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Toxic Beauty

By Omayra Acevedo
 Nature and Wildlife Photojournalist

Imagine there were only seventy humans in the world, and all seventy were threatened by collectors who wanted to put you through a lengthy, awkward process just to put you on a shiny shelf, then to forget about you after a few short weeks and let you sit there alone, to dry out and wither away. No one else to enjoy neither your company nor the beauty that makes you who you are. Lucky for you, this is the least of your worries. However, not all things on this earth can say the same. An abundance of our homes' beauty is being destroyed more and more each day, without a second thought, glance or care.

Take the Columbine (pictured on the cover and on the next page), for example. This hardy perennial flower can blissfully bloom in part shade, woodlands, and some varieties will bloom in full sun. Its Latin origin, Columba, meaning dove-like, and its genus name, Aquilegia, meaning eagle, say much about this intricate specimen. Pay attention! There will be a quiz at the end of this article. They can be found in all colors and sizes. In the Southwestern United States, golden columbines can grow up to three feet tall, and the stems grow up to three inches across. The meaning and symbolism of Columbines has long been a part of our history, and not just in America.

The ancient Greeks and Romans attributed this plant to Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Lucky flower! It has also been associated with fools, as it is thought to resemble the hat of a court jester. See? Anyone on any occasion can enjoy this flower. Even the class clown. Three Columbine flowers in one composition symbolize faith, hope and love. The Victorian meaning of Columbine is: resolved to win. The Celts believed that Columbines were the portal to the world of dreams and visions. Australians believed that a Columbine symbolized five doves in a circle. Their colors also hold great definitions. Yellow means lightness, happiness, vivaciousness, and vitality. Purple means

penance. The meaning of a red columbine includes seduction, anxious excitement and worry.

It is no wonder it has been appointed the state flower of Colorado, and the inspiration for the song that, in 1915, became Colorado's first state song, *Where the Columbines Grow*. The Colorado species is the white and lavender Rocky Mountain Columbine. It has blue-violet petals and spurs, a white cup and yellow center. Blue is the symbol of the sky, white represents the snow, and yellow symbolizes Colorado's gold mining history. Nicely done, Colorado! You couldn't just be happy with some of the most stunning mountains in the world; you had to go and take one of the most beautiful flowers as well. Good for you! I love Colorado, isn't it obvious?

Native Americans used this plant for medicinal purposes, including relieving heart problems and fevers. It has also been reported that Native Americans rubbed the crushed seeds on the hands of men as a love charm. I wonder how many seeds needed to be rubbed on the guy who fell out of the ugly tree? Just wondering... Though these flowers are said to be edible and have a sweet taste, please be warned that seeds and roots should not be (Continued next page.)



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eaten. They contain carcinogenic toxins and the aconitum poison that affect the cardiovascular system. Better you just leave it alone and enjoy it in the wild. In other words, it is toxic! Enjoy it as a man would enjoy a beautiful woman out of his league...from a distance.

Though a law was passed, in 1925, that protects the Columbine flower, overwhelming amounts of people are still illegally (and sometimes even legally) taking part in destroying this beautiful and delicate flower – among other things. The law made it so that it is illegal to uproot the flower on public lands. It may not be picked at all on private



property without the consent of the landowner. Many of you will read this and still be driven by selfish temptation; only for the sake of saying, “Look at what I have,” “It’s worth a fortune,” “I’m special.” In my humble opinion, anyone driven by a sense of selfish motivation is anything but special. Being special implies that you lack selfishness, senselessness, maliciousness, greed and disrespect. When

tempted to become a collector, simply put yourself in the other shoe. How would you feel if you were part of an endangered list and every day your conditions to simply exist kept getting worse and worse? Okay, so I lied. No quiz, but maybe now you have found a deeper respect and appreciation for the impressive, dramatic Columbine and its surroundings. Whether you enjoy collecting flowers, eagles, doves, ivory, humans (I kid. I hope.), etc., remember, you’re not just affecting yourself. You’re affecting an entire planet.

(Above photo, of the Rocky Mountain Columbine courtesy Anita Wilks, Highlander file photo.)

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What Is The Democratic Business Model

By Valerie Wedel

“The Democratic Business Model is kind of like a topless beach,” according to Blake Jones, founder of Namaste Solar, in Boulder, Colorado. “When corporate refugees first join us, they can be shocked...”

The Democratic Business Model is more or less opposite to what most MBA programs teach. There is a level of transparency and accountability within such companies that is almost unbelievable, compared to conventional business models. For example, complete transparency of salaries. Every employee may know what salary every other employee earns. Also, a democratic business will be employee owned.

Employee ownership does not always mean a company is democratic. Most employee owned businesses in this country are nicknamed ESOP’s (*employee stock ownership plan*). An ESOP operates kind of like a 401k retirement account. Stock in the company is held by the employees, most of whom have little to no real power in the running of the company.

By contrast, a Democratic Business model requires employees to be deeply involved in decision making, at all levels of a company. So, for our fellow revolutionaries who believe capitalism is evil, consider more wisdom from Blake Jones: “Capitalism is not the problem, we can re-write the rules...”

One rule to be re-written is salary transparency. Employees knowing each other’s salaries is usually taboo in business. This is because most managers believe it

would cause jealousy among employees. Management likes to keep employees salaries secret, in part because the knowledge can also used as a bargaining chip by management. Yet, according to Halisi Vinson, Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center, the first order of business should be to open the books, and train employees to understand the financials. This does the opposite of what most managers have been trained to believe. It creates greater trust within a company.

According to Vinson, when employees do not understand the financials in a company, the result is disengaged employees. For example, an employee may believe they are working for slave wages, while the owner parties on his/her yachts. And so, out of resentment, employee(s) may put forth less than their best efforts. In Vinson’s words, this phenomenon “poisons the company.”

In reality, according to Vinson, for a company of say fifty employees, the average data is that for every dollar that comes in, seven cents stays with the company. The other 93 cents goes back out to bills and overhead. In the business analyses Vinson has done, she has never seen more than twenty cents on the dollar stay in a company. So employees are better served by strengthening the company and bringing in more dollars. Yet most employees do not have a chance to realize this, because they are kept in the dark by closed books, and knowledge hoarded by top level managers or owners.

So, does this Democratic Business model work? According to both Vinson and Jones, (*Continued on page 9.*)

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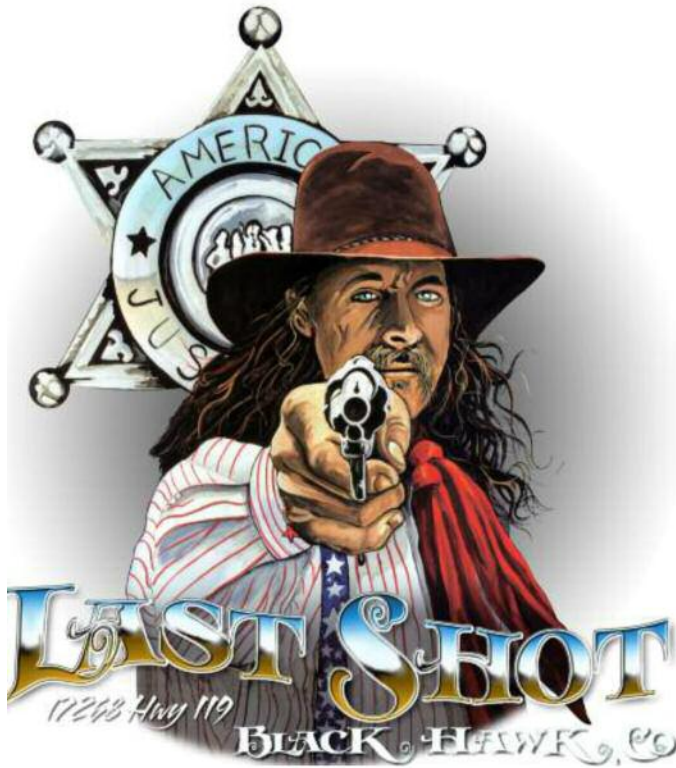
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the answer is a resounding yes. Blake Jones describes operating in a competitive solar industry, where poaching of trained employees is common. Yet at Namaste Solar employees choose not to be poached. Rather most seem to stay long term with the company. Employee retention and loyalty are typical of other companies using the Democratic Business model as well. Employee retention and loyalty have a way of increasing growth and profits in a company.

Halisi Vinson cited two different Democratic businesses (grocery store chains in other parts of the country, sorry, Colorado). One is **Winco**, in the Northwest, the other is **Publix** in the Southeast. Apparently, some employees who have been with each of these companies for twenty or thirty years are looking at retiring with seven figure incomes! What jobs have these lucky, long term employees done over the years? According to Vinson, these are people who have been working as cashiers. Not a bad return for ringing up groceries!

Now that we realize this Democratic Business model may be very profitable, what if we want to create more of them? What else makes a business democratic? According to Blake Jones, a workplace democracy requires three things: transparency, fairness, and forums for input. Because the employees all share a stake in the business, when it does well, everyone does well. Jones notes this is a training ground for democratic citizenship! People can "... live and breath democracy both at work and by extension in the larger world..."

Namaste Solar was founded in 2004 and since then has grown to include over 150 employee owners, in both Boulder and Denver. Their growth is certainly a positive sign of the company's business model being successful. According to Jones, there were no positive role models when the company was founded. The founders envisioned a place where you could bring your values, your passion, your true self. "We were told no body else was doing this, and it wouldn't work – but we believed, and it works!"

I asked Vinson for examples of additional companies. She mentioned one in the Denver metro area that wishes to remain anonymous. They are so successful that larger

companies keep trying to buy them out. This company supplies certain building materials for the construction industry. Apparently the same competitor tried to buy them out three times. Each time, after due consideration, the employees refused to sell. Apparently they were annoyed to be interrupted from work, feeling that the time wasted cut into business. The analyst who presented the sales proposal couldn't understand why mere employees would turn down an offer which amounted to a one time payout of tens of thousands of dollars for each employee. But apparently the employees all saw in the analysis that they would lose their autonomy and responsibility, if they allowed their company to be absorbed into the top down company model which the competitor trying to buy them out used. They preferred their freedom and autonomy and employee ownership.

Recently, legislation was passed in the State of Colorado which strengthens resources for companies wishing to transition towards the democratic business model, and employee ownership. Interested readers are referred to Colorado HB1214. As a result of this legislation we may see more training and education directed towards business development, using this model. The Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center plans to be doing more teaching at small business centers around the state in 2018.

Imagine what it would feel like to work someplace where you get to, as Jones once said, "... bring your values, passion and true self..." to work every day – and to earn a great living.

Parting thoughts from Vinson: "Now this will not be popular with the wealthy few who want lots of power, who see the have/have not system as their safety net. (but) ...if the question is, how do we make this world better locally or globally, then economics is at the foundation. If we can get to the point where we understand that (the present business) system is unsustainable, that concentrated wealth (in the hands of a few elites) is contracting our economy, then everyone should be in favor of employee ownership... because... Employee ownership enhances community wealth.

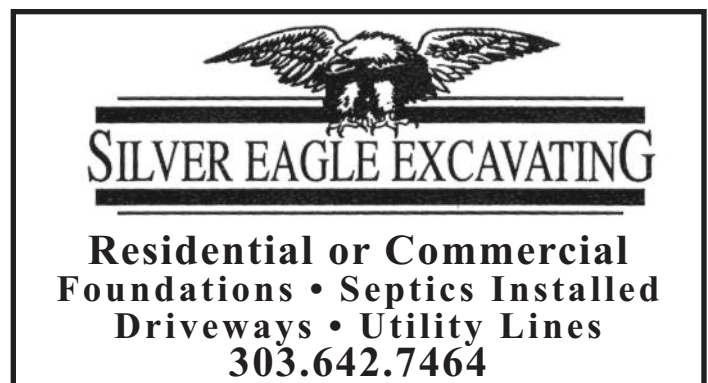


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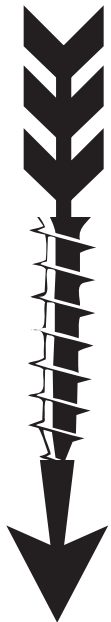
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We All Need It

By 'Asta Bowen

These days, summer camp is not just for kids. We adults can spend a few days in some forest glen learning to play the dulcimer, or even join an “intentional community” and try for two weeks to get along with perfect strangers.

In that spirit, here is a quick summer camp on a topic most of us avoid like the plague, when we’re not complaining bitterly about it: health insurance.

A prudent consumer will surely check the camp counselor’s credentials, so here are mine: I have had my bouts with the health-care system, one of which ended when the neurologist diagnosed my condition as “a mystery wrapped in an enigma.” I also served for many years on an employee health-insurance committee, working with a multimillion dollar plan.

On that committee I got to take heat from colleagues when our plan didn’t perform as expected, and to anguish over changes that inevitably advantaged some members and disadvantaged others. In short: Congress, I feel your pain. I understand your gridlock. Campers ready? To help us move this thing forward, here’s everything I’ve learned about health insurance.

First, as an individual or family, don’t expect to “make good” on insurance. If you are lucky, you will pay more — perhaps much more — in premiums than you will ever receive in benefits. How is this lucky? Because if you pay more than you claim, it means you are relatively healthy. And anyone who has been on the other side of this equation can tell you that having good health, not just a surplus at the end of the spreadsheet, is hitting pay dirt.

Next, all insurance is socialism. I apologize if that ruins your appetite, but it’s a collective, plain and simple. Auto, boat, home, pet, liability, you name it: everyone’s premiums go to pay for everyone’s troubles. If it seems unfair to give while someone else gets, pretend you’re on an installment plan, covering your family’s troubles over a lifetime instead of someone else’s troubles now.

Private insurance, whether from our employers or the Obamacare exchanges, is a special equation involving socialism plus the cost of doing business, plus a fee we pay to make other people richer, otherwise known as profit. Single-payer insurance, as practiced in Canada and much of Europe, is socialism plus the cost of doing business plus dag-blasted govment inefficiency. Would you like to be on a waiting list for major surgery you need right now? Pick your poison.

But premiums went up, you say, under the Affordable Care Act. True; how many costs have not? And consider this possibility: Because the exchanges run as a kind of free market, is there any chance that insurers lowballed their initial rates in order to attract customers? Is there any

chance that the first to sign up were the long-uninsured in our midst, those with pre-existing conditions who couldn't get coverage for love or money, and then showed up with a lot of unmet, urgent and expensive needs? While younger and healthier citizens could skip insurance altogether by paying a yearly sum of \$695 if they played by the rules, and zero if they didn't get caught? Premiums went up, a lot, and the only surprise is that anyone is surprised.

Finally, a Republican I know has this observation about health care: You can't treat it as a supply-and-demand economy, because nobody ever chooses to get sick. We Americans like to think that our choices drive our fate, but too often the truck just hits out of nowhere and you're sacked with enough bills to ruin what's left of your life.

This is the reason for the dreaded "mandate." You showed up with a physical body, and at some point you will likely need help with it. If we can agree on a system to help each other through the inevitable bad times, it reduces the uncertainties that can worry us half to death.

Congress may be unable to agree, but here is what we all want from health insurance: the promise of medical care for ourselves and our loved ones, without the risk of financial ruin. Some of us like the profit model, others want single-payer; any change in the system means a change in winners and losers. It's a little like summer camp, actually, where the older kids get the cool cabins and the newbies get hazed. At camp, though, we try to put aside our differences for the benefit of the group — at least for the time we are together.

'Asta Bowen is contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She is an author and teacher from northwest Montana, and former columnist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Editorial Note:

Historical references to American Health Care changed drastically during the Nixon administration when profits from Health Insurance were allowed to dictate who, what, where and when. That was the advent of HMO type

coverage and let insurance underwriters decide whether you got medical care. Even now taxpayers pay the bill for all those subsidies and only the insurance companies' stockholders reap the real benefits in the way of profit.

For the decades' worth of talk of overhauling health care, our national system of paying for insurance coverage isn't much different from the one we had in place 50 years ago — Americans get coverage and prescriptions through a mix of government and military plans, employer-sponsored HMOs and PPOs, and individually purchased plans. For tens of millions of Americans at a time, there's still no health insurance at all. Health care accounts for more than one in six of every dollar we spend in this country. A larger percentage of Americans will see their care arranged through government programs, with boomers entering Medicare en masse and millions of low-income workers now eligible for newly expanded Medicaid programs. And as more people sign up for individual plans through HealthCare.gov and state-operated health insurance shopping exchanges, incrementally, health coverage will become further divorced from employment, a slow unraveling of the job-based insurance system that has developed over the last century.

Bill Toland, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



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Sharing A Shrinking Colorado River

By Emily Benson

On a sunny March morning in 2014, dam operators lifted a gate on the Morelos Dam on the Colorado River, at the U.S.-Mexico border. Water gushed toward the river's dry delta at the Gulf of California. This "pulse flow" coursed downstream for several weeks, nourishing cottonwood and willow saplings and boosting bird and other wildlife populations.

Though most of the water soaked through the parched riverbed to aquifers below, enough remained aboveground to allow the river to meet the gulf for the first time since the late 1990s. That reminded people throughout the basin of the Colorado's importance — and how humans have altered it. The 2012 international agreement that made the flow possible and addressed other river-management issues expires at the end of 2017. Officials, however, are expected to sign a new pact in the coming weeks. That deal, called *Minute 323*, will extend and expand the previous agreement — and reduce the risk of a catastrophic water shortage that could leave fields and faucets dry.

The Colorado River winds 1,450 miles through the U.S. and Mexico. It's a crucial resource for both countries: Tens of millions of people rely on it for drinking water, and it irrigates millions of acres of farmland. It's managed according to a complex web of laws, treaties and decisions, including a 1944 treaty specifying how much water the U.S. must send downstream to Mexico each year. The treaty, which left many details vague or unaddressed, has been updated by hundreds of smaller agreements,

called "minutes," since it was first signed.

For example, though the treaty permits the U.S. to reduce water deliveries to Mexico if there's an "extraordinary drought," it does not define that phrase. The 2012 U.S.-Mexico agreement was the first to explicitly state how the two countries should share the bounty of a wet year and the shortages of a dry one. That international accord allows the U.S. to curtail water deliveries to Mexico if the surface of Lake Mead drops below 1,075 feet above sea level, the trigger point at which the Lower Basin states of Arizona, Nevada and California would also begin to face restrictions.

Under the new agreement, Mexico would commit to voluntary reductions in water use beyond those specified in 2012 when Mead drops, according to a summary of *Minute 323* several water agencies presented to their boards. But those extra restrictions only go into effect if the U.S. Lower Basin states also agree to similar cutbacks, called the "drought contingency plan."

That kind of cooperation is critical for the success of basin-wide plans, says Jennifer Pitt, the director of the National Audubon Society's Colorado River Program and U.S. co-chair of the *Minute 323* environmental working group. (*High Country News* board member Osvel Hinojosa serves as the co-chair from Mexico.) "It only works if they all jump in the pool at the same time."

The Lower Basin states are still at least a few months away from taking that leap. While water agencies hope to have the drought contingency plan finished by mid-2018, obstacles abound, including conflicts between Arizona

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water managers and disagreements over the Salton Sea in California, which is fed by Colorado River water. Still, the conditional agreement from Mexico adds an extra incentive for finalizing the Lower Basin plan. After all, “(Mexico) wouldn’t owe any more than they do today if the Lower Basin fails to act,” says Chuck Cullom, the Colorado River programs manager at the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. That would leave the U.S. to face additional water shortages on its own.

Other provisions of the new agreement, which will last for 10 years, tackle lingering logistical issues of international river management. *Minute 323* will maintain Mexico’s ability to store water in U.S. reservoirs and address concerns like salinity levels and irregular flow, which can damage infrastructure. The new agreement also stipulates that several U.S. water agencies and the federal government pay Mexico \$31.5 million for water conservation projects in exchange for almost 230,000 acre-feet of water. (A typical household uses about half an acre-foot of water per year.) Some of that water will stay in the Colorado system to maintain reservoir levels or help the environment.

Minute 323 will also build upon previous environmental work, including the 2014 pulse flow. The new pact doesn’t

explicitly call for another single large release, allowing scientists flexibility in deciding how best to deliver water to restoration sites.

Perhaps the biggest win of the new agreement is that it bolsters transnational cooperation as urgency mounts in the face of climate change. In August, the Bureau of Reclamation announced that there’s “no chance” of water cutbacks in the Colorado River Basin



in 2018. Yet the Colorado will continue to shrink in the coming decades. *Minute 323* could help the basin meet that challenge.

“It’s one river,” says Tina Shields, a water manager at California’s Imperial Irrigation District. “We don’t want to operate it separately, and we need to have a common understanding.”

Emily Benson is an editorial fellow at High Country News. People in Mexico gather to watch as the 2014 pulse flow moves across the dry Colorado River Delta.

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Will Only The Flexible Survive?

Maya L. Kapoor - High Country News

Researchers are identifying the West's wildlife that can best cope with a changing climate.

Species adapt to long-term, predictable stressors through natural selection: They evolve. For example, desert bighorn sheep living in the Sonoran Desert have developed the ability to store water in their stomachs for several days between drinks. They can even skip drinking altogether for months during the winter, relying on the plants they eat for moisture.

But because of climate change, the stressors that wild animals face are becoming less predictable and more variable. Just in terms of weather, extreme events such as heat waves, droughts, and heavy downpours are increasing.

It's trickier for an animal to evolve in response to such chaos. Now, one group of scientists is investigating a different route for species coping with a wildly fluctuating world: behavioral plasticity.

Behavioral plasticity is the ability of individuals to cope with new situations. Unlike evolution, which takes at least one generation, behavioral plasticity lets individual animals make a temporary change — a useful trait in an unpredictable world. "It's a little bit of a hopeful, positive angle on how species are responding to contemporary climate change," says Erik Beever, a U.S. Geological Survey research ecologist.

Beever and his colleagues are interested in understanding whether some species have the flexibility to effectively cope with climate change, and if so, what kinds of species. "Is it smaller bodied or larger bodied animals? Is it species that live longer or shorter?" Beever says. To begin answering such questions, the researchers reviewed published scientific studies of animal behavior that focused on responses to climate variability, coming up with 186 examples. In the American Southwest, on chilly mornings desert spiny lizards warm up by basking in the sun, for instance, while desert woodrats cool off by staying home on hot nights, coming out of their dens later than usual to forage.

One especially interesting example of behavioral plasticity came from pikas, mouse-sized rabbit relatives with rounded ears and loud squeaks, a species that Beever has researched extensively throughout the West. Many people never spy a pika, but, Beever says, "over ninety

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Highlander Wildlife

percent of the time, if you go where pikas live at the right time of the day and year, you will hear them.” Generally, pika habitat means ankle-twisting piles of rocky debris called talus slopes. Pikas inhabit mountains across the West, but because they are homebodies who don’t travel far, when local conditions get rough, pikas must adjust their behavior in order to survive. That makes pikas good subjects for studying behavioral plasticity.



Columbia River Gorge pikas especially interest Beever because they behave very differently from their talus slope relatives. In summer, mountain pikas forage constantly in high-elevation alpine meadows to amass “haypiles” of wild plants for winter, but gorge animals live at just 70 feet above sea level. They forage in patches of rainforest,

#Fierce. Pikas spend summers collecting and fiercely defending “haypiles” of wild plants, their food source during the winter when they’re hunkered down in talus slope burrows. Photo above courtesy Will Thompson.

Perhaps the cutest example of behavioral plasticity in pikas is the way that they regulate their body temperatures: when cold, they fluff up into bewhiskered fuzzballs; when warm, pikas stretch out to let off heat. Pikas have other behavioral flexibilities, too – although researchers thought that pikas stayed hydrated through their leafy green diet, they discovered recently that pikas will drink water if they get hot enough.

The ability to respond flexibly to their world may help some pika populations cope with climate change. However, different populations may cope with a changing world with varying degrees of success. Although pikas are vanishing from much of their historic range due to climate change, moving upslope over time, some pika populations are surviving. In the Columbia River Gorge and Grand Teton National Park, for example, the palm-sized puffballs are doing quite well, while Yellowstone National Park pikas are disappearing at lower elevations.

where they feast on wild plants and moss, an abundant year-round food source. Gorge pikas also keep active throughout the day in the shade, while higher-elevation pikas must hide out the sun-baking afternoons under rocks. Beever still has many unanswered questions about what’s driving the differences in behavior between the two. But that doesn’t change the fact that different populations of pikas can behave differently, if given different resources to work with.

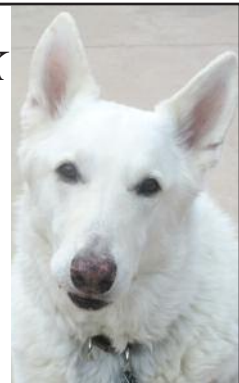
While most pika populations are (Continued next page.)

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declining because of climate change, some aren't. Behavioral plasticity may explain why – and offer hope for the species' survival. Photo by Will Thompson

There are limits to what animals can adjust to through behavioral plasticity, of course. If the talus slopes of the world got hot enough, even the most adaptable pikas living

on them would cook. And behavioral plasticity has costs. A woodrat hunkering down in its den waiting for the evening to cool off has less time to get food, find water, or seek a mate, for example.

Ultimately, Beever hopes that his research will help wildlife managers determine how to help preserve species being affected by climate change, in ways that take advantage of animals' behavioral plasticity. But, he says, this variability among different populations of the same species "raises the bar on what we need to understand. We want to go, 'oh this (species) goes in the red light category, this one goes in the green light category, this one goes in the yellow light category.' It requires a little more understanding than that."

"There's still so much to learn," he adds, "so it's kind of an exciting research frontier."

Maya L. Kapoor is an associate editor with High Country News.

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Yellowing Conifer Needles Normal In Autumn

GOLDEN, Colo. – Sept. 14, 2017

Thousands of evergreen trees in the foothills and in communities along the Front Range are beginning to display dying yellow or brown needles. However, most are simply going through a natural shedding process – and are not being damaged by bark beetles or any specific tree insect or disease.

Every autumn, many Colorado evergreen tree species shed some of their older, interior needles as part of an annual growth cycle. Needles on the lower portions of the tree crown or closest to the trunk are most commonly shed, but trees stressed due to drought or root damage may shed more needles to keep the tree in balance with its root system. Soon-to-be shed needles typically turn yellow first, then a reddish-orange or brown color before dropping off.

In the CSFS Golden District, which includes Clear Creek, Denver, Jefferson and northeast Park counties, ponderosa and lodgepole pine are the tree species that most commonly shed needles in September and October, but fir and spruce also are impacted. Ponderosas tend to be the most conspicuous when shedding, because their needles are

much longer than spruce and fir needles.

Evergreen trees that shed fall needles have a different appearance than trees infested by bark beetles. The needles on a beetle-infested tree typically change color throughout the entire tree, initially starting with an off shade of green and turning to yellow or reddish-orange by the following summer. In addition to changing needle color, bark beetle-infested trees will show other signs of attack, such as fine sawdust at the base of the tree and popcorn-shaped masses of resin on the trunk.

Fall needle drop is frequently mislabeled as “needle cast,” a term that actually refers to a fungal disease of evergreen trees.

For more information about tree and forest health, contact the CSFS Golden District at 303-279-9757 or visit www.csfs.colostate.edu.

Editor’s Note: This photo depicting the



natural shedding of needles on a Ponderosa Pine is better viewed in color so go to the Highlander website at HighlanderMo.com to click on CURRENT ISSUE to see all pictures in color. Save PDF download to your desktop (only takes a minute) and open in Adobe Reader: choose View - pick two page display and enjoy the issue just as it is in the hard copy.



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Animals & Their Companions

Previous Page top left: Jet & Benny watch fox.

Top right: Chipmunk drinks water.

Bottom left: CC gets a bath, with Julie riding.

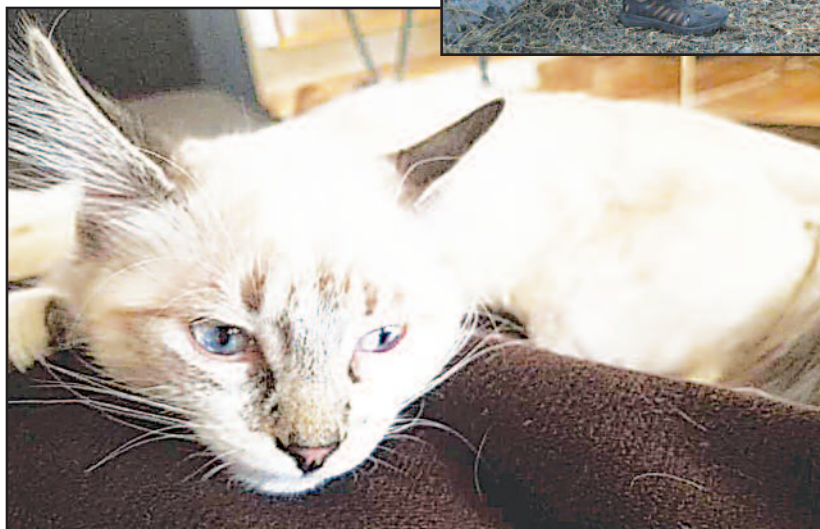
Bottom right: Meow's kitten.

This Page: Top,

Sky King & America: miniature horses.

Middle right: Sally bonds with colt Quinn.

Bottom: Denali now and as a kitten.



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Fire Memo Ignores Important Information

Elizabeth Shogren - High Country News

As the West contends with a big wildfire season, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urged his staff to take aggressive action to prevent wildfires. His memo calls on managers to “think differently” about reducing the accumulation of dense vegetation. He wants vegetation cleared if it encroaches on roads or buildings, and dead trees removed if they can spread fire to valuable property or beyond the boundaries of parks, refuges or other Interior Department lands.

Forest fire experts say Zinke gets some things right in his memo but caution that its goal—to stop and prevent forest fires—is unattainable and not even desirable. They say Zinke’s memo and accompanying press release perpetuate the public’s misperception about fire by suggesting that by thinning forests, forest managers can avoid or snuff out forest fires. “We’ve been failing at that for 120 years,” says Andrew Larson, associate professor of forest ecology at the University of Montana. “Zinke is a smart guy; he picks battles he can win. It surprises me he’s making a promise I don’t think he can deliver on.”

Firefighters ignite brush using drip torches during a prescribed burn in Nevada. In his recent memo, Secretary Ryan Zinke omitted the practice, which is one method forest managers use to minimize fuels and restore forests.

Photo by Bureau of Land Management

Wildfires have burned more than 8 million acres this year, far exceeding the annual average over the last ten years. In Montana, Zinke’s home state, drought-fueled wildfires

scorched nearly 1.3 million acres, about four times the average over the past decade. Fire severely damaged a historic dormitory in Glacier National Park’s Sperry Chalet. Zinke’s memo states: “It is well settled that the steady accumulation of vegetation in areas that have historically burned at frequent intervals exacerbates fuel conditions and often leads to larger and higher-intensity



fires.”

That’s accurate, Larson says, but what’s missing is the reason that forests are choked with vegetation. “The problem with fuels is that we’ve suppressed fire,” Larson says. “It’s a problem we’ve created for ourselves.” Zinke’s memo advocates limiting fire in the future, which will continue this problem.

More aggressive thinning in *(Continued next page.)*

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Highlander Issues

low-elevation forests near communities could limit the damage to homes and other structures, Larson says. It also could minimize the severity of future fires in those areas, so that more trees survive those fires.

But the thinning can't prevent fires in those areas. And the vast majority of the acreage burned in Montana this year is in higher elevations and wilderness areas, where thinning wouldn't be practical or appropriate, experts say. There are more omissions from Zinke's memo. For example, the memo doesn't mention the best tool forest managers have to minimize fuels and restore forests: prescribed burns. And the biggest factors fueling Western wildfires — weather and climate — were entirely absent: "The scientific community knows with such great certainty the overriding importance of weather and climate as the primary drivers of Western forest fire regimes," says Larson. "Fuels are important too. But if we're only focused on fuels we're missing the big driver."

Also absent from Zinke's message is the major role climate change plays in Western forest fires. In a groundbreaking study published last October, scientists estimated that nearly half of the acreage burned in Western forests over the last three decades could be attributed to human-caused climate change. Under climate change, summers in the West are projected to become increasingly warmer and

drier, increasing the frequency of severe wildfire years. Philip Higuera, an associate professor of fire ecology also at the University of Montana, says: "If our policies don't acknowledge the role that climate plays in driving these large wildfires seasons like we're seeing this year, the policies we develop are going to be misguided."

The professors also take issue with Zinke's characterization of fire in the West as "catastrophic." Many Western species have life cycles that are dependent on fire. For example, at higher elevations, the cones from lodgepole pines don't open without fire, meaning the trees can't propagate themselves.

There's no question that fires can be catastrophic when they're close to communities and destroy homes or buildings. "But when they're not doing that, they're doing a really important service and playing an important function in ecosystems," Higuera says. "If we value landscapes that include national processes, we have to learn how to live and work with having fire in the landscape."

One important role that fire plays might resonate with Zinke, a hunter who is determined to make public lands more hospitable for sportsmen. Hunters often complain when smoke and flames keep them from their favorite hunting areas. But Larson takes the longer view. His favorite elk hunting spot in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness is within the area burned by the Rice Ridge Fire, and Larson won't be able to hunt there this fall. But in coming years, as the forest regenerates, elk will be lured to that very place because tasty forbs that elk love will flourish in the bright sunlight. "After a few years, fires give us great big game habitat," he says.

Correspondent Elizabeth Shogren writes HCN's DC Dispatches from Washington.

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The Power Of Plan B

Article & Photographs by Diane Bergstrom

Recently I headed to Boulder for the third annual Zee Jaipur Literary Festival, a free festival of ideas celebrating international authors, entertainers and thinkers. Originating in India, the festival has expanded to Boulder and London. World-renowned authors included Vikas Swarup, author of *Slumdog Millionaire*, Christina Lamb, co-author of *I Am Malala*, among many others. One more unique local



event which most of us don't know about. I wanted to cover an international panel on The Great Outdoors. As I paced around the Boulder Public Library waiting for the session to start in the designated room, I kept widening my circle to assess the events, book tables and demonstrations happening concurrently. Worried and frustrated with the thought of missing the discussion, I started asking volunteers. The fourth one confirmed the session had already started and the room was full. How did that happen? I'm a firm believer in the adage that the quality of life will be determined in how well you handle Plan B, so I decided to stay. I wandered back to the Canyon Gallery within BPL where the Gaden Shartse Monks were creating a two dimensional Sacred Vajrasattva Sand Mandala in the Heart of the Boulder Vortex. As my cousin Lael says every time she visits Boulder, "you don't see that every day."

The mandala's intricate designs are created with powdered sand tapped through pen-like tools. The round symbol of the universe with detailed drawings represents different aspects of the Buddhist teachings. It is a prayer in

art. Study Buddhism states, "Mandalas constitute a sophisticated instrument for developing the good qualities we need to benefit from others." They originated in India thousands of years ago to aid in meditation practices and

have gone mainstream in pop culture. Being the fifth and final day, the monks were finishing the painting for final viewing, before dissolving it to represent and remind us of impermanence and detachment. The sand is then offered to the land and

water for healing and clearing. This was a mandala of purification. A monk explained that true peace and happiness are within us, not in external fantasy. Finding the true reality of life can bring more peace in ourselves and to others. He advised we shut down our (Continued next page.)



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five senses and see through the heart. The heart area is considered where the higher mind is located. He encouraged the audience to find the

truth, find what is right for you, emphasizing that whatever is ego boosting creates negativity and indicates something is wrong. Truth should help you, transform you and if it does, you become a better person. Then you know that it is the right belief, right action, and right practice. He ended with, "We'll work together to bless this whole environment. We pray to preserve the precious culture being handed to you." Tiny packets of sand from the destructed mandala were handed out to attendees with the encouragement to put the pinch on the land or water for healing, or on a personal altar for protection and guidance.

And I was reminded that being in the wrong place at the right time is the first step of Plan B.

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The Journey Back

By Frosty Wooldridge

My friend Fred sat down in the booth at Woody's Pizza in downtown Golden, Colorado. He represented sartorial splendor in that he wore a suit and tie with Italian shoes. I slid into the booth opposite him.

(Sometimes, life chases you. You want to give up and get gobbled up. Instead, you think of something to save yourself. You choose you.)

"Good evening gentlemen," the waitress greeted us. "May I get you some drinks?"

"I'll have a beer," said Fred.

"Water works for me," I said.

A month earlier, Fred drove home with his wife to an upscale housing area when she turned in the car, "I can't do this anymore."

Fred knew exactly what Jackie meant. She wanted a divorce from a marriage that didn't work for her any more than it worked for him. When they married, everyone wondered how a high roller real estate maven hitched up to a mountain man who loved a tent more than a hotel. Nonetheless, they "made" it work for eight torturous years.

"Well," said Fred. "I finished moving the last of my things. Thanks for helping me move the big stuff into my new digs."

While he knew the marriage didn't work, the pain of separation caused him emotional anguish. That evening, over a pizza, Fred expressed his sorrows to me, his long time friend.

As we talked, he ordered a second, third, fourth and fifth draughts—16 ounce big beers. Enough to knock down a buffalo! Near the end of our conversation, I wanted to speak up about his driving home with so many beers in his belly. But, unsure of myself, I remained silent. Fred drove home that night legally intoxicated, but he somehow avoided detection by the police.

Too often in our society, we use different drugs to numb the pain within us. Sometimes, friends watch friends spiral into alcoholism or drugs, or eating disorders without saying anything.

That night, I didn't muster the courage to call for my wife to come down and drive him home while I drove his car back to his house. I failed to gather the courage to call him a cab and insist he use it.

Many times in life, in retrospect, we "wish" we said something at the time, but regret it later when we didn't.

Two months later, after too many beers, Fred pulled out to pass a car on a two-lane highway, but didn't see the yellow line. A cop pulled him *(Continued next page.)*

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over. The officer gave him a DUI ticket.

With \$10,000.00, he fought it in court. He asked me if I could help him with driving him around for a week until he received an "interim" license because he appealed the ticket.

After a great deal of soul searching, he came to terms with his situation. He took personal responsibility. He understood his personal accountability.

He stopped drinking.

"After that night," he said, "I evaluated my circumstances...I can't drown my sorrow in booze. I can't numb the pain. I've got to deal with it and deal with myself. I must meet it with a clear mind, clear heart and clear understanding. That's what I'm doing. This ticket will cost me a lot of money, but I'm lucky the cop stopped me before I killed myself or someone else. I'm done drinking."



A writer-alcoholic Dina Kucera said, "I felt empty and sad for years, and for a long, long time, alcohol worked. I'd drink, and all the sadness would go away. Not only did the sadness go away, but I was fantastic. I was beautiful, funny and I could do math. But at some point, the booze stopped working. Every time I drank, I could feel pieces of me leaving. I continued to drink until there was nothing left. Just emptiness."

"Fred," I said. "What made you decide to stop drinking?"

"To be quite honest," he said, "I am going to make it through this divorce. I feel the pain. I am working through it. I felt fine before I got married. I am going to be fine again. I decided to choose me."

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The Sequel To An Inconvenient Truth

A decade after *AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH* brought the climate crisis into the heart of popular culture, comes the riveting and rousing follow-up that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution. Former Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight, traveling around the world training an army of climate champions and influencing international climate policy. Cameras follow him behind the scenes – in moments both private and public, funny and poignant – as he pursues the inspirational idea that while the stakes have never been higher, the perils of climate change can be overcome with human ingenuity and passion.

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power is a 2017 American documentary film directed by Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk about former United States Vice President Al Gore's continuing mission to battle climate change. The sequel to *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006), the film addresses the progress made to tackle the problem and Gore's global efforts to persuade governmental leaders to invest in renewable energy, culminating in the landmark signing of 2016's Paris Agreement. The film was released on July 28, 2017, by Paramount Pictures. The film follows the efforts made to tackle climate change.

While it has been a few month's since this documentary was released, it is still showing in a few theaters and the cinematography of the glacier's highlighted in this film from the air are breathtaking on the big screens. New information in the last decade can be another reason to watch this sequel.

Simply India's leader sharing his opinions about why he and his country feel cheated by the whole world utilizing fossil fuels for so long and benefiting from that natural resource to move out of poverty, reveals a whole different

way of thinking about why terribly polluted, poverty stricken countries still want to use petroleum products and fossil fuels without being shamed for doing so.

What Gore fails to address is overpopulation and it is understandable why he avoids the issue as that would bring religion, contraceptive education and all that topic encompasses to add the negative to his message. But whether folks want to ignore the stressors of overpopulation in the world or not, it is the source of all of our climate, terrorism and environmental damage issues facing the world for decades.

Now at www.climaterealityproject.org the average person who wishes to help in the cause has access to tools to do so. A ten minute slide show enables anyone to become a climate facilitator. The climate crisis affects all of us. And it's up to all of us to solve it.

That is why Al Gore created the *Truth in 10* slideshow, a 10-minute presentation that will help you spread a simple message to your community: the climate crisis is urgent, but the solutions are at hand. Download the presentation, personalize it, practice it at home, and then go out and deliver it. Start with your friends, your

family, your school, your house of worship, your business or community center. By downloading and presenting this slideshow you are joining climate leaders around the world who have stepped in to fight for the future of our planet. Mayors, Governors, CEO's, teachers, students, and citizens everywhere are leading the way despite President Trump's announcement regarding his intention to remove the U.S. from the Paris Agreement.

With this simple action, you can join the tens of thousands of people around the world who are speaking truth to power. Be inconvenient – our world depends on it.

By A.M. Wilks



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A Word To The Unwise For Butt Flickers

By Marjorie "Slim" Woodruff

Every day I walk the scenic Rim Trail at Grand Canyon. Everyday I pick up trash. Every day I pick up at least two dozen cigarette butts. Every. Single. Day. It is the invasion of the butt flickers.

There are the casual flickers who check surreptitiously for surveillance, and then flick straight down the leg, hoping for camouflage. There are the insouciant flickers who hold the butt high and flick with pride and arrogance, perchance hoping for a distance record. Alas, occasionally a cigarette butt flies over the edge, lost to all but the hapless animal that ingests it. Not that the insouciant humans notice or care.

There are the allegedly socially responsible flickers who flick and stomp. They, at least, recognize that they are casually tossing aside a live ember that might possibly join forces with a flammable object and get overly enthusiastic. And there are the "considerate" flickers, who don't actually flick. Instead, they tuck the butt tenderly into a crevice or behind a rock where it might not be noticed by any but the zealous butt collector.

If I pick up an average of 24 butts per day in a two-mile stretch, and the rim trail is 13 miles long, one may extrapolate that there are approximately 56,940 butts deposited on this one trail each year. Grand Canyon has 300 miles of trails, hence 1,314,000 butts a year — and you told your high school math teacher you would never need those skills. There are fewer butts on backcountry trails,

but this is more than made up for by the ankle-deep drifts at bus stops. Nicotine addicts on the bus have been without their fix for four hours, and they erupt off the vehicle, ciggie in hand, frantically flicking at a lighter.

In 2015, about 15 percent of Americans smoked. About one billion people smoke worldwide, and 65 percent of smokers flick their butts with a remarkable lack of precision. By count, almost 35 percent of litter in outdoor recreation areas is butts. Often the flick occurs within ten feet of an outdoor ashtray.

Worldwide, 120 billion butts are discarded every year, and 99 percent have plastic filters. Cigarette butts are said to take between 18 months to 10 years to decompose. "Decompose" is misleading, because the plastic in the filter breaks down into smaller parts, but it, like death and taxes, will be with us always.

Filters contain heavy metals such as cadmium, arsenic and lead, as well as nicotine. Nicotine, one may recall, is sold as an insecticide. One cigarette butt can kill fish if put into water, or harm a human baby, if put into the baby, usually by the baby.

Birds, fish, pets, wild animals and human infants are indiscriminate eaters. Which is to say, if something is on the ground, they will eat it. Wildlife biologists have told me that butts may be mistaken for bone, something that animals, lacking calcium supplements, are inclined to eat so as to ingest the calcium. After all, they never read the warning labels on the cigarette packages.



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An acquaintance once informed me that he, for one, does not pick up butts. "I want the smokers to be ashamed of themselves." This is, not to put too fine a point on it, codswallop. If smokers were capable of being ashamed of themselves, they would not flick.

Most smokers seem to fondly assume, if they assume anything at all, that the butts will magically vanish like the snows of yesteryear.

I was once industriously picking up flicked butts when a barefoot boy child approached me. Fixing me with his puppy-dog eyes, he inquired innocently if butts don't biodegrade. I spied his responsible adult skulking within earshot. I assumed the adult feared my righteous wrath if he asked me himself and sent his child as a sacrifice.

Solemnly, I explained that filters contain plastic, which does not in fact, ever disappear, and that the filters are toxic to animals and other living things. Nor are they particularly difficult to dispose of. At which point I picked up a butt, put it in my butt bag, and emptied the contents to a trash receptacle. The boy nodded and scampered back to his father. "She says no, Dad!" So much for that covert operation.

So we soldier on, picking up after those who disdain to do so themselves, ever vigilant, following the butt flickers.

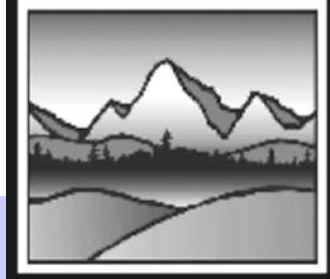
We plod on while thinking dark thoughts: Emphysema. Stroke. Tooth loss. Wrinkles. Eventually we resort to poetry:

*There was a young smoker named Clyde,
Who took his habit outside.
But, being a klutz,
He flicked his butts,
And a condor ate them and died.*

Marjorie "Slim" Woodruff is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She works in the Grand Canyon and most always enjoys observing tourists.

Editor's Note: As usual I agree with Slim and also find it impossible to not pick up butts wherever I see them, which is usually in the woods or someone's front yard. Similar to litter along roads, I find this human trait of simply discarding trash or butts a mystery: the mental shut off that it takes to not care about trash along our roads is one thing-flicking a lit cigarette butt out the car window in a forest is quite another leap of monumental ignorance. Or how about the 'dead from the neck up' person that empties their vehicle's ashtray onto the parking lot at the Kwik Mart, five feet away from the supplied trash can? Can someone please explain that particular misbehavior to me?

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Keep Orchids Beautiful & Blooming

By Melinda Myers

Lift your spirits, enliven your indoor décor or give the gift of beautiful blooming orchids. You'll enjoy these exotic blossoms for months with just minimal care – once you know what to do.

Start with a healthy flowering plant. The phalaenopsis or moth orchid is the most widely available and easiest to grow. It's similar to caring for an African violet. When you provide the proper growing conditions, maintenance is a breeze. The challenge comes with less-than-ideal indoor growing conditions of low light and dry air. Fortunately, there are a few things you can do to create a better environment for your orchid.

Keep in mind that most orchids are epiphytes. In nature they grow on other plants and obtain water and nutrients from the air, water and plant debris that accumulates in their environment. This is why they are grown in an orchid mix made of organic material such as peat, fir bark and perlite. This or a similar combination retains water while providing needed drainage.

Give your orchid a good soaking once a week. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer. Don't allow



orchids to sit in water and don't water them too often. This can lead to root rot and death of your plant. Further improve the environment by increasing the humidity around the plant. Group them with other orchids and indoor plants. As one plant loses moisture, or "transpires," the others will benefit from the increase in humidity. Plus, you'll create a beautiful display while improving the growing conditions.

You can also create humidity trays. Place pebbles in the saucer and the pot on top of the pebbles. Allow excess water to collect in the pebbles below the pot. As this evaporates it increases the humidity around your plant. This also eliminates the need to pour off the excess water that collects in the saucer.

Place your plant in a bright location. Orchids do best with 12 to 14 hours of sunlight. Unobstructed south- or east-facing windows are

usually the best. Or give plants a boost with artificial lights. Newer full spectrum LED lights provide needed light while using less energy.

And there's no reason to hide your orchid and light setup in the basement. It can be mounted on the wall or set on a table. Either way, your orchids will be in full view for all to enjoy.

Fertilize actively growing plants with an orchid fertilizer. Michigan State University developed a fertilizer that efficiently provides the nutrients orchids need. They have "Orchid Tap Water" and "Orchid Pure Water Fertilizer" formulations. Just follow label directions for best results.

Once the plants are done flowering, you can keep them growing indoors. If you like a challenge, try reblooming. On phalaenopsis orchids, just cut back the flowering stem between the second or third node from the bottom. Or give the plant a rest and cut the flower stem back to the leaves.

Continue to provide proper care and treat an orchid plant like a long-lasting bouquet.



Stand Up For Saguaros & Art

By Kimi Eisele

One of the many beautiful things about spending time with a saguaro cactus is that while you're doing it, you're not thinking at all about money. Who needs money when you have *Carnegie gigantea* and all its resilience before you, when you can access the entirety of the Sonoran Desert just by standing still, next to a saguaro, for a good 60 minutes, though ten will do? I know this from personal experience and from the nearly 300 people who stood with saguaros in 2016 as part of a performance project I directed called *Standing with Saguaros*. The yearlong project combined storytelling and performances in Saguaro National Park, just outside of Tucson, Arizona. Its introductory act invited people to stand for up to an hour with the cactus in observation or meditation or performance or just because the saguaros are worthy of your time. These multi-armed cactus live as long as 200 years and serve as a keystone species in the ecosystem, offering shelter and food for bees, bats, birds and small mammals.

Even in death, they are generous. Their decay feeds insects and lizards and nourishes the soil for young mesquite or palo verde trees, which then grow up to “nurse” new generations of saguaros. The saguaros are considered people to the Tohono O’odham, who also harvest the cactus’ fruit every summer in a traditional cultural practice to summon the monsoon rains.

Sometimes works of art — like national parks — invite new experiences that can deepen or change our understanding of the “other.” My project was made possible, in part, by a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. It was one of 84 *Imagine Your Parks* works commemorating the National Park Service Centennial. If you’re an American taxpayer, you paid .003 cents for it. Thank you. I leveraged your funds to raise additional money.

Not everyone believes taxpayers should pay for art, or for national parks and monuments. The Trump administration’s 2018 budget proposed eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts entirely. Recently, one critic lambasted the agency in the *Wall Street Journal*, singling out my project, among others. He called the idea of standing with a saguaro “inane.” No one who stood with the cactus described it that way. Instead, their responses relayed the “joy of connecting,” feeling “welcomed and humbled,” and meeting “my new friend.” There is no lack of studies confirming that time spent in nature is good for you. The saguaro offered a portal to the many stories of a community. Stories from scientists, culture-bearers, artists and others about the cactus were broadcast on a radio program, *The Saguaro Minute*, reaching 30,000 local listeners and three times that online. Those stories were also woven into theater pieces performed live in the park.

Though the stories focused on the non-human, they illuminated many truths about our humanity — what awes us, what we fear and cherish, how we give & grieve & heal.

Critics of the National Endowment for the Arts say we should let the market decide and make people pay for the art they want. But that dangerously limits the kind of art that gets made, where it’s made, and by whom, as well as who gets to experience it. Public funding for the arts ideally allows for pluralism and variation, which, the last time I checked, are deeply American virtues. At just a tiny fraction of a single penny, the experience of standing and appreciating a noble desert species seems like a worthwhile expenditure, one with arguably more public value than, say, a golf trip to Mar-a-Lago. On July 19 the U.S. House of Representatives voted to fund the NEA in 2018 at \$145 million, which is more or less the cost of 40 of those golf trips. Approval now awaits a vote in the Senate.

Meanwhile, we artists will go back to making art on a dime — however far we can stretch it — taking inspiration from the world around us. *Kimi Eisele is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She is a writer and multidisciplinary artist in Tucson, Arizona, and directed Standing with Saguaros for Borderlands Theater in 2016.*

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Rural America is served by a network of about 1,000 electric cooperatives, most of which were formed in the 1930s and 40s to bring electricity to farms and rural communities that large, investor-owned power companies had no interest in serving because of the higher costs involved in serving low-population and low-density areas.

In addition to providing the vital power co-op members depend on, United Power supports our community directly and indirectly. We provide educational opportunities for youth in our territory, visiting classrooms teaching students about electrical safety or talking to them about job opportunities.

We also educate our communities and members about the dangers of contact with electricity through our safety demonstration trailer. Not only does our presentation team, made up of knowledgeable linemen, teach people how to be safe around electricity, but also informs people about the intricate and dangerous tasks our linemen face each day and explains the importance of safety equipment, including personal protective equipment, rubber gloves, hard hats and cover ups.

United Power provides college scholarships and sponsors student representatives to youth camps in Colorado and Washington D.C. We are sponsors of dozens of community events including fairs, festivals and school fundraisers. United Power employees are active members of local Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Councils and nonprofit organizations serving our membership.

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To see how United Power and other cooperatives from across the country are celebrating National Co-op Month, follow #CoopMonth on Facebook and Twitter.



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3 BD/ 2 BA .83 Acre **\$379,000**



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Sunny & Bright! Separate Cabin Included
3 BD/ 2 BA 1.67 Acres **\$379,000**



11711 Spruce Canyon
Sweet Cottage in Enchanted Setting
3 BD / 1 BA 1.37 Acres **\$379,000**



11835 Vonnie Claire Drive
Hard-to-Find Horse Property!!
3 BD/ 2 BA 3.17 Acres **\$394,900**



31227 Burke Road
Oversized Garage w/ 2nd Floor Office
2 BD/ 1 BA .53 Acre **\$314,000**



5011 Garrison #102
Fantastic Wheat Ridge Condo!
1 BD/ 1 BA + Sunroom **\$179,000**



29373 Spruce Canyon
Nicely remodeled - over 3 acres.
3 BD / 3 BA **\$579,000**



722 8th Ave., Longmont
Circa 1910 Old Town Charming!
2 BD/ 2 BA Oversized Garage **\$349,000**



19 Ronnie Road
Views, Well, Septic, Building plans
included .7 Acre **\$115,000**



10371 Dowdle Drive
Remodeled Log Home
2 BD/ 2 BA 1.06 Acres **\$377,500**



13371 W. 63rd Place, Arvada
Lovely Home w/Park-Like Yard
4 BD/ 4 BA 3-Car Garage **\$485,000**



144 Wonder Trail, Wondervu
Vintage Cabin - Well Drilled
2 BD **\$94,500**



34535 Stanton Drive
Log Home With Solar!
3 BD / 3 BA **\$569,900**



201 Skyline Drive
Beautiful Home, Beautiful Setting!
3 BD/ 3 BA 1.15 Acres **\$399,900**



194 Wonder Trail
Charming Cottage w/Super Views!
1 BD / 1 BA **\$249,900**



11249 Ranch Elsie Road
Multi - generational Living Setup!
3 BD / 2 BA **\$404,900**



249 Rudi Lane
Post & Beam Constr. - Passive Solar
2 BD / 3 BA **\$399,900**



**BUY OR SELL A HOME
WITH Kathy Keating or
Susan Peterson and USE
the moving truck for FREE**



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