



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 8 - Number 1

Memorial Grove & Annual Gathering 2021

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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.



Because of the continued uncertainty as to whether we will be able to hold the Memorial Grove Honoree Ceremony in early May, we have decided it best to wait and hold it in conjunction with the Rocky Mountaineer's Annual Gathering which is now tentatively planned to be held on September 9th and 10th at Woodland Park, CO.

The ceremony for Memorial Grove is now planned for September 11th

at Monument, CO and it is hoped that attendees at the Annual Gathering will also be able to attend this ceremony if they want since it is in such close proximity. The National Association of Forest Service Retirees is also planning to present the recently announced John R. McGuire Award to the Pikes Peak Ranger District as part of the Annual Gathering on Friday, September 10th.

(continued on Page 2)

(continued from Page 1)*Memorial Grove - 1924.*

A work day is being planned for June 3rd to install an irrigation system that will provide a drip source of water for newly planted trees in the Grove. Tom Healy, retired from the PSICC, is working with the District and heading up this effort. Replacement trees will also be added to the site on this day as a number of trees were damaged or killed as a result of the severe and sudden temperature drops in the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020.

The irrigation system will help improve tree survival and ensure the Grove continues to be sustained. By mid to late April a notice and decision will be made on the work needed to be done and the safety protocols to be followed for this work day.

The Memorial Grove Ceremony in September will be a special program because it will mark the 100th year that trees have been planted at the Grove to honor Rocky Mountain Region employees. The first planting was done on May 29, 1921 which was one year after then District Forester Colonel Alan Peck made the decision to establish the Grove at the Monument Tree Nursery. With the additional honorees that will be added this year there will be about thirteen hundred names engraved at the Memorial that first started to honor five soldiers who died in World War I.

*Memorial Grove - 1946.**(continued on Page 3)*

(continued from Page 2)

Since we were not able to hold a ceremony in 2020, we will be recognizing both the 2019 and the 2020 honorees at this year's ceremony. The names of thirty-eight individuals will be added for 2019, which includes six "not forgotten" names as follows:

2019 Memorial Grove Honorees

Henry Emerson (Hank) Bond

Clair William Brown

Andrew Joseph (Andy) Cadenhead

Richard Peter (Rick) Caissie

Jack Douglas Cameron

Frances Kathy Collins

Patrick S. Collrin

Stephen Edward (Steve) Curran

Harold Davis

Jacob Gary Diedtrich

Violet Louise Fitzpatrick

George H. Geiger

Phyllis Goad

Joseph Lee Goodge

John Henry Hill

Lois Statler Hooks

Eric Jensen

Donald Eugene (Don) Kistler

Ainsworth C. (Ainsie) Lee

Dennis L. (Denny) Lynch

Stanley Demond Mason

Robert L. McAtee

Donald Paul Mecklenburg

Billy Bonifacio Montaña

Alex-Cine Napolitano

William J. (Bill) Piloni

Donald George Rivers

Ralph (Jerry) Stevenson III

Myron Tjarks

Judy Lee Williams

Jack Allison Wolfe

Richard E. (Woody) Woodrow

Not Forgotten

Argel H. Bury - 2018

Ralph Leon Cockrell - 2012

George W. Darlington - 2004

Daryle Eugene Gibson - 2018

Harvey Peter (Hoot) Gibson - 2015

Robert Prater (Bob) Kelly - 2011

(continued on Page 4)

(continued from Page 3)

2020 Memorial Grove Honorees

Marcus Arnold	PSICC Administration
David Edward Barth	Arapaho-Roosevelt N. F.s
Alfred Lee (Al) Buerger	White River and Black Hills N. F.s
Duane Lu Allen Bury	Black Hills N. F.
Debra L. (Debbie) Cito	Regional Office
Charles F. (Chuck) Dwyer	Regional Office
Johnnie Gayle Flaget	Rio Grande N. F.
Pete Nicholas Garcia	Rio Grande N. F.
Ernest LeRoy (Ernie) Hoffman	Black Hills N. F.
Freda Marie Jensen	Shoshone N. F.
Kenneth Efton (Ken) Marler	Medicine Bow, Rio Grande, and PSICC N.F.s
Alfonso (Al) Martinez	Medicine Bow-Routt N. F. s
Ronald William Mertens Sr.	Black Hills N. F.
Pat Mitchell	PSICC, San Carlos District
Bruce Morgan	R. O., San Juan, Grand Mesa Uncompahgre, Gunnison NFs
Steve Mosier	PSICC, Helitack Foreman
Ernie Nesbit	Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison N. F.s
Gerald W. Nyborg	Medicine Bow, Shoshone, and Routt N. F. s
Ronald L. Paris	Shoshone N. F.
Vincent (Vince) Parrino	Regional Office
Arthur (Leigh) Reeves	Black Hills N. F.
Robert (Bob) Rhodes	Regional Office, Accounting and WCF
Walter Wright (Walt) Rule	Uncompahgre N. F., Roosevelt, Black Hills, R-8
Michael Mark Sanders	Medicine Bow N. F. and several forests in R-8
Charles Lee (Chuck) Simon	Bighorn N. F., Medicine Bow, Gunnison, and R. O.
William Carroll (Bill) Starr, Jr.	Regional Office
R. G. (Bob) Steverson	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N. F.s
Kathleen (Kay) Faye Stoner	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N. F.s
Charles L. (Charlie) Wright	Shoshone N. F., R-3 various positions
Dean Donald Young	Black Hills

The list for 2020 includes the names of thirty-one individuals who passed away this past year as well as the unit(s) where they worked.



Are you a motivated retiree on the northern Front Range of Colorado and southeastern Wyoming? This volunteer job might be right for YOU!

Your Area Representatives

Denver Area Representative
Jim Thinnes, Littleton, CO

Northern Front Range and Southeastern Wyoming Area Representative
Vacant

Southern Front Range and Kansas Area Representative
Barb Timock, Pueblo

Western Colorado Area Representative
Bob Sieger, Durango, CO

Wyoming Area Representative
Bill Bass, Sheridan, WY

South Dakota/Nebraska
Craig Bobzien, Custer, SD

NAFSR Representative
Tom Thompson, Littleton, CO

NMFSH Representative
Tom Thompson, Littleton, CO

Liaison for Region 2 (not retired yet)
Jace Ratzlaff, Golden, CO

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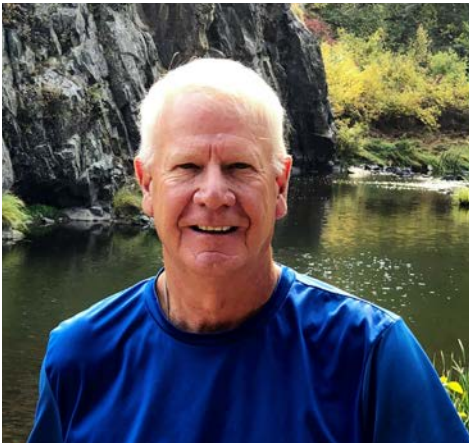
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Memorial Grove - Steve Deitemeyer, sdeitemeyer@msn.com, 303-456-0799 or

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

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

Hello From Your Chair



Bob Sprintall - Chair of the Rocky Mountaineers

Our Society Reservations

Do you make reservations?

OR

Do you have reservations?

OR

Do you have reservations about reservations?

Is our society changing to a life where we must plan each part of our daily routine, making reservations for wherever we go or whatever we are doing? As Gail and I have been going about our lives for the past year and making our way around society we have become quite aware that we live by - reservations.

We reserve golf tee-times, ski area reservations, reservations to enter a public space, reserving our place in line to go to the store, reserving our time for a haircut, reserving a time on the calendar for a zoom meeting. . .

During my career of being a planner for 10 years on the Nebraska National Forest, I was quite good at planning for the future. I thought my life in retirement would allow me to be a bit more spontaneous. I have come to the conclusion that our lives are changing to a society where we must reserve each aspect of our life.

Do I have reservations about a more restricted society? Yes, I do. Does it allow me the freedom I thought I may enjoy? Nope. Is it necessary? Apparently so. Is it going to expand? Yes. I see the need for reserving our days of hiking or bicycling or cross country skiing on our public lands because they are being discovered, enjoyed and overwhelmed.

Our common thread of natural resource employees ties us together in contemplating how our accomplishments in the past will transition to the future. Do we think our lives will return to our former life of spontaneous freedom? Or will we become more accustomed and comfortable with reserving our space each day?

How does our organization transition to what may be a new normal? Can we offer background, consultation, observation, or volunteer time? Can we offer our services to assist with information sharing, conducting tours, or acting as observers? Other suggestions?????

Thanks for contemplating!

Bob Sprentall,
Chairperson

Membership and Finance Report

- Ellen and Johnny Hodges

*We finally did it! We broke the 450 barrier and now have 451 members.
This includes 144 Lifetime Memberships.*

We are always looking for new members, so help us with our recruiting.

Our Newest Members

Dennis and Molly Haddow - Arvada, CO
Cinthia Saenz - Lakewood, CO
Art and Sharon Tiedemann - Greeley, CO
Rick and Ellen Fletcher - Windsor, CO
Sherry Butler - Chico, CA
Timothy and Sand Moriarty - Littleton, CO

Our Newest "Lifers"

Kara Chadwick and Joe Reddan - Durango, CO
Mary Lu Eilers - Golden, CO
Susan Gray and Randy Francl - Golden, CO
Jane Leche - Aurora, CO
Jeff Losche - Kansas City, MO
Lois Pfeffer - Bemidji, MN
Dave and Jan Thom - Custer, SD

Thanks to all of you that have paid your 2021 dues or made a donation. We really appreciate your support.

For those of you that have not gotten around to making a payment in 2021, now is the time. Annual dues remain \$20/year per household. A Lifetime Membership is still a bargain at \$250 per household. You only have to live 12 ½ years to break even. Play the odds!

You can drop a check in the mail to:

Rocky Mountaineers
Box 270462
Ft. Collins, CO 80527

You can pay by credit card by going to our website and click on "Membership" and then "Dues and Donations Payment". Our credit card payments are processed by PayPal (you do not need a PayPal account).

Donation News

We have established new categories for donations to our Memorial Grove and Scholarship Funds. These categories are:

Friend - Less than \$50

Patron - \$50 to \$199

Sponsor - \$200 and above

We will recognize donors by each category in the Spring Edition of The Rendezvous.

We always appreciate donations to support our funds for **Memorial Grove** and **Rocky Mountaineer Scholarships**. You can make a donation at any time during the year.

The **Memorial Grove fund** is used to support the Memorial Grove site in Monument, CO and our ceremony in May of each year. This year's ceremony has been moved to September.

The **Scholarship fund** is used to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors for their first year of college. We plan to award four \$1,500 scholarships in 2021. Two of these scholarships are earmarked for natural resource majors.



Photo courtesy of National Museum of Forest Service History - Missoula, MT.

8th Annual Rocky Mountaineer Ski Day

The Rocky Mountaineers Eighth Annual Ski Day will be held at Winter Park Ski Area on **Thursday, February 18, 2021**. Twenty-five skiers are already registered to participate and there is room on our reservation for a few more. Winter Park is operating under special rules because of the pandemic and we will follow all of their guidelines. They will honor all valid season passes and as usual will be offering special discounted tickets for this special day of skiing; however, they have initiated a reservation system to control crowds so if you plan on skiing with or associated with the Rocky Mountaineer group we need to know in advance. We have made reservations for our group already but need confirmation from those who will want to take advantage of this skiing opportunity so please let Bjorn Dahl at bdahl@dahlservices.com if you plan to ski with us.

All safety protocols will be followed and unless the situation changes we will not gather together for lunch or before or after skiing inside but will instead plan on bringing our own lunches or snacks and will likely be taking them outside at the Lunch Rock Lodge at 11:30 am. We also will ski together in small groups with the people who you travel with. We can still enjoy time on the slope together and plan to have a safe day of skiing in the fresh air of February.

Get Smarter - From Your Couch

The Colorado Environmental Film Festival (CEFF) is a celebration of the inspirational, educational, and motivational power of film to engage people to protect their environment. It will be held 100% virtually from **February 12-21, 2021** and will feature a record 86 films including 10 world, 9 national and many Colorado premieres!

Both local and international, short and feature length films will be shown that explore the interconnected ecological, social, and economic themes of our planet. Films will range from award-winning pictures such as *The Story of Plastic*, to new films never before seen in Colorado. Films are available on-demand to watch at your leisure from the safety and comfort of your own home at www.ceff.eventive.org for the ten-day festival!

www.ceff.net





A Glossary

Both New and Old School

Editor's Note: This is part four of a "real" U.S. Forest Service Employee's Glossary. The genesis of this little project was over cocktails with Mike daLuz in a bar overlooking Washington, D.C. a number of years ago. He believed this would be a way to transfer that "old-timer" knowledge to the youngsters in the outfit and shortcut their transition time. Please take a peek and send suggestions to the Rendezvous about acronyms and jargon you used during your time in the outfit. We gladly accept edits, comments, corrections and even notes to us on a speed memo. When we're done, we'll share Mikey's vision with the workin' folks at the USFS and find a place on the [Rocky Mountaineers website](#) for safe keeping and future use.

R.

RARE I and RARE II:

Roadless Area Review and Evaluation

RARE EARTH:

Rare-earth elements (REEs) are used as components in high technology devices, including smart phones, digital cameras, computer hard disks, fluorescent and light-emitting-diode (LED) lights, flat screen televisions, computer monitors, and electronic displays. Also a rock and roll band formed in 1968.

RAWS:

Remote Automated Weather Station

RBO:

Regional Budget Office

RCSC:

Rapid City Service Center

REC RACK:

Recreation Resource Advisory Council

RETIREE:

A person who has retired from employment.

RF:

Regional Forester

RFT:

Regional Forester Team

RHRW:

Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources

RI:

Resource Information Staff Unit

RIPARIAN AREA:

An area with distinctive soils and vegetation between a stream, or other body of water, and the adjacent upland area consisting of vegetation that requires free, or unbound, water for survival.

RMACC:

Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center in Lakewood, Colorado provides safe, cost effective, and timely response of national and area resources for all aspects of wildland fire management activities and other emergency management activities within the Rocky Mountain Area.

ROD:

Record of Decision

ROSS:

Resource Ordering System

RR:

Renewable Resources Staff Unit

S.

SERAL:

Refers to the stages that plant communities go through during the progression in structure and composition over time. Development stages have characteristic structure and plant species composition.

SFAM:

Safety, Fire and Aviation Management

Shelterwood:

The cutting of most trees, leaving those needed to produce sufficient shade to produce a new age class in a moderated microenvironment.



Old Green and Grey - circa 1959.

RIG:

Slang for a motor vehicle.

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Glossary continued

SHOT CREW:

A 20 person Hot Shot fire crew.

Silviculturist:

A specialist who knows everything about trees.

SIT REPORT:

The Incident Management Situation Report for fires in the United States.

SIX PACK:

A vehicle holding six passengers - usually a pickup truck with an expanded cab.

SL:

Sick Leave

SLURRY:

Retardant usually dropped from airplanes or helicopters to slow the progress of a fire.

SMOKEY:

As in "The Bear."

SMOKEJUMPER:

A firefighter who parachutes into locations otherwise difficult to reach. These folks jump out of a perfectly good airplane into a burning forest.

SNAFU:

Situation Normal - All Fouled Up

**SST:**

Sweet Smelling Toilets

STAFFER:

A staff worker for a Congressional Member

STICK (OF JUMPERS):

Typically a load of smokejumpers consists of a half-dozen people, depending on the size of the aircraft. They typically jump in "sticks" of two to four firefighters at a time.

SWAMPER:

The second person on a tree cutting crew who watches for danger and clears the brush away from the feller.

T.

T and A:

Time and Attendance

TES:

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive

TIMBER BEAST:

Slang term for a Forester.

TSI:

Timber Stand Improvement

TYPE 1:

National and State Level – a Federally or State-certified team; is the most robust IMT with the most training and experience.

TYPE 2:

National and State Level – a Federally or State-certified team; has less training, staffing and experience than Type 1 IMTs, and is typically used on smaller scale national or state incidents

TYPE 3:

State or Metropolitan Area Level – a standing team of trained personnel from different departments, organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions within a state or DHS Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region, activated to support incident management at incidents that extend beyond one operational period

TWAIN:

Technology Without An Interesting Name

U.

UNDERSTORY:

The trees occupying the lower level of a stand that has at least two size and age classes.

USDA:

United States Department of Agriculture

USDI:

United States Department of Interior

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Glossary continued

USFS:

United States Forest Service



USFWS:

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS:

United States Geological Survey

V.

VOLUNTEER:

Generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity produces a feeling of self-worth and respect; however, there is no financial gain. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun.

VOLUNTOLD:

When your boss tells you that you *will* volunteer for a task.

W.

WATERSHED:

An area of land where water enters only as precipitation and where all surface flow exits at a single point.

WATERTENDER:

A water tender, also known as a tanker in some regions, is a specialized firefighting apparatus designed for transporting water from a water source to a fire scene.

WATTLES:

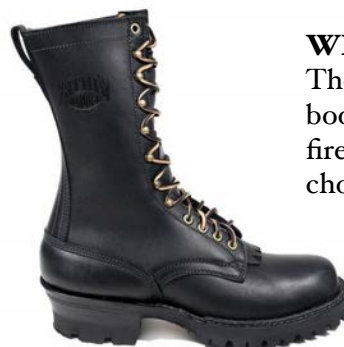
Long, tubular, rolls of noxious weed-free rice straw, wrapped in black plastic netting. They are approximately 8 inches in diameter and

25-30 feet long. Staked into place along hillsides that have been recently constructed or disturbed, the rolls will last for 3 to 5 years and are particularly useful in preventing erosion by trapping and holding sediment on the slopes.



WFSA:

Wildland Fire Situation Analysis



WHITES:

The brand of boot that many firefighters choose to wear.

The Original Smokeyjumper boots - Model 400V. Rebuildable/Resoleable. In stock sizes 6-15, C, D, E, EE, FF. On sale now for \$431.00.

WIDOW MAKER:

Describes a detached or broken limb or tree top and denotes the hazards that such features cause, being responsible for causing fatalities to forest workers.

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Glossary continued

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER:

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

WILDERNESS:

A natural environment on Earth that has not been significantly modified by human activity.

WITCHES BROOM:

A disease or deformity in a woody plant, typically a tree, where the natural structure of the plant is changed. A dense mass of shoots



grows from a single point, with the resulting structure resembling a broom or a bird's nest.

W.F.L.C.

Western Forestry Leadership Council



WOODSY:

As in "The Owl." Woody's slogan was officially introduced on September 15, 1971 by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin. The first Woody Owl public service spot was created by U.S. Forest Ranger Chuck Williams, who was the Forest Service's technical consultant for the Lassie TV

show which featured a Forest Service Ranger and his family.

WOODY BIOMASS:

Generally refers to the by-product of management, restoration, and hazardous fuel reduction treatments, including trees and woody plants (i.e., limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other woody parts) grown in a forest, woodland, or rangeland environment.

WUI:

Wildland Urban Interface

X.

XEROX MACHINE:

In the old days, this was the only brand of copier you could find.

Y.

YACC:

Young Adult Conservation Crew

YCC:

Youth Conservation Crew

YIKES:

An expression of surprise.

Z.

ZERO DARK THIRTY:

Really, really early in the morning.



ZOOM CALL:

A new addition to the glossary in 2020 - the year of Covid-19.

Editor's Note: The Glossary, A-Z can be found [here](#) on the Rocky Mountaineers web site.

Our Very Own USFS Word Search

The United States Forest Service

R	F	R	E	T	I	R	E	E	N	R	G	S	K
N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	N	O	C	E	B
T	R	E	T	I	K	S	A	L	U	P	T	R	I
E	E	N	N	A	T	U	R	E	R	E	O	V	W
N	S	I	E	R	T	T	M	O	S	I	O	I	O
S	T	H	T	T	U	N	N	O	S	T	E	C	O
R	F	I	R	E	A	T	M	R	I	O	E	E	D
O	A	D	S	O	D	O	D	Y	E	K	O	M	S
S	R	N	G	S	T	U	O	K	O	O	L	H	Y
E	T	D	G	E	E	H	O	T	S	H	O	T	I
E	S	O	B	E	T	O	H	C	N	I	P	N	E
O	O	T	O	E	R	O	S	B	O	B	O	A	H
K	R	S	O	B	H	S	I	Y	S	B	F	O	R
T	I	M	B	E	R	O	O	F	S	R	W	S	K

SMOKEY
FIRE
HOTSHOT
CONSERVATION
LOOKOUTS
FOREST
WOODSY
RANGERS
NATURE
RETIREE
SERVICE
TIMBER
PINCHOT
PULASKI
BOOTS

Play online at: <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1691659/the-united-states-forest-service/>

Newly Retired

Direct from the official U.S. Forest Service Retired Personnel in Region 2.

Inclusive dates 12-02-19 to 12-02-2020.

Produced by the U.S. Forest Service Data, Metrics, and Analysis Team (DMAT).

Apodaca, Anne E
Black Hills NF

Blair, Russell J
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Bower, Patrick W
Bighorn National Forest

Boyce, Elayne A
Regional Office

Broughton, Michael David
Regional Office

Brown, John W
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Brown, Rodney W
Black Hills NF

Burgess, Cheryl M
Black Hills NF

Cadola, Carol Gene
Regional Office

Cannon, Kevin
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Carnes, Robert B
Regional Office

Cuthbertson, Judith Marie
Medicine Bow-Routt NF

Day, Ronald J
Rio Grande Nat'l For

Deaguero, Mary C
Regional Office

Deibel, Lynne Cady
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Dickerson, Sherle Lynn
Shoshone Nat'l For

Doak, Richard Lee
White River NF

Dollus, Scott R
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Dymerski, Alan D
Regional Office

Ekstrand, Deborah L
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Ennist, Holly J
GMUG NFs

Faller, Janet E
Medicine Bow-Routt NF

Graham, Donna L
White River NF

Gray, Andrew D
Regional Office

Haag, Gary Herman
Black Hills NF

Harper, Anita C
Shoshone NF

Hecker, Linda M
Regional Office

Heidenreich, Kevin W
GMUG NFs

Heiny, Kristopher J
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Hopkins, Bob E
Medicine Bow-Routt NF

Kelley, John Mark
Black Hills NF

Laurent, Gayle K
Bighorn NF

Lawson, James R
Regional Office

Loomis, David E
Regional Office

Lund, Christian D
Shoshone NF

Lyons, Julie
Shoshone NF

Malecek, Thomas M
Rio Grande NF

McKee, Dave F
Bighorn NF

McMahill, James Ivan
Regional Office

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McNeill, Michael E
Nebraska NF

Meanor, Denis Howard
Bighorn NF

Moore, Marc A
Black Hills NF

Moore, Robert M
Medicine Bow-Routt NF

Morris, Twila G
Black Hills NF

Morrissey, Jon T
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Morrison, Gary
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Olson, Steven D
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Parks, Dalynn B
Nebraska NF

Peterson, Gary L
Nebraska NF

Sears, Darlene A
Black Hills NF

Semmer, Paul W
Black Hills NF

Showman, Roger D
Black Hills NF

Smith, Jacqueline F
Rio Grande NF

Smith, Ronald D
GMUG NFs

Taylor, Erik S
Medicine Bow-Routt Nat'l For

Thrush, Cindy L
White River NF

Valenzuela, David M
Black Hills NF

Van Every, Mark E
Black Hills NF

Vedder, Mark D
Black Hills NF

Weingardt, Susan Alden
Rocky Mountain Region, R-2

Williams, Chris Lamar
Bighorn NF

Williams, Thomas O
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Wist, Krisann P
GMUG NFs

Wong, Corey P
GMUG NFs

Yeager, Laura L
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Yust, David E
Rio Grande NF



Barb Timock - retiree from the Pike and San Isabel and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.

I joined the Rocky Mountaineers years before I became a retiree in 2019. While this isn't a typical scenario for membership, it's worth consideration.

My reasons for joining are many. The organization supports Memorial Grove, college scholarships and the broader causes of the USFS. I am able to stay in touch with my co-workers who have retired because of an excellent directory. The Rendezvous newsletter is packed with fascinating articles on Agency history and personal profiles. Finally, the price is extremely reasonable (we all know USFS employees are a frugal bunch).

I'm proud to belong, offer my support and stay connected through membership. That's a lot for my money - no coupon required!

NAFSR Report

by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSR representative



The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) has again had a busy few months since our last update in September. We continue to cooperatively engage with other organizations on a number of natural resource issues and vigorously share our concerns about workforce capacity and improving the ability of the field to get important work done.

With the transition to the new administration much of our attention has also been focused on doing our best to ensure that new leadership, especially in USDA, recognizes who we are and appreciates our commitment to help do all we can to deal with the important issues facing the Forest Service in management and protection of our nation's forests and grasslands, including research and cooperative programs.

The USDA Transition Team, headed by former Undersecretary Robert Bonnie, prepared and released a report in November entitled "Climate 21 Project". We reviewed the report and sent a very supportive response in December. That report and our response letter are posted our website (www.nafsr.org).

We had several briefings and discussions with the agency leadership on continuing concerns about the growing and continuing wildfire crisis that had such grave impacts across the west but particularly in California, Oregon, and Colorado during the 2020 season. The response of just throwing more suppression forces to react to the crisis is obviously not going to solve the problem and a sustained commitment and effort will be needed to treat targeted high risk forest conditions. This is going to require a long term commitment of budget and resources to get work done on the ground that is more proactive than reactive. Dale Bosworth, former Chief of Forest Service, and Jerry Williams, former Director of Fire Management, authored a paper entitled "West's Wildfire Crisis and the Urgency to Restore Safer, More Resilient Conditions in its Dry Forest Type" (See our website at www.nafsr.org). NAFSR fully supports the conclusions and recommendations made in this paper and will continue to encourage action and commitment to change.

NAFSR also continues to work closely as a partner in Forest Climate Working Group especially as it relates to reforestation needs and opportunities. There have been several legislative initiatives to increase commitment to planting trees and we will continue to engage and support these efforts. We are hopeful that these efforts will be successful this Congress and that the huge backlog of reforestation needs can begin to be addressed.

We worked to support the passage of the **Great American Outdoors Act** that was signed by the President on August 4, 2020. It fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Forest Service will share 15% of the funding. The FS share is estimated at \$285 million annually. The current FS infrastructure backlog is \$5.2 billion.

Again the NAFSR website is a great place to find out what is happening and what we are doing as an organization that represents Forest Service retirees all across the country that still care greatly about the agency and the public lands. In closing let me just say I have been honored to serve as your NAFSR representation now for almost eight years and am looking to transition off the Board sometime during this year and working to recruit a new R-2 representative. I have a couple folks who have indicated interest but if you want to be considered as well, just let me know.

National Museum of Forest Service History

Much Progress in 2020 Despite Pandemic!



Despite the pandemic impacts we all experienced in 2020, the Museum had another outstanding year. The highlights include:

Conservation Legacy Center

The Museum's capital campaign had another very good year. We stand at 80% of our goal, with about \$2.2 million left to raise to construct the flagship building on our campus in Missoula. After much consideration, the Board decided to redesign the Conservation Legacy Center (CLC) so that it maximizes the use of wood and in particular mass timber technology – a building framing system that uses large solid-wood panels for wall, floor, and roof construction.

The Museum hired Tom Chung, principal architect with Leers Weinzapfel Associates, who works closely with our CLC design working group. The Museum also hired Art Processors to help us plan exhibits and the overall experience we will offer visitors in the CLC and throughout our campus. The Museum continues to have very strong support from many partners locally, regionally, and nationally. Our partners are already making a real difference in our grant applications and outreach to donor-investors. We believe 2021 could very well be the year we finish our capital campaign.

Regional Cadres Established

To increase awareness of Museum program and activities among retirees, current employees, and other communities of interest, each region is recruiting “cadre” of volunteers. Bjorn Dahl continues to serve as R-2's director, now aided by 13 magnificent cadre members: **Steve Ambrose, Bill Bass, Brent Botts, Dave Cawrse, Brad Exton, Jim Free, Elaine Langstaff, Jane Leche, Dan Nolan, Sig Palm, Bruce Short, Jerry Schmidt, and Dave Steinke**. To strengthen communication between the Board, directors, and cadre members, each region also has a Board member liaison, which for R-2 is Pat Lynch.

Membership Tops 1000!

Thanks in large part to outreach by the regional cadres and our special 2020 individual membership rate of \$20.20, Museum membership reached 1011 at year's end for the first time ever. Our 2021 membership incentive: All new members (\$30 individual rate) and anyone who upgrades their membership (e.g. from individual to sustaining) will receive a stainless steel Hydro flask (valued at \$29-39). If you are not a member already, please join and help us accomplish our vital mission – sharing the rich history and story of America's conservation legacy. Join online at <https://forestservicemuseum.org/become-a-member/>.

Museum Collection Grows – 33,000 Items Available Online

Enough cannot be said about Dave Stack, the Museum's full-time volunteer historian & curator (also Board member and Vice President). Due in very large part to Dave's efforts, the Museum's incredible collection now totals almost 48,000 items, including 33,000 available for viewing online at: <https://forestservicemuseum.pastperfectonline.com/>.

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On a weekly if not daily basis, Dave answers questions about our collection from throughout the nation (sometimes other countries), provides items for research and exhibit, and continues to catalog new items.



One example (left) is from a large collection of items donated in 2020 by former Chief Dale Robertson. The “Russian Warrior Statue” was a gift to Chief Robertson from the Minister of Forestry of Russia and came with a bottle of vodka (not included with museum artifact). The

gift was presented in the early 1990s during a visit by the Minister to see forestry in action as part of a larger effort between our two countries to reverse the “Cold War”, led by President George H. W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, President of the Soviet Union.

Ranger Roll Call

Dave Stack, with help from volunteer Samantha Hamilton (graduate student at San Jose State University), is creating “National Forest Histories” that include the names of every District Ranger on each Forest and Grassland (and their years of service) back to 1905. Much of the information we have was received in response to our Ranger Roll Call initiative that began in August 2019 with a letter from the Museum to every District Ranger in the nation. Eleven histories are now almost complete and available online, including the Black Hills which has a

nearly complete listing of their Rangers (http://ppolinks.com/forestservicemuseum/2021_1_15.pdf).

We also have a partial Bighorn list (http://ppolinks.com/forestservicemuseum/2021_1_16.pdf).

Contact Andy Mason (acmason1954@gmail.com or 571-214-5536) if you can help us fill in the Ranger list on the Black Hills, Bighorn or any other Forest or Grassland in R-2.

Museum Newsletters Featured History of District Rangers, Rangeland Management

We’ve received a great deal of positive feedback on our 2020 newsletters, “The Rangers – They Broke New Ground”, and “Ranchers & Rangers: The Unique Story of Rangeland Management and Public Land Grazing”. Both newsletters can be viewed online along with all our newsletters dating back to the first issue, May 2002. (<https://forestservicemuseum.org/newsletters/>).

Online Auction Fundraiser Coming Soon!

Due to the pandemic, in-person fundraisers such as our very successful Teddy events (2018 - Missoula; 2019 - Scottsdale) are not being planned until 2022, however the Museum will be holding an online auction fundraiser in April 2021. Board members, regional directors, cadre members, and many others have generously donated a wide range of items for our auction such as vacation rentals, fishing trips, artwork, handcrafted furniture, ski tickets, and so much more! The auction will be open for at least two weeks. Sharpen up your bidding skills and stay tuned for more information in the near future. Please share the auction information widely so we can raise the most funds possible on every item. The online auction is vital to supporting all Museum programs and activities outside of our capital campaign.

Contact us if you need more information!

Do you have questions about any programs and activities at the Museum? We offer updates via Zoom if you and a group of friends are interested. Please contact:

Lisa Tate, Executive Director,
lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org, (406) 541-6374

My Camp Hale Story

by Wes Carlson

In 1942, the U.S. Army began the construction of a large Army training facility at Pando, Colorado, located in the Sawatch Range at an elevation of 9,250 feet, between Minturn and Leadville, CO, adjacent to US Highway 24. The training facility became known as Camp Hale and eventually housed over 16,000 soldiers. Camp Hale was chosen as it was to become a training facility for mountain combat troops (later known as the 10th Mountain Division) for the U.S. Army in WWII, and the area was in the mountains similar to what the soldiers might experience in the Alps of Europe. The training facility was constructed on some private land acquired by the U.S. Government, but some of the facilities were on national forest land. Extensive cooperation was required by the U.S. Forest Service throughout the construction and operation of the camp and adjacent facilities. The camp occupied over 5,000 acres and was a city in itself. The Camp Site is located in what is now the White River NF.

In 2012, at the U.S. Forest Service National Retiree's Reunion, a tour of the Camp Hale area was arranged. When the group who had signed up for the tour arrived at the office location where the tour was to start, it was announced that we would not be able to go to the Camp Hale site due to logistical issues with the transportation. One retiree, who had signed up for the tour, was very unhappy, and announced that if we couldn't go to Camp Hale he would like to return to the hotel in Vail. He got off the Unimog and went into the office where the tour guides were discussing what to do. After a brief time in the office, he came out and asked us to all vote on what we should do. Of course, we all voted to go to Camp Hale. We did have to change to a bus part way there due to a breakdown of the Unimog.

When we arrived at the Camp Hale site, the retiree who complained about the tour change announced that he had been in the Army at Camp Hale, and he ended up giving the tour in exceptional detail. Of course, the group was all in awe to have someone on our tour who had actually spent time at Camp Hale.

This fall when my wife, Mary, and I went to Vail, we stopped at the Camp Hale site and again discussed how much of an impact the tour has had on us and how many times we have told the story to our friends.

The person who insisted that we tour the Camp Hale site was Forest Service Retiree, Wes Carlson, a Colorado Native, and this is his story.

I thank Tom Thompson and Johnny Hodges for assisting me in tracking down Mr. Carlson, who is now 98 years old and lives in Ogden, Utah.

- Bob Sieger, Durango, CO



Wes Carlson at the Camp Hale Site - 2012 Forest Service Reunion.

WES' JOURNEY

On April 15, 1922, I was born on a farm near Eaton, Colorado. My early years were spent, as a young farm boy does, getting educated with self-inflicted experiences and more formally in small rural schools.

In 1937 we were living on a farm west of Greeley when Dad's health required a change. He sold the farm and my mother, dad and me moved to Long Beach, California. My only sibling was a brother 4 years older, who was out on his own and did not go with us. Dad put his carpenter skills to work and was readily employed. I attended my second year of high school at Woodrow Wilson high school in Long Beach.

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Late in July, 1938, dad decided he was healthy enough to head back to Colorado, so we packed up and headed east on Highway 40. On into August we were stopping often exercising our fly rods on likely-looking streams. In Steamboat Springs we learned of a new dam being built south of Kremmling so we headed that direction looking for a more permanent base.

Over time the folks ended up renting a building at Slate Creek, 14 miles north of Dillon along the Blue River. Attached was a little store with a gas pump out front. For years Mom ran the store while Dad worked at Green Mountain Dam. The interesting thing about all this was that directly across the road was the U. S. Forest Service.

Slate Creek Ranger Station.

Ranger Brandborg and his wife were friendly folks and I made it a point to get acquainted. That fall and winter I spent finishing high school in Greeley. Returning to Slate Creek, 1939, I was immediately hired for my first job with the Forest Service maintaining trails on the Slate Creek Ranger District. Problem was, the Forest Service required that I have a pack horse. I managed to buy a suitable horse from Mr. Marshal, a rancher a few miles away. That fall when I started college at Fort Collins, Mr. Marshal bought the horse back. That relationship lasted all through college -- spring time I bought the horse. Fall, Mr. Marshal bought the horse. The Forest Service employed me every summer supervising a trail crew or other ranger district work which made it financially possible for me to finish four years of college with a degree in Forestry.

1943 and Camp Hale

Actually, I had a preview of Camp Hale one time in 1942 when I delivered Dad to his carpenter job building barracks there. Mom needed the car back at Slate Creek while dad bunked at Hale.

Nineteen forty three brought life - changing events to my journey:

1. I finished college
2. I got into the Army
3. I got married

During my final semester at Colorado A&M I kept an eye on my backtrail because, coming from Summit County with a small population, the draft board was looking for any warm body. An army recruiter showed up on campus and told me he could guarantee my graduation if I signed up for army reserve. I immediately signed the form. One week after graduation I reported for duty at Fort Logan in Denver and immediately submitted my application with three recommendations (one from a forest ranger, one from my college gymnastics coach, and one from a rancher) for assignment to the Mountain Division. At that time it was pretty much a volunteer outfit, but soon had to take draftees to get up to division strength. With my 2 years of college field artillery ROTC training I shipped out to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for introduction to horse-drawn artillery. In early August the battery lieutenant called me into his office and said, "I don't know what kind of pull you have, but you are being transferred immediately to Camp Hale, Colorado." So there I was, close to home plunked down in semi-familiar mountain terrain.

Camp Hale was built at Pando, Colorado (a stop on the RG&W RR) in a valley at about 8,500 feet elevation. That valley, with increasing wartime railroad and highway traffic plus hundreds of coal-heated barracks and other buildings became a smog trap for all to breath. It cleared out only when a strong storm or wind came through. Almost everything we did -- marches, field exercises, bivouacs, etc. was uphill from there, often with maneuvers well over 10,000 feet elevation.

[Read the rest of the story](#)



2021 Scholarship Opportunity!

Is there a high school senior in your life? There's great news for them! Applications are now being accepted for the 2021 Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship. **Deadline is March 31st, 2021.**

Four scholarships of \$1500 each will be awarded, with two being specifically earmarked for natural resource majors. Applicants must have a Rocky Mountaineer member as a sponsor.

Questions: Call Frank Roth 307 754-7063, Scholarship Committee Chair. Check out all the application details on website at

www.rockymountaineers.us

Please help spread the word!

Thank You Alert Television Viewers



Yes that was our beloved bear flying across television screens from coast to coast for the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The public procession in New York City, the world's largest parade, is presented by the U.S. based department store chain Macy's. The parade started in 1924, tying it for the second-oldest Thanksgiving parade in the United States. The [Smokey Bear Balloon](#) was introduced in 1966, long before such notable inflatables as Kermit the Frog in 1977, Yogi Bear in 1983, and Bugs Bunny in 1989.

A 2021 Mountaineer Checklist

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Grove Ceremony | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local lunches with retirees | <input type="checkbox"/> Hug your kids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fewer Zoom Calls | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular haircuts |

Regional Forester Update

- January, 2020



Tammy Angel, Acting Regional Forester.

Editor's Note: This letter was recently sent to all current R-2 employees and the Public Affairs Office shared this with us.

Good morning,

I am honored today to step into the role of the Acting Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region. As a Deputy Regional Forester for the region, I already know many of you and of the great work around the region. I look forward to engaging in this new capacity and working with all of you to best represent our region.

It has already been close to a year that we have been teleworking and managing with COVID-19, and I know that is hard. As the region's pandemic coordinator, I have been closely involved in our response. The new administration is taking an aggressive approach to both slow the virus and increase the vaccine distribution. We are waiting on direction regarding the President's executive orders for masks in federal buildings and on public lands and other actions. We will be sure to share all information as we receive it.

I am glad to continue our work with our Regional Leadership Team and to have the support of all of you as we continue to pursue the priorities of the region, the agency and the new administration. We have a lot ahead of us in 2021, and I have full confidence in the Rocky Mountain Region employees to succeed in fulfilling our mission for the American public.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Tammy

U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree News



The official 2020 Capitol Christmas Tree being harvested.

Chuck Leavell may be best known as the keyboardist and musical director for The Rolling Stones, but he is also an educated and enthusiastic forestry advocate, conservationist and tree farmer.

As host of the series, Leavell serves as the on-camera guide, traveling across the country to interview people who are passionate about the gifts we receive from our forests. “The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree is a mechanism for the nation to come together during this magical time of year and to celebrate one of our most treasured resources”, said Leavell. “Whether for building or for recreation, our forests are good for the economy and for the spirit.”

Denver, CO (Dec. 10, 2020) – *America's Forests*, a national television series with Chuck Leavell, returned to Colorado to celebrate a very merry U.S. Capitol Christmas. This episode premiered on Rocky Mountain PBS to shine a light on the fifty year tradition in which the USDA Forest Service provides a tree for the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building during the holidays.

The 2020 tree was provided by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) on the Western Slope of Colorado and was the fourth time in the history of the Capitol Tree program that Colorado has provided the tree.



Chuck Leavell rides with GMUG Forest staff in December 2020.



Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, lights the 2020 Capitol Christmas Tree on December 2, 2020.

During this special episode, Leavell traveled to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests to follow the journey - from selection and cutting to ornament making and community celebrations. He followed the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree as it made its way from Colorado to Washington, D.C. Leavell also learned about the multiple uses of this winter wonderland by sharing adventures and hearing from staff from the USDA Forest Service.

For more information to to:

<https://www.uscapitolchristmastree.com/news/america-s-forests-with-chuck-leavell-debuts-special-colorado-christmas-episode-on-dec-17>

Fire Season and Research News



2020 was quite a fire year. Nationally, there were over 58,000 wildfires that burned over 10.27 million acres, which is more than 33 percent above the 10-year average (2010-2019) but slightly below average for the number of fires. Nearly half of the acres impacted were on National Forest System lands. This is notable considering Alaska had a very quiet fire season.

- Five of California's six largest fires (in recorded history) happened in 2020 (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th) including its first million-acre fire, the August Complex.
- California burned nearly 4.2 million acres this year, more than doubling the previous record during the last 30 plus years.

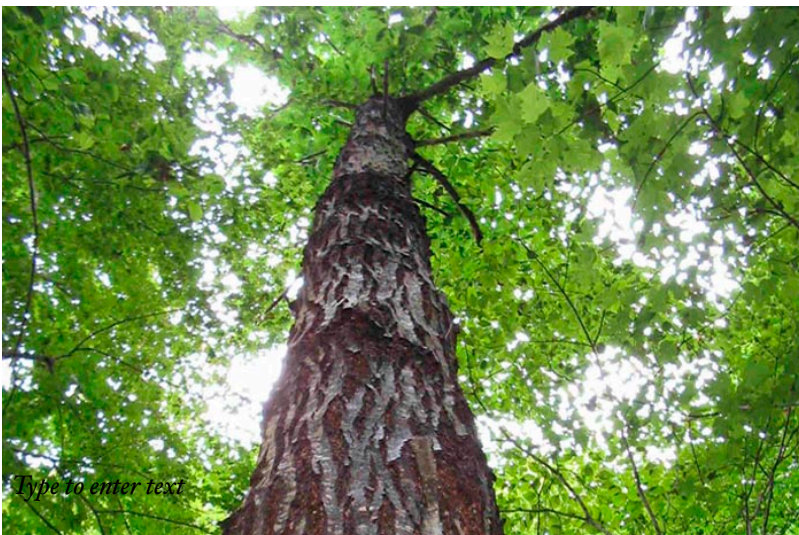
Pine Gulch Fire - Colorado - August 2, 2020 - Photo by Eric Coulter, BLM.

Oregon burned more than 1.2 million acres, doubling its 10-year average.

The Rocky Mountain Area Geographic Area reported over 2,800 fires in 2020 for a total of almost 1.1 million acres burned.

Colorado had its three largest wildfires this year (East Troublesome, Cameron Peak, and Pine Gulch) and the largest, East Troublesome, started in October and made a 20 mile run in one 24-hour period including spotting over the Continental Divide (-12,000 foot crest, 1 mile of stretch of above tree line).

‘Neath the Spreading Chestnut Tree...



There's lots going on with American Chestnut research in the Southern Appalachians. Stacy Clark, Research Forester, Southern Research Station, talks about the research being done to save the American Chestnut tree.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbwMVPjknf4&feature=push->

Stuff to do When You Retire

Armchair Firefighting for Fun and Entertainment

by Mary Ann Chambers



Near Chambers Lake on Cameron Pass. - Photo by Carl Chambers

The big fires, the ones foresters and researchers had been predicting from my first day of work in R2 over 35 years ago, have been happening for a while now. The ones that were not a question of if, but of when, finally arrived. The historic Cameron Peak Fire was just west of Fort Collins where we live.

Though intensely interested, we did not want to be in the

thick of it. I know many retirees are still at it. I admire and thank them for it. However, this year, we decided to sit this season out. My mate, Carl and I are now bystanders, but still have opinions about the fires.

We have joined the ranks of armchair firefighters, the people we rolled our eyes at when we were on the job. However, we tend to keep our opinions to ourselves for that very reason.

Carl looked at the Cameron Peak Fire control lines on the maps they presented during their Facebook public meetings and could not believe that some were eight miles away. "Armchair firefighter, they have their reasons," I said. For sure, trying to fight fire during a pandemic and in lands covered with the skeletal remains of a beetle epidemic was a monumental and complicated task. More importantly, we were not standing on that ground looking at it. We did not have that critical information that you only get by being there. We worried for everyone's safety as they worked on the land and stood among their compatriots. We felt sad for the people that lost their homes. Friends who live near the fire were evacuated twice, once for three weeks!

We counted nine incident management teams. As they shuffled in and out, they continued to brief the public about the fire. It was fun to watch the creativity of public information officers unfold the fire for the public encapsulated in their respective bubbles. They did a great job using social media platforms like Facebook and You Tube. I did make one comment as a member of the public, about the size of the maps used by the first team because you could not see anything. I thought that was fair.

Carl and I went to look at the Cameron Peak Fire after the Forest re-opened. You might call it a dirty burn, one with patches of scorched earth and blackened tree trunks standing guard intermixed with spots barely touched by fire. The sight of burned homes was hard to look at. Fire seems to have a mind of its own, taking homes with no trees and leaving others where there was no defensible space and trees surrounding the deck.

As we got out to walk around, there was that smell. It smells like fire, but not active fire. You smell the smell after the burn. It still smells like fire but it is different. The ground crunches from the ashy remains of all kinds of plants. It was over and we were glad. As armchair firefighters, we deeply appreciate the work done by the ones on the ground.



Cache la Poudre near Spenser Heights. - Photo by Mary Ann Chambers

What's Funny?



Caption Contest Entries that we can publish

"I'm here, I'm here. See what happens when you call me honey!" - M.A.Chambers

"Sweet! Smokey's got a new do." - Anonymous

"This Covid-19 self quarantine has NOT been good for Smokey." - Anonymous

"Oh Honey - I think Smokey and SueBee Honey hibernated last season." - Anonymous

And the winner of a fabulous prize from the editor's private collection is...

"This is the first time I've ever not wanted to run from a bear." - S. Gray



*The Rendezvous has been told that this is **NOT** Karen Bergethon's arm. If this is YOUR arm, please let The Rendezvous know.*



Senator Leahy from Vermont gave Smokey a surprise shoutout during the Amy Coney Barrett Supreme Court Confirmation hearing on October 12, 2020.

The Senator displayed a photo of Smokey and his friend, Martha Richards from Vermont. Martha works for the Vermont State Parks and raised two children on her own and was worried that the Affordable Care Act would be ruled unconstitutional if Judge Barrett was confirmed.

"That's the Way I Remember it"

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



Bob Averill

**Retired in 1999
27 years of Service
Plus 3 military**

The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?

Bob Averill: I was born in Denver, Colorado as my mother's doctor was there. Two weeks later I was back in Laramie, Wyoming where my dad was Forest Supervisor of the Medicine Bow National Forest. At age three, we swapped houses with the ranger at Pole Mountain Ranger Station due to health issues he had. For three more years I got to run around the ranger station making a nuisance of myself with the folks that worked there as well as learning to fish in the nearby ponds. Dad had to run a snow course every now and then so my brothers and I learned to ski at Pole Mountain. We moved to Deadwood, South Dakota in 1948 when my dad again became Forest Supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest. Some of my favorite memories there was meeting President Eisenhower at the 25th Anniversary of the Mount Rushmore Monument, killing porcupines with Chief Ed Cliff, as well as the first blast at the Crazy Horse Monument. I spent a lot of great time at the Terry Peak Ski Area where I learned to ski jump.

TR: Tell us a little about your family.

BA: My dad was born in Kansas City, Missouri and wound up in Forestry School in Montana. His first job was with Bob Marshall at the Priest River Experimental Forest where he was his assistant silviculturist. Marshall then helped him into graduate school at Harvard. After he got this MS in forestry, he returned to Colorado and worked at the Manitou Research Station. Dad then took the ranger test and became Assistant Ranger at Hot Sulfur Springs. Then it was on to Paonia as District Ranger. His dwarf

mistletoe experimental cuts at Pitkin are still visible to the trained eye. He met my mom while on the Paonia Ranger District. He always kidded me that he married the rancher's daughter to stop a range/sheep war that was brewing on the District.

I had two older brothers, Mike and Ron. Mike had a band in Deadwood that would play at numerous bars etc around the northern hills. Every year the band would play on top of the garage in Deadwood for a neighborhood dance which was always well attended.

That flat garage top also served as the launch site for numerous rockets on the 4th of July. Glad we didn't set anything on fire as we launched the rockets over town! After he got out of the Marines he went into the pet industry where he had a large tropical fish/plant distribution center in east Denver. He spent his career in the pet industry, owning or managing several pet stores in Denver .



The West Muddy Ranger Station where my folks lived when they first got married.

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*(continued from Page 27)***TR: You're not the first one in your family to work for the Forest Service - tell us about them.**

BA: My oldest brother, Ron went to Colorado State University in Forestry after he got out of the Marines in the early 1950's. He was the Assistant Ranger under John Burke at Minturn and actually signed the first permit for the development of Vail Ski Area. He then went to the Ashley National Forest as Assistant Ranger in Roosevelt probably about 1960 or 1961. A couple of years later he became the Ranger of the North Fork Ranger District on the Salmon National Forest. In 1975 or 1976 he transferred to the Medicine Bow National Forest as the Forest Planner and northern zone law enforcement officer.

TR: Where did you go to school – early school and college - and what was your favorite subject?

BA: Grade school was in Deadwood, South Dakota until we moved to Denver in 1954 where I attended Wheatridge schools graduating from high school in 1961. Went to Montana State on a ski scholarship, but was injured on a jump so gave the sport up for a couple of years. Then I went to Western State in Gunnison where I skied nordic combined and made the U.S. Olympic tryout team for biathlon for the 1968 Games. After I got off active duty in 1970, I went to Michigan State University in Forestry with an emphasis in entomology. I earned an MS and PhD there.

In kindergarten my favorite subject was milk and graham crackers. In grad school it was the parasitic hymenoptera of the world taught by Henry Townes who was the world authority on this group of insects - toughest damn course I ever had!!

TR: You served in the military – what branch was it and tell us a little about your military experience.

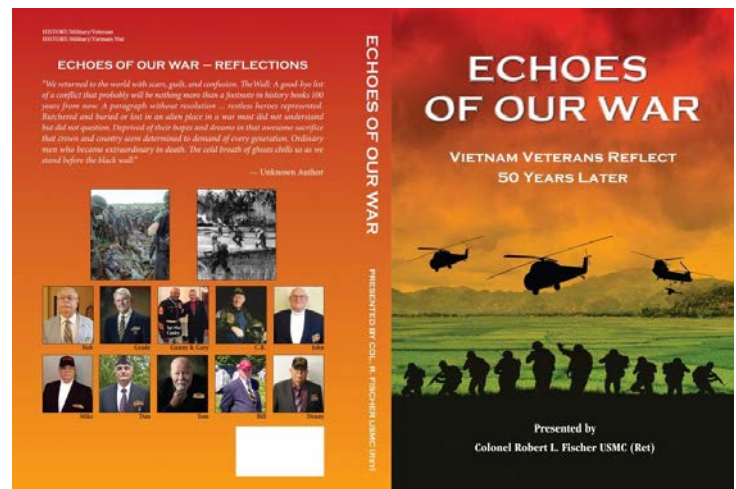
BA: I was in the Marine Corps - as were my brothers. I was commissioned a 2nd Lt January 1, 1968. I was in Basic Class 6-67 which graduated from Basic School November 1, 1968. Our class had the highest casualty rate of any in the Corps during the Vietnam era. I arrived in Vietnam late January 1968 just as the TET Offensive was starting. I had a rifle platoon with Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines operating out of Camp Carroll. I became the Executive Officer in June then Acting Commanding Officer in July. In August, I was given a new Combined Action Company which

was being established in the Huong Tra District of Thua Tien Province. This area bordered on the north and west the Hue Citadel. I had the District that the North Vietnam Army held as their headquarters during TET 1968. It was an interesting experience, regaining control of the area, working with the 1st Air Cavalry, regional forces and popular forces or local militia as well as the civilian government. I always called it the Peace Corps with bullet launchers as we created the safe areas for the villagers to come back to and get their lives going again.

After I got off active duty I stayed in the Reserves for another 10 years..

TR: And you're an author now – a book about the Vietnam War - tell us about it.

BA: *"Echoes of Our War"* is a new book available from Barnes & Noble or Amazon. It is sponsored by Colonel Robert Fischer who selected ten Marines from the Denver area to each write a chapter regarding their tour in Vietnam as well as post thoughts about Vietnam. Buy it, you'll like it!



"Finally, these are stories of consequences. These Marines came home to a political quagmire nearly as treacherous as the battlefields. In each chapter, these authors explain what was so very wrong about that war, why, and who was responsible. Words failed these Marines for five decades when they have been among those without shared experience. All these years later, they find those words and unleash them without remorse. If you were there, you will recognize the truth in this book. If you were not and want to know what it was really like during and after the Vietnam War, this book is for you!"

- Book Overview

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TR: How did you get interested in a job with the U.S. Forest Service and what were some of your first duties?

BA: Growing up in the Forest Service in the old days you could go to the woods with your dad. I remember going to the woods with Chief Ed Cliff and my dad where we killed a couple of porcupines that were feeding on some pole sized pines. That was fun. Even got to meet President Eisenhower at the 25th Anniversary of Mt. Rushmore. What peaked my early interest was listening to the silviculturist, Wendell Harmon on the Custer National Forest explain how thinning the ponderosa pine seemed to make the stand less susceptible to mountain pine beetle. That was in 1953 or 1954.

My first job was in 1961 on the timber crew of the Routt National Forest. The following summer I worked for Burt Roberts and the timber crew on the Dolores Ranger District, San Juan National Forest. Summer of 1963 was split between Marine Corps training and doing inventory of State and Private lands for the Colorado State Forest Service. That fall I decided to take a stab at the Olympics, so I was able to get a job on the Buffalo Creek Ranger District doing timber and range survey as well as fire mitigation projects. In the summer of 1964 I was a logger for a company out of Idaho. We had several sales on the Gunnison National Forest. I started busting knots & setting chokers. Wound up as a tree feller. Really enjoyed that summer job. Summer of 1965 was more Marine Corps training as well as working on the budworm crew out of the Regional Office. In 1966 it was more Marine Corps training and budworm survey. That fall I married my wonderful girlfriend Sue and in December was named to the United States Olympics tryout squad for Biathlon.

TR: What was your first job with the Forest Service?

BA: My first permanent job was in the Regional Office as an Entomologist working for Ken Lister, one of the finest entomologists I ever worked for or with.

TR: Tell us a little about your career and the different jobs you've held.

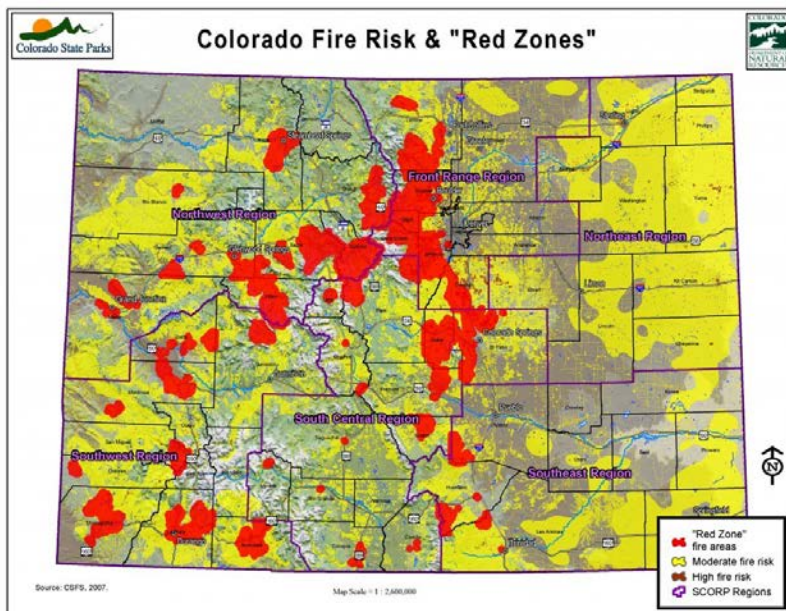


Bob at work on the Roosevelt NF in 1976 - courtesy of Weeds and Turf Newsletter.

BA: Working for Ken from 1974 to 1978 involved mountain pine beetle and spruce budworm suppression projects. Lots of surveys and pilot tests of insecticides for beetle and spruce budworm control. Our work led to the registration of Sevinmol for a preventive beetle spray and Orthene for spruce budworm

control. Also wrote the Benefit/Cost Guidelines for bark beetle control that was highly successful in strengthening our response to bark beetle outbreaks. In 1978 we moved to Anchorage where I was in charge of Forest Pest Management (FPM) in Region 10. One of the more fun actions was the creation of an Integrated Pest Management team involving Coop Extension and Pest Management to fund summer hires to do surveys and technical assistance to home owners, farmers and forest holders for all critters and diseases. Up to that time the only assistance in Alaska for pests was from the Forest Service. The program is still perking along and is a good example of interagency cooperation. In 1982, I returned to R2 where I was Group Leader for FPM Entomology then Group Leader for Forest Health Management after George Downing retired. I think that made me the head fed for bugs-n-crud in R2. We did a lot of fun things over the next 18 years, we established field offices in Lakewood, Gunnison and Rapid City for Forest Health Management. We did several large scale battles against Mountain Pine Beetle with the Summit-Upper Eagle Project and the Routt Divide Blowdown. We created the Red Zone concept that identifies ecotypes that are prone to high disturbance regimes that could impact human value systems. I also wound up spending a lot of time on grasshoppers as we led APHIS out of a spray and count philosophy into an Integrated Pest Management Decision Support system. Hope everyone is still using it now that we are in a dry cycle again.

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Colorado's Fire Risk and Red Zone map indicating fire prone areas in red.

Repeat photos were taken every 10 years up to the 1960's then they stopped. Probably to save money or the employees didn't know they had this treasure of information hiding here and there. The outfit would be well served if they went back to that program!

TR: Who were some of your early bosses that gave you good advice in your career?

BA: Amel Landgraf and Jim Stewart whom I worked for parts of each summer inspired me to seek a career in forest pest management on their part. And, when I became a full-time employee, George Downing, Sid Hanks and Craig Rupp all provided great advice, wisdom and counsel.

TR: What were the best and worst parts of your jobs?

BA: Working in the woods with great foresters and great observers of nature. Not being able to get individuals or organizations to realize that change from the status quo was necessary and that man's influence in making that change was positive.

TR: What was the most rewarding part of your job?

BA: Visiting areas where I had a strong influence to effect change and seeing those areas respond to that change over time. Then being able to use that as teachable moments to folks in and out of the Agency.

TR: Do you have a funny story from your career you can share with us?

BA: One thing that comes to mind...Regional Office Xmas parties used to start early on the 24th. By noon Craig Rupp and Sid Hanks and other Deputies would be gone for the day and the Director of Engineering would be Acting RF. So sometime between 1 & 2 pm the RO loudspeaker would come on and we would hear

"This, this is Actingggg Regional Forester Wendell Wilke (long pause) you - you can all go home now."

TR: One of the biggest fires in Colorado history burned in 2020 in an area that you studied for the unprecedented amount of beetle kill in the area. I remember that you predicted something on this scale.

BA: I assume we are talking of the fires in Grand County as well as on the Med Bow. All of that was part of the overall effort by Mike DeLuz and I to get folks thinking about disturbance ecology. And even before that, Al Roberts was an early advocate of understanding disturbance processes. I'm glad to see that the "Red Zone" concept is still being applied in many western states. It needs more emphasis as too many folks don't think its important.

TR: You took a lot of photographs throughout your career – tell us about that.

BA: Photography allows us to capture visual change on the landscape overtime. That is very powerful in pointing out the value of managing land to desired level of production and protection. The outfit established photo points on each new National Forest as they were established in the 1900's.

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*(continued from Page 30)***TR: Tell us about your involvement in the U.S Olympic Ski Team.**

BA: In the late 1980s my daughter and I were cross-country skiing at Tabernash. I was wearing my U.S. biathlon warmup suit at the warming shack after we had finished a good day of skiing. A fellow walked over to me and stared for a moment and finally said "Coach, is that you?" I recognized the voice from when I was coaching at Granby, Colorado as a student



Dennis Lodwick and Bob at the Whistler Olympic Park in 2010.

teacher. He was one of the kids I had on the ski team there who was one of the three or four that I worked with whom made it to the national team. We had a great chat and he convinced me to come back to Winter Park the next weekend to watch the ski jumping meet.

That very next weekend, I was in the judges tower re-acquainting myself

with judges that used to judge me. They all talked me into returning to skiing as an official.

TR: That sounds like a lot of work to come?

BA: Over the next few years I worked my way up the ladder as a regional judge, then a national judge and a technical delegate. Then I attended FIS (The Fédération Internationale de Ski - or International Ski Federation) seminars to become an FIS technical delegate. Somewhere along the way I was selected to be the Chief of Stewards at the 2002 Olympic ski jumps. In the meantime I became head of the nordic officials for the Rocky Mountain Division of the United States Ski Association. That resulted in my being the Chief trainer for jumping judges and nordic combined events. It was a blast because I was right in the middle of all the competitors and got to know most of the jumpers and nordic combined skiers in the world - which was necessary for my job at the 2002 Olympics. I had also worked with our national committee and Canada's committee to re-establish

the North American Jumping and Nordic Combined Championships which was dropped a couple of years after I had competed in them. I was the technical delegate for the first international competition at Canada's new jumping complex and served as an advisor to them for the 2010 Olympics. That was also great fun as the U.S. cleaned up in the medal area with one gold and five silver medals for our nordic combined team. We were the best in the world!

TR: How do you think the current Forest Service is doing? Any thoughts?

BA: I think they are hurting. There are a lot of people in jobs that don't have the necessary skills to be really good. Rumors that I hear are that promotions are more dependent upon factors other than the skills needed to do the job. Also, I see this sad aspect that you don't see folks on the ground interfacing with the public on radio/TV or the news. Seems to me that everything for public consumptions flows out of Washington and not necessarily the Forest Service. That shows a deep lack of trust in the agency and its employees.

It has to be very frustrating when so much of the budget winds up in firefighting and not much in active forest management. That we get anything done on the ground shows that there are some sparks of life left, but so much more needs to be done. It would be interesting to look at the downward trend of management over the life of the past several forest plans and ask the question - is this really what the public wants? Is this really what we professional managers of National Forest System lands want or support?

TR: What advice would you have for a young person looking to start a career with the U.S. Forest Service?

BA: I would say get to know your local Forest Service folks, make connections at the District, Supervisor's Office and maybe even the Regional Office. Get the skill set for the area you want to work in most. And, get a summer job with the outfit. Become a keen observer of nature and if there is anything to accept as truth, it's that the only constant in nature is change.

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TR: What do you fill your free time with?

BA: I spend about five months in Arizona each winter where I have a garden railroad (1:20.3 scale) with 300' of track. Since starting that, I have had to pick up some model building skills and electronics knowledge. I also spend time on our pistol range with other former Marines who had careers in law enforcement or were "spooks" with different outfits. A great group of shooters. I still try to hit the golf ball

though lately old back injuries have put me on the sidelines. I'm still working on my book regarding my year in Vietnam - almost halfway done.



An Italian hard cheese with cumin drying for a day before it is waxed and aged.

Several years ago I started making cheese after attending a school for cheesemakers. Fantastic hobby, I make several soft and hard cheese types depending upon

the milk I can get. My latest attempt is Jarlsberg. Don't know how it will turn out. Still have not got the hang of Camembert but will try again! It is possible for old dogs to learn new tricks!

And, lastly we still have our 5th wheel and we get out during the summer. Our international travel is on hold due to the Chinese virus.



The new pick up truck and Fox Mountain 26 foot Fifth Wheel.

TR: Any final words of wisdom?

BA: Don't eat yellow snow!

TR: Anything we didn't ask you about?

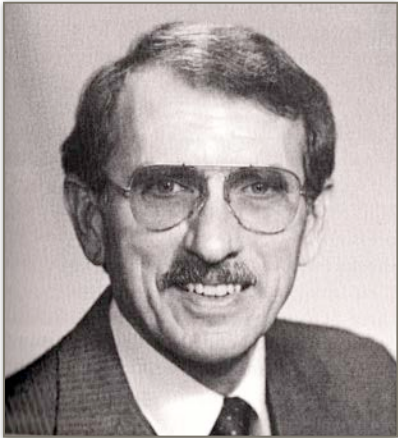
BA: I think our economy will go down and unemployment will go up to higher levels than we are experiencing now. What a great opportunity to re-establish the CCC, WPA approach to improving the forests. I think that is an area the new administration needs to pursue. Forest health and disturbance ecology need to be the cornerstone in that effort and if I was Chief - that is where I would push.

Note from the Editor

Do you know someone who should be featured in our retiree interview? Would you like to learn more about one of your fellow retirees? Send me a note and I'll do all the heavy lifting and get them to spill the beans and tell us all about "the good old days."

Dave.steinke@gmail.com

Remembering Jim Torrence



**October 28, 1932 –
November 14, 2020**

Jim Torrence followed his Lord into the next life on November 14, 2020. True to the man he was, he left quietly. His wife Elizabeth (Liz), the woman he reminded friends was his comfort and his

joy, was by his side in their home near Gainesville, Florida.

He was born on October 28, 1932 and christened James Finley Torrence. His birthplace was Okaloosa, Iowa. As a boy, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. Jim attended Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa and graduated with a degree in Forest Management. He worked summers for the Forest Service. After college, Jim served in the Army, then the Army Reserves.

Jim returned to the Ochoco National Forest then to the Wallowa-Whitman and Winema Forests, then to the Regional Office to work on environmental impact statements. In 1972 he became Supervisor on the Mt. Baker Forest and then went to the Washington Office to work on winter sports recreation sites.

It was in this capacity that Jim went to Irkutsk, Siberia as a member of a U. S. Information Agency. Irkutsk is in eastern Siberia along the Angara River. Jim came close to death when he suffered severe stomach pain and was treated by Russian medical staff with several blood transfusions. The American doctor who was sent with the exhibit, Dr. William Knaus, wrote a book and an article in Esquire magazine about how the Soviet government made unprecedented concessions to allow an Air Force plane into their air space to transport Jim back to the States.

After convalescing, Jim went to the Superior National Forest in 1975 in Region 9 as Forest Supervisor. In

1977 he was appointed Deputy Regional Forester in Region 6. In 1983, Jim was Regional Forester in Region 2. He returned to Region 6 as Regional Forester in the spring of 1986.

Jim earned a reputation in his leadership roles as a caring, compassionate boss. He would go from office to office checking with employees. This personal effort made the employees feel that they and their work were important to him. He related to folks from all types of background and with various interests.

One of Jim's favorite memories was riding with the Forest Service pack string in the Portland Rose and Flower Parade and in the Pendleton Roundup. In 1989 Jim retired from the Forest Service. His love for the outdoors made it an easy decision on how to spend his last week as Regional Forester. He decided not to spend it in the office, so he contacted several Forest Supervisors and said, "Let's check out a wilderness area in Northern Washington." The three Forest Supervisors always felt that "discussing forest management and land ethic with Jim around the evening campfire was one of their career highlights."

After retirement he and Liz lived in Anacortes, Washington where Jim spent years as the Port Anacortes Harbor Master. They spent many quality hours in their boat sailing up and down the West Coast. Jim loved hiking the mountains in Washington and Oregon and he was an avid skier. He also took up wood working. Jim was a master craftsman and many friends and family members still enjoy his work in the form of commemorative bowls, garden gate signs and jewelry boxes. His specialty was Native American wooden flutes. He and Liz along with friends took in several Indian Pow Wows together. Jim was an avid reader, mostly books about World War II and the Pacific War.

Jim was predeceased by his parents and by a daughter, Carol. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth and two sons, Michael and Gregor. Jim's final wishes were cremation and his ashes interred at the Willamette Military Cemetery near Portland, Oregon. No memorial services are scheduled at this time.

Remembrances



Duane Bury

Duane Lu Allen Bury, 93, passed away peacefully at Spearfish Canyon Healthcare on Sunday November 8th, 2020. He was born on July 14th, 1927 in Bristol SD to Arthur and Amanda Bury. Duane

worked on his parent's farm in Bristol until he enrolled in the Army in 1945, serving two terms. He was discharged in 1952 and began his 34-year career with the Forest Service as a General District Assistant. He was an extremely hard worker and treated everyone with respect.

He married Phyllis Dryer on March 20th, 1955. They spent their entire marriage living in or near the Black Hills, primarily in Spearfish. Duane and Phyllis raised three boys Randy, Kenny, and Larry and are the proud

grandparents of six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and two great great-grandchildren.

Duane was a member of the Spearfish Volunteer Fire Department for 18 years. He also belonged to the VFW, American Legion, was a Master of the Masonic Lodge in 1975 and was an Eastern Star member. Duane loved the outdoors especially fishing, gardening, and camping. He enjoyed woodworking and took great delight in making gifts for his family and friends. Family was very important to Duane. He loved family get-togethers and especially enjoyed camping with his wife, their boys, their spouses and grandchildren.

Duane is survived by his wife Phyllis, sons Randy (Velma) of Newcastle, WY Ken (Beth) of Rapid City, daughter-in-law Cora of Spearfish and numerous grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his son Larry, his parents and siblings.



Debbie Cito

Debra L. (Debbie) Cito passed away peacefully on 10/21/20 after battling multiple sclerosis for over 35 years. She was extremely tough and fought the disease while staying positive and happy. She loved spending time with her family and

friends!!! She was loved by so many people. I can't forget her love for the Broncos. She would not miss a

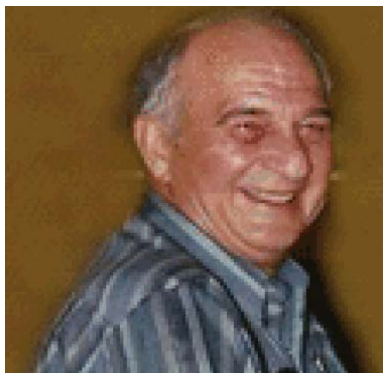
game. She is now at peace and not suffering. She will be missed by all that love her. Her life will be celebrated in the spring.

She worked for many years in the Regional Office and was part of the clerical staff in Renewable Resources for many years and later in the Engineering staff. She is survived by two daughters Tracy and Toni and one granddaughter.

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Remembrances



Fred Fichtner

Fred Adam Fichtner, 92, of Sheridan, WY passed away on October 30th in Sheridan. He was born June 10th 1928 in Rapelje, Montana, the son of Fred and Katherine Fichtner.

Fred graduated from Lovell High School, Lovell, Wyoming in 1946. Following graduation, he proudly served in the Wyoming National Guard and was deployed to Korea with the 300th Armored Field Artillery in 1950. In 1957 he married Pauline Massey in Custer, South Dakota and graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Masters Degree in Range Management. Fred worked for the United States

Forest Service for over 30 years working in Laramie, Douglas, Newcastle and concluding his career in Sheridan as District Ranger. Upon retirement Fred spent his golden years as owner and operator of Fred's Framing. His professional and beautiful frame work is displayed at many homes and businesses in Sheridan. He was a loyal member of The American Legion. Fred was an avid outdoorsman, loved to ski, hunt and fish all of which he taught his children and grandchildren. He is survived by his wife Pauline, five children; Eugenie Bietz and husband Ron, Francine Forrester and husband Nick, Fred Fichtner and wife Mary, Georgia Fosnight and Louis Fichtner and wife Janet along with eight grandchildren, four great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held next spring near his birthday to honor his memory and his life.

Pete Nicolas Garcia

Pete Nicolas Garcia, 74, of Saguache, CO went to his eternal rest on October 25, 2020 at his home, under Hospice Care with his loving family by his side. Pete was born on May 24, 1946 in Saguache the beloved son of Salvador B. Garcia and Casimira Mondragon Garcia. Pete served and was a veteran of the United States Navy. After he completed his duties in the service, he went on to work for the U.S. Forest Service for many years. Pete was a loving brother, uncle, cousin and friend who enjoyed doing art work, being in the mountains, going arrowhead hunting, fishing and he loved being with his family and friends.

Survivors include his sisters Lorraine Lopez of Saguache, CO; Carolyn White of Monte Vista, CO; brother Raymond (Joan) Garcia of National City, CA. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

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Remembrances



Freda Jensen

Freda Marie Jensen, 87, died, Saturday, July 11, 2020, at the Spirit Mountain Hospice House, with family at her side. Born Freda Marie Wolf to Fredrick (Fritz) and Edna Wolf, she spent her childhood living on her grandmother's homestead in Worland. At 19, she married Harry

Jensen. Six years later Freda and Harry moved their little family to Meeteetse where their children were provided with a loving and unforgettable childhood. In addition to raising us kids, she played piano at school functions, did bookkeeping for various businesses and was always sewing something for somebody. For several years, she worked for the Forest Service (District Clerk Shoshone National Forest, Meeteetse). She had fond memories of "breaking in the new rangers" and developed lifetime friendships with many.

Freda retired in the late '70s and moved with Harry to Cairo, Egypt. While in Egypt, she had the opportunity to travel the world and witness so many different cultures. She loved traveling, shopping, and playing golf next to the pyramids. Pretty awesome for a rural girl from Wyoming!

After Harry retired, they built their dream home in Cody. Here she enjoyed entertaining and being close to her children and grandchildren. Dad passed in the late '90s and Mom continued living in HER house till the end.

Freda is survived by her brother Jim Wolf (Worland), brother-in-law Mark Shubert (Cheyenne), children Jon Jensen (Powell), Jocelyn (Marty) Sporer (Cody), Jessica (Greg) Wentz (Meeteetse), her grandchildren Alyson Sporer (Montana), Jennie Henderson (Utah), Sid Sporer (Cody) Ashley Jensen (Montana) and Charli Newkirk (Meeteetse). Seven great-grandchildren McKinsey, Hadly, HayDn, Huxly, Jens, Tilly and Stone.



Ernie Nesbit

Ernie Nesbit of Gunnison passed away peacefully at his home on July 31, 2020 just shy of his 90th birthday. Ernie was born on the family ranch in the Quartz Creek Valley of Gunnison and

attended Gunnison Schools graduating in 1949. He worked a variety of jobs following graduation including working for General Motors in San Francisco for a period of time.

By the spring of 1959 he had accepted a full-time job with the U.S. Forest Service in Gunnison as an Engineering Technician where he stayed until his retirement in 1991.

One of his proudest accomplishments was to survey the original Cottonwood Pass Road. He lived to see Cottonwood finally paved and was honored to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony, where in his speech he stated, "You know the old saying that good things

come to those that have the tolerance to wait 60 years... and that requires a lot of patience." He was good to his word that if Cottonwood were ever paved, he would provide a champagne toast for its final completion.

During his USFS career he also served as the Logistics Service Chief on the Region 2 Fire Fighting Overhead Team. He traveled to 9 states in that region, from New Mexico to Alaska, coordinating all the logistics for major wildfires.

Following his retirement from the Forest Service Ernie began working for Gunnison County as an engineer and stayed in that position with Road and Bridge until the summer of 1999.

Ernie had a love for animals and was an accomplished horseman, traits he passed on to his daughters. Ernie is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Patricia and two adoring daughters Tammy Scott (John) and Kim Nesbit (Les Evans) both of Gunnison. He is also survived by one of three siblings, sister Zelma Kreuger.

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Remembrances



Bob Rhodes

Robert R. "Bob" Rhodes, 86, of Lakewood, Colorado, died at St. Anthony's Hospital on Wednesday, November 25, from a fall. Bob was born on January 7, 1934 in Council Grove, Kansas, Bob attended Council Grove High School, married his high

school sweetheart, Diane Richards, in 1953 and graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Business Administration in 1957.

Bob began his US Forest Service career on the Medicine Bow National Forest (NF) in Laramie, Wyoming. Over the next thirty years, his work with the US Forest Service moved him and his family to national forests throughout the Rocky Mountain Region: the Bighorn NF in Wyoming; and in Colorado, the Rio Grande NF (Monte Vista), the Gunnison NF (Gunnison), the Pike/San Isabel NF (Colorado Springs) and the USFS Regional Office in Lakewood.

Bob dearly loved the forests and mountains of the West. He spent many hours fishing trout streams year-round and hunting deer and elk in the mountains. He was an avid camper-no matter if there was snow on the ground, or that bears were nearby-Bob would choose the most isolated, hard to access campsite. The family

began with bedrolls on the ground, graduated to a huge tent, then a pop-up camper, and eventually to larger trailers and formal campgrounds.

After moving to Denver in 1973, Bob was a founding member of the Green Mountain Kiwanis Club, serving as club president as well as Lieutenant Governor of Division 14, Rocky Mountain District in 1979-80. He participated in Denver area service projects, and worked with the GMHS Key Club, taking great pride in the accomplishments of "his" Key Clubbers. Bob was an active member of Lakewood United Church of Christ.

He is survived by his sister Judy Duncan of Tempe, AZ, and his wife, Diane Rhodes of Lakewood, CO. He leaves behind four daughters: Karen Bridges of Fort Collins, CO; Janice Graham of Arvada, CO; Cheri Houser and Mary Busmire of Lakewood, CO. Granddaughter Robin Graham lives in San Francisco but the other grandchildren live along Colorado's Front Range: including the Bridges boys: Jeremy, Christopher and Micah; Keith Graham; the Houser boys Tim and Nick; and Robert Busmire. Bob's great grandchildren include Elliot, Evan, Eli, Henry, Asa, and Emma Bridges and Ben Wyperd. All these boys were "payback" to Bob for having survived the chaos of raising four daughters.

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Remembrances



Michael Sanders

Michael Mark Sanders of Laramie, Wyoming died Tuesday, October 20 at the UC Medical Center in Loveland, Colorado following a brief battle with lymphoma. He was 68.

Michael was born September 14, 1952 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Carol and Joan Sanders. He grew up with a love for God, the great outdoors, animals and family traditions. He was an active member of the Boy Scouts, achieving Eagle Scout during his high school years. Michael was a graduate of Tulsa Central High School in 1970 and Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas in 1974. During the mid to late 1970s, Michael taught math in Tulsa schools during the winter, and worked as a park ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park during summers and falls.

During one of those Colorado summers, he met his great love, Gloria Holliday and they were married December 29, 1979. Michael was hired by the U.S.

Forest Service in 1978, working on forests in Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, Wyoming, Missouri and Arkansas once more. He retired in 2007 as the Supervisor of the Ozark National Forest in Russellville, Arkansas. Two daughters were born during Virginia years, Molly Marie and Ashley Elizabeth. When Michael retired from the Forest Service in 2007, he found time to work at several other jobs he'd always wanted to do. He worked with Wyoming Tourism in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, and substitute teaching in Mountain Grove, Missouri, which he greatly enjoyed. He also enjoyed hiking, watching sports and being an active member in several churches around the country.

Michael is survived by his wife, Gloria, of Laramie, Wyoming; daughter Molly Sanders Howe of Arlington, Virginia and her husband Gary; daughter Ashley Sanders of Laramie, Wyoming; sister Kathryn Sanders Rusk of Tulsa, Oklahoma and her husband Mike; and sister Jennifer Sanders of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.



Kay Stoner

Kathleen (Kay) Faye Stoner passed away on September 5, 2020. Kathleen was born and raised in Crawford, Colorado, to Clarence and Charlotte Collins on Aug. 23, 1937. She lived and loved the ranching lifestyle and enjoyed spending all her free time riding her

horse, hiking in the mountains or moving sheep with her dad. Kathleen married Charles Ralph Stoner in 1969. They had two girls and enjoyed raising them in Crawford where they could continue to live their pioneer lifestyle.

Kathleen worked and retired from the U. S. Forest Service as a Civil Engineer Technician. She loved designing using the AutoCad program. She especially loved the fall in the Kebler Pass area from Paonia to Crested Butte. She also enjoyed going on details for

work that took her to Yellowstone during the big fire in 1988 and to Alaska working on a survey crew in 1990.

In her spare time she enjoyed quilting and making unique wall hangings with a wilderness or mountain theme. In the last few years she would spend hours making dresses for orphanages all around the world. She also enjoyed hiking, cross country skiing, cake decorating and traveling the Western United States. Her love for her family and the prominent Castle Rock Mountain that overlooked her home for 83 years, kept her firmly tied in the community that she loved. Kathleen leaves behind her husband, Charles R. Stoner, daughters, Heather Oman and family of Montrose, Colorado, and Holly Knowles and family of Meeker, Colorado. She was the proud grandmother of six grandchildren and one great-grandchild who affectionately referred to her as Grandma KC.

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Remembrances



Charles Wright

Charles L. (Charlie)

Wright was born on Nov. 8, 1936, in North Bend, Ohio, to Harry and Lilly (Nugent) Wright. He was their second child and oldest son. He attended Bright elementary school and graduated from

Bright High School in 1954 without missing a single day during those twelve years.

Charlie enlisted in the US Air Force immediately after graduation. His duty stations included Sampson A.F. Base in New York, Scott A.F. Base in Missouri, and Stuart A.F. Base in Tennessee. He was then deployed to Tripoli, North Africa, where he was attached to a helicopter unit at Wheelus Air Base. While there, he had the opportunity to play baseball for the Air Force team all over Western Europe. He was honorably discharged on Nov. 8, 1957.

When he returned stateside, Charlie married the little red-haired girl from his first-grade class, Joan Beck, on June 9, 1956. He and Joan moved to Lafayette, Ind. in 1957, where he attended Purdue University and graduated in 1960 with a degree in Forest Management. They and their two young daughters, Pam and Sherry, moved to New Mexico in 1960 to begin a new life as a U.S. Forest Service family. They were stationed in El Rita, NM, Lakeside, AZ, Overgaard, AZ, Cuba, NM, Pecos, NM, and Cody, WY. Their son, Eric, was born while they lived in Arizona.

Charlie worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 26 years, advancing from a range tech to a district ranger and finally to the Range, Fire, and Timber Staff position with the District Supervisor's office in Cody. He retired in 1986. After trying retirement for one year, he re-entered the workforce part time as a fine art framer for Deanna Matteson (The Frame House), and when the opportunity presented itself, he became a timber consultant for Cody Lumber. He retired a second time twelve years later.

Although he enjoyed his several careers, Charlie was passionate about baseball. He played throughout his youth and while serving in the military, and he played men's league softball. He also officiated Little League games, served on various baseball boards, was instrumental in the design and construction of dugouts at the Cody Legion field, coached multiple Little League and Babe Ruth teams, and supported his son, grandsons, and numerous American Legion ballplayers from the stands. Despite the challenges of advanced Parkinson's disease this past summer, he attended as many home games at Hugh Smith Field as possible. Go, Cubbies!

Charlie was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed bird and deer hunting, as well as tent and trailer camping and picnicking. He also enjoyed a roaring campfire. He was a woodworker and built countless wooden bowls, toys, and lovely pieces of furniture. He liked black coffee, coconut cookies, blackberry pie, white bakery cake, and Krispy Kreme donuts. He loved his wife and children but adored his grandchildren and all of his great-grands. His blue eyes twinkled when he heard stories of all their various exploits.

He was a member and elder of the Presbyterian Church and often encouraged others to be "Patient and Tolerant" as we are all doing "the best we can in the moment."

Charlie is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joan, their children Pam (Pat) Jackson, Sherry (Mark) Nordland, Eric (Jaci) Wright, and grandchildren Russell (Jordan) Jackson, Abby (Tyrell) Perry, Brian (Amber) Hicks, Jessica Hicks (deceased), Danny (Kerry) Nordland, Mallory (Forrest) Musser, and Cameron (Gabbi) Wright; great-grandchildren: Kya, Keira, and Mersades Jackson, Orrin and Randall Perry, Cole, Kasi, and Chase Hicks, Alexis Nicholson (deceased), Emma and Will Nordland, Charlie Musser, and Tuck Wright; brother Bill (Linda) Wright and numerous nieces and nephews.

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Remembrances



Dean Donald Young

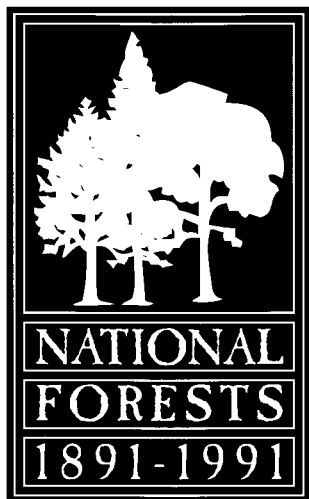
Dean Donald Young, 62, of Custer, SD passed away on November 30, 2020, at his residence in Custer.

Dean and Paula were married March 5, 1983, in Wisconsin and moved to

South Dakota in 1992. Dean had a wonderful career with the US Forest Service as a land surveyor that brought his family to the Black Hills and made them all proud. He loved the outdoors and passed the passion on to his sons. Hunting and fishing trips were never really about the harvest, only the experience. A

great sense of humor afforded everyone he saw a big smile and laugh. As a retired man he enjoyed spending time with the neighbors and helping whoever he could. He was an honorable man, and to honor his wishes, there will be no services. As his granddaughter Everly says, "We will just have to keep him in our heart now." He will be greatly missed by many.

He is survived by his wife, Paula Young; sons, Cody (Nicole) Young; Tyler (Sarah) Young; brother, David (Wendy) Young; two granddaughters, Hazel and Everly (Cody and Nicole's children.)

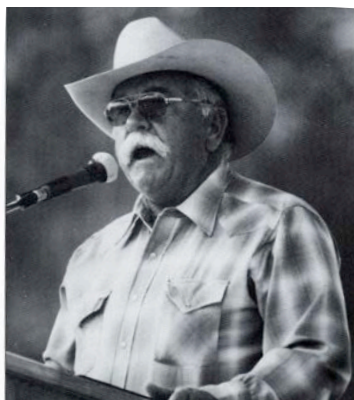


Wilford Brimley

Friend of the Forest Service

September 27, 1934 – August 1, 2020

Anthony Wilford Brimley was an American actor and singer best known for his role in the television series **The Waltons** and films such as **The China Syndrome**, **Tender Mercies**, **The Natural** and **Cocoon**. He was also a spokesman for the Quaker Oats company and promoted diabetes education. He was a part time resident of Greybull Wyoming - founding a nonprofit organization [Hands Across the Saddle \(HATS\)](#) that has funded over \$500,000 in aid to their neighbors in the Big Horn Basin. But if you attended the Centennial Celebration of the National Forests in 1991 in Cody, Wyoming you got a chance to meet him and hear him speak about the importance of the National Forest idea.



Wilford Brimley, left, spoke at the Centennial Time Capsule Ceremony at the Wapiti Ranger Station on the Shoshone National Forest. A five foot long cylindrical time capsule was delivered by muleback and placed in a underground vault by Chief Dale Robertson. It will be reopened in 2091 at the Bicentennial celebration.

Wilford Brimley - "It's Not Easy Being Green" & more (1989) - MDA Telethon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHDGuGgBZ9A&feature=youtu.be>

Won't you Ride in my Little Red Wagon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

The Last Word

Gone Fishin'

- By Tom Thompson

With all the news for months now being about protests, election ups and downs, insurrection, impeachment, the daily updates on the pandemic, the troubles with vaccine distribution, promises of healing, and now a long list of daily "executive orders", there are lots of things to write about that seem to dominate our world right now, but most are kind of depressing in a variety of different ways. So I decided to take a break and just go with a piece about fishing for this edition of Rendezvous. On a cold day when my Koi pond out back is frozen over, it is a good time to reflect on the wonderful days of my life with a fishing pole in my hand. So I kind of have "gone fishin" just like Bing Crosby and Nat King Cole sang back in 1950.

As a boy growing up in southeast Colorado some of my best and most vivid memories are of times fishing with my father, my grandfather, and all my family. We spent considerable time every summer on fishing trips near my home town of Lamar and then once a year we made a trip to the Rio Grande National Forest near Creede and that is where I fell in love with the mountains, forests, and streams. Back in Lamar there were very few summer weekends that we were not at Two Buttes Reservoir where my dad, granddad, and I built the cabin in 1949.

Since I was only four at the time I think my role in the construction was kind of quality control inspector because I remember scratching my initials in the concrete floor while it was still curing. As I stood by, kind of out of the way under a juniper tree, the walls and roof took shape and were formed into a one room cabin on the sandstone bluff above the lake.

I somehow knew that this place would forever be special.

Fishing was an important part of what the Thompsons did and at a very early age it was just a natural part of my life. I knew how to catch fish and developed

patience which is an essential character trait for a good fisherman. I even made the front page of the local newspaper when my father, my grandfather, and I were photographed with a couple rainbow trout that "we" caught off the north end of the John Martin dam. I probably would have held one of them for the picture but I think I was more interested in the flash bulb of the Lamar Daily News photographer. I learned some good rules about life back then as a young fisherman.



Big Rainbow Trout caught at John Martin Reservoir.

• **Nobody appreciates noisy and disrupting distractions. When you are fishing keep quiet and enjoy nature.**

• **Don't get tangled up in the lines of others, respect other fisherman, and keep your**

distance.

• **Follow the rules and never catch more fish than you are permitted to and unless you need the fish for dinner just "catch and release".**

• **Don't leave a mess and bring home all your trash even the piece of line that you had cut off.**

• **Make sure people know where you are at and what your plans are, watch for rattlesnakes, and keep an eye on the weather.**

(continued on Page 42)

(continued from Page 41)*The boys are ready to for some stream action!*

As the years went by I was always ready to go fishing and every year our mom and dad made sure we always took time off for fishing trips.

That helped to ensure we didn't lose sight of who we were as a family. After college I found myself in Alaska and of course the world of fishing changed greatly there.

During my years in Alaska I was able to have some extraordinary lifetime experiences fishing. A large part of our food during the year consisted of the salmon and halibut that we were able to catch during the good times of the year. Even in the evening while working in remote places with the sun up until after 10 or 11 at night we would find a way to fish, or dig clams, or pull a crab pot or two. It was just a part of life and it was not so much a sport as it was just the way we lived. When our young family left Alaska in the mid-70's and moved to Oregon I kind of found fishing a bit boring because you might only catch one steelhead or salmon after fishing all day. Those who I was fishing with there would be excited with that but for me it was "is that all there is?"

Of all the places I have fished, I enjoy fishing in southwest Colorado on streams that I have known for over seventy years. The fish seem to be the same but I don't jump across the stream or maneuver around the rocks like I used to. Even so I still enjoy being there just as much because of the company I keep. Without question my most satisfying experience now is watching my grandkids follow along the very same stream bank that I did when I was their age. It is comforting to know that they appreciate the family tradition of fishing just as I did and understand it is an important part of what life is all about. There is no greater satisfaction or enjoyment than watching one of them catch a trout out of a stream in

Colorado or a salmon in the Columbia River by Astoria, Oregon. Most of them are becoming much better fisherman than I ever was and I am sure they look at grandpa sometimes and wonder what I am doing. I have been there and done that but knowing that they will continue to be there and do that is what is most important.

Over the years I have caught many fish and I find it kind of ironic that now in my back yard pond I have five Koi that I take care of and make sure that they are well fed, safe from the raccoons and blue heron, and have clear water to spend their time enjoying throughout the year.

*Lots of smiles and for very good reason!*

Circling back to the times we face today, I have to wonder whether many of the people showing up on television, marching in protest or standing face to face with a line of policeman, or even some of the people who end up in politics in Washington, D. C. have ever learned the rules of fishing. I believe that if some of these simple guidelines were followed by some of our politicians or those who choose to spend a good part of their lives protesting, that the world might be a bit better, especially the rules about avoiding making disturbing noises, respecting others, following the rules, leaving a place better than you found it...and maybe even the one about "watching out for rattlesnakes."

If you can't get in touch with me this spring, I have probably just "Gone Fishin'."