

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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

May – June 2017

John Hanou Scoops Both Bests of Show 2017



Photography

John Hanou

"Fiery Sunset, Mesquite Flat Dunes, Death Valley National Park"

The 2017 best of show photo combines all the best aspects of color, value and composition in capturing the essence of a most vivid desert landscape at sunset.

— Fred Lord, photo judge

Writing

John Hanou

"A Round Indiana - Round Barns in the Hoosier State,"

Purdue University Press, 1993

"What seemed at first a beautiful photography book not necessarily suitable for a writing contest turned out to have crisp, nicely-written text accompanying the evocative black and white photos. The text stands on its own and enhances the entire product. Who even knew round barns were a thing?! Engaging - visually and textually."

— Mary Taylor Young, writing judge

Contest Judges

Photography Judge - Fred Lord

Fred Lord is a long-time resident of Colorado. From the age of twelve he developed an early love of photography, mostly of landscapes and nature, packing along a 35mm rangefinder camera during parts of his youth. After receiving his Associate of Commercial Art degree from Denver Community College, he worked in the advertising and promotion arenas for several years. After working for several television stations in the Denver area, he struck out on his own as a commercial photographer specializing in the fields of television promotion and architectural photography. In 2003



he and his wife Linda moved into their new townhouse in Summit County to pursue their dream of living high in the Colorado Rockies. His long-time interest in nature and landscape photography reasserted itself and, with a new commitment to photography, he again struck out on his own with the intent of honing his photographic skills to an even finer edge. Recently, Fred began photographing large-print panoramic views which have taken his art in new directions. Fred shoots with high-end Canon digital-capture cameras. His main interests are in making archival fine art prints on the most current gicleé printers. He hopes to continually develop his photography and printing skills, especially as they might be applied to displaying the extraordinary beauty of nature and her creatures.

Writing & Books Judge - Mary Taylor Young

Award-winning Colorado writer Mary Taylor Young has been writing professionally for over 30 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 bestsellers 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 Judge - Ann Lukacs

Ann fell in love with photography at an early age, and has been working in the camera department in the motion picture industry for almost 40 years. Her industry experience coupled with her knowledge of living in the mountains has unwittingly realigned some of her work to location scouting. In addition to working on major studio feature films,



she works as an independent filmmaker, and has produced an award-winning documentary, "Behind The Chutes", telling the story of rodeo bareback riders. Currently Ann is in production of a documentary about the crew of a B-17 in WWII, "Thunder Over Europe".

Working in filmmaking has given her the experience of storytelling and how to combine all the various elements of production to create the final film. Ann sits on the Board of Arts For Colorado, a state advocacy organization supporting Colorado Creative Industries, plus she is involved with promoting film production to Colorado.

Conference 2018 Almost Set

With the dust slowly settling on RMOWP's 2017 conference in southeast Arizona, you may be wondering where we're going next year.

Plans are still very tentative, but your conference committee is hoping to head to southern Colorado, and particularly Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. The light on the dunes is magnificent late in the day.

Don't want sand in your shoes? The area also boasts several historic steam trains, two national wildlife refuges, a Nature Conservancy preserve famous for its bison, several hot springs, and of course, alligators. (Yes, alligators. More on them in an upcoming newsletter)

Headquarters will likely be in Alamosa or maybe Monte Vista, and the conference will probably take place in mid-June 2018.

See you next year.

CONTENTS

2017 Conference Wrap-up	5
A Morning in Ramsey Canyon.....	3
Activities and People at Conference 2017	10
Auction Results.....	9
Best of Show Winners	1
Conference 2018 Almost Set	2
Contest Numbers & Personnel.....	6
Humorous Challenge.....	6
John Catsis Dies.....	12
Judges	2
Members' Choice.....	3
New Books Out from Two Members	6
Photography Winners	4
Writing & Video Winners	7

A Morning in Ramsey Canyon

Article and photos by Maryann Gaug

On a sunny, but breezy, morning, twenty-eight RMOW-Pers were treated to our own private tour in the Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve on a day they are typically closed.

Our guides, Eric and Tom, not only pointed out the features of the beautiful canyon in the Huachuca Mountains, but also the history of this little piece of paradise on the side of a rather dry, desert area. Ramsey Canyon is full of deciduous trees from four ecological areas. The sky island of the Huachuca Mountains lies where four different sections of country converge: Rocky Mountains, Sierra Madre (mountains), Chihuahuan desert, and Sonoran desert. As a result, birds such as the elegant trogon from Mexico can be seen if lucky, and Apache, Chihuahuan, piñon pines and Douglas fir grow next to each other along with cacti, yucca, and agave. In April, part of the dry season, some of the trees lose their leaves which return again after the monsoons of July and August. Mountain lions and bobcats reside in the area as do jaguars and coatis which typically live in Mexico.



On the trail seeking birds to photograph.



Learning about the ecology and history of Ramsey Canyon

Since humans had suppressed forest fires, the forest in Ramsey Canyon had grown in thick and unhealthy. The Nature Conservancy has been thinning the forest to what would have been its natural state.

Because of the winds, the little hummingbirds hid away from view, and other birds kept out of sight. Not so the big tom turkey who strutted his stuff and big tail fan up in the

woods. Little Coues deer, a subspecies of white-tailed deer, shyly wandered around. We saw water tanks colorfully painted by local children with their impressions of Ramsey Canyon. Two old houses provided ample photo opportunities.

Whether or not you're a birder, Ramsey Canyon is a real gem of ecological variety to visit.



One of the colorfully painted water tanks in the canyon



*"Wild and Free" © Laurie Ford
1st Place, Member's Choice*

Member's Choice Winners

Twelve members submitted 20 entries in the member's choice contest, and the first place winner received a beautiful knife from Buck, with "RMOWP 2017 Member's Choice" engraved on it. Judged and chosen by the conference attendees, the winners were:

1st Laurie Ford "Wild & Free"

2nd Terry Guthrie "Hoppers"

3rd - Tie Dan Bernskoetter "Early Morning Display"
Al Perry "Icebergs"

Photography Winners

01 Images from Last Conference

1st William Horton "The Dawn of Thor"

2nd Joanna Gray
"Star Party"

3rd William Horton
"Silent City Sunset"

Honorable Mention

Frank Zurey
"Morning Light on
Hoodoos"

John Thornton
"Photographer"
Kenita Gibbins
"Backlight"

02 Scenics

1st John Hanou
"Fiery Sunset, Mes-
quite Flat Dunes,
Death Valley National
Park"

2nd William Horton
"Portrait of a Russian
Olive Tree"

3rd - Tie Al Perry "Iceberg Greenland"
John Hanou "Cadence and Cascade, Lower Muddy Creek
Falls, Swallow Falls State Park, MD"

Honorable Mention

Al Perry "Milky Way Meteor Arch"
Laurie Ford "Sunset Over the Pier"
Terry Guthrie "Split Falls"
William Horton "Reflections in Lake San Cristobal"

03 Flora

1st Kent Taylor "Zinnias and River Rock"

2nd Diane Deming "Pink Hibiscus"



*"The Dawn of Thor" © William Horton
1st place, Image from Last Conference*

3rd Frank Zurey "Pasque Flower"

Honorable Mention

Beto Gutierrez "Christmas Cactus Bloom"
Dan Bernskoetter "Sun Loving Heart"
William Horton "Bee Plant Stamens"

04 Fauna

1st Laurie Ford "The Watering Hole"

2nd Ron Belak "Barbets on Buffalo"

3rd - Tie Dan Bernskoetter "Opposite Twins"
Virginia Staat "Whiteout"

Honorable Mention

Beto Gutierrez "Mom and Babies"
Diane Deming "Delicate Landing"
Frank Zurey "Breaching Humpback Whale"
Jo Dodd "Red in a Sea of Green"
Sherry Zurey "A Cool Drink"

05 People in Nature

1st - Tie William Horton "It is a Long Way Up"

Al Perry "Lighting Up the Sky"

2nd William Horton "Heading Up the Medano"

3rd Beto Gutierrez "Nature's Shower"

Honorable Mention

Al Perry "Biker at Sundown"
Jim Baker "A Proud Selfie"
John Hanou "Self Portrait, Mobius Arch, Alabama Hills,
CA"
Kent Taylor "Front Row Seat at Point Lobos"

06 Historical

1st John Hanou "Calf Creek Falls Petroglyphs"

2nd Linda Bundren "Spring Planting"

3rd Linda Bundren "Reflections in the Shadows"

Honorable Mention

Frank Zurey "San Geronimo Chapel"
Ron Belak "Hovenweap Castle"
William Horton "Ashford Mill Ruin"
William Horton "When Borax was King"



*"Star Party"
© Joanna Gray
2nd Place, Image from
Last Conference*

07 Cultural

1st William Horton "Moundville Flautist"
2nd Ron Belak "Culture Clash"
3rd Al Perry "Cemetery Greenland"
Honorable Mention
 Ron Belak "Masai Village"
 William Horton "True Grit Reenactment"

08 Natural Phenomena

1st John Hanou "Cloud Burst, Three Rivers, NM"
2nd Al Perry "Cold Front"
3rd William Horton "Clouds in the Valley"
Honorable Mention
 Al Perry "Fog Bow"
 Al Perry "Lava Flow Diverting Stream"
 Frank Zurey "Super Moon"
 Russ Bromby "Frost on the Window"



"Split Falls" © Terry Guthrie
 Honorable Mention, Scenic

09 Altered/Composite

1st Laurie Ford "Playfight"
2nd Al Perry "Midnight Drive into Canyon on Starry Night"
3rd Diane Deming "Dahlia Duo"
Honorable Mention
 Kent Taylor "Canna Lilies with Oil Texture"
 Laurie Ford "Mentor"
 William Horton "Wildrose Charcoal Kilns"

10 Black and white images

1st Al Perry "Hoodoos Utah"
2nd Jo Dodd "Going Down That Road"
3rd William Horton "Parked in Black and White"
Honorable Mention
 Kenita Gibbins "Black & White Beauty in Black & White"
 William Horton "Mudcracks and Lava"

11 Novice

1st Laurie Ford "Spar at Dusk"

2nd Dan Bernskoetter "Hiding from View"
3rd Dan Bernskoetter "Gateway Arch of the West"

Honorable Mention

Barb Bromby "Green Swirls"
 Laurie Ford "Spring"

12 Published Images

1st Al Perry "Milky Way Galaxy"
Pulaski County Journal, 9-14-2016
2nd Al Perry "Sandhill Crane Family"
Pulaski County Journal, 10/26/2016

3rd RJ Luce "Eclipse Moon over the San Pedro River"
Cochise College Mirage Literary & Arts Magazine 2016

Honorable Mention

RJ Luce "Arizona Trail Magic"
Cochise College Mirage Literary & Arts Magazine 2016

40 Art

1st - Tie Linda Bundren "Simply Tom, a Sketch"
 Virginia Staat "Calla Lily in Glass" A copper-foil, opalescent stained-glass fan lamp.



"Zinnias and River Rock"
 © Kent Taylor
 1st place, Flora

2017 Conference Wrap-up

By Don Laine

With 59 human participants and one dog, the 2017 Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers conference in Sierra Vista, Arizona, had the second highest attendance in recent memory, surpassed only by the Ouray, Colorado conference, with 67 attendees, in 2015.

The host hotel had a good meeting room, and despite some plumbing problems in a few of the lodging rooms and that we lost one carload of photographers on the way to the sunrise photo shoot, the conference went smoothly.

There were ample opportunities to photograph a wide variety of birds, many of which were following the San Pedro River on their annual northbound migration, plus other creatures. We explored the area's Wild West heritage at a nearby ghost town and took a guided walking tour of notorious Tombstone, "The Town Too Tough To Die."

Workshops covered topics including the creation of photo essays, bringing stories of the natural world to life, and an introduction to video. There were nine participants in the writers forum – which we believe is a record – plus numerous forum spectators. Several instructive photography programs were presented, along with our usual photo critique, showcase of selected members' photography, and the aforementioned sunrise photo shoot.

Conference attendees also paid tribute to our late member and photo judge Tom Ulrich with a celebration of his life.

Humorous Awards 2017

Captioned and judged by David and Virginia Staat

MOSH (Most Obscure Sense of Humor) Award
to **Robert Luce** "What's so funny? - No ideer!"



MOSH Award Winner

"What's so funny? No ideer!" © Robert Luce

BB (Breezy Behind) Award
to **Russ Bromby**
"Does anybody
else feel a draft?"

FTH (Funnel to
Heaven) Award
to **John Hanou**
"Beer lover's vi-
sion of the after-
life"

MPI (Most Politically Incorrect) Award
to **David Staat** "Pretty much says it all"

TOAK (Two of a Kind) Award
to **William Horton** "Talk about a cold nose!"

DF (Defying Gravity) Award
to **Al Perry** "Levitating Peep-
ing Tom"

CC (Capturing Cuteness)
Award
to **Dan Bernskoetter**
"Juvenile Delinquent..."

BB Award Winner

*"Does anybody else feel a
draft?" © Russ Bromby*



pared the humorous challenge presentation; Fred Lord made the award certificates; Maryann Gaug managed the Member's Choice competition and read the script for the awards presentation.

Included in the awards presentation were excerpts from the video submissions, and with that plus the increase in submissions, the program lasted more than an hour. Written entries get short shrift at the presentation, but ways and means are being explored to rectify that for 2018.

New Books Out from Two Members

Robert Stone, a longtime RMOWP member, has announced the release this month of his latest hiking guide, the second edition of *Day Hikes Around Orange County*.

Stone tells us that Orange County lies along the coast in southern California between Los Angeles and San Diego, framed by the Pacific Ocean on one side while the Santa Ana Mountains stretch along the entire back side of the county. He adds that the coast-to-mountain landscape creates an interesting, diverse terrain that offers many opportunities for exploration.

Despite urban encroachment, nearly 30 percent of Orange County is preserved as city parklands, wilderness preserves, national forests, and state parks, he says, and along the county's 44 miles of shoreline reside long stretches of sandy beaches, marine terraces, and promontories. The Cleveland National Forest and the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness cover thousands of acres of forested canyons and plateaus in the Santa Ana Range.

This essential 368-page guide describes how to get to backcountry trailheads in the Santa Anas, the best trails to hike in the county's expansive parklands, and where to find access points to the coastline. Several inviting urban routes are included as well. Highlights of the hikes include sheltered coves, tidal estuaries, forested canyons, cascades, weathered sandstone peaks, and vista points with views from the ocean to the cities.

A range of hikes is included, Stone says, from easy coastal walks to strenuous hillside climbs. Statistics, accurate directions, and a map for every hike guide hikers on these adventures. Dog access information is included, as well as a thorough index.

Companion guides include *Day Hikes Around Los Angeles*, and *Day Hikes On the California Southern Coast*.

Since 1991, Robert Stone has been writer, photographer, and publisher of Day Hike Books. He is a *Los Angeles Times* best-selling author and an award-winning journalist of the Outdoor Writers Association of California, the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, the Bay Area Travel Writers, Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, and an active member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Stone spends his summers in



Contest Numbers and Personnel

By Frank Zurey

The number of entries and items entered in this year's contest has increased by about 25 percent compared to the last few years. This year there were 502 images entered compared to 408 last year; and 32 written entries compared to 25 last year. The number of video clips doubled this year to a total of 18. Two very nice videos were entered, but they were very short and did not convey a story or message, so were judged as if they were trailers for a video. The relatively new writing category of unpublished works still is underused with only four entries.

In addition to the judges, a number of people assisted with the contest this year. Virginia and David Staat pre-

the Rocky Mountains of Montana and winters on the California Central Coast.

The book, with a list price of \$19.95, is available at www.dayhikebooks.com and also at www.amazon.com.

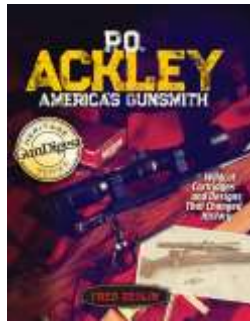
Author and gunsmith **Fred Zeglin**, a longtime member of RMOWP, has announced the release of his latest book, which takes the most comprehensive look ever into the life and work of P.O. Ackley, the eminent gunsmith, barrel maker, teacher and cartridge developer.

In *P.O. Ackley: America's Gunsmith*, Zeglin discusses the history of cartridge and rifle development, but also takes a never-before-seen look at a humble man who influenced nearly everything we know about shooting and ballistics today. Ackley's ideas on reloading, rifle accuracy, safety, cartridge choice, and wildcats are just as relevant for modern "gun cranks" as they were in Ackley's heyday, according to Zeglin.

This hardcover, 256-page study of P.O. Ackley's work is the first in Gun Digest Media's Heritage Series celebrating the iconic guns, designers and manufacturers who shaped today's firearms landscape. The book is illustrated with photos from the personal archives of Ackley's friends, family, and associates – a who's who of giants from the firearms industry. From the dusty, oil rag-covered machine shops of Ackley's early years to stunning modern-day firearms chambered in Ackley's timeless wildcats, the full-color center section brings to life this colorful character and his accomplishments in gunsmithing and cartridge development.

Fred Zeglin has been building custom hunting rifles for over thirty years. He has taught classes for the National Rifle Association's Short Term Gunsmithing program at three colleges and is the coordinator/instructor for the Firearms Technology Program at Flathead Valley Community College. His earlier books include *Hawk Cartridges Manual* and *Wildcat Cartridges, Reloader's Handbook of Wildcat Cartridge Design*, and he has contributed to numerous publications. Zeglin has also worked with the American Gunsmithing Institute to produce two instructional DVDs, *Taming Wildcats* and *Reloading A to Z*.

P.O. Ackley: America's Gunsmith is available from Zeglin's website, www.4-dproducts.com, at www.gundigeststore.com, or by calling (855) 840-5120 (product number R3744). Suggested retail price is \$59.99.



Fred Zeglin in front of P.O. Ackley's old shop, which was often referred to as the "Chicken Coop"

Writing and Video Winners

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

24 Newspaper, Magazine, or other publication - articles/columns/editorials/short stories

1st Michael Salomone "Opening Day,"

The Pointing Dog Journal, Sep/Oct 2015 *Who can resist a sporting dog article that starts with a description of "an English Setter who travels with the extravagance of a prince on safari"?! Nice essay tying together elements of family, hunting traditions and dogs that resonates well with multiple audiences.*

2nd Robert Good "The Egg and I," *The Chaffee County Times*, Oct 20, 2016

A creative approach using a script format, with characters and scenes, which is definitely unexpected in a newspaper outdoors column. Good use of humor.

3rd Ron Belak "The Brown Trout," *Colorado Outdoors*, Mar/Apr 2016

Well-done, thorough expository piece on brown trout, with a personal anecdote used as an effective lead.

26 Newsletter and Web Writing

1st Virginia Staat "A Gumshoe in Hiking Boots," *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*, Mar/Apr 2016

Very creative piece on the writing craft about discovering story ideas, first person experience and the research required for nonfiction writing.

2nd Jack Olson "A Yukon Dream Come True," *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*, Nov/Dec 2016

A Robert Service poem, an eccentric, hung-over teacher are unlikely but engaging leads into a nice, first-person travelogue about Yukon.

3rd Michael Salomone "Autumn Angling,"

www.vailvalleyanglers.com/blog, Sep 22, 2016

Evocative lead into a well-done, straightforward piece on techniques for fishing in the fall.

Honorable Mention Virginia Staat "Stranger Than Fiction," *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*, Nov/Dec 2016 and "The Game of Words de Mois," *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*, May/Jun 2016

Both of these articles are cleverly written and very engaging, with strong leads and fun anecdotes used to reveal skills for the craft of writing.

28 Unpublished Written Works

1st Robert Good "Frank and Old Blue, Chapter 4, Trout Creek Valley"

A touching story of an emotionally-wounded man and the beat-up stray dog who find each other and heal together,

Writing... cont. from pg. 7

taking readers through vivid scenes of the journey.

2nd Maryann Gaug "Hiking Guide Dream"

Straightforward account of how the author transformed a love of outdoor recreation into success as a guide book author, a story that inspires others who want to take that trail (pun intended).

3rd Joanna Gray "Invitation to the Dance: Tips for Imagining the Reddish Egret"

Excellent article on photographing a rare bird. Offers an effective characterization of the species' dramatic behaviors coupled with techniques for photographing it.



"Whiteout" © Virginia Staat - 3rd Place Tie, Fauna

35 Books

1st John Hanou "A Round Indiana - Round Barns in the Hoosier State," Purdue University Press, 1993

An intriguing theme for a photographic history book, the author's text makes the round barns of the title engaging beyond the beautiful photographs.

30 Video—The entries were very short videos and were judged as trailers.

1st Dan Bernskoetter "Niangua River Float"

The video follows kayakers down the river. A peaceful feeling is created by eliminating human conversation and leaving just the music and sounds of nature. It is a very sweet depiction of their afternoon journey. Additional Comments: All the shots are from one angle since the camera is probably mounted on the kayak. For a longer version, it might be helpful to see some "B-Roll" cutaways with different angles. What is the purpose of the story? Would interviews be helpful? What about seeing birds or other elements of nature?

2nd Ron Belak "Into Africa"

The video captures action shots of animals in Africa. The camera moves are very good especially considering the logistics that must have been involved to film these shots. Any of the clips could be used in a production. The footage is very successful in capturing the lifestyle of these magnif-

icent animals. Use of strong music sells the vista and power of the location. Additional comments: What is the story? The trailer basically links together various clips. The clips could be shorter which would keep the viewers interest longer. While the music is powerful, it is copyrighted music and instantly recognized from the "Out Of Africa" movie soundtrack.

31 Video Clips

1st Frank Zurey "Grizzly Bear Fishing"

This video clip captures a wildlife moment that required some unique technical skills. Assuming this was shot with a long lens makes the camera moves even more challenging as they were following unknown movements and action. Good exposure, focus and composition support the overall quality of the clip.

2nd Maryann Gaug "Dancing Sea Nettles"

This was a mesmerizing clip of a unique subject matter. The use of the blue background and lighting the jellyfish provided an interesting study of their dance. The camera was stationary but effective as the jellyfish fill the frame and provide the movement.

3rd—Tie Al Perry "Northern Lights"

The "Northern Lights" are the subject in this clip and their dance provides the action. The exposure focuses on highlighting the uniqueness of this light show.

John Thornton "Common Buckeye Feeding"

The quality of exposure and focus make this a very interesting clip that could definitely be used in a production. The camera is steady but it allows for the action to fill the frame. It is also very intriguing that the color of the butterfly compliments the colors in the flower.

Honorable Mention Frank Zurey "Bryce Canyon Hoodoos at Sunrise"

This clip has a good exposure and color saturation of these dramatic red rocks. Panning up the landscape on a diagonal demonstrates the epic expanse.



New member Bob Luce reads at the writers forum. Seated L to R: Cecilia Travis, Mary Lou Griggs, Jim Baker, Jack Olson © Don Laine

Contest winners at conference... (L to R)

3rd row: John Thornton, Bob Luce, Dan Bernskoetter, Ron Belak, Barb Bromby, Russ Bromby, Terry Guthrie, Frank Zurey, Virginia Staat, Al Perry

2nd row: Linda Bundren, Diane Deming, Jo Dodd, Jack Olson, Sherry Zurey, Joanna Gray, Beto Gutierrez

Front row (on floor): Kent Taylor, Laurie Ford, Maryann Gaug, Jim Baker

© Don Laine



2017 Auction Results

This year's auction, which took place at the conference in Sierra Vista, raised \$6,306. Funds are used for the scholarship - \$2,000 annually for students pursuing a career related to the outdoors – and to help keep RMOWP's overall budget in the black. Auctioneers were Beto Gutierrez and David Staat.

Donations for the auction came from conference participants and from our corporate friends.

This year's biggest donor was Santa Clara Ranch, which donated a four-day stay for six people. Santa Clara Ranch, owned and operated by RMOWP members Beto and Clare Gutierrez, is a wildlife sanctuary and nature photography retreat in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. See www.santaclararanch.com.

Auction items were also provided by Buck Knives – www.buckknives.com – which sent several extremely nice collectible knives engraved for RMOWP, LensPen – www.lenspen.com – which produces excellent lens-cleaning tools for photographers and hunters, and PahaQue Wilderness (www.pahaque.com), manufacturer of family camping tents, shelters, and hammocks, which sent a hammock. A top-line memory foam dog bed, a travel dog bed, and a vehicle seat protector were sent by corporate friend Buddy Beds (www.buddybeds.com).



Auctioneers Beto Gutierrez and David Staat displaying an auction item.

© Don Laine



Conference attendees also brought dozens of auction items, ranging from books to photography equipment to household items such as brass candlesticks and a 12-foot tape measure. There were several works of art done by members, including a painting by Sue Baker, a sketch by Linda Bundren, and a backlit stained glass light created by Virginia Staat.

Every single auction item sold, and a good time was had by all.

Board of directors meeting in Sierra Vista on Sunday, April 23

© Don Laine

Activities and People at Conference 2017



Some forty members took advantage of a half-day Bird Photography Field Trip at Ash Canyon B&B, offered both before and after conference and organized by member Linda Martin.

© Dan Bernskoetter

Above & below - at Ash Canyon B&B



© Dan Bernskoetter



Welcome from President Kent Taylor © Don Laine



Docent showing map of San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area © Don Laine



Beto Gutierrez & Cecilia Travis along the San Pedro River near Fairbank © Maryann Gaug



Visiting the ghost town of Fairbank for tours with docents from the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area.

Al Perry, Jim Baker, Laurie Ford & Virginia Staat in front of the Fairbank School House. © Don Laine

Tour of Tombstone with Dr. Jay and his assistants Kate, Ken, Beverly and Linda (that's Misty on the leash). In case you were wondering—Hollywood got it wrong.



© Don Laine



Dr. Jay imparted facts in an extremely entertaining way. Last stop—near the OK Corral, where the gunfight did NOT take place! © Don Laine



Don Laine © Dan Bernskoetter

Guided River Walk at San Pedro House



John Thornton
© Don Laine



Do you see it? © Don Laine

Photographers at work...



Maryann Gaug aims at bird atop tree stump
© Don Laine



With docent Chris Long © Don Laine

John Catsis Dies

Former RMOWP president John Catsis, 83, died at his home in Silver City, New Mexico, April 7. John was a longtime coordinator of RMOWP's photography workshop, an enthusiastic and colorful conference auctioneer for many years, member of the board of directors from 1986 to 1989 and from 1994 to 1997, and president from 1997 to 1999 and again from 2002 to 2003.



Born in Evanston, Illinois to Greek immigrant parents, John had a long career as a journalist, broadcaster, writer, photographer, and educator. He worked as a reporter, film photographer, and radio and television news anchor. He also performed in an amateur theater group in Houston.

John and Connie Louise Thibau were married at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Houston and celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary in 2016. Their son, Alexander, serves as a sergeant in the Albuquerque Police Department and is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserves.

In 1977, John and Connie became part owners of KIVA-TV, an NBC affiliate in Farmington, New Mexico, where John was president and general manager, and three years later he started a new radio station in Grants, New Mexico, country station KYKN-FM. John's professional career changed course in 1990 when he became a faculty member at the Oklahoma State University School of Journalism and Broadcasting, where he worked for eleven years, and in 1996 he was a producer for NBC-TV at the Atlanta Olympic games.

He retired from OSU as an associate professor in 2002. "Those were the happiest days of my career," he later recalled.

During his so-called retirement John became more active in freelance writing, and his articles were carried in dozens of national magazines. He also wrote several books and was public address announcer for Western New Mexi-

co University athletics. Later, he became the self-proclaimed "Picture Postcard King," selling photos of southwestern New Mexico.

John wrote several books, including what he claimed was America's first textbook on sports broadcasting, plus a guidebook to Vancouver, Canada and a handbook for hunters in the American West. He published a novel, *Fulltimers*, in 2006, and completed a memoir, *Immigrant's Son*, just before his death. These last two titles are available on Amazon.com.

Survivors include his widow, Connie, their son, Alexander and daughter-in-law Stephanie, two grandchildren, Raiden and Ava, and a sister, Georgette Sotos, who has also been active in RMOWP.

John suggested the Southeast Arizona location for RMOWP's 2017 conference and helped with its planning. On March 30, knowing that he would not be able to attend, John wrote a goodbye letter to RMOWP, which was read at the Sierra Vista conference:

"To the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

I first became acquainted with the outdoors when I fell down a flight of stairs at the age of one. I have been fascinated ever since with outdoor adventures.

Fast forward to 1982, when Augie Schmuhl introduced me to Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers. I attended my first conference that year. Any of you remember where that was? Flagstaff!

As I journey towards my last photo shoot, Barbara and Don (Laine) are here to help me share these thoughts with you. I know that many of you don't know me, and that is probably just as well, but over the last 35 years I have watched this organization grow in spite of my being president two times. During the second term, I helped confront an insurgency to disband the group.

This group of photographers and writers is a valuable witness to the beauty of the out-of-doors. Thank you all for your confidence in RMOWP. Go shoot and write about the outdoors. I am going to take a nap."

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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