

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

the newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers, Inc.

July — August 2016

Best of Show 2016

Photography
William Horton
“Serenity”



Writing
Virginia Staat “Fearful Symmetry” *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*, May/June 2015

“Very nice exploration of the art and craft of writing, built around the concept of symmetry. Bravo for leading with William Blake’s iconic poem.” Mary Taylor Young, writing judge.

Conference 2017

When: Sunday-Thursday, April 23-26, 2017 (the week after Easter)

Where: Sierra Vista, Arizona (in the SE corner of the state)

What: Wild West towns of Bisbee & Tombstone; Kartchner Caverns (some of the most beautiful in the country); birding at San Pedro House and surrounding areas (just in time for the migrations heading north from Mexico)

See page 10 for more information.

© David Staat



Contest Winners at conference. L to R: John Thornton, Kenita Gibbins, Russell Bromby, Jack Olson, Al Perry, Maryann Gaug, Dan Bernskoetter, Jo Dodd, Joanna Gray, Kit Horton, Linda Bundren, Virginia Staat, William Horton, Frank Zurey, and Kent Taylor.

tying it into personal revelations and universal themes.

2nd Richard Holmes “Beyond Adversity” *Straightforward account of photographing birds under less than perfect conditions, revealing photography techniques within the context of the moment.*

3rd Kenita Gibbins “Waging Peace” *Account of an international program, ending with the takeaway of waging peace among former enemy nations.*

Books

1st Andy Lightbody, Kathy Mattoon *All Things Jerky* Skyhorse Publishing, 2015

Richly designed book illustrated with photos. This book for niche-interest foodies, truly relating all things about jerky. Recipes, background information, equipment and ingredients, all brought together in a very nicely-done and engaging book.

2nd William Horton *Churches in Iceland 2016*

In addition to lovely photographs of the churches, this book includes tidbits of history and information on each site, which are just enough to engage the reader without overwhelming.

3rd Robert Stone *Day Hikes Around San Luis Obispo*, Day Hike Books, 2015

An information-packed, well-organized hiking guide to a

Writing and Video Winners

(Note: Judge’s comments appear in *italics*.)

Newspaper, Magazine - articles/columns/editorials/short stories

1st Russell Bromby “Keira and I Went Fishing” 2012 *Fishing Guide, Colorado Outdoors*
Heartwarming piece using the teaching of a grandchild to fish to also share useful information on angling in general.

2nd Ron Belak “Tantalizing Terrestrials for Trout” *Colorado Outdoors*, July/August 2015
The entertaining writing style makes the subject of “terrestrial” trout flies interesting even to non-anglers.

3rd Maryann Gaug “The Comfort Zone” *Anne Sullivan Writers’ Forum Proceedings*, Feb 2016
Nice interweaving of a travelogue with the author’s personal experiences and motivations.

Newsletter and Web Writing

1st Virginia Staat “Confessions of a Failed Monomaniac” *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*, March-April 2015
Vivid, engaging exploration of a writing technique.

2nd Richard Holmes “Four-wheel Drive Adventure” *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*, Nov-Dec 2015
Very active prose and great use of verbs puts the reader dynamically in the scene.

3rd Jack Olson “Passing The Torch” *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*, July-Aug 2015
Charming recollection and travelogue about the author on a trip through Europe with his two nieces.

Unpublished Written Works

1st Maryann Gaug “Autumn Reflections”
A nice evocation of enjoying the Colorado outdoors and

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particular region. Each writeup begins with an overview of trail information-at-a-glance, then good descriptions and directions for the day hiker.

Honorable Mention

Al Perry *Al Perry Nature Photography*, Volume 2, May 2015

This is a book full of astounding photographs, but no text beyond captions. It is worthy of an honorable mention nod for the quality and diversity of the photographs.



*"Durango and Silverton Railroad" © Al Perry
1st Place, Image from Last Conference*

Photography Winners

Image from Last Conference

1st Al Perry "Durango and Silverton Railroad"

2nd Frank Zurey "Ouray at Night"

3rd Ken Papaleo "Natures Window"

Honorable Mention

Terry Guthrie "Distant Aspens"

Dan Bernskoetter "Yankee Girl Mine"

Ken Papaleo "Crystal Lake"

Scenics

1st William Horton

"Serenity"

2nd Al Perry "Lake Superior as viewed from inside ice cave"

3rd William Horton "Veliki Slap"

Honorable Mention

Frank Zurey "Path Through the Hoo Doos"

Al Perry "Milky Way Galaxy"

Jo Dodd "Peek-a-Boo"

Kit Horton "Along the Schnebley Road"

Flora

1st Linda Bundren "Colorful Hollyhock"

See Photo Winners... page 4

Video Clips

1st Al Perry "Steam Train Crossing River"

Nice colors, good composition, and the camera person added some motion with the camera work which added to the difficulty of getting a good shot. This shot could very easily be used in a production on trains or the outdoors.

2nd Frank Zurey "Childs Glacier"

A very nice example of an iceberg at the end of its run falling into the ocean. Good colors, steady work, and capturing just the right moment as a large chunk breaks away. Being in the right place at the right time.

3rd Al Perry "Night Sky in Motion Featuring the Milky Way"

Technically a very good representation of the milky way moving across the sky. This time-lapse was composed of a long period of many still exposures over several hours. Colors are good, post processing was very good, and the end result was a nice example of our milky way moving through the night sky.

Honorable Mention John Thornton "Black Butterfly Feeding on Cone Flower"

This clip is nicely composed with saturated colors. It very easily could be used in a production.

Criteria Used by Video Judge

Mike Pellegatti looks for proper exposure, good composition, focus, proper white balance, steady camera work, and degree of technical difficulty associated with the topic or the equipment used. Color is nice but not always available in nature so clips were not judged in this way unless it was a primary focus - as in a scenery shot or sunset shot devoid of wildlife.

Videos should tell a story through the process of editing. This can be accomplished with interviews and narration, with pertinent video to support the story line. In this way, the viewer will hear the story and see the corresponding video. Another way to do this is with text on screen. The text tells the story along with subsequent video clips.

There were some very compelling clips to look at in this year's contest. After last year's comments about shaky camera work, likely derived from the use of still photography heads, most entries were of locked down shots. Only a couple tried to pan or follow with the action, which helps make video so compelling. However, a locked off steady shot is very usable in a production.

Photo Winners... cont. from page 3

2nd Terry Guthrie "May Apple"
3rd Dan Bernskoetter "Wildflower Meadow"

Honorable Mention

Frank Zurey "Joshua Tree"
Maryann Gaug "Red Columbine"
Dan Bernskoetter "Tiger lily view"
Dan Bernskoetter "Early spring crocus"

Fauna

1st Al Perry "Wild mustang mare and foal in field of wildflowers"
2nd Terry Guthrie "Greater Roadrunner with Lizard"
3rd Joanna Gray "Backyard Bandit"
Honorable Mention
Al Perry "Twin cubs with sow chilling"
Gayle Biggs "Trying to Escape"
Frank Zurey "Cross Beak"
Ron Belak "Got Your Fly--Goodbye!"



*"Ready to Rodeo" © Gayle Biggs
3rd place, Cultural*

People in Nature

1st Kent Taylor "The Old Man and the Boy"
2nd Terry Guthrie "Over the Edge"
3rd Al Perry "Crossing Lake Superior at Sundown"
Honorable Mention
Frank Zurey "Sunrise at Dallas Divide"
Maryann Gaug "Cecilia and Red Mountain"
Richard Holmes "Into the Fog"
Linda Bundren "Selfie on the Edge"

Historical

1st Kent Taylor "The End of the Line"
2nd Frank Zurey "Through the Window to the Past"
3rd Terry Guthrie "Cable Family Mill"
Honorable Mention
Joanna Gray "Simple Faith - Mission San Xavier del Bac"
William Horton "The Hilltop Gem of Motovun"
Linda Bundren "Sugar Creek Covered Bridge"
Al Perry "Country store"

Cultural

1st Al Perry "Warming up on a cold day"
2nd Ken Papaleo "Pie Eater"
3rd Gayle Biggs "Ready to Rodeo"
Honorable Mention
Ron Belak "Festival Clown"
Linda Bundren "Hands of Hope"
Al Perry "Chapel and night sky"

Events

1st Maryann Gaug "Mine-tainted waters"
2nd Virginia Staat "Blood Moon Eclipse"
3rd Maryann Gaug "After the forest fire"



*"Colorful Hollyhock"
© Linda Bundren
1st place, Flora*

Altered/Composite

1st Kit Horton "Yavapai Point"
2nd Kit Horton "Pretty in Pink Peony"
3rd Dan Bernskoetter "Milky Way Moon"
Honorable Mention
Virginia Staat "All Blaze No Saddles"
Terry Guthrie "Soaring Scissor Tail"
Ken Papaleo "DIA Hotel"

Black and White Images

1st Ken Papaleo "Open Road"
2nd William Horton "Sunset Cathedral"
3rd Dan Bernskoetter "Spring fawn"
Honorable Mention
Frank Zurey "Chiricahua Cochise Stronghold"
Jo Dodd "Pathway"
Al Perry "Hoarfrost"



*"Pathway" © Jo Dodd
Honorable Mention, Black & White*

Novice

- 1st** Larry Parker "A River Runs Through It"
2nd Larry Parker "Mom Watching Over Son"
3rd Virginia Staat "Denali Moose"
Honorable Mention
 Virginia Staat "The Opportunist"

Published Images

- 1st** Frank Zurey "Vermilion Flycatcher" *2015 Share the View*, Audubon Society of Greater Denver, 2015
2nd Frank Zurey "Northwestern Glacier" *Illuminate*, The Center for Fine Art Photography, Dec 2015
3rd William Horton "Landmannalaugar Hot Springs" *darkroomgallery.com*, Dec 10, 2015
Honorable Mention
 Ron Belak "Brookie" *Colorado Outdoors*, July/Aug 2015



"Northwestern Glacier" © Frank Zurey

2nd place, Published Images

(*Illuminate*, The Center for Fine Art Photography, Dec 2015)

Contest Judges

Photography - Tom Ulrich

A freelance photographer since 1975, Tom Ulrich is highly acclaimed around the world for his nature photography skills. Many of his one million-plus images have been used by thousands of magazines and other publications. Tom has been the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the North American Nature Photographers Association Fellow Award. For many years he has lead photo tours to remote parts of the world, and is also busy conducting photography seminars and workshops, and lecturing at numerous universities.

Writing & Books - Mary Taylor Young

Award-winning Colorado writer Mary Taylor Young has been writing professionally for over 25 years. She has published fifteen books and hundreds of articles in periodicals such as *Ladies Home Journal*, *Outside*, and *Wildlife Conservation*. Two of Mary's books have been regional best-

sellers and three have been finalists for the Colorado Book Award. Her titles include *The Guide to Colorado Mammals*, *Colorado Wildlife Viewing Guide*, and *Land of Grass and Sky: A Naturalist's Prairie Journey*. Her latest book, *Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years*, is the centennial history of the national park. In 2012, Mary was an artist-in-residence in Rocky Mountain National Park. She writes from her home in Castle Rock, Colorado where she lives with her family and many wild neighbors.

Video - Mike Pellegatti

Founder and owner of Wild Visions, Mike Pellegatti produces compelling stories that inspire, entertain, enlighten, and inform. He has 25 years experience producing television sports programs, video documentaries, interviews, interactive videos, infomercials, product promotion videos, public service announcements, web videos, and corporate videos for local, national, and international clientele. His footage has aired on Discovery Channel, Discovery Channel Canada, PBS, National Geographic, NBC, ABC, and various international broadcasts. Mike's dynamic skill sets and his ability to tell a story with the camera have taken him over much of the globe in search of the elusive and challenging. He has shot and/or produced and edited countless hours of outdoor programming for various video and television production companies, such as Bass Pro Shops, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Cabela's, Outdoor Adventure Magazine, Game Warden Journal, and Outdoor Expeditions. Several of his programs have won awards for excellence in this industry.

Contest Numbers and Personnel

There were 25 entrants in this year's contest - submitting 408 images, 12 video clips, and 25 written works. In addition to our outstanding judges (see page 6), we thank Richard Holmes for arranging the judging of the writings, David and Virginia Staat for putting together the humorous presentation, Fred Lord for creating the award certificates, and Maryann Gaug for organizing the Members' Choice competition and reading the script at the awards banquet.

A heartfelt thanks goes to Frank Zurey for receiving all entries, disbursing them to the appropriate judges, putting together two presentations for the conference (all image entries for opening night, and the winning images plus script for the awards banquet), plus seeing that the executive director has everything needed for publishing in the newsletter and on the website.

Want this newsletter e-delivered?

Let us know: info@rmowp.org

Subject: E-mail RMO

Thanks!



*"Wrangler" © Al Perry
1st place, Members' Choice*

Members' Choice

- 1st** Al Perry - Wrangler
2nd Dan Bernskoetter - Evening Blues
3rd John Thornton - Booming Greater Prairie Chicken

Art

A special thanks to Virginia Staat and William Horton for sharing their art.

1st Virginia Staat - Sheltering Sunflower
Gourd nest box, wood burned with acrylic paint sunflower design. It has a 1-1/2 inch entry hole and a copper hanger.

1st William Horton - Air Water Rock
This is called a chapbook. Usually printed by poets, it makes a nice vehicle to promote photographic editions. In the case of this book, we are promoting our digital paintings created from photographs taken in Rocky Mountain National Park. There are 20 pages plus a cover. The book is hand sewn using satin cord.



*"The Old Man and the Boy" © Kent Taylor
1st place, People in the Outdoors*

Longtime RMOWPers Granted Free Lifetime Memberships

Founded in 1973, Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers is among the oldest and most respected organizations of outdoor communicators in the American West, with a number of current members tracing their earliest involvement with the group to the 1970s and '80s.

At RMOWP's recent board meeting at the Bryce Canyon conference, the board of directors unanimously passed a measure granting free Lifetime Memberships to those who have been paid members of RMOWP for at least 25 years. The 25 years need not be contiguous, so those who may have dropped out for a year or two and then re-joined would still be eligible as long as their total number of paid years is at least 25.

Currently there are two Lifetime Members and two Honorary Members, as approved by the board in earlier years, and the board's action last month will add eleven Lifetime Members at this time. As others reach the 25-year mark they will also gain Lifetime Member status. Listings in the membership directory include the year each member joined, as best as RMOWP's records show, and longtime members are invited to check that year and let us know of any discrepancies by e-mailing info@rmowp.org.



© Don Laine

RMOWP board meeting.

2016 Auction Results

Another year, another riotous auction. Members brought an intriguing variety of items, and several corporate friends sent donations. These included Buck Knives (two knives inscribed with RMOWP 2016), Buddy Beds (car seat protector and travel bed for our furry friends), Cotton Carriers (camera holster), LensPen (DSLR cleaning kit), Minox (rifle scope), and Puma (skinning knife).

Auctioneers George Gibbins and David Staat encouraged, cajoled, and badgered us to part with our pennies and dollars. When the dust settled, we'd raised \$1831.50 from the auction plus some miscellaneous donations from a few people who apparently felt they hadn't spent enough! Thank you one and all. The scholarship fund maintains sufficient monies to offer a scholarship of \$2000 for the next two years.

2016 Conference Wrap-up

Photos by Dan Bernskoetter, Don Laine, Jack Olson, David Staat, Virginia Staat, Kent Taylor, and Cecilia Travis.

Forty-three RMOWP members and guests made the trip to Bryce Canyon National Park for the 2016 conference, including two longtime members who surprised us when they walked through the door because they had forgotten to register. Participants came from nine states, and there were seven first-time conference attendees. Conference headquarters was the Ruby's Inn Best Western Plus, just outside the park entrance.

The major outdoor activity was, not surprisingly, exploring Bryce Canyon National Park.

Thursday morning early risers gathered at Sunrise Point and then moseyed along to Rainbow Point at the end of the scenic drive for a Tom Ulrich-led photo walk on the Bristlecone Loop Trail.

Friday morning Maryann Gaug led members into Bryce Amphitheater on the Queen's Garden - Navajo Loop Trails.

And Saturday morning was our annual sunrise photo shoot with Jack Olson - the first of which took place at our conference here 16 years ago. But that's another story.

We took a wagon ride to the Bryce Amphitheater Rim for a chuck wagon dinner, and conference attendees also spent time exploring the park on their own and participating in the National Park Service's Bryce Astronomy Festival, which took place during the conference.

Member Virginia Staat gave two excellent workshops – "From Wimpy to Wow: The Hooks and Ladders of Writing," and "The Name Game: Writing Effective Photo Titles and Captions." We also got a fun first-hand account of what's currently happening in Cuba, with wonderful photos, from member Linda Martin. How do the Cubans keep those brightly-painted 1950's cars looking so good, and have you ever seen so many tropical birds?

The conference also featured informative and enjoyable photo and writing critique sessions, the Members' Showcase featuring the work of Dan Bernskoetter, Maryann Gaug, and Fred Lord, a lively fundraising auction (see page 6 for details), and awards from this year's writing and photography contest (see pages 1-6).

We had fun, shared knowledge and ideas, made decisions, and took lots of photos, a number of which fill the following pages. Thanks to all who shared their images with us.



Starting out on the Bristlecone Loop Trail.

© David Staat



Frank Zurey intent on getting the shot while Tom Ulrich watches for interlopers.

© Cecilia Travis

Tom Ulrich likes living on the edge....



© Kent Taylor



© Jack Olson

Linda Martin bundled up for the sunrise photo shoot.



© Cecilia Travis

Russ Bromby peeking through a hoo-doo hole.



© Virginia Staat

Tom Ulrich and Kent Taylor intent on their subject.



© Virginia Staat

Jack Olson sharing insights with Barb Bromby at the sunrise shoot.



© David Staat

On the trail again...



© Cecilia Travis

Maryann Gaug heads down the trail.



© Cecilia Travis

Ian King contemplating the great unknown.



© Cecilia Travis

Entertainment on the ride by a cowboy poet.



© Don Laine

A Wild West chuck wagon circa 2016.



© Kent Taylor

Cowboy poet with dray horse.

Enjoying the chuck wagon dinner at the edge of Bryce Canyon:



© Don Laine



© Dan Bernskoetter

Kent Taylor amid the hoo-dos.



© David Staat

Anne Sullivan Writers' Forum

Participants were L-R Jack Olson, Kenita Gibbins, Maryann Gaug, Dan Bernskoetter, Cecilia Travis and Cindy Thornton for Ian King.



© David Staat

Mark Your Calendars for Conference 2017!

RMOWP heads to **southeastern Arizona** and the community of **Sierra Vista** for the 2017 conference, planned **Sunday afternoon, April 23, through Wednesday evening, April 26**.

The Sierra Vista area is a mecca for birders, and we'll be there in time to see the **migrating birds** in full plumage. This is also a center of **Wild West history**, with the picturesque town of Bisbee and its notorious neighbor Tombstone.

Tentative plans call for excursions to **Kartchner Caverns** – one of the most beautiful cave systems in America – plus trips to a nearby **riparian area**, a **Nature Conservancy preserve**, a **ghost town**, and a **museum** dedicated to the famed **Buffalo Soldiers** of the late 1800s.

Sierra Vista is south of I-10, about an hour-and-a-half from Tucson International Airport, and most of the areas we'll be exploring will be below 5,000-feet elevation, making life easier for those whose bodies object to some of the high mountains we often visit.

This should also be a relatively inexpensive conference. **Headquarters** will be **Sierra Suites**, with rates for a standard king of \$59, including a hot breakfast buffet. We're hoping to keep meal and registration fees reasonable as well. Details will follow in future newsletters and emails. In the meantime, see www.visitsierravista.com and www.sierravistasuites.com.



*Announcements from
Conference Chair Don Laine.*

© David Staat

2016 Awards Banquet & Farewell



© David Staat



*A few words from
President Kent Taylor.*

© David Staat

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