

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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

September – October 2019



Grazing Elk © Harry Snelson
2012 RMOWP Photo Workshop in Rocky Mountain NP

Hope to see you in Estes Park &
Rocky Mountain National Park for
Conference 2019 — it will be a blast!
Details at www.rmowp.org.

Writer's Corner

Happy Punctuation Day!

By Virginia Parker Staat

*“In the family of punctuation, where the full stop is daddy and the comma is mummy,
and the semicolon quietly practises the piano with crossed hands,
the exclamation mark is the big attention-deficit brother who gets overexcited and breaks things and laughs too loudly.”*

~ Lynne Truss, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*

On September 24, our nation will celebrate its 16th National Punctuation Day. Jeff Rubin founded the event in 2004 as “a celebration of the lowly comma, correctly used quotation marks, and other proper uses of periods, semicolons, and the ever-mysterious ellipses.”

Punctuation has an interesting history. It began to appear around the 3rd century BC when Aristophanes of Byzantium, the head librarian at the Library of Alexandria, introduced dots to indicate where a passage ended. Fast forward to the 15th century when the invention of the printing press made punctuation essential. Printer Aldus Pius Manutius is credited with being the first to use the comma and semicolon.

While its history is interesting, in honor of National Punctuation Day I thought we should broaden our punctuation horizons beyond the standard fourteen marks. Over the centuries many punctuation marks have come into being, then faded into antiquity. These were essentially the first emojis. As late as 1966, French writer Herve Bazin proposed six new punctuation marks, including the irony point, doubt point, certitude point, acclamation point, authority point, and love point. Sadly none of Bazin’s punctuation marks are available in our font collections today.

Thankfully, however, a few rarely used punctuation marks have survived and are just a click away. They include the following:

- The *percontation point*, also called the irony question mark, is represented by a backwards question mark: **‽** The percontation point was proposed by English printer Henry Denham in 1580 and was popular until the early 1600s.
- The *interrobang* indicates shock and question simultaneously. It is most often represented as an exclamation mark



Virginia and Roxanne

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over a question mark: † Martin Speckter invented the interrobang in 1962 to combat the ugliness of using multiple punctuation marks at the end of a sentence.

- The *dagger* and *dual daggers* represent reference marks and indicate a footnote or someone's death or the extinction of something: † ‡. Dagger marks appear to have been first used by ancient Greek scholars.
- The *manacle* is basically one of the earliest forms of finger pointing and is meant to draw attention to passages of particular importance: ¶. Historian William Sherman found the first example of a manacle in the *Domesday Book* from 1086.
- Perhaps my favorite rare punctuation mark is the lovely *fleuron*, often called the hederia (Latin for ivy). You can see why: ☞. It is an elegant typographic ornament indicating a new paragraph or a break between texts. It has been found in classical Latin and Greek texts.

Just think of the possibilities these rare punctuation marks could add to our more dramatic writing. An example might be: "You call this love † I find you with another man, and I'm supposed to ignore it † Our love is over ‡ as of ¶ TODAY. ☞

The translation for these sentences would be: You call this love (irony) † I find you with another man, and I'm supposed to ignore it (shock and question simultaneously) † It's over ‡ (death or extinction of something) as of ¶ TODAY (information with particular importance). ☞ (Text break.)

These rare punctuation marks remind me of Victor Borge's famous phonetic punctuation skit. Still, it's fun to consider what reading would be like with so many more available types of punctuation.

If you would like to copy and paste some of these fine examples into your own work, go to <https://bizuns.com/symbols-bullets-copy-paste>. It will certainly add pizzazz... and, perhaps, a bit of confusion for your readers.

I do hope you enjoy your National Punctuation Day celebration. If you would like to know more about the event, I invite you to visit <http://www.nationalpunctuationday.com>.



[Note: In Microsoft Publisher, the Interrobang is not available in Times New Roman, but I found it in Calibri. I increased the font size for some so they would be more visible, hence the occasional odd line spacing. ~ BBL]

Peter K's Survival Tips

Making Water Safe to Drink

By Peter Kummerfeldt



I often hear two statements made regarding drinking water from outdoor sources. Some claim "I never treat the water I drink in the outdoors" while others say "I never drink the water because it's got bugs in it." In the first instance not treating water increases the risk of gastrointestinal illness and in the second instance not knowing how to make the water safe to drink dramatically increases the risk of dehydration and the many other

problems associated with becoming dehydrated in the field.

While the risk of water borne disease is much lower in North America than internationally, particularly in developing countries, it does exist and wherever possible water should always be treated to remove or kill harmful pathogens. The primary reason to treat drinking water is to prevent gastrointestinal illness from fecal pollution.

To be safe water must be disinfected, which is defined as "the removal or destruction of harmful microorganisms." To do this water must be boiled, treated with chemicals or filtered. "Disinfection" of water should not be confused with "purification" of water which may or may not remove or kill enough of the pathogens to ensure a person's safety, so, to be certain that the water you drink is free from illness causing agents, it must be disinfected.

The first step in disinfecting water is to select the cleanest, clearest source of water available to you. Inorganic and organic material such as clay, silt, plankton, plant debris and other microscopic organisms reduce the effectiveness of using either chemical or filtration disinfection. Chemicals used to disinfect water will clump to any particulate in the water reducing its ability to disinfect the water. Water containing a lot of material will also quickly clog a filter. When using murky water allow it to settle and then filter it through your shirt-tail, bandanna or other piece of cloth. Better still take a few coffee filters along with you to strain your water.

Boiling. Bringing water to a boil kills any organisms in it. Contrary to the advice given in many other sources, the water does not have to be boiled for "ten minutes plus a minute for every thousand feet above sea level!" The time it takes to bring water to a boil, and the temperature of the water when it boils, regardless of the altitude, is sufficient to kill Giardia, Cryptosporidium and any other water borne pathogens. Continuing to heat the water after it boils wastes fuel, evaporates the water and delays consumption.

Keep in mind that being able to boil water to disinfect it is dependent on having fuel available to burn; a metal container to heat the water in, and the time needed to boil the water.

Chemicals. Chemicals that have the ability to effectively disinfect water are known as halogens and include iodine and chlorine. The effectiveness of halogens is directly related to its concentration, the amount of time the halogen is left in contact with the water and the temperature of the water – the colder the water the longer the contact time!

- **Iodine** in tablet form and liquid is available. Choose the tablets. Liquid iodine is messy, the containers are prone to leak, and you are never quite sure whether or not you have used too much or too little liquid. Potable Aqua tablets, (www.potableaqua.com) are widely available, and still used as one of the primary ways of making water safe to drink. Iodine kills harmful bacteria, viruses and most protozoan cysts often found in untreated water. Iodine is NOT an effective halogen when Cryptosporidium is present in the water. Fifty gray tablets are contained in a small, dark bottle. The recommend dosage of two tablets per quart or liter of water is sufficient to kill organisms such as



*Who knows what evil lurks upstream?
Silky Stream © Richard Holmes
Hon. Men. Scenics, Photo Contest 2012*

Giardia. Two tablets should definitely be used if the quality of water is suspect, i.e. you are using water from river sources along which people live. Once the tablets are placed in the water it should be allowed to sit for at least thirty minutes, longer if the water is very cold or very dirty, and then shaken to ensure that the iodine and the water is thoroughly mixed. The dissolved tablets do leave a slight iodine taste in the water which some find disagreeable, in which case ascorbic acid (lemon juice or lemonade powder) can be added to neutralize the iodine flavor. Iodine tablets are commonly packaged with a second, similar sized bottle of ascorbic acid (PA Plus) tablets, that deactivate the iodine making the water pleasant to drink. One tablet is usually enough to reduce the iodine taste to tolerable levels. Do not add PA Plus or other sources of ascorbic acid to your water until after thirty minutes contact

time has elapsed.

Iodine tablets deteriorate on exposure to heat, humidity, moisture, reducing the effectiveness of the tablets. Over time, opening and closing the cap to remove tablets results in the normally gray colored tablets changing to a green or yellow color – they should not be used! Military iodine tablets, sometimes found in military surplus stores, should also not be used – the military got rid of them because their shelf life (four years) had expired! Always carry the tablets in the original container. Decanting a few into other inappropriate containers results in a rapid deterioration of the tablets upon exposure to light and humidity. People who are allergic to iodine should use a chlorine based disinfectant or a filter. People with known thyroid problems should not use iodine to disinfect their water. Pregnant women should check with their doctor before using iodine to disinfect their water. Potable Aqua or other sources of iodine should not be used as a long term (more than six weeks) method of disinfecting water

- **Chlorine.** Several products are on the market that release chlorine when placed in water. Chlorine is an effective agent against bacteria, viruses and, unlike iodine, chlorine is also an effective agent against cysts such as Cryptosporidium. Another advantage of using chlorine is that it leaves little or no aftertaste. Potable Aqua Chlorine Dioxide water purification tablets (www.potableaqua.co) or Micropur MP-1 tablets made by Katadyn (www.katadyn) are two examples of readily available disinfecting tablets

Filtration. A lot of confusion exists regarding the usefulness of filters to effectively disinfect water. Some filters remove only the “big stuff” such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium while others also remove viruses. Some devices are pumps; some are bottles that require you to suck the water through a filter matrix, while others rely on gravity. Prices vary tremendously depending on the type of device you buy.

Generally filters that remove giardia and cryptosporidium are sufficient for ninety percent of your needs in North America. Where viruses are a known or suspected medical threat to your safety a filter with a finer pore size or a pump that incorporates an iodine resin to chemically kill the viruses must be used. Devices that remove only the larger organisms are usually referred to as “filters” while those that remove both the larger organisms and viruses are commonly known as “purifiers,” but don’t rely on these terms to guide your purchase – read the fine print!

There are many bottle filters on the market and as is often the case, you get what you pay for. Inexpensive filters commonly sold at sports shows and Saturday morning flea markets will not stand up to the rigors of back country ac-

See Making Water... on pg. 4



It's a better world with some buffalo left in it. ~ Wallace Stegness

This will be my last President's Column, friends. Perhaps I'll survive the unenviable task of taking the baton from Al Perry four years ago after all. Yet here, now, is what stirs as RMOWP approaches its 46th annual conference in a few days.

The picture above was taken during my first conference in 2010. On that trip, a group of us stopped at Grand Teton National Park in route to Yellowstone National Park. My first time to those parks. Through the years, the side trips and day trips, explorations, education and experiences—and indeed the relationships—made possible through this organization have been a treasure, to say the least.

Embedded, too, in the goals of the organization runs a tender vein, deep and vibrant. It is the commitment to conservation and preservation—through photograph and phrase—in communicating the vital importance of these lands to the human spirit and the joy of exploration that bonds us together.

Indeed, it is a better world with some buffalo left in it. Hope to see you at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Making Water... cont. from pg. 3

tivities. Purchasing a filter from a specialty backpacking or emergency preparedness store will cost you a bit more but the filters are reliable, tough, and then when you need to replace the filter cartridge, they are available. I particularly like the Sawyer (www.sawyerproducts.com) or Katadyn (www.katadyn.com) when I need a bottle filter or purifier. While there are many to choose from my personal favorite is a Pre-Mac "Trekker" pump sold exclusively by Emergency Response International (www.eri-online.com.) These devices are small, light-weight, straightforward to use, and have easily replaceable components.

A walk through any of the better sporting goods retail stores will quickly reveal that there are many products for sale that can be used to treat water. There are also other

techniques used to treat water discussed in outdoor safety and survival literature. My experience is limited to equipment and techniques described in this article – equipment and techniques that have served me well for over fifty years in the outdoors in many parts of the world.

[Editor's note: The author does not represent any of the companies identified in the article.]

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Thanks!

The Story Behind the Shot



Text & photos by Jack Olson

Let's try something a little different. Virginia Staat mentioned one of her favorites of my flower photos. It happens to be one of my favorites, too. But there's a problem. Isn't there always a problem?

If you know me you know I haven't walked in a long time. I haven't used my old Nikon D70 in nine years. Yes, they were 'the thing' at one time. So was I, for that matter. The battery was dead. I was afraid mine was, too. We have some great photographers in RMOWP. I can no longer match them but I used to teach in the Photo Workshop. Maybe I'll have some thoughts that will be useful to newer photographers. We'll see.

One of my favorite classes of subjects is wildflowers, so let's start there. Sometimes you go out and hike and serendipitously find wonderful wildflowers. But let's start with a plan. For a certain wildflower, like Colorado's state flower, the columbine, you can go to the high country in mid-summer and find many. But to find the best specimens you need to know where to go and when. Lots of fields have columbine jumbled all over. If you want to find big, happy individual columbine you go to the top of Kenosha Pass at 10,000 feet, give or take a foot. Go the beginning of July. There's an aspen grove up there with columbine individually dispersed. Take your pick. But don't pick them!

I've gone up there many times and always find the healthy, joyful columbine. Just walk no more than a hundred feet north along the Colorado Trail from the top of the pass and you'll be in the aspen grove, with the columbine greeting you. They do that.

When you first get there the columbine are separate but the area is very busy with brush, trees, and who knows what.

*Colorado Columbine [photo 1]
3rd Place Flora, Photo Contest 2010*



Next you have to make the blossom stand out. I wasn't walking far so carried my tripod. I put the camera on it with a long lens. I set the aperture for a very narrow depth of field, selective focus. You focus on the flower but everything in the background is blurred. Then, compose the image as you want, or try a variety of compositions.

[Colorado Columbine photo 2]



Virginia asked me if I lay on my belly. I've done that a lot of times but not for this shot. I was either hunched over the tripod and camera or kneeling if I wanted a lower level shot. She asked if I did any gardening. Not up here. Everything is pristine. If we do this again we can talk about gardening and grooming, which are two different concepts, in my opinion.



*"What are you looking at?" © Diane Deming
RMOWP Photo Workshop 2012
Rocky Mountain National Park*

[Editor's note: I found the following in our newsletter archives, Feb-Mar 1983 issue—black & white on a tan background—hence the fuzzy foto. Thought we all might enjoy it...]

Jack Olson (c. 1983)



I joined RMOWP in 1978 and made a photographic presentation of my Himalayan trek at the conference in Jackson Hole. I have held workshops on photographic techniques at two other conferences. I was elected to the Board of Directors in 1980.

I work for the Colorado Division of Commerce and Development in Denver and sell photographs as a sideline.



Day is Done © Vicky Richardson
2010 RMOWP Photo Workshop
Rocky Mountain National Park



Mountain Bluebird in Flight © Al Perry
Hon. Men. Image from Last Conference
Photo Contest 2009

2019 Scholarship Winner Named

Robby Fisher Jr., of Olmito, Texas, is the recipient of this year's RMOWP scholarship, according to scholarship chair Clare Gutierrez. Robby will be attending Schreiner University's First Year Campus in Brownsville, Texas and then transferring to the school's main campus in Kerrville, Texas.

He tells us that he will be studying environmental/biological science with an emphasis on conservation, and that his goal is that after he gets his bachelor's degree he wants to get a master's degree in wildlife conservation and have a career as a game warden.

An avid fly fisherman and kayaker, Robby is also skilled at custom fly tying and played basketball, football, and golf in high school.



His website is <https://robbyfisher.wixsite.com/fish>.

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