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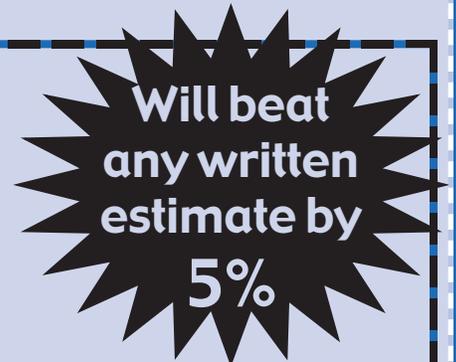
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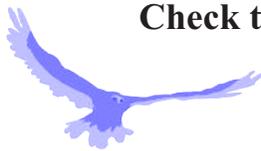
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About the Cover:
Gunter, a Halflinger
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A Mini Can Make It Merrier

As you can see on the cover this month, miniature horses make great companions for big or regular size horses. They are a registered breed of horse and have not had ponies bred into them in hundreds of years. They were bred smaller to pull carts in the mines in Europe and have been in America for a very long time. They are usually well mannered and behaved. They can carry small children if they are on the larger size of their breed's weight and height. They range from 24 inches to 36 inches at the withers (shoulder). Much of their upkeep and health needs are similar to regular equines, but it should be noted they most often do not respect the average barbless or barbed wire fence enclosures/pastures.

Due to their size they can often just walk right through a three or four wire fence, so it is best to keep them in a panel gate fenced paddock or corral. Of course each situation is different and some mini's have been trained to respect electric fences or most often they just choose to stay with their companions of any size horses. Equines are herd animals and prefer to have some company wherever they live. If you acquire them very young they can be trained as therapy animals: becoming house trained to poop outside by using a large dog door, opening the refrigerator to get things out for the disabled.

I love that commercial showing a miniature horse being ignored by the big horses and then allowed into the house with a doggy door. They make great pets but folks should be careful as they need much more exercise than a dog and they really do prefer the company of their own species. As with regular size horses they need consistent food sources and can suffer if their food is changed too fast or to a richer pasture or type of hay than they are used to. Some foods are toxic to horses, but that doesn't mean they won't still eat it. Since a mini's throat and all their intestines are



smaller it is crucial to make sure they don't choke or get any hay that has been allowed to mold.

See Highlander Horses above: Sascha and Rudy are now playing regularly and getting along. (Continued next page.)

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Highlander Horse

They can live long lives and they get very attached to their people so it is a lifetime commitment to get a miniature horse. Not only do you need the space and facilities to accommodate a horse you also must have the time to spend with them. Care should be taken to protect them from stray dogs and wildlife, plus regular size horses need to get used to them gradually so the mini doesn't get hurt as a pecking order around food can cause issues until the dust settles.



If you're thinking of getting a miniature horse to keep your regular size horse company you probably already know the drill to keep your animals healthy and happy. If you've never had a horse and just think you might want a mini horse, do lots of homework and go visit a place that already has them before you make up your mind. They can bite, kick, run away and become a full time job so choose carefully. Maybe what you really want is a large dog that can come into your house and be trained to voice commands more easily.

As with regular or large size horses, mini's can be very loyal, easy going, affectionate and a joy to have around. They require annual and/or semi-annual vaccines, dental checks, worming and a farrier to keep their hooves the right length and level. They must have access to unfrozen drinking water 24/7 and can become very sick if they don't.

Of course they create less manure, eat less and can tolerate smaller spaces but still have a coat of hair that sheds, can be destructive or become mean if they are ill treated or ignored. As with most horses, the most prevalent form of abuse for these little beasts is neglect. While they may get lots of attention at first, (*especially by children*) the novelty can soon wear off and their needs just become an unwanted chore, so the horse will suffer.

By A.M. Wilks

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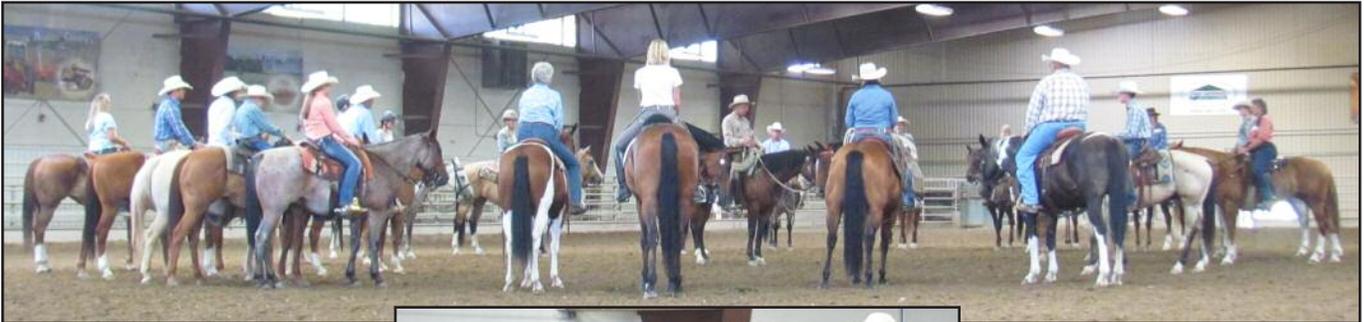
Send Your Horse To Summer School

Article and photographs by Diane Bergstrom

“A horse is happiest when he has a job, when he has something to do. Have your relationship be something good, something special, something he looks forward to every day. Especially if he’s in a tight arena, a small paddock, or it’s a prison camp for him.” Buck Brannaman, expert horseman and humane horsemanship clinician

of course, you have to leave your horse at home. Why disappoint your horse?

The cost to participate as a rider for the four consecutive half day clinics is \$700. The cost for a spectator seat is \$30 a day, which includes both AM and PM sessions. ★★Tip for registered riders: your fee includes admission to watch the other sessions. Maximize your education and join the spectators! From June 17-20, in Steamboat Springs,



If you missed Buck’s May clinics in Ft. Collins, you still have opportunities for yourself and your horse this summer! He is offering Colorado clinics in June and August, and my advice for those interested in participating with your horse is call now. Right now. Come back to reading this later. His limited clinic spaces for horse and rider fill up fast. If filled, I strongly advise attending as a spectator but,



(Steamboat - Ridership is full) Foundation Horsemanship (9 AM) and Horsemanship 1 (1:30 PM) will be offered. In order to participate as a rider in H 1, you must have previously ridden with Buck. Contact sponsor Barb Shipley at 970-846-5151, bjs7753@gmail.com, to sign up. From August 5-8, in Eagle, Horsemanship 2 (9 AM) will be offered. *(Continued next page.)*

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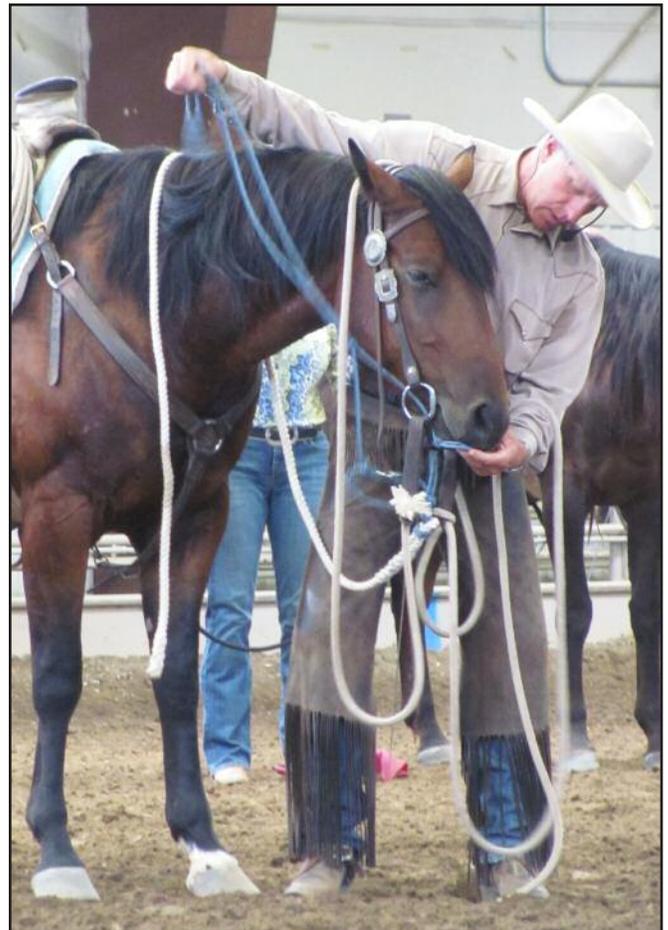
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Highlander Horse



Contact Moni and Steve Howard at 970-524-2320 to register. From August 20-23, in Longmont, Foundation Horsemanship (9 AM) and Horsemanship 1 (1:30) will be offered. Contact Sheri Gulley at 970-351-7444 to register. From August 26-29, in Kiowa, Horsemanship 1 (9AM) and Horsemanship 2 (1:30) will be offered. Contact Mindy Bower and Kevin Hall at 719-541-5550, uhohranch@fairpoint.net, to register. Most of the venues have vast spectator seating available, but do check the website, www.brannaman.com, for your specific location. The website has clinic descriptions and a succinct section entitled, "Which class is right for me?" to help you determine which clinic would be appropriate for you and your horse. And of course, leave your dogs at home, whether you are participating as a rider or watching as a spectator.

Sheri Gulley, sponsor for Longmont clinics, often converses with interested riders on course offerings to help them decide which clinics they should take. After riding with Buck for 20 years, she has in depth knowledge of each clinic and helps riders determine where they will receive the most benefit for themselves and their horses. When discussing the Foundation and H1 clinics, she commented



it doesn't matter how long a person has ridden, "This is where you learn refinement. If you don't know this, you'll never take your horse as far as he needs to go." She also added, if riders wait too long to reserve their spot, they end up taking what they can get.

There is a moment, at every clinic I have attended, when the arena falls silent, and every rider, spectator, and sometimes horse intently watch Buck while he works with a rider's horse, and consequently, the rider. He provides a live demonstration of theory into practice packed with a whole lot of patience, often laced with Buckisms. (My personal favorite is, "Don't let anything but fear stop you!") A couple years ago, his demo spanned four minutes of groundworking a mule with an intimidated owner. The

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had commented, “Gosh, I didn’t know good riding is so complicated!” He reflected, “Well, bad riding isn’t! You can kick and pull, and good luck staying alive. It’s an art and I see every one of you as artists.”

In addition to addressing riding positions, leg work, connecting to the horse’s feet, behavior strategies, groundwork, transitions, horse physics and movement, refined riding using whole body, attitudes and approaches, rescue and partially blind horses, reining, energizing and engaging tactics, gate training, horse learning and thinking patterns, Buck paid close attention to each rider. He restricts the number of riders in each clinic so he can do so.



rest of the clinic went much better for both of them. Last year, a rider was having trouble understanding how to rein efficiently, connecting to his horse’s mouth and bit. Buck stood next to the horse and worked the reins and bit slowly, lightly, and patiently while carefully observing the horse’s reactions and physical cues. Buck gave him interval pauses so he had time to think through the lesson. (I’m referring to both the horse and rider in that sentence.) We all noted as the horse understood what was being asked of him and responded. “We crossed a threshold about 30 seconds ago. There’s an ebb and flow to the learning process of a horse. A heavier rein (pull) doesn’t increase knowledge,” Buck explained, “Where is he mentally when he’s doing what he’s doing? Break it (lesson) down in small pieces so the horse can get it. You can only do it as fast as the horse can think. Get it to 100%, then on to the next progression. A horse can change in a day. It doesn’t take a long time to make a good horse. There really aren’t problem horses, just problem people. It depends on how much desire you have to make a good horse.” He mentioned that a previous rider

But bad habits die hard. I watched one impatient rider hit her horse in the face while trying to *(Continued next page.)*



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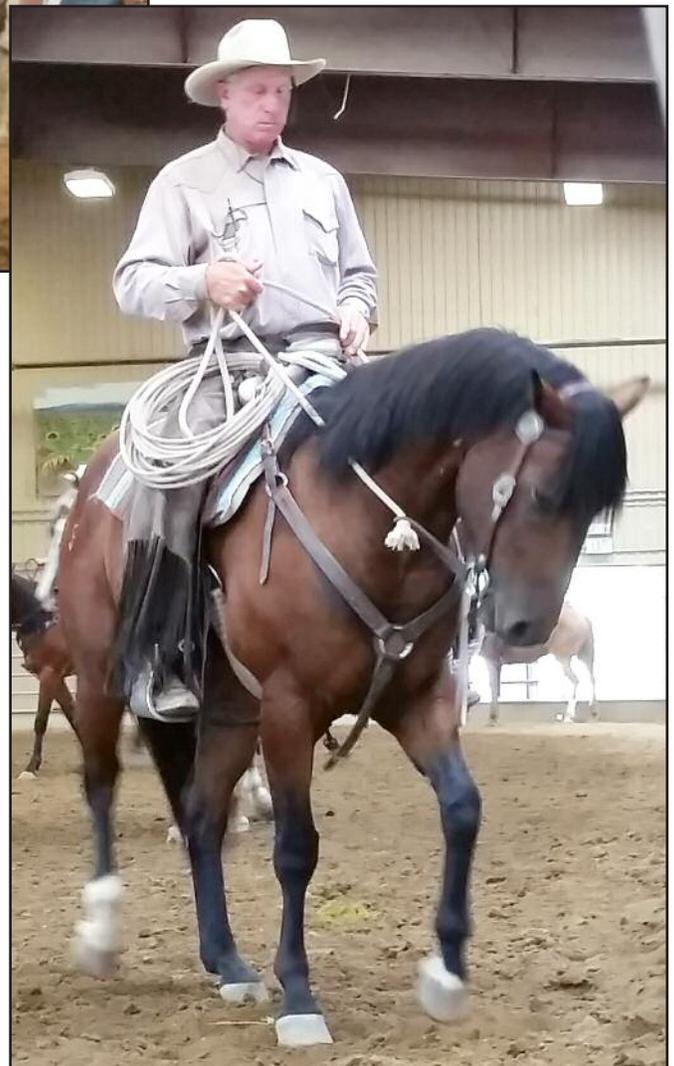
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Highlander Horse



three methods I taught you yesterday.” Every correction is an educational opportunity. She had been snapping his rope when she hit him to back him up. He knew a fence was behind him and had stopped to bend around to see it, checking his blind spot. Explaining the horse’s pause, Buck said, “In nature, a horse is not supposed to let anything get to the blind spot. That blind spot is sacred. (The horse thinks) keeps my head from being drilled

back him up. This didn’t escape Buck and he won’t tolerate abuse, “Don’t hit him in the face! That’s not one of the



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into the dirt.” Explaining the importance of getting your horse hooked on you (connected and trusting), Buck said, “Riding the horse accurately, that’s support. My horses are obedient and guess what? My horses like me too. They know where I am. That in itself is comforting to a horse. When a horse is in constant confusion and doesn’t know where the hell their human is coming from, that’s cruel.” His reciprocal relationship with his horses is evident whether he is simply sitting in the saddle while observing riders or giving bridling instructions. They are calm, responsive,

and even follow him once he dismounts. Taking a question from the spectators, Buck explained why he prefers mounting from a fence instead of a block. It allows him to have a foot in the stirrup while still having a foot and hand on the fence. He slowly walked his horse through the exercise to show the crowd of 200 spectators, “Bring him up to the fence, practice on the fence and repeat. Give him a rest and time to

think. Next time as you approach the fence, he’ll think, “I’m way ahead of you. I got this!” He went on to give gate strategies, but I can’t give away too much of his training. Get to a clinic! I will say he mentioned that gates are not an issue for him because all of his horses are trained for him to mount from a fence, and all that presents in the way of noise, fence sway, close proximity, etc.

When I have time
(Continued next page.)

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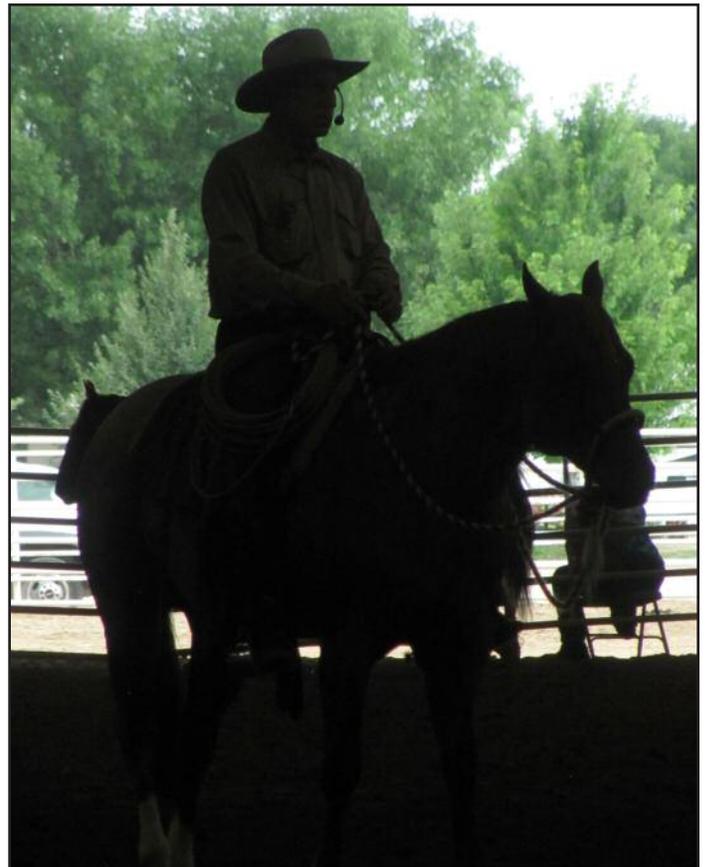
constraints to cover Buck's clinics for an article, I will attend the first day and the last day to observe the changes that happened over four days. They are consistent every time. The horses are calmer, more collected, and responsive. The riders are more relaxed, connected, and confident in their new skill set. Everyone has been processing and applying the lessons, which is never more apparent than in the smooth gait of the horses and their fluid riders. Buck commented to the crowd, "I'm trying to create an eagerness to search in my horse. I'm giving you the dignity to find this. Knowledge is how you conquer fear."

He also repeatedly reminds riders, "Don't quit in a bad place. Quit 'em in a good place." So, I quit now in a good place. Make that call and sign your horse up for summer school, or put a clinic on your calendar to attend as a spectator. They are always worth your time and your horse will thank you for years to come!

Buck's DVDs and books are available at his clinics and through his website.

His yearly schedule can be found at
www.brannaman.com.

You can also like him on facebook.



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Shine Is Given Another Chance To Shine

By Kristen Browning-Blas - CSU

Shine the miniature horse will trot into an exclusive club of Colorado equines with artificial hooves when he left the James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital recently. After suffering a vicious dog attack that mangled a hoof and led to infection, Shine needed surgical amputation of his lower-left hind leg in order to survive. His owners, Jacque Corsentino and Lee Vigil, asked veterinarians at Colorado State University to “do whatever it takes” to give the 3-year-old horse a chance at a normal life on their ranch in Florence, Colo.

In mid-March, Dr. Laurie Goodrich, an associate professor of equine orthopaedics, led a two-hour surgery to remove Shine’s infected hoof and distal limb below the fetlock, the hinge joint of the lower leg. She placed two stainless steel pins through the cannon bone to help support Shine’s leg while the wound healed.

Goodrich then used measurements from her patient’s radiographs and a 3-D printer to build an exact replica of his hoof, which helped Shine stay balanced while he healed.

Small size makes prosthesis possible: Shine spent more than a month at CSU’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital charming veterinary students and while recuperating in a stall alongside full-size horses that seem like giants next to the 30-inch-high, 150-pound mini.

Full-sized horses weigh between 800 and 2,000 pounds, typically making it impossible to outfit a severely injured horse with an artificial limb that will successfully carry the



load. Horses in Shine’s condition – with broken bones and dangerous infections – are usually euthanized when treatment fails. But his small size made Shine a good candidate for amputation and prosthesis. It’s an uncommon approach, even for Goodrich, a practicing veterinarian for 25 years. “It’s the first one I’ve done, but I’ve always wanted to try,” said Goodrich, who specializes in equine orthopaedic surgery. “We had no way of preserving that limb. So we had to take it off, and this was the only option to preserve his life.”

The last CSU equine case involving amputation surgery, followed by a prosthetic fitting, occurred in 1998. That’s when Dr. Gayle Trotter performed surgery on a burro named Primrose, whose likeness is reflected in a bronze sculpture outside the

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hospital.

She treated Shine for two months with veterinary guidance, then sought another opinion from Dr. Britt Stubblefield, a CSU alumnus who owns Rocky Top Veterinary Service in southern Colorado. Radiographs revealed fractures in Shine's coffin bone and lower pastern bone, the small but critical bones extending from the lower leg into the hoof.

"Dr. Stubblefield called Dr. Goodrich from my barn, and then at least we knew we had some options, other than sending him to heaven," Corsentino said. They made the four-hour trip to Fort Collins, and Goodrich quickly determined that the hoof had to be amputated.

One month after the surgery, Shine was fitted with an artificial hoof from OrthoPets, a company in Westminster, Colo., that specializes in animal prostheses. Founder Martin Kaufmann has worked with CSU on other cases, including that of Brutus, the famed Rottweiler with four prosthetic paws. Shine will be the fourth miniature horse to receive an OrthoPets hoof, which looks like a narrow ski boot with a foam liner and bike-tire treads.

As students and residents watched Shine take his first steps on his new hoof, fourth-year veterinary student Jessica Carie marveled at the difference. "I think this is awesome. He's already so much more comfortable than with the cast," she observed.

Dr. Ellison Aldrich, the resident who has overseen Shine's case, says the horse's small size and personality have a lot to do with his recovery.

"He's very sweet, laid-back, easy to deal with," she said. With so much recovery time at the equine hospital, his caregivers have gotten to know Shine's tastes. "His favorite food is Gobstoppers. He's so cute and people love to feed them to him. But he also loves apples and carrots."

A new future with a new hoof: Corsentino had planned to train Shine as a show horse, but now is contemplating a different future for her little buddy. The family has set up a crowdfunding page through PetChance.org to help with Shine's medical expenses.

"He's so comforting. You know when you have horrible days? Shine is my therapy," Corsentino said. "I think he would make an amazing therapy horse for wounded warriors or kids with disabilities."

Shine's ordeal has deepened Corsentino's faith, and she hopes sharing his story will help to educate and inspire others. "Every day I prayed and pleaded and cried out to God for a miracle," Corsentino said. "Now thanks to the amazing team at CSU we can share his testimony. We have been blessed beyond words to work with such phenomenal doctors and support staff at CSU."

Editor's Note: This should be a cautionary tale for folks who let their dogs run loose. A couple of mid-size black shorthaired dogs have been seen chasing deer near Copperdale Lane. As a small pack they are dangerous!

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Heartworm-Thanks From Wild Animal Sanctuary

To the editor, I think it's important to inform the animal owners that your publication reaches, that there is a Heartworm Positive dog living in Coal Creek Canyon. The disease is spread by mosquitos. Everyone says, "Oh there's no mosquitos in Colorado, therefore, there is no heartworm problem.

Not true. Where the Heartworm Disease comes from in Colorado is from people moving here from southern states like Texas, Florida, Ohio, Louisiana, etc. Heartworm Disease is prevalent in those areas because of the humid climate, mosquitos breed very well and spread all kinds of diseases. Heartworm is the number one disease. All it takes is for one mosquito to bite a Heartworm Positive dog and then bite another dog. That dog now has contracted Heartworm disease. And the cycle continues.

I urge every dog owner in this area to have their dogs tested for Heartworm Disease and then start Heartworm prevention immediately and continue year round. A yearly prevention program, depending on the size of your dog, ranges from \$50 - \$100 per year. A small price to pay for the alternative. Jan Kramer, CVT - Vet Tech Pet Sitting

Dear Contributor: Diane Bergstrom,

Thank you so much for the wonderful article you wrote for the Highlander magazine! It is one of the most informative and balanced articles I have seen in some time. Many of the staff members commented that your Tips are spot-on and would be great for every visitor to follow to make the most of their visit.

Besides my gratitude, please accept the gratitude of our wonderful animals as well. All of us are glad you are a supporter of the Sanctuary. Wishing you all the best. Sincerely, Pat Craig, Executive Director, The Wild Animal Sanctuary

Editor's Note: To access and read the article referred to here, go to the Highlander website at www.HighlanderMo.com (some search engines offer the Archives Page under their initial listing) - scroll down the Homepage to the box that says ARCHIVES - click on that box and find the March 2016 issue, then click on that link to pull it up. Diane also wrote another recent article for the Wild Animal Sanctuary in the April 2016 issue of the Highlander Monthly.

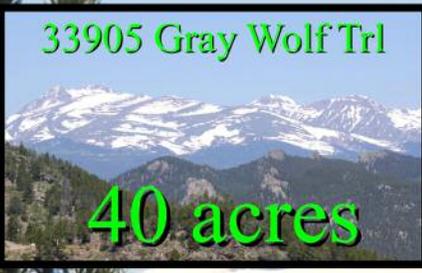
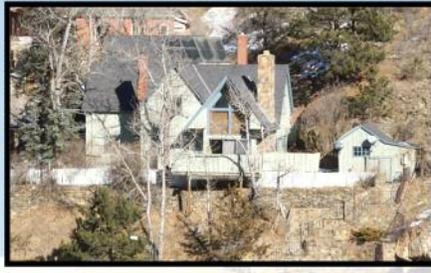
As noted in the previous article about a dog attack on a miniature horse; whenever dogs are allowed to run loose to pack up (it can be as few as two) the owners are breaking the law and putting livestock, children and

other dogs at serious risk. The two shorthaired black dogs near Copperdale are unfriendly to humans. Unless they are always contained it is within the law for a homeowner to use deadly force to protect livestock.

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How To Safely Sell Your Vehicle

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

Choosing to sell your vehicle on your own instead of to a dealership can be a good deal — especially if your car, SUV or truck has high value. Follow these tips for conducting a safe transaction.

Choose a Sales Process

You can use newspaper ads and/or various online services to post photos and a description of your vehicle. Some services, like CarMax, purchase your vehicle and resell it for you, and others, like AutoTrader, allow you to buy ad space to help sell your car. Another option includes listing your car on local classifieds sites. Regardless of how you choose to sell your car, always watch out for scammers.

Find a Good Buyer

Speak with serious buyers over the phone to help gauge their interest, discuss their payment plan and set up a test drive. Kelley Blue Book recommends not selling to an out-of-state buyer, as it's often safer to sell your vehicle to someone who can meet you in person.

Host a Safe Test Drive

Once you've found a potential buyer, schedule a test drive. Follow these tips:

Never go on a test drive alone — ask a friend to join you. Schedule the test drive during the day.

Meet the driver in a populated area.

Check the buyer's license and proof of insurance before they get behind the wheel.

The test drive is not the time to take payment, but you can negotiate a price.

Tip: List your vehicle for a slightly higher price, but keep your bottom line price in mind as you negotiate, suggests Consumer Reports.

Manage a Secure Transaction

The safest place to exchange payment is at the buyer's bank. Don't sign or hand over the vehicle title to the buyer until you have received the agreed-upon payment in full.



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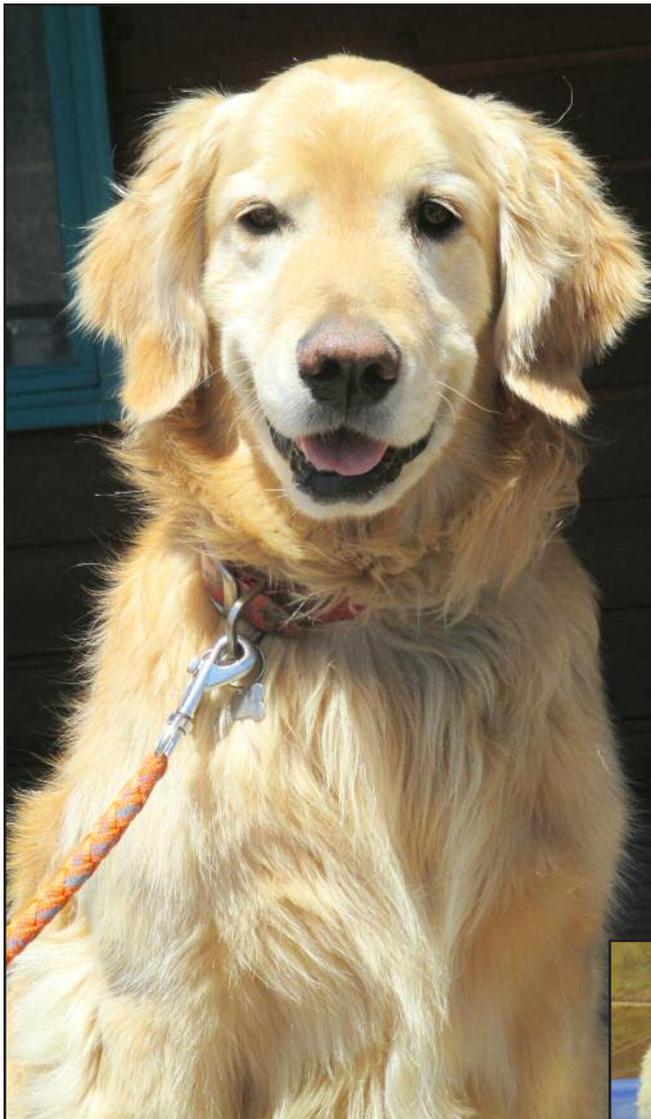
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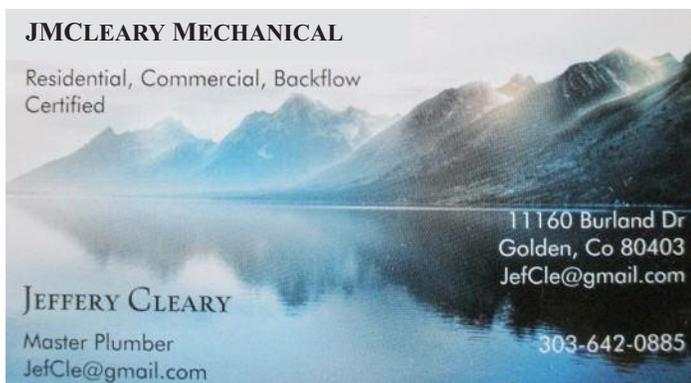


*This Page Top Left: Oscar At Right: Bella
Bottom Right: Puppy daycare at Petsmart*

*Next Page Top Left: Lil'bit finds sunbeam
Bottom Left: Nelson (cover mini) and his
lady love Zinna*

*Top Right: Denae on Romeo
Bottom Right: Poodles at daycare*

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Privatize Public Lands? Start With Grazing Fees

By Andrew Gulliford

We've all heard the refrain from those who distrust and disparage the federal government: Give the nation's public lands back to the people. With 600 million acres of public land and over 330 million Americans, that means we would all get about two acres each. And once those acres were privatized, where would ranchers run their livestock?

These self-styled "patriots" don't really believe that all Americans should have a slice of the nation's public lands. They want ranchers to gain more control without paying for it, though right now, ranchers already use our public lands at a highly subsidized rate.

This is how it works: The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service charge fees for ranchers to run a cow-calf on public land; effective March 1 of this year, grazing fees were raised to \$2.11 per A.U.M., or animal unit month, which is equivalent to one cow and calf or five sheep. Though this is a 25% hike over last year's \$1.69 fee, it is still woefully below fair market value.

The fee change will affect 8,000 permits on Forest Service lands and 18,000 permits on BLM leases, covering a total of 235 million acres. Both the Public Lands Council and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association support the fee increase. But some ranchers resent paying a penny more, while some environmental groups regard any public-lands grazing as welfare ranching and a waste of the West. Why? Because, in 2014, the BLM and Forest Service spent \$144 million on grazing programs and earned a piddling \$19 million in lease income. We've got an Old West legacy persisting in a New West economy.

"Taxpayers are getting a raw deal regarding grazing," says Travis Bruner, executive director of the Western Watersheds Project. "Americans are supporting a narrow welfare program for the benefit of Western livestock operations."

Although some ranchers bellyache about having to pay any federal fees, in 16 Western states, public-land grazing is 80% cheaper than grazing on private land. Where do those grazing fees go? Half the dollars return to benefit

stockmen, by funding cattle guards across roads, fencing, corrals, stock ponds and other improvements.

Then there's the federal agency called Wildlife Services, which slaughters native predators like bobcats, wolves, black bears and coyotes. For a century, taxpayers have footed the bill to make public lands safer for sheep and cattle. Public-lands ranching may be a proud tradition out here, but less than 5% of the livestock consumed in the United States is produced on the West's public land. There's better grass in Missouri and Florida, and lots more of it.

If the federal government stopped renting out public land for grazers, the fees on private land would most likely balloon to about \$20 for every animal unit month. We'd cancel range improvements and ground the Wildlife Services' paid killers. And if we were serious about capitalism and free enterprise, we'd open grazing allotments to public bid just as we do oil and gas leases. If environmental groups moved to outbid cattle ranchers and sheepmen to protect high country meadows, so what? Let the market decide.

Old West sentimentality and Western heritage bump up hard against 21st century economics. "Grazing on federal land accounts for less than 1% of total income and employment in most of the region, according to the economist Thomas Power. Meanwhile, recreation and tourism have become ever more important," writes James Surowiecki in *The New Yorker*. He adds, "Demonizing the federal government and trying to resuscitate the past may have its demagogic appeal. But the Old West is gone, and it isn't coming back."

I would rather see a cow than a condo on our public land. I like beef, though I prefer elk and venison, and for Christmas dinner this year, we had leg of lamb with jalapeño mint jelly. Most Americans live in cities and suburbs, and they don't know which end of a cow gets up first. But those city slickers do know about sweetheart subsidies, and they know what steak or lamb costs at the supermarket.

As a historian, I believe in tradition. I believe in the hard work that generations of ranching families have put into living in a semi-arid Western landscape. Public-lands ranching has a firm place in the American West, but ranchers might want to stop spouting anti-government rhetoric and give the revived Sagebrush Rebellion a pass. Privatize public lands? Be careful what you ask for.

Andrew Gulliford is a contributor to Writers on the Range, an opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). He is a professor of history and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College and can be reached at gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu.
Editor's Note: To find out more about the federal agency killing predators with your tax money go to **PredatorDefense.org** and watch their video **EXPOSED** for a more than eye opening view of why this agency must be defunded and possibly prosecuted.



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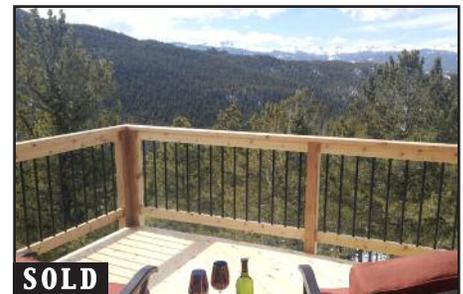
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Feds Hope To Save More Birds

By Paige Blankenbuehler

Can the feds save birds by allowing more to be killed? Fish and Wildlife Service hopes proposal will entice energy developers to obtain permits for eagle deaths.

When the renewable energy industry isn't being touted as the new frontier of power needs, it's being criticized for purportedly killing flying critters with swinging wind turbine blades, glistening solar panels or high-voltage transmission lines.

Now, the Fish and Wildlife Service is trying to fix that problem, but in a way that may seem counterintuitive. The agency released a proposed revision to their eagle management strategies on May 6. But instead of putting stricter rules in place, it's doing the opposite. The new rule would increase developer permit lengths significantly, from 5 years to 30 years, and allow permit holders to collectively kill a total of 4,200 bald eagles per year — nearly four times the current limit.

That may sound crazy, but it's really the existing system that is skewed, not the proposed changes. Currently, if a developer wants to build a wind farm or solar plant, she may apply for an eagle kill permit that requires her to abide by a conservation plan, but also shields her from fines or

legal action for killing eagles. **But here's the catch:** The permit is not required, and because its requirements are expensive and somewhat burdensome, very few developers are opting to apply — currently only one California wind farm holds a permit. Those that choose not to get a permit risk being fined for bird kills under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, but they are rarely caught and even more rarely prosecuted. "Bird mortality is already happening," says Brad Bortner, Fish and Wildlife Service chief in the Division of Migratory Bird Management. "But we don't have frameworks to hold companies accountable for how many die each year."

The National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) releases a bald eagle during research at the National Wind Technology Center, near Boulder, Colorado. (See photo next page.) The research is working to help the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory develop a system that prevents bird strikes with wind turbines.

Photo by Dennis Schroeder and John de la Rosa / NREL The service says the new, more relaxed terms will entice more developers — primarily those in the energy sector, including wind, solar and companies with power lines that

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have the potential for killing eagles — to apply for the permits.

The change is meant, in part, to help quantify the number of birds killed by the permitted facilities, thereby giving the Fish and Wildlife Service a better handle on how to manage bald and golden eagle fatalities. “The 30-year periods will give us a longer timeframe to establish consistency and collect reliable data about exactly how many eagle deaths there are,” Bortner says.

The proposed rule would work similarly to the Clean Air Act. Industry polluters would apply for permits that put limits on acceptable emissions per year. In this case, a wind or solar facility, for example, would assess approximately how many eagles per year their operations kill and apply for a \$36,000 voluntary permit with the Fish and Wildlife Service to keep the number at a rate acceptable to maintain local

populations. “By holding a permit, facilities would avoid fines for the birds they do kill,” says Eliza Savage, manager of the service’s eagle program. Facilities that don’t opt for a permit would be on the hook for fines for eagle fatalities each year (a provision that is already in place).

What’s more, bald eagle populations have rebounded. “Now we’re updating the science and realizing that the (bald eagle) population is in a better biological place,” Bortner says. Thus, the increase in the number of kills that are tolerable. On the flip side, golden eagle populations are in decline. Under the new rule, golden eagles will have stronger protections: The kill limit for the struggling population is zero, down from 28 annually.

“This doesn’t increase or decrease eagle deaths, but it gets them in the system. Once we have a regulatory body in place to monitor this, we can work with developers to limit eagle deaths,” Savage says. Whether the proposed rule will play out like this in practice, no one knows. Conservation groups that High Country News contacted for comment for this story were still thumbing through the more than 300-page proposal and impact statement.

Some renewable energy plants have worked to limit bird deaths independently. Chokecherry and Sierra Madre, the nation’s largest proposed wind farm slated for development in south-central Wyoming, released a draft environmental impact study that included a conservation plan that would kill far fewer eagles —10 to 14

each year — than previous estimates of up to 68 deaths. Kara Choquette, spokeswoman for the Power Company of Wyoming that oversees the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre wind farm, says the company is reviewing the proposal to see how it might affect their newly developed conservation



plan. **The proposed rule is open to public comment through July 5.** Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods: **Electronically:** Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov in the Search box, enter FWS-R9-MB-2011-0094, which is the docket number for this rulemaking. Then click on the Search button. On the resulting page, you may submit a comment by clicking on Comment Now. **By hard copy:** Submit by U.S. mail to: Public Comments Processing, Attn. FWS-R9-MB-2011-0094: Div. of Policy, Performance & Mgt. Prog., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

Paige Blankenbuehler is an editorial fellow at High Country News. She tweets @paigeblank

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The Absurdist Western

Review By Barbara Basbanes Richter - HCN

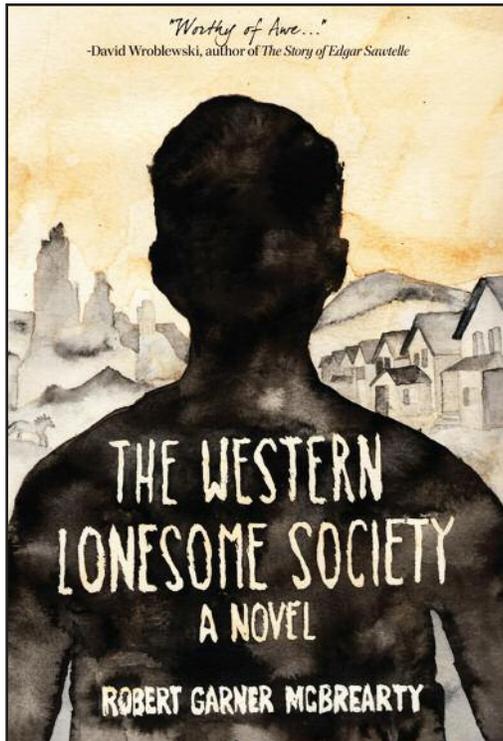
It's worth following the twists and turns of Robert Garner McBrearty's *The Western Lonesome Society*.

Don't be fooled by the length of Robert Garner McBrearty's debut novella — at a mere 124 pages, *The Western Lonesome Society* includes enough intrigue to fill books twice its size. Characters battle mental illness, kidnappings and Comanches to find their way home after wandering across the wild and lonely American Southwest.

Full of lost souls, this absurdist Western thriller (perhaps the only one of its kind) is a trip through the human subconscious, alternating between three increasingly peculiar storylines.

Anchoring it all is Jim O'Brien, a professor obsessed with committing his family history to paper. Two of his ancestors were abducted by Native Americans during a raid on their Texas cabin in 1870; Jim finds connection in the fact that he was also kidnapped as a child. All the characters, especially Jim, grope for purpose. But the professor's vapid journal entries: "Spent night at Mesa Verde ... Saw big wild turkey. Had fun

playing football with boys," suggest that he realizes the futility of his quest for greater meaning. And somehow, that is freeing — absurdism in miniature.



Chapters alternate between the kidnapped brothers' adventures in the 19th century, "Old West" part of the plotline, Jim's own tale, and a third short story involving an escaped mental patient who moonlights as a stripper. In less capable hands, the literary device known as *mise en abyme* — images within images, or stories within stories — can quickly become incomprehensible, but McBrearty cut his teeth on crafting short stories for the *North American Review and StoryQuarterly*, among other publications. His taut narratives are composed with precision and spare imagery. (Don't expect any grand descriptions of the Texas frontier; the closest contender is a riff on the seedy strip-club-lined underbelly of Austin.) That said, this is the kind of book that will attract

fierce loyalists but leave others scratching their heads. So, caveat lector: Though entertaining, the narrative requires intense concentration.

As the book accelerates to its conclusion, the stories — vignettes, really — become more bizarre, forcing the reader to decide what is real and what are the ramblings of a delusional professor. "We've all been taken — taken from our true home and it's only a matter of getting back there!" Jim exclaims to his imaginary therapist. As long as the reader willingly suspends any expectation of realism, *The Western Lonesome Society* is a fascinating, hallucinatory trip down memory lane. *The Western Lonesome Society*, Robert Garner McBrearty, 124 pages, softcover: \$14.95. Conundrum Press, 2015.

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Take A Page From The Mountain Goats

By Julie Gillum Lue - HCN

A parent contemplates risk assessment with kids in the mountains.

Goat Flat. The flat part sounded good, but the goat part made me nervous. Though mountain goats and I share an appreciation for Montana's high country, they favor scary-steep areas where they can escape most predators not carrying a firearm. You may find them scaling impossible cliffs or scampering across ledges too narrow to support a sandwich. Even their kids — plush-toy versions of their parents — could star in an acrophobic's nightmare. How could a trail to a place named after them be suitable for human kids?

Photo of juvenile mountain goat jumping a high mountain stream by Jose Azel Aurora.

At any rate, we needed a break after that last stretch of switchbacks, which had zigzagged nearly all the way up to timberline. My husband, Tony, and I dropped our packs at Storm Lake Pass and took stock. Our 6-year-old,



who had tackled the hill under

(Continued next page.)

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protest, swatted irritably at the gray blizzard of mosquitoes swirling around his face. But our oldest son, who would turn 10 that day, fixed his eyes on the route ahead.

I studied the trail through my zoom lens. It looked like a pale thread stitched across the steep, rocky flanks of Mount Tiny — a reasonable route, as far as I could tell. Still, other hikers had warned us about a risky bit where the path was blocked by a snowfield. And those dingy clouds hinted at a thunderstorm. I'm a cautious parent; on the scale of helicopter moms, I'm a Chinook. I wanted to turn around.

Tony wanted to keep going. I was not surprised. After all, he had tried to reassure me about another trail by saying matter-of-factly, "Don't worry, I brought climbing rope." Impasse. As we spritzed ourselves with herbal insect repellent, I examined my fears. How much of my worry was justified by our circumstances at that moment, and how much stemmed from all those years I spent working in the national parks, watching people fall victim to their vacations?

Though "watching" probably isn't the right word. The memories that still jam my decision-making circuits are from a summer during which I didn't see much of anything. But I heard plenty.

I worked as a dispatcher that year in Rocky Mountain National Park. Millions of people have visited the park

without requiring so much as a Band-Aid. Yet mountains inevitably yield their share of disasters, and that summer was especially rough. We never knew when that next phone or radio call would announce a lost child, a lightning strike, a fractured femur, a car over a cliff.

Most accident victims survived, at times thanks to honest-to-God heroics on the part of the rangers and other rescuers. But some didn't. By mid-July, I had memorized the coroner's phone number. And one day I heard a thump outside the dispatch office door. A delivery, my coworker told me. The park was running low on body bags.

In all these tragedies, my role was small. But the memories linger. I wasn't alive when President Kennedy was shot, but I will always remember where I was when the search for one young girl turned into a body recovery. Cause of death: falling.

Sometimes I remember things when I shouldn't, as I did that day standing on a pass in Montana, listening for nonexistent thunder, shying away from a trail that didn't look all that bad, as long as no one was horsing around and everyone was paying attention.

The mosquitoes were unfazed by my natural repellent, so I rummaged for the last-ditch, weapons-grade stuff that had melted the ingredient list off its own bottle. But West Nile virus is scary, and raising children is all about weighing risks and benefits.

While we rubbed repellent on the kids' clothes, my husband and I reached a compromise. I would take the little guy back to the trailhead (yes, even though it's usually best to stick together). And Tony and our newly minted 10-year-old would keep walking towards Goat Flat. If Tony thought the snowfield was safe, we would leave the final decision to our son, a steady kid with good judgment.

"You get veto power," I told my son as I handed over my camera. "If it looks too scary, you and Daddy can turn around."

Two hours later, I got my camera back. Its tiny screen showed a boy leaning on a sign in a meadow of alpine wildflowers, surrounded by the bulky gray peaks of the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. I asked about the snowfield. "No big deal," my son said.

"Not dangerous at all," my husband said.

We didn't see any mountain goats that day. They may have taken refuge in steeper — and, for them, safer — terrain. But somewhere in those mountains, no doubt, a black-nosed, buttermilk-colored kid was learning how to navigate the cliffs, while a pointy-horned mother stood between her baby and the abyss.

Good parenting, I'd say.

A former employee of several federal land management agencies, Julie Gillum Lue writes about family and the outdoors from her home in western Montana.



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Buffalo Field Campaign-buffalofieldcampaign.org

Buffalo moms are bringing more calves into the world every day! We are pleased to report that buffalo mothers and their newborns had a peaceful Mother's Day, as we hope you did. There has been only one hazing event this spring. Usually by this time of year buffalo have been hazed over and over and over, with May 15th being the date when Montana livestock interests wanted all buffalo forcibly removed from Montana. But with more land available to buffalo in Montana, until buffalo start to explore habitat outside of the tolerance zone, hazing will thankfully be a rare occurrence. We also have some more good news to share: the buffalo have a little bit more year-round habitat than we had originally thought. After comparing the maps and language in the Governor's decision, we noticed conflicting information. The map indicated that the buffalo were blocked from accessing lands south of the Madison River, while the language indicated they could be there, just not west of the South Fork of the Madison, which is about nine miles west of Yellowstone's boundary.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks confirmed that map is wrong, and buffalo are allowed to be on more land than previously thought. The buffalo in Montana's Hebgen Basin right now are making the most of their new-found peace, as are BFC patrols. Our main focus continues to be along the highways, helping buffalo and motorists stay safe, and keeping an eye on the local Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) stock inspectors, who, in turn, are also keeping an eye on the buffalo. The DOL must be bored in not being able to abuse buffalo as, on more than one occasion they have tried to get our attention by falsely claiming to be shooting cracker rounds (explosives fired from shotguns) at buffalo, but we are with the buffalo every day, and are aware of where they are and that they are currently safe.



Our main concern right now is that there are so few buffalo in the Hebgen Basin. This area is usually teeming with hundreds of buffalo, sometimes from 400 to 600, but in the past few weeks our patrols have been able to count fewer than two hundred buffalo. We have run a number of reconns into Yellowstone, looking in places suggested by Yellowstone's bison biologist and other areas that we know the Central herd uses at different times of year, but we are finding very few. A winter-kill assessment has yet to be conducted, and Yellowstone isn't expected to complete their population estimate until later in the summer. This estimate is always suspect because it is part of what drives the Interagency Bison Management Plan's politically driven kill quotas. We will continue to work to determine the status of the population and proceed from there. If the population is in as rough a shape as it appears to be, there can be no argument against an absolute cease-fire.

Wild is the Way~Roam Free! Stephany (took photo above)
Go to the website for more information, (address above) to donate for the cause and read about volunteer positions this summer in Yellowstone Park.



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Part 20 - Overpopulation

By Frosty Wooldridge

Genetically Modified Organisms: Unleashing 21st Century Frankenstein on the Natural World

Part 1: Changing the DNA structure of our Mother Nature. In the 20th century, the human mob re-arranged rivers, deserts, rainforests and the oceans to suit its voracious appetite for dominance over the Natural World. Stemming from that 100-year epic onslaught, we humans created communities around the globe featuring 10 million, 20 million to 36 million people piled up in mega-cities around the world. *Photo by www.occupy-monsanto.com*

We contaminated rivers with our poisons, the air with our fossil fuel exhaust and clear-cut rainforests by the millions of acres. Our onslaught of the Natural World continues with 80 to 100 species of our fellow travelers losing their existence 24/7 to our encroachment upon their habitat. (Source: Norman Myers, Oxford University)

One of our most prolific acts continues on the bees and other pollinators around the world. In the past 50 years, we poisoned every crop with hundreds of chemical herbicides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers, which, in turn, caused trillions of bees to suffer "Colony Collapse" throughout the world. Without the bees, our species cannot feed itself.

To add insult to injury, in the 21st century, in order to feed our 7.2 billion in numbers, we began tinkering with the structural DNA of plants and animals. Today, our scientists change the DNA patterns of fish and plants in order to make them bigger, grow faster and yield more harvest: genetically modified organisms. But we forgot to ask Mother Nature if our meddling in her business would cause any harm. Amazingly, we allow governments, scientists on



the payroll of companies like ADM and Monsanto, to tell us that such activities work to make our lives better with no harm to the natural world.

With my research on GMOs connecting their horrific harm to the Natural World and ultimately to we humans, my series has shown you the "GMO Frankenstein" being foisted upon us by ugly businessmen in high places that could care less about you, your family or the rest of the species sharing this planet with us.

My intention in writing this series: to educate you to the incredible damage GMO foods cause you along with your family and more important: the horrific destruction to the Natural World.



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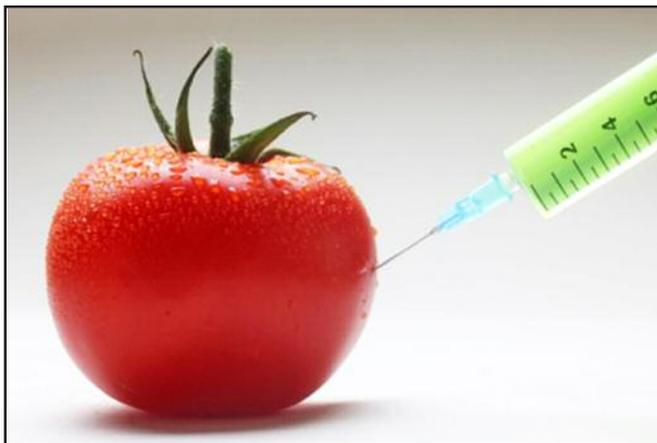
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(Changing the DNA of our foods by Monsanto via GMO foods.) (Ultimately, humans tinker and destroy the DNA foundation of the Natural World. Monarch butterflies are on the verge of extinction, which will cause more extinctions of other insects.)

If you look at human cancers spreading like wildfire across America and the world and every physical ailment we face in America, along with the accelerating damage to bees,



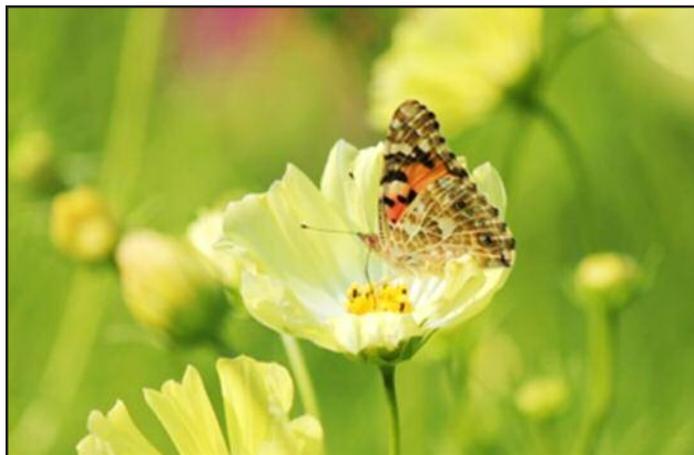
prayer. There's a mixture of horror and disbelief, as if finding out we're living inside a very strange sci-fi novel. Beyond that, it's the sting of humiliation from being ignorant about something so big, mixed with the anger that comes from feeling like you've been duped.

“Even without understanding what a GMO is or why it matters, most of us believe as

citizens of a supposedly free and democratic society that we have the right to know if GMOs are in the food we eat. The fact we don't know, and that our right to know has been taken away by corporate greed and government collusion, should upset and mobilize people. When all the food and seed and water and air is owned and patented by giant multinational corporations, will we even protest? Do we have the wakefulness and willpower to take that first step and stand up for this basic right?”

(Source: www.fairworldproject.org)

What I discovered in my research: ADM and Monsanto do not want you to know, along with high government officials, the deleterious effects on *(Continued next page.)*



other pollinators and to the fish in our oceans—you will become appalled at this onslaught and its final consequences.

Investigative reporter Jeremy Siefert said, “When people first hear about just the basic facts concerning Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs or Genetically Engineered Foods) – the DNA of seeds altered with genes from other organisms like bacteria so food crops can withstand herbicides that will kill all other plants, patented by giant chemical companies and found in 80% of processed foods – the standard response is “Oh, my God.” For some, it's just an exclamation, but for others, it's the beginnings of a

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Highlander Worldview

the Natural World that GMO food production causes in the long run. These mega-giant corporations “own” regulatory agencies, government officials (bribes or dandy trips to anywhere in the world), and other complicit chemical companies around the world.

(GMO corn destroys insect pollinators, confuses the Natural World and ultimately, destroys the DNA of our food chain.)

Be warned, you will not like the kind of treachery being foisted upon you by your U.S. Congress and officials who should present a moral and ethical stance against GMOs, but fail us because of one item: money.

Thus, as we have moved through this series, you may choose to save yourself and your family by buying “Certified Organic Foods” along with “Certified Non-Genetically Modified Organism” foods that give you the nutrients of Mother Nature without the “Frankensteinization” of your food supply and of the planet’s natural systems. Additionally, Monsanto and other HUGE



corporations work every angle to stop any “GMO” labeling of their poisonous foods. Why do you think they do that?

If this information educates you enough, you may take action provided in the organizations and leaders trying to rid the world of GMOs. Help them and ultimately, you will help your family.

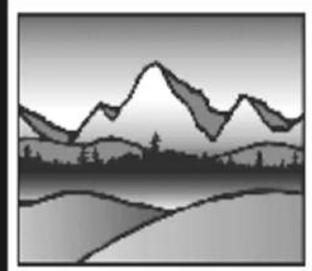
Otherwise, if these “monsters” of Monsanto and ADM get their way, they will cripple this world, all living creatures and the structural systems that allow all life on Earth to remain in balance and allow us all to thrive.

All of this food predicament stems from humanity’s overpopulation of the world. It’s about our species’ overwhelming the carrying capacity of this planet. It’s about the end result which will not be pretty for any living creature in the 21st century.

If you would like to make a difference, join these organizations for the most effective collective action you can take:

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Politics Finally Popular

For as long as I can remember, since before I was first old enough to vote – and that is a long time – apathy has negatively affected elections. Probably first due (*in my time at least*) to the Vietnam War being so unpopular back in my early days of being informed and then such an onslaught of die-hard Republican rule in Washington, many young voters felt disenfranchised. When you feel everyone running for public office knows nothing about how your life is going then why bother registering, staying informed and then voting? That has been the political atmosphere for years in America.

A short bright spot was the progressive administration of Jimmy Carter and his promotion of research and development of alternative energies along with much work towards equality for women and minorities. Not until Bill Clinton did we experience national deficit reduction or more responsible financial spending in Washington. Our political history has been rife with executive administrations that put military might ahead of infrastructure maintenance (*which granted, has been all too necessary*) but does harm to potential voter interests.

This year political candidates on both sides of the aisle have taken advantage of the disheartened American voter by using their anger, unrest and a feeling of distrust to work to bring about an end to historical political apathy in a general election year. If no other good comes from this election than that - then it will still be a win. For too long the majority of the population has had the right to vote and

not exercised it simply by not staying informed and putting forth the effort to just vote.

Recently in the news the primary and caucus process has shown to be what it basically is, archaic and outdated for our country's population numbers. The Electoral College was created to prevent certain factions from deciding elections: the rich, the powerful, the corrupt, the folks with small personal interests to promote - and at some point it helped and worked. But now we have only b/millionaires running for our Executive Office, almost exclusively and them being the only ones capable of campaigning/winning.

With so many voters and population numbers it seems we are in dire need of reforming the process. This campaign season has shown the flaws in glaring light: front runners being forced to declare themselves for one of the two major parties instead of them running as independent or Socialist (*for* (Continued next page.)



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Highlander Editorial Opinion

example). Then when they succeed, the chosen party fights against them because they aren't intellectually qualified and don't really believe in the party's ideology. If this example isn't enough to show we need more than a two party system, well then I don't think anything will.

I've been an independent in ideology all my voting life, but have never had a chance to engage in any viable third party political activism simply due to the two major parties running the whole show. No wonder younger voters got a bug to become active this year when two candidates exhibited independent leanings. Too bad one is a sexist moron and another has totally unrealistic goals. But great that anyone's efforts have interested the normally apathetic masses.

It is my hope the election results will empower many young voters to stay active and informed - no matter who wins. Our country has survived more than a couple of monumentally ignorant and almost dangerous executive administrations over the years; statistically we will do it again. Our votes matter and what we need to take from this election process is that we have power if we just exercise it. If you felt powerless in a primary or caucus situation, then try to stay involved and work hard to change it. My opinion is that eventually a simple popular vote will decide our elected officials in Washington, D.C. I just hope I see that happen in my lifetime, along with acceptance/inclusiveness

of third party candidates. It might take some of the sting out of the rigged Gore-Bush election a few years back.

What young folks don't understand initially in becoming and being an active voter is that who we put in the White House ultimately decides who resides on the Supreme Court and makes decisions such as giving corporations the same rights as human beings. Since that fatally flawed ruling we've given away far too many factors that decide the quality of our lives. One justice in this year or the next could help to change that monumental ruling and that would make America great again.

By A.M. Wilks

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Keep a copy of this chart posted in the barn or laminate it and place it in your colic first-aid kit. Call your veterinarian if your horse exhibits two or more symptoms of moderate or severe colic—or if mild colic symptoms persist for more than 30 minutes.

VITAL SIGNS	<u>MILD</u>	<u>MODERATE</u>	<u>SEVERE</u>
Heart rate (beats per min.)	40 to 60	60 to 80	over 80
Respiratory rate (breaths per min.)	20 to 30	30 to 40	over 40
Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit)	99 to 100.5	99 to 100.5	under 99/over 100.5
Gum color	pale pink	pale pink	bluish or purple
Capillary refill time	1 to 2 seconds	2 to 4 seconds	over 5 seconds
Gut sound	normal or increased	decreased frequency	absent
Feces	normal	small, hard fecal balls	none or profuse diarrhea
Passing gas	yes	no	no
Pain level	sweating, intermittent pawing/looking at belly/lifting hind leg/stretching	same as mild but continuous plus may try to roll	all other signs plus uncontrollable, continuous attempts to roll/thrash

From **Horse&Rider** magazine; PDF version courtesy EquiSearch.com.

For more information on colic, visit www.EquiSearch.com

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Be Prepared for Summer Storms

Lightning from thunderstorms kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes, according to the American Red Cross. As summer arrives, make sure you're prepared to handle storms that come with the changing season. Follow these tips from the Red Cross to stay safe:



Stay away from downed power lines. Electricity could still be flowing through them. Call 911 immediately and report them to United Power at 303-637-1350.

Hear thunder? Head inside. If you can hear it, you could be in danger from the lightning. Stay indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder—a recommendation from the National Weather Service. If you're outside and can't seek shelter indoors, avoid high ground, water, tall isolated trees and metal objects like benches or fences.

Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical items and telephones, which can carry power surges. Keep a battery-powered TV or radio on hand for weather updates.

Delay outdoor activities. If conditions are right for a thunderstorm, postpone the baseball game and stay inside—it doesn't have to be raining for lightning to strike.

Assemble an emergency preparedness kit with:

- Water— one gallon per person, per day
- Non-perishable food
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Seven-day medicine supply
- Copies of personal documents
- Cell phone chargers
- Emergency contact information
- Cash

For more information on how to stay safe during summer thunderstorms, visit www.redcross.org.

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Passive Solar Residence on 2.7 Acres
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,956 sq.ft. **\$519,900**



11566 Coal Creek Heights
Amazing Views!
4 BD/ 3 BA 3,250 sq. ft. **\$479,900**



0 Hollings Way - Land
Gorgeous Gently Sloping Lot
17.2 Acres **\$189,500**



0 Tiber Road - Land
Two Adjacent Lots
1.88 Acres **\$68,000**



500 Creekwood Trail - Land
Privacy and Seclusion
.69 Acre **\$49,000**



98 Wonder Trail
Cute Cottage in Historic Wondervu
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,383 sq.ft. **\$298,500**



96 Elliot Lane
Striking Home, Stunning Architecture
4 BD/ 3 BA 2,888 sq.ft. **\$439,000**



13 Leon Lane
Love Living in the Mountains
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,781 sq.ft. **\$374,000**



1529 Foster Court
Beautiful Remodel
4 BD/ 2 BA 1,880 sq.ft. **\$289,500**



30256 Butte Drive
Log Home w/Luxury Details on 6+ Acres
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,606 sq.ft. **\$524,000**



11758 Crescent Park Circle
Live in the Mountains on 2.4 Acres
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,199 sq ft **\$374,000**



734 8th Avenue
Turn of the Century Bungalow
3 BD/ 1 BA 1,104 sq.ft. **\$324,000**



398 Crescent Lake Road
Stunning Home
3 BD/ 3 BA 3,366 sq.ft. **\$588,000**

**NOW is a GREAT
time to sell
your home.
Call for a
COMPLIMENTARY
Market Valuation!**



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