

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

JULY - AUGUST, 2008

“You are the friends that I choose for myself.”

From the hymn *“You are the Seed”*

I have a wonderful spouse of 49 years. I have children, grandchildren and clusters of meaningful friends. HOWEVER, none of them will rise at 4:00 am with only the possibility of a great sunrise as a reward.

Do you know many people who will get down on their belly and face a rattlesnake in the eye? That takes foolhardy guts. It takes guts to have your images spread across a big screen. We love to share, we need the accolades. Yet we fear exposing ourselves more than hearing a jiggling rattler.

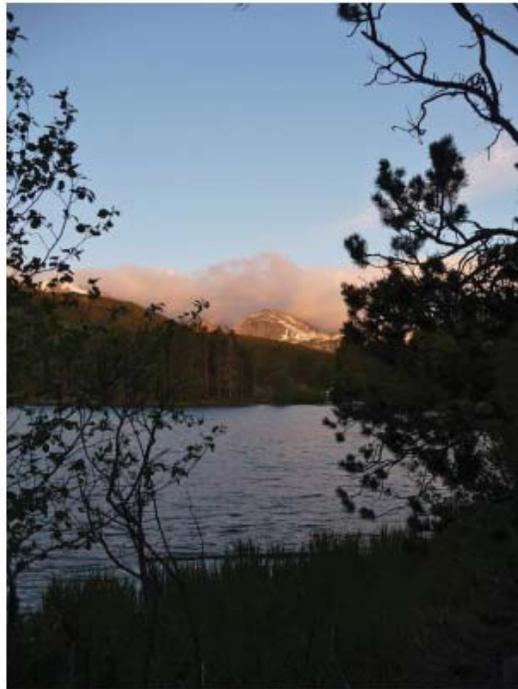
Don't you just love hearing about how we can get a camera that will shoot faster than a coyote can scurry? Isn't it marvelous to know we can capture miracles, if we only look for them?

It gave me pleasure beyond words to hang out with lovers of nature at the RMOWP conference who know how to write, get published, take fabulous pictures and furthermore share that information.

As I listened to the directions of how to get to a certain trail, I thought I can find my way there. As I listened to an unbelievable, but true midnight swim story, it came to me, I want to write.

Thank you, thank you for letting me be a part of the group. If you read this and aren't a member, you are missing out on the fun of a lifetime. I'll see you in Utah.

Kenita Gibbins



Sunrise in Rocky Mountain National Park

© Kenita Gibbins

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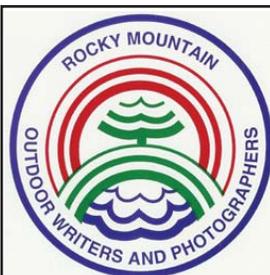
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Contest Judges 2008

Photography Judge - Tom Ulrich

A freelance photographer since 1975, Tom Ulrich is highly acclaimed around the world for his nature photography skills, and many of his 350,000+ transparencies have appeared in numerous magazines and other publications. Tom conducts photography seminars and workshops around the country, lectures at several universities, and leads photo tours to remote parts of the world. He is also an instructor at the RMOWP photo workshop.

Writing Judge - Mary Taylor Young

Award-winning nature writer Mary Taylor Young has been writing professionally for over 20 years. She has published nine books and hundreds of articles, and her "Words on Birds" column has appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News* since 1993. Mary writes from her home in Castle Rock, Colorado where she lives with her husband and daughter and many wild neighbors.

Writing Judge - Russ Bromby

(TV, Movie & Video, and Books & Scripts for same)
Russ Bromby was editor of *Colorado Outdoors* magazine and chief of communications for the Colorado Division of Wildlife during a 30-year career with the State of Colorado. A former member and past president of RMOWP, Russ retired from the Division of Wildlife in 2002 and now works at what he chooses.

2008 Contest Winners

Best of Show Photography

Beto Gutierrez "Rice Stink Bug"

Writing - Books/Videos

Tom Bishop "The Great Mormon Cricket Fly-Fishing Festival and Other Western Stories"

Writing - Articles/Columns/Editorials

John Catsis "The Catwalk at Whitewater Canyon"

Image from Last Conference

- 1st** Lynda Cummings "Homestead"
2nd Kathy Turner "Remnants of the Past"
3rd Kathy Turner "Valley of the Gods 2"

Honorable Mention

John Catsis "Victor Shopkeeper"
Maryann Gaug "Red and White"
Sherry Zurey "Flying Fortress"

Scenics

- 1st** Frank Zurey - Joshua Tree NP
2nd Richard Holmes - Autumn Reflections
3rd Al Perry - Mt. McKinley

Honorable Mention

Lynda Cummings - Wind Track
Terry Guthrie - Hillside Chapel
Al Perry - Badlands

Flora

- 1st** Tom Cummings "Flower 2"
2nd Al Perry "Aspen Colors"
3rd Richard Holmes "Queens Crown"

Honorable Mention

Richard Holmes "Poppy Seed Pods"
John Catsis "Not Plastic"
Ryan Weishalla "Frosty Pine"

Fauna

- 1st** Randall Ennis "Whitetail Buck"
2nd Beto Gutierrez "Great Grey in Snow"
3rd Al Perry "Violet Green Swallow"



BEST of SHOW PHOTOGRAPHY
Beto Gutierrez "Rice Stink Bug"

Honorable Mention

Kathy Turner "Heron with Snake"
Al Perry "Flickers Feeding"
Tom Cummings "Egret 1"
Frank Zurey "Eagle"

People in Nature

- 1st** Jack Olson "Close Up"
2nd Terry Guthrie "Ready to Drop"
3rd James Baker "Gage on the Tube"

Honorable Mention

John Catsis "The Artist"
Tom Cummings "Dandelion Picker"
Lynda Cummings "Boys on Rock"

Historical

- 1st** Kenita Gibbins "Mykenos at Night"
2nd Jack Olson "Mayflower Gulch"
3rd Richard Youngblood "Explosives Store Room"

Honorable Mention

Frank Zurey "Gold Dredge"
Kenita Gibbins "Caught"
Al Perry "Bodie"

Cultural

- 1st** Beto Gutierrez "Gypsy Beggar"
2nd Sherry Zurey "Going Up"
3rd John Catsis "What's This Got To Do with Homecoming?"

Honorable Mention

Jack Olson "Spinning"
Al Perry "Man and WW2 Ambulance"
Al Perry "Bluegrass in the Park"



First Place Winners 2008

1st row: Jack Olson, Lynda Cummings, Al Perry, Kenita Gibbins, Buellah Bishop, John Catsis & Maryann Gaug
 2nd row: Ryan Weishalla, Beto Gutierrez, Richard Holmes, Rick Lesquier, Fred Lord & Tom Cummings

Events

- 1st** Frank Zurey "Recovering From the Fire"
- 2nd** Linda Martin "Life Amidst Lava"
- 3rd** Beto Gutierrez "House Fire"
- Honorable Mention**
 Tom Cummings "Wheat Fire"
 Tom Cummings "Prairie Fire"

Altered/Composite

- 1st** Richard Holmes "Miner's Apparition"
- 2nd** Frank Zurey "Garden of the Gods"
- 3rd** Richard Youngblood "Red Wasp - Up Close"
- Honorable Mention**
 Richard Holmes "Weathered Wood"
 Al Perry "Jacks New Do"
 Frank Zurey "Banff 2"

Black and White prints

- 1st** Rick Lesquier "Devils Backbone"
- 2nd** Al Perry "Bodie Door"
- 3rd** Al Perry "Aspens Backlit"
- Honorable Mention**
 Richard Youngblood "Mine Silhouette"
 Rick Lesquier "Dream Lake"

Photography - Novice

- 1st** Ryan Weishalla "Ruby-throated Hummingbird"
- 2nd** Ryan Weishalla "Red-tailed Hawk Hovering"
- 3rd** Terry Guthrie "Northern Cardinal"
- Honorable Mention**
 Ryan Weishalla "Red Fox"
 Terry Guthrie "Barn at Ezzard Vineyards"

Photography - Published Images

- 1st** Beto Gutierrez "Rice Stink Bug"
- 2nd** Al Perry "Sanderling on Beach"
- 3rd** Jack Olson "Great Colorado Getaways"
- Honorable Mention**
 Al Perry "Golden Cheeked Warbler"
 James Blakeslee "Bannack Montana"

TV/Movie/Video

- 1st** Al Perry "Cloud Movement Along Alaska Range" Time Lapse Video
This short video has a floating, dreamlike quality. Clouds and mist seem to be dancing to the accompaniment of harpsichord and flute. Final scenes of snowcapped peaks and clouds are stunning. The length of the video (about 7 minutes) leaves you wanting for more.

Books and Scripts for TV/Movie/Video

- 1st** Tom Bishop "The Great Mormon Cricket Fly-Fishing Festival and Other Western Stories"
This book is packed with eleven stories dealing with various aspects of the West. The book progresses from "The Vision of Hehaka 'To," a tale of long ago, to several stories that take place a hundred years later in the Old West to modern day tales. Each story is a gem. The stories are tightly written and beautifully descriptive. Each story has a flavor of its own, but none seem out of place and all are delightful. Elegant design completes this effort. The book is a keeper.
- 2nd** John Catsis "Fulltimers"
Humor is very difficult to write and pull off successfully. Catsis does it in this novel of political

satire and general tomfoolery. He even ties in an outdoor theme with the threatened closing of national parks and the RV campaign to combat that proposal. His characters are vividly described, including "Big Red," the RV itself. It is a quick read with many unexpected plot twists and mishaps that is nicely wrapped up at the end. The cover illustration fits right in with spirit of fun in the book.

3rd Robert Stone "Day Hikes in Hawaii"

This an impressive field guide to trails on three islands in the Hawaiian chain. There are 90 hikes described, 30 for each of the islands of Kauai, Maui and Oahu. The overview is very helpful in orienting oneself to the organization of the book. And that organization is flawless and easy to use. Each entry includes a summary of the hike, accompanying maps, driving directions and hiking directions. The index is also very helpful. The text is easy to follow and the book would be indispensable to anyone wanting to hike these trails. The amount of research necessary to compile this book is first-rate.

Honorable Mention

Robert Stone "Day Hikes Around Bozeman, Montana"

Stone has developed a winning formula for the Day Hike series of books. This book flawlessly describes 75 day hikes in and around the Bozeman area, including Gallatin Canyon and Paradise Valley. It's hard to imagine venturing out to hike in the area without this book in hand.

Robert Stone "Day Hikes Around Sonoma County"

The Day Hike series is well-organized and very usable and this one is no exception. Descriptions of the hikes and easy-to-follow maps are included for the 95 hikes included in this volume. This book would be essential to any hiker in Sonoma County.

Newspaper articles/columns/editorials

1st Angelo Sciulli "No-Kill Animal Shelter"

Leading with a story about a stray puppy—what reader wouldn't be captured by that?—this well-written piece draws readers into the broader topic of no-kill shelters.

2nd Angelo Sciulli "Ford Tough Rodeo"

Good reporting gives readers a snapshot of the topic. Starts with the big picture, pans in for a closeup on one angle of the story, then brings in the local angle.

3rd Angelo Sciulli "Mussels - Barometer of Water Quality"

A tightly-written article that informs readers of a little known but important issue.

Magazine articles/columns/editorials

1st John Catsis "The Catwalk at Whitewater Canyon"

Engaging travel story that takes the reader along with good imagery and description. Offers plenty of history and information along the way, informing while entertaining.

2nd Tom Bryant "Learning the Ropes on the Lovelace"

A glimpse at the life of modern-day cowboys and ranchers, done in a fun and folksy style that engages readers while underscoring the authentic voice of the author.

3rd John Catsis "Polished Silverton"

Nicely-written travel piece that weaves color and detail together to entertain and inform readers in an engaging way.

Newsletter Writing of Any Kind

1st Jack Olson "Colorado's Best Wildflowers Hikes"

The author vividly takes readers into a mountain world brightly colored by wildflowers. Good information presented in an accessible, personal style. Makes nice use of the evocative names of native wildflowers.

2nd Jack Olson "More Conference Side Trips"

Succinctly packs a lot of information into a short piece, all done in an entertaining and engaging style that motivates the reader to want to get out and experience the destinations.

3rd Jack Olson "The Show-Me State Showed Me"

Good use of personal experience and a straightforward style to inform newsletter readers about a similar organization and its programs.

Web Writing

1st Al Perry "Recipes for Panoramas"
naturescapes.com

Packs loads of information into a well-presented article to allow readers to follow and master a new technique.

Art

1st Buellah Bishop "Pond in Winter" Oil Painting

John Catsis, auctioneer extraordinaire, offering Buellah Bishop's lovely oil painting "Pond in Winter", winner of the 1st place award in art



© Don Laine

Conference 2008 Wrap-up

Don Laine

About 50 RMOWPers plus a few friends and family members gathered in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado last month for the 35th annual conference of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers.

Conference participants represented a dozen states. While Colorado claimed the highest number of registrants, there were also several from Texas and Oklahoma and some came from as far away as Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Estes Park is the eastern gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park and several trips into the national park provided opportunities for photography and to practically rub noses with elk and bighorn sheep. Park naturalist Jeff Maugans led a walk and program in the park, and the history of the park, with some fascinating old photos, was the subject of a presentation by local historian and author Curt

Buchholtz.

Other conference highlights included a visit to the area's newest public area - Hermit Park - with a welcome from a pair of the park's resident marmots and a guided hike with park manager Chris Fleming. History buffs made their way to MacGregor Ranch Museum for a glimpse of this area during pioneer times.

Well-respected wildlife photographer Weldon Lee, a RMOWP member, provided an inspiring sit-down workshop on capturing the winning image, followed by a trip into Rocky Mountain National Park for a photo shoot and hands-on tips.

There were also workshops on technical aspects of digital photography by members Steve Schweitzer and Joe Zinn, and the always-popular writing and photography critiques presented by Anne Sullivan and Jack Olson,

respectively. The auction raised over \$1,800 for the scholarship fund, which provides scholarships for students pursuing outdoor writing and photography.

Special thanks to Suzy Blackhurst and Julie Nikolai of the Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau, who helped tremendously with organizing the conference. The CVB also



© Lee Carr

Weldon Lee (left) exchanging views with Jack Wendleton in Moraine Park in Rocky Mountain National Park

Hermit Park Ranger Chris Fleming addressed the group and then led us on a hike up to a saddle overlooking Estes Park



© Barb Laine



© Don Laine

After climbing to the saddle, Maryann Gaug played her flute

provided a tasty barbecue lunch during our Hermit Park field trip. Conference participants who need additional information on the area for their writing and photography projects are invited to contact Suzy or Julie at the CVB, 800-443-7837.

Planning is underway for the 2009 RMOWP conference, probably in southern Utah next May. Stay tuned for details.



© Don Laine

Tom Cummings in his presidential hat capturing that perfect flower



Maryann Gaug digitally capturing a supine Rachel Minor

© Fred Lord

In Moraine Park with Weldon Lee at Rocky Mountain National Park



© Fred Lord

Cecilia Travis explaining the finer points of photography in the grass to Lee Carr

More Awards

In the **Members' Choice Contest**, conference attendees vote for their favorite photos brought or sent to the conference. Winners were, in scenic: Rick Lesquier for "Moss along the Cache la Poudre"; in flora: a tie between two photos by Maryann Gaug, "Spring Blooms" and "Hawkswing 'shroom"; and the overall first place winner was Fred Lord's "Fox Kits" in the fauna category. The last will grace the cover of the membership directory.

The following three awards are presented at the discretion of the Past Presidents Council.

The **Selected Works in Writing Award** went to **Ben Moffett** in recognition of the high quality of his various writing projects, including numerous magazine and newspaper articles and his longtime work with the National Park Service.

Angelo Sciulli was awarded the **Selected Works in Photography Award** for his nature photos, which have been published in magazines and newspapers, and can be seen on the Internet, including his website, www.scnature.com.

The **Spark Plug Award** - a wood and metal plaque sporting a genuine automotive spark plug - was presented by past president Jim Baker to **Tom Cummings** for his enthusiasm



© Don Laine

Tom Cummings (left) receiving his Spark Plug Award

in furthering RMOWP's goals. Currently president of RMOWP, Tom is a former board member, coordinator of the RMOWP Photo Workshop from 2004 to 2007, and has unselfishly helped the organization in many ways.

Supporting Members

American Sportfishing Association. 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 for professional and consumer markets, including state atlases with detailed topographic maps in books plus Topo USA® software covering the entire country. www.delorme.com.

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

National Shooting Sports Foundation. www.nssf.org.

National Wild Turkey Federation. www.nwtf.org.

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.



First place winner
Image from Last Conference
Lynda Cummings "Homestead"



First place winner
Scenics
Frank Zurey "Joshua Tree"