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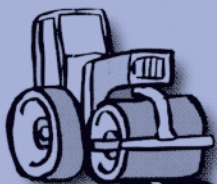


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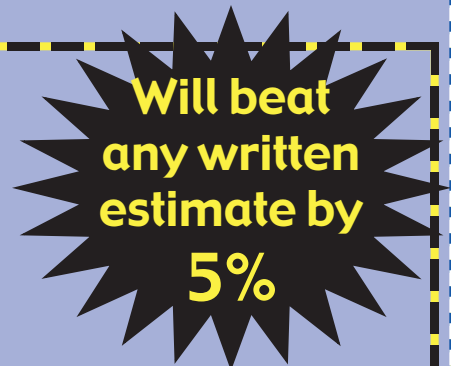
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**About the Cover:**  
**Female Olive-sided**  
**Flycatcher sits her nest,**  
**photo by Anita Wilks.**



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## Acrobatic Bird Catches Insects

The cover bird is a female olive sided flycatcher. Males and females look alike, nests are made by the females. They have one brood per year and the female incubates for twelve to fourteen days. Fledging at 21-23 days and both male and female feed the young. They migrate all the way to South America and are most often seen in western Colorado. This female nested in Coal Creek Canyon at about 8,000 feet. They eat insects and once it has spotted one it flies off its perch to snatch it up, then returns to the perch to eat.

They seem to prefer bees, flies, grasshoppers and small dragonflies. They are a solitary bird of the mountainous conifer forests often seen perched atop dead trees or snags, singing or looking for flying insects. Only about seven inches in height with a characteristic white patch on sides of the rump.

There are at least thirty-six species of flycatchers in North America and this does not include the wood-pewees or phoebes. The largest concentration of these different types of birds is in the southern regions of the continent and into Mexico, where the climate and the habitat is more to their liking. In most cases, flycatchers have duller colors but there are some exceptions, such as the bright red Vermilion Flycatcher or the spectacular looking Fork-tailed Flycatcher and the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Insects are the main diet of these birds and they are



known for their aerial acrobatic displays as they catch flying insects in the air. At times they stop in mid-flight and hover and pick their prey from the leaves and branches. This type of manoeuvre is known as hawking. The flycatchers prefer high perches where they have the advantage of seeing a larger area as they seek their food. The flycatchers are some of the most difficult birds to identify because some species are so similar in size, color and markings. Sometimes only the bird's call can separate them from each other.

By A. M. Wilks

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# A True Scandal: Update On Gross Expansion

By Jeff Thompson

The most interesting thing about Denver Water's court complaint is how Boulder County and TEG, if it intervenes, will handle it. They can ask the court to simply dismiss the complaint without hearing Denver Water's arguments regarding the zoned land exemption. If they do, there are two fundamental reasons the court should dismiss the complaint without hearing Denver Water's arguments.

First, the source of Denver Water's authority to do anything is the Charter of the City and County of Denver. As I explained in my article *Enough Already With Moffat!* in last month's Highlander, the sole purpose of the Moffat Project is to provide water to customers outside its Consolidated Service Area, including Arvada, Broomfield, and Westminster. The Charter of the City and County of Denver allows Denver Water to provide water to customers outside its Consolidated Service Area, but only to the extent it has a surplus over and above the water it needs to serve customers inside its Consolidated Service Area.

The Charter provides that Denver Water must curtail water deliveries to customers outside its Consolidated Service area to the extent it does not have a surplus over and above what customers inside the Consolidated Service Area need. The Charter prohibits Denver Water from pursuing new water projects to serve customers outside its Consolidated Service Area. What Denver Water is doing is tapping into the bank accounts of customers inside its Consolidated Service Area to build a water project to serve customers outside its Consolidated Service Area. In other words, it's robbing the customers it's supposed to be serving to serve the customers it's not supposed to be serving.

Denver water does not have authority to file lawsuits in pursuit of the Moffat Project. This new lawsuit is a scandal, not a legitimate lawsuit. Most of the poorest households in this state are in Denver Water's Consolidated Service Area, and this lawsuit is part of a scam to tap into their bank accounts to build up a water supply to serve some of the richest households in this state in places like Arvada,

Broomfield and Westminster.

I find it disturbing that BOCO is participating in this scandal by allowing Denver Water to even file an application for a 1041 permit. I'm also concerned that TEG doesn't seem to realize what's going on. Their written comments filed in the March hearing indicate that they think the purpose of the project is to serve Denver Water's customers inside its Consolidated Service Area. A careful reading of the EIS for this project clearly shows the opposite.

Second, even if Denver Water had authority to pursue the project, Boulder County's decision to require Denver Water to apply for a 1041 permit is far from a final decision as to whether Denver Water will be allowed to build the project. Theoretically at least, the county may ultimately grant the permit or grant the permit on conditions that are acceptable to Denver Water. If it does, there will be no controversy between Denver Water and Boulder County.

Colorado's courts do not have jurisdiction to review local government decisions that are not a final disposition of the matter. In this case, the matter is whether Denver Water will be allowed to build the project, not whether Denver Water must apply for a permit. The court will not have jurisdiction to hear Denver Water's arguments concerning the zoned land exemption unless and until Boulder County denies the permit or grants the permit on conditions that are not acceptable to Denver Water.

If our courts had jurisdiction to hear cases like this, they would waste a lot of time hearing cases in which, ultimately, there is no real controversy between the parties. Many residents of Boulder County, myself included, recently learned this lesson the hard way. At the urging of probably thousands of county residents, including me, Boulder County filed a lawsuit in the Boulder County District Court against the Canadian oil drilling giant Crestone Peak Resources.

The case arose out of Crestone's proposed plan to drill 140 wells across a ten square mile portion of Boulder County. Much of that land is open space land owned by



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Boulder County. As I understand Crestone's plans, all 140 wells would be drilled and produced from the surface of Boulder County's open space lands. It was, and still is, a nightmare.

Crestone's right to drill those wells rests largely on old oil and gas leases Crestone bought up over the years. Boulder County asked the court to resolve twenty-seven contractual disputes or claims it has against Crestone over Crestone's rights under those leases. The ultimate purpose of the lawsuit was to put a stop to Crestone's drilling plans in Boulder County. We were all joyful when the county filed that lawsuit.



Commission to follow through with its drilling plans. The court reasoned that there would be no actual controversy or dispute between Boulder County and Crestone until and unless the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission grants

the permits. If it does, the county can then file its lawsuit and the court will hear Boulder County's arguments and decide the case.

If the court follows its own reasoning in the Crestone case, it will dismiss Denver Water's lawsuit without hearing Denver Water's arguments. In my opinion, if it follows its

own reasoning in the Crestone case, it should not hear Denver Water's arguments regarding the zoned land exemption until the lawsuit and potential lawsuits concerning the federal permits Denver Water needs for the Moffat Project have been decided.

*(Photo of Gross Dam and Reservoir in winter.)*



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# Online Privacy Is For The Birds

By April Glaser April 11 - High Country News

As wildlife sharing apps proliferate, unintended consequences threaten endangered species.

This article was originally published by Slate and is reproduced here as part of the Climate Desk collaboration.

Birders like to make lists. The other day, just walking by the lake in Oakland, California, I saw an Anna's hummingbird, a couple different types of finches, grebes, sparrows, a kingfisher, a great blue heron, and an egret. Soon, I plan to upload that list to **eBird**, the online bird-watching community based out of Cornell University, which is the largest citizen science open data archive in the world. None of these species are particularly threatened, so I feel good about sharing my list. But had I been in a region where birds are struggling for their lives and I spotted a threatened species, like the violet-necked lory of Indonesia, the Dulit frogmouth of Borneo, or the golden-winged laughing thrush of Vietnam, I would think twice before posting those findings to an app with nearly half a million other eBirders who have clocked some 590 million bird observations since the project started in 2002.

The whole point of **eBird** is to share birding data, so that other birders can enjoy the same delights. But a couple years ago, in October 2017, the project underwent one of the largest overhauls to its code to date: The database started hiding birds entered into its system that were endangered and threatened. "Basically, the whole database had been built to share bird data and show it publicly on maps," Marshall Iliff, a project leader at **eBird**, told me in an interview. "We put basically 10 years of development and PR behind asking users to show us exactly where they found the birds, so it'd be most useful for science. And suddenly we were in this situation where we realized we have to hide certain birds."

When it comes to enjoying nature in real life, most people's intention in sharing their experiences online is to celebrate it. But these increasingly ubiquitous acts are also opening the door to abuse. Apps and databases made for identifying and mapping native plants and birds have had to

rebuild their infrastructure in recent years to obfuscate endangered species.

It's the only way to protect them from poachers who are savvy enough to take advantage of the citizen science open data projects and nature forums where enthusiasts share photos and locations of plants and animals with fellow nature lovers.

Though Iliff says he hasn't heard specific reports of **eBird** data being used by poachers, with open data it's pretty hard to know what people who access the information do with it. "We do know that there were anecdotal reports of people in Indonesian markets saying that some of the bird trappers were familiar with **eBird** and pull it up on their phone to say, 'This is where the bird lives,'" Iliff sighed, adding that the poachers were also reportedly savvy about downloading birdsongs from other websites, like xeno-canto.org, a bird sound database that likewise takes precautions to protect sensitive species. The market incentivizes the poachers — the beak of the helmeted hornbill in Indonesia, for example, with its red rubbery neck, remarkably expressive eyes, and prized casque that resembles ivory, can sell for thousands of dollars. Now, after the changes, birdwatchers can log data for the helmeted hornbill, but it's not sharable.

Closing select parts of a fundamentally open platform wasn't easy. Over the course of about eight months, **eBird** built in features that allowed a person who entered the data of a protected species to see it, as well as **eBird's** data review team, but no one else. **eBird** flags birds that are on its Sensitive Species List, which are at risk of being captured, targeted, and killed, or are at risk of detrimental disturbance in specific locations. There are hundreds of birds listed as sensitive. When a threatened species is logged, it'll show that the bird is within a 20-kilometer area but won't allow users to drill down to the specific location of the sighting. And if you share your bird list with a friend, only you'll be able to see the endangered species you recorded — they won't show up on the shared list. The same goes with photos of threatened birds and other tools


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that **eBird** has built to share bird spotting data.

In recent years, other wildlife data projects that opened with the primary intention of sharing as much data on the natural world as possible have started to batten down, too. **iNaturalist**, a citizen science portal that records sightings of all kinds of wildlife, from plants to birds to insects and fish, started hiding endangered taxa in 2011, though Ken-ichi Ueda, one of the founders and directors of **iNaturalist**, told me it was a problem they considered since starting in 2008. Today, **iNaturalist** logs about 135,000 observations a month, of which about 4,600 obscure the location data because the wildlife is marked as threatened. The push to hide plants and animals that are at risk, Ueda says, was driven by the launch of a project on **iNaturalist** called the Global Amphibian BioBlitz that encourages sharing citizen data of amphibians around the world by gamifying the observations and highlighting users who log the most. So far, more than 11,000 identifiers have logged in nearly 300,000 observations. Before the project launched, Ueda told me that many of the groups **iNaturalist** was partnering with in the world of amphibian conservation, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature, were concerned that the project wasn't hiding location data and asked that the database be built in a way to obscure the coordinates of threatened wildlife before they collaborated.

Hiding data puts open data projects in an obvious bind. "A great deal of what I have learned about the natural history of California comes from information others have shared in public on the internet, and one of my purposes in developing **iNaturalist** was to facilitate the same kind of sharing so others could learn as I have," Ueda commented on a Facebook post I made asking about how citizen science projects grapple with threatened species on the California Native Plant Society group. "Hiding the locations of threatened species is ultimately about hiding information, not sharing it, so I think it's important for everyone to understand there's a tradeoff: the more you hide, the less you share, and the less useful the information becomes."

Databases for nature obsessives aren't the only way our online habits threaten wildlife. Virality on social media can be deadly as well. The wildflowers of Southern California are so stunning this year they're causing what Lake Elsinore officials are calling "a public safety crisis." Hundreds of thousands of people have descended on the small Southern California city to photograph the rare

cascade of poppies that paints the hillsides with delicate apricot flowers. The mania is sparked by enviable Instagram posts of people frolicking in the bloom, likely



*The Anna's hummingbird is the only North American hummingbird species with a red crown. Allan Hack/CC via Flickr*

crushing flowers underfoot as they venture, against the advisement of the park rangers, off trail to get that perfect shot drenched in California sunshine. A couple even flew a helicopter into a field of poppies recently at the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve to take a hike — likely killing hundreds of the beautiful buds visitors exactly like them would wish to see upon landing. "We have brought in all available staff, as many outside traffic controllers that we could, more shuttles, and our small City cannot sustain crowds of this magnitude," read a recent post on the Facebook page of Lake Elsinore City Hall.

There's something just a little too 2019 about the internet finding a way to ruin wildflowers. But all of this is an inevitable consequence of how online our lives have become. The internet is perhaps best at making the world seem so much smaller than it really is. The popularization of natural wonders, like California's superbloom, fueled by sun dappled photos on Facebook and Instagram, attracting thousands of onlookers and social media influencers who step on the flowers, scratches at a larger question how we can revel in nature without inadvertently ruining it. When we share an image online of a place or a bird or a flower that we love, we are sharing our experience with it. But even as we aim to spread beauty, we must also reckon with the truth about the human-induced fragility of our ever-deteriorating natural world. And that might sometimes mean not sharing everything.

*April Glaser is a Slate technology writer and co-hosts the podcast If Then.*

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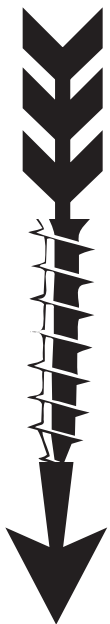
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## The Use Of Land

Article and photograph by Diane Bergstrom

“You stand up for people before you stand up for government,” Representative Jonathan Singer, District 11, said during a recent phone interview while discussing surmounting struggles over specific Boulder County land uses and the potential irreversible detrimental effects. He has a reputation for showing up for public meetings, engaging in the public discourse, truly representing his constituents, developing bills, and having an authentic affinity for farmers and those who care about the land. He got his start in preserving open space, working for both North Carolina Public Interest Research Group (NCPIRG) and Colorado Public Interest Research Group (COPIRG); their missions are to stand up to powerful interests whenever they threaten our health, our financial security, or our right to fully participate in our democracy. “My heart is always with protecting open space and public lands,” he emphasized. He excitedly referenced the passage of Senate Bill 19-181, which Governor Polis signed the night before. The bill’s summary is: “The bill prioritizes the protection of public safety, health, welfare, and the environment in the regulation the oil and gas industry by modifying the oil and gas statute and by clarifying, reinforcing, and establishing local governments’ regulatory authority over the surface impacts of oil and gas development.” This redefines and expands local governments’ control over land uses and impacts to human residents, flora and fauna. This is a great improvement over the current law, House Bill 1041, which limited local controls and negated public interest, giving the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission the power to foster the industry while identifying specific areas for designation. The fox is not only guarding the henhouse, but also deciding where, when and how said henhouses will be built. Rep. Singer explained that the bill also changes the scope of forced pooling, which is government sanctioned corporate eminent domain, and brings other land owners in on the conversation. Previously, land owners with personal mineral rights had little power to challenge fracking activities from extraction industries. The new bill requires granted consent from at least 50% of mineral interest owners before eminent domain takes place. Though this bill will not regulate the potential threatening plans of Martin Marietta and Cemex in northern Boulder County, Rep. Singer speculated, “The language in the bill can set a template for some conversation when we can exert local control.”

*Save Our St. Vrain Valley* (SOSVV), a grassroots non-profit organization based in Boulder County, has spent years mounting a defense and progressive offense to



preserve the environment, public health, and economies threatened by local plans of first Martin Marietta and now Cemex. Martin Marietta is proposing to resurrect a 20 year old expired permit to dig a 640-acre open pit gravel mine on the St. Vrain River flood plain in a large rectangular area west of Hygiene, east of Hwy 36, and south of Lyons



and Hwy 66. Some of Boulder County’s oldest working ranches are in the area *Pictured here*, as well as archeological evidence of indigenous peoples, extensive birds of prey, blue herons, coyotes, white tailed deer, the endangered Preble’s Meadow jumping mouse, and numerous amphibians and reptiles, such as Leopard frogs and chorus frogs. The mining operation would create devastating effects on the riparian ecosystem, including migrating wildlife, local businesses and the human population. Amanda Dumenigo, Chief Executive of the SOSVV Board, lives in the area and operates **Horsense**, an equine facilitated learning program, helping adults and children deal with trauma by connecting with nature. She summarized, “We’re definitely at a crossroads and special use permits are expired or expiring so before us is the complete industrialization of the St. Vrain Valley or conservation of the least developed river valley in the Front Range.” Water, air, and land quality will all be adversely if not dangerously affected, while an estimated 200+ daily truck trips could launch during the operation. Cemex, the cement plant east of Lyons on Hwy 66, is also running out of some of their natural materials (limestone) and will be proposing to extend their operation beyond their permit period and import materials by truck and train. On the five acres along Hwy 66, they intend to bring in crushers, place a 10,000 gallon fuel tank next to the river, and install

industrial lights as part of their building plan.

“People will die here if this happens,” stated Doug Good Feather, Hunkapapa Lakota of Standing Rock Reservation, and Executive Director of Lakota Way Healing Center. He has been in the area for 20 years, bringing veterans here to heal in nature, connect to the land, and absorb the historical culture. He is an Army combat veteran and said of his own healing, “I had to go through the process of healing to become human again and learn to not let PTSD control me. Coming from a culture that as indigenous, we ask what’s better for our pocket book or our children? We shall bring communities together, not industries. We have a responsibility and really need to think of our morale, our future, our children. We need to think of the animals, we are not above them. If we eradicate culture, the ecosystem will die as is. There will be casualties here. Is that going to be on your heart or mine? Think indigenous together. We are all indigenous. I want people to come and heal here.”

Ways of life would be altered for not only our wildlife, vegetation and local population, but also the visitors who come to the state and the region. Traffic patterns would be unimaginably congested and air quality would be undeniably polluted. Approximately 80% of Rocky Mountain National Park’s 4.5 million yearly visitors (and rising) enter the park from the eastern entrances, Hwy 36 through Boulder County and (Continued on next page.)

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## Highlander Issues

Hwy 34. Lyons' residents continually brace themselves each summer as navigating their town becomes a circumventing challenge. The cycling industry and annual races conducted in the area bring in millions of revenue dollars and support the local economy. National and local races are strategically plotted in this rural area but would be relocated in the event of the transportation disaster. Hygiene, which relies heavily on this peaceful consumer traffic, could become a ghost town. Rich Cargill, Chairman of the SOSVV Board, and a retired teacher who developed award-winning environmental programs, is also concerned about the noise and traffic pollution. He wants people to have preference over industry, and the 640 acres of flood plain intended for the mine be used for recreation and agriculture. By definition, flood plain next to streams and rivers will unavoidably flood. "With so many archeological sites and so much wildlife, there should be a trail system from Lyons through Longmont to County Line Road. We desperately need to reconnect with Mother Nature. There is no life in metals and plastics." He is managing a petition that he will send to the regional president of Martin Marietta, asking them to forego mining, and donate the mining rights along with the 640 acres to Boulder County Open Space for protection. To date, he has 1,200 signatures

which represent "informed decision makers" that hopefully will get their attention. He explained, "The community has evolved and you come to a point when certain industrial activities are no longer appropriate in the area," then he likened it to putting a feedlot in downtown Boulder. The flood plain has been effectively operating as nature intended it for tens of thousands of years. Colorado's economy relies heavily on revenues generated by the state's outdoor recreation industries, and that income exceeds the combined revenues of the extractive industries including coal, oil, gas, mining and timber. Expanding and promoting more open space, including the development of trails not only makes good nature sense, health sense, and preservation sense, but also business sense.

**To sign the petition, please go to the website, [www.SOSVV.wordpress.com](http://www.SOSVV.wordpress.com), and link to the petition.** Be one more informed decision maker. You can also like SOSVV on Facebook and be notified of upcoming meetings. Donations to their legal fund can be made through their website. Tee shirts, bumper stickers and signs are for sale to support the preservation efforts. To understand the ongoing permitting process legalities, including the 5 year inactivity lapse provision that would terminate the mining permit, please consult the website and click on the Media link for further articles, interviews, photographs and columns. Attend Boulder County Commissioners' public meetings on these issues. There is much current discussion on the interpretation of the county's intent to discourage intensive uses in moderate hazardous zones and the definition of a provisional risk related to intensive land uses. That one sentence could warrant an entire article. Martin Marietta recently submitted a motion to suppress oral arguments from opposition, AKA the public and SOSVV members. As laws, codes, permits and regulations are being scrutinized, clarified, challenged, subverted, and twisted, one finds hope in the words of Margaret Mead,

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

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# GCART ~ Coal Creek Canyon Slash Days

Dear Editor,

I am writing to provide the readers with an update on GCART's free classes for emergency preparedness with large animals.

First, the class on May 5th will no longer include horse loading, although it will still cover getting other large animals into trailers. we are going to cover that topic in more depth at a later class to be scheduled.

Second, **the class on May 14th is being rescheduled** to a later date to be decided, due to a conflict with using the barn.

GCART members I would like to thank you all for your patience and hope to announce our new dates as soon as possible.

Best regards, Lee Foster

Dear Readers,

**Coal Creek Slash Collection Saturday, June 1st & Sunday June 2nd** at Fire Station #2 – Camp Eden Road & Hwy 72.

**Help Reduce Wildfire Danger - It's Wildfire Season ... Protect Your Home & Our Canyon**

Clear your property and bring your tree debris to the Jefferson County Slash Collection!

## What is Slash?

Slash is debris, from nature, such as tree limbs, pruning's and pine needles. If not removed, slash can add to potential fire hazards on your property. The importance of mitigating and preparing your property for wildfire cannot be overstated - and again this year, Jefferson County is your partner in this effort.

## The Importance of Mitigation

Removing slash and creating a defensible space around your home, is the first line of defense against wildfires. You can create zones around your home, removing any fire fuels, such as tree debris. Having a properly mitigated property doesn't mean that wildfire will pass you by, but it gives the fire department a better opportunity to save your home when it does come.

## What is Accepted?

Slash - limbs, branches and tree debris - Maximum length - 8 feet - Maximum diameter - 6 inches - Pine needles, tree bark and pine cones, bagged or unbagged.

## What is Not Accepted?

Construction material and lumber, Household trash, **Metal material of any kind**, Rocks, Tree stumps, Yard waste / grass clippings

## Fees for Slash Drop-off

Any size truck or trailer is welcome at Jefferson County Slash Collection sites. Dump fees are based on six cubic yards (162 cubic feet) of material: six yards is one load.

**The cost to drop off a single "load" is \$20.**

### Credit cards only.

This is equivalent to: Truck bed full to truck cab height, Trailer up to eight feet long by five feet wide by four feet high. Loads outside these parameters will be charged accordingly.

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**Adult: Open Ballet Class:** Previous dance experience, coming back to class after years/continuing training. \$56.00 for 7 classes, \$9.00 for individual class.

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# Without Challenge

By Omayra Acevedo

If there is one thing we all learn during our existence, is that change is inevitable - as it is the only consistent element. So many things in my life are changing. Things that at times feel a bit frightening and even unbearable. However, when I take the time to practice letting go of my anxieties, things in some miraculous way always seem to fall into place. I know, however, that without my willingness to be open and accept what is right in front of me, I would have failed at so many things already. One of the many things I continually remind my students of is that giving up is not an option. You have to fight for whatever truly lives in your heart. For it is within our hearts that we carry our deepest desires.

As I sit at my desk writing this, I can't help but glance out the A-frame window above me – staring at the trees as the wind embraces their branches. I feel my senses heighten as the simplicity of watching leaves dance with the wind reminds me that there is so much to be grateful for. I can see the color green; I can see trees sway; the blue sky and I can squint when the sun shines too brightly across my shoulders. I hear birds singing at five in the morning and I can blast my favorite song over and over again.

Regardless of our struggles – and we all have them – it is during those times, in my humble opinion, when it is most vital to find the beauty, positivity and simplicity that surrounds us. Our state of being truly depends on our attitude. Don't get me wrong. I too, being only human, have my moments of negativity. But I find that forgiving myself for being negative is a great first step to changing my perspective. Is this easy to accomplish? Absolutely not, but it is possible with time and practice.

On top of everything else going on, Mother's day is this month, and if you read my article last May (<http://www.highlandermo.com/pdf>

/May2018Issue.pdf), you may recall that it is a very trying month for me. However, I give myself no other choice than to find the strength necessary to keep pushing forward.

The last thing I want to be is a great disappointment to my mother and most of all to myself.

My challenge to you is this. Whether or not you find yourself struggling through something, take one moment to put down the magazine, cell phone, turn off the tv and/or computer, step outside and find something beautiful

to gaze upon. When you're done, go inside, close your eyes and find that same beauty resting within you. Finally, embrace the change you just created between how you felt ten minutes ago and how you feel now...

Think of all the obstacles nature goes through, yet somehow, it always tends to survive and remain unforgettably beautiful. As shall we. Challenges will always be somewhat of a struggle, but they don't have to be bad. Change is the force behind the reasons we evolve into better versions our ourselves. As many of my students will also hear me say quite often, without challenge, there is no change.





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# In Hand

By Valerie Wedel

Are you one of the lucky ones among us who ride, and perhaps own a horse? Here in Colorado we have much in the way of riding to choose from, including Western, huntseat and eventing. We also have some of the most beautiful country in the world to ride in!

Growing up in Chicago, I rode in the hunter-jumper world. The game was all about getting over fences – sometimes the bigger the better. I learned quite a lot about sitting on top of a horse, training while riding. We called that ‘schooling.’ The goal was to have such great communication and trust with your horse that you could do what ever you chose together, with grace and beauty.

Well, some of us had that goal. By the time I was in high school I was riding for owners who were afraid of their own horses. One of my owners used to show up, chain smoke, drink a soda, look at her horse, possibly ride once around the arena, and then leave again. I used to wonder, and still do, why own a horse you are afraid of?

There was another owner I rode for, an attorney who worked downtown. He had a gorgeous thoroughbred with a slight bucking problem. The story went that his horse reared, he fell off, and never came back. Yet he never sold the horse... While this made for many excellent riding opportunities, it always left me wondering...

While some mysteries may never be solved, I did have a chance to explore amazing European knowledge recently. There is a branch of training known as “In Hand” or “Groundwork.” I missed out on this entirely growing up, since it was not part of my hunter jumper world in that time and place.

A pair of trainers from France toured the United States recently, doing clinics. They were in Littleton during April. Magali Delgado and Frederic Pignon, wife and husband team, created and performed for years in Cavalia. This is a show that features horses performing ‘at liberty,’ i.e. without saddle or bridle. They shared some of their training techniques, including ‘In Hand’ work, at the clinic.

I watched as Frederic brought terrified, bucking horses into a state of trust and relaxation in a matter of minutes. He had them following him, at liberty, like ducklings. All of this was done from the ground, with Frederic standing on his own two feet in a round arena with each horse. He never once raised his voice or used force.

One horse Pignal worked with was a gorgeous paint mare. The owner was clearly afraid of her mare. She was in the clinic with her horse because her horse had attacked her. I watched this mare go from wild bucking and throwing herself around the arena, to relaxed, and beginning to trust Pignal, in a matter of minutes.

Another horse, my personal favorite, was a beautiful white gelding. His lines resembled that of a Lucitano. Imagine a fairy tale horse, almost pure white, with flowing mane and tail, and you have the picture. But this horse had been abused early on in his training and fought back. The result was at first more brutality, and then second being turned out in pasture and ignored for three years. His present owner was trying to bring him back to trust humans, and to be able to work with him.

In my opinion this grey was the best horse there, because he was sensitive, intelligent, and supremely strong and coordinated, as well as being a fighter. But he looked like an alley cat. His coat was muddy and shaggy, his mane and tail stuck out every which way. He would not allow himself to be handled enough to be groomed. There was a wild and fiery eye under that flowing forelock.

His owner had been working with him very slowly and gently for about a year. On their home turf he was slowly allowing himself to be handled, but at the clinic and he could barely be led into the arena. He fought every step of the way. The thing that was so beautiful and so heartbreaking, was that he was clearly terrified of people, and yet had the courage and absolute determination to keep fighting. What an amazing horse!

With this one also, Pignal had him relaxing and following him around the arena, in about 20 minutes. What then



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ensued was a kind of dance. Pignal would work with the horse, then release him to run and buck. Then when the horse returned to him, they would work again. I had the joy of seeing this horse first on Saturday, again on Sunday. On Sunday he looked like a different animal. He remembered the training from the day before. He entered the arena with his ears up, walking calmly (more or less) on a loose lead rope with his person.

This horse and Pignal together moved me to tears. I had a chance to speak with the owner and compliment her on her horse. She said she was “coming back” also. She had had the kind of high pressure riding training and career that burns people out. Healing this horse was healing her spirit also.

The theory of this style of training is that it helps the horse and rider work together much more effectively. Pignon believes that by studying horse behavior in herds, and adapting those behaviors as a human, one can more or less speak horse language. This method apparently wins a horse’s trust more quickly. As Pignal put it, one must earn the horse’s trust.

Working together with a horse on the ground begins to resemble dancing. There was a great joy Pignal’s horses began to reflect. They seem to be having fun with this method. Pignal also had fun. Watching him work with each horse was like watching friends playing together.

Another part of Pignal’s theory is that the horses should only do what they love and choose to do. This flies in the face of other kinds of training where horses are manipulated and forced. The difference in horses after these two different methods is really visible.

Although never once raising his voice or using force, Pignal carried one or two whips. He eventually did this even with the grey horse, who was clearly terrified of whips. During conversation on Saturday he explained why.

Pignal carried a long whip dragging behind him, it’s tip in the dirt or close to the ground. It simply trailed behind him while walking with a horse. He said that watching horses in herds, they could use their whole body to jostle each other and arrange themselves. Humans are shaped like a traffic cone (more or less) and can’t use that same body language. So the whip becomes an extension of the body.

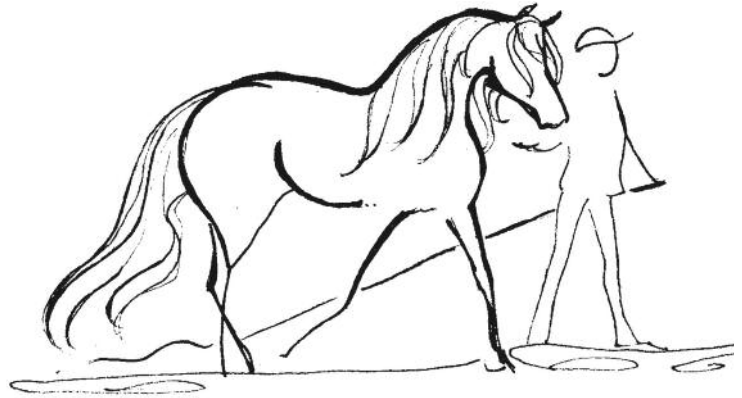
Pignal never flipped or cracked the whip. He did firmly and gently touch the horse on it’s hindquarters while holding the whip behind him, as a signal. He might also hold it at chest or eye level to the horse when the horse was coming towards him. This formed what he called a “gate,” to direct the travel of the horse.

The question came up about desensitizing a horse so it would not fear the whip. Pignal does not do this either. His position, which was born out in the arena, is that the horse should respect the whip. As the horse comes to trust you as it’s leader, it naturally loses fear of the whip. We all watched this happen with the beautiful grey gelding, in an

astoundingly short period of time.

As Pignal put it, you first control your self, and you cultivate inner joy. Simply be present, and feel joy in that moment. Then you invite the horse into that joy. And then the horse begins to learn that he or she can control him or herself. And feeling this shared joy, the horse begins to offer a relationship where the trainer can then make incredible strides in a beautiful way.

There are no shortcuts to training. It is a long, slow



process. The amazing work we saw is, as Pignal put it, baby steps. No matter what training method you prefer or have access to, patience and perseverance are needed.

There are several top notch trainers in our area. One cannot say one method is the best, because each person and horse are individuals. If you would like to try this type of ground, or in hand training, you can see some of it on Youtube. Pignal also has a book out, cowritten with his wife. No matter what type of training one prefers, in hand or ground work might be a good addition if you feel drawn to try it. It could be especially useful now, while our horses are coming off a winter of pasture, and perhaps feeling a bit roudy. As my mom used to say, “have fun safely!”

#### References:

*Delgado, Magali, Frederic Pignon, & David Walser. Gallop to Freedom. Trafalgar Square Books, Vermont, 2009.*

*When the Horse Chooses, (another trainer from Europe using similar technique, who has several videos up on website & Youtube):*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WOtcE9hMMM&list=PL6GsdHZa0TmeAhG\\_jL6b\\_otSVMz5f8MoZ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WOtcE9hMMM&list=PL6GsdHZa0TmeAhG_jL6b_otSVMz5f8MoZ)

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*Top left: From Bandit's Buddies.  
Top right: Cat family, Purrtacular.  
Middle: Reddington - Tom Soto, Jr.  
Bottom: Foal & Mare - Horse & Rider.  
Next Page, Top Left: From Ingrid Trent.  
Right: Andre from Purr n Fur.  
Left: Mini Foal with Mare  
from Kelly Campbell*

**Send in Your photos to  
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# What Animals Can Teach Us

By Ingrid Winter

*We are made for relationship-  
our eyes  
ears  
nostrils  
mouth  
skin*

*Are open to the world  
taking in perceptions  
all the time connecting us  
with the world around us*

*Watching an animal-  
wild or domestic  
brings home this message-  
they are constantly  
perceiving -*

*smelling  
watching  
listening-*

*one might say they are their perceptions  
or perhaps their perceptions  
tie them so tightly  
to the world*

*that there is no room  
for an ego*

*But we humans have somehow managed  
to separate ourselves  
from our perceptions*

*and hence from the world  
we are no longer one but two-*

*one perceiving and delighting in the senses  
and one thinking judging labeling  
analyzing what we perceive*

*We know so much!*

*and our capacity for language  
has made it possible  
to preserve that knowledge  
and now many of us live*



*in this secondary world-  
the world of facts*

*data concepts opinions*

*And the primary world*

*the perceived seen heard smelled  
touched world of the senses-*

*the world in which all animals live  
has become abstract  
unimportant secondary*

*We have lost our senses  
and worship the mind  
which has created  
an artificial world*

*So maybe the animals  
can teach us that it is time for us  
to lose our minds  
and come to our senses again!*

*Photo of owls by Alexa Boyes. Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to rehabilitate orphaned, sick, & injured wildlife for release into appropriate habitats. 303.823.8455*

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# Save Or Shred?

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

## When you should keep financial documents.

Are you a “pack rat” or a “purger” when it comes to personal documents? The best approach is somewhere between the two extremes. Try these suggestions for a sensible but streamlined way to manage your paperwork.

### Keep for a Short Time

Ensuring that you have these records until they are verified can provide proof of the transaction until it's officially posted. Utility bills - Shred or delete after verifying payment on your bank or credit card account. Debit/credit card receipts - Keep until you've checked them against your monthly statement. Bank statements - Consider printing out last month's statement in case of a data breach you can prove your balance. Shred the old statement when you print your newest one. Retirement plan statements - Keep quarterly statements until you receive your year-end statement. Home, auto, and umbrella policies - Keep until you get your new policy. For Auto insurance, most states accept electronic versions of your insurance card, but it may also be smart to keep a printed version in your glove compartment.

### Keep for Next Year's Tax Season

Saving your important papers through the year and keeping your records organized will make tax preparation that much simpler. Here is a sampling to make tax time easier. Proof of income - dividends, interest, bank statements, brokerage statements, w-2s, mutual fund statements, and 1099s.

Deductions - medical and dental expenses, child care, and charitable giving. Receipts - invoices and mileage logs. Residential - closing and tax documents. Keep Records for IRS.

### Recommended Period

In general, tax returns can be examined by the IRS for up to three years after filing. However, that period can increase in certain situations. For example, it can increase to six years in cases of unreported income that is more than 25% of the gross income shown on the tax return and seven years if a claim was filed for a loss from worthless securities. The period can extend indefinitely in cases of a fraudulent return or when no return was filed. The IRS provides a list of

recommended periods based on a taxpayer's situation. Naturally, you must be able to produce all supporting documentation. The good news? The IRS will accept legible electronic records, so consider copying everything to a DVD or flash drive and store it with your “keep forever” documents. (Don't forget to delete any tax-related records from your hard drive for security reasons after saving and storing copies appropriately.)

### Keep Important Records Forever

Because photocopies or scanned images of legal papers are usually not valid, store originals of these: marriage licenses, divorce, and custody decrees, birth, adoption, and death certificates, wills, trusts, and financial and medical powers of attorney, passports and citizenship papers, military records. *(Continued on next page.)*

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## Highlander Tips

### Keep Documents While You Own the Asset

Real estate - property abstracts, deeds, mortgage documents, closing documents, insurance policies, and receipts for home improvements. Vehicles - titles, purchase or lease documents, and auto insurance policies. Household - receipts, warranty certificates and operating instructions for household items. Financial - investments, stock certificates, and retirement plan records.

### All Safes Are Not the Same

When considering a safe, there are various factors for usage to consider such as location, contents, and type of lock. When storing documents or media, the type of safe selected is very important should disaster occur. Burglar, fire, and document safes have various ratings. Looking for the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) sticker may also help during selection since they have been testing safes since 1923 and certify many as either "listed" or "classified." Burglar safes are rated on their construction and how long they can withstand tampering attempts. Fire safes are rated for how long they can withstand excessive heat and maintain the quality of the contents within the safe. Data safes are rated at a lower temperature than fire safes since data can be destroyed at a lower temperature.

### Scan and Save Digitally or Shred

Unless you must retain originals of these documents for business purposes, the following space-wasting items can be stored digitally and/or shredded each month. ATM receipts, Bank statements and paystubs, Medical, utility, and credit card bills.

### Go Paperless When Possible

Many of your recurring expenses can become paper-free transactions, eliminating the need to write checks or buy stamps. You can even choose to receive automated reminders so you won't overlook due dates. To protect your private information, sign up for electronic billing on encrypted web sites that have the 'https://' prefix. And to save even more trees each month, opt out of junk mail lists. The Federal Trade Commission recommends contacting the Direct Marketing Association to reduce unsolicited mail. Other services, such as Catalog Choice and Do Not Mail, also may help reduce the amount of junk mail you receive.

**While you're clearing out the paper, it may be a good time to update or create — a home inventory.**



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# Wildness Is An Attitude, Not A Place

By Robert M. Thorson April 8 - High Country News

This article was originally published by The Conversation and is republished here with permission.

When Americans quote writer and naturalist Henry David Thoreau, they often reach for his assertion that “In Wildness is the preservation of the world.” This phrase elicited little response when Thoreau first read it during a lecture in 1851. A century later, however, it had become a guiding mantra for the American environmental movement, adopted by the Sierra Club as an unofficial motto and launched into the cultural stratosphere via bumper stickers, T-shirts and posters.

Unfortunately, the line was cherry-picked from its original context, conflates wildness with wilderness and predates Thoreau’s later, more nuanced insights about wildness. His mature views, which I stumbled onto when researching my book *The Boatman: Henry David Thoreau’s River Years*, can more effectively help us cope with a world so changed by people that geologists have proposed a new epoch, the Anthropocene.

To the mature Thoreau, wildness was an entanglement of different realities and more of an attitude than an attribute. A pervasive condition lurking beneath the surface – especially in the midst of civilization. A creative force, willed not by intent but by impulse, accident and contingency. As a card-carrying geologist who has written two books on Thoreau as a natural scientist and lifelong “river rat,” and the first *Guide to Walden Pond*, I believe the mature Thoreau lurking beneath distorted cultural motifs has much to tell us.

“H. D. Thoreau,” stepped up to the podium to read his newest lecture *The Wild*. His late-spring timing was perfect, this being the wildest time of year for the romantics and naturalists of his 19th-century agroecosystem. “I wish to speak a word for Nature,” he opened boldly, “for absolute freedom and wildness, as contrasted with a freedom and culture merely civil.” Humans, he claimed, were “part and parcel of Nature, rather than a member of society.” These prophetic,

inclusive statements constitute America’s declaration of interdependence.

This lecture was published in *The Atlantic* as an essay titled **Walking** after Thoreau’s death in 1862. In it Thoreau recast the “howling wilderness” of the Puritan divines who settled Concord, Massachusetts in the mid-1630s as an ideal spiritual landscape for neo-pagans of the early 1850s. But we know from Thoreau’s voluminous writings that the insight for his **In Wildness** mantra came not from some high mountain temple, deep forest or dismal bog, but from a pair of panoramic art exhibits that Thoreau saw in late 1850 – likely in urban Boston, likely via the rattling railroad.

In September 1853, having recently returned from a moose hunt in interior Maine, Thoreau came up with the idea of setting aside wild landscapes for posterity: “Why should not we... have our national preserves... in which the bear and panther, and some even of the hunter race, may still exist, and not be ‘civilized off the face of the earth’ – our forests... not for idle sport or food, but for inspiration and our own true recreation.”

By then Thoreau was a middle-class, stay-at-home resident of the bustling market town of Concord, and the surrounding area was being rapidly clear-cut for farms and fuel and industrialized with mines, turnpikes, railroads, bridges, dams and canals. “I cannot but feel,” he wrote despondently on March 23, 1856, “as if I lived in a tamed, and, as it were, emasculated country... Is it not a maimed and imperfect nature that I am conversant with? I am reminded that this my life in nature... is lamentably incomplete.”

No wildness distant from humans - Finally Thoreau resolved the tension between his yearning for primitive nature and his role in helping to civilize it as a surveyor for land development. While searching for native cranberries in late August 1856, he found himself in the far corner of a small bog so worthless that it had been apparently untouched by human hands. There, he realized: “It is in vain to dream of a wildness (Continued on next page.)

## Highlander Conservation

distant from ourselves. There is none such. It is the bog in our brain and bowels, the primitive vigor of Nature in us, that inspires that dream. I shall never find in the wilds of Labrador any greater wildness than in some recess in Concord.”

His explanation is clear. Wildness is an attitude, a perception. “A howling wilderness does not howl,” he wrote, “it is the imagination of the traveler that does the howling.” Using his imagination, he could even find wildness in a patch of weedy ferns: “Yet how essentially wild they are! As wild, really, as those strange fossil plants whose impressions I see on my coal.” By this stage, Thoreau was finding wildness in lumps of fossil fuel. One of Thoreau’s final conceptions of wildness is most relevant to the Anthropocene world. The scene was a sparkling morning on Aug. 11, 1859. He was boating the lower Assabet River, making measurements for a scientific consulting project. Drifting toward him on the smooth current came a parade of iridescent freshwater mussel shells, “floating down in mid-stream – nicely poised on the water,” each left “with its concave side uppermost,” each a

“pearly skiff set afloat by the industrious millers.”

In that moment, Thoreau realized that each of his delicately balanced “skiffs” was a consequence of at least a dozen commingled cultural actions, from muskrats eating the mussels to farmers inadvertently improving mussel habitat with sediment pollution and industrialists storing and releasing hydropower to create factory goods.

After this insight, Thoreau began to see his entire watershed world as a meta-consequence of three centuries’ worth of human perturbations, literally rippling through his local system along every conceivable energy gradient. For example, when monitoring stream stage to the precision of 1/64th of an inch, he realized that seemingly wild rivers mirrored the work schedules of upstream factories, and that “even the fishes” kept the Christian Sabbath. His whole local universe was ubiquitously, unpredictably, impetuously and wildly reacting to what today we call global change.

Recognizing wildness - As with a coin, our modern Anthropocene condition flips Thoreau’s declaration of interdependence. On its 1851 side, humans are “part and parcel” of nature as organic beings embedded within it. On its 1859 side, nature is “part and parcel” of us, hopelessly entangled and embedded in our works and residues.

Fast forward to 2019. Earth’s planetary system, provoked by our overreach, is now doing its own thing in places, at scales and on schedules beyond our control. Wildness is bubbling up everywhere: Wilder fires, wilder stock markets, wilder weather, higher floods, drowning seas, collapsing ice sheets, accelerating extinctions and demographic unrest.

Thoreau’s realistic, late-in-life insights can help us comprehend these ongoing Anthropocene impacts, accept responsibility for the changes coming our way, reframe them in more positive terms and reaffirm that Nature is ultimately in charge. He teaches us that wildness is much,

much more than raw nature. It’s a perception emanating from our minds. A base instinct, uncluttered by rational thought. The creative genius of artistic, scientific and technological creativity. The spontaneous emergence of order from disorder, as with drifts on dry snow or the origin of life. Finally, wildness is the meta-wildness of complex, nonlinear systems, the sum total of forward-propagating, somewhat unpredictable cascades of matter and energy. The mantra *In Wildness is the preservation of the world* can remain true, provided we ask ourselves what we mean by wildness and what we’re trying to preserve.

*Robert M. Thorson is a professor of geology at the University of Connecticut.*



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# Update: BuffaloFieldCampaign.org

One of the many ways Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) works to protect America's last wild bison is through education and outreach efforts. During the summer months when the buffalo are generally safe inside the boundaries of Yellowstone, BFC focuses its efforts on educating the public about the struggles and needs of the Yellowstone Bison. During this time BFC needs dedicated individuals to come assist in our tabling efforts.

Summer volunteers must be comfortable speaking with visitors to Yellowstone in a polite and professional manner. All volunteers will be educated on the issues, and will be paired with an experienced BFC volunteer, to help them express the information to table visitors. Due to the amount of training it takes to make volunteers effective at the table we require a minimum commitment of two weeks with additional time being preferred.

Volunteering during the summer is a great way to experience Yellowstone. Housing and meals are provided in exchange for volunteer work. During the months of June and July volunteers will camp and run an educational table in Yellowstone with a schedule of 5 days on and 2 days off per week. Tabling shifts are 4 hours, leaving time to explore the park and experience buffalo and other wildlife. Days off are spent at BFC headquarters on the shores of beautiful Hebgen Lake, with lots of swimming and hiking opportunities.

During August tabling crews will be based at BFC headquarters and travel into the park each day. Our main cabin is equipped with comfortable bunks and a fully



equipped kitchen.

We are happy to work with students on internship opportunities as well. Please join us and stand with the last wild buffalo! To volunteer please complete our base camp volunteer application. Go to our website to download the BFC Camp Volunteer Application (PDF) Return completed applications to [volunteersummer@buffalofieldcampaign.org](mailto:volunteersummer@buffalofieldcampaign.org). Questions? Call 406-646-0070.

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# Critics Rail Against Socialism

By Adam M. Sowards April 5 - High Country News

Reckoning with History is an ongoing series that seeks to understand the legacies of the past and to put the West's present moment in perspective.

The Green New Deal and its proponents aim to tackle the intertwined issues of social and environmental justice in our age of anthropogenic climate change. To accomplish this, they believe they must deploy the federal government, since it is the only institution large enough to coordinate and invest in the necessary policies. But the idea of expanding the role of government has attracted critics, who rail against socialism. To historians, this sounds familiar.

This is not the first time socialism, new deals and the environment have intersected. During the catastrophe of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the federal government similarly attempted to ameliorate social and environmental harms by investing in people and places through the New Deal. Then, as now, critics dismissed it as socialism. The "socialist" sobriquet stokes ideological fires but douses historical understanding. One prominent example — Bob Marshall's argument for nationalizing forests during the 1930s — reveals how socialist solutions emerge from specific contexts and problems, not ideological bunkers. In Marshall's case, the dire state of private timberlands in the

early 20th century prompted his call for reform. When massive problems develop, cross jurisdictional lines and are associated with market failures, big government responses can seem like the only possible solution.

BY THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, hundreds of years of unregulated cutting had ravaged the nation's forests, and Americans faced a crisis that demanded intervention. "Rocks and mountains may be ageless, but men and society are emphatically of the present, and they cannot wait for the slow process of nature to retrieve the catastrophe caused by their unthinking destructiveness," wrote Marshall, a forester for federal agencies throughout his career, a co-founder of The Wilderness Society and the person for whom Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness Area is named.

A massive evaluation of American forestry conducted by the Forest Service in 1932 both shaped and reflected Marshall's views. Appearing the next year, A National Plan for American Forestry, known as the Copeland Report, showed that private forests were failing. (The majority of the nation's timber came from privately held forests, just as it does today.) They burned more often, were not harvested to provide a "continual crop of timber," failed to protect watersheds and offered few recreational opportunities compared to public forests. They caused social problems,

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too, with lumber workers doing dangerous, transient jobs that resulted in mangled bodies and left hollowed-out towns behind. As Marshall saw it, “The private owner is thus responsible for almost every serious forest problem.”


So, Marshall argued that American timberlands should be publicly owned. In 1933, four years into the Depression and during the first year of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidency, Marshall published *The People’s Forests*, his own radical extension of the Copeland Report, which advocated for public ownership of practically all commercial forests in America. He was writing amid an economic catastrophe mirrored in the nation’s wild and rural landscapes, where bankrupted farmers, out-of-work loggers and drought-driven refugees were common, not unlike today.

Throughout *The People’s Forests*, Marshall showed how private ownership, even when tempered by public regulation, fell short; only full public ownership could keep forests and communities healthy. He united a biological and social vision for forestry, one where human happiness and decent livelihoods might sprout from robust forests. In articulating that vision, he made his socialist case plain: “The fundamental advantage of public ownership of forests over private ownership is that in the former social welfare is substituted for private gain as the major objective of management.” Much the way today’s Green New Deal seeks to redress both economic and environmental impoverishment, Marshall sought to replace private profit with a broader public spiritedness that aimed for long-term stability, ending cut-and-run practices and ultimately strengthening communities.

Marshall’s call for reforms reflected an accelerating trend

of expanding public lands in the 1930s, when the federal government acquired millions of acres for national parks, national forests and wildlife refuges. Newly passed laws, like the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (1934) and the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (1937), helped the government fund refuges, acquire property for conservation and bail out private owners who lived on wrecked lands. Starting around the same time and lasting until the 1950s, Forest Service administrators advocated for public regulation of logging on private land, principally citing concerns about declining timber production and the threat of fire on poorly managed parcels. Though ultimately unsuccessful, those efforts illustrated a push to establish stability amid unsettling crisis, a goal Marshall shared.

When capitalism stumbles badly, producing degraded lands and gaping inequalities, socialistic solutions rise in popularity, because their incentives are not tied to profits. Marshall’s closing line argues for that perspective: “The time has come when we must discard the unsocial view that our woods are the lumbermen’s and substitute the broader ideal that every acre of woodland in the country is rightly a part of the people’s forests.” Shouting “socialist” as an epithet is a tired strategy, a failure to reckon with specific contexts and problems, whether it’s damaged timberlands in the 1930s or rising sea levels today. *The People’s Forests* and the Green New Deal highlight the ways social and environmental harms are woven together, a reminder that real solutions require a mutual untangling, and that — despite American history and politics’ suspicion of true socialism — government necessarily holds many of the threads. *Adam M. Sowards is an environmental historian, professor and writer. He lives in Pullman, Washington.*



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## *Your Invitation To A Great Life*

*By Frosty Wooldridge*

In recent weeks, my son Trevor quit his well-paying pharmacy tech job in Denver, Colorado for a “room and board” position in a quiet village in the Austrian Alps. He sickened of his role in filling drug prescriptions for people addicted to poor health, synthetic solutions and no personal accountability for their own wellness.

Additionally, he tired of co-workers “living” on their Smart phones while being paid to work. He tired of the stress of Denver traffic, and ultimately, he tired of the meaninglessness of the job.

Within a week of his landing in Tirol, Austria, he sent video pictures of his cozy room with a view of dramatic mountain peaks rising from the ramparts of his bucolic new home.

His job? He searched on line for international jobs at “Help-X.” People who need workers post from all over the world. All Trevor needed: a ticket to Austria. It cost him \$482.00, which took him to Iceland, then to Frankfort and a train to Tirol. Finally, to his mountain lodge. He teaches English to guests in a yoga mountain retreat. Hot tub, of course! He also cooks breakfasts, lunches and learns dinner preparation from an Austrian chef. He’s learning

how to teach yoga.

After work, he takes hikes along serene mountain streams flowing through winter snowfields. Next week, he intends to ski at one of the area’s alpine slopes. In the spring, his bicycle awaits.

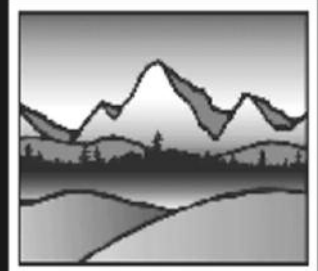
He said in an email, “I am happier in my new life than any words can explain. I needed to save myself from my stress-filled life in Denver. I needed to see the world for a fresh perspective of myself.”

Ironically, he’s not making a dime. Yet, because he shifted his priorities, he’s happier than I have seen him in years.

Trevor reminded me of my own journey toward self-discovery. In college, I studied to become a teacher, but when you’re young, you cannot “know” which of the 37 life paths you might pursue. I refer to Dan Millman’s book: *The Life You Were Born To Live*. In that book, any reader can determine which life path works for him or her. Instead of stumbling along through their teens and into their twenties without a clue as to what “turns them on in life,” readers discover their highest and best life work.

Decades earlier, after becoming totally frustrated with teaching in Brighton, Colorado, I resigned to live on a farm  
*(Continued on page 30.)*

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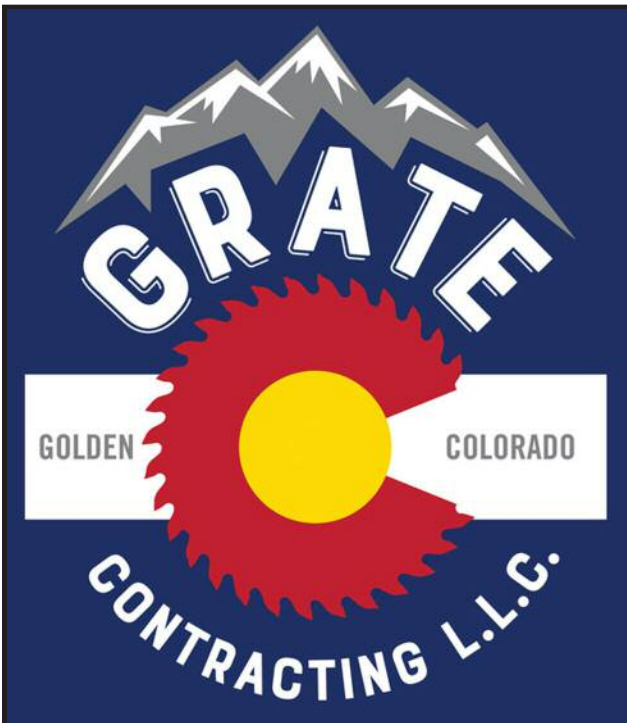
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## Highlander Guest Opinion

in the rolling hills near Cadillac, Michigan. I lived on 80 acres with beautiful hardwood maple, spruce and poplar forests. In the back part of the acreage, a small babbling brook gurgled under an old stone bridge. I built a bench near the stream to sit during the autumn colors.

I enjoyed a pond about 50 yards from an old farmhouse similar to Thoreau's cabin on Walden Pond in Massachusetts. Many an evening, I watched fireflies, dragonflies and fish jumping under a starlit sky while I gazed into the embers of a stone-encased fire pit that I built with my own hands. For two years, I cut firewood, ate a vegetarian diet, read two to three books a week, took long hikes, cross country skied and discovered that I loved writing.

My life on the farm became the foundation for my quest to travel the world on a bicycle, write about my adventures and fulfill my deepest longings toward a literary life. All these years later, I am thankful for the courage to change course in my life. How can you respond to your invitation to live a great life? Repurpose your thinking. In order to change your life, you must change your thoughts.

Remember that thoughts become things.

Accept yourself and your ideas for a happy life. That means you realize that you're not happy with what you're doing, so you change paths. From that choice, life offers

you new opportunities.

Remember your thoughts represent "seeds" in your mind. Plant "thought seeds" to grow into your new self, your new path and your new concepts.

Feed your mind "positive" vibrations that yield a higher "frequency" in your consciousness.

Pretend that your mind resembles water when meeting obstacles that stand in the way of your dreams. Water finds

ways around, over and under obstacles. It always finds a way to its ultimate destiny. By choosing to "think" like water, you move yourself toward your chosen destiny. Don't know that destiny? Like water, keep moving in a positive flow toward your highest and best. Life unfolds toward your way.

Like I did at age 26, my son Trevor at 29 decided to move toward his destiny by changing his path. What will he find in Austria? How will he pay for

his journey through Europe? The answers evolve along his chosen path.

Those same answers await you on your selected route toward living a prodigious

life by your own invitation to your greatness.

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*(Open yourself up to a joyful life by spreading your arms and smiling to the universe. When you do, like butterflies to flowers, you attract the highest and best into your life. You create high vibrations in your cells that equate to positive frequencies for living. You attract people, places and happiness into your life.)* Photography by Frosty Wooldridge

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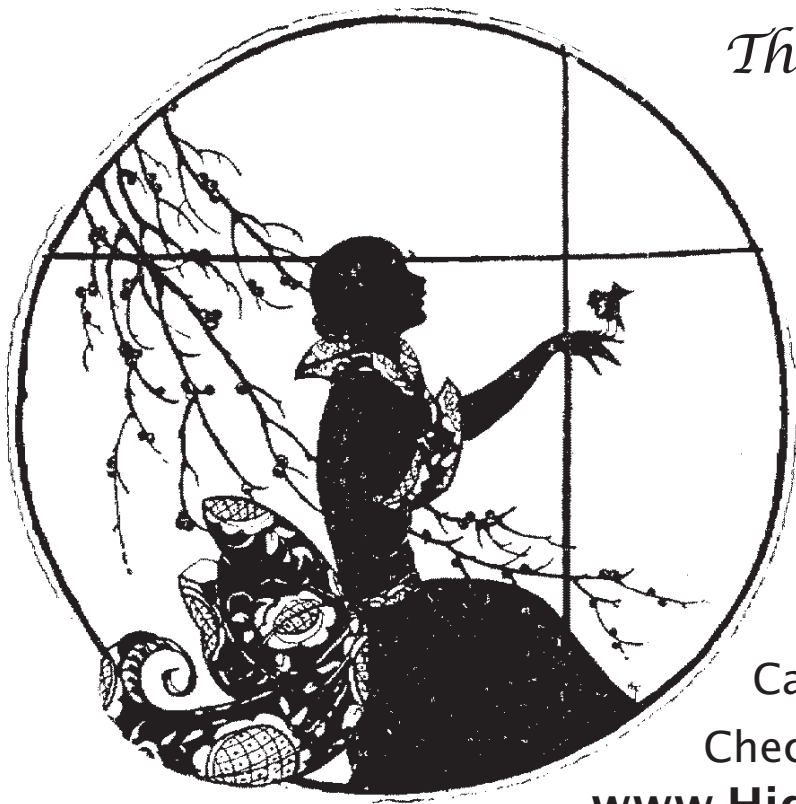
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# Introduced To The World Of Dance

So moving off a farm in eastern Kansas to a suburb of a town in Florida along the Atlantic coast gave us different opportunities as kids. My brother was able to join a peewee baseball team and thus began an athletic career he wouldn't have had access to if we had stayed on the farm. He was successful in all his endeavors at sports throughout High School and became a golf professional in the PGA.

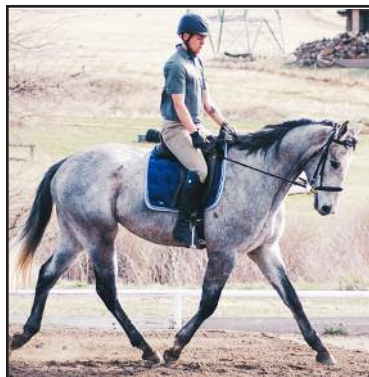
In the first few months of living in Florida I watched a couple of young kids on the Ed Sullivan show (pictured here) dance a Ballet they learned at a studio in Palm Beach. It inspired me to want to take ballet lessons so I became determined to find a dance studio in our town. As it turned out there was a dance teacher near us that had been a world famous Spanish Dancer from Columbia and she had taken ballet in Paris during her world tours while performing Spanish Dancing. She was so talented she had actually appeared on the cover of *Life* Magazine and her retirement was to teach Ballet, Spanish Dancing, Jazz, Tap and Modern Dance at a studio she owned near our town. (See photo here of her studio and students.)



I started taking ballet from Chela Jacobo (Photo next page) and got immediately hooked on the world of dance.

Taking classes several times a week and branching out into Spanish Dancing and Jazz classes was inevitable. Chela took several weeks off every summer to go study new things in New York and Palm Beach and brought those new techniques back to her studio to share with her students. It was the chance of a lifetime to study with such an innovative and naturally talented teacher.

Since she had performed Spanish Dancing professionally most of her life she took her students along to the world of performing in front of audiences at least twice a year. She rented the big theatre in our town and choreographed all the dances and



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taught us to perform as soon as we were able. So it wasn't just recitals at the local schools, which we did too, but it was real performing in front of people that bought tickets to see amateurs and her local student stars. She had students that went on to learn and perform in Palm Beach and even the Joffrey Ballet in New York City. It was a wonderful childhood experience to be her student and benefit from her teaching and talent as a world renown performer.

Our house in Florida was in a new subdivision that was situated next to some wild open space, basically jungle, and it butted up against a tree and gardening business. They left things growing naturally and harvested that wild crop to sell to developers and



homeowners for landscaping. So my brother and I could run wild in this open space area with little to no supervision or consequences for our roaming nearly year round. In the open space there was a small pond that we took advantage of to swim in on hot days that we were not out at the ocean beach.

One time we had gone swimming in the pond and were laying out on the sand to soak up the sun and dry off before going back home when we saw a big alligator come out of the same pond to waddle into the brush across the other side of the pond. I can distinctly remember looking at my brother's



*(Pictured here: Me dancing my first solo.)*

face, which had gone stark white (probably like mine) and his eyes were as big as saucers when we both realized we had been swimming with that big reptile only moments before. It was a time we both remember as if it were yesterday, thinking we could have been attacked and eaten. We never swam in that pond again and actually gave it wide berth whenever roaming in that jungle open space.

I can remember going to grade school from first grade to fifth in a modular built unusual schoolhouse. Each class had its own little round schoolroom with several rooms attached in a circle with an open center atrium that did not



have a roof. It was close enough to our house we rode our bikes to school each day it wasn't raining and the freedom of being so carefree was wonderful. I also recall the day my fifth grade teacher, whom I loved and who was a fantastic role model, came back into class after being called outside by the principal - she was in tears. She composed herself after a few minutes, wiping her nose and sitting behind her desk to tell us all that President Kennedy had just been killed. It was a sobering announcement, quickly making the whole class quiet and fearful. We had lived through the Bay of Pigs Missile Crisis trouble in Cuba and were all wondering if the world would break out into war. Those were strange memories from childhood that colored my view of the world for years to come.

Some of the last memories from living in Florida were of watching the space rockets from Cape Canaveral as it was not that far away and the launches could be seen for miles. We all dreamt of the U.S. in space or watching astronauts walking on the moon

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as TV journalists talked about those plans all the time. When astronauts did finally reach the moon I was back in Kansas and followed it via television, remembering how close we had lived to where the rockets were being launched.

*By A. M. Wilks*

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# Power Update

May  
2019

## 2019 Annual Meeting Recap, Director Election Results

United Power joined with members on Wednesday, April 17 at the Adams County Fairgrounds to celebrate a special cooperative milestone at its 80th Annual Meeting and Director Election. The Brighton-headquartered utility joined a short list of co-ops to reach the achievement. Instead of focusing on its history, United Power instead chose to highlight the stories of nearly 20 different communities it serves across the northern Front Range. Members also elected incumbents Elizabeth Martin, Ursula J. Morgan and Keith Alquist II to serve another term as directors of their respective districts at the meeting.

The Annual Meeting brought together nearly 1,000 attendees representing nearly 400 registered members and included dinner, exhibit booths, live entertainment, cooperative reports, director elections, and a member Q&A session.

Complete annual meeting details, full election results and video presentations can be found online at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).



**Elizabeth Martin**  
*East District*



**Ursula J. Morgan**  
*West District*



**Keith E. Alquist, II**  
*South District*

## Be Prepared for Summer Storms

Lightning from thunderstorms kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes, according to the American Red Cross. Thunderstorms produce heavy rain, lightning, hail and high winds that can cause flash flooding, damage homes and down trees or utility poles. As summer arrives, make sure you're prepared to handle storms that come with the changing season. Follow these tips from the Red Cross to stay safe:

**Stay away from downed power lines.** Always assume downed power lines are live, which means electricity is still flowing through the wire. Call 911 immediately and report them to United Power at 303-637-1350.

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

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

Read more severe weather tips at [www.redcross.org/get-help](http://www.redcross.org/get-help).



## Your Change Makes a Big Difference

Interested in giving back to your community? Operation Round-Up is a voluntary program in which members elect to have their monthly electric bill "rounded up" to the next whole dollar.

By pooling the small contributions of all participating members, the foundation makes a big difference for organizations that provide essential services and programs in the community.

This past year, Round-Up gave more than \$92,000, used for direct assistance to individuals and families in the United Power territory, including Canyon Cares in Coal Creek Canyon. These partner organizations are empowered to use the money to help those seeking assistance.

To find out more about the program and enroll, review its annual report summary in this month's edition of the *United Newsline* or go to [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).





# Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, May 11th 7am - 11am

CCCIA Hall 31258 Coal Creek Canyon



**30154 Spruce Canyon Drive**  
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**333 S. Taft Court**  
Townhouse Style Condo  
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**266 Aspen Drive**  
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3 BD/ 2 BA 2,036 sq.ft. .95 Ac. **\$445,000**



**269 Olde Carter Lake Road**  
Snowcapped VIEWS! 1.87 Acres  
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,475 sq.ft. **Custom Home**



**Coal Creek Canyon**  
Gorgeous Updated Log Home - 1.82 Acres  
4 BD/ 4 BA 3,817 sq.ft. **\$1,100,000**



**221 Aspen Drive**  
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2 BD/ 1 BA 1,667 sq.ft.



**33588 Lyttle Dowdle**  
Beautiful Building Lot! Lots of Sunshine  
1.04 Acre **\$59,900**



**9321 Nile Court**  
Amazing Home, Prairie & Mtn Views  
3 BD/ 4 BA 5,362 sq.ft. **\$695,000**



**2 Ronnie Road**  
Remodeled Mtn Home - VIEWS  
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,109 sq.ft. .54 Ac. **\$419,000**



**216 Debra Ann Road**  
Remodeled Mtn Home - VIEWS  
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,400 sq.ft. **\$390,000**



**11648 Overlook Road**  
Custom Log Home 1.82 Acres  
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,104 sq.ft. **\$400,000**



**386 Chute Road**  
Perfect Horse Property 4.13 Acres  
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,920 sq.ft. **\$420,000**



**1111 Elysian Field Dr. #D. Lafayette**  
Condo backs to Coal Creek Open Space  
1 BD/ 1 BA Top Unit 826 sq.ft. **\$250,000**



**Coal Creek Canyon**  
Custom Log Home - 4.2 Acres  
3 BD/ 4 BA 3,300 sq.ft. **\$900,000**



**11773 Hillcrest Road**  
Private, Cozy Mtn Retreat Remodeled  
2 BD/ 2 BA 1.15 Acre **\$349,900**



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