



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURE ASSOCIATION

Spring 2014

\$4.00

QUARTERLY

SPRING — A TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE

by Marlene Borneman

For Rocky Mountain National Park, springtime is a season of uncertainty. Compared to most areas of the country, spring comes late to Rocky. Heavy, wet snows are still falling in May, and high runoffs, nesting animals, blooming flowers, and ptarmigans and snowshoe hares transitioning into their summer camouflage all take place in spring. Uncertain as it is, spring is a very productive time in the park.

For me, this season brings back memories of my first spring in Rocky. It was early May, 1974. Arriving from New Orleans — below sea level — it was a bit of a shock to find twenty degrees and spitting snow. I had landed a summer job at the YMCA of the Rockies, but looking back, I see that I was a bit unprepared for springtime in the Rockies!

Shortly after I arrived I was introduced to Dick, a man who would become my mentor in the mountains and my dear friend for the next thirty years. He was a retired gentleman who had spent many summers in Rocky. He had first come to camp and hike as a young boy with his family. Right away,

he taught me the proper clothing to wear on a mountain outing, as well as glissading skills on snow and backpacking and climbing techniques. Most of all, he instilled in me the ethics of Leave No Trace before it was popular. It was obvious to me even back then that he cherished what Rocky had to offer.

Dick often led group hikes and that first summer I spent my free days hiking with them. By my second summer, I was climbing the Kiener's route on Longs Peak and craving other ambitious adventures in the park. We investigated wildflowers and learned what grows where and when. We spent many hours planning hikes and climbs. Recreation as I had always known it took on a whole new face.

I remember my first backpacking trip in Rocky — for that matter, my first backpacking trip anywhere. We went to Fern Lake and climbed the Little Matterhorn. I was likely wearing blue jeans, a flannel shirt and no hat. It was cool to have a ruddy, sun-kissed face back then. What I vividly remember is our laughter, sharing chocolate, owls hooting in the night, the fir trees swaying in the wind, and the lapping waters of Fern Lake. I admit I was a

(Spring, continued on page 2)



(Spring, continued)

neophyte in the world of camping and climbing, but I loved learning about all of it in a most special spot on earth.

Spring is also a good time to tell stories about experiences in Rocky. They seem funnier or scarier in the spring after the long winter has embellished them. Once, coming down from Mount Ida in a thunderstorm — or, more accurately a lightning storm with hail — I could smell the ozone and feel the electricity in my hair. When my ice ax starting buzzing I knew it was the end. Obviously, it was not. We ended up sitting on top of our packs as we waited out the storm out, making ourselves as small as we could.

I summited Flattop Mountain a couple of summers ago and found a dozen or so YMCA staff on top. When I told them I had worked at the Y in 1974, they all looked bewildered, as if they wanted to help me get off the summit! When I told them I was heading to Hallett Peak and maybe Taylor Peak, too, their stunned looks were worth remembering.

As the years have passed, I have been fortunate to hike, backpack, and climb in other national parks, but I still find there is no place like Rocky in the

spring. Spring beauties just waiting to be found, stumbling upon a newborn fawn, and this spring I'm sure to find changes nature has chosen to make with a torrent of water.

Relationships are built on experiences and nurtured by time. Because Dick took the time to share with me his relationship with Rocky, I, too, have developed a deep relationship with the park. And, like any intimate relationship, I spend a lot of time with Rocky. I give money to support and protect Rocky. I share my relationship with friends and family.

So, when spring comes to RMNP, I take a moment to dust off my fondly kept memories. I remember my friend, Dick, who properly introduced me to Rocky. I remember stories that make me laugh and some make me cringe and be thankful.

Spring in the Rockies pulls me back a notch and jogs my memory of why I am here all year and why continuing to nurture my relationship with Rocky Mountain National Park is such a delight in my life.



Marlene spends much of her time locating and photographing wildflowers in their native habitats. She teaches for RMNA Field Seminars and she has studied and photographed Colorado flora since 1974.

Rocky's Nature Calendar of Events (April, May, June)

WEATHER:

- ❄️ Expect packed snow on most the hiking trails through June, especially at higher elevations.
- ❄️ By the end of May, rivers and streams are flowing strong. Hiking trails are often muddy and sometimes flooded during the peak of spring runoff.

BIRDS:

- ❄️ The buzz of hummingbirds fills the air in early June.
- ❄️ Peregrine falcons and great-horned owls begin hatching in May.
- ❄️ Loud begging calls of black-billed magpie chicks start emanating from their enormous stick nests in early June.

MAMMALS:

- ❄️ Black bears are more actively searching for food after a long winter's nap at the end of March and early April.
- ❄️ Yellow-bellied marmots emerge from their 9-month sleep at the end of May.
- ❄️ Bighorn sheep give birth in early June and often are seen at Sheep Lakes in mid-June with newly born lambs.

PLANTS:

- ❄️ Look for pasque flowers and spring beauties blooming at the beginning of April.
- ❄️ The alpine tundra begins to melt in early June, encouraging the delicate blue blossoms of the alpine forget-me-nots.

Be alert! It's tick season!

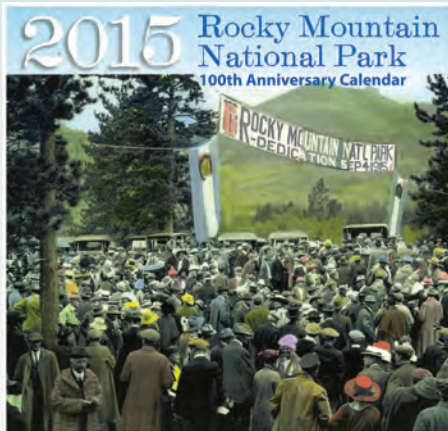
Spring season brings ticks, often collected from warm, south-facing slopes and lower elevations in the park. Be sure to check for ticks at the end of day outdoors!



Nursing elk calf at Black Lake.

Photo: Marlene Borneman

NEW RMNA PUBLICATIONS



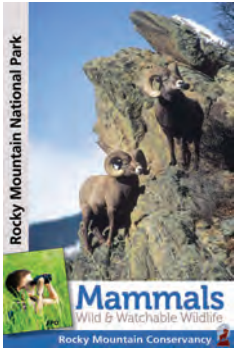
2015
Rocky Mountain
National Park
100th
Anniversary
Calendar

\$14.95

Member price: \$12.71

Let the Centennial Celebration Begin!

Adorn your wall with this 16-month calendar celebrating 100 years of Rocky Mountain National Park. Photographs from the historic Fred Clatworthy collection were hand-colored by local artist Cheryl Pennington, each capturing a unique moment in park history. RMNP facts and events in each month add fun details to this portrayal of the past. (Item #85)



Rocky Mountain National Park MAMMALS:

Wild & Watchable Wildlife

With Photographs by
RMNA Member Lee Kline

\$5.95

Member price: \$5.06

This guide, remade as a booklet from the Mammals Dollar Guide newspaper, features 7 of the large mammals seen in Rocky Mountain National Park, now with lots of color pictures and added information! Learn about the animals' history, what they eat and how they behave, and discover some of the best viewing sites in the park, and more. The more you know about wildlife, the greater your chance to observe these amazing animals in the wild. (Item #91)

CALL 970-586-0121 EXT 11 TO ORDER

Cover photo credits

Cover photos (clockwise from lower left to upper right): "Ypsilon Spring," by RMNA Member Larry Van Sickle, Estes Park, CO; "Brown-capped Rosy Finch," by RMNA Member Gene Putney, Longmont, CO; "Hidden Gems" by RMNA Member Phyllis Holst, Longmont, CO. Please send photos or high resolution scans to nancy.wilson@rmna.org by June 1 for publication in the 2014 Summer *Quarterly*.

Photos are always appreciated! Scenery, wildlife and wildflowers greatly enhance this publication, so take a hike and carry your camera with you! Think simple and high contrast for best reproduction results. Thank You!

Ask Nancy

RMNA *Quarterly* Editor Nancy Wilson will attempt to unearth answers to any questions asked by RMNA members and park visitors. If you are curious about something in or about the park, write: Nancy Wilson, RMNA, PO Box 3100, Estes Park, CO 80517. Or email her at nancy.wilson@rmna.org

How much effect does the park have on political decisions regarding emissions testing in Colorado based on air quality and nitrogen testing results in the park? The National Park Service is a non-regulatory agency. As such, the park supports its Nitrogen Deposition Reduction Plan partners, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency, in regulatory plans they decide to implement that may improve air quality conditions in Rocky Mountain National Park's Class I airshed. This collaboration is significant! The park's air quality benefits from the state's implementation plan for ozone and regional haze and it is one of many factors considered by our partners for air quality regulations. The park is a critical laboratory where important air quality research has taken place for more than thirty years. Its role is to protect park resources, relay the research and educate the public about air quality issues happening here at Rocky. It is critical for the park to continue to work with its partners to develop solutions for air quality issues in the park. Additionally, solutions developed to address these issues at Rocky will benefit other areas as well! — *RMNP Biologist Jim Cheatham*

What's a chinook wind and why are they so common in Estes Park? A "chinook" or "downsloping" (also called "westerlies") wind refers to a westerly wind that descends the leeward side of a mountain range. As chinook winds force an air mass down the east slope of the Front Range mountains, the air mass encounters stronger atmospheric pressure causing it to warm. This generally results in gusty winds causing warm, dry conditions for the Denver area. Chinook winds were named after the Chinook Indians who lived along the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountain Range in present day Oregon and Washington where these dry downsloping winds also occur. Chinook winds occur all along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains from Alberta, Canada to Albuquerque, New Mexico. — 9 News Weather Resources www.9news.com/weather/resources/faq/

I saw a herd of cow elk this winter and noticed that while most of them had shaggy necks, even those with radio collars, there was one that looked like its neck had been shaved, leaving no hair on its neck. What is this? Winter ticks could be a source of hair loss in elk, particularly around the neck where there may be areas of hair loss resulting from grooming, either oral grooming or via scratching with a hoof. While not common in Rocky, this parasite is known to occur in Colorado, so it's possible the elk is suffering from this condition. More commonly in the park, as spring progresses, elk will begin to shed their winter coats, including the thick neck hair. — *RMNP Biologist John Mack*

Does Trail Ridge Road or the Old Fall River Road follow an ancient Native American trail? The Ute Trail is closely intertwined with Trail Ridge Road. In many sections it follows the trail and in others is on top of the trail. The reason is that the trail took the best route through the mountains and tundra and therefore was the best choice. Interestingly enough, landscape architects as well as engineers designed Trail Ridge, taking into consideration the magnificent views as well as the easier routes. — *RMNP Cultural Resources Specialist Karen Waddell*



Progress and Promise Shown in Rocky Mountain National Park Nitrogen Deposition Reduction Report

by Jim Cheatham

A total of 25 years of scientific research has shown that atmospheric nitrogen deposition in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) is about 15 times greater than the natural background deposition rate. This excess of nitrogen emissions comes from a variety of human-made sources, including nitrogen oxides from fossil fuel combustion and ammonia from agricultural production, both of which contribute to excess atmospheric nitrogen deposited in RMNP.

High elevation ecosystems in the park are especially susceptible to excess nitrogen as a result of their development and adaptation to low nitrogen conditions. Within these ecosystems, alpine tundra, aquatic plants, soil and water quality are most affected. Ecosystem health first began to decline at high elevation areas on the east side of the park between 1950 and 1964. The beginning of this shift corresponded to exceeding the critical load of nitrogen deposition of 1.5 kilograms of nitrogen

per hectare per year (kg N/ha/yr).

Rocky Mountain National Park is classified as a Class 1 air quality area (cleanest air designation) as defined by the Clean Air Act. Regional haze, ground-level ozone and atmospheric nitrogen deposition are issues currently affecting air quality, park resources and visitor experiences. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the National Park Service, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency are working collaboratively to implement a 2007 RMNP Nitrogen Deposition Reduction Plan (NDRP). While the NDRP will also help improve park visibility and ozone conditions, the plan's focus is to address the ecological impacts of excess nitrogen and reduce nitrogen deposition by approximately 50% (from 3.1 to the 1.5 kg N/ha/yr

critical load) over 25 years. The plan includes interim milestone reduction goals every 5 years, in order to achieve the critical load goal by 2032.

In 2012, the 2.9 kg N/ha/yr deposition rate did not reach the 2012 milestone reduction goal of 2.7 kg

High elevation ecosystems in the park are especially susceptible to excess nitrogen as a result of their development and adaptation to low nitrogen conditions.

N/ha/yr. The MOU agencies are optimistic that current and developing strategies will decrease nitrogen deposition towards the next milestone goal of 2.4 kg N/ha/yr in 2017. Although nitrogen deposition is not yet decreasing, progress has been made in stabilizing

deposition in recent years, indicating that trends are no longer increasing. Decreasing nitrogen deposition trends are anticipated in the next several years because of state and federal air quality regulations that anticipate a 37% reduction in Colorado nitrogen oxides emissions by 2018. The NDRP 2012

Become an RMNA Sustaining Member

for as little as \$10 per month!

Now, you can become one of RMNA's most supportive friends.

In early May, RMNA will launch our new Sustaining Membership program — a monthly giving program. By becoming a Sustaining Member, you'll join a special group of RMNA friends who provide critical financial support to RMNA each month. This reliable year-round funding will provide the immediate resources to do our work for Rocky Mountain National Park and other public lands.

It's easy! Just choose a monthly amount, \$10 to \$20 for example (or more!), and your gift will automatically be charged to your credit card each month. You'll help the environment by saving paper, and you'll help us reduce our postage and handling costs so even more of your gift will be put to work. **You can change or cancel your monthly commitment whenever you choose.**

Join our new Sustaining Member team today!



To sign up as a sustaining member, visit www.rmna.org, or call Membership Manager Curtis Carman at (970) 586-0108 ext. 21.

Milestone Report containing these findings and determinations is available at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/rmnpinitiative.

The MOU agencies also are collaborating with Colorado agricultural producers to develop a 5-year plan to voluntarily reduce their ammonia emissions through use of science-based best management practices (BMPs). Broader use of BMPs can help reduce agricultural ammonia emissions by: 1) reducing nitrogen inputs, 2) keeping more nitrogen in the final agricultural product, or 3) preserving more nitrogen in the soil on the farm.

The plan includes research, monitoring, outreach and development of an early warning system (www.rmwarningsystem.com). The early warning system would advise agricultural producers to avoid high nitrogen-emitting activities (manure handling and crop fertilizing) during specific weather events that can readily transport nitrogen into RMNP.

Research at Colorado State University is focused on refining BMPs for agricultural production activities. The BMPs being evaluated may help increase nitrogen retention in livestock to improve production and reduce nitrogen lost to the environment. Crop production efficiency is also improving with advances in nitrogen fertilizer



National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) sites like this one in the park (deposition buckets and a rain gauge), are sampled weekly to measure nitrogen deposited by rain and snow.

application to optimize fertilizer amount, timing and placement. Conservation tillage techniques, precision watering and crop technology are also ways that are improving nitrogen use efficiency.

The MOU agencies plan to review and update the 2010 Contingency Plan, continue work on ammonia and nitrogen oxides emission inventories, continue stakeholder collaboration and evaluate nitrogen deposition reduction to evaluate

if additional steps are needed to meet the next milestone in 2017. Learn more about "What's in the Air" at RMNP at www.nature.nps.gov/air/Permits/ARIS/romo.

Since 2008, Jim has managed RMNP's air, water and vegetation programs with much of his time spent on current challenges involving exotic plant control, native plant restoration, atmospheric nitrogen deposition, and ozone.

New Outdoor Adventure Field Programs 2014!

Photo: Julie Klett

Fun Classes for Kids

Bugs, Beetles, and Butterflies: Tiny but Amazing Creatures of Rocky (ages 4 – 6) June 26; July 24; August 7
Children can explore the amazing world of bugs through hands-on discovery using nets, magnifying glasses and art to capture, identify and create their own amazing bug.

Flowers & Their Friends (ages 4 – 6) July 3, 17, 31
Children can dissect flowers, learn about pollinators and create their own unique flower in this fun and exploratory class for kids.

Virtual Geocache Adventure (ages 9 – 13) June 17; July 1, 15, 29; August 12
Participants will use a GPS unit to find hidden clues in Hollowell Park meadow to discover natural treasures!

Outdoor Field Adventures in RMNP

Birds Without Borders: Migratory Birds of RMNP and Costa Rica June 20
Explore the natural history of birds migrating between their two seasonal homes. Learn how both areas can be protected while viewing the songbirds in their summer habitat in RMNP.

Native American Wickiups of Rocky July 20
Explore the history of the first residents of Rocky who used wickiups for shelter and participate in making your own with native building materials.

The Beetles that Ate the West: The Largest Beetle Outbreak in History, a Grand Lake Area Class June 23
The bark beetle epidemic has affected more than 70% of the conifer forests in RMNP. Discover the impact the bark beetle has had on the trees in Rocky.

Understory Plants & Their Response to the Bark Beetle Epidemic May 10
Learn about the unique story that the understory plants within beetle-killed forests have to tell with Greg Pappas, the 2013 RMNA Bailey Research Fellow.

New Bus Tour Adventure in Rocky

Escape to Bear Lake: An Educational Adventure by Bus
Fridays throughout the summer starting June 13th
Take a drive along Bear Lake Road to discover a variety of fascinating features and history, including the settlements in Moraine Park and the different ecosystems in Rocky Mountain National Park. Explore the breathtaking scenery around Sprague and Bear lakes, including spectacular views of the Continental Divide, Longs Peak and Hallett Peak.

Photography and Painting in the Park!

Photographing Wildlife: When, Where & How
June 20 – 22; September 12 – 14
Learn how to be there at the right time and right place for wildlife photography with Lee Kline.
Magic of Macro: Getting Started June 27 – 29
Get up close and personal with nature with Don Mammoser.
Watercolor Brushstrokes: Painting the Landscapes of RMNP July 31 – August 1 with Karen Ramsay
Plein-air in the Park: Oil Painting August 16 – 17 with Margaret Jensen.

Grand Lake Area Programs

Birds of the Kawuneeche Valley – June 14
Diversity in Wildflowers – June 21
Beetles That Ate the West – July 20
Grasses of RMNP on July 27
Geology of the Western Slope – August 9
Secret Places in RMNP – August 15
RMNP Butterflies: West of the Divide – August 16
Mushroom & Other Fungi – August 18
Grand Lake & Kawuneeche Valley History – July 16
Rocky Mountain Family Eco-Vacation – June 21-26
Digital Landscapes Photography – August 22-24

www.rmna.org
970-586-3262

RMNA Announces New Member Volunteer Corps for Rocky

At RMNA, our mission to preserve and protect Rocky Mountain National Park is not an individual effort but, rather, a team effort. Together, RMNA members and donors have worked with the park to accomplish many great things, from building visitor centers and exhibits and fixing trails to creating the next generation of conservationists. It is clear that your love for Rocky runs deep.

Because of this, RMNA invites you to experience first-hand the rewards of lending a hand in Rocky Mountain National Park as a Rocky Mountain Conservancy Member Corps volunteer!

Throughout the late spring and summer of 2014 there will be

opportunities for RMNA members to put boots on the ground and help with park and RMNA projects alike.

No experience necessary, just jump in and help out with trail restoration, fuel reduction, revegetation, campground management and invasive species control. Projects will vary from easy to rigorous, from trail work, log hauling and revegetation, to working indoors in the park greenhouse.

Conservancy Member Corps volunteer project days will be held throughout 2014 and will accommodate groups up to 20. Dates for volunteer projects are still being set, so check www.rmna.org soon for a full schedule of volunteer days.

If you want more information, want to sign up for a volunteer day or want to suggest a project, call Curtis Carman at (970) 586-0108 ext. 21, or email him at curtis.carman@rmna.org.



Working in the park's greenhouse is one volunteering opportunity for Conservancy Volunteers.

We believe that we are all the sum of our parts — and our members are an important part in making us whole. Sign up for the Conservancy Member Volunteer Corps.

Park Puzzler by RMNA Member Joel Kaplow

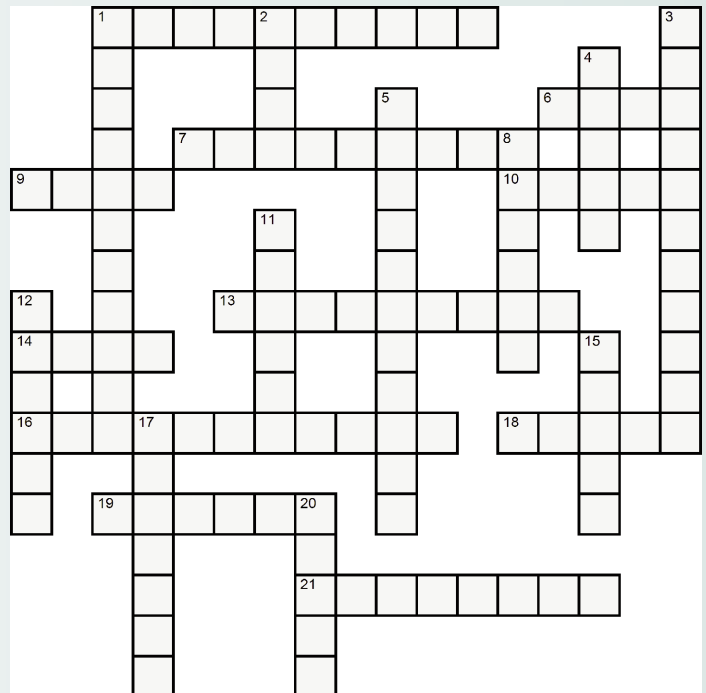
Across

- 1 At the historic McGraw Ranch site, now used to house researchers, there is an outhouse built in the 1880s that was repurposed in the 1980s and converted to a _____. Used when nature “called”? (2 wds)
- 6 Of the three million annual visitors to RMNP, only about ____ percent enjoy this cross-country skiing and snowshoeing wonderland in the winter.
- 7 Contrary to popular belief, ____ and toadstools are one and the same. Some are edible, and some are deadly, but there is no distinction between the two.
- 9 What little critter resides in the park’s higher elevations, doesn’t hibernate, and stores caches of vegetation called *haystacks* under boulders for lean times in the winter?
- 10 The sole tick variety found in the park is the Rocky Mountain wood tick. Two clues that tell you it’s not an insect, but an arachnid, are its lack of antennae, and its ____ legs instead of six.
- 13 The September flooding devastated areas downstream, but the park did not escape unscathed. Due to severe damage to Old ____ Road, it will be closed to vehicular traffic for all of 2014 and beyond. (2 wds)
- 14 Private riders and concessionaires who provide horseback riding in RMNP must guarantee they use feed that has been certified as ____-free starting at least one week before entering the park. This is to keep unwanted, invasive seeds away before they’re ingested, and later when they would otherwise hit the dusty trail.
- 16 This feathered friend favors fair weather, so it migrates out of the park in the fall. Since it’s not an all-year resident, some ornithologists think it shouldn’t have been designated as Colorado’s state bird. What is it? (2 wds)
- 18 Since their transplantation to North Park in the ‘70s, RMNP is home to an increasing number of these, the largest member of the deer family.
- 19 The beaver’s large incisors have a tough layer of orange ____ on the front of the teeth, with a relatively weak white layer on the rear. The rear layer is worn away faster during gnawing, resulting in razor sharpness.
- 21 Hummingbirds are found from Alaska to South America, but on no other continent. Therefore they are known as ____ birds. (2 wds)

Down

- 1 In the park’s lower elevations, you will find two resident cacti: mountain ball cactus, and *Opuntia polyacantha*, more commonly called what? (2 wds)
- 2 RMNP’s mule deer are called such because this feature closely resembles those of their namesake.
- 3 An ill-conceived program started in the ‘30s to rid several northwestern national parks of blister rust fungus from white pines, such as RMNP’s limber pine, involved the use of a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T herbicides. What is this “colorful” concoction commonly called? (2 wds)
- 4 How can you tell the age a bighorn ram? Just like a tree, its horns have growth ____ that can be counted. A ewe’s horns aren’t as useful for this, however.

- 5 Nothing is permanent except change. Founded in 1931, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association will soon be known as the Rocky Mountain ____.
- 8 This important group of plants likes to grow in moist areas, and is often overlooked as they lack showy flowers. Their leaves are flat, the stems have flat sides and are triangular in cross-section, hence the mnemonic “____ have edges.”
- 11 13-Across winds its way up from Horseshoe Park to the Alpine Visitor Center, and passes to the south of Marmot Point and Mount ____.
- 12 Surprisingly, there are only ____ mountains in all of Alaska that are taller than Longs Peak.
- 15 If you catch Colorado’s state fish, the greenback cutthroat ____, it must be released due to its protected status.
- 17 A mushroom is not a separate form of a fungus, but is the reproductive *portion* of a fungus. Fungi were once considered to be plants, but among other anomalies, they have no chlorophyll, and therefore don’t photosynthesize. Taxonomists relieved this headache by putting fungi in their own ____.
- 20 ____ Peak is featured in Jules Verne’s 1865 novel *From the Earth to the Moon*, having a telescope placed on the summit.



Countdown to the Park's 100th Anniversary

In just six months, Rocky Mountain National Park will kick off its 100th Anniversary Celebration. Between September 4, 2014, and September 4, 2015, there will be a host of opportunities to get involved in this once-in-a-lifetime celebration!

Here's an update of park-sponsored events and activities currently scheduled:

- Rocky Mountain National Park will host a Picnic in the Park at Hidden Valley and an Ice Cream Social at the Holzwarth Historic Site during the first week of September, 2014.
- A Centennial Speaker Series will be held throughout the year at various Estes Park, Grand Lake and Front Range locations.
- A Rocky Mountain National Park Employee Reunion is planned for September of 2015.
- Rededication ceremonies will honor the park on September 3 and 4, 2015, as it heads into its next 100 years of protecting wilderness, wildlife, and wonder.

Details about these events will be released on the park website as they are finalized.

Many local organizations have already stepped forward to organize events for the Centennial celebration, including:

- Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painters will be hosting several "Paint Out" events throughout the year, including a Children's Painting Session at Lily Lake.
- Cowboy Brad Fitch will perform a special centennial concert on July 25, 2015.
- VintageTimeTravelers.com, a Model T touring group, will "kick-off" their tour of the historic National Park-to-Park Highway in Grand Lake, Colorado, on August 24, 2015.
- The Grand Lake Historical Society will host a picnic and evening of historic presentations, western music, poetry and stories at the Smith-Eslick Cottage Court and Cottage Camp.
- On August 25, the Model T group will re-enact a historic car camp at



Wilderness, Wildlife, Wonder

Moraine Park Campground.

- The Colorado Mountain Club will lead hikes, climbs and snowshoe treks to 100 of the 125 named peaks in Rocky Mountain National Park throughout the year. For more details, visit their website at www.cmc.org/About/YearoftheMountaineer.aspx

Centennial Product Development: The 100th Anniversary logo and slogan are available for marketing and retail use. Many businesses have already applied to use the logo in print and in online marketing campaigns. Centennial Anniversary merchandise, including notecards, calendars, postcards, hand-made quilted items, fine art prints, and a Rocky Mountain National Park trading blanket designed by Pendleton Woolen Mills, will start appearing in local area businesses as the celebration date nears.

The 100th Anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park is a time to celebrate the wilderness, wildlife, and wonder that has provided enjoyment and inspiration to so many people over the past 100 years. With such myriad events and programs being offered throughout the park and surrounding communities, Rocky Mountain National Park encourages everyone to join in the celebration!

For more details, visit the 100th Anniversary website:

www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/100th_anniversary.htm



Hand-colored image of Fred Clatworthy's mother and sister from the Clatworthy Collection.
Hand-colored by Cheryl Pennington



Shooting the Milky Way in Rocky

by Glenn Randall

To truly appreciate the immensity of the universe, contemplate the Milky Way, the diffuse band of light in the night sky caused by the billions of distant stars of our own Milky Way galaxy. Get as far as possible from the city, with its noise, bustle and light pollution. Go when it's truly dark— on a moonless night, at least an hour and half before sunrise or after sunset. And go in spring or summer, when the brightest part of the Milky Way, which lies in the constellation Sagittarius, is above the horizon during the hours of total darkness. You'll see that the Milky Way appears to make a gigantic arc in the sky.

In April, 2013, a powerful spring snowstorm dropped nearly a foot of snow on Rocky Mountain National Park. I got up at 1:30 a.m., drove to Bear Lake from my home in Boulder, and snowshoed under clearing, moonless

skies to this vantage point above Nymph Lake. The silence was profound. No lens has a wide enough angle of view to capture the full width and height of a Milky Way panorama, so I set up a specialized tripod head that allowed me to shoot two overlapping rows of images with an ultra-wide-angle 16mm lens. The latest digital cameras, such as my Canon 5D Mark III, are so astonishingly sensitive that they can capture scenes lit only by starlight and the sky glow emanating from the distant cities out on the plains.

An hour and a half before sunrise, at the beginning of astronomical twilight, the stars began to pale and the clouds began to gather once more. By great good fortune, the brief window of clear skies had occurred precisely when I needed it. Once I returned home, I assembled this panorama in PTGUI, a

specialized panorama-stitching software package. The completed panorama spans 145 degrees left to right and 85 degrees from top to bottom.

I have spent many hours over the last 20 years hiking, snowshoeing, and climbing at night in order to reach some photogenic vantage point in time for sunrise. Often I would pause briefly, turn off my headlamp, and soak in the beauty of the night sky. Now, for the first time, I have started to capture some of that beauty and, I hope, that sense of wonder in my images.

Specializing in Colorado wilderness landscapes, Glenn has been a full-time freelance photographer/writer for many years. His fine-art landscape photographs are found in galleries/gift shops across Colorado. You can see more of Glenn's work at www.glenrandall.com.



Photo: Julie Klett

Celebrating 50 Years of Wilderness

by Kathy Brazelton

Fifty years ago this September, the United States changed the way the world would look at wild land with the passage of the Wilderness Act. Thanks to the wisdom and foresight of those who dedicated themselves to its passage, we now have legislation “... to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness”. Since the Act was passed in 1964, American wilderness has increased tenfold, with the majority of it being west of the 100th meridian. Over half of National Park Service lands are designated as Wilderness. And, right here in Rocky Mountain National Park, large amounts of this mountain landscape were designated as Wilderness in 2009, after years of managing the land “as if” it were Wilderness.

As excited as we are to celebrate the 50th anniversary, sharing the message in a meaningful way has its challenges. How do we even begin to explain

Wilderness? It is both a place and an idea, a reality and a dream. You can walk in it, surrounded by beauty and stillness, or you can dream of it, surrounded by your office walls. Both experiences are very real, and both have tremendous merit.

As interpreters, we are challenged by the task of communicating something as nebulous and shifting as values. What, exactly, do these acres of seashore, prairie, mountain, forest and desert mean to the American people? To some, Wilderness has a deeply spiritual essence: *“Wilderness is a necessity ... They will see what I meant in time. There must be places for human beings to satisfy their souls.*

Food and drink is not all.

There is the spiritual. In some it is only a germ, of course, but the germ will grow,” wrote John Muir, conservationist and founder of the Sierra Club. To others, it has no value at all, as stated by an anonymous 17th century writer:



“Wilderness is a damp and dreary place where all manner of wild beasts dash about uncooked!”

Wilderness provokes us on another level as well. While we can pick up, hold, study, then interpret a rock from our Wilderness — a tangible thing — how do we approach the intangible values of Wilderness, such as solitude, risk, freedom and mystery? We’re learning. Probably our most important lesson is that you cannot separate the two: tangible and intangible meanings are so intertwined that it is impossible to truly interpret one without the other. The fact and the meaning both have value.

And so we continue with our efforts to foster the development of a personal stewardship ethic among park visitors, park neighbors and even those who may never visit our park. Here at Rocky Mountain National Park, we’ll present a variety of events and activities that celebrate our nation’s Wilderness heritage. Look for our new methods of integrating the Wilderness theme into interpretive programming in our walks, talks, trailhead information, publications, outreach efforts and exhibits. We invite you to get involved: attend our speaker and film series this summer to commemorate the 50th anniversary, and join our Walk for Wilderness around Lily Lake on September 6, 2014.

Don’t forget to check out the new items the Rocky Mountain Nature Association (soon to be Rocky Mountain Conservancy) has for sale at the park visitor center Nature Stores to highlight the anniversary. Find out more at Rocky’s website www.nps.gov/romo, or for national news check out www.wilderness50th.org. Join other Americans across the country in celebrating your wilderness heritage — whatever it may mean to you.

Kathy Brazelton is an Interpretive Park Ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Donor Wall in Place

With just a few details awaiting completion, we invite you to view the Rocky Mountain National Park Champions donor recognition display in the lower lobby of the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. And what a stunning display it is!

Careful attention was paid to the design so that it would honor the architecture and aesthetics of the historic Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, a building that was designed by architects at Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright's famous school of architecture. The wall could not occlude or be supported by the moss rock wall, nor could screws be placed in the historic terrazzo flooring. Design and engineering workarounds were developed so the wall display would not harm or compromise these important architectural elements.

In fact, the display was specifically created to match and enhance the aesthetics of this historic building. For example, the new wall now incorporates the lovely architecturally and culturally significant moss wall. The tree silhouettes, meticulously laser cut from sheet metal, were coated to match the



Rocky Mountain National Park Champions donor recognition wall display in Beaver Meadows Visitor Center lower lobby.

rusty core-ten steel used in the entire visitor center. We believe it will be functional for many years to come.

Still to come:

- A "map" of the donor plaques to make them easier to locate
- A digital monitor that will display rotating information on major projects RMNA's friends and donors have supported over the years
- Better lighting

Be sure to stop in downstairs at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center next time you visit. We hope you enjoy this new (and we think, stunning) public recognition of the support you have provided us and the park over the years!

Special thanks to Graham Kopp at Rocky Mountain National Park who contributed greatly to the design, construction and installation of this complex display, and to RMNA's Julie Klett for the conceptual design.



Pictured here (left to right) are: Chris Cook, general manager, Rocky Mountain Park Inn; Rex Maughan, founder and president, Forever Resorts; Charles A. Money, executive director, Rocky Mountain Nature Association; John Schoppmann, executive vice president, Forever Resorts; Bill Butts, senior vice president, Forever Resorts.

RMNA Receives Major Gift From Forever Resorts Dollar-a-Day Program

At its annual spring training conference, held this year at its Rocky Mountain Park Inn (Estes Park's 2013 Philanthropic Business of the Year), Forever Resorts presented a check to the Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA) representing monies donated from 2011 — 2013, totaling \$30,141.28.

For the past three years, Rocky Mountain Park Inn invited overnight guests to make a voluntary \$1 per night donation upon checkout. These funds have gone toward the RMNA's Next Generation Fund, which supports interpretive and educational programs at Rocky Mountain National Park.

RMNA Receives National Forest Foundation American Conservation Corps Matching Grant

We are pleased to announce a major grant of \$71,000 from the the National Forest Foundation that will support an additional two American Conservation Corps crews in 2014!

Four of the crews of six college-age youth will be living, learning and working in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests this summer and assisting in the flood recovery efforts there. The other two crews will be working on trail- and flood-related projects in Rocky Mountain National Park.

This will be our largest American Conservation Corps season ever! To learn more about and support the American Conservation Corps, please visit www.rmna.org.

Will RMNA's Name Change Affect My Will?

We are excited about the name conversion from the Rocky Mountain Nature Association to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy that will be occurring this spring. Many of you have contacted us to ask how this change might affect your wills and related documents.

If you have named the Rocky Mountain Nature Association in your estate plans, it is not necessary update your documents to the new name. With the legal paperwork we have in place, any funds directed to RMNA will be automatically directed to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. However, if you are updating your documents for other reasons and would like to include our change, all of the details are the same except the name:

Rocky Mountain Conservancy

PO Box 3100

Estes Park, CO 80517

970-586-0108

Tax ID: 84-0472090

If you have named our organization in your estate plans, please get in touch to let us know — we'd like to thank you! Contact: Julie Klett, Development Manager, Julie.Klett@rmna.org, 970-586-0108.

BUY ESTES PARK DUCK RACE TICKETS TO SUPPORT THE PARK!



The Estes Park Duck Race is held annually on the first Saturday in May. The 26th Duck Race will be held on May 3rd, 2014, and continues a tradition started in 1989 to support the

local charities of the Estes Valley.








For many years, RMNA has participated as a local charity. It's easy and a mutually symbiotic way to support the organization.

The Duck Race is simple. You "adopt" little rubber duckies and select one of 60+ different Estes Valley charities to benefit from your adoptions. These charities will receive 95% of the monies collected from your adoptions. The more ducks that are adopted for a particular charity, the more money that charity makes.

But that's not all. Thanks to the generosity of the major sponsors and the local area merchants, if your little ducky is one of the lucky winners to cross the finish line, you can win all kinds of prizes! You don't have to be present to win, but if you are in town, there's lots of music and entertainment to enjoy. Support RMNA today!

WIN BIG! WIN BIG!

Major prizes you can win:

-  Samsung 6300 Series 50" Class LED Smart TV - \$1,400.00
-  Apple iPad Air with Wi-Fi 64GB - \$750.00
-  Samsung® HT-F5500W 5.1-Channel Home Theater System - \$485.00
-  PlayStation 3 250GB Move Bundle - \$375.00
-  Xbox® 360 4GB Sports and Adventures Kinect Bundle - \$325.00
-  Canon PowerShot HS 12.1MP Digital Camera - \$300.00
-  APEX LE3242 32" LED 60Hz HDTV- \$270.00
-  Fitbit Force Activity Wristband - \$140.00

Sign up at

www.rotaryclubofestespark.org/DuckRace/

Or, call Julie at 970-586-0108 ext. 11



The Rocky Mountain National Park Fund

*expresses special thanks to the following
people for their donations to RMNP projects:*

December 8, 2013 through March 7, 2014

677 Gifts ~ total donations: \$218,250

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PARK PUZZLE ANSWERS



For comments or questions contact:
Charles Money, Executive Director
Nancy Wilson, Quarterly Editor
Curtis Carman, Membership Manager
Rocky Mountain Nature Association
PO Box 3100
Estes Park, Colorado 80517
(970) 586-0108
www.rmna.org

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Rock saxifrage - summer is coming!
 Photo:RMNA Member Marlene Borneman

NATURE ASSOCIATION NOTES...

It's spring here in the high country, and there are a lot of unknowns this year. The west side of the park has had higher than average snow this year and the east side is concerned about spring runoff and how much water will be released.....Park Interpreter **Kathy Brazelton** spotted a golden eagle flying with a large stick in its beak by the Twin Owls in the Lumpy Ridge area — it's nesting time!....Colorado River District Systems Specialist **Debbie Mason** followed some moose tracks on the road into the park's shop area and into the boneyard and voila! There they were, a mama moose and her young offspring, visible by just a couple of ear tips. The mama seemed a bit fed up with the humans and their noisy machines because as Debbie eased carefully around the corner of the building, mama moose stared at her and took a bluff step, stamping her foot while giving the appearance of lunging forward. Her mane was frizzed up creating a sharp line where the forward pointing hairs ended and her body language said she was ready to do whatever it takes to defend her daughter.....Debbie also caught sight of a pine martin that came up onto the berm on the edge of the parking lot at Kawuneeche Visitor Center and paused to look at her. It struck a beautiful pose, adjusted a bit and posed again before dashing across the parking lot, jumping across an ice patch and disappearing behind the building.....Did you know an adult female moose can slip through a gap of only 22 inches? Debbie witnessed a female moose emerge through a gap between the outer entrance vestibule at KVC and the bulletin boards. While she did pause partway through, she didn't seem to have any significant problems doing it.RMNA *Quarterly* Editor **Nancy Wilson** was alerted to a bobcat in her front yard in Estes Park as it pussyfooted through 5 inches of snow to the backyard to sit on a dry rock. It looked so prim, so disdainful of all that white stuff..... Another sighting occurred when a bobcat wandered through her backyard, reached up on its hind legs to scratch a wooden fence post, then leaped up to balance all four paws on the top of the 6" diameter post for a brief moment as it surveyed the terrain before tipping off the other side.....Park Resource Volunteer **Jeff Connor** spotted two northern shrikes in the park in early February. These birds nest up north and come down for a visit in the winter if it gets too cold.....Jeff also watched a golden eagle feeding on an elk carcass. The elk

apparently had been killed by a mountain lion.....In an average year, Director of the Estes Park Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute (CARRI) **Scott Rashid** normally has more than a thousand rosy finches coming to his feeders at a time from late October through April and sometimes through June. This winter, however, has been an odd one. In the past, the flock consisted primarily of Brown-capped rosy finches from October until late November, at which time this flock would move farther south, making way for the primarily Gray-crowned and Black-capped rosy finch flocks moving into the area. Then, near spring, the Gray-crowns and Black-capped rosy finches would move back north for the Brown-caps' return. This winter, however, most of the Black-caps and Gray-crowned rosy finches never moved into the Estes valley, leaving primarily Brown-capped rosy finches to rule the roost. Scott surmises that the Gray-crowned and Black-capped rosy finches had a mild winter up north and remained there, leaving enough for the Brown-capped rosy finches to find what they needed in the Estes valley, causing them to stay.....RMNA Development and Outreach Manager **Julie Klett** watched as a huge herd of elk filed by her dining room window in Estes Park, close enough to touch, had the window been open. Two of the elk smooched their noses onto the glass of the window pane as they cruised by in an attempt to grab the lush greenery of her houseplants in the window.....Julie also noted at one point that all the little birds had suddenly disappeared from her feeder. Upon further observation, she spotted a predatory northern shrike sitting in a nearby tree. Smart little birds....Julie heard the first red-wing blackbird call in early March — *conk-le-ree!* and her first mountain bluebird in mid-March — let's hope for a mild enough spring to encourage bluebird recovery!....Driving on a side road in Estes Park, a park visitor was startled by the rash dash of a mule deer, looking neither left nor right, running across the road in front of his vehicle. A mere seconds later came another animal barreling across the road without concern for traffic — this time a coyote in hot pursuit!....This winter, members of the CARRI Foundation have erected 12 barn owl nest boxes between Boulder and Berthoud, Colorado. One of these boxes has a live feed camera attached to it to monitor the entire nesting cycle of the barn owls from the first night they enter the nest box until the owlets fledge. When the owls move in, visit the CARRI website at www.CARRIEP.org to see the live feed.....In addition, this group has erected an osprey nesting platform near Lake Estes.....A note from park rangers: **It's tick season**, from February (believe it or not) until early June. Warmer, south-facing slopes are their most likely haunts. Tuck your pants into your socks and give yourself a tick check after every outing — here comes summer!



Evening grosbeaks are members of the finch family that flock to the Estes valley in the winter.
 Photo: Scott Rashid

PICNIC

Mark Your Calendars!
RMNA Membership Picnic!
August 2, 2014
 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
 Location TBD
 Estes Park, Colorado