



Rocky Mountain Outdoors

*Our
29th Year*

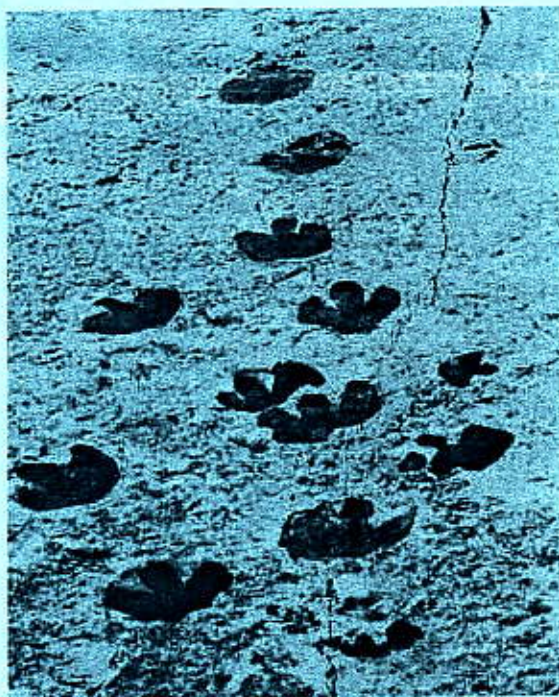
Apr./May 2002

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

www.rmowp.org

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From Dinosaurs and Mountain Goats to Writing and Photography Workshops



Dinosaur Ridge—Whose Prints are These?
Photo by Jack Olson



Mt. Evans—Who's Checking Out Whom?
Photo by Jack Olson

Conference 2002 Denver, Colorado

From The President

Think Spring

By
Russ Bromby



It's March and I am looking at another slate gray day in Denver and I'm ready for spring. I know the calendar says it is now spring, but Denver's current weather pattern dumps us back into winter about every third day. Whenever I see those first puffy clouds of spring I know we are past the winter weather pattern. It hasn't happened yet here.

But it will soon. The March lion will give way to the lamb and April and garden planting season will be here. Then May will arrive and soon after, my favorite month of the year, June. That's the month when summer truly begins. Not too hot yet and baseball is in full swing and I can go to a night game at Coors Field and not dress like I'm going to a Broncos game.

This year's June in Denver is extra special because we in the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers will hold our annual conference here June 12-15. I enjoy the conferences and always learn something new.

Registration information is in this issue. One of the biggest reasons for joining an organization such as this is to meet other members and gain from their knowledge and experience while you share some of your expertise. The best place to meet other members is at the annual conference. We are not a huge group and usually have a lively and interesting cross section in attendance at the meetings.

RMOWP is also preparing to elect three new board members and a secretary. Ballots will be mailed later in April to voting members of the group. Please vote. This year we have six

candidates for the three vacancies on the board. The candidates are willing to donate their time and energy to aid this organization on its journey. The least we can do is cast a ballot. Last year we received very few ballots. Please vote this year, we need your participation. Candidate for the all-important office of secretary is Karen Christopherson. Candidates for the three board positions are, in alphabetical order, Burt Carey, Barb Henderson, Jack Olson, Ruth Raupe, Guy Sagi, and Helen Shields.

Going off the board after the first board meeting at the annual conference are Jim Baker, Beto Gutierrez and Hal Shymkus. Outgoing secretary is Anne Sullivan. I appreciate the contribution that each of these people have made during their tenure and they deserve our thanks for their hard work and dedication to the organization. For those who don't know, there are two board meetings at the annual conference. The first is on Wednesday, June 12 and is attended by the current board and officers. The second is held on Sunday, June 16. The newly elected board members and new secretary will attend that meeting along with the current board and officers. Results of the vote will be announced at the general membership meeting on Saturday, June 15.

Attend the conference, it's one of the biggest reasons for joining this organization. Registration form is on page 11. The agenda is packed with educational and fun activities and I don't think anyone will go away disappointed. So come and learn with us, meet new friends and get reacquainted with old friends. See you there.

Russ

Deadline for June/July 2002 newsletter will be:

May 24, 2002

Email articles and photos to Maryann at maryann@rmowp.org or mail to P.O. Box 2842, Silverthorne, CO 80498-2842.

Can't Log into RMOWP Website?

The user name is [rmowp](http://rmowp.org), and the password is [freelance](http://rmowp.org).

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

Published bimonthly by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

Officers

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Craig Springer, Edgewood, NM

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Jim Baker, Stillwater, OK (2002)
Bob Good, Leadville, CO (2003)
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Ron Hellbusch, Westminster, CO (2004)
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Jeff Pederson, Santa Fe, NM

Membership Chair

Paul Homan, Colorado Springs, CO

Turning Ideas into Sales

Ever wonder where ideas come from? Maybe I'm too introspective. Maybe I think too much. But I find it curious how the human mind invents. I'm driving to work in the pre-dawn dark, sipping on my third cup of coffee and scratching AM radio static hoping to catch the latest news, then seemingly out of the wild gray yonder comes an idea, unexpected, uninvited, unrelated. I think it out. I think it through. This could be something.

While I drive, that voice in my head tackles the idea, pasting Post-its on the note board of the mind: "I could write a story on stuffed animals—taxidermy. glass eyes. it's been around for years. game mounts. museums. trophies for privileged monarch. kings and queens and ferris wheels. i don't like judy collins. i could tell history of the art, the science. fish folk art. awards."

Ten minutes later this synaptic soufflé generates a tangible, a note scrawled on the steering wheel to query the Albuquerque Journal tonight when I get home on a story about an award-winning taxidermist and fish carver. I still don't know where the idea came from.

Something similar may happen to you now and again. You get an idea, get it on paper, and query. So where does it go from there, a black hole or an editor's trash can? Bad queries sometimes get no response. Sounds odd, but a good query will at least get a rejection letter, possibly a note from the editor on how you could make the idea work.

A query letter at its basic, is a proposal, but it is also much more. It's a demonstration to an editor that you have thought through a topic and that you can write on the subject matter with a new and unique perspective. Take taxidermy for example. It's an old profession and undoubtedly been written about many times. So what can I do to bring a new angle? I need to explicitly show my editor that my proposed story is fresh.

Your query should also be a qualifications statement, a resume of sorts. If you're writing to an editor you have never worked with, you should state why you are the person to write on the subject matter. Do you have personal experience? Say so. Are you previously published? Say so. State your qualifications.

A good query should engage an editor at the get-go, just like a story should engage its readers immediately. In fact, a query letter might be an eye-grabber with your lead paragraph

Outdoors With The ED

By
Craig Springer



mimicking the story lead:

"He's an artist, a meticulous craftsman. Bruce Taylor, an award-winning fish carver, took home top honors last year for his Rio Grande cutthroat trout carving, a piece of wood that looks more alive than a live fish. A taxidermist since age 9, Taylor . . ."

Your lead paragraph is your hook set. Hook the editor, tell him how you'll write the story, offer possibilities for photos and tell the editor why you are qualified. Do all this in a one-page letter, and always, always, always, enclose an SASE. Include a couple clips if you got them, or refer the editor to the RMOWP Online Tear Sheets.

And speaking to online, I find that editors prefer email to hard copy queries. Not having to handle paper is a convenience, and replies are easy. It's quicker for you too. The same rules apply to email queries as for hard copy.

Regarding follow-ups, don't pester an editor. Don't be toady. Editors are busy people, and you're not the only one querying. You might call an editor in advance as a way of introduction, send the query, then wait awhile. If in a month you've not heard back, drop an email and ask if he's interested. Hopefully you'll hear a contract is on its way.

Once you've developed a relationship with an editor, queries get easier. Your editor knows your ability and strength and ethic. After a few sales, it could come to you sending an email saying in a few sentences what you want to do. The editor responds in a word: yes.

Can't Log into RMOWP Website? The user name is rmowp, and the password is freelance.

Directory Updates

Note: The web site is your best source for accurate directory listings.

New Email Addresses

John Kimak	John_Kimak@lvjr.com
Kay Lamb	kaywrites2@juno.com
Shirley Miller	sagcm@attbi.com
David Travis	dhtravis@trailnet.com
Denny Vasquez	denvas@sbcglobal.net

New Members

John Axelson	Burt Carey
13819 W. 76th Ave.	2250 Newmarket Pkwy Ste. 110
Arvada CO 80005	Marietta GA 30067
H 303-456-4846	H 770-345-4770
jaxe333@aol.com	W 678-589-2039
	Burt_Carey@Primediamags.com
	www.RMgameandfish.com

New Members

Ben Levy	Donald Streit
6600 SW 39th St. #A7	3328 Stillwell Beckett Rd.
Davie FL 33314	Hamilton OH 45015-8641
H 954-792-1808	H 513-868-3850
tortuga954@hotmail.com	W 513-868-3850
	streitm@muohio.edu
C. Russell Wood	
511 Potlatch Trail	
Woodland Park CO 80863-	
719-687-6761	
russw@direcpc.com	

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers

CONFERENCE 2002

June 12 – 16, 2002

Conference Headquarters – Travelodge West (6th and Simms) 11595 W. 6th Ave., Lakewood, CO 80215

Conference Meetings – US Forest Service Auditorium (next door to Travelodge West) 740 Simms St.

Registration Form on page 11

Wednesday, 6/12		Friday – 6/14 (cont'd.)	
Afternoon	Registration at Travelodge Denver West (6 th and Simms)	8:30 a.m.	Field Trips all day.
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Board Meeting – Forest Service Auditorium		Option 1 - Mount Evans via the highest paved road in North America. Presentations by the Forest Service and Colorado Division of Wildlife. Many photo opportunities including mountain goats, bighorn sheep and mountain vistas. (coloradobyways.colorado.edu, www.wildernet.com, www.mtevans.com)
5:00 p.m.	Mixer and Happy Hour (Travelodge Denver West) Room to be announced		Option 2 – A fishing and educational trip to Lily Lake (south of Estes Park) where greenback cutthroat trout have been restored. A chance to get story ideas and write about it for a national audience. Biologist from F&WS, NPS, and members of Trout Unlimited will be available for interviews and photos.
6:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own		
7:30 p.m.	Photo Contest Slide Presentation – Forest Service Auditorium		
Thursday, 6/13			
5:30 – 7:30 a.m.	Photo Shoot with Jack Olson - Travelodge		
8:30 a.m.	Forest Service Auditorium Welcome and greeting from the President and conference schedule briefing.		
	<u>Workshop Subjects and Speakers</u> Existing Light Photography Taking pictures in subdued light by William Inman	6:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own
	How to Gain an Editor's Attention by Burt Carey, Editor of Rocky Mountain Game and Fish	Saturday, 6/15	
11:30 a.m.	Lunch break – on your own	8:30 a.m.	General Membership Meeting – Forest Service Auditorium
1:00 p.m.	Field Trip (By vans - Leave the driving to us) 1. Colorado Railroad Museum (www.crrm.org) 2. Dinosaur Ridge National Natural Landmark (www.dinoridge.org)	10:00 a.m.	<u>Workshops</u> Outdoor Photography Publishing by John Fielder
5:00 p.m.	BBQ at Betty and Bob Minor's house (by van) 3110 Gardenia St., Golden, CO	Noon	Lunch on your own
7:15 p.m.	Heritage Square Music Hall, Golden – Show time is 8 p.m. – (Transport by van)	Early Afternoon	On your own
Friday – 6/14		1:30 p.m.	Writers Critique Session - Forest Service Auditorium. See information on page 5.
8:30 a.m.	Field Trips all day. On registration form indicate your preferred option. Box lunches will be available. Vans available and suggested for each trip.	4:00 p.m.	Auction to raise money for the Scholarship Fund– Forest Service Auditorium. See information on page 6.
		6:00 p.m.	Banquet and Awards Presentation at Travelodge Denver West
		Sunday, June 16	
		8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting (location to be announced) Meeting is open to the membership.

Travelodge Denver West Chosen For Conference Headquarters

The Lakewood Travelodge Denver West will be headquarters for the RMOWP Conference June 12-16, 2002. Most of the workshops and other indoor activities, however, will take place in the Forest Service Regional Office Auditorium that is next door to the Travelodge Denver West. It is an easy walk.

Make your room reservations directly with Travelodge Denver West. The special rate is \$69 per night plus tax for two people. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of RMOWP to get the rate. This price includes an evening meal (Mon-Fri) for hotel guests.

Make your reservation before May 12, 2002 by calling 303-238-7751 to take advantage of the special rate.

The Travelodge Denver West is at 11595 West Sixth Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado 80215. (North of Simms/Union Exit from 6th Avenue Freeway).

Camping Spots for RV Loving Members

R.V. Parks in the vicinity of the Conference site:

Golden Clear Creek RV Park: 1400 10th St.,

phone 303-278-1437

Full hook-ups \$31.00/night (\$27.90 w/ Good Sam)

Electric only \$27.00 (\$24.30 w/ Good Sam)

This is a lovely quiet park on the creek, adjacent to a city park with swimming pools, tennis courts, and hiking trails.

The only problem, they do not take reservations and are usually full. However the manager said if you call after 10 a.m., he will save a site if available for that day with a credit card number.

Prospect RV Park: 11600 W. 44th Ave., phone 303-424-4414

Full hook-ups \$30.00

Electric & water: \$24-26

If you stay 6 nights the 7th is free. This is a nice, quiet park, adjacent to an open space park with hiking trails

Dakota Ridge RV Park: 17700 W. Colfax, phone 303-279-1625 or 800-398-1625

Full hook-ups only \$33.00 (\$30 w/ Good Sam)

This is a large (141 sites) new park w/ paved sites, probably the closest to the conference site.

If you have any questions, please contact Betty Minor at 303-279-6829 or bettyrminor@aol.com.

Photo Shoot with Jack Olson

You'll have to get up early, but as we all know that is one of the best times for great photos. Jack, who has been taking photos in this area longer than he can remember, will find you some unique camera locations, with lots of color, texture, and long shadows. Knowing Jack, you can expect some great tips on composition, exposure, and perspective. There is no need to sign up—just show up at 5:30 a.m. outside the Travelodge.



Lunch Time

Photo by Jack Olson

Writers, Attention!

from Anne Sullivan

Once again the annual conference will feature a writing critique session. It's scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Don't bring your very best work; instead, bring something you are having trouble with or something you have a question about. The other writers are there to help you with good ideas or to reinforce your own good ideas. Speaking of other writers, it would really be valuable if some of our more established writers came and critiqued. We would certainly benefit.

Please bring seven copies of your work. Try to keep it five pages or under, double-spaced.

And, of course, 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.

Colorado Railroad Museum

Recognized as one of the best privately supported rail museums in the United States, this 15-acre site features over 70 historic narrow and standard gauge locomotives and cars and lots of other memorabilia (www.crrm.org). We will spend a couple of hours with a guide or you can take off and concentrate on what you want to see. There is no need to sign up – we have included the fee in your registration costs.

Editor's Note: Railroads played a big role in Colorado's history – many trails and roads follow the paths of the old iron horse.



Heritage Square Music Hall

Sign up to enjoy a fun-filled evening with the hilarious Heritage Square players. This talented group of actors and singers will be performing "That's Too Loud!" – Three Decades of Rock and Roll. A 50's, 60's, and 70's extravaganza. We will be "close in" with reserved seats in the pit. To boot, we will get you to and from the show via the vans following a BBQ at the Minor's. Sign up on your registration form!

Dinosaur Ridge National Natural Landmark

This site near Morrison features Jurassic dinosaur bones and Cretaceous dinosaur footprints. This guided tour will last a couple of hours. No need to sign up – we have included the fee in your registration costs.



Pasque flowers—A sign of Spring
Photo by Paul Homan

Pre and/or Post Conference Vacation Opportunities (near Denver)

Plan to come early or stay after the Conference and enjoy many of the following activities that are in or near the Denver Area. We will have brochures at the Conference but you may want to check out their web sites for additional information.

Denver Museum of Nature and Science and IMAX Theater (www.dmnh.org)
Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs) (www.usafa.af.mil/hc)
Rocky Mountain National Park (Estes Park and Grand Lake) (www.nps.gov/romo/)
Georgetown Loop Narrow Gauge RR (Silver Plume) (www.georgetownloop.com)
Barr Lake State Park (Brighton) (www.parks.state.co.us/barr/index.asp)
Roxborough State Park (Littleton) (www.parks.state.co.us/roxborough)
Butterfly Pavilion (www.butterflies.org/ovrvw.cfm)
Colorado Ocean Journey (www.oceanjourney.org)
Colorado Rockies Baseball (Denver) (www.coloradorockies.com)
South Platte River Fishing (www.gorp.com/gorp/activity/fishing)
Guanella Pass Scenic and Historic Byway (www.mtnconnection.com/guanella_pass.htm)

Auction Time!

The annual auction will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday before the evening banquet and awards ceremony. This event is a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. Come prepared to roll on the floor or dry your eyes from the tears of laughter!

John Catsis will once again be auctioneer and he's a hard bargainer! Bring lots of items to donate for the auction. And definitely bring lots of money to buy items. If the auction is a little slow, John may take off his shirt to entice people to fork over the bucks for those many interesting items. Please support RMOWP's Scholarship Fund!

Praise for RMOWP Webmaster

By John Catsis

Have you seen our web page lately? Have you seen it at all? Either way, you are in for a major surprise. RMOWP has gone big time! That's because of the hard work of member Phil Springer, who took over as webmaster only 18 months ago.

Our web page is as good as any you will find out there. And unlike many other web pages, it is current. You owe it to yourself to check it out soon. The address is www.rmowp.org, the user name is rmowp, and the password is freelance.

Thanks, Phil, for a great job.

Hunting and Natural Resources Surveys Results

From Mark Duda

Member Mark Duda from Responsive Management (RM) sent three news releases about studies RM has completed for Ducks Unlimited.

The results of the first study of 1,000 adult Americans indicate strong interest in wildlife and the outdoors, with 76% of Americans reporting a medium to high interest in wildlife. More than half of the individuals polled said they had participated in wildlife watching in the past year, and 51% said they had visited a state or national park. About one-third of respondents said they went hiking, camping, biking, boating or fishing. The majority however indicated they didn't understand natural resource health and did not belong to any conservation organizations even though they expressed concern about natural resources and endangered species.

The second study, conducted by phone nationwide, indicated a large majority (67 percent) of Americans approve of hunting, even though only seven percent of Americans hunt each year.

The third study captures information from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the increase in the number of waterfowl hunters as well as the increased harvest of waterfowl from 1991/1992 to the 2000/2001 season. Research by RM indicated most waterfowl hunters also pursue other game species.

For an email copy of any of these reports, contact maryann@rmowp.org.

David Travis Photography News

From David Travis

Member David Travis of Ruidoso, NM, just sold one image to *NM Journey*, the AAA magazine, to accompany an article on banding hummingbirds and recently opened a "show" at a local bakery/gourmet cafe. The recent fires didn't get him!

MEMBER NEWS

Lee Allen Announces His New Weekly Column

By Lee Allen

With a bit of apprehension, a smidgen of ego, and a lot of pride, member Lee Allen hereby announces the arrival of THE OUTDOOR PAGE, a weekly photo-illustrated outdoor column to be carried by *The Tucson Weekly* newspaper.

Tucson Weekly has an audited print readership of over 150,000 and is also available in a free on-line format at www.tucsonweekly.com.

THE OUTDOOR PAGE will cover a myriad of topics involving fur, fins, fangs or feathers as well as assorted fun-in-the-sun activities from mountain biking to outdoor photography. Story idea suggestions from RMOWP members are welcomed.

Inception of a column like THE OUTDOOR PAGE represents a lengthy and often frustrating process of 'continually proving oneself,' but it does show that persistency and sweat equity can pay off.

Springer Lands ESPN Gig

By Craig Springer

Craig Springer joins the likes of Curt Gowdy and Ron Schara as a columnist with ESPN. Springer will write on conservation and science. You can read his column at http://espn.go.com/outdoors/general/columns/springer_craig/.

RMOWPers Score Trifecta

From Phil Springer

Flyfisher, summer issue, will sport the bylines of three members. Regular columnists Verne Lehmberg and Craig Springer will be joined by a feature article by Phil Springer on Apache trout. *Flyfisher* is published quarterly by the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Ride the Train to Fish with Phil

From the RMOWP website

Phil Springer now has his first magazine article published (story and photo) in *Southwest Fly Fishing*, Spring 2002 issue, in the Notes, News and Reviews Section. The article is about taking the train to go fly fishing on the Rio de los Pinos in Colorado and New Mexico.

Member Websites Announced

From Phil Springer

Maryann Gaug

www.aboutwilderness.com
backpacking and hiking Colorado

Ben Levy

www.wildspotsfoundation.org
Dedicated to saving habitats of
endangered species

Opportunity for Writers

From Craig Springer

John Marsh, the Managing Editor for *Fishing & Hunting News* is looking for outdoor writers and photographers for the Rocky Mountain (Montana, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming) and Colorado editions.

F&HN previously had full-time writers for these editions, Andrew McKean and Steve Nelson, who did an excellent job. But economics forced *F&HN* to lay them off, and now they are producing the magazines with freelance writers.

Marsh is particularly concerned with Colorado. He has some very good people writing for them, including Ed Marsh, Giles Alkire and Dave Huling. But he would like to find two or three more who can contribute regularly.

F&HN is mainly looking for short, detailed stories (500 words or less) of immediate fishing and hunting opportunities in the writer's vicinity. They can also use longer features. Marsh admits they don't pay a lot, but can offer a consistent market and exposure, plus wider opportunities and a chance at a national audience through their other publication, *Sportsmen's Series*.

Tips on Self-Publishing (E-Publishing)

By Tom Bishop

I did; don't.

Why? Distribution. The local companies that serve Wyoming bookstores will not handle e-published books because they can't make enough money. Many, many bookstores will not carry the books because they can't make enough money. I suppose that if a person had money and time they could purchase their own book and go to every book signing opportunity that offered itself. I have too much fishing to do.

Once e-publishing houses offer a 50% discount to distributors and bookstores and stop charging a fortune for mailing, it possibly could work.

At this point I am not enamored with the e-publishing business. This summer, I am going to visit with traditional publishers and attempt to get them to take over the latest book and an old one that no longer is on the market.

Hiking Colorado III Hits the Shipping Warehouse

By Maryann Gaug

After a year's delay and one publisher buying another and changing book titles, *Hiking Colorado III*, a Falcon Guide from Globe Pequot Press, by Maryann Gaug, is ready for shipping! The book details 50 hikes around Colorado including area information from geology to natural history to human history, shaded relief maps, GPS coordinates, detailed instructions, and other area information. Check it out on www.aboutwilderness.com (pick *Hiking Colorado*).

The opportunity to query about writing this hiking guide came from the RMOWP conference in Tucson in 1999.

Email Addresses Needed

From Phil and Maryann

The email postmaster has refused some members' email addresses. Please contact Phil at phil@rmowp.org or Maryann at maryann@rmowp.org with your correct email address: Stephen Robertson and Verne Lehmberg.

Thanks much!

Web Master's Corner

By Phil Springer

This is your friendly web master with the state of the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers Web Site address. Think...2002 RMOWP Annual Awards Competition...2002 RMOWP Annual Photo Workshop...2002 RMOWP Annual Conference.

Photographer of the Month...a slide presentation of photo works of our members. A new member, Joel Evans, will be featured in April but I still need a new participant for May and beyond. Go online to read the detailed requirements or contact me if you are interested. I would like to recycle our photos that are spread throughout the site with fresh ones. Please send me your images and when I receive enough I will spread them around. Come on into my parlor and help me show off your work.

Featured Outdoor Story...unpublished works from our talented membership. Maybe a publisher will like what they see. This feature has been a hard one to keep growing and if I don't receive any additional stories this month the feature will be removed to make room for new features I haven't thought of yet. Any ideas...help?

Membership and Supporting Members online directories are up-to-date. After the 2001 RMOWP Conference we had 110 members and 27 supporting members. We now have 134 members and our Executive Director is working on recruiting new SM's to add to our membership. Please welcome our five new members since the last newsletter. The new members will be listed in this newsletter and for more detailed information visit our membership directory. By the way, the web site has recruited four highly qualified active members since the conference. Please review the membership directories and send me changes of email, phone and addresses.

In conclusion, when I was given the task of taking over the rebuilding and maintaining of the web site in October of 2000 we were receiving only 85 distinct hits per month on the old web site and it had not been maintained for about a year. I am proud to announce we are now receiving a sustained average of 1980 hits per month with our most active month in January this year of 2186 hits. This is not a reflection of me but a reflection of the fact that the web site is being updated almost on a daily basis and the perception is we are alive and current. In addition I want to thank all of the members who have helped me by sending me information to post. As always I welcome any constructive criticisms and new ideas. My email address is phil@rmowp.org. Phil...thanks guys and tight lines

Recall on HP Printer Power Cords

From Maryann Gaug

For any digital photographers in the group who own HP printers, a recall has been issued on the power cord. The gray, two-wire power cord sets with a LS-7C connector were sold with the following HP printers: HP Deskjet 800 series and 900 series, HP Photosmart 1000 series, 1100 series, 1200 series, and 1300 series inkjet printers. The name "Longwell" is molded on the plug between the blades. Consumers should contact HP for a free replacement cord. For more information, consumers can contact HP at (877) 917-4378 anytime or visit the firm's web site at www.hp.com. The replacement is easy and free and can be done online.

Lynn Starnes – A Short Introduction

By Lynn Starnes

Editor's Note: For those of you who enjoyed Lynn's wildlife photography in the Feb./March newsletter, here's a little information about her.

I am a relatively new member of RMOWP. In years past, I have given agency speeches at the Outdoor Writers Conference. I have worked as a scientist and have published scientific articles. I have taken photographs in association with my work for the 30 years that I have been a biologist. I have been taking nature photographs since I was knee high to a grasshopper. (That first brownie camera had lots of miles on it!) About 10 years ago, I decided to start doing something with my photography. That desire has led me to participating in regional art shows as well as photography contests. Since this avenue requires more "artistic" wildlife photographs, I have developed quite a portfolio of very artistic and very conventional wildlife photographs. It is developing in to a very demanding business. For me, being in the out-of-doors with birds singing and the wind in my face is so satisfying that taking photographs while I am out is just icing on the cake!



Bristlecone Pines on Mt. Evans

Photo by Jack Olson

Can't Log into RMOWP Website?

The user name is rmowp, and the password is freelance.

NANPA 2002 Summit Report

Story and photos © 2002 by Kenneth Wyatt

Having just arrived home from the annual North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) Summit in Jacksonville, Florida, this week (January 27, 2002), I have to chalk this one up as another success for the relatively new organization. Despite the estimated 15% drop in attendance this year, hundreds of professional and aspiring nature photographers, along with many others associated within the industry, gathered at the brand new Adams Mark Hotel to network together, renew old acquaintances, discover new products, and participate in 15 seminars and workshops.

Art Wolfe served once again as MC for the four-day conference, starting the program off with his rendition of "what I did on my summer vacation".

The seminars are always at the top of my list and a great learning opportunity, and this year's crop was excellent. In particular, I thought Nancy Rotenburg's "The Creative Force," Gary Braasch's "How To Get Environmental and Nature Articles Published," and "How The National Geographic Edits and Prepares an Article" by Cathy Moran (National Geographic photo editor) were outstanding.

There were several featured speakers throughout the Summit. Well-known scenic painter, Robert Bateman, described the connection between nature photography and how it influenced his realist nature art. Author Vicki Goldberg described the history of landscapes with a running commentary using her characteristically dry wit. Clyde Butcher, one of North America's foremost fine-art photographers, gave a retrospective of his career, culminating in his current specialty of large format B&W images of the Everglades. Imagine carrying an 8 x 10 format camera, large tripod, and associated paraphernalia waist-deep into a swamp infested with alligators – then standing there for hours waiting for the right light!

The keynote speaker was Michael "Nick" Nichols, National Geographic staff photographer, who accompanied biologist Michael Fay along his 2000-mile journey on foot through deepest Central Africa documenting the flora and fauna. Nick related the story of the Megatransect, which was written up in a three-part article last year in the Geographic. Partway through the trip, Nichols became so sick with hepatitis B that he had to spend weeks recuperating. He later (against his doctor's advice) traveled back to Africa to record the final stages of the transect



Okefenokee Swamp – The lens is a 600mm/f4 with a large sun shade! About \$12K worth of lens! Photo by Ken Wyatt

I'll wrap this up with a quick report on new equipment introduced at the conference. Probably the highlight was the new Canon EOS-1D digital camera body being shown off in their booth. This professional body is a direct competitor to the Nikon D1. Rob Shepard, editor of Outdoor Photographer and PCPhoto Magazines, has produced a second videotape in his "Jumpstart Photoshop" series on the use of layers. (\$34.95). Mamiya America was showcasing their new PocketWizard-Max wireless flash trigger (\$299). Wimberley introduced their 2-month "loaner" program, whereby you may try out any of their gimble-mounts prior to making a purchase (www.tripodhead.com). Finally, Jerry and Barbara Jividen were showing their new "Stabilizing Accessory 4 Cameras" (SAC), which is a novel camouflage "beanbag" filled with five pounds of waterproof pellets. There is a handy carry strap and film holder attached. This may be used to stabilize long telephoto lenses; especially when the use of tripods may not be desirable (www.imagesunique.com).

All in all, I was impressed with the Summit. You don't attend one of these with expectations of getting much sleep, though, as the program usually runs from 8:00 am until 10:00 pm! For more information about NANPA or the annual Summit, click on: www.nanpa.org.

Writer's Guidelines for Leave No Trace

By Maryann Gaug

In the process of writing a hiking guide to Colorado, I wanted to incorporate Leave No Trace information, including the seven principles. I suddenly realized the principles might be copyrighted and checked with LNT, Inc. The person I talked with was helpful and when I went to their website to copy the information as I had been directed, I discovered everything was copyrighted, which was not what I had been told.

I won't bore you with details about various emails with LNT, Inc. and my new publisher Globe Pequot Press. Since my inquiries, LNT, Inc. has created writer's guidelines to avoid confusion.

Bottom line, if you plan to include any Leave No Trace information in any articles or books you are writing, LNT, Inc. posted guidelines for writers on their website. Check out www.LNT.org/TeachingLNT/teachresources.html, then choose Guidelines for Use et al.

Leave No Trace is a national program, and consistency of message is extremely important. Thus the writer's guidelines.

Best to You, Betty Parker!

By Maryann Gaug

Long time member Betty Parker decided not to rejoin RMOWP this year because she's working too much to be able to participate in the group. Her photography equipment is getting bored and she's writing more about books than the great outdoors. She plans to continue her membership with the New Mexico group however.

If you'd like to keep in touch with her, her new email is antiquarian@page1book.com.

Thank you for all your contributions to RMOWP over the years, Betty! Come join us again after you retire and pick up your camera again!

Supporting Member News

Birding Familiarization Tours in Southern NM

From Norman Todd

Rural Economic Development Through Tourism (REDTT) is working with organizations, individuals and businesses in southern New Mexico to identify and mark birding trails throughout the area. Any writers or photographers interested in participating in a familiarization tour of the Gila National Forest, Black Mountains, Bosque del Apache and other birding sites in southern New Mexico, please contact Norman Todd at (505) 649-6463 or at normanetodd@aol.com. Fam tours will be arranged in late summer or early fall 2002.

REDTT is part of the Cooperative Extension Service at New Mexico State University and a member of the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers Association.

Rural Tourism Conference 2002 in Las Cruces

From Norman Todd

REDTT is holding its Rural Tourism Conference 2002 on April 22 and 23, 2002 in Las Cruces, New Mexico at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn. This conference will bring together more than 200 tourism professionals from all over New Mexico for workshops, speakers, networking and a chance to have fun with other professionals in the hospitality-restaurant-tourism industry. Events will include a familiarization tour of Old Mesilla, which in territorial times was the largest town in southern New Mexico and Arizona – site of the Gadsden Purchase, with its town plaza and adobe shops still intact – Stahmann Farms, the world's largest pecan orchard and harvesting operation – and numerous other sights. Western historian and author Leon Metz will be our dinner speaker on Monday evening; workshops on Tuesday will include rural tourism marketing, the Internet and rural tourism, travel writers panel, panels on historic preservation and grant funding sources, outdoor tourism, etc. Cost is only \$70 for all conference events, materials, meals and breaks. For conference registration call Norman Todd at (505) 649-6463 or e-mail him at normanetodd@aol.com. Rooms are available starting at \$59 from the Mesilla Valley Inn, 1-800-327-3314.

Mike Jordan Joins Howard Communications

Mike Jordan recently joined Howard Communications, a full-service public relations and marketing firm and a RMOWP Supporting Member.

Jordan is one of the most knowledgeable respected men in the shooting and hunting industry. He recently retired from Winchester Ammunition. Jordan's duties will include service work with the outdoor media for HC's clients which include Winchester Ammunition, Browning/USRAC, Birchwood Casey, Heatmax, Hunter's Specialties, MidwayUSA, Battenfeld Technologies, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation's programs: Step Outside and The Heritage Fund.

Jordan can be reached at 618-377-0591 or mjordan@mtsnet.com.

Blue Ribbon Coalition

New RMOWP Supporting Member

The Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC) is a well organized, financially solvent, and steadily growing national coalition of organizations and individuals. BRC champions multiple use of public lands for the benefit of motorized and other recreationists. Examples: BRC opposes banning snowmobiles in Yellowstone and recently signed a n MOU with the U. S. Forest Service in Idaho acknowledging the need to actively promote public-private partnerships that encourage responsible use of public lands.

Blue Ribbon Coalition
4555 Burley Drive., Ste A
Pocatello ID 83202
208-237-1008
Fax 208-237-1424
broffice@sharetrails.org

To find out more about this new SM, browse their website at www.sharetrails.org.

Winchester Ammunition Press Kits Available

Supporting Member Howard Communications, Inc. announces the 2002 Winchester Ammunition Press Kit. Complete with images on slides and a CD, the kit contains information about the 270 WSM, the Supreme® 12 Gauge Platinum Tip™ Sabot Slug, the Super-X Drylok Hi-Velocity Load in both 3" and 3.5" 12 gauge, and several others.

Any member interested in receiving this press kit, please contact Kevin Howard at 573-898-3422 or howcom@inweb.net or Mike Jordan at 618-377-0591 or mjordan@mtsnet.com.

You can also check out Winchester products on their website, www.winchester.com.

News from American Sportfishing Association

California officials have drastically underestimated the economic impact of proposed sportfishing bans in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) according to a report released by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) and the United Anglers of Southern California (UASC).

Copies of the report may be obtained electronically from www.asafishing.org

For further information, contact Mike Nussman at (703) 519-9691

Can't Log into RMOWP Website?

The user name is [rmowp](http://rmowp.org), and the password is [freelance](http://rmowp.org).