



Rocky Mountain Outdoors

*Our
27th Year*

May 2000

The Newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

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

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Rim Trail in Bryce Canyon National Park, a short distance from our
conference site.

Photo by Jack Olson

From The President

Natural Understanding

Lee Carr



What a joy it is to be a photographer of natural things in the great outdoors. A beautiful sky blue fall day during the turning of aspen leaves is one of my favorite experiences. Oh, the glory of backlit aspen leaves! It's exhilarating, giving me hope of immortality and a yearning to better understand what is causing it. More difficult, however, is trying to communicate this experience - whether on film or with words. How do we come to understand nature? What is natural? Is man a part of it or just an onlooker?

To some, nature is the roar of the sea, lush forests, majestic peaks, pristine snow on a rolling slope, clear water, blue skies, fresh air, and broad vistas. Something to be enjoyed before we escape back to our habitat of protective roof and walls. Is it not also the mouse being eaten by the snake, birds dying from human waste and toxins, hillsides overgrazed of vegetation being gullied by rainfall, illness and death. We seem to divide the natural

from the unnatural on the basis of attractive and unattractive, or on our perception of good and evil. Defined this way we impose a limited set of values on nature. Is the death of a mouse by a snake evil? Certainly not in the eyes of the snake.

Too often, I mistakenly try to isolate myself and the effects of my actions from the natural world. I have difficulty accepting that nature is simply all that exists. What often brings me back to this reality is to inject the notion of time. I and even all of humankind have played such a small role, a few years on a scale of several billion years. But even though I am insignificant over a long period of time, I do have profound effects for the short time of my existence. And accepting that I am a part of nature is one step toward understanding it.

Different temperaments significantly affect how we see nature. Individually we are attracted to certain places and this varies from individual to individual. Is this

a genetic transmission of selected traits? Or, is this comfort with a place a learned response? Regardless of origin, it is an undeniable occurrence. I have mentioned my special place, the aspen grove on an Indian summer day. You have your own special affinity; be it a stream where you have mastered the weaknesses of trout, possibly a cultivated garden adjacent to a historic mission church, or a worldwide perspective desiring to understand different cultures operating in unique environments. I have felt greater understanding by starting in my special place, looking under my feet. But I can't deny the knowledge of a Darwin or Einstein to help me understand and bring order to the apparent chaos of the natural world. And learning from others, even the understanding given me by association with other RMOW&P members, has expanded my vision of the natural.

Maintaining a childlike curiosity also leads to better understanding of nature. Unfortunately, as I age I become more conservative in my perceptions. The great backlog of experiences, often mis-called wisdom, puts blinders on my vision of nature. To keep both wonder and vision alive means learning to become a child again. We have to learn not to allow our vast body of experiences to swallow up the uniqueness of each event we face. As a child soon realizes, there's a lot to learn.

Lee Carr

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Published monthly by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc. Printed by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Network, POB 2243, Evergreen, CO 80437-2243.

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In only a month we'll have our 27th annual conference and that means there will be new faces on the board of directors. Included with this issue is a ballot for members with voting status. Please mark your ballot and mail to John Catsis so that he receives it by May 27. Catsis will then take the ballots to the conference, where a committee will count them in time to announce the results at some time during the conference. His address is: 1701 W. 4th St., Stillwater, OK 74074-2918.

Also, don't forget to bring or send an item for the auction. This event supports the scholarship fund, given each year to a high school graduate or college student majoring in journalism, photography, or art, and who plans to work in the field of outdoor communications. Requirements for the scholarship are not particularly tough as our own board member Craig Springer was last year's recipient.

Digital photography is here whether or not we like it. This will be the topic for

Outdoors With The ED

Al Marlowe

and
Editor

Skipper



one of the conference sessions in which John Catsis, Kelly Gatlin, and I will share our abundant knowledge of the subject. Putting that in digital terms, our combined expertise would likely fill most of 1 kb on your hard drive. Nevertheless, we will do our best to be informative and entertaining regarding the subject. Bring your questions and we'll do our best to update you on this recent innovation in photography.

Spring arrived here in Evergreen

early this year. We had only one snow storm that dropped more than a foot of white @#%\$@ in my yard and that's long gone. By the time you read this I will have been fishing four times, thanks to the mild winter and pleasant spring weather. Hope each of you are out doing the kind of outdoor recreation you enjoy. Shoot lots of pix and gather lots of information for stories.

Conference Right Around the Corner

By Barb and Don Laine

It's almost here. The annual conference of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers takes place June 8, 9, and 10 (it starts Wednesday the 7th for many of us) at Bryce Canyon Lodge in southern Utah's spectacular Bryce Canyon National Park.

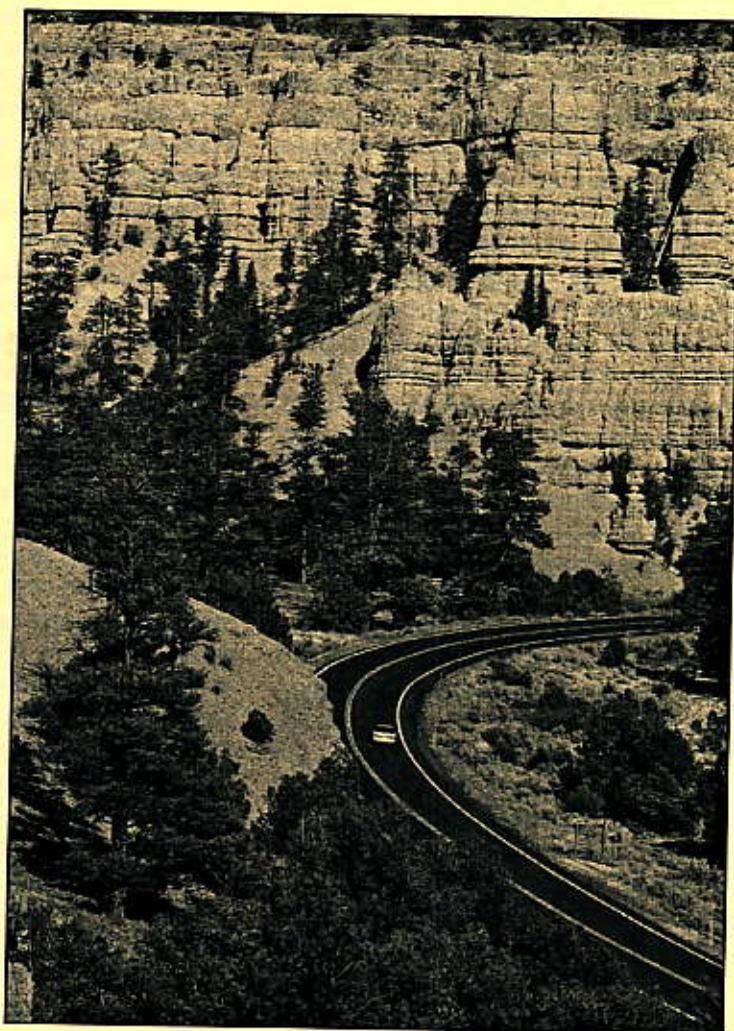
The agenda includes guided walks along the Bryce Canyon rim, a ranger-guided into a bristlecone pine forest, a talk on the area's Wild West history from a local history buff, and a program on one of America's newest and most rugged national monuments the spectacular Grand Staircase-Escalante.

For those who actually want to learn something, workshops are planned on subjects such as digital photography and how to get that travel article published. Plus RMOWP's fearless medical advisor, A.H. "Beto" Gutierrez, MD, promises an inspiring update on health care for aging (who, us?) writers and photographers. Let's hope he doesn't bring photos.

Pre-conference packets will soon be going out to those who have registered. Members who have not yet registered can contact Barb or Don Laine (phone 505-758-8922) or Jack Olson (phone 303-777-8998).

Highway 12 through Red Canyon in the Dixie National Forest, one of the scenic routes near our conference.

Photo by Jack Olson



Publishing On The Internet

by Denny Vasquez

Fame! Fortune! Glory! Recognition! Gratification! These are but a few of the reasons that writers or photographers, new and old alike, decide to publish their work on the Internet. The Internet is viewed as a quick and relatively painless way to gain much needed exposure and to expand one's publishing venue. But beware; deciding to publish on the internet is a decision that cannot only bring fame and fortune to those who chart their path carefully, but one that can also bring disaster to those who are unacquainted with the rocky paths that will need to be traveled in order to successfully publish their work.

You've done all of your leg work, carefully researching your topic, interviewing experts in the field and you've been especially vigilant in capturing just the right images to portray your thoughts to your readers on film. Finally, after spending back numbing hours at the keyboard typing out a draft manuscript that you are extremely proud of and are positive will make your splash in the outdoor media world, you are ready to publish your first effort. But whom do you talk to? Where are they? How do you get in contact with them? How much can you expect to get paid and how quickly?

The best advice that I can give to my fellow members of the outdoor media is to be careful, be wary and be cautious about who you are going to grant publishing rights for your work. After all, when you no longer have control of the material you don't want to see your name show up on some half baked site in a third world country that espouses some sort of racial purity rhetoric or promotes unusual sexual practices. (Don't laugh. I know several writers and at least three photographers that this has happened to.) Take the time to carefully research any prospective site before submitting your work to them.

As you begin your search for someone to publish your work there are several questions that you will need to have answered. What is the format of the site and how will my work fit in? Does the site carry other articles or photos similar to mine? If not why would I want my work published there? Who owns the site and what are their goals or future plans for the site? What rights do they want to pur-

chase? What and how often do they pay for their work? Finally, review the site to make sure you are comfortable in having your work displayed there. Let's look at each of these points in turn.

What is the format of the site and how will my work fit in? Go to the site that you are considering and carefully review it for content and presentation. Is it a site that you would be proud to have carry your work? Early on in my Internet career I was overly anxious to have my work published and did not take the time necessary to properly review a web site that had contacted me about publishing my work. My thoughts were that they must have been legitimate because they had contacted me first, therefore, they must have had access to the membership lists of the OWAA, TOWA, SEOPA, the American Society of Journalist or some of the other professional associations I belonged to at the time. How wrong I was.

Not taking the time to consider who these individuals were, I happily submitted my work, both written and photographic, to them for publication. I thought that we had agreed to terms via email and felt secure in this transaction. Unfortunately, I never heard from them again. My repeated emails, phone calls and letters of inquiry went unanswered.

Now, before you ask, yes they did publish my work and use my name all over their web pages and in promoting their site to other, unsuspecting victims. But I knew that I was in trouble when I opened the web page to my article and there was a bare chested young blonde bimbo holding an AK-47 and pointing to my article on how to choose a home self-defense weapon. Needless to say I was quite agitated at this point and did everything I could to remove my work and any association with myself from this site. After much heartache and a lot of footwork, I was finally able to contact the owner of the site in Munich, Germany and got him to agree to remove my information. And this was only after I agreed not to be paid for the work.

Does the site carry other articles or photos similar to mine? If not why would I want my work published there? I have found that most web sites like to carry work that is complementary to each other and the topics that they are covering. For example, take Alloutdoors.com. When Doug Truax approached me about

writing for them we discussed what subjects he wanted coverage on. One of the subjects he requested was a biological discussion of different game animals. I carefully reviewed the site for several days before calling him back and indicating that not only could I not find similar topics within their web pages, but, it appeared that this was something they had purposely excluded. I made this assumption because most of their articles were hunting stories, product reviews or how-to advice. This is when the Doug informed me that this was a new portion to the web site that they wanted to add to their existing collection. This opportunity opened a new venue for me and I now have 15 articles in the series.

Who owns the site and what are their goals or future plans for the site? Learn from my unfortunate photographer friend below, do the research to find out who the ultimate owners are of any site that wants to publish your work. On the other hand if you don't do your research don't blame anyone but yourself.

A nature photographer friend of mine got taken in by the fancy name of a web page several years ago. The page contacted my friend about her outdoor photography and asked if she had any photos of swimmers in a lakeside environment. Based upon the web site's name, she assumed they were a web site concerned with outdoor activities.

After searching through her work she located what she thought they might be looking for, a series of college co-eds at a spring break party on Lake Travis, near Austin, Texas. After signing the contract and accepting payment, she logged on to the web site to see how her work was being displayed. Man was she surprised.

Instead of finding her photos in an exposé of aquatic activities, she finally located them under the "Young Bikini Virgins of the Southwest Conference" section. Her attempts to return the payment she received and have the contract voided were to no avail. In fact the owners of the site threatened to sue her if she persisted or continued to bad mouth them in public. Unfortunately, my friend had signed a legally binding contract to sell her work to the owners of the site and there wasn't much that she could do.

What rights do they want to purchase? This is probably the most important aspect of the negotiation process when deciding to have your work published not only on the Internet, but anywhere. Even before you decide which web site you want to allow to publish your work, you must decide what rights you are willing to sell them. It is not uncommon for work sold to a web page as "Internet rights only" to show up on a CD or hard copy page published by the web site later. It is important that your contract spell out the precise rights that you are selling and for what price. If the Internet publisher wants additional publishing rights later, you must be very clear that these are not included in the current contract.

A good site that has examples of contracts and clauses is the American Society of Journalist, at <http://www.asja.org/>. The ASJA has collected information on the contracts from various publishers and other professional writers. Some of the free resources that they have available to us are the Writers Resources and Tips sheets. By reviewing these sections on a weekly basis you can keep up to date on suggestions for contract negotiations, pricing guidelines, writing tips and much more. They even have a section on how magazines pay. This is a no holds barred page that tells it like it is. You will be surprised at some of

the well-known publishing houses that appear on this list as being unwilling to honor a signed contract.

The National Writers Union is another good site, located at <http://www.nwu.org/>. If you want examples of several contracts, check out their Public Documents, Standards, and Guides section. In here you will find examples of contracts for both print and online publication. They also have sections on Electronic Rights Policy, Electronic Rights Negotiation Strategies, Publication Rights Clearinghouse, Magazine Rates Survey, Tips for a Better Work-For-Hire Contract and much more.

What and how often do they pay for their work? This is probably the first question that most of us will ask of prospective publishers, but I have listed it here as last for a reason. This question should only be asked after you have done all of your research and are certain that this is a site where you would want your work published and where you would have no worries of it being misused or misrepresented to the viewing public.

Rates vary dramatically from one site to another and even from writer to another within the same site. Most sites offer a "standard compensation" for work that they want to publish. However, you must approach each new publishing venue separately. In other words, just because your friend only got \$50.00 for

1,000 word piece doesn't mean that you shouldn't negotiate for better compensation for yourself. Some sites even offer a price per word approach to compensation.

Take the time to research the going rate for not only the site that you are considering, but also for as many other similar sites that you can find. Then use this information to decide whether the offer is adequate or not. I have often used this approach as a negotiating tool. If a site really wants to publish your work and they know that you are looking at all of your options, especially if one of your options is to have a competitor publish your work instead, they will be more apt to negotiate fairly with you.

This point in the negotiating process is covered by both of the web pages mentioned above. They each have sections that offer advice on negotiating your contract and how to make sure that it is honored once your work has been published.

Well, I hope that this has been helpful to you. Just remember, if it sounds like the offer is too good to be true then it probably is. Look for hidden or vague contract clauses. After all, it is up to you to insure that you are treated properly and compensated fairly because no one else will.

A Painless Way To Help RMOWP

By John Catsis

RMOWP members join for many reasons. One of them may NOT be to run for office. That's OK. But as a former President I can't understand it.

Nevertheless, I have the perfect answer for helping RMOWP. It's painless. It's fun. And it'll help you clean house.

Donate an unwanted – but useful – item for the RMOWP auction. Remember, proceeds go to the most worthy of causes...our scholarship fund.

Only once in the recorded history of our organization have we topped

\$1,000 in auction earnings. That was because members really got together in two ways: 1) contributing and 2) bidding. By buying or donating a useful item of any kind, you can help immeasurably. You can also help by attending our conference and bidding on these wonderful

goodies.

So, start making a pile next to the luggage you'll be using for Bryce Canyon. And for some reason you just can not make it to Utah in June, mail the auction item to Al Marlowe, our distinguished executive director at P.O. Box 2243, Evergreen, Colorado 80437-2243. Send it so that he receives your auction donation by June 3.

Let's top \$1,000 in auction sales in 2000!

(John, are you referring to my AI??? He hasn't distinguished himself in my mind since the last time he took me hunting. *Skippeh*)

New Members

David H. Travis
POB 3060
Ruidoso, NM 88355-3060

Home: 505-258-4006
Email: dhtravis@trailnet.com

Glenn Bamburg
Spouse: Maxine
POB 38
Craig, CO 81626-0038
Home: 970-824-7668
Email: HYPERLINKmailto:gmbamburg@flattops.net
gmbamburg@flattops.net

Maxine Bamburg
POB 38
Craig, CO 81626-0038
Home: 970-824-7668
Business: 970-824-7668

New Address

Marilyn Stone
948 Westwood Dr.
Ogden, UT 84414

Hello, Polished and Aspiring Writing Members of RMOWP

By Maryann Gaug

I'm writing *Hike Colorado* for Beachway Press. Just received an email from them. They are looking for more guidebook authors. It looks like they're starting a Ski and Snowboard series and continue to work their way through each state for Hiking and Mountain Biking. They are also starting work on some area specific guides, like Mountain Bike Durango/Telluride.

Authors are expected to not only write, but also provide photographs and detailed topo maps to Beachway. I'm finding that many trails on topo maps are incorrect, so my map and compass skills and soon-to-be GPS skills are getting a work out.

So if you're interested in the possibilities, please check out their web site at www.outside-america.com. If you decide to contact them, please let them know Maryann Gaug sent you. If you get the job, I get \$100. I landed the Hike Colorado job after hearing Beachway was looking for guidebook authors at the last RMOWP conference in Tucson.

So here's a good reason to attend our annual conference! See you in Bryce! I'll bring a copy of one of their books with me.

Writers, Take Note

By Anne Sullivan

Yes, there will be a writing critique session at the Bryce Canyon Conference. It's scheduled for 8 p.m. on Friday, June 9th.

The idea isn't to bring your best work; it's to bring something you are having trouble with or something you have a question about or are unsure of. It's hoped that you will get some good ideas from the other writers.

Please bring five copies of your work. It would probably be a good idea to get your copies done before you enter the Park. Please try to keep it five pages or under, double-spaced.

And yes, there will be a writing contest on the conference itself. Something you saw, something you learned, something that inspired you. Maybe even something you ate. Something. The rules will be announced at our first meeting. The entries will be due at noon on Saturday and the winners will be announced and awarded with something at the Awards Banquet.

Aerator May Cure the Summertime Blues

Craig L. Springer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM

Fish all summer. Sounds like a plan, right? Well, now you can at Point-of-Pines Lake on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

In years past, the rainbow and brown trout stocked by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery could not make it through the hot summer months. The lake's poor summertime water quality, mainly low oxygen and high temperature, prevented that. This coming summer, however, promises new possibilities. Thanks to a wind-powered aerator donated by the Zane Grey Chapter of Trout Unlimited, 30-acre Point-of-Pines Lake may support a year-round trout fishery.

"Summerkill has always been a problem at Point-of-Pines Lake," said Whitman Cassadore, acting director for the San Carlos Apache Recreation & Wildlife Department. "The best we could do was a cold-season trout fishery. The benefits of the aerator are not only that the fish survive into the winter, but they'll continue to grow and provide summer fishing."

And in the future that means bigger fish. Perhaps now during any season of the year, anglers that come from the Phoenix metro area and points beyond

will have a good chance at landing trophy trout instead of just recently stocked fish.

Stocking will continue and Cliff Schleusner, biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Arizona Fishery Resources Office, will lend technical assistance to the Tribe in managing the fishery. He is optimistic the aerator will make a big difference. "Getting the cooler water on top means more oxygen for the trout when they really need it. That's what the aerator does, and that equates to better fishing," said Schleusner.

This trout fishing opportunity at Point-of-Pines would not have been possible without the generous support of the Zane Grey Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Mike Costello, TU's chapter president, is equally optimistic. According to Costello the Indian waters are a tremendous resource for anglers and his chapter is committed to doing what it can to improve trout fishing. He thinks the aerator was a nominal expense compared to the expected return.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has a long history of assisting Tribes with fisheries. Last year a 17-year-old wrangled a new Arizona state record brown trout from Reservation Lake on nearby Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Could the next record brown trout come from Point-of-Pines?

Giant Annual RMOWP Auction

June 10

Bryce Canyon Lodge

Lots of items

Funds the Scholarship

Bring a donation

Don't miss it

Catsis promises to keep his shirt on

Catsis doesn't always keep his promise

Will he do it this year?

Come and see

Supporting Member News

Blake Shaw Joins Howard Communications, Inc.

Kevin Howard, president of Howard Communications, Inc. has announced the appointment of Blake Shaw to an Account Executive position with the firm.

Shaw graduated from Central College, Pella, Iowa and has worked in the Missouri Department of Economic Development since graduation. He received his MBA in the fall of 1999 from William Woods University, Fulton, Missouri.

Shaw's duties will include account work on Winchester Ammunition, Birchwood Casey, Heatmax, Roy Rhodes Game Calls, Walker's Game Ear, and the Hunting & Shooting Sports Heritage Foundation.

For more information contact Howard Communications at 289 Hwy CC, Elsberry MO 63343, (573) 898-3422.

H&R 1871[®], Inc. Ushers in a New Millennium of Responsibility

Due to an unprecedented amount of publicity surrounding so called safety issues as produced by the anti-gun press, we will take this year as a unique opportunity to highlight the safe and responsible actions of true American firearms owners and enthusiasts. In stark contrast to the finger pointing and calls for even greater controls on our firearms freedoms, H&R 1871[®], Inc. will produce a series of Millennium Responsibility Releases designed to educate readers, viewers and listeners about important issues of firearms safety and responsibility in the ever-changing times which make up America's second millennium.

While some of these issues may seem basic for the serious shooter, we feel that all rules of safety and good firearms practice can never be overemphasized. Today, we stand at a crossroads in our nation's history of private firearms ownership and freedom. As the anti-gun forces attempt to use safety as an issue in their campaign to deny us our rights, we too, can use safety and our collective record of responsibility to counter these attacks. Done well, we can and will turn the tide allowing the truth about firearms, their owners and the role they have played in our nation's development to be

known and respected.

Restore Wood And Synthetic Stocks With Birchwood Casey Stock Restorer and Protectant

Anyone who hunts or shoots will find a number of uses for Birchwood Casey's new STOCK RESTORER. Over the last few years the number of new guns with synthetic stocks has increased dramatically. With this new product from Birchwood Casey, gun owners can restore their stock back to a brand new look.

STOCK RESTORER comes in a convenient 2-ounce pump spray bottle and will not harm blued, nickel or stainless steel metals. It is also safe for all plastics. In addition to synthetic stocks, STOCK RESTORER works on wood to bring back a deep luster. It also helps restore leather, vinyl and plastic. The non-flammable STOCK RESTORER will bring a like-new shine to a number of products and accessories.

For more information, shooters should see their local sporting goods dealers or contact Birchwood Laboratories, 7900 Fuller Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344-2195 or call 1-800-328-6156 for a free full-color catalog. You can check out their products on the web at www.birchwoodcasey.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Howard (573) 898-3422
E-mail: howcom@inweb.net

Hunters Hold Strong Views On National Forests According To TRCA Survey

Hunters who hunt on National Forests share strong views on a variety of forest values and on the role of roads within the 192 million acre National Forest System. According to a recent national survey commissioned by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance (TRCA) hunters view National Forests as highly important for protecting the nation's water supply, improving fish and wildlife habitat, providing solitude and remote hunting opportunities. Hunters also emphatically want existing roads maintained before new roads are built and strongly support keeping existing roadless areas

roadless.

The survey found that hunters who hunt on National Forests place a high value on National Forests for:

- protecting water quality - 98%
- improving fish and game management - 97%
- providing places for solitude and natural experiences - 88%
- providing hunting opportunities in remote areas with few roads and few other people - 87%

When asked direct questions about current forest roads and roadless areas, hunters who hunt on National Forests strongly feel forest policy should:

- repair and maintain existing roads before building new roads - 85%
- keep existing roadless areas in their current roadless state - 83%

The TRCA survey was drawn from a sample of 600 licensed hunters who have hunted on National Forests in the last two years. Fifty-two percent of the hunters had hunted on forests west of the 100th meridian, 48% had hunted east of the 100th meridian.

Responsive Management, a Harrisonburg, Virginia polling firm specializing in natural resources and outdoor recreation issues, conducted the TRCA survey in March of 2000. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percent.

Minneapolis, MN 55344, 1-877-770-TRCq www.trca.org. To receive a copy of the survey, please contact Eileen King at the above phone number.

Gluszek and Rose Join G.LOOMIS Promotional Team

Professional anglers Pete Gluszek and Mark Rose, two young, up and coming stars on the B.A.S.S. and FLW Tours, respectively, have joined forces with G.Loomis fishing rods to help promote the company's esteemed product line on a country-wide basis. They join pros Ricky Green, David Walker and Renaud Pelletier on the G.Loomis National Tournament Team. Green, one of the "original" bass touring pros is from Arkadelphia, Arkansas; Walker, FLW Angler of the Year in 1999, resides in Cannon, Kentucky; and Renaud Pelletier, three-time Classic qualifier, lives in Kalama, Washington.