

Grand County Wilderness Group



Spring Issue 2018

www.gcwg.org

Letter from the President Jack Reichert

Since the last newsletter, we now have 78 household paid memberships for 2018 (was 94 in 2017). There are 16 households that have not renewed this year. Please get your membership dues in to Bob Saint ASAP.

I will start out with the bad news. After the spring meeting Al Rothenbach (Vice President) will reach his term limit and will be off the board. Al's history and knowledge of the GCWG has been a big and important influence on how we operate and what we do.

More bad news, Janet Harrington who handled our clothing inventory is leaving Grand County for a warmer climate. She was a great asset to the board and the Wilderness Group and we will miss her. Best wishes Janet.

The nominating committee composed of Bob Saint, Gary Perkins and Paisley has an extremely difficult task of finding someone to fill Al's position on the board. Since we had one more board member than our bylaws state we will not be filling Janet's position. We will see the results of their efforts at the Spring Meeting in April. As usual we will also take nominations from the floor.

The date for the Spring Membership meeting is April 14 in the Rowley Room at Snow Mountain Ranch. We will start with appetizers at 5:30, followed with dinner at 6:00. The meeting will begin at 7:00. We will have signup sheets for most of our summer activities, so bring your calendars and SIGN UP. We will have the usual Monarch & Junco cabin hosting signup sheets and the trail work projects. New this year will be how we signup for Trail Head Hosting and Light Trail Work Hikes and Light Trail Work Hike Leads.

This year we plan to open the Monarch cabin on May 19 and be open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and TBD holidays. The Junco cabin plans to be open on June 23 and be open on Saturdays, Sundays and TBD holidays. Monarch and Junco cabin hosting is the single most important activity we do for the USFS. If you are planning to do any cabin hosting (I hope this is almost all our members), please try to **be at the Spring Meeting**.

..Continued on Page 2.

Upcoming events

Spring Members Meeting, Saturday, Apr. 14, 2018, 5:30 pm Snow Mountain Ranch Rowley Room (administration building under Chapel). This is the planning meeting for all of our summer activities. Please bring your calendar so you can plan your summer activities.

May, 19 – Sept, 2018: Monarch Lake Cabin Hosting,(contact Doris Klein)

June, 23 - Sept. , 2018: Junco Cabin Hosting, (contact Bob Drickey)

May, 19 – Colorado Public Lands Day.

CABIN HOSTING ORIENTATION:

Monarch Lake Cabin Hosting: June 2 10 AM.

Junco Lake Cabin Hosting: July 7 10 AM.

The Orientation will last 1 to 2 hours, and will include a tour of the cabin.

July 14-15, 2018: Alpine Art Affair – 2 hr shifts

Roger Shaw memorial dedication – July 28
Check GCWG.org page for updates

FALL PICNIC – Plan ahead

Aug 12, 2018 AA Barn picnic

Aug 11, 2019 AA Barn picnic

DAISY DEMOLITION DAY -- TBD

National Public Lands Day: May 19th.

Trail Head Hosting –Spring Meeting

Trail Work Days: Trail work days are coordinated by Jack Reichert.

More Events: Check online for more opportunities. <http://gcwg.org>

This Year: Everyone must attend mandatory cabin hosting training, which is separate from Orientation.

The first training session will be at the spring meeting



GCWG is a service organization. We ask that each member participate in at least 4 one-day activities.

This newsletter references many fun and productive ways to contribute.

Daisy Days is one example



The sun shown brightly on July 22nd as 10 Grand County Wilderness Group volunteers (all female) were led on a search and destroy mission by Forest Service Wildlife Biologist Doreen Sumerlin, Neillie Tibbs and three of their staff. First, the group sneaked up on a stand of yellow toad flax. The not-yet-blooming, unsuspecting toadflax were surrounded and uprooted from their rocky home on the banks of Monarch Lake.

Next, we divided into two groups and scoured the river banks. Oxeye daisies tried to hide, but they too were destroyed by the relentless efforts of the group. Invasive alien thistles were also dug out and bagged. The experienced Forest Service staff protected the Colorado thistle, by repeatedly answering the queries from the volunteers about which thistles were okay (Colorado thistle) and which were bad (looked like Colorado thistles, but weren't).

After a morning of murder and mayhem, we had gazpacho soup and sack lunches near the cabin. Ranger Sumerlin commented that the GCWG has made a difference in the noxious weed population near Monarch Lake. After lunch, some GCWG members went for a hike around the lake. Our trained eyes were able to spot some yellow toad flax near the path on the north side of the lake; however, we still were not able to identify a good thistle from a bad one. In summary it was a great day for GCWG and the Forest Service, but a terrible day for the noxious weeds. Thanks to all the GCWG volunteers and Forest Service for a great (or terrible, depending on perspective) day of invasive noxious weed eradication.

Presidents Letter *continued from page 1*

Every person who hosts one of the cabins **MUST** (no exceptions) have had the "Cabin Orientation Training" conducted by Andy Borek or other USFS personnel. In the past we have been accidentally giving the public inconsistent or incorrect information. To reduce this, we have implemented the orientation training. Overall the Forest Service is extremely satisfied with how we conduct ourselves during the cabin hosting and this orientation is not to be taken the wrong way. We just want to try to eliminate those small mistakes that unfortunately reflect negatively on the Forest Service and us. This training does not replace the cabin operations training provided by Toni Wujek each spring.

At the Fall Membership meeting we discussed your board's decision to eliminate the weekly "Orientation" hikes and replace them with "Light Trail Work" hikes, where we do a little work (mostly brushing back vegetation) as we walk the trails.

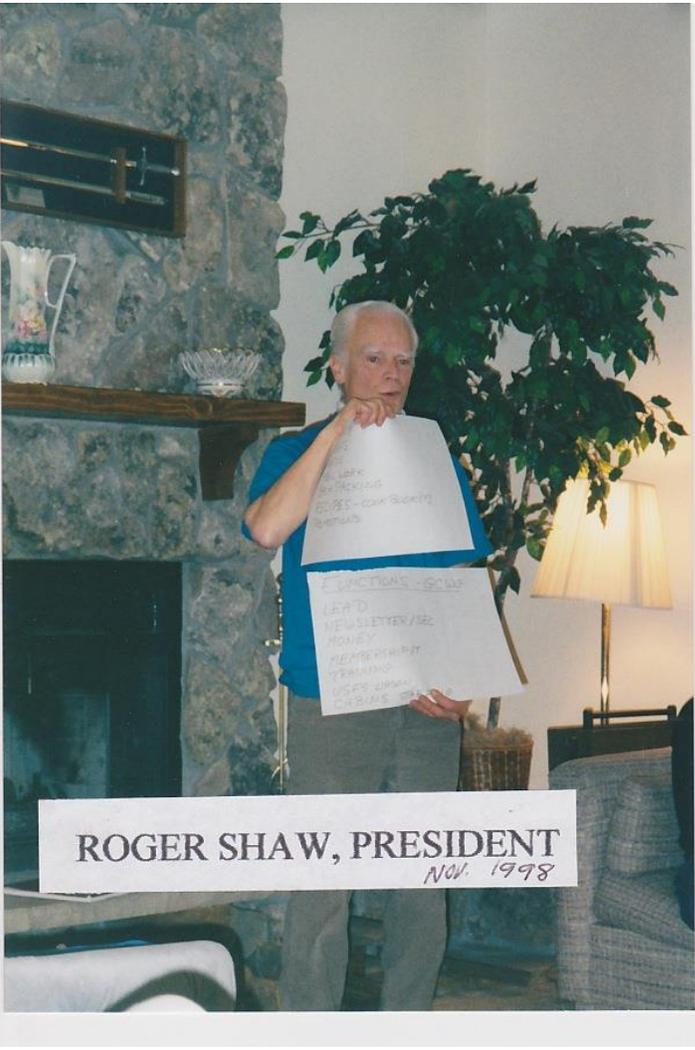
Joyce Clair and Paisley have developed a guide for the light trail work hike leads. This guide identifies what we should try to accomplish on the hikes, what type of work to do, how to report needed trail maintenance beyond what could be accomplished by the hikers.

These light trail work hikes should only add 20-30 minutes to the hike. We will all be amazed at how much better the trails will look and what 10-20 people can accomplish in an extra 20-30 minutes.

If you are leading a GCWG function make sure everyone signs the "Volunteer Service Agreement". Signing this acknowledges you are not a federal employee, you are physically fit to do the tasks, your photo performing the tasks may become public domain, and most importantly to help assure you are covered by the USFS liability and injury compensation.

One last reminder. Our volunteer hours are a major factor in the Sulphur Ranger District's ability to get grants for summer interns and other projects.

Therefore, it is extremely important to **turn in your hours to Toni Wujek**. Start counting hours when you leave the door till you get back home (i.e. door-to-door). If you do any prep work before leaving the door, count those hours. The same applies to returning home. Group activity leaders – it is your responsibility to turn in the hours for your group.



Mark your calendars for July 28, 2018.

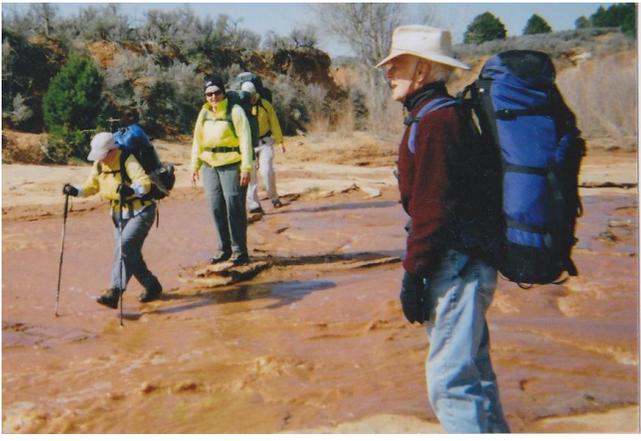
A Memorial Service to celebrate the contributions, dedication and passion Roger brought to the Wilderness Group

Visit the Roger Shaw Memorial Page on the GCWG.org website.

Wisdom from Joan and Roger's 2012 newsletter:
NOW IS THE HOUR Does that remind you of a song? It comes from WW2 and I challenge you to provide the next line. Better yet, I challenge you to fill in your summer plans NOW.

Roger Memories:

- ❖ Favorite Trail: Roger Shaw-TRAIL WITH NO TRAIL-The anticipation of what's over the next rise is invigorating
- ❖ Roger Shaw has developed a well-deserved reputation for laying out and leading some pretty challenging backpacking trips and encampments (ask Joan for her story on backpacking and marriage). Usually the challenge is limited to steep assents, bushwhacking and longer than advertised routes. This year Roger was even able to control the weather to add to the excitement. (Ron Sears – 2010)
 Encampment and Spring Camping were always fun:



- ❖ Starlight, Star Bright Roger and Joan Shaw were on a camping and hiking trip last summer. They had gone to bed and were lying there looking up at the sky. Roger said, "Joan, look up. What do you see?" "Well, I see thousands of stars." "And what does that mean to you?" "Well, I guess it means we will have another nice day tomorrow. What does it mean to you, Roger?" "To me, it means someone has stolen our tent."

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

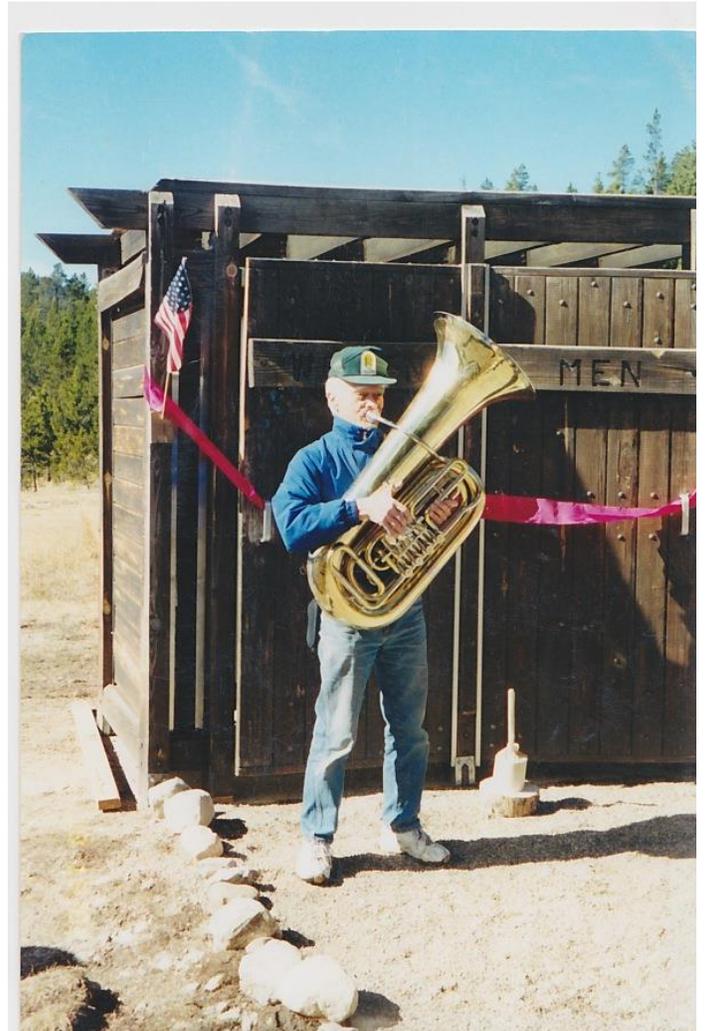


OLDER IS BETTER - Roger Shaw of the Grand County Wilderness Group and Geoff Elliott of Headwaters Trails Alliance were working their tails off on the new trail paralleling CR 4 while their younger contemporaries rested on their picks.

- ❖ What would the Grand County Wilderness Group be without Roger's influence? We are all very fortunate to have benefited from his dedication to our group.

- ❖ What would the TUTI gang and the Knight Ridge trail be without Roger?

What's a TUTI!!!!



Here are some Camping tips from Joan and Roger:

- When using a public campground, a tuba placed on your picnic table will keep the campsites on either side of you vacant.
- Old socks can be made into high fiber beef jerky by smoking them over an open fire.
- Lint from your navel makes a handy fire starter. Warning: Remove lint from navel before applying the match.
- You can duplicate the warmth of a down-filled bedroll by climbing into a plastic garbage bag with several geese.
- When smoking a fish, never inhale.

There are plenty of ways to be of service. We hope that you became part of GCWG because you care about wild places with wild creatures 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 is a summary opportunities for your reference:

1. Pay your \$20 dues to GCWG
2. Host one day at Junco Cabin
3. Host one day at Monarch Cabin
4. Open up and clean either cabin to start the season
5. Hike a wilderness trail ANY DAY. REPORT your hours via website form.
6. Lead a Light Trail Work hike.
7. Adopt a registration box and retrieve the reports – Stephen Lee (stephenchris@rkymtnhi.com, [708-990-5967](tel:708-990-5967))
8. Spreadsheet analysis of trail usage from registration boxes – Stephen Lee
9. Take digital photographs for our bulletin boards, newsletter - Holly Whitten (news1@GCWG.org)
10. Help construct signage and update trailhead bulletin boards – Jack Reichert
11. Work on trail maintenance and other projects - Jack Reichert
12. Wear your wilderness tee shirt or sweatshirt every time you hike in the forest and report your hours.
13. Staff the booth at the Art Affair for 2 hours
14. Consider backpacking with the Encampment group or joining the Spring Camp
15. Uproot noxious weeds wherever we can find them – Beth Collins ([970-726-5423](tel:970-726-5423))
16. Record and report volunteer hours – Toni Wujek
17. Distribute our “business” cards
18. Contribute articles to this newsletter– Holly Whitten (news1@GCWG.org)
19. Work on National Public Lands Day
20. Purchase shirts, sweatshirts and hats.
21. Adopt an Osprey nest –USFS ([970-887-4100](tel:970-887-4100))
22. Monitor a blue bird box – USFS ([970-887-4100](tel:970-887-4100))
24. Volunteer at the Forest Service Office.

Contact the Forest Service anytime - USFS ([970-887-4100](tel:970-887-4100)) to check other activities.



Don't forget that you can volunteer for fun with Smokey to earn more hours.

Volunteer work is appreciated:

I was overwhelmed with support from GCWG volunteers this year. Volunteers helped with Christmas Bird Count (1651 individual birds and 37 species counted); helped pull noxious weeds from our Granby office landscaping; built and installed new bluebird nest boxes along Hwy 40 west of Red Dirt Hill; Adopted countless osprey nests and kept tabs on breeding activities (we had a total of 53 active nests and 57 chicks fledged this season); built and installed 6 new monofilament collection bins, and collected and CLEANED monofilament line collected for recycling; removed noxious weeds from Monarch Lake at our annual DAISY DEMOLITION event. I am so grateful to all for their help and support of the Sulphur Ranger District wildlife Program!!!!

Doreen Sumerlin
Southwest Zone Wildlife Biologist, Sulphur District
Rangeland and Noxious Weeds Staff

Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/grandcountywildernessgroup>

Special Thanks to Chas McConnell at [McConnell Printing](#) for his help with printing this newsletter.

Want to lead a hike? Orientation hikes have been replaced with “Light Trail Work” hikes. This will be very light work during the walks. To clarify expectations, there is a guide for the light trail work hike leads.

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
- Adopt an Osprey nest
- Monitor a blue bird box

Improvement

- Adopt a registration box
- Build a bluebird nest
- Eradicate noxious weeds
- Work on a maintenance 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

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2017-18 Membership. Yearly dues are \$20 per household. New Members, please provide Bob Saint your name, address, phone number and e-mail with your payment at the Spring Meeting. You can also join on-line at GCWG.org. Dues and any change of information can be mailed to Grand County Wilderness, PO Box 4116, Granby, CO 80446

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