

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

JAN-FEB 2012

Conference Right Around the Corner

How time flies when you're having fun. Here it is early February already, which means that the 2012 RMOWP conference is just four short months away.

This year's conference takes place in **Taos, New Mexico June 10-14** (that's Sunday through Thursday), and promises a variety of activities, plenty of food, and an opportunity to rub elbows with some of the best and nicest writers and photographers to travel the American West. Taos, at 7,000 feet elevation, is about 130 miles north of Albuquerque and 300 miles south of Denver.

Pre-and-Post-Conference Options

On Sunday, June 10, Mary Taylor Young (<http://marytayloryoung.com>) will present an all-day **nature writing workshop** - "Paint Your Prose with Pizzazz." Ms. Taylor Young, an RMOWP member and award-winning nature writer who is also one of RMOWP's writing judges, will discuss how the techniques used in nature writing truly capture a sense of place, and



barrel cactus in bloom

can be used for fiction, narrative non-fiction, essay, and even opinion articles and other writing. Participants will discover how to use all their senses to closely examine the world around them, finding universal themes, and how to utilize metaphor and other techniques to make the natural world come alive to even the most home-bound armchair explorer.

Anglers have a lot of opportunities in the Taos area, and those wanting a **guided fishing trip** be-

fore, after, or even during the conference won't do better than connecting with local fly fishing guru Taylor Streit (www.taosflyshop.com; 575-751-1312). Streit, who will give us the straight talk on the joys



the first lesson - age 3

of being a fishing guide and writer on Monday, is one of New Mexico's foremost fly fishing authorities and the author of *Fly Fishing New Mexico; Man vs. Fish: the Fly Fisherman's Eternal*

Struggle; and *Instinctive Fly Fishing; A Guide's Guide to Better Trout Fishing*, whose second edition is being published this spring.

In addition to the **raft trip** on Wednesday morning (see below), there are plenty of other scenic and sometimes hair-raising rafting adventures available, including a full-day trip through Class III and IV rapids in the Taos Box. Those interested should contact Native Sons Adventures (www.nativesonsadventures.com; 800-753-7559).

Conference Highlights

We'll have **talks** and **guided tours and walks** with local experts, a picnic supper along the Rio Grande, and a half-day raft trip on the Rio Grande (a 7-mile trip through Class II and III rapids, in which you'll lend a hand - or more correctly a paddle - to guide the rubber rafts through waves and rapids. A variety of **workshops** are planned, including an in-depth

Missed the last newsletter?

Due to family obligations back East, we were unable to print and mail the last newsletter (Late Fall 2011, which went out late Nov.) as we normally do. So it was e-mailed. If you did not receive it, you can download it from the website. And if you prefer receiving the newsletter in electronic format, please let us know.

Thanks, Don & Barb Laine



Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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www.rmowp.org

look at how new technology has changed publishing in ways that dramatically affect both writers and photographers, a program that examines what makes your best shot an award-winner, a discussion of the hows and ways of nature writing, and a look at the often neglected subject of how to write a great caption for your great photo.

There will also be the always-fun presentation of all contest photo submissions, the writing and photography critiques (spectators encouraged, but please no throwing of rotting fruit), the showcase of selected members' photography, Jack Olson's famed sunrise photo shoot, and the auction, with all proceeds going to the RMOWP scholarship fund.

Where to Sleep

Conference headquarters is the historic Sagebrush Inn & Conference Center (www.taoshotels.com), located on the south end of town. We've reserved 25 units for June 10-13, which will be held until May 10. Rates are \$69 single or double for a standard or fireplace room, and \$99 single or double for a deluxe suite. These rates, which include a full cooked-to-order breakfast, will also apply for two days before and two days after the conference, depending on availability. Call 800-428-3626 and be sure to mention you are

with Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers when you make your reservations. Other accommodations at Sagebrush are a small suite (\$79), executive suite (\$129) and, also on-site, the Comfort Suites (\$79, call 888-751-1555), depending upon availability.



sunset reflections

Campers will find attractive full-service camping at Taos Valley RV Park & Campground on Este Es Road, just off the main drag and a short drive north of Sagebrush Inn. Daily rates are \$25 for tent sites

and \$35 to \$46 for RV sites, with the seventh night free on prepaid weekly stays. Contact the RV park at 800-999-7571 or www.taosrv.com. There is also camping at the BLM's Orilla Verde Recreation Area, along the Rio Grande about 16 miles southwest of Sagebrush Inn and the location of our Tuesday afternoon and evening field trip and supper. (Note - There's a steep hill between Taos and the BLM site, which may make a daily commute in a large RV somewhat tedious). Rates are \$7 per night for tents and dry RV camping and \$15 per night for a limited number of RV sites with water and electric hookups; campsites are first-come first-served. Pay showers are available. Call 575-758-8851 or see http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/taos/orilla_verde.html.

E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center

Article & photos by Jack Olson

Biophilia? Just what sort of contrived word is that? That was my first thought when I heard the term on a recent visit to the Florida Panhandle. It was described as some kind of nature center, so that was enough for me.

The Biophilia Center is primarily an educational facility, tied directly to six school districts in surrounding northwest Florida counties. There are limited days when the center is open to the public. But there are a few special event days and one of those coincided with the gathering of our family for the recent holidays. My sister thought a visit to the center would be fun for the children. She didn't think of her brother?

E.O. Wilson is an educator who has long specialized in the science and study of insects and the interconnected relationship between flora and fauna, and the importance of all this to humans. The term coined for this relationship is biophilia. The Biophilia Center taught over 10,000 students in its first two years. In addition to the main exhibit hall, there is a 160-seat theater, classrooms and science laboratories, and trails into the woods.

This special event was when naturalists brought

he told us was the longest North American snake, an indigo snake. This one was eight ooh-and-aah feet long.

Turtle Bob has such an engaging way with children that even my little family members, Sofia and Dee Dee, draped the elongated snake over their shoulders and necks. Willingly. They were captivated. On regular weekdays, Turtle Bob takes a gopher tortoise to schools and libraries to introduce the interrelationship of species. Gopher tortoises dig deep burrows which, in case of severe weather or fire, can be used by other species, even predators and prey, peacefully.

Gopher tortoises have come under pressure in the area due to developments which are eradicating them. Turtle Bob collected 3,500 of the creatures and relocated them to the 50,000 acre "Nokuse plantation" surrounding the Biophilia Center. He is establishing a one-acre turtle colony near the center



great nephew Dylan astride the giant ant guarding the entrance to the Biophilia Center



Naturalist shows off a young armadillo to sister Ann, nephew Jonathan and niece Amy

so that students can observe tortoise behavior.

The Biophilia Center has many ecological exhibits in the main hall. One that especially amuses children, and at least one older person, has spots on the floor which relate to a mammal, bird, or forest dweller and the sound that they emit. Children like to run across the spots, creating the sound of a jungle. Turtle Bob urged me to step on one at a time, carefully matching the sound to the corresponding member of the wild community. He hadn't spotted me acting like a kid earlier in the morning.

The Biophilia Center isn't near our Rocky Mountain region. You can't see it from the top of Pikes Peak, from Taos, or even Oklahoma. But if you ever have occasion to visit Florida, and you love wildlife or ecology, it would be worth a visit. As soon as we entered, and encountered the giant ant, I blurted,



Panels on the floor produce sounds of the corresponding creatures

out the creatures. There was a turtle, birds, an 8-month-old sweet little armadillo, and, most especially---SNAKES. The preliminary act was a red snake and a grey snake. Nice, but I could hear the drumroll. Lead naturalist, Turtle Bob, brought out what



great-nephew Alex resting on a bigger than life frog

“This is my kind of place.” It just might be yours, too. At least, it’s nice to know that a place like this exists to acquaint children with nature. Check them out at www.eowilsoncenter.org.



Children delight in holding the indigo snake with Turtle Bob in attendance

*“If all mankind were to disappear,
the world would regenerate back
to the rich state of equilibrium ...
If insects were to vanish,
the environment would
collapse into chaos.*

~ E.O. Wilson

President’s Column

What’s New in Digital Cameras?

Al Perry

“Point and Shoot” Cameras: In the last few years you have seen the proliferation of the camera phone and small digital cameras that fit in purses and shirt pockets. Camera phones are growing in large numbers.

Professional Digital Cameras: The professional digital single lens reflex “DSLR” full frame (sensors the size of 35mm film) cameras are apparently not selling as they once did. Both Nikon and Canon---the top two makers of high-end digital cameras---are slow to come out with new full frame bodies.

Mid Range DSLR Cameras: The rapid growth a few years ago of the cropped sensor (less than full frame) cameras have leveled off in the last 2-3 years. Prices are down and features have grown including improved noise reduction.

Mirrorless Cameras: An interesting development in the digital market is the Mirrorless Camera also referred to as Micro Four Thirds or Digital Compact Camera. These cameras utilize an electronic viewer instead of the DSLR’s use of a mirror. By replacing the mirror with an electronic viewer, the lens can be located closer to the sensor which then allows the camera body and lens to be smaller. Plus, the mirrorless cameras have fewer mechanical parts and

more electronics than DSLR’s. The main suppliers of mirrorless cameras include Sony, Panasonic, Nikon, Olympus and Samsung. Canon has yet to introduce a mirrorless camera.

The mirrorless cameras might be thought of as a bridge between the “point and shoot” cameras and digital SLR’s. The small size, lightweight, interchangeable lens capability and good image quality of the mirrorless cameras have caught on with the buying public.

Sony’s line of Alpha Nex (3, 5, 5N and 7) cameras are to me the most interesting. Oftentimes I use the Sony Alpha Nex cameras in place of Canon DSLR’s. Sony makes an adaptor so most any lens can be used with the Nex bodies including Zeiss, Canon, Nikon and of course, Sony lenses.

I am not surprised Popular Photography named the Sony Alpha Nex 7 its camera of the year in 2011 based on its best ever electronic viewer, excellent



image quality, low electronic noise and superb finish. The Sony Alpha Nex 7 with 24mm f1.8 Zeiss lens gives you the fun and confidence of a Leica M9 at less than 1/5th the price.

CALENDAR

May 30, 2012 ~ Scott-McKenna Scholarship application deadline (see www.rmowp.org)

June 10 - 14, 2012 ~ RMOWP conference in Taos, New Mexico

June 25 - 30, 2012 ~ RMOWP Photography Workshop in Rocky Mountain National Park

September 4 - 6, 2012 ~ OWAA conference in Fairbanks, Alaska

(Ed. note: The following article is reprinted, by permission from both the publication and the author, from the Fall issue of *PowWow*, the newsletter of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association, or POWA. See www.paoutdoorwriters.com for more.)

Wooly Bully Bugger

Michael Klimkos

One of the thorny issues I have had to deal with as editor of a fly fishing magazine is the proper spelling of Wooly Bugger. World leaders and economists should have subjects as mundane as these occupy their thoughts. But I digress.

I base the spelling of the fly on the original article in the May 1984 issue of *Fly Fisherman* magazine. The magazine published Barry Beck's article, '*The Wooly Bugger*' describing Russ Blessing's invention. Russ was a native Pennsylvanian living in Harrisburg. Since Russ was the originator of the pattern I believe he was allowed to spell it however he wanted to.

Barry Beck, the author of the article confirmed to me that this was indeed the correct spelling in the article. Following a review of a couple of dictionaries and after thoughtful discussion with other anglers, fly tyers (note the spelling is tyers not tiers), shop owners, fly wholesalers, accountants, lawyers and other miscreants and ne'er-do-wells (but not congressmen or state legislators) I was more confused than ever.

There had to be a final arbiter. Then it occurred to me. I know where the answer can be found.

I searched the internet for Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs. This would be a good arbiter I thought. You had to be alive in the sixties to really understand the impact of what follows. A few quick keystrokes and there they were before my very eyes, the lyrics of a song from so long ago and a tune still heard on Friday nights at high school football stadiums across the country.

*"Uno, dos, one, two, tres, quatro
Matty told Hatty about a thing she saw.
Had two big horns and a wooly jaw.
Wooly bully, wooly bully.
Wooly bully, wooly bully, wooly bully.
Hatty told Matty, "Let's don't take no chance.
Let's not be L-seven, come and learn to dance."
Wooly bully, wooly bully
Wooly bully, wooly bully, wooly bully.
Matty told Hatty, "That's the thing to do.
Get you someone really to pull the wool with you."
Wooly bully, wooly bully.
Wooly bully, wooly bully, wooly bully."*

Released by MGM 1965



"Early Morning Fishing" © Richard Youngblood
1st place 2011 Contest, People in Nature

The song was appropriately named *Wooly Bully*, spelled with one 'L' after Sam's cat and on the insistence by the producer it couldn't be called "Hully Gully". It was the 1965 breakout smash hit which introduced Tex-Mex rhythms into mainstream rock and roll and babyboomers just coming into their own.

Sam the Sham was actually named Domingo Samudio but performed under the alias because of his act on stage called shamming, hence the sham part. It was Domingo a.k.a. Sam the Sham who wrote and performed the lyrics.

I have reached the summit and found the answer. Success has been achieved. After all it was Sam the Sham! Like I said you had to be there. And now for those of you old enough to remember the song, I have planted the melody in your head and it will be three or four weeks before you stop singing it as you toddle around the house or office.

However in the interest of editorial harmony and world peace I will relent and allow the spelling in articles submitted to me to be Wooly Bugger or Woolly Bugger. I will be content to accept it either way. In any case it should always be two words.

This fall when you are at the local high school football stadium and the marching band strikes up the tune and everyone starts singing, '*Wooly bully, wooly bully*' in strident, off-key voices you can tell the people sitting next to you about Domingo Samudio and how it relates to a streamer that has become popular for everything from sunfish to sharks.

They will probably stare at you as if you just arrived from the moon and move away from you giving you more room to stretch out on the bleachers.

So now that that issue is settled I think I will start badgering our state legislators for a state rifle cartridge. Any suggestions?

RMOWP Conference 2012

Taos, New Mexico

tentative schedule

Meals and workshops at Sagebrush Inn/Comfort

Suites complex unless noted otherwise

See registration form for meal details

Sunday, June 10

10:00am-4:00pm Pre-Conference Writing Workshop, "Paint Your Prose with Pizzazz," with Mary Taylor Young (limited to 12 participants; \$85, includes box lunch)

5:00-7:00pm Registration & Opening Reception, Happy Hour and Light Buffet (included in registration fee; location TBA)

7:30-9:30pm Presentation of All Photo Contest Submissions

Monday, June 11

8:30am Welcome, Handouts & Announcements - President Al Perry

9:00am What in the World am I doing in Taos, New Mexico? - An Introduction from Locals

9:30am Workshop - The Realities of Being a Fly Fishing Guide & Author with Taylor Streit*

10:30am Break

10:45am Workshop - The Brave New World of Publishing with Mary Taylor Young

12:00pm Lunch (included in registration fee; guests \$16 including tax & tip)

1:00pm Workshop - The Art & Craft of Nature Writing with Mary Taylor Young

2:15pm Break

2:30pm The Art & Architecture of Taos - If it's Good Enough for Ansel Adams and Georgia O'Keeffe it's Good Enough for Me - Guided Tour

6:00pm Dinner on your Own

7:30pm Photo Critique with Tom Ulrich & Jack Olson (spectators welcome)

Tuesday, June 12

8:30am General Membership Meeting

9:00am Writing Critique with Wayne Turner (spectators encouraged to attend & comment)

10:45am Break

11:00am Workshop - Create Photo Captions Worthy of Your Best Shots

12:00pm Lunch (\$18 including tax & tip)

1:00pm Showcase of Selected Members' Photography

2:30pm Break

3:00pm Carpool to Orilla Verde Recreation Area (BLM site along the Rio Grande, about 16 miles SW), for guided walk, photography, fishing

6:00pm Picnic Supper Along the Rio Grande (included in registration fee)

Wednesday, June 13

5:00am Sunrise Photo Shoot with Jack Olson

8:00am-noon Raft Trip on the Rio Grande Racecourse (\$55)

OR

Explore Taos on your own

12:00pm Lunch on your Own

1:30pm Workshop - In Pursuit of the Winning Image

2:30pm Break

3:00-5:00pm Auction to Benefit Scholarship Fund with Jim Baker & John Catsis

6:30-7:00pm Happy Hour (full cash bar)

7:00-10:00pm Banquet (\$25-\$35 including tax & tip; full cash bar) and Awards Ceremony

Thursday, June 14

8:00am Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)

11:00am Lodging Check-Out

*Anglers who want to arrange guided fly fishing trips before, after, or even during the conference are encouraged to contact local fishing guide and author Taylor Streit (www.taosflyshop.com; 575-751-1312).



"Mimosa borealis" © Frank Zurey
1st place 2011 Contest, Published Images

The Angelo Sciulli Humorous Photo Challenge

Frank Zurey



"Do these bloomers make my butt look big?" © Georgette Sotos
1st place 2011 Humorous



"For dinner you're having fried WHAT?" © Angelo Sciulli
3rd place 2011 Humorous



"I prefer my fish filleted." © Ken Papaleo
1st place 2010 Humorous

We have continued the humorous photo challenge for 2012. This is a photo challenge separate from the annual RMOWP contest. It can only be successful if you send your entries.

Angelo Sciulli's humorous photo challenge has been an outstanding hit. There is no time limit on when the image was taken (cave paintings included).



"He's my designated driver." © Frank Zurey
Honorable Mention 2011 Humorous

Please email your humorous photo entry (up to two photos per person) to Frank Zurey, zurey.photo@mric.net, by March 23, 2012 or include them with your annual contest entry. Please include a caption or description of the humorous photograph.

The humorous photo should be a digital image with an outdoor theme and can be in contest Categories 01 through 8. See the 2012 RMOWP Awards Competition Rules for category descriptions. No manipulated humorous entries! Please follow the

contest rules for sizing, which are an image size of 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 dancing). The judge will select the top three and will present a humorous slide show at the 2012 conference in Taos, NM featuring all of the entries.



"Yes ma'am, I can't lie. Those antenna do look stupid." © Jack Olson
Honorable Mention 2011 Humorous



"Open Range"
© Tom Cummings
1st place 2009 Humorous



“Girl Above Sea © Kenita Gibbins
Honorable Mention 2011 Contest, Black & White Prints

Member News

RMOWP’s newest member is **Virginia E. Parker Staat** of The Woodlands, Texas. Virginia is a photographer, writer, lecturer, and artist, interested in nature writing and photography.

The 10 attendees of the 2011 Photo Workshop receive a one year membership in RMOWP. They are Stacie Acton of Moore, OK, Ken Craven of Hackettstown, NJ, Fred Eldridge of Maumee, OH, Karen LeCuyer of Carlisle, PA, Patricia Locke of Stephenville, TX, Tracey Maras of Dawson, IL, Carla Nathan of Manhattan Beach, CA, Robin Tomaszewski of Littleton, CO, Jim Van Namee of Colorado Springs, CO and Thomas Wilbert of Estes Park, CO.

We hope to see all of you at a conference, where we can put a face to your name.

Welcome.

Avian Architecture Receives Prestigious PROSE Award

The Professional and Scholarly Publishing (PSP) Division of the Association of American Publishers (AAP) in early February announced the winners of the 2011 American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (the PROSE Awards). *Avian Architecture*, reviewed by John Catsis in the last issue of RMO, was awarded the PROSE for best book in Popular Science & Popular Mathematics.

A copy of the book will be offered at the auction at the Taos Conference in June.



“Thermal Garden 2” © John Thornton
3rd place 2011 Contest, Altered/Composite Image



Following the most recent dump of snow, mallards explore the north lake at Washington Park, one of Denver’s oldest and most popular parks
© Jack Olson