



Rocky Mountain Outdoors

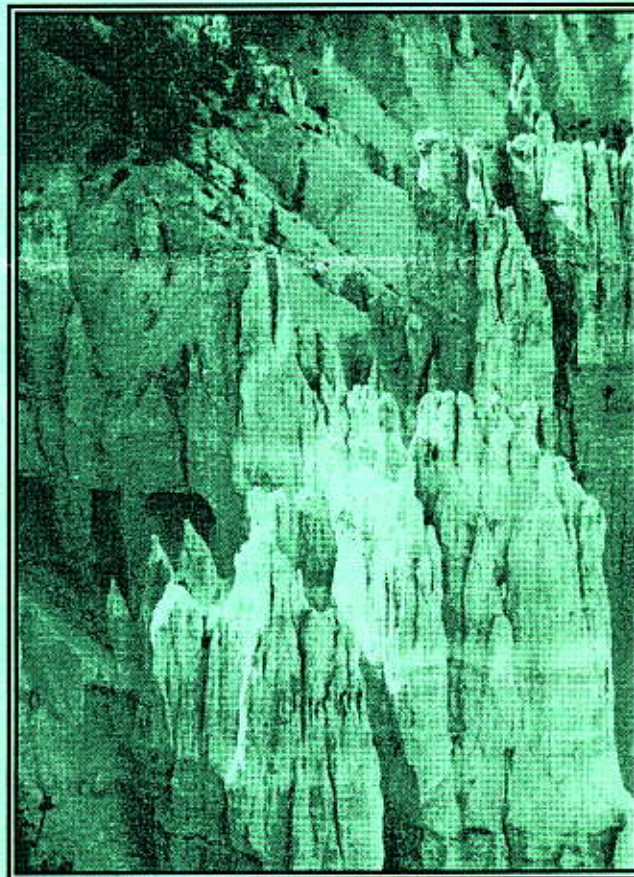
Our
26th Year

<http://www.edonnet.com/rmowp>

Nov-Dec 1999

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Our 2000 conference at Bryce Canyon offers members an opportunity to photograph outstanding scenery, such as seen in this view.

Photo by Barb and Don Laine

From the Board

It's A Good Time

James E. Baker, DVM

GONGI GONG! GONGI I'm beating on this Chinese gong to get your attention. You see, Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers need some new members, especially young members.

It seems that one of the ways people hear about our organization is through the photography workshops. For the past three years at least a part of the students have joined RMOWP, I have attended the workshop twice. The first at Yellowstone National Park, the second at Rocky Mountain National Park. It was my first visit to both of these beautiful parks. For me, it was a matter of taking my wife and using vacation time. Both were wonderful vacations.

What I'm suggesting is that if you know someone in your community who has an interest in photography, possibly runs around with a tripod or puts a cover on his camera lens, tell him or her about the photography workshops.

Having been two times, I can tell you it is a good time. We had classes which consisted of seeing lots of slides and pointing out the good and the not so good parts of the pictures. We had classes in composition and the mechanics of the camera. Believe me, - you cannot learn all about your camera even if you sleep with it!

I've been a hunter all my life, so it was natural for me to want to get into wildlife photography. I get the same thrill from hunting with a camera as I do

with a gun and I don't have to clean up the mess. I also get to pull the trigger a lot more times.

At the workshops we spent a great deal of time driving and looking for opportunities to "shoot" wildlife. At Yellowstone, we saw a really large Bighorn ram and followed him up the mountain taking pictures all the way.

At Rocky Mountain National Park there are more elk than people, and I have learned so much about elk by just watching them through the long lens of the camera.

Most of you know My wife is a painter. She likes to take her own pictures, but I can go places she cannot go. If I take a good picture of a landscape and bring it home, she pats me on the head and says "good boy."

At the workshops we spend time taking landscapes, flowers, sunrises, sunsets, and anything that appeals to the eye. Do you know that in Wyoming in June it takes at least three hours to photograph a sunset? That must be why I never do it at home.

The photography workshops may work to help preserve our marriage. After 41 years we have found another thing that we can do together. We enjoy traveling and taking pictures.

RMOWP has three sources for raising money:

1. Membership Dues
2. Auction
3. Profits from Photography

Workshops

It takes a few students to break even. A few more to make a profit. If those students become members, then there will be membership dues.

So, if you can talk some young person into attending a RMOWP Photography Workshop, you will be doing them a favor and the organization a favor.

The 2000 photography workshop will be held June 1 - 5 at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Luray Parker 1934 - 1999

Anyone who has lived in the Rockies for more than a few weeks is familiar with the name Luray Parker. It is with deep regret that news of his passing on September 28 is reported. He was born October 6, 1934 in Clearwater, Kansas.

Parker formerly worked for *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine, the publication of Wyoming Game and Fish Department, where he was a staff photographer. His death resulted from pancreatic cancer.

Betty Jean Parker requests that memorial gifts in his memory be sent to Iron Mountain Project, Christian Motorcyclists Association, P.O. Box 9, Hatfield, AR 71945.

RMOWP sends our condolences to Betty Jean.

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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Outdoors With The ED

Al Marlowe

And Editor

Skipper

A couple times each year the Board of Directors gets together to take care of the business of operating RMOWP. The Board met on September 11 in Evergreen. Here's what was accomplished then.

As I mentioned last month, we will have a booth at the International Sportsmen's Exposition in Denver next February. This is courtesy of Supporting Member John Kirk, who works with ISE. A sufficient number of members have offered to help out in running the booth but a few more warm bodies can be used. Let me know if you can assist. I would also like to have member's work to display such as books, photos, magazines with articles by members, and art work. Some of you have recently had books published. This is an opportunity for you to promote yourself with signing and yes, even selling your books.

Board member Maryann Gaug said that one reason she joined our group is for support from more experienced members. Rather than having designated mentors, however, members will be asked to indicate in their directory listing if they are willing to accept calls for assistance from new members.

We will add a category to member skills to cover electronic publishing. Several members have their work regularly published on the Internet. A few prospective new members are web masters for sites regarding outdoor recreation and publish their own work and that of others. This category was added due to the growing importance of the Internet as a place to market our work.

Beginning in January Craig Springer will take over as coordinator for the RMOWP web site. More on this later.

The photo workshop, which was



originated several years ago by past-president Beto Gutierrez, and expanded by past-president John Catsis, was approved for another session in 2000. Dates are in the event calendar.

Two enclosures are included with this issue of *RMO* – a copy of our revised brochure, and a scholarship application. Please pass the brochure to anyone you know who has an interest in outdoor communications. If you need more copies, contact me.

RMOWP has for several years awarded scholarships to high school graduates who plan to enter college, and college students who will pursue a degree in outdoor communications. This includes journalism, photography, and art. Although there is no specific degree program aimed at outdoor communica-

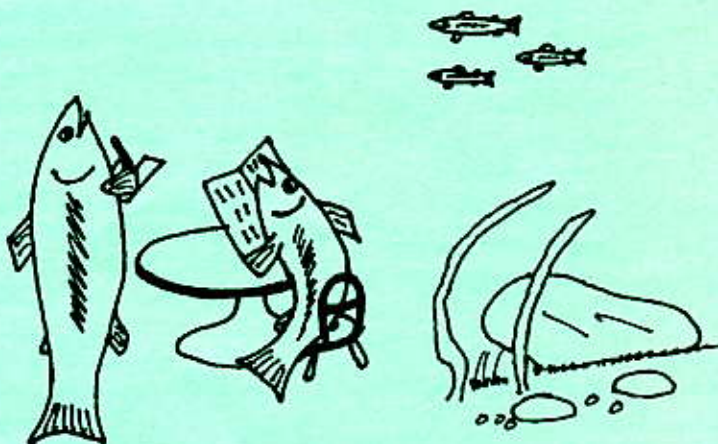
tions, students who plan to use their degree in these fields are encouraged to apply. If you know a current college student, or a high school student who plans to enter college in the fall to study in this field, pass on the application.

You may have noticed that the President's Column changed a bit in this issue. Lee Carr has asked board members to add their voices to the column. Thanks to Jim Baker for being the first to put in his two cents worth. The plan is to alternately feature a column by Carr and a board member.

A question that came up at the board meeting concerns *RMO* publication frequency. Since summer of 1998 the newsletter has been published monthly. Because of the high volume of mail many of us receive and frequent travel, some members report that they don't get a chance to read each issue. The question is would you prefer a bi-monthly *RMO* or monthly. Let me know what you think.

Readers should also notice that this issue is the November – December *RMO*. The next issue you receive will be in January 2000. Should the World end on January 1 as purveyors of doom have forecast, the January issue may be delayed a bit.

Selective Trout



*I'll have a Griffith's Gnat, Two Purple Woolly Buggers,
and a Royal Wulff – very dry.*

© Al Marlowe

Bill Fitzwater Remembered
by Kelly Gatlin

Our old friend Bill Fitzwater, known to most of us as "Fitz," died in February this year. He was one of the early members of RMOWP, and a most supportive and valued one. Here's his impressive list of highlights from the RMOWP history: Vice President 85-86; President Elect 86-87; President 87-88; Board member 88-89. 1988 Conference Chair, Lake Powell, Arizona; 1988 Winner, Photo slide series; 1989 Winner, Writing, newsletter category; 1992 Winner, Photography, Best photo from last year's conference; 1993, Selected Works for writing; 1999, Tucson conference dedicated in his memory. Some of us exchanged recollections of him, and decided it would be appropriate to print a few of these in *RMO*:

* * *

What I remember of Fitz is a hearty laugh. He defined a hearty laugh. The laugh was just the sound of his great heart making itself known to all of us. At once. I can still hear his laugh and feel his good will. I'm sure happy Fitz' path crossed mine.

— Jack Olson

* * *

I really didn't know Bill that well, from the standpoint of a good story. I certainly liked being around him because of his unusually high spirits and humorous attitude.

— Lee Carr

* * *

When I think of Fitz I remember his laugh. It started at his toes and worked its way out. When Fitz laughed, you had to laugh — you just couldn't help it. My favorite memory of him is from the Casper, WY, conference in 1991. Al and Peg Mullen had convinced Kelly and me to ride in the very back seat of the stage coach because only "two skinny people" could fit in the space to embark on the "authentic ride" that was about to begin.

The ride itself was hot and dusty as the coach became a rocking sardine can. As we approached a river, the mosquitoes became larger and kept swarming in through the open windows. It became my mission to "zero in and swat every mosquito" that landed on Al, seated directly in front of me. Every time I'd take a swing and literally slap Al, Fitz would begin his rumbling, contagious laugh and we all literally laughed the entire trip. My sides ached the rest of the evening. I will never forget being



William D. "Bill" Fitzwater

crammed in that swaying, dusty coach with five of the funniest folks I could ever hope to meet on my life's journey. I believe that the people in our lives are mirrors of ourselves. Knowing this is true for me, Fitz lived his Truth and always spoke from his heart. I am very grateful to have Fitz to emulate: his kindness, strength of character, his willingness to share all that he had — laughter, knowledge, courage, joy, integrity — and most importantly, love. I sincerely appreciate the encouragement and support he gave to me over the years. Most of all I am grateful for his greatest gift — his friendship.

— Georgia Colao

* * *

Bill (Fitz) had a smile and warmth that came from down deep and impressed me with its generosity of character. Even

if Fitz was telling you about a previous article he'd penned on rodent control, or some other arcane subject, he wrapped the story with a sense of humor — always looking for the best in life.

— Jeff Pederson

* * *

I have many fond memories of Fitz, his personage and his willingness to serve our organization; for instance, the time I needed a speaker for our conference in Socorro, NM. Fitz readily agreed and proceeded to educate and entertain us with his slide presentation. Most especially though, I remember his humanity. After a sad automobile wreck in September 1987, in which both my mother — my passenger as we returned from a NM Outdoor Writers & Photographers gathering in Red River — and the drunk driver who hit us died, I was mending in an Albuquerque hospital when Fitz paid a visit. He brought with him a beautiful bouquet of silk flowers on behalf of the group's members, a delightful and long-lived memento. This bouquet graces my home still, and serves as a gratifying reminder of the blessings of friendship. Fitz was indeed a friend.

— Kelly Gatlin

* * *

It truly saddens me to lose Bill — he was a strong force for welcoming newcomers and certainly made us feel at home at our first NMOWPA conference. I actually don't have specific story-like memories. Just general good feelings and mind pictures of smiles & laughs. He was a good person. As are most of the members of both organizations. Which is of course why we keep coming back year after year, isn't it?!

— Barb & Don Laine



The Pet Set

Pets and People
James E. Baker, DVM

I think everybody has certain Christmases that they remember as special. Most of these are times when they gave a certain gift or they received a certain gift. Sometimes it is remembered as special because of a special performance or the reuniting of old friends.

I remember one Christmas as special because I got caught out in an ice storm, and it took all night to go the remaining 20 miles home. There was another Christmas when I got a job at the post office in Kansas City to make some extra money. My job was to lift mail bags and shake the mail out. After about 30 minutes, I couldn't even raise my arms, and for sure I couldn't shake the tags.

In my family it was traditional to spend Christmas Eve evening with one set of grandparents and Christmas Day at the other. Santa always came very early Christmas morning. I remember many special gifts that I received as a child. My parents were poor, but I don't remember ever being disappointed on Christmas morning. Once, I even got a puppy.

If you have read my previous arti-

cles, you know that my home was deep in the Missouri hills. A recent newspaper article said, "You can't get any farther back in the boonies than this." My parents had a country store and a post office. It was not a town, just a wide place in the road that was 15 miles from a town of 600 people. As I grew up, the hitching rail was replaced by a gas pump. During the transition, we had both a hitching rail and a gas pump.

Our home was about 50 feet behind the store and post office. It was strictly a Mom and Pop operation. If people couldn't come to the store in the daytime, they came at night. If they came to visit and play cards at night, they would get their groceries while they were there.

It was a little run back and forth between buildings, but my mother could cook and wait the counter at the same time. She would do laundry and keep the store at the same time. You might have guessed by now, the store was never very profitable. My dad usually worked at another job during the day so they could make ends meet.

The store was a delicious place for little boys to grow up. Cookies came in giant boxes divided into several rows. Every pound of cookies that was sold was weighed out on the scale and put in a brown bag. The Christmas candy was all in bulk. The coconut was in a large tin can that looked like a hat box.

The oranges and apples were setting around in baskets and boxes. Everything was sold by the dozen or by the pound, and nobody ever knew when one was missing unless you were caught eating it. The fruit like peaches, apricots, prunes and raisins were dried and came

in large wooden boxes, and they, too, were weighed out by the pound, just like the candy.

Most of the families in this area were poor. Some financially worse off than others. About two miles south of our house back in the timber was a family that had seven children. The father was an alcoholic, but when he worked, he worked very hard. He worked in the timber and did other jobs that did not pay well, but he did keep the family together. That does not mean that the children always had shoes, but they did survive as a family.

One year on Christmas Eve night, after we had returned from my grandparent's house, my dad decided he needed to go into the store for something. As he went in the rear door, he got a glimpse of somebody running out the front door. Now in Missouri, it is cold at Christmas time, and most of the time there is snow covering the ground.

As he looked around in the store to see what was missing, he found a coat laying on an apple basket. It was a blue, lined overall jacket with a tear in the front. A jacket that we had all seen before.

My dad never called the sheriff. He talked to our family about the situation. He explained that the Hill family just didn't have any money, and that Mr. Hill was making a last ditch effort to give the children something for Christmas.

My dad laid the coat outside on the feed scale and wrapped a bag of oranges up in it. The next morning, it was gone.

I don't think either man ever mentioned it to the other, but I'm sure it was a Christmas that neither one of them ever forgot.

List Your E-mail and/or Web Address on the RMOWP Web Site

Name _____

E-mail _____

Web _____

Enclose check in amount of \$15 payable to RMOWP. This is a one-time fee to pay for setting up the web page on the RMOWP site. Mail to: Al Marlowe; POB 2243; Evergreen, CO 80437-2243. We need only 20 listings to make this happen.

Conference 2000

Bryce Canyon Beckons RMOWP'ers In 2000

by Barbara Laine

The stately hoodoos, brilliant red and orange rocks, deep canyons, and ancient bristlecone pines are calling. Are you listening? Plans are now well underway for RMOWP 2000 – the annual conference of Rocky Mountain Writers and Photographers – to be held at Bryce Canyon Lodge in spectacular Bryce Canyon National Park in southern Utah on June 8, 9, and 10. This promises to be a great conference, in large part because of all the fine people who will be there, but also because this is such a wonderful location. The comfy log cabins we've booked are in the woods surrounding the lodge, just a hop and a skip from Bryce Canyon's picture-perfect rim, where Bryce hits you with everything it's got.

As our schedule is shaping up, it looks like we'll have some guided (and easy) walks along the rim, a guided trek into a bristlecone pine forest, a talk on the area's Wild West history from a local (I think he was friends with Butch Cassidy's father), and a talk on the new and controversial Grand

Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Plus, for those who actually want to learn something, workshops on things like digital photography (do we really have to throw away all our Nikons, Canons, and Pentaxes), and how to get that travel article published.

Because the cabins at Bryce Lodge are usually booked a half-year or more in advance, we've reserved a group of them, and have already gotten reservations and deposits from some members. However, we're concerned that too many of us are going to wait until the last



minute and we might not have enough cabins for everyone who wants one. Cost of the cabins (indoor plumbing, no TVs and no pets) is \$99 per night for one or two people. Granted, this is more than we're used to paying, but the location – with the park's main attraction right out

the front door – makes it well worthwhile. To help keep costs down, the conference has been rearranged slightly from the usual four-day schedule to a three-day schedule, beginning Thursday morning. (By the way, cabins sleep up to four.) But fear not, you won't miss any of the usual events. This change of schedule means that instead of booking the usual Wednesday through Saturday nights at conference headquarters, attendees can stay at the lodge Thursday through Saturday. Since most members will be traveling some distance, this will probably be an attractive option, enabling them to do most of their traveling Wednesday and spending Wednesday night in a less expensive lodging an hour or so from the park. Of course, staying in one of the Bryce Lodge cabins for all four nights (or longer) is still an attractive option, and activities such as guided photo hikes are planned for those who arrive early.

Those not ready to sign on the dotted line at this point can help by letting us know their intentions as soon as possible.

Please contact Barb Laine at P.O. Box 1200, El Prado, NM 87529-1200; e-mail: lainedb@newmex.com;

or phone 505-758-8922 (after November 19th). I can also advise on some less expensive lodging and camping alternatives.

RMOWP 2000 CONFERENCE LODGING RESERVATION FORM BRYCE, UTAH JUNE 8-10, 2000

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ No. in party _____

Bryce Lodge Cabins @ \$99 plus tax per night for one or two people.

Please check one: Four nights (Wed-Sat) _____ Three nights (Thurs-Sat) _____

Please enclose a deposit of one-half of the total (not including tax) with a check to RMOWP and send to Barb Laine, P.O. Box 1200, El Prado, NM 87529-1200.

Abu Garcia's CD Series A Revolution In Spinning Reel Technology

With the new CD Series from Abu Garcia, the next time a big walleye takes your bait, you'll be ready. It features a center drag system, so you can quickly adjust your line for even the biggest fish with just a flick of a finger. The CD Series also offers washers that are twice the size of ordinary front drag reels, and four times that of rear drag, to ensure that the fish gives out well before your reel does. Multiple steel ball bearings provide smooth, powerful retrieves while our one-piece aluminum gearbox and unbreakable everlast bail spring guarantee a lifetime of rugged performance. Instant anti-reverse delivers fast, solid hooksets every time.

For more information contact Brian Thomas, Pure Fishing, 877-777-3850 x8608.

Project HomeSafe Launched Nationwide By NSSF

NEWTOWN, CT. – Project HomeSafe, the nationwide program developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation to encourage the safe handling and secure storage of firearms, was launched in five pilot cities across the country in late September.

The program was enthusiastically adopted by Las Vegas, Oakland, Orlando, Pittsburgh and Augusta, Ga., and unveiled at press conferences well attended by media in each city. Mayors and law enforcement officials lauded the safety initiative as an effective way to reduce unintentional firearms-related injuries or deaths among their citizens.

"I think it's a very important program because we can talk about suing gun manufacturers and we can talk about passing new laws, but actually what we need to do is to get out there and enforce the laws we have aggressively, plus take some proactive steps," said Mayor Bob Young of Augusta, Ga. "Putting locks on guns is a very proactive thing."

"We couldn't have asked for a better start for Project HomeSafe," said Painter.

"Our pilot cities are clearly committed to taking a big step forward in the area of firearms safety in their communities. We have other cities lined up and waiting to implement the program. Project HomeSafe is available to all cities, and we are eager to partner with law enforcement, government and civic leaders, or other concerned community groups that would like to see this important firearms safety program brought to their city."

Information about Project HomeSafe can be obtained by calling a special toll-free number, 800-726-6444, or on the Web at www.projecthome-safe.org.

Seamless Upgrade For MapTech Terrain Navigator Version 4 Just Released

Scroll seamlessly from quad to quad. View and print from four quads at once. No more cutting and taping individual quads together. The CD that you already have with the actual topographic quads/maps is valid. It's the latest software that gives you the new seamless features.

Email me for the free CD upgrade. Please include your current address. Give your readers the latest news that will help them in the outdoors. Over 30 states completed. Coming in 1999: ID, LA and MT. See the web site for a complete listing. Terrain Navigator comes with GPS interface. Hot news: PC Magazine selected both Terrain Navigator and the National Park

Digital Guide in their 100 Top CD-ROMs for 1999. Questions; please let me know.

Martin Fox, PR Manager
MAPTECH
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DU Leads Renaissance in Waterfowling Literature
Contact: Art DeLaurier Jr.
(901) 758-3814
adelaurier@ducks.org

MEMPHIS, – It's well known among duck and goose hunters that the heyday of their sport occurred sometime between the 1880s and 1930s, the so-called golden age of waterfowling. That period also marked the golden age of waterfowling literature and the advent of the modern conservation movement, fostered by great sporting writers like Teddy Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell, Nash Buckingham, and Gordon MacQuarrie.

Today, as the new millennium approaches and overall duck populations reach their highest levels in 50 years, the literature of waterfowling is also undergoing a renaissance. And Ducks Unlimited, the world leader in wetland and waterfowl conservation, is fast becoming a leading publisher in the field of books.

What began with the release of a single paperback title in 1994 has grown into a highly successful publishing program that plans to double its current output of two to three books a year to five to six titles for the year 2000. "We knew we were onto something after that first book," says DU Group Manager of Publishing and Communications Chris Dorsey. "But I don't think any of us believed we'd have this much success, or that it would come so fast."

On the heels of its most successful book ever—the summer release *The Life of a Lab-DU* is publishing two new titles this fall: *The Waterfowler's World*, a full-color coffee-table book that celebrates the myriad pleasures of duck and goose hunting, and *Waterfowler's Journal*, a deluxe, leatherbound logbook filled with beautiful illustrations and inspirational quotations on the joys of hunting.

While Ducks Unlimited books pull no punches in celebrating duck and goose hunting, some titles have tremendous crossover appeal. This helps DU reach thousands of people it would not otherwise reach. Explains Petrie, "Let's say someone doesn't know much about hunting or conservation, but loves Labs. He buys a copy of the book, and seeing photos of the dogs doing what they were born to do, he has a better appreciation of hunting and, by extension, conservation."