



Grand County Wilderness Group Newsletter

Remembering Joan Shaw.

"The Grand County Wilderness Newsletter is published when the need arises and the spirit moves."



1934 - 2015

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www.gcwg.org

Letter from the President

Just a few weeks ago we had a very successful Grand Finale to our yearlong celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the 20th Anniversary of our own Group. John Fielder, our neighbor from Summit County, gave a stunning and inspirational presentation of his photo's that featured the Wilderness Areas of Colorado. This magnificent representation of the wild areas of Colorado and throughout our nation reinforces the importance of our Mission "to assist the US Forest Service in the Preservation, Protection, Improvement and Public Understanding of the Wilderness Areas in Grand County".

We are now in the midst of planning our activities for this coming summer. While we have less informational activities involving the general public acknowledging the Wilderness Act, we continue to take part and even expand the core activities that we have been doing for several years. The Forest Service will not be hosting the Monarch Lake Cabin with their employees this year, so our role has been shifted and expanded to the busiest three days of the week (Friday, Saturday & Sunday). The plan is to utilize the summer volunteers from last year on Wednesday & Thursday; and have the Monarch Cabin closed on Monday & Tuesday. We will continue with our responsibility of hosting the Junco Lake Cabin on the Weekends, which means that we must be especially diligent this year in volunteering on the busy weekend days.

I would also like to emphasize our Trail Hosting role more this summer. Every time we hike the trails in the National Forest we should be wearing our volunteer t-shirts and badges. We should engage with our fellow hikers with a friendly greeting and provide information, minor assistance, or a reminder concerning rules, if needed.

We'll also have some trail maintenance activities which will include finishing up the Columbine Trail Re-route, finishing up the Wilderness kiosk sign installation in the Vasquez Peak Wilderness and possibly some tree clearing on the Knight Ridge Trail. In remembrance of our dear friend and Wilderness Group advocate, we will be collecting donations and working on the Joan Shaw Memorial Junco Lake Trailhead kiosk installation, as well.

With the increase in volunteer needs, especially on the weekends, we are now increasing our request that each member participate in 4, one-day activities per year.

Check the Website for updates on the summer's activities when the dates are confirmed. Be sure and attend the Spring Members Meeting on Sunday, April 12th at the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch where, along with the fun and fellowship, we will start the sign-up process for the Cabin Hosting and the other trail maintenance activities. We'll have a Forest Service representative give us some pointers on Trail Hosting and describe a trail hosting/maintenance training day planned for later in the spring.

I'm looking forward to another busy and productive summer.

Upcoming events

- **Spring Meeting**, Sunday, April 12, 2015
Come Prepared to sign up for Summer/Fall events. Bring your checkbook, calendar and pencils. We have a lot of activities and exciting projects going this summer. More details on the following will be discussed: Junco and Monarch cabin hosting, Trail Work – Knight Ridge, Columbine, Bottle/Byers, Overnight trail rehab projects, Training: trail hosting/saws, Trail/Lake Hosting. Join the voice for Wilderness subgroup.

- **Spring Camping Trip - May 2-6**

Capitol Reef National Park, Utah
The date and location of the annual GCWG Spring Camping Trip is set! This year we will be going to the hidden treasure in the heart of Utah's red rock country, Capitol Reef National Park. Reservations have been made for us to arrive after noon on Saturday, May 2nd and leave by 11:00 am on Tuesday, May 5th. The maximum group size is 40 people, and parking is limited to 10 vehicles. If you are interested in participating, reply to this email with the number of people, if you will be tent camping or using a trailer/camper and if you are staying for the whole time or leaving early. Group meal assignments and car pool arrangements will be made when we know who will be participating. Sign up early, space is limited.

Contact Tom Papatkakis at boardm4@gcwg.org

- **Trail Training Day**, TBD

This is a one day event. Three classes will be given; Basic Trail Maintenance, Handsaw Use, and Trail Condition Assessment Training. Each class (workshop) will be 1 1/2 to 2 hours. To sign up, email Jim Magill.

- **Annual Picnic**, Friday, July 24

Come join us for our Annual Picnic at the Double AA Barn.

- **Public Lands Day**, Saturday, September 27, 2015.

The official website for the Grand County Wilderness Group is <http://www.gcwg.org> ! Make sure you visit often to make sure you have the latest information on what is going on this summer!!!

Wilderness Stewardship

The Grand County Wilderness Group (GCWG) is one of several stewardship groups that work with Federal Agencies in Grand County that advocate for specific uses of our precious public lands. The beauty of our system of public lands is that the diverse recreational use can be retained, while preserving the healthy, sustainable, and ecologically sound management of our public lands now and for generations to come. While it is important to have portions of the public lands available for motorized use, mechanized use and special uses such as downhill skiing, it is essential that some of our public lands be left more primitive as designated Wilderness Areas.

In 2014, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Federal legislation known as the Wilderness Act. This Act of Congress established a mechanism to permanently designate areas as Wilderness. As eloquently stated in the Act:

“In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States..., leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.”

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

President Johnson said after signing the act: “If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than Contempt, we must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.”

Recognition and preservation of Wilderness Areas is even more important today than it was 50 years ago. Maintaining wild areas for the survival of animal and plant species, as well as the preservation of the landscapes and watersheds is of utmost importance, especially here in Grand County. Preserving the Wilderness primitive solitude is deeply valuable for cultural, spiritual, moral and aesthetic reasons.

We must remain vigilant in our advocacy efforts to unapologetically monitor and inform Administrators and the general public that deviations from the Wilderness Act is not only unacceptable, but in direct violation of the law. Preservation of the hard fought wilderness is of paramount importance for the preservation and freedom which defines our National Heritage.

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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 count the number of bird eggs, report when they hatch, and report any issues such as fishing line or other disturbances.

Monitor a blue bird box: There are about 150 boxes in the area from Hot Sulphur 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.

Help with pollinator seeding project.

Check in for new opportunities throughout the year.

Sign up for Cabin Hosting.

If you haven't hosted a cabin before, be sure to attend one of the orientations.

• **Monarch Lake Cabin Hosting Orientation:** TBD

• **Junco Cabin Hosting Orientation:** TBD

SHIRT SALE



Wouldn't you love to own one of these beautiful blue T-shirts. According to Joan, her #1 reason for being GCWG president was "I like the Blue Grand County Wilderness tee shirts." Now they are on sale --- a REAL sale!

Blue Cotton T-shirt Sweatshirt: \$20.00
Long/Short: \$5.00 Green Polo: \$10.00

Remembering Joan Shaw



4th of July Parade (Free Trees! - 2014)



GCWG 50th Anniversary

Joan



Field Trips with Joan



Lunch with Joan

Joan Shaw Memorial project

In collaboration with Nick Schade from the US Forest Service and Roger Shaw, the GCWG will be sponsoring a project in memory of Joan Shaw. The project is the installation of a three panel kiosk with permanent signage, at the Junco Lake Cabin Trailhead. This will be similar in design and message to the ones installed on several Byers Peak and Vasquez Peak Wilderness trailheads last summer. One of the panels will be a map of the area. The other two panels will have other information about the Indian Peaks Wilderness and ANRA with pictures and graphics suitable for the area. Nick has agreed that a picture of Joan and a statement that this is a memorial to Joan Shaw will be included.

Because this is a fairly modest project with a large percentage being funded by Joan's memorial, there is a very good probability that it can be completed by late this summer. Roger and the Forest Service will begin the process with the design of the sign layout and content, probably in April. We'll announce the dates of the actual kiosk construction and installation, hopefully late this summer. Nick estimates the cost of this project is \$4,000 - \$6,000. We're comfortable with estimating that approximately \$2,000 can come from Joan's Memorial funding through the GCWG. Labor for construction and installation of the kiosk will come from the Forest Service Operating Budget and GCWG volunteer labor.

We have received a substantial amount of the necessary funds already, and we may have some further fund raisers throughout the summer.



GCWG 2009





Joan's Song

Good morning birds
 Good morning bees
 Good morning flowers
 Good morning trees
 The sun is up and I am too
 I'll be right out to play with you

One Hiker's Soliloquy by Joan Shaw

I come to the trail to submerge into wide meadows and
 quiet forests,
 To marvel at the smallest flower, the greatest tree and all
 things in-between,
 To feel the coolness of the tiniest rivulets and vigorous
 young streams,
 To enjoy the passage of the rock under my feet and the
 vistas of distant crags,
 To thrill at the scolding squirrel and rare view of
 bounding deer and stalwart moose.

I come to the meadows knowing that their grasses will
 dazzle my eyes in wind-driven dance,
 That their flowers will leave me in awe for their
 wondrous hues and shapes and abundance,
 That their boulders, far from their source will bring
 visions of glacier and avalanche,
 That their wide open sweeps will intensify the feeling of
 space, of joy with all the rest.

I come to the forest to silently cheer on the seedling, still
 dwarfed by the nearby grasses,
 To salute with the upward sweep of my gaze the
 towering giants, centuries in the making,
 To gape at the shades of gray and rust with which nature
 paints the remains of the fallen,
 To even celebrate the vibrant life on the forest floor, so
 often forgotten for bigger things.

I come to the high places to try once again to imagine the
 meaning of the distant views,
 To revel in the sensation of majesty and freedom wrought
 by ranks of rocky ridges and peaks,
 To enjoy lunch while marveling at the tiny but energetic
 life bursting even amongst the stones,
 To say once more, tho it's a matter of importance only to
 the hiker, "I made it!"

Insights & Wisdom from Joan

"Eric Tolle, a wise, modern man, wrote a best seller called
 the Power of NOW. You can make a difference in Grand
 County if you take action NOW." --Joan Shaw

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."

Are you old enough to remember this tune?

"When you swim in the sea and an eel bites your knee, that's
 a moray."

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be
 stationery.

Some Camping Tips from Joan

- When using a public campground, a tuba placed on your picnic table will keep the campsites on either side 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.

Summer Activities 2015 by Nick Schade

Once again we are looking forward to a busy and productive summer season in the Wilderness program. We welcome Izzie Ditmarson back as our Wilderness Ranger and are very happy to report that this is the first year that we have been funded for a Wilderness Ranger on the Sulphur District in several years, outside of special grant funding related to the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

Our focus this year will be using the recreation site inventories that were done over the past seven years to determine what sites have the largest impacts to the naturalness of Wilderness and rehabilitating these sites. Izzie will be completing many of these projects over the summer, including leading a Wilderness Volunteers project July 26-August 1 in the Never Summers rehabbing sites around Bowen and Blue Lakes (for more information see www.wildernessvolunteers.org). Another large Wilderness project this year includes the Knight Ridge blow-down clearing scheduled for early June, stay tuned to the Wilderness Group website (www.gcwg.org) for information on dates that we will shuttle GCWG members across the reservoir to help out with the project. The Continental Divide Trail Coalition will also be assisting us on Knight Ridge. In late July we have scheduled a week of Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and the Rocky Mountain Region pack string to assist us in a project on the High Lonesome Trail in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. We are unhappy to report that the Forest Service will be unable to staff Monarch Lake cabin with an employee this summer and are requesting that GCWG shift the days that they volunteer at the Monarch Lake cabin. Also, if possible add one more day a week to the GCWG cabin hosting schedule. This would mean that GCWG hosts Monarch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We have two other volunteers that we plan on having host at Monarch on Mondays and Thursdays.

Lastly, we are saddened by the passing of Joan Shaw and in her memory we will be working on a new kiosk and signage for Junco trail head; the kiosk signage will have a photo of Joan and a saying in her memory. We are hoping to have the kiosk and signs installed by the end of the summer. The GCWG, including Roger, will participate in the design and installation of the kiosk and signs. We here at the Forest Service appreciate all of your contributions to Wilderness and look forward to our continued partnership!

I'm looking forward to another busy and productive summer.

GCWG Volunteer Hours

Activity 2011 1st Quarter	Male	Female	Total Hours
Administrative - Board mtg.	35.5	40.5	76
Administrative - Website	10		10
Administrative - Clerical		5	5
Administrative - Other	43	19.5	62.5
Bird Count			
Edu- Bird walks			
Education			
Junco hosting			
Monarch hosting			
Osprey			
Registration Box data sheets			
Trail hosting / hikes			
Totals	88.5	65	153.5

Activity 2011 3rd Quarter	Male	Female	Total Hours
Administrative - Board mtg.	12	3	15
Administrative - Newsletter	5	5	10
Administrative - Clerical		20	20
Administrative-Website	24		24
Art Affair	28	20	48
Bird Count			0
Edu- Bird walks			0
Fishing Line	8	5	13
Miscel	22		22
Junco hosting	216	225	441
Monarch hosting	225	333	558
National Public Land Day	33	25	58
Osprey	8.5	10.5	19
Pollinator Project	14.5	13	27.5
Registration Box data sheets	10.5	12.5	23
Daisy Demolition Days	22	44	66
Trail hosting / hikes	191	501	692
Trail Maintenance & TUTI	435.5	198	633.5
Totals			2668

Activity 2011 2nd Quarter	Male	Female	Total Hours
Administrative - Board mtg.	12	4	16
Administrative - website	24		24
Administrative - Clerical	19	6	25
Administrative-Spr meeting	48	48	96
Cabin Host Prep		10	10
Bird Count			0
Edu- Bird walks			0
Education			0
Trail Maintenance	6		6
Junco hosting			0
Monarch hosting	58	98	154
Orientation-Cabin Host	15	18	33
Osprey	6	9	15
Registration Box data sheets	5	5	10
Trail hosting / hikes	5	15	20
TUTI	29	21	50
Totals			459

Activity 2011 4th Quarter	Male	Female	Total Hours
Administrative - Board mtg.	14		14
Administrative - Newsletter	2	3	5
Administrative - Clerical		2	2
Administrative - Fall Meeting	6		6
Blue Bird Box			0
XMAS Bird Count	17	17	34
Edu- Bird walks			0
Education			0
Miscel	2		2
Tally Sheets		8	8
Trail Boxes	5.5	5.5	11
Pollinator Project			0
Trail Maintenance	8	8	16
Osprey			0
Registration Box data sheets		9	9
Smokey Bear	20	33	53
Trail hosting / hikes	3	3	6
			0
Totals			168

Total Volunteer Hours to Date:

3446.5 Hours / \$73,617.24

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

Why join GCWG?

“Because I care about wild places with wild people and animals in Grand County and I intend to help preserve them. Besides, this group only meets twice a year, dues are low, and no major fundraising is needed and it is an ACTIVE group. Now is the time for me to make choices for summer involvement. All I need to do is set aside the time and GO FOR IT. I realize NO ONE WILL CALL ME, it is up to me to get out there and make a difference” --Joan Shaw

....and she did.



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