

Grand County Wilderness Group



Spring Issue 2019

www.gcwg.org

Letter from the President Jack Reichert

Don't forget to attend our Spring Membership meeting on May 18. Ralph Swain (USFS Region 2, program manager) will be our featured speaker. His region covers 5 states and over 4 MILLION acres of wilderness. I have heard Ralph speak several times and he is an excellent speaker and his talks are usually very motivational. In addition, Clayton Cornwell will be presenting the Grand County FS plans for this summer and important local FS changes.

We will use Ralph's stature to help us recruit new members. We are planning to run ads in the local newspapers and inviting those interested to attend our Spring Membership meeting. Naturally, when you see new faces introduce yourself and be friendly.

Our household membership is down slightly from last year, but there are several households that have not renewed for this year. Please get your membership dues in to Bob Saint ASAP.

After the spring meeting three board members will be leaving the board: Ex-President Bob Saint (and current Treasurer and Membership chairman), current Vice President Gary Perkins and board member Paisley. The nominating committee composed of Bob Saint, Monica Sandstrom and Toni Wujek have taken on the task to find people to fill these positions. Their recommendations will be presented at the Spring Meeting on May 18, as usual we will take nominations from the floor.

The Spring Membership meeting (May 18) is in the Rowley Room at Snow Mountain Ranch. We will start with appetizers at 5:30, followed with dinner at 6:00 and the meeting will begin at 7:00. As usual we will have signup sheets for most our summer activities, so bring your calendars and SIGNUP.

Dick Sprague has been the Monarch and Junco cabin sign up coordinator for the last 4 years. THANK YOU.... Dick for all the hard work. This is the most important volunteer function we do and Dick did a great job. Dick will be stepping down this year and Monica Sandstrom will be taking over his duties. I am sure Monica will continue to do a superb job.

We have implemented (big thank you to AL Rothenbach) an on-line sign up system for the Monarch Lake and Junco cabin hosting. You can sign up using this new system by visiting the GCWG.org website. The signup system is very intuitive and easy to understand with a minimum of computer skills. You can see what days are still available and who is hosting on specific days (if the date is not totally filled, you can see who you would be your

Upcoming Events

Spring membership meeting – May 18
Weed Warrior Day – August 1
Spring Picnic AA barn – August 11
Fall membership meeting – October 19

Cabin Hosting Orientation
Junco: Saturday, July 7th 10:00 a.m

Letter from the President continued

hosting partner). We will be sending out an email in the near future describing the process of using this on-line system. You can still contact Monica and sign up as before. So far over half of the cabin hosting openings have been filled, so sign up soon to get your preferred dates.

New this year is a video on the cabin hosting procedures and wilderness rules & back country permits. Toni Wujek will be the "actress" in the cabin hosting video and Bob Saint will be the wilderness rules & back country permits "actor". Ann Rosati will be "director" and video editor. The videos will be available on the GCWG.org website. These videos will replace the mandatory trainings we had last year. Toni will still have a cabin hosting orientation one day this spring and Bob will be available for rules & permit questions.

This year the Light Trail Work hikes will be every Wednesday (Thursday last year). We will not know the specific trails we will be hiking at the Spring Meeting (the Forest Service needs to get on the trails and ID those what we should work). We need leads for each of the hikes and we will have sign-up sheets at the meeting for hike leads. The primary responsibility is select the trail, determine meeting time and location, send a notification email to the GCWG President for distribution to all members and pick up radios and tools from Granby FS office. Contact Joyce Clair or Eric Sandstrom for information on the Light Trail Work hikes or becoming a hike lead.

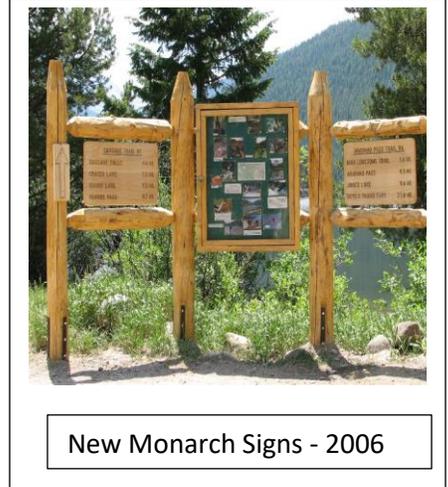
If you are leading a GCWG function make sure everyone signs the "Volunteer Service Agreement".

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.

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.

Cabin Hosting is one of our most important tasks.



New Monarch Signs - 2006

Meet Your President:

Jack Reichert, President of the Grand County Wilderness Group for the last two years. Retired from a large Aerospace company.

Primary interests: Downhill skiing, Nordic skiing, hiking, fishing, hunting and reading about wild west history. Volunteer with the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) in Downhill and Nordic skiing and the Therapeutic Horse Riding.

My father was a big outdoorsman and got me hooked as a young kid. As I got older I began to see the gradual degradation of many of the areas that were nearly pristine when I was younger. That's when I decided to do my part to help preserve our natural outdoor assets for our current and future kids.

A Bit More Information on your Treasurer:

Bob and Ann moved to Grand County in January, 1996 from Boulder County because Bob got a job as the Engineer for Mountain Park Electric. That spring they responded to an announcement in the paper to attend a meeting of the Grand County Wilderness Group. While at that meeting, they met Joan and Roger Shaw who had also responded to the same meeting announcement. In 1999 the GCWG developed bylaws and obtained the IRS 501 (c) 3 status. To streamline that process, Bob was listed as Incorporator and Sole Director on the original documents. In January, 2001 Bob and Ann moved to Fairfax Virginia when Bob took a job at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). In August, 2011 Bob and Ann moved back to Grand County and almost immediately became active in the GCWG, attending one of the last of the TUTI work days. Bob was elected to the Board in the Spring of 2013 and was elected President in 2014 for a three year term. When Bob's term ended as president in the Spring of 2017, he became the Treasurer and Membership chair. In the Spring of 2019, he will be term limited and go off the Board, but will retain the duty of Membership Chair for the time being.

Farwell E-Mail from Doreen Sumerlin

I wanted to let you all know that I am planning on retiring June 30. It's not easy typing this as it's a difficult decision for me and I am so very honored to have had your assistance with wildlife projects for so many years. What would I have done without all of you? And Grand County animals are so lucky to have all of you!

I am uncertain who may be in charge of many of the projects that you have helped with. CPW will likely take the lead in organizing Christmas Bird Count and possibly keeping up with osprey nests – I will let you know as things develop. If you are gathering and cleaning monofilament line from the collection tubes, please continue to do so and you can drop it off at the Granby FS office front desk with Ann Williams. Greg Hartsock, our Noxious Weed Crew Lead, will be able to ship it in for recycling (or call Beth for help with cleaning!!). Greg will also be the contact person for our annual Daisy Demolition Day at Monarch Lake. If you are cleaning and maintaining bluebird nest boxes, please continue to do that work in the fall and the bluebirds will be so appreciative.

You have all made my time with the Forest Service so rewarding and fun. I hope we can continue to work together on projects and I will also be a volunteer!

THANK YOU!!

**Doreen Sumerlin
Wildlife Biologist**

History of Monarch...Timeline and Trivia

By Doris Klein

1903 Walcott and Waltemeyer brothers of Boulder bought Ted Danforth's homestead and mining rights near the junction of Arapaho Creek and South Fork...established Monarch Consolidated Gold and Copper Mining and Smelting Company.

1904 That first year, their mines yielded a mere \$143 profit, prompting them to refocus on timber resources... established Rocky Mountain Lumber Company. (They continued to mine, but yields remained paltry.)

1904 Monarch Lake was created by damming up South Fork of the Grand River (now known as the Colorado River). The workforce included lumberjacks from Michigan and Bulgarian and Japanese laborers who built the dam and dug canals to float logs from Monarch Lake to the saw mill downstream.

Three flumes (chutes) were used to direct logs from steep mountainsides to Monarch Lake below. Remnants of a 2500+ft flume can still be seen on the Monarch Loop trail. The steam donkey and a small stern wheel paddle boat were used to direct logs to and on the lake.

1904-5 They built the town of Monarch 1 ½ miles from Monarch Lake (offshore from Roaring Fork Loop of Arapaho Bay Campground). "Town" included a 2 story boarding house, store with school room in back, company office, post office, assembly/dance hall with bowling alley and small slab cottages.

Note: Remnants of cabins hikers see on Monarch Loop are NOT Monarch town site, but cabins lumberjacks used to be closer to their worksites.)

At its peak Monarch had 2000 inhabitants, mostly laborers, but also some company people and their families. One partner's wife became the post mistress and school teacher.

Grand County's first hydroelectric generator was at Monarch. The system piped water from the falls at Mad Creek.

1905 Rocky Mountain Railway Company was incorporated (with same officers as Monarch mining and lumber companies) to build a spur to Monarch town from Granby's Denver, Northwestern and Pacific line. (Plans for spurs to Grand Lake, Walden, and Fort Collins never materialized.)

Note: It should be mentioned that this conglomerate of enterprises was financed by investors, who were invited/wooed (some would say deceived) by the principals.

1907 Laying of 13 miles of standard gauge track to town of Monarch was completed. Train included an 1880's vintage Mogul engine brought from New York, several flatcars and a waycar (aka caboos). Trips between Monarch and Granby were unscheduled...ran as needed when shipments of lumber and boxes were ready for transport out or supplies/people needed transport in. The train traversed several ranches, which were likewise serviced.

1906-7 A second, larger sawmill and box factory were built in town. (At that time wooden boxes were the standard way of carrying things large and small (even family groceries were boxed, not bagged); with railroad expansion there was also a demand for railroad ties).

1908 A fire of unknown origin burned the box factory to the ground. Other structures were spared but without offer of livelihood, Monarch became an abandoned town almost overnight. The associated companies went into receivership shortly thereafter.

McDonald Ranch continued using the tracks with a Cadillac touring car retrofitted with flange wheels to transport passengers and goods.

Sometime between 1912 and 1918 the train engine and tracks were scrapped to repay debts and/or help with the war effort. Accounts on this vary. The caboos became the Arapaho Bay Ranger Station near Roaring Fork Loop.

1928-WWII The town of Monarch was reinvented as Ka Rose, a summer resort operated by the Dierks family and named after their daughter, Katherine Rose.

1937 Congress approved and FDR authorized Colorado-Big Thompson Project. Lake Granby is the largest storage facility of this complex water diversion project that took 20 years to complete.

In anticipation of flooding, viable Monarch structures were relocated, most notably the assembly/dance hall was moved to Murray Camp on the current site of Arapaho Valley Ranch (across the road from Arapaho Bay Campground). AVR owners are in the process of renovating the hall. Other structures were moved there and to various places in the vicinity.

1951 Granby Reservoir flooded/filled covering most of the old railroad bed, the foundations and remnant infrastructure of Monarch. During drought years, some of these things become visible once again.

1966 Monarch Lake was acquired by the USFS from private landowners for the purpose of public recreation.

NOTE: There are many accounts related to the history of Monarch. I have tried to piece together the puzzle so we, as volunteers at Monarch Cabin, can be informed and share reasonably accurate information with visitors. By early summer I will have assembled a notebook for the cabin desk that includes many of the sources drawn upon here and numerous images that help us tell the Monarch story. Doris Klein

**Annual Spring Birding Trip to
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
Tuesday, May 21st**

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge is located just south of Waldon. We will car pool from Windy Gap. Please plan to be at Windy Gap by 7:45 am. If you want to bird at Windy Gap come at 7:30. We will be there with a scope set up. Bring binoculars and a bird book if you have them.

We usually take a short walk on a boardwalk through a small wetland, and then drive the auto tour route checking the ponds for birds. In the past we have seen many interesting birds including Phalaropes, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-Crowned Night Herons, Ruddy Ducks, Bald Eagles and many more.

We plan on having lunch at a restaurant in Walden before returning home.

We have also been lucky enough to see Moose, Beaver, and Pronghorn. Join us for this annual event.

RSVP to Al at toni_and_al@msn.com

National Wilderness Workshop Report

By Bob Saint

I attended the 2018 National Wilderness Workshop that was held at Western Colorado University in Gunnison on October 9-13. The theme of this year's workshop was "Connect to Wilderness Heritage". There were about 170 registered attendees, some of them virtual. Quite a few Western students, quite a few partner organization attendees from around the country, but not so many agency people except for the speakers and panelists. Those agency folks did attend and participate in the entire workshop, which was worthwhile for everyone. Unfortunately Clayton Cornwell, our new Recreation Staff Officer, wanted to attend, but was not allowed to attend. There were several speakers that stressed the importance of introducing "people of color" to the wilderness. We need to be aware that as we become a "majority minority" country we need to have them continue the fight for the advocacy of Wilderness and wild places, so they need to be introduced and appreciate the importance of wilderness now.

I attended some sessions on the "science" of wilderness and learned a new term: Anthropocene [anTHrəpə,sēn]. Which is defined as the geological age in which human activity is the dominant influence on climate and the environment. Climate Change is just one element of the Anthropocene age. There is starting to be a debate on what untrammeled wilderness looks like and how it is going to be managed in the next century. The debate is if there may be a need to intervene in Wilderness to maintain "natural" conditions. The example used is the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska where it is changing from a wetland forest to prairie. Maybe in 100 years there will be bison roaming the area instead of moose. Another session I attended addressed the effect of anthropogenic noise and light on animals and how that affects animal behavior and their ability to reproduce and survive.

There was also some discussion of the "2020 Vision" and the Forest Service Wilderness Characteristic Monitoring Elements and matrices.

In the US Forest Service Agency Breakout there was a lot of discussion of the increasing role that partner organizations (like GCWG) play in meeting wilderness management objectives. Our group is not alone in experiencing the disconnect between expectations of volunteers and the Forest Service. The Forest Service national and regional wilderness management received frank feedback on the tensions that exist on both sides.

On Saturday's field trip, I went with Tyler Lee, the Lead Wilderness Ranger on the Aspen Sopris Ranger District who discussed the implementation of the Conundrum Hot Springs overnight permit system in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. He had some interesting insights on how they are implementing and managing that new systems that relate to our own overnight permit system in the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

One of the great aspects of attending a conference like this is the networking opportunities. I finally met, in person, Heather MacSparrow, the Executive Director of the Society for Wilderness Stewardship (one of the conference sponsors). She moved from Missoula to Grand Lake in February, 2018. They have an office in the old ReMax building between the Inn at SilverCreek and US 40.

I feel this was a very interesting and worthwhile event to attend. Next year's National Wilderness Workshop will be in Bend, Oregon.

America's National Parks Are Being Ruined by Human Poop

How number two has become problem number one in some of our most beautiful public lands.

Read the full story: https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/9kvkm7/americas-national-parks-are-being-ruined-by-human-poop

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 – Monica Sandstrom
3. Host one day at Monarch Cabin – Monica Sandstrom
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 - Joyce Clair
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.
9. Take digital photos and contribute articles and photos for the newsletter - Holly Whitten (news1@GCWG.org)
10. Help construct signage and update trailhead bulletin boards, including photos for the 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 booths at the Art Affair or Fourth of July - Sue Perkins
14. Staff Grand Lake Regatta in August - Bob Saint
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. Help Smokey Bear- Chis Lee (, [708-990-5967](tel:708-990-5967))
19. Work on National Public Lands Day or Colorado Public Lands Day
20. Purchase shirts, sweatshirts and hats. (Bambi Statz or Sue Perkins)
21. Adopt an Osprey nest or monitor a bluebird box–USFS ([970-887-4100](tel:970-887-4100)) .
22. Empty monofilament bins, cleaning line, and getting it to FS for recycling.
23. Volunteer at the Forest Service Office.

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

Doreen says we are set for bluebird box and monofilament bin construction for this year.

Like us on Facebook!

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

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



Christmas Bird Count □

Volunteers Needed:

Bob Saint, Gary Perkins, and Beth Collins are at the end of their three year terms. It is the second term for Bob and Gary so they can't be on the Board. Bob Saint, Monica Sandstrom and Toni Wujek volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact one of these individuals.

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 Last summer we did not have enough volunteer support at either the Monarch or Junco cabin. Monarch only had 86% of the positions filled and at Junco only 91%. Let's work to get this back to 100%.
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One last reminder. Our volunteer hours are a major factor in the USFS – 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.

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

GCWG Contact Info:

President: Jack Reichart

president@gcwg.org

Secretary: Beth Collins

sec@gcwg.org

Vice-President: Gary Perkins

vpres@gcwg.org

Newsletter Content: Holly Whitten

news1@gcwg.org

Treasurer: Bob Saint

treas@gcwg.org

Newsletter Editor: Jean Vasicek

jean@winterparkhoney.com

2018-19 Membership. Yearly were due in October. If you haven't paid your dues for the year, please send \$20 per household to the below address as soon as possible. New members, please complete the following form and bring to the meeting or mail to Grand County Wilderness, PO Box 4116, Granby, CO 80446.

You can also join on-line at GCWG.org.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Interests (Please refer to the activity mentioned in this newsletter and make contact accordingly):

Grand County Wilderness Group
PO Box 4116
Granby, CO 80446