

## Message from the President

### BUILDING MOMENTUM!!

After just a year as president, I continue to be impressed with the dedication of the GCWG to assisting the U.S. Forest Service! And now, already, here we go with another beautiful summer on the way! Let's keep up the pace we had going last year, and increase our participation in even more activities. Last year TUTI cleared hundreds of trees, the weed eradicators demolished lots of daisies and other noxious weeds near Monarch Lake, and lots of members worked on our annual trail maintenance day. In addition, members volunteered as hosts at Monarch and Junco cabins. Sometimes there were even twice as many volunteers as needed (a subtle reminder to check the GCWG web site before heading out). We also had more participants on our Grand County hikes, volunteers at Art Affair, and great socialization at the summer picnic. Keep the momentum building and participate on the many activities available.

As you heard at the Spring meeting, Team TUTI (Totally Unauthorized Trail Improvement) has guaranteed job security! An early Spring expedition revealed that Knight Ridge Trail is once again blocked by fallen trees. The trees need to be cleared so Continental Divide Trail hikers and others can enjoy the trail from the National Park to Arapahoe Bay Campground. This year we will need to be particularly careful in our forest forays because the Forest Service is predicting that trees may be coming down in even greater numbers!

This summer we will be having some hikes on Fridays so that members who come up from the Front Range for the weekend can participate. These hikes are a great opportunity to meet new members, renew acquaintances, interest new members, and just enjoy what we have in Grand County!

With regard to our annual trail maintenance, the Forest Service is checking out the Columbine Lake trail to see what needs to be done. As soon as we know, we will pass the information

on and send out the date. Members of all abilities will be able to help on the trail work so please plan on joining us for this great experience!

The area around Monarch Lake has many fewer noxious weeds, but our work is not done. The weeds are persistent!! Mark your calendars for Wednesday August 1<sup>st</sup>. Get ready to bring out your most aggressive self, and ATTACK!! WE SHALL DEMOLISH THEM! Don't forget that gazpacho soup is provided for a noon time repast.

There are lots of opportunities to enjoy the great Wilderness with your friends in the GCWG! See you at the many activities. Please invite your friends who share our interest in preserving/maintaining Wilderness!

Jim Magill, President

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While repairing the Junco Cabin, Ron kept muttering while hammering and throwing away the rejects. He shouted "The darn things have the heads on the wrong end." "Don't throw them away" said his wife, "use them on the other side of the wall."

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## USFS Report – Brad Orr

Spring is early this year (in case you didn't notice!) The Forest Service anticipates summer recreational activities to begin much earlier than usual. We have already begun opening some major Forest Roads including the road to Monarch Lake! Most of our roads do not normally open until late May/early June. We have also brought back many of our summer trail crew members and they are already out on trails clearing downed trees. As has been widely reported, and most GCWG members are well aware, trees are beginning to rot and fall with greater frequency. The safety concerns for visitors, volunteers and employees are as high as ever. Please spread a word of caution to our visitors that dead trees are falling without warning, but especially on windy days. While we are aggressively reducing hazard trees outside wilderness, we do not have

authorization to do so inside wilderness. So, for example, as you hike around Monarch Lake, the trail is mostly hazard-free until you hit the wilderness boundary.

As I announced at the last GCWG meeting on April 15, we currently are without both a wilderness manager and a wilderness ranger. I am your primary Forest Service contact until we fill behind Mike Ricketts which is expected to happen early summer. Although we do not have a wilderness ranger, we still plan to do wilderness patrols using other personnel. But it will mainly be Indian Peaks and mainly weekends.

Finally, if you haven't already, please welcome Penny Dibble as this summer's Monarch cabin interpretive ranger. Penny has been with our visitor information staff for several years so she is very knowledgeable about the district. Penny is excited to be at Monarch this year and is looking forward to working with GCWG. Have a great summer!

Brad Orr, Recreation Manager.

### **Learn What It Takes to Host at a Cabin**

Enjoy the smile and sincerity of Toni Wujek as she trains you to be an effective host at one of our wilderness cabins.

Monarch training May 30 at 10 AM at the cabin  
Junco training July 7 at 10 AM at the cabin

### **Spring Camping Trip – Char Lucas**

Twenty-four congenial members of GCWG gathered for the annual spring camping trip to Arches National Park in Utah. We camped for three days near an area named Devils Garden in a clean, sprawling campground. Fortunately, except for Thursday afternoon, the weather was warm and sunny (no cold toes at night). On Thursday in early afternoon we were pelted with high winds and rains. Fortunately the skies cleared after a few hours and we were able to enjoy our dinner and evening activities. Groups were formed for the various hikes. It was difficult deciding which trail to take

because every trail in the area included awe-inspiring sights which dazzled the eye in every direction. Some of us hiked to the popular Delicate Arch; others scrambled up a short steep rock path and then through a sandstone valley to view Tower Arch. Quite a few chose to do the spectacular 7.2-mile loop through Devils Garden. The hikers were rewarded with the sight of 8 amazing arches while hiking narrow ledges and scrambling over slickrock. Twelve of us went on the "Fiery Furnace" walk, an unforgettable and fun hike that had to be lead by a ranger. This hike winds through terrain which occasionally requires the use of hands and feet to scramble up and through narrow cracks and along narrow ledges above drop-offs.



So they called it Arches Nat'l Park

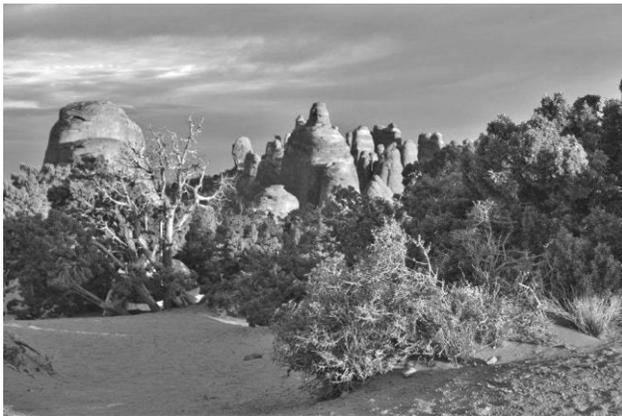
Cliffroses were abundant all around with their small fragrant yellow blooms. White-flowered peppergrass bordered the trails. A few inquisitive folk tasted the pepper grass and commented that it tastes like wasabi. Al pointed out purple and red penstemon and Toni reported seeing both a yellow and a pink blooming cactus.

As always, the meals brought by participants were outstanding! . . .delicious appetizers, hearty breakfasts and impressive dinners. Everyone appreciated the guys who got up early to start the Rocky Mountain Roastery coffee (Ed Jackson, on Wednesday and Thursday, and Jim Magill, on Friday.) Each morning, when

that tantalizing aroma greeted us, we all soon were gathered with steaming cups in hand.

Evenings were a time of fun and relaxation. Two nights we strolled to the amphitheater for an interesting ranger talk. And of course every night we gathered around the campfire. There was much laughter and some “doing-the-best-we-can” singing. It was a good thing that Dan McPhail accompanied us on his guitar! Thanks, Dan. On Wednesday evening, while we were sitting around the fire, we witnessed a spectacular sunset when the sun poked through the clouds and lit up the surrounding formations in dazzling light.

Since a good time was had by all (and there were no accidents and no need for band-aids!) we consider this outing a huge success! Many thanks to Toni Wujek, Al Rothenbach, and Jim and Mary Bernard for organizing it. It was an unforgettable experience!



Sunrise over our campsite by Mike Braddy

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A little boy went up to his father and asked: 'Dad, where did my Intelligence come from?' The father replied. 'Well, son, you must have got it from your mother, cause I still have mine.'

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**Trail Parking Reminder**

Show your ANRA pass or Golden Age Passport in your car window with your signature and date showing clearly whenever parking at a trailhead in the ANRA.

**Registration Box Report – Roger Shaw**

Can you believe that we now have 12 years of data on trailhead registration?? I’ll resist clichés. The main conclusion is that, with the exception of our most popular location – Monarch Lake – population pressure has not reached Grand County trails.

The details have been given in the annual report. Members may request an electronic copy at [shawrw20@gmail.com](mailto:shawrw20@gmail.com). Here we will just give the number of visitors **signing in** for each trailhead averaged over the last 3 years and rounded a bit along with the folks responsible.

Monarch Lake	14,000	Brenna Owen
Junco Lake	3200	Rothenbach
Roaring Fork	1260	Papathakis
Baker Gulch	1180	Ellis
St. Louis Creek	830	Powers
Byers Peak	820	Powers
Bowen Gulch	570	Bartholomew
Vasquez	480	Bernard
Lake Evelyn	380	Shaw

This season will be the first to include the Devils Thumb trailhead. Seems there has been a registration box there for some unknown time but it was not picked up for our record keeping. Also new will be the location of the Bowen Gulch box. The opening of the trail through the former property of Betty Dick and its designation as a part of the Continental Divide Trail has made the change imperative. One further need is an adopter for the Vasquez box since the Bernards are taking on Devils Thumb. Surely some mountain biker would like to make that relatively easy trip 3 times this season. Contact Roger – [shawrw20@gmail.com](mailto:shawrw20@gmail.com)

Thanks to all of the good folks in column three above that make this project possible.

**Step Right Up and Get It Here**

New members of GCWG are urged to get a wonderful blue tee shirt or sweatshirt that promotes Wilderness. Go to the Craft Fair booth in Grand Lake on June 9th or the Art Affair on July 21-22 in Winter Park where

gleeful ole members will sell you one for only \$15. This is our only fundraiser and provides excellent publicity. If you need one before that, contact Ariel Lowerison [850-585-1216](tel:850-585-1216). All sizes are available. Wear your shirt to the annual picnic for a group photo and as you host on the trails or at the cabins.




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A man (Could be any of us, right?) is recovering from surgery when the Surgical Nurse appears and asks him how he is feeling. "I'm O. K. But I didn't like the four letter-words the doctor used in Surgery," he answered. "What did he say," asked the nurse. "Oops!"

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## Volunteer Hours

You submit them to Dawn Schoen if you volunteered as an individual, OTHERWISE the leader of the group activity sends in your hours. Got that? Dawn's email is [kindspecial@qwest.net](mailto:kindspecial@qwest.net) or call her at 887-9494.

## Extracts from the 2012 ANRA News

- \* 200, 000 acres of lodgepole pines were affected by the beetles in the mountain west.
- \* Locally between Oct-Dec 4000 slash piles were burned on 200 acres
- \* Hazard trees near roads, campgrounds and trails are being removed.
- \* Osprey mate for life with the highest nest in the area above 10,000 foot elevation.
- \* 48 osprey nests were active in 2011.
- \* 29 chicks survived the windstorms
- \* We have 2 eagle nests in the area, a golden and a bald.
- \* Great blue heron has 17 active nests.

In 2011

ANRA fees paid for

- \* 5 new toilets including Monarch, Moraine camp, Willow Creek site
- \* 250 trees planted at Stillwater Campground
- \* Placement and moves of hazard buoys in our lakes
- \* Maintenance of docks and launches
- \* Sign repairs
- \* Hazard tree removal
- \* Maintenance of camp & picnic sites

The newsletter is available at the USFS office.

## Welcome To The New Board Members

We trust that these good folks will contribute greatly to enthusiasm for our projects. Lisa Vonderhaar, Tom Papatkakis, Sue and Gary Perkins, and Al Rothenbach. Call them with any concerns before our next board meeting on June 12 at the Shaws.

## Annual Wilderness Picnic In July

Circle July 14th for our annual picnic at the AA barn. Details will be on our website. Ron Sears did such an outstanding job as chef last year that he received the "Rusty Skillet Award."

## Even Older Than You

There is a real treasure in Kremmling that is 72 million years old. Join the Shaws on a Friday morning hike that includes viewing the huge ammonite fossil rocks. Bill Wyatt from the Bureau of Land Management will actually lead this excursion and give us the background of this ocean bed that became Grand County. The rocks date from before the formation of the Rocky Mountains so that's old. He begins the trek from the BLM office in Kremmling at 10AM but anyone interested should car pool there by meeting at Ian's Bakery parking area in Granby on July 13th at 9AM. Bring a lunch and camera for an awesome sight. That will be followed by an optional hike in the area.

Pat was out ice fishing on Lake Granby a few months ago. There was an old guy nearby pulling in lots of fish and Pat was having no luck at all. Finally he went over and asked him how he was catching so many?  
 He said “mmrrmmrrmmrrmmrrmmr”.  
 “What? Says Pat  
 “Mmmrrmmrrmmrrmmrrmmrr.”  
 “I can’t understand you.”  
 Man- spits and says “Keep your worms warm.”

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### **That's Entertainment! by Carol Kitts**

The bags of gifts from the White Deer Party came at a great time. Christmas was over. Chemo was an ongoing drag but in came the gift bonanza. All of our children plus a brand new son -in-law arrived and got to share in the openings. The first opened was the Ho Ho Elf. The fishing frog was passed on to Jack and Dina Baker (avid fishermen). Jack has been running the snow blower to keep our driveway clear and Dina needed a cheering up after breaking several ribs in a close encounter with a tree. The golf ball monogrammer goes to Sarah Wilderman who graciously turned her home over to our visiting family. It gave all three siblings a rare chance to be together with the privacy to process the family situation.

We selected the igloo outhouse as award recipient for most amusing. Laurie said she should make some to sell in New Zealand.

Misty, our Abyssinian cat voted the moose that spits foam balls out when the tummy is pressed, the best for cat entertainment.

You may see all the candles in the thrift shop. Watch for other Christmas items such as the light up snowman to appear as well.

We will keep the macrame Christmas tree as a memento of our GCWG friends and the small holiday pillow will be in the car for Dave when he needs to rest his head on one of his many trips back from trips to treatments in Denver. One of the joys of living in Grand County is a group like this. Many thanks for your support, Dave and Carol Kitts

### **Rocky Mountain Nature Association**

Akin to our aims is this fine organization. The newsletter is filled with related articles on our neighbor, Rocky Mountain National Park. Schedules and events are posted for you and your house guests this summer. Subscribe now for \$30 a year to RMNA, PO Box 3100. Estes Park, CO 80517.

### **Dinner And Theatre For Bird Lovers**

Coming in June at a private theater at Silverado II in Winter park, an evening of bird music while you dine at the Hideaway Bistro and then enjoy a FREE showing of the national movie “THE BIG YEAR.” This movie will not be shown locally so this is your only chance to see it here especially with GCWG bird lovers. Audience reaction will be encouraged. It should be a hoot. Watch the GCWG website for exact details.

### **Backpackers! Encampment 2012**

A GCWG tradition, Encampment involves a hike into a choice area where camp is set up for 3 nights. The days in between are spent exploring the area, practicing relaxing and, this year, FISHING! Ron Sears has planned a trip into the Flattops Wilderness with a modest 5 miles and 800 ft. to camp. Dates are July 30 to August 2. If you are at all interested, contact Ron [RonSears2@aol.com or 887-0339] or Roger Shaw.[See cover] for more details.

### **Watch For Additional News And Dates**

Check the group website often: [www.gcwg.org](http://www.gcwg.org)  
 Coming up this summer are two bird walks, one flower walk, weekly group hikes, annual picnic, encampment, Daisy day and trail work day.  
 YOU INVITE YOURSELF. No one calls.

