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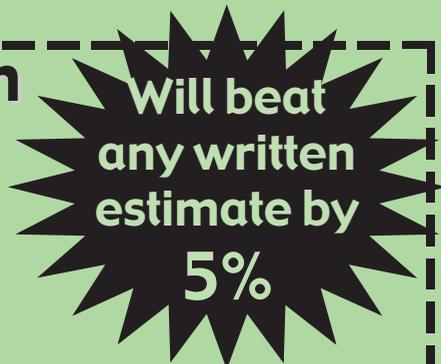
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About the Cover: Mule Deer doe in Rocky Mtn Nat'l Park, story page 5. Photo by Diane Bergstrom.

Positive News for a Change!



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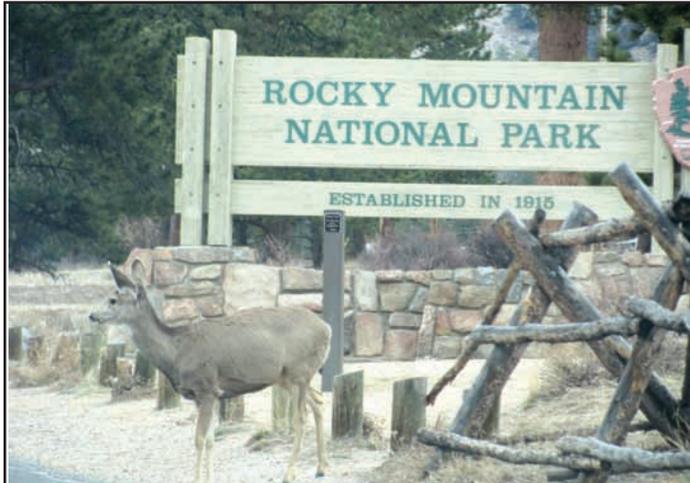


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Know Before You Go: Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park

Article and Photographs by Diane Bergstrom

Paleo-Indians visited and hunted in the region, now known as Rocky Mountain National Park, over 10,000 years ago. The Ute arrived 6,000 years ago and lived off the land. Then the Arapaho. By the mid-1800's, miners, fur



trappers, prospectors, homesteaders, loggers and tourists visited the lands. This summer, it could be you. Knowing a few things before you go will help maximize your trip, minimize frustration, and make you marvel at the natural resource in the backyard of our front range.

Traveling down Bear Lake Road within the park, you will notice differences in the topography and the pavement this summer. Moraine Park has large burned tracts from the Fern Lake fire, (pictured above at right) which started last October, and the back burning fires set by more than 600 firefighters trying to stop the fire from jumping Bear Lake Road. In merely 35 minutes, 70 mile per hour winds doubled the size of the fire by pushing it three miles eastward from Forest Canyon into Moraine Park. Even 12" of snowfall on December 18th couldn't completely extinguish it. The suspected cause is an illegal campfire. The cost to fight the fire topped six million dollars and over 3,500 acres were burned. The steep, rough terrain of Forest Canyon hadn't had a fire for over 800 years. A flat trail winds from Bear Lake Road through the meadow west toward the Continental Divide, a popular area for grazing elk, and you can get a close up view of nature's restoration activities. How you continue on Bear Lake Road will require a little informed planning.

The second year of the Bear Lake Road construction is underway. This two-year project is expected to be completed by the fall of 2013. Major improvements started in 2003 on 47 miles of park roads. Bear Lake Road hasn't had any major improvements since 1928. The park receives more than 3,000,000 visitors a year and now the journey will be easier for years to come. If you are planning to

enter the park and keep to the areas north of (and including) Fern Lake Road, i.e. Horseshoe Park, Fall River Road, Trail Ridge Road, you will not encounter delays



expected for Bear Lake construction. The construction zone starts southwest of Moraine Park Visitor Center. So go and enjoy. Trail Ridge Road was expected to open May 24th. Confirm latest information at www.nps.gov/romo <<http://www.nps.gov/romo>> . (Continued on next page.)

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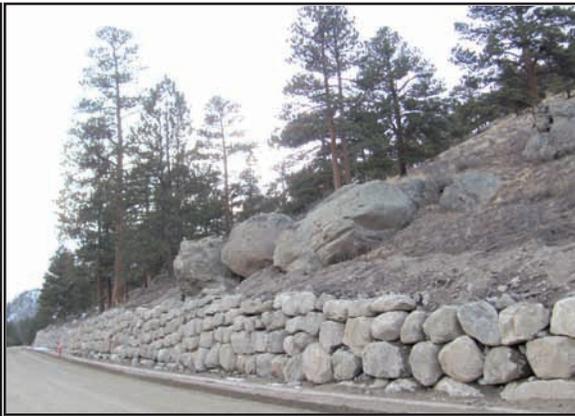
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Highlander Nature

Now, for those heading to Bear Lake Road (BLR), the driving options change depending on weekdays or weekends through July 19th. Timing will also be important.

or AFTER 4 pm on the weekdays. That last tip is a gem so reread each detail. If you make it in before the cutoff time, you can drive out at any time. **Note:** all visitors on



If your BLR trip is planned on a weekday, between 9 am and 4 pm, you will have to take a free shuttle bus. Private vehicles won't be allowed past one mile southwest of Moraine Park Visitor Center. Park your car and catch a shuttle from several locations: fairgrounds, Estes Park Visitor Center, Beaver Meadows Visitor Center or Moraine Park Visitor Center (least available parking). Expect to transfer to a Bear Lake bound shuttle at Moraine Park Visitor Center. It's not as bad as it sounds. Just bring your patience, willingness to watch nature wherever you are, and appreciation for saving gas and reducing polluting emissions in the park. If you want to avoid the shuttle altogether, use these strategies. Get onto BLR and past the initial construction point BEFORE 9 am on the weekdays

weekdays, whether in your own vehicle or on a shuttle bus, will experience at least two 20-minute delays coming in both directions through the construction zones. Weekdays only. Last year, the wait time was often less

than 20 minutes. Or, drive your own vehicle any time on the weekends, without construction delays. There's your other tip. The shuttle buses will also run on the weekends if you prefer not to run the risk of circling the parking lots looking for an open spot. **Tip:** Park & Ride within the park offers the largest parking availability; then

you hop on a shuttle to Bear Lake or get off at designated trailheads along the way. If this befuddles you anywhere along the way, please seek a ranger (in gray/green uniforms) or a volunteer (in brown uniforms). They have spent many hours making sense of this. They also have schedules and maps. Don't expect exact arrival and departure times. You never know when a John Deere has had to hold up for a mule deer.

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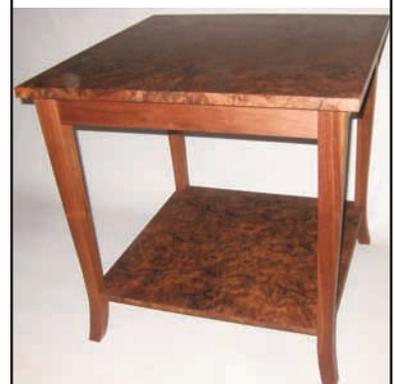
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Rocky Mountain National Park has over 1,000 active volunteers who help rangers and staff, assist visitors, work on special projects, and have a wealth of accumulated knowledge. While elk viewing during the fall rut one year, I received great information



safe distance. Remind your children they cannot feed the animals or birds. Teach them that their behavior should not change the animals' behavior, i.e. yelling, whistling to get an animal's attention, moving towards them, etc. The most prevalent focus for the animals is survival and we

do not want to interrupt them while they are grazing, caring for their young, etc. You cannot bring your dog on any trails inside the park; leashed dogs are allowed in campgrounds, picnic areas and along roadsides, but again, not on any trails. If you are planning on hiking, it's best to leave them at home rather than distressed in a hot car. Read the park newspaper for more information. Attend a free ranger-led program. View the *(Continued on next page.)*



from a volunteer who was a retired biology professor from Madison. The caliber of volunteers, including their experience, knowledge and commitment, is a huge perk to visitors. In 2012, 1,670 projects were completed by volunteers donating 102,200 hours of their time. In addition to individual volunteering, opportunities for volunteer groups are expanding and have garnered interest from the Scouts, church groups, large families, and business groups. Camping opportunities can be offered based on availability. Contact the volunteer office by phone at (970)586-1330; or stop in on weekdays from 9 am to 3 pm; or go on line at www.volunteer.gov <<http://www.volunteer.gov>> and do a keyword search for **Rocky Mountain**, then agency search for **national park service**. There are even opportunities for volunteers under the age of 18.

Final tips to enjoy your time in the park: pack plenty of snacks, drinks, and appropriate gear for quickly changing weather. Observe wildlife unobtrusively, quietly and from a



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Highlander Nature

20-minute park movie at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. Ask a volunteer for suggestions. And enjoy the improvements to Bear Lake Road! At the beginning of the road, you will notice the smooth pavement and wider pull-offs for wildlife viewing. Further along the road, appreciate the rock retaining walls. They are a thing of beauty. Some of us have trouble stacking dishes in the cupboard. How these huge boulders were arranged to blend in with the natural environment while curtailing erosion will cause you to pause and wonder. Sections of the road were rerouted to preserve



Aging bridges have been replaced with solid resilient structures covered with attractive natural stone. After the construction equipment leaves the park, the plant life will receive some restoration help. For months, the staff and volunteers in the greenhouse have been growing,



wetlands and the new route offers travelers majestic vistas of the peaks above Bear Lake.



transplanting, and nurturing native species to re-vegetate areas affected by the roadwork. Trays of squirrel tail and bottlebrush grass, yarrow, gold-

enrod, black-eyed susans, sagewort, and asters are waiting to cover the roadsides of Bear Lake Road. The landscape will have recovered completely by the park's 100th anniversary in 2015. Enos Mills, founder of Rocky Mountain National Park, stated 100 years ago, "I feel certain that if Nature were to speak she would say, 'Make National and State Parks of your best wild gardens, and with these I will develop greater men and women.' Develop National Parks, and there is no danger that the people will fail to use them." FYI: Rocky Mountain National Park entrance fees: single vehicle pass for 1 to 7 consecutive days - \$20; annual pass with unlimited entry - \$40.

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Eating On A Budget

By Melissa Wdowik - CSU

Does your budget make you want to turn to Ramen noodles and hot dogs for survival? Many people report their first budget cuts are to healthful foods, which seem like splurges in these unpredictable times. Fortunately, you can still buy nutritious, delicious foods without dipping into your savings account!

Here are some ideas: Precut fruit and vegetables cost more than whole. Cut your own carrots and onions, peel your own garlic, and slice your own apples. For best prices, buy produce that is in season and on sale. If you want produce that is not in season, try it frozen or canned - just be sure it has no added sodium or sugar.

If you're trying to make these changes but feel squeezed by limited time, make a big meal once and eat leftovers; it's easy to double or triple your recipe then refrigerate or freeze individual portions for later. Also a slow cooker can be your best friend; cook chili or stew all day and enjoy it at dinnertime.

Instead of boxed mixes, make your own pasta, rice or potato dishes. You can find easy recipes on the package or online. For example, toss cooked macaroni with a can of diced tomatoes, Italian seasoning and Parmesan cheese with a side of chicken for a quick family-friendly meal.

Instead of eating out for lunch, make your own turkey wrap for less than \$1 per serving. Spread mustard or hummus on a small whole-wheat tortilla; add two slices of turkey, lettuce and sliced tomatoes. Avocado also lends extra flavor.

Cut your spending on foods that should be optional because they provide little nutrient value, such as soda, chips and cookies. Have these treats once a week rather than daily, and spend grocery money instead on fruits and vegetables.

Identify your favorite treats, and allow them in moderation. Chocolate may never be banished from our household budget, but a bag of chocolate kisses lasts a long time. One or two can be just as satisfying as a dozen if you take the time to enjoy them.

Looking for healthy proteins? Skip the bologna! Instead choose tuna, eggs, beans, tofu and peanut butter. These cost a fraction of what you'd pay for meat, and most people can do with less meat in their diet.

Specialty coffee and tea drinks are expensive, and many offer extra calories that you don't need. Make your own brew, and then add milk, cinnamon and vanilla extract to make it special.

Eliminate bottled water and other bottled beverages. Use a refillable bottle to sip water all day, saving both money and calories. Why pay extra for packaging of ready-to-eat snacks? Buy a large bag of pretzels or nuts then portion them out into small reusable containers for lunches and snacks.

Most dry cereals and instant oatmeals are expensive. A better option: store-brand whole grain cereal or oats that you cook yourself. If you are willing to do a little planning and preparation, you can stock your kitchen with nutrient-packed foods that won't break the bank!

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Update - Buffalo Field Campaign

“Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character, and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man.”

~ Arthur Schopenhauer

Wild bison are under attack. Some hazing continues to the north in the Gardiner Basin, while increasingly heavy assaults have been carried out on the western edge of Yellowstone National Park, in the Hebgen Basin. May 15 is the arbitrary date by which the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) aims to evict all wild bison from Montana. It is also the height of wild buffalo calving season. Recently the DOL's helicopter returned to terrorize the ecosystem, important habitat for ecologically extinct wild buffalo, and also threatened grizzly bears. The intense activity that we witnessed is difficult to describe in a few words.

In Gardiner, small groups of buffalo have been hazed, including a mama buffalo and her new calf who were punished for continuing to visit their imprisoned relatives at the USDA-APHIS-run research facility, where the federal livestock overseers are undergoing a controversial chemical population control experiment with the pesticide GonaCon. We are grateful to our buffalo brothers Fred and Scott who have been documenting these activities, helping

to prevent the DOL from carrying out its threat to shoot the pair.

DOL livestock inspectors Bridger Cunningham and Mark Anderson hazed a small group of buffalo, including an injured calf, out of the Denny Creek area. They pushed this group for five miles, until the injured calf collapsed, unable to follow the herd any longer. The agents left the group for another day, and frustrated, bullied another group of buffalo, chasing them around for the fun of it before calling it quits.



Over the weekend, the buffalo got a much-needed break from hazing. While the DOL was away, we celebrated Mother's Day and wild buffalo calving season with our annual **Free Coffee, Free Cookies, Free the Buffalo!** event. Friends came from far and near, there was kite making for the kids (big and little), and for the adults, a respite from running after buffalo hazers. BFC buffalo warrior and board member Justine Sanchez organizes this celebration each year to help raise awareness and remind us that even during the darkest of times, there is light to be found: the gift of the next generation of wild buffalo!

After a long weekend, the DOL and other state and federal agencies returned to the Hebgen Basin to haze wild buffalo out of Montana. Two hazing operations happened simultaneously: one from the Denny Creek area, the other from the south side of Horse Butte. Both groups were pushed together and hazed into Yellowstone National Park. The DOL's helicopter, attended by bison abuser Rob Tierny, joined the riders in the chase. More than 150 buffalo, including at least 30 calves, were forced from their chosen ground and run for over ten miles into Yellowstone. We documented injured buffalo, exhausted calves, and at least one instance in which a calf was separated from its mother. The mama buffalo was finally able to escape the hazers to seek out her baby.

DOL and other agencies returned, with horses and

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helicopter, to haze wild buffalo from lands north of Horse Butte, along the Grayling Arm of the Madison River and US Highway 287, into Yellowstone National Park. During this haze, five riders broke off and headed to Denny Creek to haze yet again. Additionally, buffalo hazed the day before were again hazed from within Yellowstone, deeper into the park, and patrols even witnessed a buffalo giving birth while being forced to flee.

Wednesday brought more government insanity, as the agents attacked nearly 400 wild buffalo on Horse Butte, where no cattle will ever graze. Hazing began on buffalo-friendly land in Yellowstone Village and the Galanis property. Riders posted up on public land and in the Village, while the helicopter zeroed in on buffalo on the Galanis property, pushing them towards the waiting horsemen. The helicopter initiated solo attacks against buffalo along the south side of the Madison Arm, pushing them over to the Horse Butte haze, where they were forced to join the other operation before being hazed along the bluffs and then across US Highway 191, east into Yellowstone National Park. Already, some buffalo are returning to the places they were so brutally chased away from. Local reporters and an additional professional film crew bore witness to the day's chaos. Today the madness continues as government hazers push these exhausted and injured buffalo deeper into Yellowstone National Park.

Our hearts break for the buffalo, and the pain we feel is nothing compared to what the buffalo are being put through. After yesterday's brutal haze, the sky finally gave

us much-needed rain, as if weeping along with us. During each of these operations, BFC patrols witness terrible things. Buffalo limping with injuries, run into high tension and barbed-wire fences, moms and calves separated from each other, mama buffalo trying to escape hazers to search for their lost calves, calves collapsing from exhaustion, mothers bluff charging agents in defense of their babies, baby buffalo swept down rivers, miscarriages, and worse. Hazing can and has killed buffalo. The dishonorable actions by the DOL, Park Service, and all of the involved agencies are indefensible and certainly not worth a handful of cattle, nor a million. These crimes against America's last wild buffalo come at tremendous taxpayer expense and, more importantly, immeasurable cost to the buffalo in their immediate lives, their long-term viability, and their evolutionary potential. And still the buffalo survive. While they withstand this continued centuries-old war against their kind, more people are learning about it and taking action on their behalf. The livestock industry knows this, knows that their actions are unjustifiable and that the time of the holy cow will draw to a close, and the once and future wild buffalo will roam free! Wild is the Way!~
Stephany Buffalo Field Campaign, P.O. Box 957,
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www.buffalofieldcampaign.org Our website has action steps to help stop these hazing operations.



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CCCIA Annual Meeting - Slash - KGNU Festival

Letter to the Readers,

On behalf of the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association, Tom Mulvany, President, and the Board Of Directors have announced the upcoming date for the **CCCIA Annual Membership Meeting**. This year's meeting will be held at the Community Center, 31528 Hwy 72, on **Saturday, June 15, 2013**. There will be a Potluck dinner from 6-7:00 PM, with the meeting agenda to follow at 7:00 PM. Members are encouraged to attend this informative and important meeting.

The CCCIA has celebrated its 66th Anniversary this year! The association supports the 245 individual, family, and business members with numerous community events throughout the year. This annual meeting is a recap of the past year's activities. Committee reports and updates on upcoming events will be presented.

Election of new Association Directors will take place. The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of

Director nominees: Bruce Goodwin, Tina Ligon, Tom Mulvany, Kathryn Tallman, Suzy Schemel, John Stevens, and Ashley McNamera.

Please mark your calendar for a very special evening at our historic "HALL" with many of your fellow canyon residents. The Board of Directors extends its sincere appreciation to all of the members and volunteers for their participation and financial support in the various CCCIA sponsored events at the community center throughout the year.

The 6:00 PM Potluck dinner will have the main dish, coffee, tea, and soda, or BYOB, provided by the CCCIA. Please bring a side dish to share: vegetable, fruit, bread, salad, dessert, etc. Regards, Tom Mulvany President-CCCIA

Dear Coal Creek Canyon Community,

We have two major Forest Health events in June that we want to be sure you are aware of! June Forest Health &

FireWise Events: First of all, it is **SLASH COLLECTION WEEKEND on June 22 & 23rd at Fire Station #2** (near Highway 72 & Camp Eden Road). This is the Jefferson County and Coal Creek Canyon Fire Department hosted event where private landowners can get rid of slash from their properties.

At this event you will drop off your materials and they will be chipped after the collection weekend. Needless to say, slash and slash piles are fuel for wildfires! Getting this material out of our forest benefits the health of our trees and helps our firefighters. Every little bit counts and this is one of the most convenient ways to dispose of this materials. This is the only event currently schedule for this year, so be

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The hours of operation on both June 22 & 23 will be from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Please note that if the area fills up then we will need to close early. There are fees for the collection service that are based on volume. Small Pickup Trucks \$5 - \$10, Large Pickup Trucks, \$8 - 12, Trailers \$10 - 15, Dump Trucks \$20 - \$25.

If you need help hauling your slash to the collection site, the Saws & Slaws team will be offering our slash hauling as a service again this year. We use this as a fundraiser to help cover the costs of Saws events. In order to participate, we need you to have the material gathered on your property in an easily-accessible (by a truck and/or trailer) area. We would collect the material from your site and then haul it to the collection event. Of note, we pay the above collection fees, too, so expect our fees to be more than the above! We'll be sure to give you an estimate before the event to make sure you are comfortable with the expense of it. If you are interested in this service, please contact Jody Dickson, jody@dickson.org or 303.642.3568.

Then, on the following Tuesday please join us at an informative presentation about homeowner's insurance in forest-fire areas. Our goal in offering this program is to

help homeowners understand their insurance policies and be able to effectively communicate with the insurance agencies in order to ensure proper coverage for our homes. Case in point, 60% of the homes lost in the Fourmile Canyon Fire were underinsured! **Is Your Mountain Home Adequately Insured? Tuesday, June 25th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm Coal Creek Canyon Community Center (CCCIA Building)**

Learn how to properly insure your home and be prepared in case of a natural disaster:- Share lessons learned from Fourmile Fire Survivors - Provide tips from United Policyholders' Roadmap to Preparedness Program (www.uphelp.org)

- Understand if your insurance policy accurately reflects the real cost of rebuilding in the mountains west of Boulder
- Pick up practical ways your family can be prepared in the case of a natural disaster. To learn more now, check out this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMNtIzITsbg>
Great resource: <http://bouldermountainresources.org/resources/insurance/>

Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to join us and bring your neighbors! We hope to see you there! Sincerely,
Jody Dickson Secretary / Membership Coordinator The Environmental Group Jody@Dickson.org

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(Continued on next page.)

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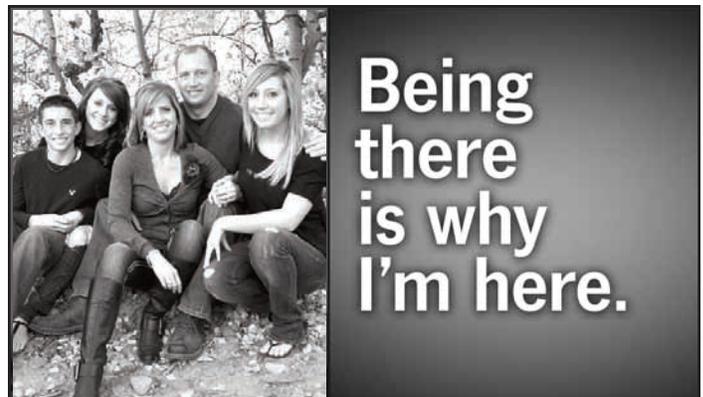
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Highlander Letters

Dear Readers,

25th Annual KGNU Mountain Jam Line-up Announced - Mollie O'Brien and the Hamkickers headline, Giddyup Kitty and Finnders & Youngberg also perform!

KGNU's Charles Sawtelle festival at the Gold Hill Inn Sunday, July 21st 11:30am-4:30 pm. Slow-cooked, Texas-style barbeque, side salads, homemade desserts and micro-brew beers accompany amazing acoustic music at the Gold Hill Inn in Gold Hill, CO for the 25th Annual KGNU "Charles Sawtelle Memorial" Mountain Jam.

A KGNU tradition, the "Charles" is named for Hot Rize guitarist Charles Sawtelle who helped start the event in 1989 and was a great supporter of KGNU Community Radio. After his passing in 1999, the station renamed the event in his memory. This is a family-friendly event for music fans that enjoy mountain air and great food in a spectacular setting.

The festivities get started at 11:30 am and run until 4:30 pm on Sunday, July 21st, and features music sets by Mollie O'Brien and the Hamkickers, Giddy Up Kitty and Finnders and Youngberg. Mollie O'Brien, amazing vocalist and longtime friend and volunteer of KGNU, has put together a special band for this event. The Hamkickers features Mollie's husband and longtime musical partner Rich Moore on guitar, Eric Thorin on bass, John Magnie of the

Subdudes on keys and Christian Teele from E-Town's house band on drums!

Giddy Up Kitty is a four-piece, high-energy, all-female bluegrass band from Longmont. The group performs original bluegrass music mixed with a selection of the best country, bluegrass and Americana around. According to their website, they call themselves Giddy Up Kitty "because the name captures the enthusiasm, excitement and energy they feel about their music."

Finnders and Youngberg is an Americana band that hails from Fort Collins. They play classic bluegrass, honky tonk, country swing and the occasional folk tune.

Finnders' bandmates Erin and Aaron Youngberg are a married duo who got their start in the band Hit and Run Bluegrass.

Tickets are \$15 for KGNU members, \$20 for non-members and will be available by calling KGNU at 303-449-4885 between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekdays starting Monday, June 11, or online at brownpapertickets.com. Children 12 and under are free. Food and beverages are available for purchase; they are not included in the price of admission. No pets or coolers, please.

This event benefits KGNU, a volunteer-powered, listener supported community radio station, heard locally at 88.5 FM in Boulder and Denver, 1390AM in Denver and 93.7FM in the Nederland and Ware area, and online at kgnu.org. For more information, contact Shawna Sprowls at KGNU, 303-449-4885.



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Recreation On Public Lands

By Sarah Jane Keller/High Country News

People who visit Oregon's state parks have a surprising desire to stay in yurts, even booking them months in advance. Eighteen state parks offer 96 "standard yurts" described by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department as "really cool" - equipped with futon sofas, bunk beds and electricity - plus another 88 that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The yurts rent for \$35 to \$41 per night, and many of them are pet friendly.

The Oregon agency's website describes a typical by-the-night yurt as "round, filled with comfy furniture, and pointy on top," adding that yurts are "a quickly growing national phenomenon that broke into the public camping scene right here in Oregon." The yurts are so popular that the U.S. Forest Service is also rushing to install them in national forests.

This desire to drive to the Oregon woods or coast to sleep on comfy beds in Mongolian-style tents is just one of the changing trends tracked by Chuck Frayer, recreation planner for Oregon and Washington's national forests. "We're starting to see a shift in use," the 40-year veteran says. "It's not like it was when I was a kid."

After decades of growth, the number of people engaged in recreation outdoors and on public land began to level off or decline in the 1980s and 1990s. People appear to have less time, money or desire to venture to the more remote and undeveloped public lands, so they increasingly seek out more convenient outdoor recreation. A 2008 study

funded by The Nature Conservancy with an ominous title - Evidence for a fundamental and pervasive shift away from nature-based recreation — noted a recent decline in various activities, including national park visits, hunting and fishing license sales and camping.

Similar studies, along with books like Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods*, create the impression that Americans are hanging up their fishing rods and backpacks because they'd rather be glued to LCD screens than outside emulating Teddy Roosevelt, John Muir and Edward Abbey. Everything from the Internet and organized sports to the sagging economy and urbanization has been cited to explain the shifts in how often people visit public land, and what they do once they're out there.

The National Park Service fastidiously documents such trends. Park visitation climbed dramatically after World War II through the 1980s, as large, popular parks like Lake Mead and Glen Canyon national recreation areas (near fast-growing Las Vegas) were added to the system. The decline in the creation of new large parks was one factor behind decreasing visitation, says Butch Street, the Park Service's Denver-based data analyst. But that's not the only reason. Even though park visits (Continued on next page.)

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Highlander Issues

have recently crept upward, approaching their mid-'90s peak (partly thanks to international tourists), total camping visits have not rebounded much, and RV stays have continued to decrease, a possible signal that people who do visit parks are spending less time in them.

Free parks in urban areas, like the Golden Gate National Recreation Area near San Francisco, help buoy the numbers. As Street says, "If you give people free open space, most people are going to use it." The U.S. Forest Service doesn't report such long-term trends because the agency has repeatedly changed its methods for counting visitors. But Robert Burns, an outdoor recreation researcher at West Virginia University who's working with the agency's new science-based monitoring system in Oregon and Washington, observes, "What we see in the West is that there are a lot of people traveling shorter distances and traveling for shorter periods of time. I see a decrease in national forest visitation to what we think of as traditional wilderness and deep-dark-forest kinds of settings."

Ken Cordell, a leading recreation researcher in the Forest Service's Southern Research Station in Georgia, also sees that the tastes of Americans are shifting, even as people continue to enjoy the outdoors. Based on telephone surveys, Cordell reports that from 2001 to 2009 "nature appreciation" activities - like watching or photographing birds and other wildlife - grew more rapidly than backcountry hiking, hunting and fishing.

We're still pursuing wildlife, but now we're more likely to use digital cameras and binoculars. And recreation fads like kayaking and orienteering have some of the highest growth rates. Cordell and his research team also found that "walking for pleasure" and "family gatherings outdoors" are today's most popular activities, enjoyed by about 85% and 74% of Americans, respectively.

Interpreting statistics is a complicated task, and the recent numbers indicate many different story lines. Late last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service reported that from 2006 to 2011, the number of hunters actually increased 9% - the first increase since 1975. However, well over half of hunters used private land exclusively - a worrisome trend for those concerned about public support for the concept of public lands.

Those rebounds don't surprise Cordell, who believes recreation generally follows the economy's ups and downs. Looking ahead, over the next 50 years, his studies predict an overall increase in outdoor recreation, with some activities growing more than others. Per capita participation in "visiting primitive areas," hunting and fishing, off-road driving and snowmobiling will all decline, he predicts, while downhill skiing, snowboarding and climbing will have faster growth rates. "What people



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choose to do is going to continue to change,” says Cordell. “I think that’s a major point, because a lot of our management folks have been pretty much focused on some of the traditional activities.”

As politicians and advertisers are aware, the country is undergoing a significant demographic upheaval, and no one knows if the next wave of recreationalists will embrace public land. For one, baby boomers are aging into a less active demographic. “They’re still very interested in hiking, but they want it to be easier distances,” says Frayer. “They like to go on interpretive hikes and (most) importantly they like to be back by 6 o’clock for martinis.” And most people recreating on public land are still white males, a shrinking percentage of the total population. That’s why some land managers are working to encourage more kinds of visitors, installing yurts for busy urbanites and making camping and picnic sites larger to attract Latino families on multi-generational outings.

Today, there’s a whole ecosystem of options for outdoor recreation, some more intensely connected with nature than others, offering ever more entry points into the outdoors. If a greater variety of people in coming generations do start venturing onto public land, they’re likely to have a good time. Last year, the Forest Service’s National Visitor Use Monitoring program found that only about 3% of national forest and grassland visitors reported dissatisfaction, while 94% were satisfied (77% were very satisfied).

The challenge in the future will be keeping those numbers high, as recreation tastes and the public itself evolve. “We need to be able to change with the times,” says Frayer. “If we don’t, people will be going other places, and we gauge our success by use. If there’s nobody coming, then why the heck are we doing this?”

Sarah Jane Keller is a High Country News intern whose home base is Bozeman, Mont. There are few things that can keep her away from public land, and writing about science and sometimes yurts are at the top of that list. This story originally appeared in an issue of High Country News (hcn.org).

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Top: Honey Bun & kitten.

Below: hot Bun in sun.

Right: Bun, Kelsey & Roo near Moab.



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Hemp Farming

By Cally Carswell

There were obvious ways to avoid being drafted into combat during World War II: Be a woman. Or a man younger than 18. Or a man of prime age who was somehow “physically, mentally or morally” unfit. And then there were less apparent avenues. For instance: grow hemp. The government would not only allow you to stay home, they’d even give you the seeds and provide cultivation tips, as they did in the propaganda film “Hemp for Victory.”

Surprisingly enough, this government-sponsored pro-hemp campaign launched just a few years after the 1937 Marihuana Tax Act was passed to discourage the use of mind-altering varieties of Cannabis sativa L. - but not hemp, a distinct type of Cannabis sativa L. containing only trace amounts of THC, the ingredient that attracts tokers to pot like fruit flies to an overripe banana. The U.S. Army imported Manila hemp fiber from the Philippines to make uniforms, rope and canvas, but the Japanese cut off the supply after seizing control of the country. And so the task of growing fiber for the armed forces fell to patriotic farmers right here at home, who responded to the call of duty: Between 1942 and 1945, some 400,000 acres were in hemp production, and the raw materials were processed by hemp mills built by War Hemp Industries, Inc.

This little history lesson speaks to the curious nature of contemporary drug laws, which have made domestic hemp cultivation, though not technically illegal, effectively so. If there was ever a time where momentum was moving in the right direction to change that, though, it seems to be now.

When Coloradans voted to legalize recreational marijuana use last fall, they also legalized hemp farming. This week, a southeast Colorado farmer planted the first crop. The Kentucky legislature just passed a bill to create a licensing system for hemp growers. (Hemp is being eyed there as a crop that could replace tobacco, which has become less profitable.) And Kentucky senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, along with Oregon senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, are co-sponsoring federal legislation to end hemp’s tenure as a controlled substance.

And there’s the rub. In 1970, the Controlled Substances Act replaced the Marihuana Tax Act, because lawmakers and regulators realized it didn’t make sense to tax something you really wanted to prohibit (i.e. THC-rich varieties of Cannabis). The new act adopted language from the old act defining “marihuana” as including all parts of the Cannabis sativa L. plant except the “mature stalks of such plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of such plant” - language that was meant to differentiate between the industrial uses of hemp, and the recreational uses of marijuana. However, the CSA made hemp a Schedule 1 controlled substance, just like pot, meaning growers have to be permitted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, whose practice it is to deny applications for such permits. Courts have repeatedly held that the law unambiguously gives DEA the authority to do so.

The arguments for legalizing hemp farming are many. It can be used in everything from food to cosmetics to clothing to paper to beer to building supplies - even as a

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substitute for petroleum products in the making of plastic. And perhaps most importantly, it is not pot. There is really only one argument for continuing to prohibit it: that if people were growing hemp everywhere, it'd be difficult for law enforcement to police pot production. The crops look too similar, the logic goes, and hemp fields might be used to hide pot plants. This argument is a little flimsy, though, because hemp fields would in fact be inopportune places to conceal marijuana plants due the possibility of cross-pollination, which could reduce the potency of the pot. And licensing and registration systems for hemp producers in other countries where marijuana is still illegal work quite well. The cops know where the hemp is, they can inspect it and make sure growers comply with rules and regulations, and criminals aren't interested in setting up shop where the authorities expect them to be.

But unless the CSA is amended swiftly, Colorado's first hemp farm will simply have to go about their business with fingers crossed. Colorado's hemp law contradicts federal law just as its recreational pot law does. The question for both industries is whether the feds will turn the other cheek. "My goal has been to see Colorado hemp farmers put seeds in the ground without interference from the

federal government," Lynda Parker, a hemp advocate, recently told Westword. "We're not quite there. Once the harvest happens and we see no DEA agents, then my goal will have been accomplished."

Cally Carswell is the assistant editor at High Country News.

*Editor's Note:
(Photos here show major differences in the two main types of the plant. On left is the medical and at right is the hemp. Photos courtesy of Purdue University.)*





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Encore Of Winter

By Charles Finn

On April 21, a surprise snowstorm blew into western Montana. Small by any standards, it was one of those peaceful, quiet snows, without any wind, as if Mother Nature was feeling nostalgic and had ordered it up out of a Robert Frost poem. I say "surprise" because I was working inside that day; at 3:00 p.m., I looked out the window on a steady downpour of sunshine, but by the time I quit for the evening and stepped out the door at 6:00, there was three inches of snow on the ground, and more coming down.

I stood in the yard and turned to the cardinal directions. I could imagine the sighs of the robins and the cursing of the gardeners. I knew, too, there were people all across the region commenting on the "crazy" weather, which wasn't crazy at all, but entirely normal. I've lived in or near the mountains my entire life and if there's one thing I've learned, it's that the weather is fickle, especially in the mountains, and especially in spring. Let me be clear: I'm not talking about global climate change, which is a real worry, but the simple fact that that morning I'd walked down the trail from my cabin avoiding the buttercups, and that evening shuffled home through a gathering whiteness, like a figure out of Dr. Zhivago.

When I got to my cabin, I lit a fire, warmed some soup and cracked a beer. This was going to be a good night. Then, at about 10:00, once it was as dark as it was going to be, I pulled on my boots, coat, and a hat, and headed out the door. Hot damn, I thought, — a fine oxymoron given the circumstances — I'd been granted one more shot at winter. By the time anyone reads this, it may be high summer — gin and tonic weather. Winter will be far removed and sun block within easy reach. No stranger to hedonism, I enjoy the beach as much as anyone. I like flip-flops and shorts and the thoughtlessness summer brings, its "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay" laziness. But winter - as maligned as it is -has its appeal. Annick Smith gets it right in her essay, "The Rites of Snow," when she says, "When you can see your breath, you know you are alive." Here's to you, Annick.

With a wood fire set to idle, I stepped outside and let the hushed world bang into my ears. The forest at night is intimate. It's possible to hear secrets you'll hear at no other time. Partly because of a string of mild winters and partly through some faulty geography of my own, it had been a long time since I'd heard this noise - and I realized just then how much I missed it - missed the sharp intake of cold air and frozen nose hairs, the chalkboard squeak of dry snow, and the immense quietude a snowfall brings. Winter, of course, isn't easy, but it sure as hell is pretty.

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Snow hung like garlands on all the trees. Earlier in the week, a friend and I saw a small herd of elk just up the hill, and I headed in that direction. At my feet were the tracks of the nearly tame and ubiquitous deer, inscribing the snow with their heart-shaped indentations. I wasn't worried about the ungulates, but I wondered about the sandhill cranes that had arrived the week before, and the flute-voiced meadowlarks; would they open their throats as sweetly in the cold? That afternoon walking home, I'd startled the pair of mountain bluebirds. Already two shades past brilliant, they were now set against a backdrop of snow and it was like they'd somehow turned their color up another notch. I thought of them as I shivered under my coat, hoping they hadn't made a fatal mistake coming north this early.

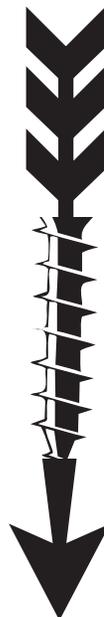
Despite my good intentions, I didn't get very far. As usual, my walk turned into a stand. All I did was walk down to the field below my cabin and stand there like a statue, taking it all in. There was a small moon above the clouds sending down a diffused light, and the ground, entirely white, seemed to glow. With the all-inclusive silence, it felt like I stood at the center of the world, and seen from the proper distance, it might have been true. I was a tiny member of the tiny human race: slipshod and timeworn, fleeting as a snowflake. It was good to be reminded of this, good to have some cold air up my nose. Without undue theatrics, I gave a silent "thank you" for this encore edition of winter. I could have done worse in any number of ways. For about 20 minutes, I just stood in that field, breathing in the cold air, breathing it out.

*Charles Finn is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News (hcn.org).
He is the editor of the High Desert Journal.*



*Above: Nelson too, enjoys a springtime snow,
photo by Lisa Crawford.*

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Monsanto Protection Act - Brewers For Clean Water

Dear EarthTalk: What is the “Monsanto Protection Act” and why are environmentalists so upset about it?
— Rita Redstone, Milwaukee, WI

The so-called Monsanto Protection Act is actually a provision (officially known as Section 735) within a recently passed Congressional spending bill, H.R. 933, which exempts biotech companies from litigation in regard to the making, selling and distribution of genetically engineered (GE) seeds and plants.

President Obama signed the bill and its controversial rider into law in March 2013 much to the dismay of environmentalists. It means that Monsanto and other companies that supply the majority of the nation’s crop seeds can continue to produce GE products regardless of any potential court orders stating otherwise. Opponents of GE foods believe that giving

such companies a free reign over the production of such potentially dangerous organisms regardless of judicial challenge is a bad idea-especially given how little we still know about the biological and ecological implications of widespread use of GE crops.

Today more than 90 percent of the corn, soybeans, cotton, sugar beets and canola planted in the U.S. is derived from seeds genetically engineered by Monsanto and other companies to resist pests and thus increase yields. Aviva Shen of the ThinkProgress blog reports that, instead of reducing farmers’ use of toxic pesticides and herbicides, GE seeds are having the opposite effect in what has become a race to keep faster and faster developing *superweeds* and *superbugs* at bay. With Congress and the White House refusing to regulate GE crops, the court system has remained a last line of defense for those fighting the widespread adoption of genetic engineering-until now, that is, thanks to H.R. 933.

Monsanto isn’t the only seed company heavy into genetic engineering, but it is the biggest and most well-known and spends millions of dollars each year on lobbyists to keep it that way. Critics point out that the company has spent decades stacking government agencies with its executives and directors. “Monsanto’s board members have worked for the EPA, advised the U.S. Department of Agriculture and served on President Obama’s Advisory Committee for

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Trade Policy and Negotiations,” reports the group Food & Water Watch. “The prevalence of Monsanto’s



directors in these highly influential positions begs a closer look at how they’re able to push the pro-GE agenda within the government and influence public opinion.”

“The judicial review process is an essential element of U.S law and serves as a vital check on any Federal Agency decision that may negatively impact human health, the environment or livelihoods,” reports Food

Highlander Environmental

Democracy Now! “Yet this provision seeks an end-run around such judicial review by preemptively deciding that industry can set its own conditions to continue to sell biotech seeds, even if a court may find them to have been wrongfully approved.”

Another concern of safe food advocates now is getting the government to require food makers to list GE ingredients clearly on product labels so consumers can make informed choices accordingly. “Not only is [GE] labeling a reasonable and common sense solution to the continued controversy that corporations like Monsanto, DuPont and Dow Chemical have created by subverting our basic democratic rights,” adds Food Democracy Now!, “but it is a basic right that citizens in 62 other countries around the world already enjoy, including Europe, Russia, China, India, South Africa and Saudi Arabia.”

ThinkProgress, www.thinkprogress.org; Food & Water Watch, www.foodandwaterwatch.org; Food Democracy Now!, www.fooddemocracynow.org.

(Continued on next page.)

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Dear EarthTalk: I heard that a number of beer brewing companies have banded together to support the Clean Water Act. Can you enlighten? — Mitch Jenkins, Cincinnati, OH

In April 2013 the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) brought together two dozen nationally respected craft beer brewers to launch the Brewers for Clean Water Campaign, which aims to leverage the economic growth of the craft brewing sector into a powerful voice for bolstering clean water protection in the U.S.

“Whether brewers are creating ales, pilsners, porters, wits or stouts, one ingredient must go into every batch: clean water,” says Karen Hobbs, a senior policy analyst at NRDC. “Craft brewers need clean water to make great beer.”

While hops, malt and the brewing process itself are also clearly important, water just may be the secret ingredient that gives a specific beer its distinctive flavor. “Beer is about 90% water, making local water supply quality and its characteristics, such as pH and mineral content, critical to beer brewing and the flavor of many classic brews,” reports NRDC. “For example, the unusually soft water of Pilsen, from the Czech Republic, helped create what is considered



the original gold standard of pilsner beers. The clarity and hoppiness of England’s finest India Pale Ales, brewed since the 1700s in Burton-on-Trent, result from relatively high levels of calcium in local water.” Brewers can replicate the flavors of beers like these and others by sourcing

freshwater with similar features or by starting with neutral water and adding minerals and salts accordingly to bring out certain desired characteristics.

Of course, clean water is essential to more than great-tasting beer. “It’s critical for public health and the health of a wide range of industries,” adds NRDC. “Now our streams, wetlands and water supply need our help. Without strong legal protections, they are under threat from pollution like sewage, agricultural waste, and oil spills.”

The popularity of craft brewers’ “microbrews” in recent years is another reason why NRDC has hitched its clean water wagon to the industry. “Craft brewers are closely tied to their communities with a very real understanding of the impacts bad policy can have on regional water sources,” reports the group. “While the participants in the campaign include brewing operations large and small, all have demonstrated a commitment to sustainability in their operations and beer development.”

By taking part in the campaign, New Belgium, Sierra Nevada, Allagash, Short’s, Temperance, Arbor, DryHop, Finch’s, Revolution, Flossmoor, Cranker’s, Wild Onion, Right Brain, Half Acre, Goose Island and other craft brewers are helping spread the word in a way that hits home with consumers. For its part, NRDC is urging beer lovers (and other concerned environmentalists) to use the form on its website to e-mail the White House encouraging President Obama to finalize guidelines recently created by the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that call for greater protections for streams and wetlands in important headwaters regions from coast to coast.

*NRDC Brewers for Clean Water,
www.nrdc.org/water/brewers-for-clean-water.
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Protected Open Space Raises Prices Of Homes

Homes in neighborhoods that incorporate protected open space command prices 20 to 29% higher than those without open space, according to a new study by a Colorado State University multidisciplinary research team that included Wildlife Conservation Society scientist, Sarah Reed. Conservation development is an approach to the design, construction and stewardship of a development that protects natural resources while also providing social and economic benefits to people. The properties in this study specifically incorporated protected open space into neighborhood design. The study, which was funded by the National Association of Realtors and CSU's School of Global Environmental Sustainability, evaluated home sales in more than 200 developments across Colorado. Researchers chose Chaffee, Douglas, Larimer, Mesa and Routt counties as a representative sample of Colorado communities and because they had large numbers of conservation developments. Results showed increased sales prices were paid for homes in conservation development projects when compared to conventional rural residential projects across the five counties.

"Our study shows that people are willing to pay more to live in subdivisions that incorporate conservation

elements," said Reed, a study co-author, faculty affiliate in the Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Department at CSU and associate conservation scientist with the Wildlife Conservation Society. "This may provide an extra incentive for smart developers, real estate professionals and lending institutions to market this type of development." Other results from the study indicated that increased sales prices for homes in conservation development projects varied among counties (9 to 51%) and that a greater number of homes and lots sold per conservation development project vs. conventional development projects between 1998 and 2011.

The study appears in the peer-reviewed Journal of Sustainable Real Estate. The lead author of the study paper is Christopher Hannum, a CSU economics doctoral student.

The group is looking at data on existing conservation development practices, establishing a rigorous scientific basis for evaluating conservation development designs and policies, and engaging with land use planning, development and conservation practitioners. They want their work to inform future project design in the U.S. and the world. For information, go to <http://cd.colostate.edu>.

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Don't Forget The Whiskey...

By Melissa E. Johnson

*I had an inheritance from my [grand]father,
It was the moon and the sun.
And though I roam all over the world,
the spending of it is never done.
~Ernest Hemmingway, For Whom the Bell Tolls*

My friend Tim took one look at her hanging on my wall and said in his most dramatic, Louisiana drawl, “Well she’s nothing but a whiskey whore...” summing up the scantily clad woman reclined against the sofa with a half-empty bottle of booze on the floor in front of her; and so she became known around our house. But to my grandfather, she was an erotic gem; painted on a canvas torn from an old World War II military jeep and hidden beneath a bland landscape painted in gray, given to my grandfather as collateral for a \$2 loan he made to the artist after the war.

For years the Whiskey Whore had been concealed beneath that drab landscape, stashed in the basement of my grandfather’s house. Then one day as we discussed art, I confided that many pieces in my personal collection were

erotically inspired from cultures around the world. He couldn’t resist the temptation to share his secret. “There’s an erotic painting under there...” he whispered, pointing to the dull gray landscape. I was certain that I had misunderstood.

But I hadn’t. Eager to share his treasure, my grandfather had placed the framed painting face down on the table and removed the back with a screwdriver, gently pulling the layers of canvas apart to reveal the vibrant Whiskey Whore underneath what appeared to be lifeless. That’s when he told me the story of how he had won her by default for an unpaid debt.

He gave me the painting that day; he made me carry it out the back door, up the hill and round the house to my car so that my grandmother wouldn’t see. But she had been looking out the kitchen window as I schlepped through the yard with the painting tucked under my arm and she knew straight away what I was hiding. A bit of drama followed: “Why Karl Mason! What kind of grandfather gives a painting like that to his granddaughter?”

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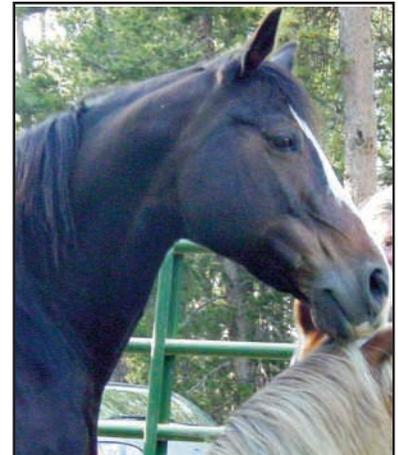
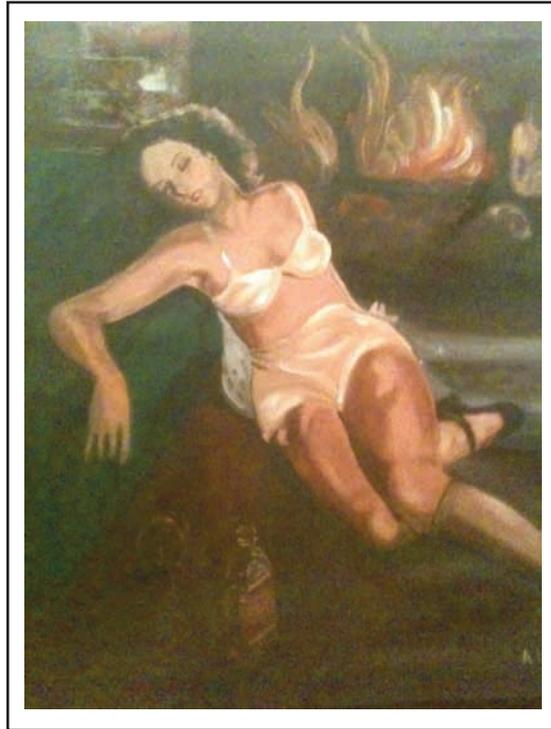
I've never heard of such!" Grandpa calmed her down as only he could while I quietly placed the painting in my car. We never discussed it again.

Yet this controversial work of art has become so much more to me than paint on canvas. It reminds me of the many layers of life waiting to be revealed-the vibrant colors of the soul-and the gentle wisdom my grandfather shared with me so freely in the time we spent together. And though I've traveled and worked, explored and discovered my own great fortunes, this simple painting on tattered canvas hangs above our fireplace as a gentle reminder of the depth and breadth that is life.

It has also become a metaphor for remembering what matters most-is it the painting or the story behind the painting?

Don't forget the Whiskey Whore!

Melissa is a writer, photographer, artist and lawyer.



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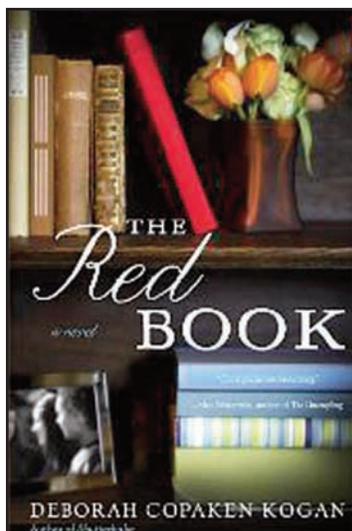
A Façade That Everything Is Perfect

By Tracy Reseigh

The Red Book, written by Deborah Copaken Kogan, is a story about four friends and their 20th college reunion. Every five years, the Harvard Alumni Association produces a crimson hardback book with essay updates on the lives of all of their graduates. That book is called *The Red Book*. Kogan's novel is about these four girlfriends and the three days they spend twenty years after their graduation from Harvard.

The Red Book opens up with Addison, Clover, Mia, and Jane's *Red Book* entries. The entries paint perfect, happy, successful respective worlds for the old friends. By the time they meet at the house where they will all stay with their families, it is clear that none of the ladies are quite as content as their *Red Book* essay portrays.

As the events of the reunion begin to take place, the characters' real lives begin to unfold. Addison, a once aspiring painter has spent her last twenty years supporting her husband and raising her kids. Clover, a once successful stockbroker is now looking for a job. Mia wanted to be an actress, but instead married a prominent film director. Jane is dealing with the recent loss of her mother and partner infidelities. All of these stories begin to unfold when the friends realize it is easier to come clean about the messes in their lives rather than maintain the façade that everything is



perfect.

Kogan's book starts out with an elitist tone. Harvard doesn't just send an e-mail or a brochure to its alumni, they send *The Red Book*, beautiful leather bound phone book size book with all the wonderful things that all their wonderful graduates have done with their lives. This is important to the story because in the end, life does not care if you went to Harvard, or junior college, or no college at all. The reader can relate to the fact that even Harvard graduates have to deal with rebellious kids, dreams put on hold, cheating spouses, and loss.

Initially, I thought *The Red Book* was going to be a summer read, or a *chick book*.

However, as one reviewer puts it, this book is "The Big Chill for the Facebook generation." The story itself takes place over the three-day reunion. However, Kogan is able to describe twenty years' worth of the ladies' friendships, their families, and all the love, loss and heartache that can happen during that length of time. This is a book for anybody who has maintained relationships with college friends, and celebrated their joys, or shed a tear for their sorrows. It's about the complicated relationships that everybody juggles between family and friends, all the while trying to hold on to their own dreams and ideals. *The Red Book* is available in paperback at Barnes & Noble for \$14.73.

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Forest Service Battles Placer Mining

By Marshall Swearingen/High Country News (hcn.org)

On a clear day last October in northern Idaho, Forest Service geologist Clint Hughes panned for gold on the North Fork Clearwater River. The area attracted gold prospectors in the 1860s, but these days, the river, which flows through a wild stretch of country near the Montana border, is popular with campers and anglers. Hughes scooped up a bit of placer - mineral-bearing gravel and sand - from behind a boulder. With a swish of the pan, he washed away the mud and lighter sand, leaving only a few garnets.

The absence of gold flakes didn't surprise him, though. The day's panning confirmed that little gold is to be found on more than a dozen placer mining claims staked along a 30-mile stretch of the North Fork. These claims grant holders exclusive rights to any valuable minerals. But the Forest Service is now arguing that mining the claims isn't worth the impacts to the river. The Forest Service's ability to deny mining proposals is severely limited by the 1872 General Mining Law, a frontier remnant that prioritizes mining above all other land uses.

But another, little-known law gives it a straightforward way to prevent mining in at least a few locations. The

Mining Claims Rights Restoration Act of 1955 lets the federal government challenge placer mining in locations that it once reserved as potential hydropower sites. And on the North Fork, the law is giving the Forest Service the upper hand. "We wouldn't be doing any of this (contesting placer mining) if it were under the regular old 1872 mining law," says Hughes.

The Department of Interior began reserving certain river-valley public lands for hydropower development in 1909, as dam building in the West was revving up. In these "power site withdrawals," mining was restricted. But in 1955, as dam-site exploration slowed, the Mining Claims Rights Restoration Act eased the restrictions, with a caveat: The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management could reject placer mining if it would "substantially interfere with other uses" like recreation. Although the law applies to more than 7 million acres of public land - roughly three times the size of Yellowstone - it hasn't come up often because placer mining techniques like panning are generally low-impact, and because relatively few claims fall in these sites.

In California, with its abundant rivers once rich in gold, roughly 4% of mining claims are subject to the 1955 law; in dry Nevada, where big *(Continued on next page.)*



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hardrock mining dominates, the law is practically unknown. But in recent years, placer mining has become more popular, spurred by gold prices as high as \$1,900 per ounce, and more controversial. To squeeze gold from streams, miners have turned to suction dredging, which uses motors to suck up riverbed sediments and wash out the gold, discharging the muddy water back into the stream.

Miners say the practice does little harm, but studies suggest that it damages fish-spawning habitat. California banned suction dredging in 2009; Idaho restricts it on certain rivers. The Forest Service and BLM can regulate placer mining by applying environmental laws piecemeal to protect habitat, water and cultural artifacts. But both agencies generally view the 1872 law as constraining their ability to restrict mining on public lands.

In the handful of cases involving potential hydropower sites, however, the agencies have argued under the 1955 law that timber harvest, fish habitat, even aesthetic value, outweigh mining — and in most cases, they've won. In 2002, the Forest Service was able to prohibit all placer mining on a section of the Yellowstone River because the activity would interfere with rafting. On the North Fork Clearwater, the scuffle started last June, when a few miners subdivided larger 160-acre claims and sold the parcels on eBay and other auction websites.

River recreationists complained to the Forest Service when miners nailed signs to trees to stake out the subdivided claims, most of which were 10 or 20 acres. The agency called for a hearing, which was held in January before the Department of Interior Office of Hearings and Appeals, and argued that the miners would push out campers and anglers and harm critical habitat for bull trout, a threatened species. Larger-scale placer mining could destroy Native American artifacts in the riverbanks, the agency stated, and would hamper efforts to designate the North Fork as a Wild and Scenic River.

Miners didn't defend 20 of the 36 claims; the ongoing legal sparring over the remaining 16 claims will end in the judge's decision sometime this summer. Some would-be miners, like James Young, see the Forest Service's move as a federal land grab. He bought a claim on eBay with hopes of retiring to Idaho from Biloxi, Miss., and supplementing his income with suction dredging. At the OHA hearing in Idaho, he argued that Hughes underestimated the value of the gold and complained that the miners would receive no compensation if the Forest Service wins. Others have applauded the agency for taking a stand. Gary Macfarlane, ecosystem defense director with Friends of the Clearwater, says, "This is an example where I think the Forest Service is really looking out for the public interest."

This story originally appeared in an issue of High Country News.

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Parade Line-up	9:30 am
Parade Steps Off	10:00 am
Lunch Begins	11:00 am
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Jim Plane-State Farm pg 13 720.890.5916

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 Colorado Water Wizard pg 6 303.447.0789
 Doctor Water Well - pg 22 303.438.6669

JUNE
2013

POWER UPDATE



Save Trees with Paperless Billing

United Power members who no longer wish to receive a printed bill in the mail can sign up for Paperless Billing.

To sign up for Paperless Billing, call our Customer Service department at 303-637-1300 or click on e-bill at the top of our homepage.

Once you are enrolled in Paperless Billing, a paper bill will no longer be mailed to you. You will receive an e-mail notification when your statement is available.

www.unitedpower.com



Calling Before You Dig is Easy—Dial 811 to Know What's Below

There is a national phone number that makes every digging project safer. Simply dial 811 a few days before you dig to have underground utilities located for free.

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job.

Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call — even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

For more information about the new Call Before You Dig number, visit www.call811.com.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Is Your Phone Number Accurate?

Occasionally, United Power will try to contact members via the phone to notify them of planned outages or emergencies.

If the phone number on file with United Power is not up-to-date, United Power is not able to alert you to these events. Please verify that the phone number on your account is correct by calling our Member Services department at 303-637-1300 or by logging into your e-bill account at www.unitedpower.com. You may be missing important information!

United Power does not share member information.

Customer Service: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com

6/21 SAVE OUR COFFEE SHOP!! CCC Hall



929 15th Street
Charming Craftsman Bungalow
3 BD/ Office/ 2 BA. **\$695,000**



30945 Burland Road
Fantastic Horse Property 2.3 Ac!
3 BD/ 2 BA 800SF Barn **\$249,900**



1965 Centennial Drive
Immaculate/Spacious Condo
3 BD/ 2 BA **\$219,000**



584 Crescent Lake Road
GORGEOUS Gourmet Kitchen
4 BD/ 3 BA **\$484,900**



11935 Vonnie Claire
Raised Ranch on 2.5 Acres
3 BD/ 3 BA 1-Car **\$334,000**



8300 Spirit Horse
11.4 Acres - Beautiful Land
Well Drilled **\$150,000**



11863 Camp Eden Road
Privacy & 5 Ac. Surround Custom Res.
4 BD/ 3 BA 3-Car **\$434,900**



1245 Scorpions
Great 2-Story Private & Quiet Location
4 BD/ 4 BA **\$329,000**



25 Crescent Lake Road
Perfect Horse Property!
3 BD/ 2 BA. **\$349,000**



395 Tunnel 19 Road
Amazing VIEWS! Chalet-Style Home
on 4 Ac. 4 BD/ 3 BA 4-Car **\$449,900**



13840 W. 67th Court
Perfect Location - Arvada
3 BD/ 3 BA **\$349,900**



10982 Twin Spruce
Sweet Cedar Ranch on 2 Ac.
3 BD/ 3 BA Guest Qtrs. **\$329,000**



175 Rudi Lane
Passive Solar + Luxury
3 BD/ 3 BA 4-Car. **\$449,500**



28 Millard
Charming Get-Away!
1 BD/ 1 BA + Shed/Studio



101 Kirkwood Way
Thorn Lake Privileges!
3 BD/ 3 BA **\$379,900**

VACANT LAND

- 4 Leon Lane - \$46,900
- 595 Black Gulch Rd. - \$184,900
- 33966 Nadm Drive - \$75,000
- 11547 Shimley Road - \$39,000
- 11883 Lillis Lane - \$164,000



6372 Cole Lane
Ranch Townhome - Wyndham Park
2 BD/ 2 BA 4-Car. **\$269,000**



11926 Coal Creek Heights
Executive Retreat on 2.8 Ac!
3 B/ 2 BA 2-Car **\$365,000**



1628 Karlann Drive
Amazing Green Built Solar Home
3 BD/ 3 BA 2-Car **\$319,900**



11777 Brook Road
Wonderful Open Floor Plan!
4 BD/ 4 BA + Loft/Office. **\$389,000**

Kathy Keating,
CRS, ABR, GRI
EcoBroker,
Broker Associate



MOCK
REALTY



For additional information and photos:

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