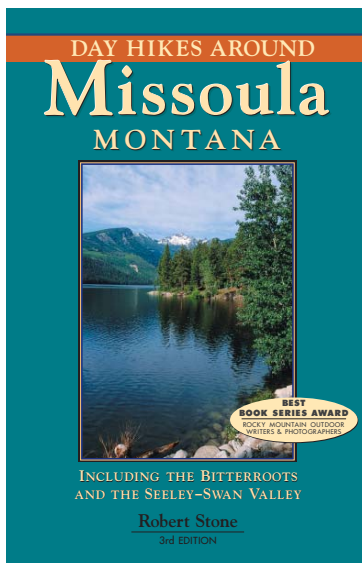
Ready for a new photo adventure? RMOWP member and photographer **Jon Sheppard** of Avon, Colorado, plans a 7-to-10 day trip to Alaska in late July and would be happy to have someone go along and share travel expenses. Jon also is putting together a photo safari trip to Israel and



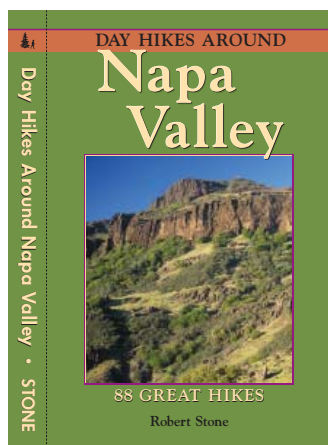
© Jon Sheppard

Jordan for early fall and is interested in taking along a small group of photographers. For details on either trip, call him at 970-949-9131. You can also see photos from Jon's trip to the Middle East in late 2007, as well as numerous other locations, at his website, www.jonsheppardphotography.com.

RMOWP members **John and Connie Catsis** left the Phoenix area in 2007 and retired to Silver City, New Mexico, but perhaps "retired" is not the right word. Connie is continuing her art and John has been writing, photographing, and promoting his first novel, *Fulltimers* (available at amazon.com and fine bookstores everywhere). But that's not all, as we learned from an article last December in the *Silver City Sun-News*. The newspaper reports, "If you plan to attend a basketball game at Western New Mexico University, don't expect the voice on the public address system to come across in monotone...John Catsis, a 74-year-old newcomer to Silver City has a unique, articulate and slightly gravelly voice that can be heard across the football field or gym."



Robert Stone's newest books.





© John Catsis

Some photographers travel miles into the backcountry in search of wildlife, but not John Catsis. He and wife Connie left Chandler, Arizona for the wilds of New Mexico, and now John, with coffee cup in hand and probably still in his jammies, shoots out his kitchen window for images like this.

Of course, this is nothing new for John, who has been a news announcer on television and radio, owned and managed broadcast outlets, and taught broadcast journalism at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He has also gained fame as the always-enthusiastic and sometimes-hilarious auctioneer at RMOWP conferences.

Elida Cadieux Dies

Elida Cadieux, 88, the widow of RMOWP member Charles "Chuck" Cadieux, died at her Albuquerque home March 31. Elida and Chuck were active in RMOWP into the 1990s, and the couple lead many motor home caravans when Chuck wasn't busy writing his numerous books and magazine articles. Chuck died in January, 2006, and a son, Daniel, died in June, 2007. Survivors include their daughter Marie Hodges.



© Jack Olson

Big Thompson River in Moraine Park
Rocky Mountain National Park

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

American Sportfishing Association, protecting the interests of the sportfishing community and speaking out on behalf of sportfishing and boating industries, conservation organizations, and outdoor journalists. www.asafishing.org.

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.

Colorado Camera, a full-service imaging center celebrating over 50 years with state-of-the-art photo processing equipment specializing in digital photographic images. www.coloradocamera.com.

Delorme Mapping, a leading provider of mapping products, including state atlases with detailed topographic maps in books, plus Topo USA® software covering the entire country. www.delorme.com.

National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and shooting sports industry, promoting safety, participation, and successful business environments. www.nssf.org.

National Wild Turkey Federation, a grassroots, nonprofit organization supporting scientific wild-life management as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional North American sport. www.nwtf.org.

Maptech, producing Terrain Navigator Pro, CD-ROMS combining topo maps and aerial photos, plus specialty CDs of national parks, highest mountains, etc., and marine charts and navigation display systems. www.maptech.com.

Remington, manufacturer of fine sporting arms, ammunition, gun care products and knives, plus factory-authorized gun parts. www.remington.com.

Singh-Ray Corporation, manufacturer for over 40 years of top-quality Singh-Ray filters for digital and film cameras. www.singh-ray.com.