



Rocky Mountain Outdoors

Our
29th Year

Aug./Sept. 2002

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

www.rmowp.org

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Denver Conference 2002 a Success!



Beto Gutierrez shooting at Summit Lake at 12,830 feet

Photo by Kelly Gatlin

Renowned Photographer and Publisher, John Fielder,
sharing his knowledge with RMOWPers.

Photo by Kelly Gatlin



From The President

Summer Doldrums

by
Russ Bromby



It's hot.

"Colorado is on fire," according to Governor Bill Owens, tourism's best friend. Well, it isn't really. But the fires are bad in many western states and we need rain. But not too much rain at one time or everything will wash into the reservoirs. And on and on.

The Denver (really held in Lakewood) conference was great thanks to the efforts of many people, not the least of which were Lee Carr, Betty and Bob Minor. Thanks to the U.S. Forest Service for the use of their meeting facilities as well.

The results of the election are in and Karen Christopherson was elected to the post of secretary. Thanks to outgoing secretary Anne Sullivan for her four years of service. Elected to the board to terms that will expire in 2005 were Burt Carey, Jack Olson and Guy Sagi. Thanks to outgoing board members Jim Baker, Beto Gutierrez, and Hal Shymkus. Karen Roop of the National Wild Turkey Federation was appointed as supporting member representative to the board. Sue Baker asked to resign as treasurer so that left us looking for someone to replace her for the year of her term. Al Marlowe stepped up to volunteer to take the job and was duly appointed. We also need a new vice-president. Jeff Pederson has asked to step down from that post for the remaining year of his term so anyone interested let me know as soon as possible. Jeff will continue to handle the scholarship selection process. Raylene Swanger has graciously volunteered to be the awards chair for the next year. She replaces Ron Hellbusch who will continue to assist Raylene in her new duties. Thanks to Ron

for his work this year. Craig Springer and Karen Roop will take over supporting member liaison duties from Dusty Fullinwider. We thank Dusty for her work in this area over the past several years.

I think that's all the changes.

The fall board meeting will be held in Trinidad, Colorado from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 21. Logistical details such as meeting room are yet to be worked out. Among the items to be discussed will be proposed membership standard revisions. The committee assigned to develop the new standards includes Burt Carey, Karen Christopherson, Jack Olson and Craig Springer. The board will discuss the proposal and, if agreed upon, the proposal will be published in the newsletter and online prior to the 2003 conference. Bylaws provide that a majority of members present at that meeting must approve the proposal for it to become effective.

In a change for RMOWP, the 2003 conference will be held in September in Lander, Wyoming, tentatively scheduled for September 17-20. Tom and Buellah Bishop will chair. Assisting with the program will be Raylene Swanger, Karen Christopherson, Jon Sheppard and Craig Springer. It promises to be an extremely interesting conference. Mark your calendars.

As always, the organization is only as good as you make it. Let me know what you'd like RMOWP to look like in coming years. Or volunteer to help out. Call me (303-989-3002), write me (2207 S. Flower Ct., Lakewood, CO 80227), email me (rbromby@wideopenwest.com).

Russ



Our fearless leader, Russ Bromby, manning the controls.

Photo by Kelly Gatlin

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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Membership Chair

Paul Homan, Colorado Springs, CO

Going to Lander

I overheard someone at the table behind me utter, "this has been the best conference I can remember," while Awards Chairman, Ron Hellbusch, called out names of contest winners at last month's Denver conference.

The Denver conference was arguably a fine affair; we had the greatest number of attendees ever, including the most first-timers. The workshops were fantastic. John Fielder brought his artistic talent and business experience together for a wonderful marketing presentation. Burt Carey and Mike Schoby did a great job in telling us how to look at publications to determine what editors want from writers and photographers. Karen Roop opened my eyes about writing for women, and Ron Belak showed me how to take better fish photos.

And there were the field trips. I caught my first greenback cutthroat trout, and 12 RMOWPers scribbled notes as fish biologists talked about bringing the trout back from near extinction. I understand a few members already have publications from that trip.

On the drive back to New Mexico, feeling satiated, those words spoken by an unknown voice circled my brain: "this has been the best conference I can remember." That left me asking myself, how do we top Denver? It's like catching a record fish or scoring a huge buck—like you've conquered a mountain or shot a rapids and you're left with the sense of, well, what now?

What now? Lander, Wyoming. The board of directors decided on an autumn conference in the Wind River Country in 2003. We'll meet amid the changing aspens and bugling elk with copious opportunity to fish for trout, hunt sharp-tailed grouse,

by
Craig Springer
Executive Director



Photo by Don Mammoser

photograph pronghorn, bighorn sheep, and moose, or go mountain biking, and climbing. Area attractions include the Wind River Indian Reservation, home of Shoshone and Arapaho Indians and Sacagawea's resting place. You can recreate and take photos at Sinks Canyon State Park and Shoshone National Forest, and more.

And though conference is over a year away, a program committee of Tom and Buellah Bishop, Jon Sheppard, Raylene Swanger, Karen Christopherson and myself are already at work. As with most anglers, I am an eternal optimist, always looking to catch a bigger fish—and we'll land one in the Lander conference. If you have suggestions for program topics, please let me know. Meanwhile, log onto rmowp.org and visit Links to Lander.

New Feature for Newsletter - Letters to the Editor

Starting with the Oct./Nov. *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*, members may submit letters to the editor for publication. The purpose of this feature is to give members a chance "to rant or rave" according to Exec. Director, Craig Springer, who suggested the idea. Please email letters to the editor, Maryann Gaug, at maryann@rmowp.org or snail mail them to me at PO Box 2842, Silverthorne, CO 80498. Please keep the letter to a maximum of 300 words. Also please write about topics of interest to the

majority of RMOWP members. And make sure to include your name!

Littlest RMOWP Member - Congrats, Craig!

Willow Springer, a 6 lb. 3 oz. beautiful little girl, joined the world on July 30, 2002. Welcome, Willow! Congrats also to Willow's uncle Phil Springer.

Directory Update

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

New Members

Ron Dungan
4516 E. Capistrano
Phoenix AZ 85044
H: 480-705-0978

Susan Campbell Reneau
5425 Skyway Dr.
Missoula MT 59804
H: 406-251-5116
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bluemountain@montana.com
www.geocities.com/colorado/bucksandbulls

New Email Addresss

Raylene Swanger
rayleneswanger2@mac.com

New Members

Patricia Stockdill
1450 42nd Ave. NW
Garrison ND 58540
H: 701-337-5462
W: 701-337-5462
stockpat@restel.net

Tim Wade
2340 Meadowlark Court
Cody WY 82414
H: 307-427-6142
W: 307-527-7274
streamside@wavecom.net
www.northforkanglers.com

Denver Conference 2002 News

Conference Chairs' Thank You

Wow! Are we glad to get through this year's Conference without too many hitches. It's a lot of work but the fun part is seeing members enjoying themselves, learning new skills, and filling the gray matter with lots of new information. More than 50 members and spouses attended this year and by our count about a dozen members made this their "first" conference.

We had great support from members and non-members alike both in field trip participation and presenting workshop programs. Our kudos and thanks go out to the following folks who really made the Conference a success:

Jack Olson for his sunrise photo shoot; **Anne Sullivan** for her many years leading the writers critique session; **John Catsis**, with the able assistance of **Jim Baker**, in raising a record \$2,137 for the Scholarship fund; **John Fielder**, from Westcliffe Publishing for excellent insight into outdoor photo publishing; **Burt Cary**, from Rocky Mountain Game and Fish for tips on how to get and editor's attention and reading magazines for sales; **Mike Scoby**, from Cabelas on selling to e-zines; **Karen Roop** for insights about selling to outdoorswomen; **Bill Innman** for throwing some light on existing light photography; **John Blankenship** for an overview of issues facing the US Fish and Wildlife Service; **Dave Steinke** with the US Forest Service for providing excellent facilities and hands-on technical assistance; **Ron Oehlker** with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and **Deb Ekstrand** with the US Forest Service for their participation in the Mt. Evans field trip; Representatives from **Trout Unlimited**, **National Park Service** and **US Fish and Wildlife Service** for helping our members catch greenback cutthroat trout on the field trip to Lily Lake; **Ron Hellbusch** for arranging the judging and preparing awards for the writing and photography contest; **Phil Springer** for keeping you updated on the web site; **Al Marlowe** for printing name tags; **Dave and Keith Shrum** at Colorado Camera for demonstrating the latest techniques in photo processing; **Russ Bromby** for leading many of the sessions, **Bob Minor** for logistical support in pulling together the many things needed for a smooth running conference; **Craig Springer**, our Executive Director, for his excellent support of your co-chairs, rounding up great auction gifts from Supporting Members and arranging for many of the speakers at workshop sessions and field trips.

Next year's Conference in Lander Wyoming sounds like one you will not want to miss and we know **Tom and Buellah Bishop** will be looking for your willing help to pull it together.

Betty Minor and Lee Carr
Co-chairs of the 2002 Conference



Bob and Betty Minor, Chefs

Photo by Kelly Gatlin

Jamming to Mount Evans

by Cindy Stone

For once, I didn't mind being stuck in a traffic jam. Due to an accident on westbound I-70, I was getting to know several other RMOWP members, my fellow captive passengers, quite well. I had the chance to enjoy Jon Sheppard's entertainment and communication skills as he either bantered with or scared off other drivers during our highway crawl. Our field trip to Mt. Evans turned out to be well worth the delay and adventure of getting there.

The personal guided tour, detailed information and insight about the area, and guidance in finding the best photo opportunities would have been difficult to obtain without the knowledgeable attention of the forest service guides serving our group. When we finally arrived at the Mt. Evans Visitor Center, one gave a presentation introducing us to the history and current issues of Mt. Evans. This provided some focus for the outing, such as what type of wildlife and vegetation to expect to see and photograph.

Topics discussed also served as ideas for writing and photography objectives and included the foresight and achievement of the founders of the Mt. Evans road and area, wildlife and people management, numbers of visitors and the increase in such since the September 11 World Trade Center attacks, the fourteeners peak-bagging trend and impact, the observatory and other structures, and fire control issues. They also provided a wide variety of informational brochures and copies for everyone of an excellent Rocky Mountain wildlife viewing guide.

On to Mt. Evans, to see and experience the dramatic scenery, bighorn sheep and mountain goats, ancient bristlecone pine, wildflowers, and other treasures of the tundra. I learned how to spot "hidden" wildlife that were actually in plain sight. The landscape was so expansive that great far-away meadows and slopes appeared deceptively smaller, and without binoculars, even huge herds of elk, sheep, or goats could easily be missed because they were just specks in the whole scene.

Some of us bagged our first fourteener—with only a 10-minute hike! With the quick trek from the parking lot to the peak, it was an easy achievement with a nonetheless exciting reward. Despite the smoke from the Hayman fire, and the overcast and somewhat blustery conditions (gusty winds, a little snow, a little sun, some sprinkles), the view was still breathtaking and panoramic.

The benefits of a field trip such as this should not be missed, especially by new members. It was a great chance to get to know other members in an active, fun, and enriching situation. The up-close and personal treatment and perspective from the generous forest service people provided a valuable overview of the subject from experts and introduction to various resources (people, books, tours, agencies, etc.) that are available to serve needs and interests of writers and photographers. The group transportation, box lunches and refreshments, and prearranged presentation and tour with the forest service people made it very easy to participate in and enjoy the field trip. Kudos to those who handled all the details to make this possible.

Denver Conference 2002 News Continued

From the Brink of Extinction

by Joel L. Evans

Waking early, I was greeted by sun cracking through the motel curtains. Peering outside, there was a haze over downtown Denver. Not pollution. Well, maybe some of that too, but smoke from forest fires to the southwest contributed to a prolonged sunrise.

Well, at least for today, RMOWP members would escape to fresh air in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). Attending the annual conference, about ten members enjoyed a field trip to gain first-hand experience with greenback cutthroat trout, an endangered species.

Carpooling to Estes Park, we rendezvoused at Scot's Sporting Goods for flies, instructions, and to meet guides Suzanne Williams and Carla Anderson. After a short but steep drive to Lily Lake near the park entrance, we hooked up with Bruce Rosenlund of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Paul Downing, Trout Unlimited host and fellow RMOWP member.

Bruce has been on the restoration team from the beginning, so he was eager to share the past pain and current success of the greenback restoration efforts. Greenbacks had been reduced in numbers to two known populations, discovered by Dr. Behnke, professor at Colorado State University. Placed on the endangered species list in 1973, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began restoration efforts.

Years of stocking and competition from non-native species would be difficult to reverse. First, a suitable location with a downstream entry barrier to non-native fish is located. After approvals and permits, chemicals are used to remove non-native fish. A second year and treatment is often necessary, so it takes a few years for the water to be ready to receive greenbacks.

Efforts paid off. In 1978 the greenback was downlisted from endangered to threatened. There are now over 50 populations in the state, with 33 of those in RMNP. The State of Colorado designated the greenback the official state fish in 1994. Lily Lake was first stocked with greenbacks in 1982. Previously, the lake was a part of a housing development, but was acquired as public land to be a demonstration site for the restoration project. Greenbacks do not reproduce in the lake, so supplemental stocking takes place. The lake is shallow, so an aerator is used in the winter to avoid freeze-up and loss of the population.

Initially no fishing was allowed, but thanks to the efforts of Bruce and his partners, today you can catch those greenbacks. To protect the population, fishing is strictly catch and release. Guarding over the precious children are members of the Estes Park chapter of Trout Unlimited, who daily patrol the lake and educate visitors about the endangered species.

Lily Lake is just one of 20 locations with at least 500 fish each called for in the restoration plan before the greenback can be considered for delisting as an endangered species. Bruce explained some alternative theories about how much is enough—when is a population considered to be stable? In order to naturally reproduce, a significant portion of the population needs to be adult, and when one considers the threats of whirling disease, low water, human impact, and natural disaster, it is easy to argue for an even higher number of fish and distinct populations.

Well, so are they really there? RMOWP members aimed to find out. Spreading out across the lake, everybody coaxed a few

cuts to the camera. Bejeweled adults stretching to 12" or more flexed the shutters, but even if the prize would fit in the palm of your hand, members claimed a trophy experience.



Greenback Cutthroat Trout in Person's Hand

Photo by Joel Evans

Publishing the Newsletter and Directory on the RMOWP Web Site

The board approved an action to offer the Membership Directory and the Newsletter on-line and in print. At the present time we have 141 members with 92 members having Internet access. We also have 30 supporting members with 30 having Internet access. We can save a substantial amount of money if the members with Internet access are willing to use the Internet to view and/or print the Directory and the bimonthly newsletter from our web site in lieu of receiving a copy in the mail. It is not required even if you have Internet access; it is only suggested. If you still prefer a hard copy of these publications you will receive them.

This action does not affect members without Internet access. Those members will automatically receive hard copies as usual.

This year's directory will still be printed because of the short time frame since the board meeting and the newsletter publication schedule and the membership directory timeline.

The October/November newsletter will be published both in hardcopy and on the web site so you can check it out and make a decision if you're not sure which way you want your newsletter delivered.

The reduced mailing will start with the December/January issue. Next year's membership directory will be sent only to those requesting hard copy.

If you are willing to participate in this new program please contact Phil Springer at phil@rmowp.org.

October/November Newsletter Deadline

September 27, 2002

Denver Conference 2002 News Continued

Conference Writing Winner

Each year a writing contest is held during the conference. Writers submit an article about something they did or saw before the conference is over. The entries are judged and an award is presented at the annual banquet. This year's winner was Georgia Colao.

Sacred Ground

by Georgia Colao

Jacob listened intently as the guide concluded the tour of Dinosaur Ridge explaining that this area was considered sacred ground by the Utes, Arapahoe, and Cherokee Indians who traded goods a short distance down the mountain. He tried very hard to understand the words, but was distracted by the thought of doing the crab walk up the angled slab of sandstone.

He quickly glanced at this father busily talking with the guide and dashed over to begin the climb to the top. He soon found himself sitting on an outcropping at the crest and took a couple of deep breaths. "This is like the top of the world," he thought as he scanned the view of the city stretched below. He noticed the grass as it began to stir in the gentle breeze. He felt the caress on his neck and ears as the wind brushed past. His ear tickled and he rubbed it with his finger. It didn't help—the tickling became stronger.

"Jacob! Jaaacob!" His head jerked around. Who was calling him? He saw no one. "Jacob, Jacob." There it was again. Still no one was in sight. He glanced nervously about. Who was there?

"Jacob, I am your brother, the Wind." He heard it clearly in his ear. He didn't move as he watch the grass sway. "This mountain is sacred to those who have been here before you—not just the native Indians, but to those long before they arrived. It was the home and playground of the Thunder Lizards that left the footprints you saw. It belonged to the sea and its many families that lived beneath its waters. It kissed the shore and brought life to the mangroves that left their branches imprisoned in the sand creating the impressions there. As the landscape changed, it was home to the many more kinds of life that developed. Life continues to evolve no matter where on the planet it is. This is a sanctuary, a place of peace, a home, a place to work—farm, raise livestock and families like your family, Jacob."

Jacob still hadn't moved. He was afraid the voice would go away if he did. "I understand that," he thought to himself. "I still don't understand why this place is so special."

"Everyplace is special," the Wind continued. "Not just this place, but every place on Mother Earth. So is every life form special. Each one has a unique gift that is theirs alone to share with the rest of the planet. That is why we are all here."

Jacob frowned as he thought about the words being whispered in his ear. The grass continued to dance at his feet. "Why are you telling me this?" he asked silently. "To help you understand the gifts of this place right here and that will help you discover your own gifts," came the reply.

"So this place has gifts?" he asked. "Yes. Which ones do you see?" Jacob looked around. He saw the footprints frozen in time, the fence protecting them, the eager faces still talking with the guide. As he started to form another question, the Wind interrupted him.

"These are the visual gifts of this special place," the Wind confirmed. "But there is much more. There is a feeling here, an energy." Jacob nodded. He knew exactly what the Wind meant.

He had felt it before—at some of his favorite places—the lake where he had caught his first fish, his mom's garden, his grandmother's kitchen. He noticed that warm feeling begin to surround him as he thought about them.

"Do you understand now?" the Wind asked. "I think so," Jacob nodded. "I want to show others some of these special places so they can see the gifts."

"You are on the right track," answered the Wind. "Treat all places as special, protect them, love them, preserve them, and they will do the same for you. All life is special, regardless of what it is, or as evidenced here. Take only memories, leave only footprints."

Jacob smiled. He knew exactly what he wanted to do when he grows up—become an archaeologist so he can show others those special places known as sacred ground.



Viewing Many Dinosaur Prints

Photo by Kelly Gatlin

RMOWP Election Results and Recent Resignations

New Board Members: Burt Carey, Jack Olson, Guy Sagi
New Secretary: Karen Christopherson

Resignations

Jeff Pederson resigned as vice-president due to his wife's illness. Anyone interested in finishing the remaining year on his term, please contact Russ Bromby.

Sue Miller resigned as treasurer due to too many other demands on her time. Al Marlowe is finishing her term as treasurer.

Ron Hellbusch just resigned from the Board due to health reasons. Anyone interested in filling the remaining two years of his Board position, please contact Russ Bromby.

Russ can be reached at 303-989-3002, 2207 S. Flower Ct., Lakewood, CO 80227, or via email rbromby@wideopenwest.com.

RMOWP Photography and Writing Awards 2002

Thirteen members submitted material for this year's awards program. The submittals consisted of 179 color slides, 14 color and black and white prints, six published prints, nine website articles, and 25 writing submittals.

The following people won awards for their entries. First place winners received a plaque while other places received a certificate.

1. People in the Outdoors Slides

- 1st Place: "Hiker In Unnamed Arch" by Donald Mammoser
- 2nd Place: "Betty Parker" by Maryann Gaug
- 3rd Place: "White Sands National Monument" by Jack Olson

2. Scenics Slides

- 1st Place: "Sunset At Costley's Hill" by Jim Baker
- 2nd Place: "Queen Sand Dunes" by Jim Baker
- 3rd Place: "Mt. Moran" by Joe Roybal

3. Flora Slides

- 1st Place: "Alpine Sunflowers at the RMOWP Photo Workshop" by Frank Zurey
- 2nd Place: "Aspen Perspective" by Donald Mammoser
- 3rd Place: "Sunflower" by Jay Myers

4. Fauna Slides

- 1st Place: "Orange Sulphur" by Donald Mammoser
- 2nd Place: "Mountain King" by Joe Roybal
- 3rd Place: "Great Blue Heron" by Frank Zurey

5. Best Slide from Last Conference

- 1st Place: "White Sands National Monument" by Jack Olson
- 2nd Place: "Dream Lake" by Frank Zurey
- 3rd Place: "Person At Conference" by Sue Baker

6. Historical Slides

- 1st Place: "Ghost Church" by John Catsis
- 2nd Place: "Route 66 Arizona" by Jack Olson
- 3rd Place: "Rio Grande Railroad" by Lee Carr

7. Cultural Slides

- 1st Place: "Cinco De Mayo" by Jack Olson
- 2nd Place: "Pumpkins Near Delta" by Maryann Gaug
- 3rd Place: "Dream Cars" by John Catsis

8. Events Slides

- 1st Place: "East Yellowstone Fire" by Joe Roybal
- 2nd Place: "Icy Pine" by Ruth Raupe
- 3rd Place: "Ice Storm Court House" by Jim Baker

9. Best of Show Slide (awarded to the best of all slide entries)

- 1st Place: "White Sands National Monument" by Jack Olson

10. Color Prints

- 1st Place: "Texas Pride" by Jim Baker
- 2nd Place: "Red Moth On Log" by Ruth Raupe
- 3rd Place: "Burnt Skeletons At Sunset" by Maryann Gaug



Award Winners 2002 - Back row: Lee Carr, Sue and Jim Baker, Frank Zurey, Ruth Raupe, and Don Mammoser. Front Row: Craig Springer, John Catsis, Jack Olson, and Georgia Colao.

Photo by Kelly Gatlin

12. Digital Prints

- 1st Place: "Sandhill Cranes" by Frank Zurey
- 2nd Place: "Aspens" by Maryann Gaug
- 3rd Place: "Teacher" by Karen Christopherson

13. Published Works Black and White Prints

- 1st Place: "Black Bear In Cabin" by Joe Roybal
- 2nd Place: "Going Backcountry" by Maryann Gaug

14. Published Color Prints

- 1st Place: "New Mexico Turkeys" by Joe Roybal
- 2nd Place: "Backlight Drama" by Donald Mammoser
- 3rd Place: "Yankee Boy Basin" by Jack Olson

16. Photography - Members' Choice- no entries

17. Newspaper Columns and Newspaper Articles

- 1st Place: "Lifelong Adventure" by Craig Springer
- 2nd Place: "People, Pets, and Wildlife" by Maryann Gaug
- 3rd Place: "Lasting Legacy" by Joe Roybal

18. Magazine Articles

- 1st Place: "Badlands" by Bob "Dusty" Willis
- 2nd Place: "Change Pace" by Craig Springer
- 3rd Place: "Glenwood" by Anne Sullivan

19. Web Writing

- 1st Place: "Sage Grouse" by Craig Springer
- 2nd Place: "Mesa Verde After The Fires" by Maryann Gaug
- 3rd Place: "Fly Fishing The Futa" by Karen Christopherson

20. Books and Scripts for TV/Movie/Video

- 1st Place: "Book Pet Set" by Jim Baker
- 2nd Place: "Book South West" by Thomas Wiewandt

21. Newsletter Articles, Editorial Statements or Article Series

- 1st Place: "Birds Scape" by Craig Springer
- 2nd Place: "Colorado Adventures" by Donald Mammoser
- 3rd Place: "Federal Hatchery" by Craig Springer

MEMBER NEWS

New RMOWP Member and her Latest Book

By Sussan Campbell Reneau

Susan Campbell Reneau, new RMOWP member from Colorado Springs, CO, and Missoula, MT, is the author of the new hardcover book, *COLORADO'S BIGGEST BUCKS AND BULLS and Other Great Colorado Big Game, Second Edition*. The book contains 275 detailed hunting stories and 800 photographs featuring Boone and Crockett, Pope and Young and Longhunter muzzleloader trophies from Colorado that date from 1850 to the present.

The book was first published by Blue Mountain Publishing on September 11, 2001, and was released for a second printing on March 30, 2002. More than 400 men, women and teen-age hunters are featured. Most hunters are from Colorado but 38 other states are represented. Susan is the author and editor of 58 books since 1983, including ten books published by the Boone and Crockett Club. The first edition of *COLORADO'S BIGGEST BUCKS AND BULLS* was written by Susan and her husband Jack from 1979 to 1982 and sold close to 20,000 before going out of print. Susan wrote the second edition by herself from 1995 to 2001. The book is available through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Borders Books and many other bookstores and sporting good stores throughout Colorado and North America.

For more information about the book and other books by Susan Campbell Reneau, log onto www.geocities.com/coloradobucksandbulls or call the publisher at 406-251-3372. Susan bounces between her homes in Colorado and Montana and can be reached by calling 406-251-3372 or 719-632-2062.



Susan Campbell Reneau with *Colorado's Biggest Bucks And Bulls*.

RMOWP Photo Workshop Planned for 2003

The Board approved planning for the RMOWP Photo Workshop to be held in Rocky Mountain National Park from June 22-26, 2003. John Catsis will again organize this program.

RMOWP Membership Grows

Since July 2001, 32 new members have joined RMOWP. Membership is 143 as of June 12 Board meeting.

New Book by Tom Bishop

By Betty Minor

Tom Bishop has just published his new book, *"The Real West: Wyoming at Century, A personal View."* Tom has long been a member of RMOWP, was chairman of the memorable conference in Casper, WY several years back. He was born in the west, cowboied for awhile before becoming a school teacher and coach in Casper. He wrote many articles for the Casper Tribune as well as other newspapers and national magazines. He retired after 30 years and moved his permanent residence (more or less) to Atlantic City, WY, a sort of ghost town near South Pass of Oregon and Mormon Trails fame. His book includes many amusing and informative anecdotes of life in and around Atlantic City. He also provides a unique insight into the history, culture and politics of Wyoming.

Jon Sheppard's Latest Book Available

Jon's third book, *Cowboys Cowgirls & Wide Open Spaces*, has recently been published.

Welcome to the wonderful world of cowboys and cowgirls and the wide open spaces where they live and work. Join me as we travel from Montana to central Texas. As the song goes, My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys, and so they have been for me. Up long before dawn and working after dark, they are a hard working and hard playing group of people. Meet some of my Hollywood cowboy friends as they have much to share with you. Harry Carey, Jr., Hugh O'Brian, Baxter Black and Barry Corbin. A one and only American icon, cowboys and cowgirls will live in your hearts forever.

For more information, check out Jon's website at www.jonsheppardphotography.com.



Barb Henderson writes NEW Outdoors Column

from Craig Springer

Barb Henderson of Nevada, has started writing a weekly outdoors column on "Shooting Sports, Hunting & Fishing," for the "LAS VEGAS SUN," Newspaper - SPORTS section.

She continues to write OUTDOOR articles for two other Nevada newspapers, the *Henderson Home News* (Henderson, Nevada) and the *Boulder City News* (Boulder City, Nevada) as well as performing duties as Show Host/Producer of outdoor TV and Radio shows.

Web Master's Corner

By Phil Springer

We had a great conference this year with lots of good workshops and playtime. We have updated the Officers/Board page on the web site. I have also made all of the updates to member's information and generally updated the web site to a current status. The board took a few actions that will be important to all members and below is a new service available to the RMOWP membership.

Web site space for RMOWP members.

We don't use near the capacity we are allowed from our web hosting service server. I proposed to the board of directors, as a service to our existing members and prospective new members, we offer web site space for our members for a nominal fee of \$12 per month or an annual fee of \$125. The board voted unanimously to approve my proposal.

Option 1: A member can have someone design a web site for them or if a member already has a small site (a small 3 or 4 page site) I can move their files and set them up on their space at the RMOWP site. The member would send me the files and I will load his or her files to the server. RMOWP would charge a small setup fee of \$20 for this work.

Option 2: If the member does not have access to their files and they have permission from the existing hosting service I can copy their files and images from the Internet and bring them up to date in about 3 hours and install them on our server. This is based on a small 3 or 4 page site. I would charge an hourly rate of \$20 per hour for members only. (I normally charge \$25 per hour.)

Option 3: Finally, I could build your site from scratch for a fee to be determined, approximately \$150 for a small 3-4 page site. I would also be willing to do MINOR updates OCCASIONALLY at no charge for our members.

The board agreed that the web sites should be limited to 3-4 pages, to make space available to more members, and the content be limited to the mission of RMOWP, which is communicating the outdoor experience through written, photographic and artistic expression. Members can provide information about the recreational and natural resources found in the Rocky Mountain West. We have kept the price as low as possible in an effort to provide our members a service to showcase their hard work. If you are interested please contact me at phil@rmowp.org or 505-896-2501 and I'll be there to help.

As a reference, a full-time web site professional charges about \$500 to \$1500 or more for a small web site and about \$75 per hour to maintain it. I believe this is a real bargain and an opportunity for a RMOWP member who could not otherwise afford a web site, to have their own web site to showcase their work. Additionally, a member is not even required to have Internet access to have a web site to showcase their work where the site can direct the public to their address or phone number in lieu of email, etc.

By-Law Review Underway

At the June 14 Board meeting, members discussed that the By-laws need to be reviewed and brought current. All board members were instructed by Russ to review the current By-laws and bring ideas to the fall meeting.

Any members out there with ideas, please contact an officer or Board member by September 20.

RMOWP Photographer's Registry

by Phil Springer

Occasionally, writers need photos for a story they have written or for a writing assignment. This registry is for the use of our photographers to list their names with a list of photos that might be available for use in a publication. If you are interested in listing yourself as a source for photos please email Phil Springer at phil@rmowp.org.

Categorizing your photos would be very helpful. You can be as specific as you wish. Please send the information in MS Word or text format or email and I'll post your information. Please include an email address so you may be reached by the person needing the photos. This page is intended to be a clearinghouse, if you are willing to help.

Officers and Board Members New Email Addresses

Have you wanted to email a Board member or RMOWP officer and just couldn't figure out the email address? Your problems are solved! Phil gave each official an easy to remember email address through RMOWP's website. Here are the easy to remember email addresses:

Russ Bromby is russ@rmowp.org
Al Marlowe is al@rmowp.org
Karen Rae Christopherson is karenC@rmowp.org
Lee Allen is lee@rmowp.org
Burt Carey is burt@rmowp.org
Bob Good is bob@rmowp.org
Jack Olson is jack@rmowp.org
Guy J. Sagi is guy@rmowp.org
Jon Sheppard is jon@rmowp.org
Raylene Swanger is raylene@rmowp.org
Craig L. Springer is craig@rmowp.org
Maryann Gaug is maryann@rmowp.org
Karen Lee Roop is karenR@rmowp.org

2004 Conference Ideas Needed

OK, so we just finished the 2002 conference and picked Lander, WY for the 2003 conference. It's already time to start thinking about 2004! Someone suggested Taos, NM. Any other ideas are most welcome. And of course a volunteer or two for conference chair persons are also needed. This topic will be discussed at the Fall Board meeting on September 21. If you have any ideas or are just dying to chair a conference, set up speakers, and show off your organizational skills, please contact any Board member before September 20.

Membership Standards

As Russ mentioned in his President's column, a committee has been formed to review various concepts on membership standards and report at the fall Board meeting on September 21. Committee members are: Craig Springer, Karen Christopherson, Burt Carey, Jack Olson.

The minutes mentioned that the founding members intended for RMOWP to be different from OWAA, and thus we should not have same membership standards.

If you have any ideas on membership standards, please contact one of the committee members soon!

Thoughts from Ron Hellbusch's column: The Outdoor Scene

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in North Suburban Sentinel Newspapers.

If you have an interest in hunting, the healthy management of our state's big game or simply have an interest in wildlife generally, you have to be concerned with what is happening of late among the bear, deer and elk populations in Colorado.

A few decades ago Colorado started permitting a number of new and expanded ski areas in the state. What you didn't see is how those new and still growing ski areas impact the migration routes of deer and elk and more significantly, the impact these recreation sites have had on the both winter and summer habitat and feeding ranges.

A few years ago we allowed a constitutional amendment to be passed outlawing spring bear hunting. What you didn't see is how the Front Range bear population food sources have been diminishing due to the expanding mountain subdivisions that continue to be zoned by boards of county commissioners.

In recent years we have seen a growing number of private elk ranch feedlot operations licensed throughout the State. What you didn't see is how high density these animal are confined to can result in deteriorated health among the big game herds, even the very real risk of fatal diseases.

For decades the State's mountain populations and communities have grown beyond reasonable numbers and in inappropriate regions of the mountain landscape, resulting in the encroachment of housing, business and people into wildlife habitat and feeding ranges. What you didn't see is the ultimate grouping of large numbers of elk into small confinements, which encourages marginal health among the animals and even the "possibility" of today's very critical chronic wasting disease outbreak.

What is happening to our big game herds in Colorado is not that complicated; yet it is reaching catastrophic proportions. If you forced human beings into very limited living environments and limited their activity and their ability to find adequate food sources, you would see the development of conditions that promote disease and declining health, or worse. Why then, would anyone expect anything less when concentrating wild animal populations and taking away their natural environment and food sources?

Ask any farmer or rancher or feedlot operator what would happen to livestock in confined feeding environments if they did not regularly inoculate their cattle, hogs or sheep to control and prevent disease from taking roots. In addition they have to substitute pasture grazing with daily feeding operations. Inoculating wild game is not that easy or practical, but why is any less prerequisite for healthy wild game herds?

Here it is 2002 and we are seeing chronic wasting disease spread from state to state and within Colorado, from East slope to West slope. We see starving bears and cougars on mountain home patios, we see deer and elk forced into smaller ranges. Until the public recognizes our front range foothill mountain growth is intruding into wildlife environments and impacting their habitat, migration routes and food sources, and forcing animals to live in confined, unhealthy conditions, Colorado's big game animals will be at risk.

Frank Zurey Exhibits Photography in Denver

RMOWP member, Frank Zurey, who attended the 2001 RMOWP Photo Workshop, is exhibiting some of his photography taken recently with other participants from Working with Artist's "Show Class." Stop by the Catwalk Gallery from August 9 to September 8 at 32 Broadway in Denver. Congrats, Frank!

North American Media Group Promotes Top Level Outdoor Editorial Staff

North American Media Group, publisher of the outdoor industry's most recognized publications -- *North American Hunter* and *North American Fisherman* -- has promoted its top level outdoor editorial staff, announced Bill Miller, Vice President, Media Development and Production.

Steve Pennaz, editor of *North American Fisherman* and Executive Director of the North American Fishing Club, will assume the new role of Assistant Vice President, Outdoor Media. Kurt Beckstrom will take over the top editorial post on *North American Fisherman* magazine. Gordy Krahn has been promoted to Editor of *North American Hunter* magazine.

Alien Mudsail Invading Western Waters U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

A life history reads like a cheap 1950s Sci-Fi film. The New Zealand mudsnail—it's an alien, and reproduces by cloning. It lives for days out of water, and can get a toe hold in most any water, warm or cold. It has no predators. That may be the makings of a good horror flick, but trouble is, it's a true story unfolding in the West.

The danger in New Zealand mudsnail infestations lies in the fact they have no natural predators or parasites in North America. And that means nothing can keep them from spreading—except you. A single mudsnail may be only the size of pepper flakes up to sand grains, but living unconstrained by natural checks, they may soon carpet lake and stream bottoms, replacing native snails and other invertebrates like mayflies and caddisflies—primary food sources for fish. Up to 300,000 mudsnails cover roughly a square yard of stream bottom. New Zealand mudsnails apparently pass hardly through the gut of trout undigested.

How the mudsnails made it to the U.S. is not known, nor is it known how long they have been here. They were first discovered in Idaho's Snake River in 1987 and have since turned up in Montana's fabled Madison and Missouri rivers. The mudsnail also now lives in the Yellowstone in Wyoming and Montana, the Owens River, California, and in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam, Arizona.

Precisely how the mudsnails move from water to water is conjecture, but it is fairly assumed that people move them inadvertently. And that's where you come in.

To keep from spreading the New Zealand mudsnail, Bob Pitman, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Invasive Species biologist in the Southwest, recommends that you always clean your waders and fishing gear after each use; clean all of your gear with a soapy solution and then let that gear dry in the sun. Since the mudsnail can live out of water for several days, it is important that your gear dry for several hours.

Following these guidelines can help protect the waters you fish and boat. Education is a powerful tool, and isn't that how Steve McQueen foiled The Blob?

Supporting Member News

Conservation Organizations Join RMOWP

Ducks Unlimited, The Mule Deer Foundation, and the North American Grouse Partnership have joined the RMOWP as Supporting Members.

By Craig Springer

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl, recognizing these habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. For more information, visit ducks.org, or contact Eric Kesler at ekesler@ducks.org.

The Mule Deer Foundation works to ensure the future of mule and blacktail deer diligently putting their volunteer-raised dollars into partnership projects with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, state wildlife management agencies and private landowners across the West to conserve the habitat that is critical to mule deer survival. Log on to muledeer.org or contact Rich Gordon at rgordon@muledeer.org or call 1-888-375-DEER.

The North American Grouse Partnership promotes the conservation of grouse and the habitats necessary for their survival and reproduction. To learn more, visit gpn.8m.net or email President Steve Sherrod blackjess1@aol.com.

New Supporting Member

Please welcome fishing tackle manufacturer Lurh Jensen and Sons. Send Dave Tonn, their promotions director a note at dtonn@lurhjensen.com. Visit them online at www.lurhjensen.com.

Conservation groups form new CWD Alliance

Chronic wasting disease, surrounded by scientific speculation, media sensationalism and public hysteria, is likely the most intensely publicized wildlife malady in history. Citizens need responsible information. And three of America's top conservation organizations have formed a new CWD Alliance to meet that demand.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Boone & Crockett Club, and Mule Deer Foundation founded the Alliance and are pooling resources to enhance communication between scientists, wildlife managers, citizens and policymakers. The Pope and Young Club immediately joined the Alliance as a contributing partner.

The groups supported a national symposium in Denver, Aug. 6-7, for CWD researchers and members of the media, and funding development of a new Internet site, www.cwd-info.org, to be a clearinghouse for accurate and responsible communications about the disease.

For more information contact Dr. Gary J. Wolfe, CWD Alliance, 4722 Aspen Drive, Missoula, MT 59802; 406-549-6320; or gwolfe@micro-mania.net.

CWD was first discovered in 1967 in Colorado. An endemic area has been identified in northeastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming and southwestern Nebraska. Over the past few months, the disease has been detected in several other states and provinces. State wildlife officials are working to eradicate or contain the spread of CWD using dramatically different approaches. Additional federal involvement appears eminent.

Photos of Hayman Fire on RMOWP website

From Ken Wyatt

As a member of the media, I was able to gain access to the recent Hayman Fire, Colorado's largest wildland fire. I was sorry to have missed the recent RMOWP conference in Denver, but was busy documenting the fire, along with preparing to evacuate our home near Woodland Park.

Log on to www.rmowp.org/slideShowSpecial.htm to see Ken's photos.

A Fourth Generation Fishing Trip

By Phil Springer

My great-grandson Brandon just turned 5 years old in March and I've only been able to take him fishing once so we left about 7:00 am on Saturday morning for the Rio Grande near Pilar in northern New Mexico. We asked grandma to tag along with us. Even in the midst of the extreme drought we experienced this spring there were still fishing opportunities, slim but still present.

After about an hour and a half and about fifty declarations of "are we at the water yet, grandpa?" we were casting our line into the Rio. I had explained to Brandon the Rio Grande was a difficult place to catch fish but we would give it our best.

The water level was very low, perhaps the lowest I've seen the Rio Grande in thirty years. The water was slightly murky, but the flow was fairly good. During Brandon's second cast he got

into a big high jumping rainbow and after it hit the water for its second time the hook flew from his mouth. Brandon is still learning how to cast so grandpa needs to assist so we can get the line out far enough, but he still does the fishing and catching.

We continued to fish and after a couple of small fish realized the fish were holding in the deepest runs where it was colder and more sheltered. By 9:00 am Brandon had hooked an 18" brown and even though he was having trouble reeling it in, he landed it. Even though he was excited, all he said was "nice brown, huh grandpa?"—classic. The look on his excited little face was the same look I saw on my son's face and also on Brandon's mother's face when they children—a very heart-warming feeling for me.

About noon we ate lunch then Brandon, grandma and I continued to fish for the remainder of the day and Brandon caught another 14" brown, a couple of small rainbows and finally a 14" smallmouth bass. Well, so much for trying to convince Brandon that the fishing in this part of the Rio Grande is difficult. I intend to take Brandon fishing more often as long as his mother will allow me. I can hardly wait until he is old enough to cast a fly rod. His uncle James was casting one at 7 years old so I guess the waiting won't be too long.

This trip was short but as usual I had a great time and was lamenting about it with my wife as Brandon was napping in the back seat on our way home. I always experience so much gratification from sharing with others what I've learned about fishing over the last forty-eight years that I think it's almost impossible for me to have a bad day fishing.