

Grand County Wilderness Group

Fall Issue 2012

www.gcwg.org

Letter from the President

It is time to look back over our summer and pat ourselves on the back. We have been busy and we have accomplished a lot. The orientation hikes were well organized, had a great variety of destinations, and were well attended. TUTI had more participants than previous years, and so more of the CDT was cleared, though new "blow downs" continue to hamper completing the entire trail. Daisy Demolition had a large number of "demolishers" on hand. We had done such a good job in previous years that we took on new species of invasive weeds, and spread out into different areas of Monarch Lake. Once again, Ron Sears was the headliner for the Summer Picnic, providing delicious smoked pork and beef! WOW!

The GCWG made itself known at both the Grand Lake art festival, and the Art Affair in Winter Park. As a result of participating in these events, we have several new members. We also sold several GCWG shirts and hats with our logo on them.

The annual encampment was more popular than previous years. Some participants had not been on an overnight backpack trip, and said they are ready to do it again!

We agreed to partner with the USFS to have Dr. Mark Harvey give a presentation on the history of the Wilderness Act, in anticipation of its 100th Anniversary in 2014. The GCWG provided a wonderful reception for this expert on the topic.

And, finally, thanks to all our dedicated members who welcome hikers at Monarch Lake and Junco Cabin. As many of us have heard from visitors, our bright smiles, enthusiasm and wealth of information all help make their experience more fun!

We can all look back with pride to our organization which accomplished so much in 2012. And we can look forward to another great selection of activities to preserve and enjoy our Grand County Wilderness!!

An Evening with Dr. Mark Harvey.

Dr. Harvey is author, biographer and professor of history at North Dakota State University. Best of all he is a terrific speaker. Dr. Harvey discussed how, when and why the national wilderness system came about in the 1940s and evolved during the 1950s and early 1960s. His talk and power point presentation (a modern term for what used to be referred to as a "slide show") introduced us to the cast of characters whose work culminated in the Wilderness Act of 1964. When the Wilderness Act was signed into law there were about 9.1 million acres designated as wilderness. Now there are about 110 million acres.

The Wilderness Act turns 50 in 2014. We are all beneficiaries of this legislation and expansion of wilderness areas. There will be more celebrations and educational opportunities to come. The more we know about the wilderness the more we can protect and enjoy it. Thanks to John Simmons and the Forest Service for bringing this informative speaker. Thanks to Gary and Sue Perkins for obtaining the Fellowship Hall at the Church of Eternal Hills and organizing the food and beverages. If anyone wants to learn a little more about the background of the Wilderness Act, the GCWG bought a copy of Mark Harvey's book, *Wilderness Forever: Howard Zahniser and the Path to the Wilderness Act* for our members to share. Contact Jim Magill if you would like to borrow it. On a final note, Ralph Swain, the Regional Wilderness Program Manager referred to the Grand County Wilderness newsletter as one of the best one he gets. He said that he "can tell we have a lot of fun." Isn't that the truth!!

Thank You Karen Vance

We want to thank Karen Vance our guest speaker at the fall meeting and potluck on October 14. We really enjoyed her talk on "Capturing the Wilderness in Art." Her paintings exemplify our wild areas perfectly. Her husband Jim Cordell is a huge help with her busy schedule. We appreciate you making time for our group.

September 29th was National Public Lands Day. By Ilan Skamir



Wilderness Group members were encouraged to participate in one of the following projects: Baker-Gulch, Kinney Creek, Colorado River Cleanup or the Winter Park Trail. The Thank You note from the NFS and BLM reads:

Thank You Grand County Wilderness Group for diving in to save and maintain our clean waterways and my home: Otter.

Advice from an Otter: Take time to play, Keep your whiskers clean, Cherish clean water, Be spontaneous, Stay Active, Don't be afraid to get your feet wet, Be utterly amazing!

HELP WANTED:

APPAREL SALES: t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, vests. This includes ordering as needed the apparel, storage and sales.

VASQUEZ TRAILHEAD BOX: GCWG needs someone to report to the "trailhead box coordinator" what the count is of hikers who register. This is done 2 or 3 times per year.

TRAILHEAD BOX COORDINATOR: Roger Shaw has served in this position many years. He is ready to let someone else take over. The coordinator receives the statistics of registrants for the trailhead boxes, reduces them to a spreadsheet, and provides the information to the Forest Service. Roger says he is ready and eager "to show someone the ropes!"



Osprey Nest

Encampment Takes on a New Look

by Roger Shaw

What was new? (1) Ron Sears was in charge. (2) He led us far (3 hour drive) afield from Grand County, west to the Flat Tops Wilderness beyond Yampa. (3) He actually scouted our trip ahead of time thereby losing past excitement arising from statements like "Well, my map indicated it was only supposed to be 5 miles" and "The topo looked like there was a flat camping spot about here." from the days when I led these expeditions. Nevertheless we had a great time in gorgeous country.

Our expeditionary force consisted of Ron, Dan & Renita McGrail, Pat Hogan, Jean Tidball, Dick and Carolyn Sunderland, Jerry Anderson and yours truly. No complainers in this group! Our hike into West Lost Lake was punctuated by beautiful and vast meadows among the aspen and pines, a bit of rain and a large stand of dead aspen. We thought this was the result of the aspen disease we've heard of but later learned that it was caused by a 2002 fire. Camp was delightful with a fire ring on a knoll overlooking the lake. Only the next day did we learn that we were in the district that still had a fire ban. Just over the ridge we could have had our campfires but, as good GCWers we only enjoyed the one before the ranger told us the rules.

The two days on site were filled with expeditions to East Lost Lake and to Deep Lake, each about 3 miles distant and each a charming mountain lake in its own way. Even the fish were content to snack on the local tidbits rather than what Pat was offering. As our time there drew to a close we decided to take a side trip to the nearby Trappers Lake Lodge after hiking out. The breathtaking views of the area, a waiter with dropsie and the maps showing the fire areas from 2002 made the side trip worthwhile. An expedition to that area, perhaps with some car camping, during aspen color season would be terrific but it will have to wait until next year.



Nature: The Artist

Photo by Doris Klein

Welcome New Members:

Michael & Suanne Yarbrough
Carol Cahalane
Jean Vasicek

Daisy Demolition Day



On Wednesday August 1st, a contingent of 21 (5 USFS staff, 14 GCWG members and 2 high school students) demolished the weeds along Monarch Lake and the Arapahoe stream. Once again Doreen Sumerlin directed us in pulling out yellow toad flax, chamomile, and ox-eye daisies. The Toad flax have little roots that do not want to come out. The ox-eye daisies have little daisy rosettes surrounding the base of the plants that are just waiting to take the place of the parent plant. Of course we all know chamomile. We were able to fill 15 large garbage bags with weeds. Monarch was looking even more beautiful than ever after we finished. After putting in a morning of pinching and pulling, we had a light lunch of gazpacho, cheese, crackers, and an added bonus of Joyce Clair's cookies. Thanks to the Forest Service: Doreen Sumerlin, Jamie Dahlkemper, Brady Spencer, Mike Cravens, Greg Hartsock . Thanks to the Grand County Wilderness Groupers: Roxanne Singlar, Mailyn Binkley, Joan Shaw, Chris and Stephen Lee, Barbara and Robert Janes, Joyce Clair, Roger Rood, Debbie Reichert, Beth Collins Jim Magill, Edna Anderson, Jean Law and her two boys. Attached is a picture of the happy group. Some of the not so happy weeds are in the bags.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Christmas Tree Cutting Sponsored by the Forest Service

As in previous years, Grand County Wilderness Group volunteers have helped out at this event. It has been a very popular event with many people attending and cutting trees.

WHERE: Elk Creek area in Fraser

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday – Dec 1,2 & Dec. 8,9
WHAT WE DO: There are three or four check points where folks may park their car and then go look for their perfect tree. After getting their tree and paying for it many people (especially those with small children) will stop and get their picture taken with Smokey the Bear. We are there to do a couple of things. One, keep the traffic flowing. We show people where to park and make sure they don't block anyone driving through to see Smokey. Second, we need someone to BE Smokey. The Forest Service will have a handler to answer questions, but the volunteers wear the Smokey costume.

We would like two shifts of volunteers for each day, two or three volunteers for each shift. The Forest Service and the County will have the Elk Creek Road plowed (one way in and out). However a four-wheel drive vehicle works best for getting in and out.

Please phone or e-mail Christine Lee if you can take one of the shifts below. It should be, as always, a COOL event.

Dec 1 Saturday 9:30 am – 1pm & 1 pm – 4pm (2 shifts)

Dec 2 Sunday (same as Saturday)

Dec 8 Saturday (same as previous weekend)

Dec 9 Sunday (same as previous weekend)

To volunteer for helping the Forest Service or if you have any questions contact Christine Lee. Email: stephenchris@rkymtnhi.com or call 708-990-5967.

Upcoming events

- **Christmas Bird Count**, Saturday Dec. 15th Meet at the Forest Service Office at 8:00 pm. Please contact Brock McCormick of the Forest Service to let him know you are coming. Forst Service Office phone is 887-4100. Call for more information.

- **White Deer Party**, Jan 27th

What is a White Deer Party, you ask? Well, think "white elephant", with a Grand County wilderness slant. The idea is to wrap something you consider a personal "white elephant", bring it to the gathering, and watch who goes home with it!

The White Deer Party will be at 5:30 pm at Snow Mountain Ranch/YMCA. It will be held in the basement of the administration building in the Rawley room under the chapel.

- **Spring Camping Trip.** We need volunteers to lead. If you have never done this, we will give you all the help you need.

Pickle Roll Ups From the Shaws

Tortillas, Spinach (green) ?

Cream Cheese, softened – not whipped because you want it to firm up again

Dried Beef (in a jar)

Dill Pickle spears – pat dry with paper towel

I took the tortillas and spread cream cheese evenly. Added the dried beef slices, overlapping a bit. Then took more cream cheese and lightly spread over dried beef. This is kind of tricky because the dried beef wants to lift up – softer cream cheese spreads easier. Then place your dill pickle spear at the edge of tortilla and roll up. I always place in plastic wrap or aluminum foil and chill overnight. Then when ready to serve, slice and place on serving platter. I like them because they are easy to make ahead-the rolled up & sealed wraps are easy for travel and it takes no time to slice and serve.

This is a real common snack in Iowa and everyone loves pickle rollups! When going to a potluck usually at least one person will bring these. It was funny to me because when we moved here the dried beef was more difficult to find. But City Market does have it.



TUTI team tackled trees on the Knight Ridge Trail.

The good news is the Totally Unauthorized Trail Improvement Teams (TUTI) went out four times to work on the Knight Ridge Trail. The trail from the Arapahoe Bay Campground to the Twin Creek Cabins is part of the Continental Divide Trail. There are a lot of downed trees. In some areas the trail is almost impassable.

Except for the first two miles along the Granby Reservoir from the Arapahoe Bay Campground, it is in the Wilderness. No power tools are allowed. The teams used pruning saws, bow saws, cross-cut saws, hand loppers and plenty of muscle. For two of the TUTI outings, Ron Sears ferried the teams in his pontoon boat to the starting points. It saved at least two to four hours of walking time. The Forest Service took the team out to Twin Creek Cabin for the final trip. TUTI cut over 300 trees that had fallen across the trail. The bad news is that there is still a section, about a half mile, that remains un-cleared.

Thanks to the “Hikers with Saws” who worked on the trail the Knight Ridge portion of the Continental Divide Trial is in a much better condition. First and foremost on this project is Roger Shaw. He went out on all four trips. He also sharpens and sets the teeth on the bow saws and two-person cross cut saws.

Thanks to the team participants: Gary Perkins, Louise and Graham Powers, Mike Braddy, Dick and Char Lucas, Pat Hogan, Lisa Vondehaar, Tom Papathakis, Toni Wujek, Al Rothenback, Jim and Joyce Clair, Doug Smith, Patricia Potter, Jim Magill, and Beth Collins. A Special Thanks to Ron Sears. Without his help TUTI would not have been able to accomplish as much as they did. We plan to do it again next summer. Talk to any of the past participants. They will tell you that although it is hard work, it is lots of fun, and very satisfying!

Roger Shaw invites all willing to do some real work and camp out to join the TUTI Team. The plan is to backpack in at least one night on a couple of occasions through the summer in order to cut out the fallen trees blocking wilderness trails. This will allow us to reach farther into the forest and get more done. We need not only sawyers but support helpers. Email Roger Shaw.

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in any of the following projects, please call Brock McCormick USFS (970-887-4100)

Adopt an Osprey nest: This involves keeping an eye on one of the 50 or so nests in our area. You check on your nest every couple of weeks to see how many birds are there, report when they hatch, and any issues such as fishing line line or other disturbances.

Monitor a blue bird box: There are about 150 boxes in the area from Hot Sulpher to Tabernash and Granby to Grand Lake. Every Sept/Oct these need to be repaired and cleaned. During that time you document whether bluebirds or swallows are using the nest.

Monofilament Recovery & Recycling

Program: There are several bins in the area. We need someone to adopt a bin, visit them 2-3 times each summer and take the material to Brock for recycling.

Christmas Bird Count: December 15th, this event is open to all skill levels. Beginners can learn from more experience birders.

Check in for new opportunities throughout the year.

Grand County Wilderness Group - You have joined a service organization and, holy moose!, there are plenty of ways to be of serve.

We hope that you became part of GCWG because you care about wild places with wild creature in Grand County and intend to help preserve them. NOW is the time to make choices for your involvement. All you need to do is set aside the time and sign up. NO ONE WILL CALL, it is up to you to get out there and make a difference. Here's the list of opportunities just for you:

1. Host one day at Junco Cabin – set date with Mary Ann Groswold (970-726-4390)
2. Host one day at Monarch Cabin – same as above
3. Don't worry about knowing how to host a cabin. Toni Wujek always gives us a training session to start the season.
4. Open up and clean either cabin to start the season - call names above
5. Hike the wilderness trails ON WEEKENDS and report via website or USFS.
6. Lead a Friday hike of your choice – Ingrid Anderson (970-726-8617)
7. Adopt a registration box and retrieve the reports – Roger Shaw (970-726-4626)
8. Spreadsheet analysis of trail usage from registration boxes – call Roger
9. Take digital photographs for our bulletin boards, newsletter and historian.
10. Help construct signage – Jim Clair (970-887-9097)
11. Work on trail day once a year with the group – Doug Smith ((970-722-7680)
12. Pay my \$15 dues to Grand County Wilderness Group – PO Box 406 Tabernash, 80472
13. Send change of email or address or phone – Mike Braddy – PO Box 206 Tabernash, CO 80478
14. Wear your wilderness tee shirt or sweatshirt more often.
15. Staff the booth at the Art Affair for 2 hours
16. Consider backpacking with the Encampment group
17. Uproot noxious weeds wherever we can find them – Beth Collins (970-726-5423)
18. Join the TUTI gang and clear the Knight ridge trail – Roger Shaw (970-726-4626)
19. Record and report volunteer hours – Dawn Schoen (970-887-9494)
20. Update trailhead bulletin boards
21. Distribute our “business” cards
22. Contribute to this newsletter, next edition – Holly Whitten (WPHolly@aim.com)
23. Contact the Forest Service anytime – John Simmons JKSimmons@fs.fed.us
24. Work on National Public Lands Day
25. Purchase shirts AND vests at Grand Lake Craft Fair
26. Adopt an Osprey nest – Brock McCormick USFS (970-887-4100)
27. Monitor a blue bird box – Brock (970-887-4100)
28. Help with pollinator seeding project – Brock (970-887-4100)

2012 dues are due. Only \$15: Send to Grand County Wilderness Group – PO Box 406 Tabernash 80478

Application Form (Fill in information below and send this form with payment.)

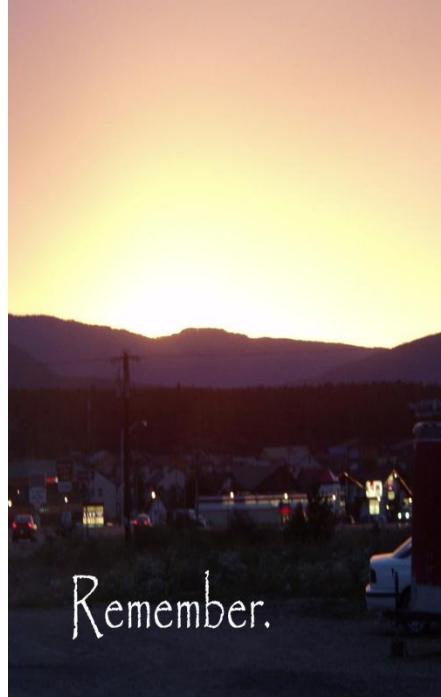
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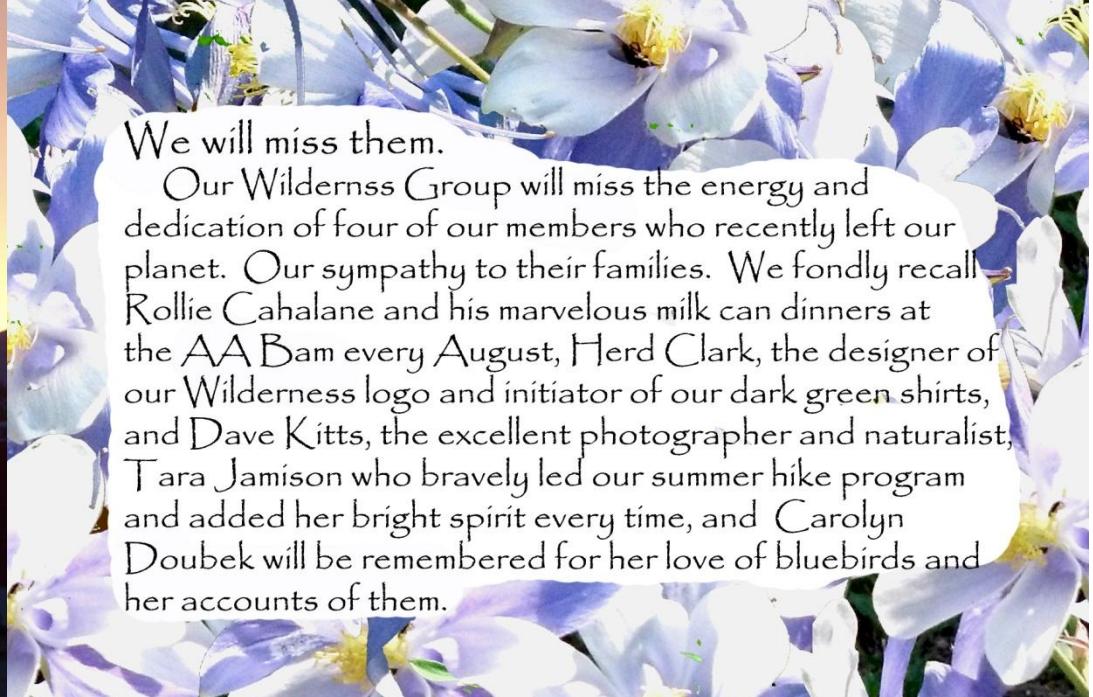
Email:

Phone:

Interests (Please circle interests listed above and make contact accordingly):



Remember.



We will miss them.

Our Wilderness Group will miss the energy and dedication of four of our members who recently left our planet. Our sympathy to their families. We fondly recall Rollie Cahalane and his marvelous milk can dinners at the AA Barn every August, Herd Clark, the designer of our Wilderness logo and initiator of our dark green shirts, and Dave Kitts, the excellent photographer and naturalist, Tara Jamison who bravely led our summer hike program and added her bright spirit every time, and Carolyn Doubek will be remembered for her love of bluebirds and her accounts of them.

Grand County Wilderness Mission Statement: To Assist the US Forest Service in the preservation, protection, improvement and public understanding of the wilderness areas in Grand County.

Preservation

- Patrol shores for fish line filament and recycling
- Work on a National Public Lands day project (page 2)
- Adopt an Osprey nest
- Monitor a blue bird box

Improvement

- Adopt a registration box
- Join a Daisy Days project and help irradiate noxious weeds (page 3)
- Join TUTI (See page 4 for details)
- Pollinator seeding project

Public Understanding

- Cabin Hosting (Junco and Monarch)
- Hike wilderness trails
- Lead a group hike
- Take digital photos to share
- Staff the booth at the Art Affair
- Wear your tee shirt, hat, vest to bring awareness

Protection

- Construct signage
- Update trail bulletin boards

Frasier, CO 80442

PO Box 2200

Grand County Wilderness Group