

Grand County Wilderness Group



Fall Issue 2013

www.gcwg.org

Wilderness Legacy

Bob Saint & Ann Steers

In 2014 our country will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. It will also mark the 20th anniversary of the Grand County Wilderness Group (GCWG). The precise date of the beginning of the GCWG is hazy like the alpine mists that envelope our wondrous peaks and meadows. But after talking to the founders, Walt and Sally Bobb, 1994 is a year that comfortably fits into their recollections and timelines. So, this is where our story begins.

Walt, Sally and their son Brent had been enjoying their cabin on Shadow Mountain Lake for many years, hiking and backpacking in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. One of their favorite places to backpack into and spend a couple of days was Crater Lake. Walt would usually bring a large plastic bag and go around the lake picking up trash left behind by thoughtless campers who apparently didn't share the vision that "*wilderness is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man...*". According to Walt, the idea of forming an organized group that would assist the Forest Service in protecting the wilderness by educating the public and helping to maintain trails and campsites took root in his family's appreciation of the abundant natural beauty in wild places such as Crater Lake and our shared responsibility for its stewardship.

Walt and Sally started thinking that there probably were like-minded people in the area who might also like to volunteer to be additional eyes and ears on the trails and campsites and assist the Forest Service in this effort. Walt was familiar with the Indian Peaks Wilderness Group from the east side of the divide and contacted Anne Vickery who headed up that group. For several years, Walt would take out an ad in the local newspaper announcing an organizational meeting at the old library (above the fire station) in Grand Lake. A few people would come, but it took a couple of years to get things off the ground. Walt discovered that having food available would attract more people, so he soon started having breakfast gatherings at his cabin on Shadow Mountain Lake. Around 1994, four couples made up a core group calling themselves the Grand County Wilderness Group. The four couples were Walt & Sally Bobb, Herd & Yvonne Clark, Jim & Abby Deloach and Ed & Sue Jackson. In addition, the roster included Jack Placchi and Roger Rood from the Forest Service, along with Anne Vickery and Jim Gluck from what is now called the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA). There was an option for this early group to partner with the very organized IPWA as a west side branch. However, it quickly became apparent that their (IPWA's) very structured, formalized approach with uniforms and trail assignments each weekend was not what this

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Upcoming Events & Information

Fall meeting. Sunday Nov 3, 5:30 pm. Snow Mountain Ranch Rawley Room, under in the administration building under the chapel.

Christmas Tree Cutting, December 7,8,14,15, 2013. See the article below for more information.

White Deer Party January (TBD). Make sure you scout out the most interesting exchange gift for this event.

Wilderness Bill 50th Anniversary. All next year, we will be celebrating.. Look for more exciting news on this as we get closer.

New Projects. The Board is also working with Nick on the best projects for the group once the snow melts again. We are looking forward to a very productive year.

Visit GCWG Website, <http://www.gcwg.org> Make sure you visit often to find the latest information on what is going on.

Volunteers Needed

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

Christmas Tree Cutting, December 7,8,14,15 GCWG members are needed to help the Forest Service at their annual December tree cutting event. Many people have come for years to pick out trees to start the holiday season. In addition, the participants usually stop and have their pictures taken with Smokey Bear, another holiday tradition.

Our volunteers help with traffic and parking. Most importantly, ***we need several volunteers to dress up as Smokey.*** Yes, we wear the Smokey costume. It's only for a few hours, either morning or afternoon. We would like volunteers for two shifts each day, two or three volunteers for each shift. The Forest Service and the County will have the Elk Creek Road plowed for those days. However, a four-wheel drive vehicle is still required for access. If interested, please call Christine Lee at 708-990-5967 or e-mail:

stephenchris@rkymtnhi.com

Wilderness Legacy *Continued from front page.*

congenial, friendly group that liked to hike and enjoy each other's company, wanted.

The group slowly grew and continued Walt's vision of assisting the Forest Service in the Wilderness Areas of Grand County by educating the public of the need to protect the wilderness by following the rules such as not having dog's off leashes, camping in proper places with a permit and packing out all trash. We actually received training from the Forest Service on how to tactfully speak to the public about the rules without being antagonistic or overly aggressive. Before the current registration boxes were installed, we would count the cars in the parking lot and the number of people, dogs and other animals we encountered on the Grand County Wilderness trails; and provide a summary report to the Forest Service. In addition, with the help of long time summer Wilderness Ranger Roger Rood and sometimes on our own, we would maintain some of the trails within the Wilderness Areas. Roger Rood's consistent support and guidance as the Forest Service liaison at this time was pivotal to the early success of the GCWG.

The founding years saw other developments that have remained part of the legacy. For example, the group soon realized that it needed some sort of identification when encountering the public on its outings, so charter member, Herd Clark designed the original t-shirts and logo that is still used today. Similarly, the group continued its tradition of having fun, social get-togethers, a feature that Abby and Jim DeLoach recall with great fondness. Then, on July 19, 1999 the IRS 501(c) 3 non-profit status was obtained. Walt Bobb's son Brent, who was by then a law student at the University of Colorado, helped with the writing of the original charter and bylaws for the GCWG.

The IRS non-profit status meant that the GCWG could apply for grants and donations to further our mission. Charter member Ed Jackson applied for a Great Outdoors Colorado (Lottery Funds) grant. On August 25, 2000 a grant was approved for \$4,320 to improve the Junco cabin including the installation of outhouses. An outhouse was required by the Forest Service for the Junco cabin to be utilized by the public. As stated in the grant, 10% was required in "in kind" services from the GCWG. About 20 people working approximately 80 hours fulfilled this obligation by staining the cabin, installing the wheelchair ramp and the outhouse. A contract for \$3,700 was made to transport the outhouse 75 miles from storage at the Williams Fork Campground to the Junco Cabin. Fraser Crane helped by lifting the outhouse onto a dump truck from Tabernash and then onto the site at Junco. Conroy Excavating dug the hole for the outhouse. The rest of the grant money was used to stain the cabin, purchase lumber to construct the wheelchair ramp and supplies for the outhouse, including toilet paper, which the Forest Service couldn't afford at the time.

Since the early years of the founding of the GCWG, the organization has grown and expanded its assistance to the Forest Service. As the legacy continues we remain inspired by the vision and persistence that Walt and others established in the beginning. As we look forward to celebrating the anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the founding of the Grand County Wilderness Group, it is also a good time to honor the legacy of both. Howard Zahniser, the primary author of the Wilderness Act, once wrote: *"To know the wilderness is to know a profound humility, to recognize one's littleness, to sense dependence and interdependence, indebtedness and responsibility."* This sentiment echoes the insight that Walt Bobb had when he first started picking up trash at Crater Lake back in the 90's. Walt's idea has grown into a very proud, successful organization whose mission is "To Assist the US Forest Service in the Preservation, Protection,

Improvement and Public Understanding of the Wilderness areas of Grand County". What a wonderful legacy, what a wonderful Wilderness!

Note: Walt and Sally Bobb first bought property in Hawaii in 1992. In 2002 they moved to Hawaii full time and continue to live there. Their son, Brent, is now a successful lawyer living in Zurich, Switzerland with his wife and two young sons (3 & 5).

Roger Rood recently retired and returned to Grand County. He has also rejoined the GCWG and is once again helping to protect and maintain the Wilderness.

Herd Clark passed away in 2012 and continues to be missed by all.

Orientation Hike to Strawberry Lake

Jean Vasicek

This past summer one of our orientation hikes was to Strawberry Lake. The trail is just off the road to Monarch Lake from hwy 34. The trail is not marked to discourage hikers from finding their way. The floating vegetation on the lake is extremely sensitive to foot traffic. Hikers should stay on the path. Damaged vegetation needs hundreds of years to recover.



Strawberry Lake (taken from new floating dock)



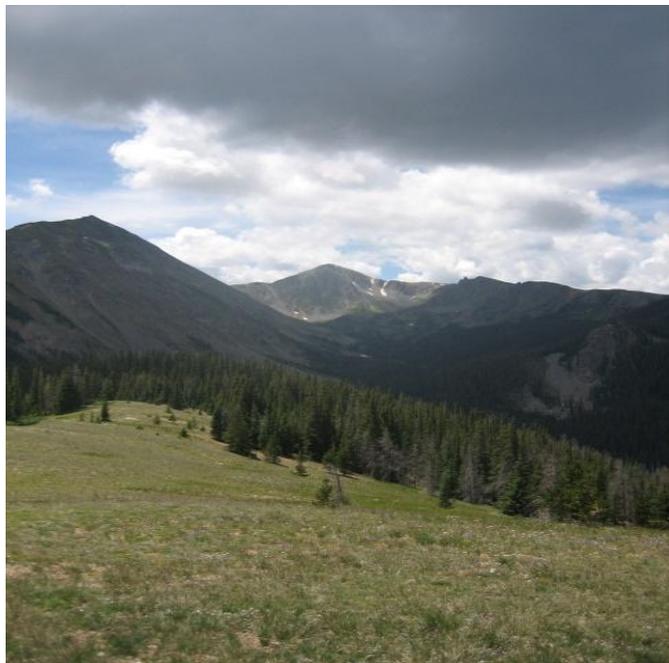
Orientation Hike Participants

ALL VOLUNTEERS: Make sure you look for the e-mails and report all of your **volunteer hours**. It's very important that we keep track of these. Don't know what to count? Check the Volunteer Hours link on the website.

Wilderness Ranger Update

Greetings on behalf of the wilderness crew here on the Sulphur Ranger District. Some of our most recent outings were working the trails up Vasquez Pass, Bottles Peak, St. Louis Divide trail, Gourd Lake, Crater Lake, High Lonesome, Arapaho Pass, Caribou Pass and Cascade Creek. Trails were cleared, campsites were recorded and public contacts were made. We have been making our rounds to Still Water, Green Ridge and Idlewild campgrounds to give informative programs on Wilderness to the patrons at the campsites.

We also have been working consistently with the WONDERFUL Grand County Wilderness Group...that's you guys and gals! Without all of your help, we rangers wouldn't be able to accomplish all the things on our "summer to do" list and we sure do appreciate all you do! Some of the work we've accomplished together has been: trail maintenance on the Cascade Creek Trail next to Monarch Lake; trail maintenance on the Bottle Pass Trail; building a bridge on the Bowen Gulch Interpretive Trail along with other trail maintenance; and our most recent trip included trail and campsite maintenance on the Caribou Pass and Arapaho Pass Trails, and at Caribou Lake. Most of the work wilderness rangers do is physically demanding and involves long hours and I commend you all for your never failing enthusiasm and all the hard work and effort you all put into whatever project we bring you to. Thank you again! Be sure to check out the Grand County wilderness website for future volunteer projects at www.gcwg.org Happy Trails!



Bottle Pass

Monitoring the Monarch Lake Cabin

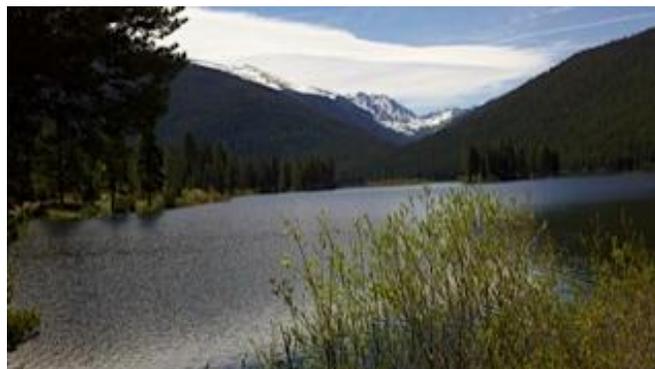
Yesterday at Monarch Lake, Ed and I had a positively glorious day. It was not only beautiful, but meeting the 100+ who visited reconfirmed my faith in humanity. They were splendid people, congenial and so pleasant to visit with. They all really loved being in the area and so appreciative of our presence.



Two moose enjoying the view at Monarch Lake.



Looking for a ride?



IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

We have found some very good uses for our money. At the end of last year, we bought better binoculars for the kids backpacks that have been such a success. This year, we helped the forest service purchase new trail head signage for Vasquez and Byers Peaks Wildernesses.

Next year we will be spending money on maintenance for some of the kiosks that the signs go in, and working on signs for Never Summer and Indian Peaks Wildernesses. Also next year is the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and we will be spending money to help spread the word.

Grand County Wilderness Group - We are a group of individuals and couples who share a common interest in outdoor activities and are willing to put time and energy into helping the forest. Here are some opportunities for you to become involved. 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.

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 and report via website or USFS. You can do this on the weekends.
6. Lead a hike of your choice – We will designate a day in the Sprng. Ingrid Anderson (970-726-8617)
7. Adopt a registration box: provide registration sheets, retrieve them and tabulates the numbers for that trail . Bob Saint and Ann Steers.
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. Join us for a Forest Service work day - Roger Shaw (970-726-4626)
13. Pay my \$20 dues to Grand County Wilderness Group – PO Box 206 Tabernash, 80478
14. Send change of email or address or phone – Mike Braddy – PO Box 206 Tabernash, CO 80478
15. Wear your wilderness tee shirt or sweatshirt more often.
16. Staff the booth at the Art Affair for 2 hours
17. Consider backpacking with the Encampment group
18. Uproot noxious weeds wherever we can find them – Beth Collins (970-726-5423)
19. Record and report volunteer hours – Dawn Schoen (970-887-9494)
20. Update trailhead bulletin boards -
21. Check out the new trailhead Bulletin Boards on the website.
22. Distribute our “business” cards
23. Contribute to this newsletter, next edition – Holly Whitten (WPHolly@aim.com)
24. Contact the Forest Service anytime – Nick Schade - 970-887-4100
25. Work on National Public Lands Day
26. Purchase shirts AND vests at Grand Lake Craft Fair
27. Adopt an Osprey nest – Brock McCormick USFS (970-887-4100)
28. Monitor a blue bird box – Brock (970-887-4100)
29. Help with pollinator seeding project – Brock (970-887-4100)

<p>OFFICERS FOR GCWG: President: Jim Magill president@gcwg.org (970-726-5423) VP: Al Rothenbach vpres@gcwg.org (970)-887-9042 Treasurer: Tom Whitten treas@gcwg.org (970)-887-2900 Secretary: Christine Lee sec@gcwg.org 708-990-5967 NEWSLETTER: Content: Holly Whitten newsl@gcwg.org (970)-887-2900 Editor: Jean Vasicek jean@winterparkhoney.com 407-363-9061</p>	<p>2013 dues are due. Only \$20: Send to Grand County Wilderness Group – PO Box 206 Tabernash 80478</p> <p>Application Form (Fill in information below and send this form with payment.)</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>Phone:</p> <p>Interests (Please circle interests listed above and make contact accordingly):</p>
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GCWG Members and Volunteers Celebrate NPLD

Neither wind nor rain, nor blizzard, nor freezing temperatures could keep enthusiastic trail workers from gathering at 7:00 AM at Snow Mountain Ranch. After choosing a project site matching their passion and with delicious cinnamon buns and hot coffee in hand, workers boarded busses and vans headed for their location. End of day accomplishments include:

- Construction of two turnpikes and installation of drainage structures in the popular Blizzard Pass motorized trail.
- Rerouting of a 100 yard section of our favorite AA Bar Barn angler trail including water / erosion control and a rock lined raised trail on the Colorado River Trail.
- Construction of elevated boardwalk with additional structures including a small bridge on the Yankee Doodle section of the Idlewild Trail System popular for both hiking and biking.
- Cleanup of a 15 mile section of the Colorado River including removal of 250 lbs of steel and other debris. Construction of 3 "privacy blinds" at two river camps intended to assist physically disabled in the enjoyment of the Colorado River. All work was accessed by boat!

Our members and additional volunteers contributed their time, talents, and physical energy. This effort is equivalent to a donation of approximately \$30,000 toward the beautification Grand County. All participants were graciously rewarded with enthusiastic company, a delicious dinner provided by Winter Park Resort and music by the ACME Band. Mark your calendar for next year! NPLD will be on the last Saturday in September! September 27, 2014!



Ken and Pat building the AA Bar Barn Trail

Bees and Hidden Threats

Jean Vasicek

Honey bees and some species of digger bees look a lot alike until you see them side by side. Digger bees are solitary bees that stay within a few feet of their home. Honeybees live with 40,000 girlfriends, 500 boyfriends and 1 queen and travel up to 10 miles to find nectar. Both digger bees and honeybees are pollinators (see the pollen on digger bee and honeybee in the photos) and both are in fear of their lives. Some threats lurk where least expected. .

Recent investigations have found that substances sprayed on seeds by seed manufactures may yield poisonous nectar, killing millions of our tiny pollinators. So check with seed manufacturers BEFORE you buy. Find out what toxic substances may persist in flower nectar AFTER the seeds have sprouted. You may be purchasing native seeds intended to help the bees and be doing just the opposite.



Digger Bee covered with yellow pollen.
(Photo by Dan Vasicek)



Honeybee with orange pollen in her pollen basket. (Photo by Dan Vasicek)

CALL FOR ARTICLES: While the primary focus of GCWG is to assist the Forest Service to preserve the wilderness areas in Grand County, we don't leave out the fun. Working together, we create many friendships and promote this by making a yearly camping trip. Does anyone have an interesting story and/or picture for the next newsletter about any past trips? '00 Arches; '01 Grand Canyon / Canyon Lands; '02(Jan) Jackson Hole / Yellowstone; '02(April), Capital Reef; '03 Capital Reef; '04 Bryce / Zion; '06 Arches Fiery Furnace; '07 Dinosaur National Monument / Fish hatchery Jones Hole Creek; '08 Great Sand Dunes; '09 Black Canyon of Bunnison; '10 Kodachrome Basin; '11(Jan) Yellowstone; '11(May) Bandelear; '12 Arches; '13 Zion National Park

Daisy Demolition 2013



INVITATION TO A PLACE OF PEACE AND BEAUTY *Joan Shaw*

If you want to see a very special place NEARBY on the planet, you are invited to visit the former property of Betty Dick, located 4 miles inside RMNP at the confluence of the Colorado River with Bowen and Baker Creeks. Recently many of you were invited to a private concert given there as an introduction to the goal of preserving it as an Education/Conference Center. Roger and I are delighted to encourage the fund raising needed to bring the property up to code and make it official. It is now known as Trail River Ranch. A group of nature preservationists have organized a working committee in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Nature Association so you will be hearing more about it. Meanwhile, call the Shaws (726-4626) if you want exact directions to a lovely spot for a picnic and an ÁHHHH experience.

Which piece of garbage takes the longest to decay?

- a. Newspaper
- b. Candy wrapper
- c. Glass bottle
- d. Tin Can

**Remember: Pack out ALL trash.
Never bury anything.**

Answer: The glass bottle could take up to 500,000 years to break down. The tin can 100-125 years, Candy wrappers 2-3 years, newspapers 1-2 years.

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
- Join a Daisy Days project and help eradicate noxious weeds
- Join TUTI
- 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