



The Rendezvous

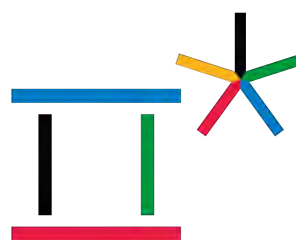
The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 5 - Number 1

The Winter Olympics

The U.S. Forest Service always helps out

by Dave Steinke



PyeongChang 2018



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The official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association, the Rocky Mountaineers. Editions are published Fall, Winter, and Spring and posted on-line.

The 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea are nearly upon us and it's a good time to remember the important role the U.S. Forest Service plays when the Games are on American soil.

Forest Service involvement in the Olympics stems from a long-standing relationship with the ski industry and the Olympic movement in the United States. The Forest Service was a very early player in the formation of ski resorts after World War II. The agency was involved in avalanche research and application, skier safety and resort planning.

The first Winter Olympics, the 1924 Winter Olympics, was held in Chamonix, France. The Games were held every four years from 1924 to 1936, interrupted in 1940 and 1944 by World War II, and resumed in 1948. Until 1992 the Winter and Summer Olympic Games were held in the same years, but in accordance with a 1986 decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to place the Summer and Winter Games on separate four-year cycles in alternating even-numbered years, the next Winter Olympics after 1992 was in 1994.

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The Games have been held in the United States four times (1932, 1960, 1980, 2002);

In 1932 just seventeen nations and 252 athletes participated. This was less than in 1928, as the journey to Lake Placid, New York, was long and expensive for most competitors, who had little money in the midst of the Great Depression. The athletes competed in fourteen events in four sports.

World War II interrupted the holding of the Winter Olympics. The 1940 Games had been awarded to Sapporo, Japan, but the decision was rescinded in 1938 because of the Japanese invasion of China. The Games were then to be held at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, but the 1940 Games were cancelled following the German invasion of Poland in 1939. Due to the ongoing war, the 1944 Games, originally scheduled for Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy, were cancelled.

The IOC awarded the 1960 Olympics to Squaw Valley, California. It was an undeveloped resort in 1955, so from 1956 to 1960 the infrastructure and all of the venues were built at a cost of eighty million dollars. The opening and closing ceremonies were produced by Walt Disney.

The Squaw Valley Olympics was the first winter Olympics to have a dedicated athletes' village, the first to use a computer (courtesy of IBM) to tabulate results, and the first to feature female speed skating events.

The Forest Service stepped forward in a supporting role at these Olympic Games for the first time.

Monty Atwater, the famous "avalanche hunter" and snow ranger at Alta Ski Resort was asked by the Chief of the Forest Service to become the Forest Service representative at Squaw Valley. As Atwater put it, "My instructions were characteristically all embracing: keep an avalanche disaster off the program of the Games. The Chief also pledged to the Olympic Commission and the State of California the full support of the Forest Service in lands, manpower and equipment."

This in many ways set the course for the agency's continued support of United States-hosted Olympic Games.

Lots of Region 2 employees have been involved in support of the Olympic Games and we asked a few of them to write down a few of their memories working the games.



The Herb Brooks Arena in Lake Placid site of the "Miracle on Ice" in 1980.

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(continued from Page 2)*Bob Averill*

Being selected to officiate at an Olympic Winter Games (OWG) and be an advisor at another, were two highlights that all started when I was four years old learning to ski at Pole Mountain Ranger Station, then moving to Deadwood and discovering ski jumping at the

Terry Peak Ski Area, all thanks to my dad who was Forest Supervisor of the Medicine Bow National Forest and then, the Black Hills National Forest.

I wanted to give back to the sport that had meant a lot to me in high school and college. (I also want to recognize all those Forest Service folks who volunteered at ski meets I would run into while competing or officiating over the years.)

I became a ski jumping judge and Nordic Combined Technical Delegate in 1992. In 1995 the OWG were awarded to Salt Lake City. I was selected to be the Chief Of Stewards in 1997, once all the scandals started settling down in Salt Lake. The original committee thought they were going to select who did what. Little did they realize that it is the governing body of each sport that runs and controls the event! Utah Olympic Park and the organizers that made the Games work put together an excellent team to oversee everything. There were a number of pre-Olympic events at the jump where skills could be honed. I also was involved in selecting where the photographers and TV cameras could be for the best shooting positions as well as meeting our security needs. I was able to select from over 400 applicant volunteers that would make up my thirty six-person team. All those green-jacketed folks you saw on and around the ski jump were members of my team. These folks had the responsibility of keeping the spectators and other unauthorized persons from entering the areas where the athletes were.

In 2008 I was the Technical Delegate for the first International competition on the new jumps north of Vancouver. In addition, I spent several days providing training to their volunteers for the 2010

OWG. I can't think of a more fun group to work with than the Canadians! The same goes for their Forest Entomologists. During those Games in 2010 I was available to troubleshoot wherever I was needed on the jumps. That was a great time as I

*February 18, 1960 - first day of Issue, Tahoe National Forest*

could watch more of the athletes instead of the spectators. It was also where the U.S. won one Gold and 3 Silver medals in Nordic Combined making us the top nation in that event. Having been around those youngsters since they were in elementary school made for rewarding times to be associated with such a fine group of athletes.

*Tom Healy*

As an LEO on the White River National Forest, I was part of the law enforcement team in 1999 when Vail Resort hosted the Alpine World Ski Championships in an event known as Vail 99. Forest Service Law Enforcement & Investigations and other federal law enforcement agencies used Vail 99 as a trial run for the

security apparatus for the upcoming Salt Lake Olympics. After Vail 99 I was looking forward to participating in the security effort at Salt Lake, and

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while the initial security planning for the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics was significant, everything changed with the events of September 11, 2001. Suddenly,

those of us involved in the Salt Lake Olympics detail were part of a very serious public safety component.



The actual work I performed at the Olympics was tedious and unglamorous with most days spent at one of several road checkpoints some distance from the alpine ski racing venue. I recall several of us trying unsuccessfully to watch the women's downhill race from checkpoint at least a

mile from the race course. Even with binoculars and spotting scopes the racers were just tiny specs - so much for seeing the Olympics in person!

Regardless, being part of the Forest Service team that supported the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics was a highlight of my career, and we came home with some really nice winter gear that I used until I retired.

* * * * *



Annette Pintado

Snow Basin was the venue for the downhill, combined and Super-G events during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, I was stationed on the ski hill, working the day shift.

To put security at the Olympics in perspective, I was stationed at the Canoe and Kayak venue on the Ocoee River in 1996 at the time of the bombing at the Olympic Park in Atlanta, GA. On the morning of September 11, 2001, four American airliners were hijacked. Two airplanes were crashed into the World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and the last crashed 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh in a field. The possibility of an attack on such a world stage was and remains a very real possibility.

I was at a semi remote location with my partner Chico Maldonado, an officer from the Kisatchie NF. To access our post, we would catch a ride from the snow cat operator who was grooming the trails on the mountain. I always remember coming up and over the



top of the Strawberry Lift and starting down the face of the run as the sun was rising. The view was spectacular. We would be dropped off at our shack, and the night shift, 3

national guardsmen from the Connecticut National Guard would hop in the snow cat and head out. Our post was responsible for providing security on the mountain which was both Open to the public on one side and closed to the public on the other. We sat mid-way up the mountain from the main highway and could see where the shuttle busses would pick up and drop off people. Every now and then someone would try and access the area from the road. We would call in to the mobile unit who would respond via snowmobile and make contact.

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On my last day I asked to be placed closer to the actual events. I was stationed at the check-in tent for the media. I would monitor those coming and

going with all their equipment. One T.V. network failed to claim all their equipment after they went through screening. This caused the whole area to be shut down and secured while the bomb squad cleared the area and equipment. It was very tense for about an hour while the bomb squad did their job. After it was deemed secure the area was re-opened.

My thoughts and prayers go out to those who are responsible for protecting our borders at home and abroad. Be safe and remain vigilant.



Jim Maxwell

The Fiddlin' Foresters participated in the 2002 Winter Olympics thanks, in part, to the efforts of Stephanie Gomes, a public affairs officer assigned to the event. We drove to Utah in two vehicles and spent our nights in the seasonal-workers bunkhouse in the village of Kamas.

We typically performed two conservation education programs per day, mixed with live old-time music including fiddle, banjo, guitars, and bass. Our daytime shows were split between the cross-country skiing events at Soldier Hollow (near Heber) and the downhill racing events at Snow Basin (near Huntsville). Our evening shows were set in the USFS Olympics visitor center in downtown Salt Lake City. Our daytime shows were all outdoors, and therefore often in cold weather. Two of our one-

hour shows at Soldier Hollow were at 6 degrees F, and one half-hour show at Snow Basin was at 4 degrees (the next day, we played at 26 degrees, and it felt like spring).



Lynn Young, Jane Leche and Jim Maxwell.

We wore wool gloves with the finger ends cut out, but our fingers quickly went

numb and

felt like little stumps of wood that we willed into position as we played our tunes. That was tough!

The whole experience was like living in a dream - in another world with its own magical culture. Security was tight (just months after 9-11), but friendly and efficient. Every person working the events was a pleasure, and the crowds were lively and warm. We especially enjoyed seeing friendly faces along the way and stealing social breaks with local forest employees. The 11 days we spent there add up to one of our most cherished memories in our 18 years together.



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Susan Alden

My friend John Hoagland had long been researching and learning about the environmental movement around the Olympics. He truly was the guy behind the Environmental Platform for the 2002 Games. He helped to build an environmental advisory group, develop the platform for the games and to convince the leadership of the planning committee to hire an

Environmental Program Coordinator – Diane Gleason. This was no small feat - that is a story best heard by Bernie Weingardt.

The Forest Service became integral to the environmental planning efforts providing staff and expertise to the Olympic Committee. Dave Ream and Lisa Perez helped to develop environmental education and outreach programs and assist sustainable operations. Bruce Ungari organized a Forest Service Volunteer crew that worked at both Snowbasin and Wasatch Mountain State Park. Stephanie Gomes led communications and outreach, coordinating with the State, developing stories, tours, working with poets and authors to tell stories about national forests. Chip Sibbersen and John Hoagland led our team through the entire effort coordinating with the Forest, the Olympic Committee and the National Office. It was a great team.

For two years I helped to lead the environmental marketing effort, urban forestry and environmental education programs. We were able to partner with the Earth Communications Office (Environmental Voice of Hollywood) PacifiCorp Power, Coca Cola, the EPA, World Resources Institute, Anheuser-Busch, many local and national nonprofits and even Green Peace. We created the Environmental Champions program, worked towards zero emission and zero waste goals, planted over 15 million trees – some of which ended up on the hillsides of Sarajevo, created PSAs with Hollywood, worked with actors and athletes as spokespeople, developed

environmental awards programs, held concerts for the environment on earth day, hosted a White House press conference, and created an environmental education programming with Bill Nye the Science Guy.

I probably spent more time with Bill over the two years than any other “Hollywood” personality. He worked with us to develop a video focused on the “The Great Salt Lake Watershed and You.” This piece helped to address energy and inversions, water and the high desert, and personal responsibility tied to protecting and conserving our environment. I even had a part in the video.



Sharka Vokel, Susan Alden and Bill Nye.

During the time we worked together, I shielded him from groupies, he scalped speed skating tickets so I could attend his favorite event with him and his girlfriend, he gave me car advice and most

shockingly he got me hooked on Hank Williams – buying me a CD and insisting we

sing at the top of our lungs while traveling between film locations.

One of the best parts about being a part of the Olympics is sharing it. I was able to nominate someone to carry the torch in the relay across the country. This person needed to be someone who I believed to be inspirational and who embodied the Olympic ideals and spirit. I nominated Joe Meade and his seeing eye dog, Navarro. Joe was the Director of Recreation in the Southwestern Region at the time. We were so excited when he was selected. I flew down to Albuquerque to be there and cheer him on! This was a definite highlight!

Looking back, my life and career were so enriched by the Olympic experience. I am forever grateful for the opportunity afforded to me by the Forest Service and the Olympic Committee. I learned so much and it continues to shape my career.

* * * * *

Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship – 2018

Call for Applicants

Do you know a high school senior that would be interested in a college scholarship? The Rocky Mountaineers will be offering at least one \$1,500 scholarship this spring.

We awarded one scholarship in 2015, and two scholarships in both 2016 and 2017. All application information can be found on our website at www.rockymountaineers.us

Each applicant must have a Rocky Mountaineer member as a sponsor. The due date for applications is March 1, 2018.

Please direct any questions to rmountaineers@gmail.com with a message title “Scholarship.”

Thank you from the Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship Committee!



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Tom Thompson, tommylthompson@comcast.net, 303-933-2135

Membership & Others - P.O. Box 270462, Fort Collins, CO 80527



Membership and Finance Report

Finance

If you haven't gotten around to it yet, it is time to pay your 2018 dues and/or donate to the Scholarship Fund or the Memorial Grove Fund. We hope to collect enough donations in each of these funds to support our scholarship awards and cover expenses at the Memorial Grove ceremony this year.

In 2017 we raised \$1,595 from 24 donors to the Scholarship Fund. We also raised \$1,345 from 34 donors for the Memorial Grove Fund.

Annual dues remain \$20 per household. Lifetime memberships are \$250 per household. We now have 83 Lifetime Members.

You can make a payment with either a check or a credit card. Go to our website at www.rockymountaineers.us for details. If you want to pay by check and don't need a receipt, just drop it in the mail.

As a reminder, the Rocky Mountaineers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Membership

The Rocky Mountaineers membership has climbed to 431 members as of early January. This is our highest membership total since we were established. There are plenty of retirees that haven't joined us, so please help us recruit new members.

Some of our newest members –

Bev Baker – Louisville, CO

Deborah Barnhart – Delta, CO

Keiko Bornhoff – Littleton, CO

Wallace Gallaher – Arvada, CO

Maribeth Gustafson – Lakewood, CO

Janice Hartman – Olympia, WA

Carol Jorgensen – Custer, SD

Craig and Wendy Magwire – Granby, CO

Michael Picard – Nathrop, CO

Jeff Tupala – Boulder, CO

Neal Weierbach – Pueblo, CO

Jim Zornes – Booneville, AR

Eugene Smith – Welches, OR

National awards honor CSU's deep forestry roots

- Courtesy CSU Warner College of Natural Resources - Karina Pulkkonen

Two awards presented at the Society of American Forester's 2017 national convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico recognized the contributions Colorado State University students, past and present, have made in the field of forestry.

Tom Thompson, forest management, '68, is a testament to what CSU forestry students can achieve. Thompson received the Gifford Pinchot Medal, the highest honor awarded to forestry professionals. After 37-years in the U.S. Forest Service he retired as the deputy chief in 2005, and continues to be involved in various forestry foundations and organizations, including the Warner College of Natural Resources Dean's Council.

CSU's Alpha Chapter of the Society of American Foresters received first-place for 2017's Outstanding Student Chapter, the third time in four years, in front of peers from university chapters across the nation. The annual award recognizes exemplary land stewardship service and outreach to the chapter's university and surrounding community. Both awards have historical connections. The efforts that Thompson and his fellow students began during their time at CSU not only planted the seed for their own careers, but also



Tom Thompson with his Gifford Pinchot Medal, the highest award given in the field of forestry. (Photo courtesy of Society of American Foresters)

led to CSU receiving the "Alpha Chapter" title as the first student chapter designated in the Society of American Foresters. This 50-year legacy continues to motivate students' success today.

A long forestry tradition was in place at CSU by the 1967-1968 academic year. Thompson was vice president of the Forest Management Club and helped the club achieve their goals to learn about forestry, meet forest management professionals and build up their college community.

He and fellow students were also active in the Longs Peak Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.

Thompson said this professional group and the students realized they shared similar goals and began discussing how to pitch the idea of forming a student

chapter to the national organization.

"We saw that having a student chapter could provide more access and support for forestry students and more pride in our college," he said. "This kind of connectivity shaped what each student wanted to become in the field of forestry."

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Forest Management Club officers. Tom Thompson is in the front row, second from left. Source: *The Colorado Forester* 1967-1968

Thompson and other pioneers graduated that year, but other students and faculty continued the campaign. On November 6, 1969, the Forest Management Club became the CSU Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters Central Rocky Mountain Section, the first in the nation.

During the conference, Thompson offered CSU students advice about achieving their goals in the student chapter and in their professional careers.

“It’s humbling to be recognized in your field, but none of us do it by ourselves,” he said. “Be willing to step forward together and take on problems. Problems are solved by stepping forward, not stepping back.”

The continued success of CSU’s Alpha chapter shows students in this field are still moving in the right direction.



Our Newest Retirees



Unfortunately, no report for this quarter....but a note from the Department of Agriculture.

“This USDA website will not be updated during a lapse in federal funding. Content on this website will not be current or maintained until funding issues have been resolved. However, if there is information that affects security, life, and property, this website will continue to update that information during a funding lapse.”

It's our fifth year of skiing together



L to R:

Steve Johnson, Roger Tarum, Tom Thompson, Johnny Hodges, Nancy Warren, Martha Dahl, Jim Thinner, Susan Gray, Bjorn Dahl, Cindy Dean, Vic Baer, Lynn Larsen, Ed Ryberg, Bernie Weingart, Dan Nolan, Doug Laraby, Paul Langowski, Robin Langowski, Ken Kowynia, Wendy Magwire, Craig Magwire, Mindy Martin, Mark Martin. (Gary Patton not in photo)

The Rocky Mountaineers Fifth Annual Ski Day was held at Winter Park Ski Area on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. It was an absolutely wonderful day. The snow was good, the weather was great, and we had the largest turnout ever. Even though the body sometimes questions the notion, it is a great day of fun, fellowship, and a chance to enjoy the beautiful slopes. The folks at Winter Park have always welcomed us and been great hosts. We especially thank Doug Laraby from Winter Park who skied with us for part of the day and helped us again this year with the arrangements.

The group met early in morning at the Mary Jane Lodge and after getting briefed on the day, we were off to the slopes. We joined up together for lunch at the Lunch Rock Lodge and enjoyed a delicious selection of food served up on the mountain. After a couple more hours of skiing in the afternoon, we again gathered at the bottom to enjoy some social time and reflect on the great day together. There were lots of smiles and stories to be shared.



Forest Service Retiree Reunion 2018

September 24-28, 2018



Crown Plaza Resort

Set on 125 acres of grounds, this upscale modern resort is 2.2 miles from the Asheville Art Museum and 4.2 miles from shopping at Biltmore Village.

Featuring patios or balconies, the warm, classic rooms offer free Wi-Fi, cable TV and mini-fridges. Upgraded rooms add microwaves, while suites include kitchens, dining areas and whirlpool tubs.

There's an elegant restaurant serving Southern-inspired fare, a lobby bar and a wood-paneled bar/grill with a pool table.

Other amenities include a 9-hole golf course, tennis courts and a zip-line, plus an outdoor pool, a gym and a spa. A business center and 34,000 square feet of meeting space are also available.

The Registration Chair said that as of January 16, 2018, **251** have registered for the reunion. Our initial goal was 500. With this being the first reunion held in the eastern U.S. we hope to have 600+. The registrations are arriving daily at a pace the person printing the name badges is working hard to keep up.

If you want to get the discounted registration rate of \$200 (before March 31st) and to ensure you get a room at the Crowne Plaza Resort low rate, REGISTER soon.

Remember, you have to be registered before the Crowne Plaza calls you about making a registration.

Do not call the Crowne Plaza - they will call you after you register.

The registration form and other information is on the web site:

<http://2018.fsreunions.org/registration.html>

NAFSR News and Update

by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSA representative



On October 23, 2017, NAFSR Chairman Jim Caswell and R-2 Regional Forester Brian Ferebee presented a posthumous John R. McGuire Award to the family of Brett Beasley in recognition of Brett's outstanding accomplishments in management of the recreation program on the Salida Ranger



Brett Beasley

District of the Pike San Isabel NF and Cimarron Comanche NG. Brett had worked on the District for over twenty years before he lost his life in a backcountry skiing accident in early 2017. Brett worked both on and off the job within the community and built numerous partnerships that resulted in an outpouring of support for the recreation program and Brett's leadership. He set a high mark for community and collaborative service.



L to R: Regional Forester Brian Ferebee, Brooke Beasley, Cari Beasley, Bari Beasley, NAFSR Chair Jim Caswell, and Board Member Tom Thompson.

Nearly a hundred people gathered at a conference center in Salida to recognize Brett's work. Accepting the award were Brett's wife, Cari, and his two daughters, Brooke and Bari.

The John R. McGuire award is presented to current Forest Service employee(s) or units that exhibit exemplary commitment and performance in accomplishing the mission of the outfit. Nominations for this award can be made by any NAFSR member or any unit leader in the agency.

Since the last update in September NAFSR has continued to be active in responding to or supporting legislation such as for fire funding legislation. NAFSR has recently sent a letter to the Secretary expressing concern over recent closure of a Job Corps Center. NAFSR also sent a letter of opposition to the House Resources Committee regarding legislation proposed in HR 1349, which would allow a number of both motorized and non-motorized mechanical methods of transport in wilderness. Most recently, we sent a letter to Secretary Perdue with a response to the OneUSDA initiative he recently highlighted.

The NAFSR Board will meet in early February to develop positions and evaluate previous actions, successes, and areas of needed improvement. If you have concerns or issues that NAFSR ought to be aware of please let Tom Thompson know by contacting him or sending a message to Johnny Hodges. As the new year starts please consider supporting the work that NAFSR takes on by becoming a member.



National Museum of Forest Service History



The Museum had a very busy and productive year in 2017. We opened our site with an interpretive trail, paved parking, restroom, and an interim visitor center that is open and staffed during the summer months. We conducted our first teacher workshop in May and held our first Conservation Legacy Campfire event in September. We hosted two special events on our site, including a pancake breakfast as part of the Norman Maclean Festival and an Old Fashioned Christmas which brought nearly 500 people out to enjoy hot chocolate, a campfire, and time to enjoy the trail, the visitor center, a few mules, and of course Woodsy and Smokey were able to make it too.

We continue to work on plans to hold another teachers workshop in 2018 and have several grant requests submitted that would hopefully help fund this opportunity to engage teachers from around the country who want to help young folks better understand the history of conservation and the Forest Service. We have seen a steady increase in membership and truly appreciate the fact that more people want to support the Museum's

efforts to protect and use the history of the Forest Service to help understand and tell the story of conservation in America.



We continue to catalog and develop our online collection which now has over 23,000 entries. We have developed a partnership with Neiman Enterprises to develop a virtual/online exhibit about the 119 year history and benefits of conservation based forest management on the Black Hills National Forest.

Recent new board members include:

Michelle Pearson, who is an award winning teacher and is presently a course instructor for teaching with Primary Sources in the Colorado, Library of Congress Regional Program and lives in Broomfield, CO.

Onno Wieringa, who recently retired as the general manager of the Alta Ski Area in Utah.

We have raised about \$4.5 million to date for our capital campaign and are about half way to the amount needed to begin construction of our Museum building. We are hopeful that we will make even more significant progress in our capital campaign in 2018 and be ready to begin construction within the year. Donations to help support either our capital campaign or our operations are greatly appreciated.

For a complete summary of the Museum's accomplishment and plans see our most recent annual report on our website at <https://www.forestservicemuseum.org/>



Ranger Stories

By Dan Nolan



D.O. Johnson

Williams Fork, Fraser, Sulphur, and Kremmling. Following his Forest Service career, he served for many years as county commissioner.

In December of 1966, he sat down with Herb Schwan, a Forest Service colleague, to record an oral history interview. The following are excerpts from that interview.

Background

Herb Schwan: D.O., were you raised in this area or in Colorado?

Johnson: No, up until I was 11 years old I was raised in the short grass country of the western plains of Kansas. We moved to Denver and spent about a year there. Then my father bought a place north of Denver and had a little store. We sold that and went up to the Greeley District and went into farming. Due to the potato blight, frost and one thing or another he went broke farming there. Then in 1914 we went into to the North Park country; I was about 19 years old. He homesteaded there and afterwards bought a sawmill but the market wasn't very good.

First Forest Service Job

In the summer of 1925 I went to work for ranger Charlie Kutzleb on the Grizzly Creek District. During that time, we built 51 miles of trail, five of us. Ed Gamber (sp?) and I were the axe men, doing the

chopping out and clearing the trail; the other crew followed making the tread. I noticed the present road they're building towards Rabbit Ears follows right in the old trail.

Taking the Ranger Exam and Reporting for Duty

Johnson: In the fall of 1925 I went over to Steamboat Springs and took the ranger examination, that was the old ranger exam. I was going with a Boston school teacher that fall, and she mentioned something about the exam and said that I couldn't pass it. So, it was kind of a challenge, and so I took it.

I broke my leg skiing and was in the hospital when the notice came for me to report to the Fraser Ranger District as assistant to ranger Johnnie Johnston. I did manage to get out of the hospital with a brace on my leg. At that time, we were ordered to report for duty with a horse and pack outfit - a pack horse; so, that was how I arrived, on June 18, 1926.

Cutting Ski Trails, First Creek Cabin

Schwan: Now about the beginning of the Winter Park Ski Area.

Johnson: Along about 1930 or '31, when they started keeping the Berthoud Pass open, the following summer we laid out the first ski trails with the help of Col. Peck's son, Frank Ashley, President of the First National Bank now, Darrel Phillips, and Thomas Dye(sp?). I don't believe I had any men or any funds at that time. One trail went down Cooper Creek, and one went down north from Berthoud Pass to connect up with the old stage road. We also cleared up on the hill west of Berthoud Pass. This let the skiers come on up in the winter time with a carload.

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One man would drive down to the lower switchback on the north side and the skiers would have a run there of approximately three miles. That one on the Cooper Creek side was a shorter run of approximately a quarter to a half mile that we cleared out. This would give them a faster run. As far as I know these were the first really ski runs that were built or long trails. Steamboat Springs and Hot Sulphur Springs had the ski jumps long before, of course.

I might make a note that the Arlberg Club was formed by the same group of men.

Later on, we built a ski shelter cabin on First Creek, and also built a ski shelter behind the Idlewild Ranger Station. The one up on First Creek was built by the CCC crews. I remember, because I packed the boards in there for them.

Snow Survey

Schwan: You were telling me about snowshoeing from Slate Creek over to Horseshoe on the Williams Fork. That sounded like kind of a hazardous trip that the safety people wouldn't permit now a days. Is that right?

Johnson: Oh yes, it was 27 miles round trip on snow shoes. There was no place to stop or stay. I

could have gone down to the old Horseshoe Ranger Station, but there was no food or anything, just beds at the office. So, I would make that trip - get up early in the morning, and it would be maybe eight or nine o'clock before I'd get back in. We were also using the tubes at that time. It was supposed to be two men, and later on it was two men who made the trip

Schwan: That was snow sampling and weighing

Johnson: Yeah, I did it all alone on two courses.

Schwan: One day over and one day back?

Johnson: No, all in one day.

Schwan: Well I mean, ...Oh, you went back again?

Johnson: Yeah, all in one day.

Schwan: Well that was quite a trip.

Johnson: Yeah, all in one day

Schwan: And not a house along the way? Not a ranch or anything else?

Johnson: No, there were none. And practically all of it had to be broke, new trail. At least 25 miles of it I had to break new trail along the way.



Pickup your Pocket Planner Pronto

It's not too late....Yes, you can still get your very own Smokey Pocket Planner by just sending a self addressed, stamped envelope to Tom Thompson at the address below and he will whisk your beautiful, one-of-a kind calendar to you before you can say "Only You."

Tom Thompson
6 Cliffrose
Littleton, CO 80127

What's Funny?



Smokey is famous from coast to coast! Especially now in California.



Truth to Power from the National Park Service.



More proof that the water that flows from the National Forests are really, really helpful.



Really? Someone might confuse this as an endorsement from an National Forest. Nab.

"That's the Way I Remember it"

Each newsletter we will be featuring a story about retirees from R-2



Wayne Shepperd

Scientist

Rocky Mountain Research Station

Retiree Class of 2007 - 40 years of service

The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?

Wayne Shepperd: I was born in Sterling, Colorado, moved to Grand Junction when I was three years old and then moved to Greeley after the ninth grade.

TR: Where did you go to school and what did you study?

WS: I received a Bachelor of Science at Colorado State University in Outdoor Recreation in 1970, an MS in Silviculture in 1974, and a Ph.D. in Silviculture in 1991.

TR: Tell us about your first job with the Forest Service.

WS: I started as a GS-3 Forestry Student Aid, in 1966 on the Kootenai National Forest in Troy, Montana. While there I planted trees; did some forest inventory and mapping; was a swamper for the district cat operator; and fought forest fires.

TR: Tell us about your career as a PhD silviculturist and how it changed over your career.

WS: I started as a Research Technician with the Rocky Mountain Station in 1970, then transferred from research to the National Forest System (NFS) in 1976. I was the second Forest Silviculturist on the Rio Grande NF from 1976 -1978. Working with

managers on the ground profoundly affected my approach to research when I returned to the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) as a scientist. I mostly did applied research that could be immediately used by managers on the ground. This was frowned upon at the time as not "doing real science" and affected my career advancement under the Research Grade Evaluation (RGE) system that rates USFS scientists' job performance and pay grade. However, it ultimately paid off later in my career when my collaboration with NFS managers resulted in successfully competing for research grants and the RGE system required technology transfer to be included in scientist's evaluation.

TR: How did you work with NFS resource managers? How did you get them to use your research?

WS: After seeing the Rio Grande's research paper library being dumped in the trash to free up office space, I realized that face-to-face technology transfer was much more effective in getting research results applied on the ground. So I concentrated on using field site visits, training sessions, demonstrations and USFS publications to share research results, rather than journal articles. A lot of my study sites were on NFS lands in collaboration with local national forests and ranger districts, which provided a lot of opportunities to apply the results on the ground.

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TR: What is the best advice someone, perhaps a mentor, gave you during your career?

WS: "Don't argue until you get your facts straight." This sound advice was passed on to me from a college roommate while attending CSU. He attributed it to an old farmer he considered a good friend. This statement is especially true when transferring research information to the field. Most research can't be applied universally, but must be considered in the context of where the data was collected and the methodology used.

TR: What changes have you seen in the FS during your career?

WS: The FS used to be a quasi military organization. Most scientists when I joined RMRS had NFS or military experience. Today that isn't necessarily the case.

Funding was not a problem when I started. Now scientists have to look for more creative ways to fund their programs. Competition for budgets requires collaboration with NFS and colleges today, resulting in more targeted research.

When I entered the Forest Service there were very few women, especially in the professional series. Today there are many more women in the professional series within the Forest Service, and many in leadership positions.

TR: What occupies your time these days?

WS: Hobbies, travel, volunteering at church, and occasional consults. I've posted my career publications on Research Gate and am amazed at the number of world-wide reads (3,500+) and citations they are getting. It's nice to know that some of my older work is still pertinent.

TR: Do you have any interesting humorous stories you can share with us?

WS: Many, many stories. Making Marcia Patton-Mallory and Linda Joyce walk several miles to get help after we got stuck in the Routt National Forest Blowdown is one you would appreciate.

On another occasion in the '70s another Forest Service employee and I were driving in the field above Glenwood Springs and realized that we were about to go over our allotted mileage. Remember those were the days of gas shortage when you had to park your vehicle if you were going over your allocated mileage. We also had the 55 MPH speed limit on highways. Well, I told my companion to pull over and straddle a ditch. I then got out a few tools and disconnected the odometer cable. We then drove the truck back to Fort Collins and I reattached the cable. Needless to say the fuel efficiency for that truck wasn't so good for that month.



Wayne Shepperd, Administrator for the Black Hills Experimental Forest.

TR: The Forest Service recently announced a new Chief. Any advice you have for him?

WS: Do the best that you can to uphold the traditions of the agency in today's volatile political climate.

The Forest Service has always been a "can do" outfit. We have passed the point of doing more with less. We need to set priorities. Recreation and Law Enforcement are especially vulnerable these days, as is Research.

Be especially aware of what is going on in the field.

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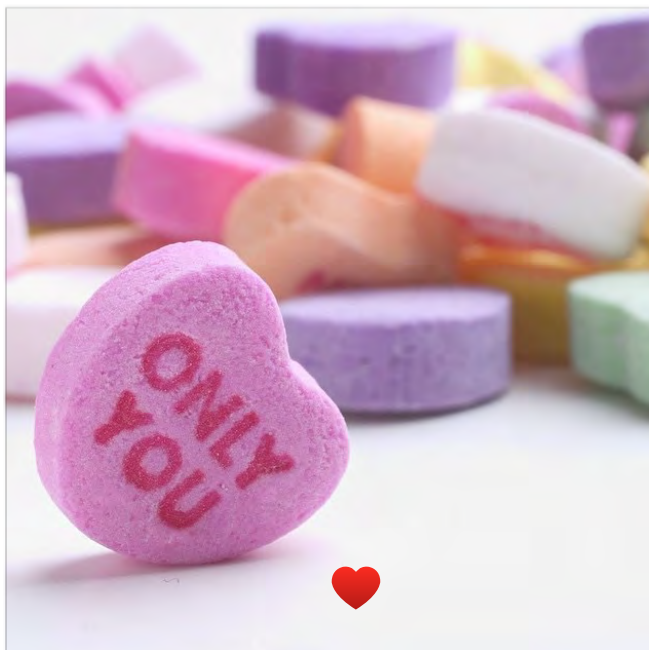


Wayne Shepperd, conducts a technology transfer tour on the Manitou Experimental Forest.

Have some understanding of what FS employees are doing and the impacts of bureaucratic rules and constraints on their ability to do their jobs. It is easy to have a disconnect between top level administration folks and the field.

TR: What advice would you give someone thinking of starting a career with the Forest Service?

WS: Go for it! It is a great outfit to work for and a civil service career can be very rewarding. Be persistent in seeking a permanent job. Be willing to go anywhere to establish your career and be a self-starter. Use volunteer and seasonal job experience to gain skills and establish a network of contacts within the agency.



Happy Valentine's Day Smokey!

“Life is short - and the world is wide”

Each newsletter we will be featuring a travel story from R-2 Retirees

Blown Away in Patagonia

By Johnny Hodges



Moai on Easter Island

Last November, a group of friends (all Rocky Mountaineer members) headed to South America to visit Easter Island and Patagonia. Patagonia covers the southern portion of South America in both Chile and Argentina. After 23 days and 20,000 miles of travel, here are our top three experiences.

Easter Island – Located 2,200 miles off the coast of Chile in the Pacific Ocean, Easter Island remains a mystical, mysterious place drawing tourists from all over the world. The chief attraction is the “moai”, carved figures ranging from 6 to 30 feet in height. Carved from volcanic tuff and probably representing various clan ancestors, the moai are scattered in numerous locations around the island. How were the natives able to move these massive statues weighing tons? And how were they able to erect them?

Torres del Paine National Park – There are numerous national parks in Patagonia, but this is number one. At 450,000 acres, it isn't particularly large, attracts 250,000 visitors annually, and is difficult to reach. After flying to Punta Arenas, the southern-most town in Chile, it is a 6-hour drive north to reach the park. There are no paved roads in and adjacent to the park and few places to stay, but the scenery is magnificent with soaring peaks, massive glaciers, turquoise lakes and roaring rivers.

Our first hike was to Lago Grey which is formed below the Grey Glacier. The winds in the park are notorious, especially in the spring and summer. We knew it was windy, but we were protected while hiking through the beech forest. When we broke out into the open along the shore of the lake, the wind hit with full force. Eduardo, our guide, estimated winds of 50-60 mph.

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Hiking into the wind, Torres del Paine N.P.

Just staying upright was difficult and at times we had to kneel to avoid being blown over. The stronger gusts picked up gravel along the shoreline and pelted our legs and we felt like we were being hit with a shotgun blast.

Perito Moreno Glacier – Located within Los Glaciares National Park about 30 miles west of El Calafate, Argentina, the edge of the glacier rises 50 feet above the adjacent lake.



Andean condor over Perito Moreno Glacier, Los Glaciares N.P.



Torres del Paine N.P.

The next morning, we hiked nearer the highest peaks in the park and the winds were even stronger, gusting up to 70 mph on exposed portions of the trail. In the afternoon, we moved to the eastern edge of the park, hiking among the native herds of guanacos (similar to llamas) and the wind was only a gentle breeze.

We took a boat ride up to the glacier for close-up views. Later we hiked along a boardwalk on a slope opposite the glacier and watched giant columns of ice calve into the lake. As a bonus, two Andean condors zoomed overhead, our closest condor encounter of the trip.

With few residents, Patagonia remains a remote and wild part of South America and will be remembered as one of our favorite (and most exhausting) trips.



What's a "One USDA"?

In case you missed some of the news - there's a lot to consume these days - there was a short video from the new Secretary of Agriculture that caught people's attention - inside and outside of the agency. We've tried to capture a few voices in this debate. with short articles and links to others.



USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's One USDA, Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRGIYI5iyNo&feature=youtu.be>

Rob Chaney, Missoulian

In his 2018 New Year's message, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced an accountability initiative that left current and former federal workers scratching their heads.

"So from today forward, you will hear all of USDA leadership, from the Office of the Secretary on down, begin to refer to us as OneUSDA," Perdue said in a video released on Tuesday, Jan. 2. "Not as APHIS or as the Forest Service, not as Rural Development or as FAS, and not as distinct agencies sitting in the same office, like FSA, RMA, and NRCS. [See related list of all the USDA agencies.]

"No, instead, we are going to be one team all working toward the same goals: OneUSDA. You may ask, and fairly so, 'What does this mean for me?'"

Perdue said more details will come over the next days, weeks and months.

A USDA spokesman said the move did not involve changing any agency names, logos or branding. It would not resemble the 2013 effort to standardize USDA logos and do away with the Forest Service's traditional pine tree symbol.

OneUSDA & Telework: Embracing the balance of customer service with employee flexibility

<https://www.fs.fed.us/blogs/oneusda-telework-embracing-balance-customer-service-employee-flexibility>

...to enhance our connections with the land, people and our fellow USDA employees, Secretary Perdue has shared a vision of operating as OneUSDA: where all agencies work together to make USDA the most effective, efficient, customer-focused and best-managed department in the federal government....he has directed all agencies to:

- Restore sanity and common sense to a cumbersome, labor intensive and costly departmental directive review process
- Enhance the Secretary's Awards and Recognition Program
- Amend our telework policy
- Review a wide array of directives - through Human Resources and the General Counsel's Office

A New Century of Forest Planning Blog

<http://forestpolicypub.com/2018/01/03/sonny-theres-more-than-oneusda/>

NAFSR Responded

<http://nafsr.org/advocacy/2018/010818%20Perdue%20Letter%20on%20OneUSDA.pdf>

... "The Forest Service is proudly anchored in the Department of Agriculture and that relationship is symbolized in the agency's shield which helps to sustain our heritage. It represents and reflects to the public the agency and department's identity of excellence in professionalism, service to the public, science based management, and leadership in conservation of natural resources, both nationally and internationally."

Wyoming scores Supervisor hat trick

Recently all three Forest Supervisor positions in Wyoming became vacant at the same time. Our research team was unable to find another time that this has happened. So we reached out to them and wanted to welcome them all to the Rocky Mountain Region's Leadership Team.

Medicine Bow-Routt NFs



Russ Bacon, Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands.

Russ Bacon is the new Forest Supervisor for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland (MBRTB). Bacon is an experienced Forest Service employee who is well versed in public land management in the western United States.

His first day on the job was Monday, Nov. 13 and Bacon was selected for the post earlier this fall by Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Brian Ferebee.

Familiar with current issues affecting the Rocky Mountain Region, Bacon comes to the MBRTB from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests in western Colorado where he served as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the past four years.

“The Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland are special places for the citizens of Wyoming and Colorado, as well as the United States. It’s an honor to be part of managing them,” said Bacon. “Having previously experienced this part of the country, my family and I are excited to return. I’m looking forward to working closely with state and local governments, as

well as all citizens, to manage these public lands into the future.”

Bacon is the fifth MBRTB Forest Supervisor since the units were administratively combined in the mid-90s, and replaces Dennis Jaeger who retired July 28 of this year. Since Jaeger’s retirement, Jason Kuiken and Chuck Oliver both served brief temporary stints in the Forest Supervisor position.

Russ Bacon was born in Boise, Idaho and raised in a Forest Service family. His grandfather and father both had long careers with the agency. Bacon graduated high school in Grafton, Wisconsin and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in forest resources management from the University of Idaho in 1997. He started his career with the Forest Service in 1995 on the Boise National Forest in Idaho as a seasonal in the timber program.

Bacon got his first permanent job in 1999 on the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota/Wyoming as a marking crew foreman. He has also served as an Assistant District Ranger on the Huron-Manistee National Forest in Michigan, a District Ranger on the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming, and a District Ranger on the Salmon-Challis National Forest in Idaho.

Russ and his wife Darcie have two children; Cheyenne (25) and Ethan (15). As a family, they love to camp, fish and hunt on public lands across the West.

The MBRTB is comprised of nearly 2.9 million acres of National Forest System lands in Colorado and Wyoming, has six Ranger Districts, almost 200 permanent employees, and over 100 temporary employees.

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Shoshone National Forest

*Lisa Timchak, Forest Supervisor,
Shoshone National Forest*

Lisa Timchak became the Forest Supervisor for Shoshone National Forest on January 7, 2018. Prior to this, Lisa had been the District Ranger for the Tally Lake Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest in Montana. Lisa has worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 30 years and has been a district ranger in northwest Montana for the past seventeen years.

Lisa grew up in Virginia and Salisbury, England. Her first government job was a clerk typist at the Pentagon. In 1988, Lisa began in a graduate co-op position and became a permanent wildlife biologist on the Los Padres National Forest upon completion of her Master's Degree in Wildlife Management from Utah State University. Lisa became the District Ranger for the Plains/Thompson Falls District of the Lolo National Forest in 2000. In 2004, Lisa moved on to the Flathead National Forest as the Tally Lake District Ranger. During the following years, Lisa would successfully complete detail assignments as the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and Forest Supervisor on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Lisa was also selected as a member of the U.S. Forest Service's very first Senior Leader Program.

Lisa's proudest achievements are raising her three children who are 23, 20, and 18; coaching youth soccer, and managing the incredible resources within the National Forest System Lands. She enjoys hiking, traveling abroad, and wildlife viewing with her husband, but only when she is able to pry a fly rod out of his hands.



Bighorn National Forest

*Andrew Johnson, Forest Supervisor,
Bighorn National Forest*

The Bighorn National Forest is announcing **Andrew Johnson** as the new forest supervisor, reporting January 21, 2018. Andrew will be following Bill Bass who served as forest supervisor for nearly two decades.

Andrew comes to us from the LaCroix Ranger District of the Superior National Forest where he is currently the District Ranger. He started his Forest Service career on the Manti-LaSal in Utah as a Forestry Technician in trails and recreation, before working on the Coconino in Region 3, the Flathead in Region 1, as well as detail assignments as a Deputy District Ranger on the Inyo in California, and Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Coronado in Arizona.

A native of rural northern New York State, Johnson worked as a journalist for his family's newspaper business before changing career paths. He worked as Assistant Forest Ranger for the state of New York through college, and completed a Masters in Forestry from the State University of New York. Through much of his career he worked in recreation and wilderness management, but also worked with range and minerals management in Montana. As a Ranger in Minnesota, he managed a large timber and fuels management program as well as a portion of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the most heavily visited Wilderness in the Nation.

Memorial Grove Ceremony

A story behind every name

It was a hundred years ago that five young men who worked in District 2 of the U. S. Forest Service lost their lives in service to their country in World War I. In their honor a memorial grove was created at the Monument Tree Nursery on the Pike National Forest and over the last hundred years this place and the tradition associated with has become a very special part of the Rocky Mountain Region. The history of these beginnings can be found in a historic reflection of the Grove in the [2014 Winter Edition of the Rendezvous](#). It seems appropriate this year to again recognize the sacrifice made by those five rangers by listing their names once again. Listed alphabetically they were:



*Cosmer "Joe" Magnus Leveaux,
Corporal, Battery A, 1st Battalion,
119th Field Artillery, 32nd Division,
U.S. Army*

Thomas V. Keefe (2 Oct. 1894-1918) Lt. in 20th Engineers (Forestry), 7th Battalion, U. S. Army, Graduate of School of Forestry at Penn State College.

Cosmer M. Leveaux (9 Mar. 1896 -10 Aug. 1918) Corporal 119 Field Artillery, 32 Infantry Division, U.S. Army.

Ralph I. McTavish (25 July 1894-1918) who was a "blue printer" in the District Headquarters in Denver, Tank Company in U. S. Army.

Marcy M. Meaden (10 Nov. 1892-22 Sept. 1918) who was a Ranger from the Routt N.F. Pvt. Co A 109 HDGS Troop, U. S. Army.

Horace B. Quivey (20 June 1892-15 April 1918) who was a Ranger from Encampment, Wyoming served as a Private in Company A, 7th Battalion, 20th Engineers.

As you may know, at that time District 2, which we now know as Region 2, included the Michigan, Minnesota, and Superior National Forests. Cosmer Leveaux, listed above, had worked on the Superior National Forest in Ely, MN. Thus, he was considered to have been a part of District 2.

We have recently been contacted by the family of Cosmer M. Leveaux. Katie Maher is a great niece of Cosmer and has shared information about his life and his family and we include a bit of that history and a few photos below. Cosmer's older brother Emery died in a sinking of an American ship in 1917 off the coast of Holland. This was one of the sinkings that eventually led to the United States entering the war. Cosmer attended Michigan State as a forestry student. Following Emery's death, Cosmer joined the army and was killed in France.

Cosmer Magnus Leveaux, was born March 9, 1896 in Buttersville, MI. He was a student in forestry at Michigan State College of Agriculture, class of 1918. He began work for the Forest Service on May 1, 1916 as a forest guard in the Forest service, United States Department of Agriculture, stationed in Ely, MN, in the Superior National Forest.

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On September 30, 1916, he left the Forest Service to continue his college work. He enlisted on May 10, 1917, at Lansing, MI and reported for Federal military service on July 18, 1917, Army Serial Number 297099, four months after losing his brother Emery. Promoted to corporal and sent to France, he participated in several offensives, and while acting as chief of the first section of his battery was killed in battle, August 10, 1918, in Fismes sector (Champagne), northeast of Chateau Thierry, France in the Second Battle of the Marne, Germany's final attempt to take Paris. He was buried in Cemetery Militaire (on the roadside of the battle field) and later reinterred in the American Cemetery at Oise-Aisne, Seringes-et-Nesles, Aisne, France.



In addition to his recognition at Memorial Grove, Cosmer is honored at Michigan State University on a monument placed by his Alpha Epsilon fraternity; a monument in Ludington City Park dedicated to WWI soldiers and sailors; a 1,625 foot mountain in Section 11 of Town 59, North range four, west, fourth principal meridian, Cook County Superior National Forest was named in his honor on April 6, 1932; and nearby Leveaux Creek and Chateau Leveaux on Lake Superior also are named in his honor.

Katie, and perhaps other members of Cosmer's family are hoping to attend this year's Memorial Grove ceremony. There are over 1100 names engraved in bronze at Memorial Grove and like Cosmer's and each of them have a story and it is important. We believe, that we remember those stories and the legacy of the folks who have worked and been a part of the Rocky Mountain Region.

So, again this year we will add another years of remembrances to the Memorial and do our best to remember their stories. The Ceremony will be held on May 5, 2018 at the "Grove". We have a tentative list of twenty six honorees for 2017 that is shown below and there is still time to add other names who meet the criteria if you are aware of anyone we have missed.

Let Tom L. Thompson know of any missing names as soon as you can by email: tommylthompson@comcast.net or phone: 303-552-1711

A listing of all individuals who have been honored at Memorial Grove can be found either alphabetically or by year of death on the Rocky Mountaineers webpage under the "In Memory" tab.

We hope you will plan to attend this year's Memorial Grove ceremony and even perhaps participate in the workday which will be held **Monday, April 30**. Donations to help support the Memorial Grove activities and site can be made directly to Rocky Mountaineers through our website.

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*(continued from Page 27)***2017 Memorial Grove Honorees**

Brett Beasley	Pike San Isabel Cimarron, Comanche NF-NG
Joe R. (Rudy) Candelaria	San Juan N.F.
LeRoy James "Roy" Cutler	Black Hills N. F.
Timothy (Tim) Clark	R.O., ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute)
David (Dave) Davies	R.O., Shoshone, Routt, Med. Bow, GM/U NFs
Frances Grim	San Juan N. F.
Priscilla Riefkohl Guzman	PSICC (South Platte), R-8 El Yunque, R-5 Stanislaus
Gilbert R. (Gil) Hedrich	Medicine Bow, Black Hills N.F., Spearfish
William S. Jarrell, Sr.	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N.F.
Richard M. (Rick) Jewell	Pagosa RD, San Juan N.F.
Beulah Kathleen (Kathy) Starbuck Kelly	Gunnison N.F.
Thomas E. Lewis	Roosevelt and Gunnison N. F. and R-5
Diane Marie Menapace	Regional Office, Engineering and Minerals and Planning
Dennis Neill	Black Hills, San Juan N. F.s, R. O., R-1, R-10
Harlan Lee Porter	Pike and White River N. F.s
Christina Marie Randall	PSICC (Pikes Peak)
John Frederic (Jack) Sanders	Shoshone N. F.
Loretta Schure	Regional Office
La Verne Arthur Schultz	Bl. Hills, Gunnison, Routt, Neb. N. F.s and R-9
H. B. (Doc) Smith	San Juan, White River, Shoshone N.F.s, R-2, 4, 5
Robert D. (Bob) Sullivan	Arapahoe N.F., Regional Office, TM
Shirley Mae Tafoya	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N.F.
Roy Thomson	R.O., Shoshone, Bl. Hills, Routt, Med.Bow N. F. s
Paul (Mike) Winters	Medicine Bow N. F.
Kenneth Howard (Ken) Wood	Rio Grande, PSICC and Shoshone N. F.s

Not Forgotten:

Frank H. Wagner	San Isabel National Forest 1906-1915
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Remembrances



Harlan Porter

Harlan Lee Porter passed away on November 21, 2017 at age 80 in Grand Junction, CO. He was born June 9, 1937 in Beardsley, Kansas, to Lote and Almeda (Spears) Porter.

Harlan was the starting pitcher for Colorado Springs-Palmer High School, who were the State Baseball Champions in 1956. He attended Aeronautical School in Kansas City in 1957. Joining the Army on April 14, 1958, he served at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was honorably discharged in 1964. On June 10, 1961, he and Gwendolyn LaMotte were married. Harlan worked for 34 years at the U.S. Forest Service, as a Civil Engineering Technician. He was passionate about his work, was a safety officer and fought many local and national forest fires, including the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. His start was with the Pike National Forest. Later transferred to the White River SO, Glenwood Springs, CO. Living there, they raised their four children. During his retirement, he served on the Glenwood Springs Fire District as President,

leading the development and building of the existing firehouse in 2003.

Harlan was an avid golfer, outdoorsman, huge baseball fan, traveler, enjoyed sailing, fishing and biking. He could often be found doing the things he loved, including riding his horse, enjoying the view of Red Mountain from his deck, snowshoeing or hiking around the area with friends and family. He passed on his love of the outdoors to his children and grandchildren. One of his greatest joys was spending time with his grandchildren, all of whom attended Anderson Western Colorado Camps, where he was a constant figure and a favorite of campers and counselors. He is remembered as an "Easy-going loving man." He always brought a smile and laughter to those surrounding him. Harlan will be dearly missed by all.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gwen; his brother, Arnold Porter, Florissant, CO; three sons, Jeffrey (Cathy), Craig (Patty) and Christopher; and daughter Chandra. He enjoyed 8 grandchildren, Lauren, Kelly, Brooke, Taylor, Tucker, Tessa, Brody and Ruby.



Jack Sanders

John Frederic (Jack) Sanders of Cody died November 2nd. He was born October 20th, 1938 to Fred and Anna Sanders in Big Sandy, Montana. After graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1958 to 1963 and

then graduated from the University of Montana as a wildlife biologist. He married Marlene Nazer on December 20th, 1965.

He was an avid hunter and served as a forester for the U.S. Forest Service for 32 years. He also prided himself as a high school football official, softball umpire and accomplished bowler.

He is survived by his wife, Marlene; daughters and sons-in-law Suzanne and Chris Fassler of Draper, Utah and Denise and Brian Wiegand of Cody; sisters Betty Schott of Columbia Falls, Montana and Linda (Greg) Harkins of Tuscon Arizona. Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law Tanna and Paul Bebo of Anaconda, Montana. Grandchildren Aaron, Shannon, and Theresa Fassler and Jessica and Justin Wiegand.

Remembrances



Diana Menapace

Diana Marie Menapace died on December 26, 2017. Diana was born on December 22, 1946 in Denver to Donald and Larabel Neithercut. After graduating from Wheatridge High School, she received a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Microbiology from Colorado State University.

Before coming to work for the Forest Service she worked in research for USDA in Wyoming and studied and published extensive research on honeybees. In the Regional Office, Diana worked in planning as a National Environmental Policy Act Specialist reviewing, editing, and ensuring compliance of environmental documents, categorical exclusions, and assessments. She also provided support to the appeals and litigation work. She served as the Region's National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator and had a vast knowledge and background in

making sure that the important requirements of NEPA documentation and disclosure were done properly. She was instrumental in compiling a complete NEPA Library that was available online for others to follow, establishing standards for quality and content, and teaching documentation standards. She worked in the Region from 1990 until 2007 when she retired.

She was a wonderful person and a true professional who had a positive influence on all those she worked with. She was an accomplished pianist and loved feeding and watching birds. She loved her pets, both dogs and cats, and was an active scrapbooker featured memories of grandchildren and travel. Diana was very active at Wheatridge United Methodist Church, including playing in the Bell Choir and a member of the church's Finance Board.

Diana is survived by her husband David, son Darin and daughter Danielle, and grandchildren: Ava, Logan, and Lana. A memorial service for Diana will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church. Time of the service is TBD.



The Last Word

The Best Possible Anniversary

by Tom L. Thompson

I recently celebrated an anniversary. It wasn't a normal anniversary. But nevertheless, it was a very special day for me to make a big check mark on. Unlike some, this is an anniversary that I actually think about nearly every single day. On December 14, 2017 I passed the five year threshold with new blood, new energy, a new chance, and a new appreciation for the wonders of medicine and of humankind. Five years ago on December 14, 2012 I received a small bag of stem cells that gave me a new lease on life.

So in looking back, what does it mean? Well, to put it bluntly, it means everything. The average five-year survival rate for acute myeloid leukemia is 24 percent, which means patients with the disease have a 24 percent chance of still being alive five years after diagnosis. I am now actually approaching my seventh year from my original diagnosis in February 2011.

My first series of treatments back in 2011 involved six months of chemotherapy. I went into remission and everything seemed to be going pretty good for about a year. Then in late summer of 2012, the week of National Forest Service Reunion in Vail, my blood chemistry numbers changed and it was apparent that I needed to head back to the hospital to take on the fight once again. At that time, we (meaning me, Kitty, and my doctor) decided it best that we try finding a donor and try to do a stem cell transplant as there were no other options.

While a search through many millions of potential donors DNA was begun, I started yet another series of stronger chemotherapy treatments in preparation and hope of being able to have the transplant. At that time there were about fourteen million people on the "Be the Match" donor list. It was an anxious few months as this process moved along and I underwent this more intensive treatment regime. Finally, in late October we received word that a

perfect match had been found and even though I was still undergoing chemotherapy, a tentative date for the transplant was set, December 14.

Behind the scenes from my own anxiousness and unknown to me, there was another individual out there who also was making a difficult decision of whether to actually be a donor or not. That is the remarkable part of this story. It is a story of choice, a story of sacrifice, a story of caring, a story of love, and without a doubt a story of the perhaps the best characteristic of what makes humankind so wonderful, giving others a chance to live. Without knowing who I was or where I lived or anything else about me, my donor decided to share some of his stem cells to give me a chance to live.

So after five final days of intense chemotherapy and a full day of whole body radiation on that Friday, December 14, 2012, the doctor came in at about 6:45 pm with a small cooler that had a clear pouch with my new stem cells in it. An hour later that part of the transplant was done. It would take a week or two for the new cells to find their place in my bone marrow and begin to replenish my system with new blood. I was able to go home before the first of the year, but had appointments to see my stem cell doctor almost daily, then every other day, then twice a week, then weekly, then every two weeks, then every three weeks, and then monthly. After five years I still see him about every six weeks and all is going well at the five year mark.

There have been ups and downs, but mostly ups. There were tough days and some difficult choices. We tried to just take one day at a time and not get too low or too high. I have a new blood type and had to have all my immunizations over again and still haven't gotten a couple that can't be given until I am completely off immunosuppressant drugs.

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In addition to nearly eight months of chemotherapy, I think I had twenty-four transfusions, fourteen bone marrow biopsies, two years of treatment to lower my iron level, and I am in my eighth month of photo therapy to help control a common complication called graft versus host disease.

There have issues on occasion, but we have been able to manage through all of these thus far. There has been and always will be uncertainty, but that is life. I know I have been lucky and know I have been blessed by the many prayers and support from friends and family, especially during the toughest days.

Over this whole time, I have tried to keep busy, be positive, and be productive. I sincerely believe that has helped me endure the challenges. I have had an amazingly outstanding doctor, great nurses, physician assistants, and perhaps the best caregiver on the planet with my wife Kitty.

People ask me how I am doing and I just smile tell them I am blessed. I am alive, enjoying life, enjoying grand kids, enjoying doing the kinds of things I have always liked doing, and able to do most everything that a person of my age should be doing and perhaps a few that I shouldn't, like enjoying a glass of wine in the evening. My golf game hasn't gotten any better and I don't even try to ski anything other than the blues and greens anymore. I don't climb the hills like I used to during elk season but I enjoy being out there in the forest.

As I look back at this experience, it has without a doubt made me appreciate and try to get the most out of every day. Each day is a blessing. I appreciate the opportunity to still try and make a difference in some of the things I am involved with like the

National Museum of Forest Service History, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, the Rocky Mountaineers and Memorial Grove, the Dean's Council at the College of Natural Resources at CSU, and the Society of American Foresters.

But most of all I enjoy the grandkids' soccer and hockey games up in Longmont, fishing on a small stream on the Rio Grande National Forest, hitting a decent drive or making a tough putt on the golf

course, and doing some traveling. Since my transplant, we've been to Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and of course a few points in between. We made a trip of a lifetime in 2013 back to Alaska with our entire family and do all we can to have all the family together two or three times each year. We make a couple trips each year to Oregon to spend more quality time with the grandkids there.



Kitty and Tom Thompson in Vail, Colorado right after the 2012 reunion.

So the anniversary that I had a couple three weeks ago was actually an anniversary of being alive and being somewhat normal. What better kind of anniversary might there be? The most unbelievable special part of this story is that my donor, who I was able to meet after the two year mark, is a wonderful individual who is in his thirties and a lawyer in Salt Lake City. He and his wife have two boys and he loves the outdoors, the National Forests, skiing, hunting, hiking, fishing, and amazingly has an uncle who worked for the Forest Service here in the Rocky Mountain Region. What are the chances of that? I am one lucky Rocky Mountaineer. If it wasn't for him, my first "Last Word" article almost five years ago might have been my last "Last Word" article.

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