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200 Issues...And Counting!

Celebrating this, the 200th issue of the Highlander Monthly is quite amazing. From humble beginnings in Coal Creek Canyon to being the ONLY Four Canyon

monthly magazine; Central City to Golden and Nederland to Boulder with the canyons in between has been a roller coaster ride. The cover photo from Panorama Point in Golden Gate State Park is an example of why I moved to Pinecliffe in 1976, to enjoy the views of the Continental Divide and live in a paradise of pine forests.

Technology finally caught up with my dream of working from home in the 90's and then the founder, JoAnn Kalenak (see photo next page), encouraging me to journalism and shortly thereafter teaching me the software programs for desktop publishing: to buy and take it over from her. It has been a challenge from the start: satisfying creatively and frustrating personally - learning to deal with the negatives inherent to the business.

I wish to thank the many loyal advertisers and contributing writers and photographers over these sixteen years, without them the quantity and quality would not have been what my readers have come to appreciate and

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expect. By nature I am picky and pragmatic so it is not surprising the product is dedicated to the reader, as I am a reader first and foremost. I still refuse to print negative

known to refuse to promote products, books and people for free that I find lacking. Since I bought this business and have it

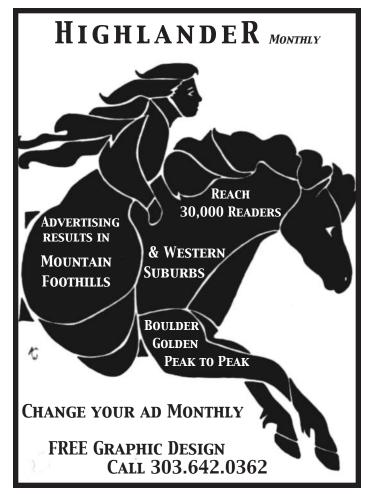
news or information without trying to also give an

professionally bound and printed I don't do much free advertising.

Over these many years the hardest part has been criticism — whether warranted or not it has helped make me cynical. Sure, there are many positive comments and a few wonderful compliments from loyal readers and contributors; for some reason the death threats and personal attacks or lies from a few local bullies can try to undermine my resolve to be positive. What I do really care about is disseminating factual information while educating readers about the issues and topics I

find interesting or important to people in our region.

I have no doubt some readers get (Continued next page.)



Highlander Celebrated

tired of my pet projects such as the Buffalo in Yellowstone, or defunding Wildlife Services; that corrupt part of the Dept. of Agriculture poisoning and shooting wild carnivores in the name of protecting livestock. And, big surprise – opposing Denver Water's proposed Moffat Project (Expansion of Gross Reservoir) that promises to degrade our quality of life in Coal Creek Canyon for many

years and help to kill the Colorado River. Sad that some local elders ignored the threat the Moffat Project has for our community.

My love of nature, wildlife, animal companions and ecology, politics, the environment, plus local issues is reflected in Highlander content.

Most folks don't understand why I've kept the magazine so simple; black and white inside pages with a spot color

cover instead of going to all slick paper and four color images. Since advertising dollars pay for the printing and postage; an 'upgrade' to the format would raise advertising rates right out of many small business budgets. I want to give even small businesses a place to promote their products and services on a monthly basis at a reasonable price. I cringe nearly every month when I have to greyscale the cover photo, knowing how most would be so beautiful in full color.

I fondly remember when we had a local Chamber of

Commerce that was a great resource until the leadership's lack of follow through killed it. Membership's apathy also didn't help much. I suppose it is human nature for some to ignore commitment to high quality and ethics when they volunteer for positions of authority.

My best decision was to also solicit advertisers and readership out of the canyon to give all a regional choice

for products, services, the trades and a look into our mountain lifestyles. We all must go into towns for certain things and the Highlander strives to give its readers at least a taste of what's out there.

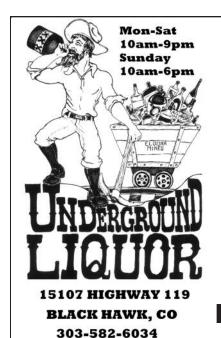
Collections can be a hassle with some folks as I don't provide a service and product free of charge. Advertisers slow to pay it make me suspect of their own quality and reluctant to promote them

in my magazine. The same is true for folks who wish to contribute, but don't rise to the factual or intellectual quality I aspire to print, free from any religous advocacy.

I have more than enjoyed meeting and interviewing folks from all walks of life and career paths. It is my hope to produce another 200 issues in the years to come and maintain the highest standards possible while print publishing is still solvent. Working from my mountain home office is a dream come true and will never get old for this editor.

By A.M. Wilks





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BoCoFIRM Will Appeal

On June 30th, the Colorado Court of Appeals ruled that 300 property owners who live in subdivisions in unincorporated Boulder County "do not have standing to bring their claims against the County (of Boulder)."

BoCo FIRM believes that the court erred in its ruling. We believe that citizens do have the right to ask the courts for relief when their elected officials ignore their statutory responsibilities.

Why we are appealing to the Colorado Supreme Court; Think for a minute about the decision the Appellate Court made in our case. The Court stated that the County Commissioners have virtually unlimited power to ignore state law and do whatever the heck they want with our money, and we as taxpayers can't ask the courts to intervene.

Left to stand, this ruling could permit the County to deny a group of citizens police protection unless they agreed to pay additional taxes simply because they claimed it was a budgetary decision.

In making its decision the Court ignored that this wasn't a one time "budgetary" decision. It is a 20 year, documented pattern of denying road maintenance to a group of citizens who the Commissioners know cannot vote them out of office. Keep in mind that the court didn't even consider that on average Boulder County has nearly \$200,000,000 of your dollars sitting in the bank at the end of each month.

For a complete history of our lawsuit and appeal go to the website for a link to BoCo FIRM's Legal Approach.

We needed to raise \$10,000 in order to appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court: BoCo FIRM is awed and extremely grateful to you, our supporters, who opened your wallets and enabled us to raise over \$10,000 in just under 36 hours!

Thank you Boulder County residents.

How quickly you responded to our request to raise the funds to file an appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court

speaks volumes. It sends a strong and clear message to County Commissioners Jones, Domenico and Gardner. Fix our roads now and do it without new taxes.

You have responded with thousands of donations. Those donations have allowed us to successfully defeat the County's PID and LID schemes, remove illegal liens on your property and saved you millions of dollars in unnecessary taxes.

It is expensive to continue the legal battle. Our attorney, Madeline Meacham of Halpern Meacham, has been very generous with her time and the resources of her firm, and now we can continue the case because you raised the entire \$10,000 in new contributions.

We realize that asking for more donations was a lot to ask. But the County has made it clear that they are not interested in any negotiations that don't start with us agreeing to pay more taxes. Our only avenues for relief are to elect new Commissioners who "get it" or to ask the courts to require the county to live up to its responsibilities.

Our petition to the Supreme Court is due August 11th. Thank you for your contributions to this effort by going to our website and clicking on the link, Donate. They can also be made by sending a check made out to BoCo FIRM, PO Box 11275, Boulder, CO 80301.

BoCo FIRM stands for Boulder County Fairness in Road Maintenance and is a 100% volunteer group. No one who works on your behalf at BoCo FIRM receives one penny for their efforts. And to date we have saved Boulder County residents over \$72 million dollars in additional taxes that the Commissioners tried to impose via their ill conceived PID and LID plans.

We are now trying to prevent the county from adding \$150 million dollars to your future tax bill. Thanks for helping us continue to fight on your behalf.

www.bocofirm.org The Highlander is dedicated to keeping you informed.





Good For The Soul

By Omayra Acevedo Nature and Wildlife Photojournalist brandnewdayphoto@gmail.com

Someone once told me that travel was good for the soul. Just recently the opportunity to take a three-and-a-half-week holiday to Europe presented itself to me. Though I was a bit apprehensive about traveling alone and being stuck on a plane for over twelve hours, and remembering that my last holiday was almost eight years ago, I could not let this opportunity slip away. Little did I know, it would be the greatest adventure of my life. Where did I go? The Netherlands and Germany. A few weeks before leaving Colorado I began Dutch lessons. Yes, it is definitely a challenging yet, beautiful language. Considering I did not begin English lessons until I was 11 years of age, I figured it would be okay to start learning Dutch at 36. In case you are wondering, my first language is Spanish. In college I took up French, which I can follow if you speak it slowly. I am very grateful to already fluently speak two languages as it is making learning Dutch a little easier. I will admit, it felt great to practice my Dutch in The Netherlands. The Dutch people are eager to show you their appreciation when you attempt to use their language - even if just to say "dank je wel" (thank you).

The Netherlands is a beautiful country rich in history, all shades of green, kind people, and delicious food and beer. "Goedemorgen" (good morning) ran across my mind as I opened my eyes to realize I was about to land in



Amsterdam on Thursday, the 9th of June, 2016. A day I will always remember like I remember my own birthday. Did I mention it was my first time out of the country? I couldn't believe it. The next few weeks were filled with the most amazing moments and experiences of my life. From the tastiest cheese I have ever had to the softest and

freshest bread – you know, the kind that practically melts in your mouth to encounters with a herd of sheep, two boat rides, hiking, festivals, windmills, even a little bit of shopping. I was convinced I was living a fairytale; finding myself across the ocean in another country was, well, magical. The architecture and canals are breathtaking. It's truly difficult to capture with a camera what you're seeing with the naked eye, but I tried my best.

A few days before my departure from Europe I spent a couple of days in Germany. I'm quite certain my jaw remained dropped during my entire stay. What better place to have my very first bratwurst? In the town square I came across a cathedral with a



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Highlander Travel

history that dates back to the year 789. Talk about goose bumps. I was convinced that somehow I had stumbled upon a movie set. The bells rang and echoed across the town square as I could not help but feel their vibration move my soul. It was one of many moments I will treasure forever. One can watch all the documentaries in the world about The Netherlands or Germany, but until you are really there to soak up the sights, sounds, scents, culture and beauty for yourself, you will never know what it's truly like.

If you were to ask me to choose a favorite part about my holiday, you would be asking me to choose a favorite star in the heavens. Imagine eating food as uncomplicated as cheese or bread that make you drool long before it reaches your taste buds and make you beg for seconds. Picture being submerged in a pool of the most cordial human beings as they offer you simple things like German beer and Holland coffee that delightfully shock



your senses. Daydream for a moment that you are walking on stone and brick roads along thousand-year-old neighborhoods filled with architecture so stunning, it tempts you to bow just to honor their existence. Now you're walking along when you take notice of a quartet filling the streets with the sweet sounds of Johann Sebastian Bach's Air on violin followed by Antonio Vivaldi's Four Seasons. I would challenge you to choose a favorite. In hindsight, I will humbly confess that Europe is my favorite. For it has not only rejuvenated my soul but fully awakened it.

Thank you Europe. You have been so wonderful to me. I met the kindest people, made new friends, shared so many unforgettable moments, saw and did things I once only dreamt of. I leave my heart with you.

Omayra



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In This Season Of Fire, Nix The Campfire

By Marjorie 'Slim' Woodruff

In 1972, Grand Canyon National Park outlawed campfires in the backcountry. Backpackers like me considered this an outrage. After all, the only people who carried those fancy little stoves back then were people incapable of building a fire. I bring this up because we are living through another explosive fire season in the West.

Of course, popular campsites back then looked a lot like parking lots. No downed wood, no dead (or live) grasses, no bushes, no bark on the trees as far up as you could reach. When a dozen people a night are building campfires, anything burnable vanishes pretty quickly.

Note: Fires denude the camping area.

I had a stove. I remember setting up my tiny SVEA, putting the pot on to boil, and turning to organize my sleeping place, because when cooking on a wood fire, it takes forever for the pot to boil. But my pot boileth over, more quickly than I expected.

Note: Stoves are more efficient than wood fires.

A fire is convivial, although I usually don't sit next to it: I spend a lot of time skulking around to avoid smoke. Said smoke also fills the whole camping area. I can see and smell a campfire from a mile away.

Note: Fires stink.

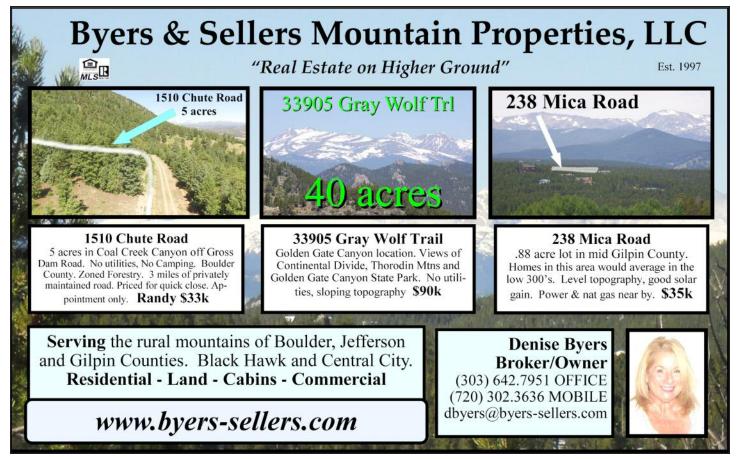
Fires are a survival tool. Everyone who goes into the backcountry knows to carry waxed matches, so that in an emergency, you may bask in the warmth of a fire. I once spent the night at 10,000 feet in midwinter and 14 feet of snow, huddled near a fire, but not basking. I would much rather have had my down parka. The wood kept burning up, and someone, usually me, had to stumble around in the snow gathering new fuel.

Note: Even survival experts admit that the value of a survival fire is mostly psychological.

One day, I found myself hiking in the mountains right at tree level. It was a lovely meadow with delicate alpine flowers - a verdant hanging valley. I pictured myself dragging the weathered wood into a ring, starting a fire, killing the fragile plants underneath, and then, in the morning, dealing with the debris and blackened soil.

"No one would mind, would they," I asked my fellow backpackers, "if we didn't have a fire tonight?" No one would, and that was the beginning of the end of my fascination with campfires.

I became notorious for my refusal to let my companions build an illegal fire at the bottom of Grand Canyon. And then, to let them build a fire anywhere. We had a stove; we



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had warm clothing. Why did we want to destroy old wood and leave an unholy mess? We didn't, everyone decided.

There is a person in the Sierra Club (who shall remain nameless) who is still not speaking to me because I would not let him build a fire on an overnight trip, and he had not brought a stove. I volunteered the use of my stove, but no, he had to have a fire, and I wasn't going to build one. He ate cold, dry food for three days.

I discovered that if one is not blinded by a fire, there are stars. Small animals creep about. There is a distinct lack of stench in clothing - well, it smells like a sweaty human body, but not combined with stale smoke.

Soon, I began to clean out abandoned campfire rings, realizing that there is a persistent belief that anything thrown into a campfire will vanish. It doesn't. Cans don't burn. Nor does glass, plastic, leather, clothing, or leftover food. The doused fire itself contains charcoal that will last for thousands of years.

I have carried the remnants of countless discarded campfires out of the Grand Canyon. This requires a frame pack, a shovel, work gloves and several high-grade garbage bags.

It is, of course, possible to build a leave-no-trace fire. It takes a fireproof blanket spread on cleared ground covered with a mound of mineral soil. This shields the soil from being sterilized. A small fire built from wood no larger than the size of one's finger is allowed to burn to ash. As soon as you leave, any pieces of charcoal must be crushed to powder and scattered to the winds. For light, it is far easier to use a solar lantern, or a candle.

I spent a week car camping in Yellowstone with a friend, and we - well, me - chose not to waste money purchasing firewood. There was some grumbling, but I rose above it.

At the end of the week, my friend said, "I did kind of miss a fire, but when you aren't looking for wood and tending the fire, and staying out of the smoke, and cleaning up after the fire, you sure have a lot of spare time." Indeed.

Marjorie 'Slim' Woodruff is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She lives and works at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

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Traveling With A Toddler

From Jim Plane - State Farm Insurance

Flying with a Toddler: Reduce ear pressure.

Help toddlers relieve ear pain or pressure: Encourage them to drink liquids through a sippy cup or straw.

Understand safety procedures.

Even if you've flown before, tune in to the pre-flight safety speech, and clear up any lingering questions you might have with a flight attendant.

Prepare safe seating.

Children who weigh more than 40 pounds can safely use the airplane's seat belt. If your child weighs less than that, bring the proper child safety seat for your child's size.

Pack entertainment.

Carry on a variety of toys and snacks to accommodate short attention spans. Some parents recommend giving toys out on a schedule. Try wrapping them up as gifts (in open gift bags so TSA can inspect them) to make the experience even more exciting.

Traveling with a Toddler by Train:

Stick together. It's easy to lose your balance on a train, especially for unsteady walkers. Stay with toddlers if they need to move around the train car.

Sanitize surfaces.

Encourage children to wash their hands whenever possible, and use sanitizer often.

Driving with a Toddler:

Ensure a suitable safety seat. Exact height and weight measurements determine the correct size of safety seat for your toddler. Infants should be in rear-facing car seats, but children age 2 and older can typically use front-facing seats.

Come prepared.

Especially on long drives, young children may become bored easily. If both adults are in the front, have the front passenger distribute soft toys and snacks to keep toddlers calm and content.



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The Country's Oldest Park Ranger

By Kathleen Richards - High Country News

Healed but still bearing "bruises internally" two weeks after she was beaten and robbed at her condominium in Richmond, California, Betty Reid Soskin, the country's oldest park ranger at 94, returned to work at Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park recently.

"The experience took something away from me, and I'm still trying to measure that," Soskin said, addressing a roomful of reporters, park rangers and supporters during a press conference at the national park unit. "I don't know what that is except that something's missing now and something that can be replaced by getting back to my routine."

Soskin said there was never a question about whether she would return to work. In fact, she had to be convinced not to return sooner, according to Tom Leatherman, a general superintendent for the National Park Service and Soskin's boss. "I had to put some pressure on her to not come back as soon as she did," Leatherman said in an interview following the press conference. "She wanted to come back last week, and I just wanted her to have a little bit more time."

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Plus All Our Equipment & Tool Rentals • Sales • Propane Lawn & Garden • All Listed on the Web Site! Or Visit us at 11900 West Colfax Ave., Lakewood - 303.232.7417 Few would have blamed her for wanting to do so. On June 27, an intruder broke into Soskin's bedroom while she was asleep in bed. According to previous news reports, the man wrestled away her cellphone and began punching her, dragging her out of her bedroom and across her apartment, where he continued assaulting her. Soskin was able to get away from her attacker by grabbing his genitals and locked herself in her bathroom, where she heated up an iron to the "linen" setting and prepared to brand him as a mark for police. Meanwhile, the attacker rifled through her belongings and escaped with a bag of coins, jewelry, hand-painted Korean fans, a computer, laptop, camera, iPad, and cellphone. Most distressing was the loss of a commemorative coin that President Obama had given her last December during a tree-lighting ceremony.

"I came to realize though that the coin had very little value actually except to anyone but me," she said. "But the experience of having had the president press it into my palm in secret is an experience that I treasure, and that is what was intrinsic to that coin."

President Obama has promised to give Soskin a new coin, although she hasn't yet received it.

In response to the attack, the Rosie the Riveter Trust established The Betty Fund, whose proceeds will go, as requested by Soskin, toward completing a documentary





Highlander Personality

about her life and impact.

Soskin became a ranger just 10 years ago. She had worked as a file clerk for an allblack union auxiliary during World

War II, and about 16 years ago got involved in the planning process of

the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historic Park while serving as a field representative for former California State Assemblywomen Dion Aroner and Loni Hancock. These days, Soskin gives presentations three days a week at the visitor's center, speaking about her experiences growing up in a racially segregated

America, her time working as a clerk in a Jim Crow-segregated union hall ("That was a period of pain," she said), and her path to

becoming an interpretive ranger.

Richard Brabham, a 72-year-old Richmond resident, was one of the dozens of people who came to hear Soskin speak on her first day back on the job. "She's a legendary figure in Richmond," he said. "We wanted to be sure and see her back on her first day back and welcome her back."

Soskin said she was grateful for the outpouring of support she's received from the community, both locally and online, and that she "hadn't realized how strong that was, how

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powerful even virtual support can be."

Although Soskin says she still has difficulty sleeping with the lights off, she said vanity — not fear — mostly was to

blame for her decision to stay home for almost eight days following the attack. "I was living in dread of seeing someone showing me with a couple of black eyes on YouTube," she said. "I was almost obsessive about not wanting to look like a victim, because I didn't feel like a victim." Indeed. One of her fellow park rangers gave her a mug bearing the words "Iron Woman" — words that can be interpreted in more ways than one. "It was an adventure," she told reporters about the home invasion robbery.

"One that one doesn't wish to ever have, but it's over now."

Kathleen 'Ok-soo' Richards is a contributor to The Trail Posse, based in Berkeley, California. She has written for publications across the country and has been the editor of The Stranger and co-editor and editor of the East Bay Express.



Underwater Noise Pollution

Dear EarthTalk: Why is underwater noise pollution such a big deal and what are we doing to prevent it? Phil Ziegler, New York, NY

For us land-dwellers, underwater noise rarely reaches our ears. However, marine organisms can be very sensitive to undersea sounds, particularly unnatural noise. Human





activity—from explosives to underwater construction to ship traffic to oceanographic research—creates intense noise that threatens the health of ocean wildlife. Direct effects include hearing loss, habitat displacement, and even brain hemorrhages. The noise impedes the senses that enable many marine species to coordinate their movements and find food, and can also interfere with breeding cycles and migration patterns. This cacophony of underwater noise pollution puts additional stresses on marine ecosystems already on the ropes due to overfishing, pollution and myriad other human threats.

Of particular concern lately to environmentalists is underwater noise pollution from seismic testing, where resource extraction industries use air guns to map the seafloor to look for potential oil and gas reservoirs.



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"From the water's surface, the gun generates a blast of sound that penetrates the ocean floor then bounces back up to a receiver, relaying data about the layers of sediment, rocks, and potential fuel deposits below," reports the Pew Charitable Trusts. "There is concern that the intensity of seismic sounds and their large spatial coverage may lead to injury, disturbance or displacement of marine animals or a masking of their communication."

While the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Law of the Sea forbids pollution that can damage marine wildlife, a lack of enforcement abilities means corporations and the military can continue to carry out many noisy undersea operations. The non-profit Ocean Mammal Institute would like the UN to endorse a "precautionary approach" limiting all sources of intense underwater anthropogenic sound and requiring individual nations to follow suit accordingly.

"The precautionary principle should be applied publicly and transparently to noise generated for military, commercial and scientific purposes," reports OMI. "In many cases, there are alternatives and realistic mitigation scenarios for reducing and eliminating very loud human-generated noise from the marine environment, including employing improved passive sonar devices, using reduced noise energy, mechanical and operational designs that minimize noise, alternative energy sources, etc."

Given the Convention on the Law of the Sea's lack of "teeth" on monitoring and enforcement on the issue, the United States has started taking matters into its own hands to address underwater noise pollution in its own territorial waters and beyond. The Obama administration recently called for more scientific research to fully understand the ecological impact of underwater noise, and directed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to step up efforts to track and monitor volume levels below the surface. NOAA is also working on tools that the public, corporations and military can use to assess and help mitigate noise-making activities, and has initiated a campaign to raise public awareness on the issue.

While ocean wildlife activists say much more needs to be done to start solving this insidious problem, at least the U.S. is taking steps in the right direction even if the rest of the world continues to ignore the noisy threats lurking below the depths. *Ocean Mammal Institute*, www.oceanmammalinst.org; Pew Charitable Trusts, www.pewtrusts.org. www.earthtalk.org.

Editor's Note: As a longtime scuba diver (when I can get to the ocean) I can personally attest to the massive noise even a speed boat going overhead makes while sixty feet below the ocean's surface. Coral reef fish adapt to some noise, but mammals that depend on their hearing under the water have little defense for military/corporate testings.

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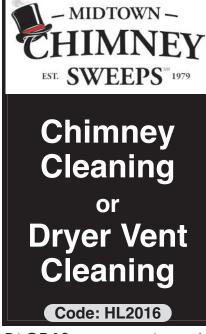
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Animals & Their Companions















Top: Chunky, before & after grooming!

Bottom: Tiny terriers & Irish Setter.







Top Left: Great Dane in small sedan.

Top Right: Horses cool off in irrigation canal.

Bottom: Cala licking her lips.

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Take Pause At The Park

Article and photographs by Diane Bergstrom

"Leave your dogs, drones and marijuana at home," I advised in last month's article on tips for visiting Rocky Mountain National Park, noting that giving you tips just got weird. Well, it just got weirder. My next tip involves human behavior, not animal behavior. Pay attention to your surroundings while hiking, walking, visiting the park. Good advice anywhere. In December, 2015, a young Indiana man hiking in San Diego, strolled off a 60' cliff

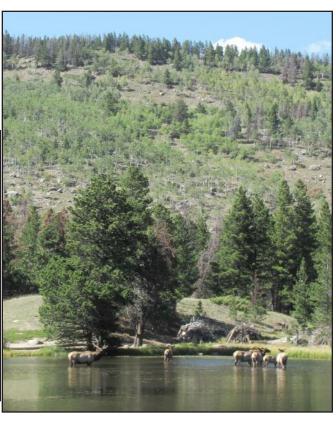
while looking at his smart phone, and fell to his tragic death. Last month, I was visiting relatives when the Pokémon Go phenomena hit. My cousin, who is a volunteer first responder, had been called to the scene of a two-car accident, caused by both drivers who were playing Pokémon Go while driving. Keep



your kids off their phones. Players are looking for virtual Pokémon captures within the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in D.C. (extremely inappropriate), and around the subway tracks in New York City (extremely dangerous), so it's probably just a matter of time before people are chasing digital Rattatas in Moraine Park (extremely...oh, I can't

even come up with an adjective). By the end of August, the elk rut will begin, and the last thing you want to run into is a bull elk whose testosterone is high and his tolerance is low. Last year, a man walked (intentionally) into a small herd of elk cows grazing in Estes' downtown park and didn't notice the annoyed bull elk that viewed him as a threat to his harem. The bull charged him from behind, scooped him up with his antlers, and flipped him. He lived, a bit sore, perhaps, and a bit wiser, perhaps. Next month, I will give you elk viewing etiquette tips. In the meantime, keep a safe distance.

Macro events occurred last month revolving around environmental concerns aligned with park interests. The 20th GLOBE Annual Partner Meeting and Student Research was held in Estes Park, with forays into the park for research. It was co-hosted by UCAR (University



Corporation for Atmospheric Research), and sponsored by NASA and NSF (National Science Foundation), and supported by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and the State (Continued next page.)

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Highlander Wilderness



Department. I met a participating Floridian mother/daughter team while strolling around Bear Lake, and they explained the student research activities included exposure, encouragement and education for girls interested in scientific careers. Kudos to the organizers! Also last month, LIKEN, a link-tank focusing on livelihoods, knowledge and exchange networks, organized a cross-country movement of Indigenous peoples travelling from California to Pennsylvania. They made stops at parks and public lands along the way to raise awareness of fracking and climate concerns, targeting the effects on our public lands. Indigenous communities are notably the first and hardest hit by climate change effects. They gathered stories along the way and culminated in a march for Clean Energy

Revolution on July 24 in Philadelphia, the eve of the Democratic National Convention, to lobby for passage of the Protect Our Public Lands Act.

While planning your own pause in the park, you may want to note the remaining fee-free days at all National



Park sites: August 25-28, National Park Service celebrates its centennial; September 24, National Public Lands Day; November 11, Veterans Day. In July, Bear Lake parking lots were half filled by 7:30 am, filled by 8:30 am, so plan ahead. Hike early or late, after 4 pm. At 5:30 pm on a Sunday, we went to see the water lilies on Nymph Lake, which should be in full bloom in August, and the automated roadside signs indicated that the Bear Lake lot was full and instructed visitors to take the shuttle. I knew this was doubtful at that time of day, and proceeded to find plentiful parking. A ranger confirmed there had been a problem in changing the message. Otherwise, believe them. From the Estes Park Visitors Center, take the Hiker Shuttle into Park and Ride where you can take park shuttles toward Moraine

Park trails or Bear Lake trails. The Hiker Shuttle runs until October 10 for weekends, September 11 for weekdays. The Bear Lake Shuttles run until October 10. Or go into the park, park at Park and Ride and hop on a shuttle from there. The shuttles





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are free! Be aware the last shuttle leaves Bear Lake at 7:30 pm, with or without you. It's a long walk back to the Park and Ride lot. A day fee for a vehicle is \$20 but you know you'll be back during the elk rut so get a yearly pass for \$50 per vehicle.



Check the site www.everykidinapark.gov to obtain a free yearly pass for your fourth grader. The wording through five screens is confusing, asking children to answer questions using past tenses as if they have already gone to park, but just keep going. You'll get to the screen for the final paperwork to fill out, download, and bring to an entrance station. The current pass will be valid until August 31 for kids who finished fourth grade in May. After September 1, kids entering fourth grade this year can obtain a pass for the following 12 months. The Junior Ranger program is housed in the Hidden Valley building, the valley Paleo-Indians used 10,000 years ago to access the higher country. Check your park map. You can obtain Junior Ranger age-appropriate booklets (including versions in Spanish) at any ranger station and visitor

Highlander Wilderness

center. When your kids fill them out after experiencing a park area, find a ranger or designated volunteer to have your child take a meaningful pledge and receive a badge. It's never too early to develop the next stewards of our natural resources!

(Continued next page.)



Coal Creek Canyon Moun‡ain Fest

Saturday, August 13th

Fun for all ages!

10 am - 4 pm CCCIA Hall

Free admission!

Get all the details at www.cccmountainfest.com

All proceeds benefit:



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Activities for Kids

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Highlander Wilderness

Many people from out of state/country wonder where they can see moose on the east side of the park, as the moose historically preferred the rivers and wetlands west of the Continental Divide. More moose have been crossing the Divide to graze in the river areas and small lakes, such as Bear Lake and Sprague Lake. Sprague Lake has the only completely stroller/wheelchair accessible trail, .5 mile around, with benches for rest along the way. About 1/4 of the Bear Lake .5-mile trail is accessible. While quietly sitting on a Sprague Lake bench a couple years ago, I was treated to a small herd of elk who came out of the woods to wade in the cool shallow lake on a hot day. The water came up to the adults' bellies while the calves swam up to their necks. Fly fishers often cast in the lake, which is only 3 to 5 feet deep. While all shuttle buses are accessiblecompliant, the drop off point for Sprague Lake is not. The shuttle for Sprague Lake actually stops at the Glacier Creek Stables parking lot and visitors must walk roughly 250 yards through the woods to the lake on a trail that I do not consider wheelchair friendly, or friendly to fragile visitors. Visitors needing easy access should park in the Sprague Lake parking lot, which has over forty spots, including handicap spots. There are restrooms with

running water, and plenty of picnic tables under the trees off the parking lot for family picnics. But there is no staff. If you are capable of climbing Longs Peak, 14,259 feet, you can get advice at the Longs Peak Ranger Station. If you want to hike any of the easy to difficult trails originating from Bear Lake, you can consult rangers and volunteers at







the Bear Lake kiosk. If you are among the young, elderly, challenged, or curious going to Sprague Lake, stop at the Visitor Centers at Beaver Meadows or Fall River first to get your information before you continue to Sprague. While a large portion of the population (baby boomers) that supports our National Parks ages with the intent of staying active, they will require more consideration. The National Park Service would be wise to not marginalize this group in addition to other fragile visitors, and families with young children, and instead expand the available services to truly be inclusive. I spoke with an elderly couple resting in the shade on the first bench around Sprague. The man said they were evaluating the woman's capability of walking

the whole path. I

mentioned that benches were available all around the lake. They stated they had been coming to RMNP for decades, and that he was 86 and she was 90. I told her she was a cougar (older woman, younger man reference) and they burst out laughing. He asked her if she had ever been called that before. She grinned, "I am sure I have not," and I am sure it will be repeated to family members they were

I am sure I have not," and I am sure I have not," and I am sure it will be repeated to family members they were meeting later. So take your own pause in the park and get out of the heat. John Burroughs wrote, *I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.* May a park visit provide that for you too.

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Clothing Swap ~ Stage 2 Fire Restrictions

Dear Editor.

We are happy to announce that we will be having the Coal Creek Canyon Children's Clothing Swap once again at the CCCIA Hall. Here are the dates and times. Tuesday, September 27th Clothing Drop Off from 4pm-7pm Thursday, September 29th Clothing Swap from 4pm-7pm Start saving your clean, gently used children's clothing sizes newborn to 14, including maternity clothing. Contact Lindsey.Muessel@gmail.com for questions or to volunteer to help sort the clothing on Sept 29.

Dear Readers,

Boulder Ranger District bans all campfires as part of stage 2 restrictions: The U.S. Forest Service's Boulder Ranger District has implemented Stage 2 fire restrictions, effective July 19, which means that **campfires are now prohibited** in all campgrounds on the Boulder Ranger District. This includes Meeker Park, Olive Ridge, Peaceful Valley, Camp Dick, Pawnee, Rainbow Lakes and Kelly Dahl campgrounds. The new restrictions include charcoal and wood burning stoves, grills and barbecues.

Gas stoves, grills and lanterns with a shut-off valve are permitted when used at least three feet or more from

flammable materials such as grass or pine needles. Under Stage 2 fire restrictions, **smoking is allowed only within an enclosed vehicle or building.**

Campfires were already prohibited everywhere else on the Boulder Ranger District under Stage 1 fire restrictions. A temporary sports shooting restriction also remains in place on all National Forest System lands in Boulder County.

The rest of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests remains under Stage 1 fire restrictions, which limits campfires to paid campsites and picnic areas with permanent metal rings and grills. This includes all National Forest System lands in Grand, Clear Creek, Larimer and portions of Gilpin and Jefferson counties.

Factors considered when implementing restrictions include long term weather patterns, fuel moisture and staffing, as well as recent fire activity. Fire restrictions will remain in place until, working closely with county sheriffs, the Forest determines conditions have improved enough to ease restrictions. For a full list and maps of fire restrictions, visit **www.fs.usda.gov/arp**.







<u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u>

CCC Environmental Community Picnic

August 25th @ 6:00PM

Sponsored by CCCWP in partnership with:

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Location:

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Pay Up To Cut In Line

By Allen Best

A new privilege is now available at the airports in Las Vegas, San Francisco, Denver and 13 other cities in the United States, and more opportunities are on the way. You can now buy the right to cut the security lines. Some people might call this bribery; I know I do.

This shortcut isn't for everyone, naturally. It's off-limits to anyone with a criminal history, and you must be willing to have your fingertips scanned or the pupils of your eyes photographed. But it allows you to avoid the time and hassle of waiting in long lines to have your boarding pass and identification checked by the Transportation Security Administration people, although you still have to take off your belt and shoes and remove your laptop.

But for a bribe of \$179 per year, paid to a company called CLEAR, you can cut in front of the hoi polloi who were slogging through the endless line when you got there, and go directly to be scanned. Yes, this is a government-sanctioned service. Notoriously corrupt, underdeveloped Third World countries have nothing on us.

Chatting with an employee of the company in Denver, I was told that the proceeds will be split between the company and the TSA. Or maybe it was the airport; I'm not sure. But whoever gets the money, it's just plain wrong. After all, these are public enterprises selling private privileges.

I understand the concept of paying extra for enhanced service, and I have no problem with it. On planes, first-class travelers sprawl, taking up as much space as Wyoming, while those of us in economy get to inspect the skin pores of people in adjacent seats. And at a restaurant, you can buy a cheap glass of wine that smells like nail polish or splurge on one with the kind of fragrance that will have your date starry-eyed. We all understand that such things have a price.

But going through security is not an elective. This is a federal requirement. There should be no opportunity for somebody to be able to cut the line. Bribery shouldn't be flagrantly promoted.

Something of the same sort occurs at ski areas. Nearly all of the ski areas across the West are on public land, operating under permits from the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service thinks of itself as a partner with private companies in providing public recreation. As such, the private companies are allowed to charge for various services. The key charge is for being transported uphill.

I'm OK with that, and with \$12 hamburgers, for that matter, and \$300 per day ski instructors. You're still free to throw a bologna sandwich in your pack, and you can teach yourself to ski.

But not all customers are equal. At some ski areas, for an

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added fee, you can get first dibs on untracked powder in the morning, before the regular lift service starts. The Forest Service and its partners provide access to recreation, but those with more money get more access.

Then there's the custom of cutting lift lines. Ski instructors commonly go to the front of the line and politely inquire if they and their customers can cut in. But there's an underlying economic component. People pay handsomely for ski instructors to teach them how to ski better and select appropriate terrain. But for many customers, the ski instructor's key value lies in not having to wait in line. This is the equivalent of cutting to the front of the lunch line in middle school, even if it's done more politely. If ski areas were barely meeting payroll, you could argue that selling these special privileges was justified. But most ski areas are extremely profitable. So what is the rationale for offering such preferential treatment to people with deep pockets?

Some people see tolled highway express lanes in the same way. If you want to avoid the creepy-crawling congestion in the other lanes, you can hop into the express line and scoot along - for an added cost. I think this is different, though. Because we refuse to raise gas taxes, the express lanes provide a way of paying to fill the potholes in the many roads that all of us use.

In a bizarre way, resentment of this kind of privilege was a common theme overlapping the political campaigns of both Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders. (That might be the nicest thing I can find to say about Donald Trump.) They came at it from different angles, though. Each tapped a sense of dissatisfaction with various systems - including political parties - that are often perceived as rigged.

Petty bribery in less-developed nations seems to be a way of life. There, they do it with a wink as cash passes under the table. Here, it's something that's advertised.

Allen Best is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org).

He writes in the Denver area.



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Buffalo Field Campaign-buffalofieldcampaign.org

BFC Fights to Designate Wild Bison as Threatened or Endangered

Recently BFC, together with our friends at Western Watersheds Project and Friends of Animals Wildlife Law Program, took the first required step to sue the Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USFWS) for failing to provide Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for the distinct population segment of bison in Yellowstone National Park. As outlined in our Notice of Intent to Sue, when the Fish and Wildlife Service issued

its negative 90-day determination on two separate petitions to list the bison as threatened or endangered, they ignored the best available science, applied an incorrect legal standard to the petition, and ignored the plain language of

Yellowstone Country

Wild Bison

2017

the Endangered Species Act, which requires that any species threatened by one or more of five factors shall be

> designated as endangered or threatened. America's national mammal, the wild bison, is threatened with extinction because of the actions—and inaction—of the agencies entrusted with protecting them. The Department of Interior should base its decisions on the best available science, not political pressure from the livestock industry. Protecting wild bison under the ESA is the best, and strongest, way to bring this imperiled species the protections it so

desperately needs. This herd needs to be more than 5,000 strong for genetic viability, and it gets culled to under that critical number every year. Wild is the Way - Roam Free

Wild Bison 2017 Calendar: Get Yours Today, Retail or Wholesale! Celebrate wild buffalo every day of the year with our seventh annual Wild Bison of Yellowstone Country calendar. This year's edition is the most wonderful exploration yet of this country's largest land mammal. Featuring stunning photos from generous professional photographers and BFC patrols, our 2017 calendar also features incredible artwork, interesting facts, and beautiful poetry and quotes.

All proceeds from the calendar go directly to BFC's front lines work defending and protecting America's last wild buffalo. Support our work to help these gentle giants as you celebrate wild buffalo every day! Fall in love with the buffalo and strengthen your resolve to help protect them!

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What Dream Has Your Name On It?

By Frosty Wooldridge

Most people stumble through their teens, stagger through their twenties and meander into their thirties.

By forty, they suffer a mid-life crisis before bumping into the Big "5" "0."

From 50, they face the last third of their lives with a sense of a downhill slide. Most never lived any "great" moments or vanquished any dragons let alone navigated a great sailing ship called the Black Pearl like Captain Jack Sparrow. None took off through space like the Next Generation on the Starship Enterprise.

Most Americans enjoy two-week vacations with scant time to climb Mt. Everest or raft the Amazon. Others feel so locked into their jobs that nothing or no one can change their fate.

What if teens and twenties changed the course of their existence by co-creating their lives with a greater power, a higher understanding and a plan to enjoy their way of life? Captain Jean Luc Picard said, *Time is a companion that goes with us on a journey. It reminds us to cherish each moment, because it will never come again. What we leave behind is not as important as how we have lived.*

Breathe that statement into your spirit. Incorporate it into your mind. Engage it with your passions.

What turns you on in your daily existence? What moves you to action? What calls you?

For every human being on Earth, a little engine inside calls for "something" to activate a life-calling. How do you find out which path calls you?

What heroes do you follow? Why? What great moments in history move you? How do you feel when you study a certain subject? What books engage your interest? What famous movie role inspires you?

It's my contention that you discover your life path by following the slightest thread of your desires. From there, you make your intentions.



One such young lady wanted to fly an airplane. As she grew up, she used a doll for her co-pilot, which she placed next to her in her "airplane" with two seats in her room. As she grew older, she kept the doll next to her and carried it with her when she attended college. After college, she gained work at an airport, but couldn't afford flying lessons. Nonetheless, she made friends with pilots and trainers alike. At all times, she kept her doll with her to remind her of her dream to fly. (Continued next page.)



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Highlander Inner View

As fate entered the picture, she became an assistant to a veteran airline pilot trainer. She worked hard, showed up on time, stayed late and kept the books in order. After a year of watching her, he offered her some time in a flight simulator. Soon, she showed her adept skills as a pilot that impressed the trainer. He offered to take her up in a single engine plane for flight training. She earned, scraped and saved money for pilot lessons. After two years, she gained her pilot's license. At all times, her doll sat with her in the cockpit.

Soon, she learned how to pilot a twin engine plane. She flew clients all over the country. With that money, she learned to pilot a 747 with the same trainer who started her out years before. When she received her license to pilot a 747, she earned a job with a major airline.

Today, as an international 747 airline pilot, she visits places all over the world. With her, that same doll, that same dream, that same intention rides in the cockpit with her. In fact, she is a friend of mine and wrote a book *Chick in the Cockpit* which got published.

Ask yourself: What dream has your name on it? On this long journey of your life, you must co-create your life path with the creative energy within you. You possess all the tools and all the ingenious energy to engage a positive, useful, purposeful and happy life.

Open to possibilities daily, engage the flow, and receive the favors of the universe. Finally, weave your story toward co-creating your dynamic life. Take action toward your chosen destiny.

Frosty Wooldridge, six continent world bicycle traveler, Mexico to Canada summer 2013, 2,500 miles, 150,000 vertical feet of climbing, 19 passes, and a whole lot of fun!

Editor's Note:

Frosty's Worldview Series has ended and I printed them all, so unless he gets a bug to write something new in that environmental overpopulation topic... As readers I hope you'll enjoy his newest series that I call Inner View.

For many months I plan to print his writings about more upbeat topics and views from his world travels and perspectives that come from seeing more than just our country.

The view from a bicycle can provide not only a different outlook, but many hours of reflection on the world today. He is off traveling now, with his wife, on another bicycle tour on the backroads from the Northwest to the Midwest and will check in upon his return.

Many thanks to him for his valuable contributions - his is a singularly original viewpoint, some of which I agree with completely. (Photo of Frosty at the Golden Gate Bridge.)







Waiting For Seasons Of Lushness

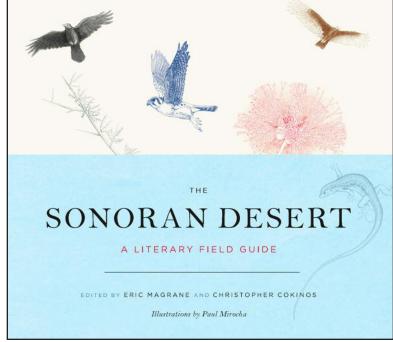
By Lawrence Lenhart - HCN

For over a century, North American naturalists have been compiling field guides to aid citizen scientists in identifying the native flora and fauna of particular regions. In the case of *The Sonoran Desert: A Literary Field Guide*, editors Eric Magrane and Christopher Cokinos are both guides and anthologists; this is a Sonoran Desert tour led by a park ranger with an MFA.

Cokinos makes the case that "the empiricism of science, the imaginative and cognitive leaps of poetry, the close observation of both ... we need it all." *The Sonoran Desert* is not just a field guide, but also an anthology of prose and poetry about the Arizona Upland. As in earlier "literary field guides" such as *Califauna and Califlora* (Heyday 2007, 2012), each species' passage is accompanied by an essay or poem, an illustration, and a spirited description of its morphology, habitat and life history.

The 63 literary stewards of the *Sonoran Desert* were mostly recruited during the National Geographic
BioBlitz in Saguaro National Park in 2011, an event where citizen scientists teamed up with professionals to develop a 24-hour species inventory. The resulting anthology is varied — a blend of witness and imagination, intention and happy accident, anthropomorphism and zoomorphism. In a single-sentence piece about the broad-billed hummingbird, Arizona's first poet laureate, Alberto Alvaro Ríos, writes: "Hummingbirds are quarter notes which have left the nest of the flute." Elsewhere, Alison Hawthorne Deming observes, "The saguaros all hum together like Tibetan or Gregorian monks / one green chord that people hear when they drive."

Such synchroneities abound in *The Sonoran Desert*. As Cokinos writes, it becomes a "form of literary biomimicry," tandem imitations of nature's patterns. Many of these species' life histories are implicitly authored by the Tohono O'odham Nation, a tribe that has dwelt in the Sonoran Desert for thousands of years. "This is what the Tohono O'odham tell us," one passage says, "that humans can be

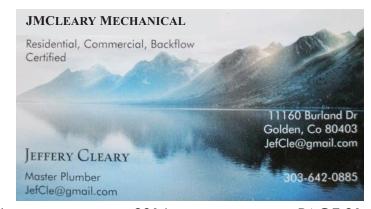


turned into Saguaro." In fact, the passage on Canis latrans, the coyote, is written by Angelo Joaquin Jr., a Tohono O'odham Coyote Clan Member.

Neither poetry nor essay, this piece functions as a kind of outlying mythology. In *The Sonoran Desert*, creosote and Coulter's lupine garner equal attention, as do roadrunner and verdin, javelina and red-spotted toad. Likewise, celebrated Sonoran authors Joy Williams, Ofelia Zepeda and Jane Miller are joined by a chorus of newcomers, including Jeevan Narney, Aisha Sabatini Sloan and Maya L. Kapoor, who writes in her passage on ocotillo: *to live in the desert sometimes means nothing more than anchoring into soil, eating hot air, waiting for seasons of lushness.*

The Sonoran Desert: A Literary Field Guide
Eric Magrane and Christopher Cokinos (editors),
Paul Mirocha (illustrator)
216 pages,
softcover: \$19.95.





Nit Picking & More....

Last month I printed an article by Jordan Arenson about Hummingbirds. The issue had only been out a couple of days when I returned home to listen to my phone messages and got a screaming blast from a woman in Crawford Gulch – finding fault with Jordan's facts and information about the little Rufous. She didn't name the High Country News contributor from Eugene, Oregon but instead attacked me as a highly irresponsible editor for printing such egregious information. Stating that my sources and fact checking were more than lacking – they were atrocious. Well, you get the jist of the voice message.

The only regret on my part is that this woman got so overly upset by a practice I've seen happen more and more often. The name for it is anthropomorphism: the attribution of human characteristics or behavior to a god, animal, or object. In this instance she couldn't stand knowing the little bird can become violent during mating season to the point it might injure a competing male for the attention of the female or the chance to breed.

Now granted, the geographic region for the Rufous to breed doesn't include Colorado so it is very possible she has never seen the behavior the writer referred to in his article. (Which is substantiated in his source material, and highly acclaimed by the Audubon Society –

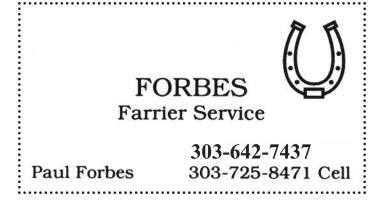
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Hummingbirds: Their Life and Behavior.) I myself have seen the Rufous hummingbird be very aggressive to other hummers just over a feeder or flowers to the point that the others all go away and only the orange male sits nearby letting his harem drink nectar. I have never seen them act violently either, but that doesn't mean they can't or don't when hormones are present in their bodies to reproduce.

The underlying problem as I stated, is our need to put human behavior and characteristics onto animals, wild or domesticated. I do it all the time with my dog and cat and even the horses that live with us. It is all too easy to speak for them, guessing what they think or feel or even why they act in the ways they do. But in the natural world things aren't always warm and fuzzy. Many animals must kill simply to survive, it is natural – there are no evil or malevolent hidden agendas. Male lions will kill the cubs of another male just to create a chance to breed with the females and therefore have his genes in their offspring.

There are many times I've watched National Geographic shows and had to change the channel due to harsh graphic violence being shown. This is not gratuitous violence, in most instances it is life and death out there. Even a house cat catching a mouse, bird or squirrel will often torture the poor victim before dispatching it or eating it. Does that mean the cat is evil? The answer is no and we can't make judgments on wildlife for their behavior to eat, breed, defend territory or any of the other things they must do in their quest to survive and procreate.

On to another subject quite prevalent in the news: Politics is pretty scary, especially this year. I try hard to hear other people's views, even though I'm pragmatic about my own. I find a double standard emerging in the midst of voters complaining about our lack of a good choice. I must agree with the sentiment, but politics in a democracy is difficult at best. What I disagree with is the blame folks often put onto candidate Hillary Clinton for what her husband did, has done and his policies or practices when he was a president.



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Highlander Editorial Opinion

Can't we leave him out of the equation? Shouldn't she stand on her own merits or mistakes alone? Many find fault with her for things they would never even voice an opinion about if it were a man. Come on folks, see her as a person – irrelevant is what she wears or how often she nods. Do we judge Trump the chump on his ties or suit choices? NO, so do the same for the other candidate and switchgears to the issues, policies, senatorial voting record when she was an elected New York Senator. Otherwise you make yourself look more stupid than the chump whenever you lower into the political gutter by complaining about things that don't and shouldn't matter.

I'm highly disappointed when a female political candidate is judged differently than a male candidate, held to an unrealistic standard. Sure, label me the feminist – I won't take it as criticism because it has been true for more than fifty years: just pull your thoughts into a more intelligent arena so if I should have to hear them I won't tune you out while I cringe for your lacking intelligence. At least I'm not a female chauvinist, I respect and admire the intelligence of our current President, even if I don't agree with all his policies and inability to 'cross the aisle.' I know men can compete with women when it comes to acting compliant or compromising on important issues.

And what's with blowing off Trump's many blatant faux pas on a daily basis? He's not so great he can just say or do things without our approval or critique. An immature and critically unorganized campaign is a reflection of his possible administrative inadequacies. Wake up folks, you're seeing the next possible commander in chief stumble, bumble and never even admit when he messes up or his wife commits what most ivy league schools expell students for doing.

My other disappointment is the voter that states that they don't plan to vote because there is no viable choice. That may be true about the office of the President, but don't kid yourself that the next appointed Supreme Court Justice isn't of critical importance for many years to come. Not to mention your state's Senators or Representatives working in Washington. It is your duty as a citizen of this free country, don't shirk your duty simply because you dream

CONSTRUCTION BUILDING YOUR VISION. Deryk Riveland, Owner p: 303.642.3691 c: 720.341.5345 deryk@myRedPoint.com myRedPoint.com 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN QUALITY RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION & REM KITCHENS • BATHS • DECKS • TILING • REMODELS • ADDITIONS • NEW HOMES of a viable third party (oh and by the way voting for one of the third party candidates at this late date historically will assure votes are taken away from the candidate that should

Or you mistakenly think not voting is some statement for change. It is correctly called apathy and is a coward's way out of a duty many have died on battlefields for you to have as a right. Especially women, we have only had the right to vote for less than one hundred years, think about what the females who changed that and forced the 19th Amendment to the Constitution to give us the Right to Vote in 1920 went through to make that happen for YOU.

Real change is made by you getting off the couch and working for reform or for a third party long before the primaries or caucuses so the entire country knows those candidates by name. Don't be another chump and simply complain that you want change, do the hard work and at least vote responsibly. We face a possible CEO named Trump, handing over the reins of change to an unknown politician - his V.P., simply because he knows he is inadequate and cares little for the actual executive office. So by way of ignorance or elitism we might end up getting led by an ultra conservative willing to be the chump's dummy leader. Get wise and make your vote count, even when you think it won't. By A.M. Wilks



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POWER UPDATE



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be returning \$4 million dollars in capital credits to our members.

Anyone who had service in 2015 or earlier will receive a refund as part of this year's capital credit retirement. Any member who has a retirement of \$10 or more will receive a check in the mail. Refunds under \$10 will be issued as a bill credit and will appear on bills in August or September. Watch for your refunds, coming soon!

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