

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

It's no coincidence that Great Old Broads for Wilderness celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year, concurrently with the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. A group of mature women formed Broads in 1989 in response to Utah Senator Orrin Hatch's assertions, when the Wilderness Act turned twenty-five, that the elderly and disabled need roads to access wild places.

Emerging from a weeklong backpack in the Escalante canyons with her friends, our visionary founder Susan Tixier recognized the need for elder voices in the quest for wild lands protection. Along with our passionate founding board and members, she created the mission that makes Great Old Broads the unique, feisty, and effective advocacy presence we are today.

For the first few years, Great Old Broads was a loose-knit outfit headquartered wherever Susan lived—a bit of a moving target. The newsletter *Broadsides* began almost immediately along with creation of the venerable logo we still use. The early Broads organized annual day-long Wilderness Conferences and occasional Broadwalks. In less than a decade, they grew to over 1000 members and became an official 501(c)(3) non-profit. Susan's vision, public speaking abilities and fund raising acumen kept Broads going until she moved on to become Executive Director of Forest Guardians in 2000. Board Co-Chair MB McAfee stepped in as Executive Director, making two crucial decisions right off the bat. She settled the national headquarters in Durango, CO and hired Rose Chilcoat as her "assistant." Together MB and Rose professionalized the office and financial



Some of Broads' fierce founders (from left): Ginger Harmon, Susan Tixier, Edie Pierpont, Frandee Johnson, Dottie Fox

procedures, set up a membership database, and groomed Great Old Broads for a long-term future as a wilderness advocacy organization. MB's retirement in 2002 opened the door for board member Veronica (Ronni) Egan to step in as Interim ED. "Interim" became a decade of productive leadership until her retirement in 2012, when Shelley Silbert took the reins to lead us to an even more effective future.

BROADWALKING ACTIVISM

2001 saw the first classic national Broadwalk, a four-day weekend of learning, service and activism focused on

protecting a specific landscape. This Broadwalk took place at Otero Mesa in New Mexico. Over time we've hosted 33 national Broadwalks in 17 states from Florida to Washington focused on wilderness designations, protecting lands from destructive proposals, assisting in stewardship, and conducting inventories of lands with wilderness character.

Some of our most memorable and effective events were impromptu demonstrations in response to immediate threats—we call this Broadjumping—that garnered great photos and media coverage. Remember Jarbidge where Broads with brooms faced off against the good 'ole boys Shovel Brigade intent on illegally re-opening a washed out road in Nevada that threatened endangered bull trout? What about the *Seniors for Silence* demonstration, complete with placards, gas masks, ear protection and bear suits to rally for natural quiet and fewer snowmobiles at Yellowstone National Park? Or the Broads who countered a motorized user protest at the Monticello BLM offices regarding the ever contentious illegal route construction in Recapture Canyon, Utah?

We've managed to laugh a lot while making our point that wilderness values matter—and we've

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25

YEARS OF
AGELESS
ADVOCACY
IN 2014!

Sign up now
for Broadwalks,
Broadworks,
and Events
(See pages 4-6)



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We'd love to know the artist who created our original logo. Be the first to send us the story, and we'll reward you with the logo item of your choice!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHELLEY SILBERT

2014 marks a milestone year: twenty-five years of Broads ageless advocacy and fifty years of legislative protections through the Wilderness Act. There are many conservation organizations doing excellent work to protect wild lands, and I'm sure individual Broads belong to most of them. Yet Broads is the only national conservation group where women hold the leadership at all levels – staff, board, and grassroots chapters. What motivated Broads founding members to start a conservation organization led by women, and what does this mean for wilderness advocacy?



IN A BROAD SENSE

In the very first issue of *Broadsides* in 1991, Broads principal founder and first Executive Director Susan Tixier

quotes from a new book out that year, a book I still have on my shelf. Lorraine Anderson compiled the anthology *Sisters of the Earth*, and makes these remarks in the preface: "Although I've concluded that there is no such thing as a woman's view of nature, I do think there is a feminine way of being in relationship to nature. This way is caring rather than controlling; it seeks harmony rather than mastery, it is characterized by humility rather than arrogance, by appreciation rather than acquisitiveness. It's available to both men and women, but it hasn't been exercised much in the history of Western Civilization."

Tixier adds, "Maybe there should have been

"Stronger together" Tixier continues "Why Broads rather than wom-

en? Because, she who laughs lasts." To this maxim we still hold true. (And we like to add "Broadness is a state of mind", not dependent on gender or age.) A *Wall Street*

There is something inherently special about Broads as an organization led by women.

Journal article describing Broads in September 1991 states, "Can a bunch of old broads save the wilderness? Maybe not, but the

Great Old Broads for Wilderness plans to have some fun trying." The article adds, "They've also puckishly formed an auxiliary and invited men to join 'if they can decorate the gym, clean up afterwards or bring a Jell-O mold,' Ms. Tixier says. So far, about 25 men have joined."

Well, we no longer have a men's auxiliary, but

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STILL AS TRUE NOW AS EVER!

"To defend wilderness, you need hope and to have hope, you need to laugh and enjoy life



with like-minded companions. It's the combination of wonderful setting for meetings, great conversations, hard facts, and touch of nature's mystery that makes the Great Old Broads unique. From the canyons of Utah to the halls of the Congress, we progress with confidence in our mission but always with an eye for surrounding beauty or some political absurdity. Fellow hikers on the trail or the newest aide in a senator's office are amused at our name, too, and the light-hearted banter joins them to our cause. I think we're on to something."

— Edith Pierpont, Founding Board Member from Santa Fe, *Broadsides* 1994, Volume 5, No. 1.



Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national non-profit organization that engages and ignites the activism of elders to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Conceived by older women who love wilderness, Broads gives voice to the millions of older Americans who want their public lands protected as Wilderness for this and future generations. We bring voice, knowledge, commitment, and humor to the movement to protect our last wild places on earth.

Please credit Broads for any reprinted articles.





WILDERNESS50 CELEBRATIONS

People are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act in myriad ways throughout 2014. Broads across the country have jumped in to plan, lead, and

participate in creative actions to educate diverse groups about Wilderness and engage youth at every opportunity. Reach out to your community and conservation leaders and see how you can be involved. Here's what Broads have cooking:

- ✿ Community wide Wilderness Walks and Celebrations, including horse packing demonstrations, dutch oven and backpacking cooking competitions, backcountry gear demonstrations, traditional tools demonstrations, contests (crosscut saws, etc.), speakers and more
- ✿ Wilderness themed speaker's series sponsored by multiple organizations
- ✿ *Poets for the Wild* event bringing school children and adults together for inspirational sharing
- ✿ A weekend retreat at a wilderness lodge
- ✿ Stewardship projects with agency partners...trail work, signage, restoration
- ✿ A wilderness-themed quilt competition
- ✿ Photographic competitions and exhibitions
- ✿ Special wilderness brews or wine labels
- ✿ 50 wild hikes for women over 50 for the 50th—like a hike-a-thon for wilderness (we'll share the details as soon as the website is ready!)
- ✿ Your idea here...

Nothing planned in your area? Be a cheerleader for wilderness and see if you can stir something up!

WILD READS: CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS!

South Park (CO) Broadband leader Misi Ballard, in honor of 50th anniversary is compiling a list of "Great Wilderness Reads" to encourage libraries to take up Wilderness as a theme for summer reading programs. She is seeking suggestions from members for titles of "books that you've loved" that we'll post on Broads website. All suggestions must come with a recommendation of why it is a good wilderness read. Email suggestions to Misi at southparkbroadband@gmail.com by April 1.



Twenty-five years old—well, that's just a young whippersnapper to Great Old Broads members!

As we celebrate our silver anniversary year, we want to know what Great Old Broads for Wilderness has meant in your life. We invite you to send reflections, memories, favorite photos, journal entries, and writings on what Great Old Broads has meant to you and to wilderness. Send to: membership@greatoldbroads.org or mail to PO Box 2924, Durango, CO 81302. And tell us when you first joined! Please send by April 1 so we can organize submissions for our Greater Canyonlands Broadwalk.

WARM WORDS

Some of you knew Logan Morley, who worked with Broads as Broads Healthy Lands Project Coordinator from 2006–2011. Writing us from his home in Japan, he shares these thoughts:

"Although I'm happy here, and I like my work, I also miss the fiery spirit of people like those of you I worked with and knew at Great Old Broads for Wilderness. You have captured lightning in a bottle there. Above all, I miss that feeling of an uphill battle, or trench warfare, whichever wild lands advocacy is on a given day. Obviously, advocacy work is a far more complicated and delicate matter than that. Even so, I have learned that battles can be beautiful things when you're fighting alongside a Great Old Broad..."

I can only hope...that I chance upon an organization or company with half the magic that Broads has. Those chances are slim, but here's to hoping."



LAURA
WELP

"There could be no higher praise than to be compared to a Great Old Broad!"

Laura is an Ecosystems Specialist with Western Watersheds Project. This was her response to Rose Chilcoat complimenting Laura's eloquent letter that objected to the BLM's unbalanced hearing regarding grazing at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.



- 2014 - Calendar of Events

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

greatoldbroads.org/events-payment

REGISTER BY MAIL:

Tell us which event(s) and include a check, along with your name, address, phone, and e-mail.

SEND TO:

Great Old Broads for Wilderness
PO Box 2924, Durango, CO 81302

IMPORTANT:

Go to greatoldbroads.org/events/broadworks to read our cancellation policy and sign the liability release form. All participants must sign the release form.

QUESTIONS?

Email rose@greatoldbroads.org

NOTE: Most events begin with happy hour/dinner on the first day and end with breakfast on the last day.

BROADBAND LEADER BOOT CAMP

Apply by March 10, 2014

April 10–14, 2014

Location: Ghost Ranch Retreat & Education Center, Abiquiú, NM

Apply to be a volunteer Broadband Leader and attend the 2014 Wilderness Advocacy Leadership Training. This is no ordinary boot camp! We will activate your heart and mind and prepare you for a leadership role that can make a lasting difference on the land.

Find out more at
greatoldbroads.org/boot-camp-2014



BROADWORK

*Monitoring Forage Production in
Grand Staircase Escalante Region*

April 24–28, 2014

Location: Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM)/Glen Canyon National Recreation Area off the Hole in the Rock Road, near Escalante, UT

Cost: \$115 member/\$140 non-member

Join Shelley Silbert as Broads partners with Western Watersheds Project (WWP) to clip forage samples to determine how much forage is available for livestock and wildlife. Jonathan Ratner of WWP (the premier public lands grazing reform outfit in the country) is the project lead. If you've ever been to the Grand Staircase-Escalante region, you know that cows have precious little to eat in that landscape of slickrock and canyons. Is it a problem of too many cows, too little forage, or both? We will gather data and use science to support our common sense observations, in a year when GSENM is again trying to address grazing management.

We'll camp as a group (port-a-potty provided). Ronni Egan, able camp cook, will provide yummy breakfast and dinner each day. This area is gorgeous in late April, making this feel less like work and more like fun.

Where else can you spend time in the glorious Escalante Canyons, help to improve land management and hang out with fellow Great Old Broads? Sounds like a perfect combination!

CLASSIC BROADWALK

*25th Anniversary Greater
Canyonlands Broadwalk*

May 1–5, 2014

Location: Based at Mt. Peale Inn near La Sal, UT

Cost: \$170 member/\$195 non-member

Broads was born in Utah and is still deeply engaged in protecting Utah's wild lands. Join us on the south side of the La Sal Mountains (about 35 miles from Moab), where we'll celebrate Broads 25th Anniversary. With Utah's Rep. Bishop leading a land protection effort and momentum building for a Greater Canyonlands National Monument, the time is ripe to build support to permanently safeguard these remarkable ecosystems.

Learn about the current status of conservation in the region, join service projects on public lands, hobnob with long time Broads, share memories of the past 25 years of Broads activism, and celebrate our strong, engaged membership. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Sierra Club, and other conservation partners will join us for our long weekend of education, stewardship, advocacy and fun!



Includes 4 nights camping, breakfast/dinner each day, hikes, speakers, service projects, and more! (A limited number of rooms are available for an additional \$30 to \$40/person/night for those who *need* beds. Register for the event and indicate your desire for an indoor lodging, and we will contact you regarding availability.)



BROADWORK

Escalante River Restoration

May 11–17, 2014

Location: Escalante River near Escalante, UT

Cost: \$175 member/\$200 non-member

Building on last year's successful project, Broads return to the magical Escalante River in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). One of the west's last free-flowing rivers, the Escalante suffers the scourge of invasive species—mainly Russian olive. Volunteer with Rose Chilcoat, and staff and botanists from GSENM and Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners for a week-long adventure; four days of hard work cutting down Russian olive, with one day of play/exploring at the midpoint.



The level of activity is challenging to strenuous, as you will be bending, kneeling, using hand tools, and pulling tree branches. A younger crew will follow us to “finish” the job with chainsaws and herbicides. The results are truly gratifying.

This year we'll take an easy hike to our campsite 2 ½ miles upstream of Highway 12 where camp cook Ronni Egan will feed us yummy breakfasts and dinners each day. Our heavy gear will be transported by horseback, leaving us light packs of personal items to carry to camp. Our campsite is near archaeological sites, petroglyphs, a natural bridge, the river, and more.

Help us restore the Escalante River while having a fabulous canyon experience. It doesn't get any better than this! Group size is limited to 12, so register now!



FUNDRAISER RIVER TRIP

Gates of Lodore on Green River

June 4–7, 2014

Location: Vernal, UT

Cost: \$917 per person (a portion is a tax deductible donation to Broads)

Join Karen Ryman (Board Chair, wilderness advocate, and consummate river rat) for one of the sweetest river trips in the west—the Gates of Lodore, as the Green river cuts through Dinosaur National Monument. From alpine forests to desert slickrock, you'll travel 44 exciting miles from the 800-foot tall vermilion “Gates” of the canyon to the rainbow-colored Echo Park and on through the Paleozoic Split Mountain Gorge. Exhilarating whitewater rapids (class III & IV), incredible geology, abundant bighorn sheep, ancient Fremont rock art, sandy beaches...this trip is like no other.

A shuttle from Vernal, Utah takes you to the put-in at Brown's Park. Cost includes shuttle, permit, equipment, fabulous meals, and knowledgeable guides. Holiday does it right! Limited space – reserve your spot now by contacting Holiday Expeditions at 800-624-6323. More trip information at bikeraft.com.



BROADWORK

Utah Bad Ass Botanists Training*

July 16–22, 2014

Location: Manti-La Sal National Forest – Abajo Mountains near Blanding, UT

Cost: \$175 Member/, \$200 non-member

Join Rose Chilcoat as part of a regional team of knowledgeable, passionate, and committed botany volunteers who will stop at nothing to collect plant data to restore and protect southern Utah native plant communities. Regional experts will provide a basic overview of plant taxonomy and common Utah plant families, with a focus on grasses, sedges, willows, and exotic species. Work with the Grand Canyon Trust's Forest Program staff, led by the truly GREAT Old Broad Mary O'Brien, to gather information for critical decisions on the Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal National Forests, and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. If you don't know how to identify plants, from grasses to forbs to shrubs, don't worry... you will after this training!

We'll first camp near Blanding and have a full day of classroom training at Edge of the Cedars State Park (along with a special tour of ancestral puebloan artifacts). Then we'll move up the mountain to continue learning as we establish transects in the newly designated White Mesa Cultural and Conservation Area—the only ungrazed allotment left in all of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. At 8,500 feet in elevation, expect pleasant temperatures and perhaps afternoon thunderstorms.

Anyone is welcome, but we'd especially like to cultivate a regional team who can return to re-read the transects and study plots. You too can become a Bad Ass Botanist!

* Urban Dictionary definition of Bad-Ass

1. (adj.) having extremely favorable qualities
2. (adj.) pertaining to a person or thing that is rugged, strong, and/or ready to show these qualities

(MORE! page 6)



more 2014 Events

(continued from page 5)

CLASSIC BROADWALK

Gallatin Wilderness Broadwalk

August 14–18, 2014

Location: Based approximately 30 minutes from Bozeman, MT

Cost: \$170 member/\$195 non-member

The spectacularly wild Gallatin Range north of Yellowstone National Park has been the focus of wilderness proposals for decades. As the last significant portion of the Yellowstone ecosystem with little wilderness protection, the Forest Service was reminded in a recent lawsuit that they must maintain its wilderness character as it was in 1977.

In 2013, the Gallatin Collaborative was initiated to help determine the future of the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area and adjacent lands. However, not all stakeholders have been included. If this controversial effort bypasses the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and takes a “false consensus plan” directly to Congress, it could diminish the Wilderness that the Forest Service is supposed to protect it. This will be the focus of our Broadwalk weekend.

Hikes, speakers, service projects, advocacy, and fun interwoven throughout, this should be another fabulous Broad gathering where you can immerse in a deserving wild landscape. Join us! Includes 4 nights camping, breakfast/dinner each day, hikes, speakers, service projects, and more.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Washington, D.C. Wilderness Week

September 13–18, 2014

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Learn and practice how to lobby for your favorite wilderness proposals. Ask Congress to listen to what the American people want... more protected Wilderness! Details to come, but save the date for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

National Wilderness50 Conference, Albuquerque, NM

October 15–19, 2014

Join with Broads and other wilderness lovers at this historic multi-day event of diverse programs, presentations, exhibits, panels, field trips, and workshops at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque and Albuquerque Convention Center. There will also be a public Wilderness50 “Get Wild” festival in the Civic Plaza.

For more info: wilderness50th.org/conference.php. Registration opens in April.

Telluride Mountainfilm Festival

May 23–26, 2014

Great Old Broads asked Mountainfilm to choose wilderness as their symposium theme this year, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Mountainfilm said YES!

The 36th annual Telluride Mountainfilm Festival will be an inspiring weekend of award-winning films and powerful speakers, all in the unsurpassed beauty of Telluride, Colorado. For details or to buy Mountainfilm tickets, go to mountainfilm.org.

Broads will host a 25th anniversary open house and celebration on Friday evening.

\$25 FOR THE 25TH

SUCH A DEAL!



New members strengthen our voice and increase our fun!

And, we've set a goal to grow Broads membership by 25%!

For this year only, we're offering a special introductory member rate of \$25 for the 25th—new members only.

Help us grow with this special membership promotion to honor our 25th Anniversary. Spread the word to your friends or give a gift membership and bring a few new Broads on board!

Just bring in one new member and we'll hit our goal—and then some!

PEDAL OR PADDLE & GIVE BACK TO BROADS



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HOLIDAY RIVER EXPEDITIONS

is helping to celebrate the
25th Anniversary of
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

by donating **15%** of any Utah Rafting or
Mountain Biking trip booked in 2014.

Bring your friends and family
and help benefit Wilderness!

Call and ask for Karen or email
Karen.holidayriver@gmail.com



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Wilderness.





THE BROADER WILDERNESS

KEYSTONE XL

On the Friday before the Super Bowl, when the nation's news attention keeps its eye on the (foot) ball, the State Department released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. The conclusion? That the project "remains unlikely to significantly impact the rate of extraction in the oil sands, or the continued demand for heavy crude oil at refineries in the United States".

This is extremely significant because President Obama said last summer that he would approve a permit only if "this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution." And it's not comforting to know that TransCanada, the pipeline builder recommended the ERM (author of the environmental review and an American Petroleum Institute member).

The Presidential permit review process will now determine if Keystone XL is in the "national interest". Federal agencies have 90 days to comment, including the EPA which declared the draft EIS to be "insufficient" and gave it a rare rating called "environmental objections", detailing multiple problems with the review. The State Department 30-day public comment period runs February 5–March 7. It is extremely important that your voice be heard, so prepare to submit your comments and review the Final EIS at bit.ly/keystonepipe. Protests will also be held around the country, so check 350.org for up-to-date information.

PRESIDENT OBAMA POISED TO PROTECT WILD LANDS

During his State of the Union address in January, President Obama received prolonged applause in response to his statement that he would "use [his] authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations." More than 37 land conservation bills are before Congress and have broad public

support, but are seeing little action. (Track the latest activity on wilderness related legislation at bit.ly/GovWild).

We're glad to hear the President is willing to take action when Congress won't. From Utah's Greater Canyonlands, San Rafael Swell and Cedar Mesa to Brown's Canyon in Colorado or Stornetta in California, many unprotected and worthy landscapes await his pen.

A coalition of 109 House Democrats is urging Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to push the President to use executive authority to bypass Congress to designate more national monuments. Led by Reps. Peter DeFazio of Oregon and Raúl Grijalva of Arizona, top Democrats on the Natural Resources Committee and Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, respectively, the group submitted a letter January 24 to Secretary Jewell urging the president to use his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

SHELL OIL ABANDONS ARCTIC DRILLING

Shell Oil announced January 30 it is suspending plans for 2014 to drill for oil in the Arctic Ocean. Shell's decision comes after a federal appeals court ruled a week earlier that the U.S. Department of Interior failed to properly consider all environmental risks and impacts of drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas before it sold leases for exploratory drilling in 2008.

Other oil and gas companies have recognized the riskiness of Arctic drilling as an investment. Let's hope this most recent court decision sends the message that Americans will not sell out the fragile Arctic ecosystem to corporate interests. The Obama administration can revisit the now-dated environmental analysis that confoundingly concluded that Arctic drilling is safe.



WILDERNESS WOLVES GET REPRIEVE IN IDAHO

Idaho Department of Fish & Game (DFG) announced in January it was halting—for now—its wolf extermination program that resulted in the killing of nine wolves in designated wilderness. DFG's action came in the midst of an emergency proceeding before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in which conservationists were seeking an injunction to halt the wolf extermination program.

In December, the state of Idaho, with the assistance of the U.S. Forest Service, contracted with a hunter-trapper to exterminate two wolf packs deep within the 2.4 million acre Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness to boost elk populations for the benefit of hunting outfitters and recreational hunters.

This action flies in the face of all that wilderness is meant to be; a wild place where natural processes occur unconstrained by humans. Idaho officials have prioritized elk production over the natural balance of predator and prey, and the Forest Service is helping them.

This is the same state where Broads took legal action in 2010, filing declarations of harm, when Idaho decided to land helicopters along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River to manage wolf populations in wilderness. We stopped the helicopters, only to have this happen?!

As Ken Cole of Western Watersheds Project so simply puts it, "If wolves can't live inside one of America's biggest wilderness areas without a government extermination program, then where can they live?"

This is why it is so important for citizens to make their voices heard; to join with us and others opposing the elimination of Endangered Species Act protections for wolves across nearly the entire United States, and to secure laws that will ensure real wolf recovery.





Study A Broad

MARGE SILL: MEET THE MOTHER OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

Marge Sill isn't just any Old Broad. Affectionately known as the Mother of Wilderness, this powerhouse protector of wild places has labored for more than 50 years to preserve wide-open spaces. She is one of the few people still with us who had a direct hand in lobbying for the 1964 Wilderness Act in the late 1950s and early 1960s. And it didn't stop there: she went on to influence the passage of the 1984 California Wilderness Act, 1989 Nevada Wilderness Protection Act, and 1994 California Desert Protection Act. She has been credited with being the person most responsible for the formation of Great Basin National Park in Nevada and is said to have her fingerprints on nearly every piece of Nevada wilderness legislation.

When asked about her role in the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, Marge downplays her involvement. "I was a worker bee. I just worked on mailings and such." Yet, this worker bee's colleagues warmly share their admiration for Marge's dedication, commitment, and drive which has earned her awards of recognition from several organizations including the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society.

She is most proud of her work on the 1989 Nevada Wilderness Protection Act and designation of Nevada's Great Basin National Park. She toiled for 25 years toward passing the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act and emphasizes the important role politics plays in achieving success. "We worked very hard to elect Senators Harry Reid and Richard Bryan, and it was not until those two were in office that the Nevada Wilderness Act was passed."

When asked if she ever felt like giving up over the years, she said, "I don't believe in getting discouraged about something that is so important. Wilderness is a positive thing in itself. It is so inspiring that you just don't get discouraged!"

Marge believes Great Old Broads is important to the ongoing efforts to



Top: Vintage Marge from the '60s. Taken at Donner Pass. Below: Wearing sandals in the snow on a trip in '92.

preserve wilderness because the organization is primarily made up of women. "Women have to take a leadership role and work for the things we care about. It is the protective, caring, and nurturing spirit of women that makes us the most effective champions for protecting wilderness for future generations."

And what about future generations and their stewardship of wild places? Marge has inspired and mentored many young people over the years. Colleagues say she truly understands the importance of staying in touch with youth. She urges older advocates (like us!) to reach out to young people, to encourage them, and lead them on a path that builds an appreciation and understanding of the importance of the earth and all its creatures.

"Women have to take a leadership role and work for the things we care about."

spending time in Griffith Park and the surrounding hills. "Back then," she said, "you could go anywhere." It was this freedom to explore the wild places that sowed the first seeds of desire to preserve wilderness.

When she went on to college at Berkeley, she found herself surrounded with like-minded people who enjoyed the



outdoors and held a protective view toward wilderness. Her husband, Richard, was an active wilderness advocate, and the two spent a lot of time together hiking and backpacking. At some point, she became acutely aware that the wilderness needed protection and began to take a more active role. Marge and Richard worked tirelessly to identify wilderness areas that qualified for preservation. Over the years, Marge led scores of camping and hiking trips for the Sierra Club, supporting her belief that helping people experience nature's beauty is a powerful way to build awareness and advocacy.

Through her activities, Marge has cultivated a large circle of

friends and political connections, many of them highly active or influential in the protection of wilderness. She and Senator Harry Reid share a birthday and make it a point to connect each year on that day. She's known for calling her political connections to scold them when she's not happy with their activity.

A role model and mentor to many, this nearly 90-year-old icon continues to be an effective wilderness evangelist. Marge still serves on several boards and savors her role as an elder stateswoman. She is vocal when it comes to challenging those who claim closing wilderness areas prevents less able-bodied elders from enjoying the lands, proclaiming, "I'm one of those (elders) and I still appreciate the importance of saving this wilderness for the future."

Her current focus is working with the Reno Broadband and the Friends of Nevada Wilderness to plan celebrations commemorating the 50-year anniversary of the Wilderness Act. You can be sure that when the dust settles after this celebratory year, she'll return to what she does best, mothering wilderness.



WILD FOR WILDERNESS AUCTION

Thanks to our 2013 Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction donors, our 9th annual auction was a great success, grossing nearly \$60,000 for Broads wilderness work. We are deeply grateful to our donors for their generosity and to all of our members who participated by bidding and helping to spread the word.

Please support these folks and their businesses as a thank you for supporting Great Old Broads for Wilderness. To donate to our 2014 online auction, please e-mail auction@greatoldbroads.org or visit our online donation page.

A Big THANKS!



Alpine Bank



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Broads Beat



Take Action on Wild Olympics Bill!

U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced Wild Olympics legislation into Congress on January 17, the first step in the legislative process. This action comes on the heels of Broads September Broadwalk that focused on the citizen campaign to garner additional wilderness and Wild and Scenic River protections on Washington's stunningly beautiful and wild Olympic Peninsula. Our voices and letters, and the work of the Polly Dyer-Cascadia Broadband, helped move this effort forward.

The bill would permanently ban logging on 126,554 acres of the Olympic National Forest, most of which is currently unavailable to the timber industry due to resource concerns. It also designates 19 rivers and seven tributaries in Olympic National Forest, Olympic National Park, and on state lands as Wild and Scenic, which is important to protect clean drinking water, salmon and steelhead habitat, and other values.

Wilderness is a national resource that requires a vote of Congress to represent the will of the American people. Sign this petition to become a citizen co-sponsor of the Wild Olympics and share it with your friends across the country: peninsuladailynews.com/article/20140117/NEWS/301179975/kilmer-murray-to-introduce-new-version-of-wild-olympics-bill-today.

More info at wildolympics.org.



Red Leaf excavates an experimental pit to build an oil shale oven at Seep Ridge in northeastern Utah near Indian Ridge Canyon.

Controversial Utah Oil Shale Project Challenged

Broads joined with other conservation groups represented by Western Resource Advocates to challenge Red Leaf Resources proposed oil shale strip mine atop the Book Cliffs by filing a "Request for Agency Action" over the ground water discharge permit approved by the State of Utah Department of Water Quality. Incredibly, the permit lacks measures to prevent or detect surface or groundwater pollution.

Oil shale (not to be confused with the easier to extract shale oil) is not yet proven commercially viable as a fuel after at least sixty years of failed ventures in the U.S. The process requires strip mining, crushing the rock, burying it in pits, and then baking (retorting) the shale for months to extract hydrocarbons. The greenhouse gas emission of oil shale production are nearly double that of conventional crude oil extraction.

An earlier draft of Red Leaf's proposed mining plan drew over 38,000 public comments in opposition. With the fragile Colorado River basin already suffering from regional drought and climate change, it is unconscionable that such an inefficient process would be permitted, with its inevitable result of vast strip mining and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Public Hearing for Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks

On Jan 24, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell attended a public hearing on a proposed national monument for the rugged, wild region Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The clear majority of public participants supported the 500,000 acre proposal, which would give eight Wilderness Study Areas permanent

wilderness designation, as detailed in a bill by Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich.

Sec. Jewell learned about the lands from the air and on the ground. She hiked and viewed petroglyphs in Broad Canyon, just as we did when we focused on this proposal during our 2007 Doña Ana County Broadwalk. Broads continue to call for permanent protections for the rugged peaks and landscapes that abut the growing city of Las Cruces.

With Congress unable to pass A SINGLE measure last year that protected federal public land, now is the time for the President to become the "Conservationist in Chief". Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks would be an excellent starting point!

For more information, visit organmtnfriends.org/

Recapture ATV Trail ROW Proposal Still Alive

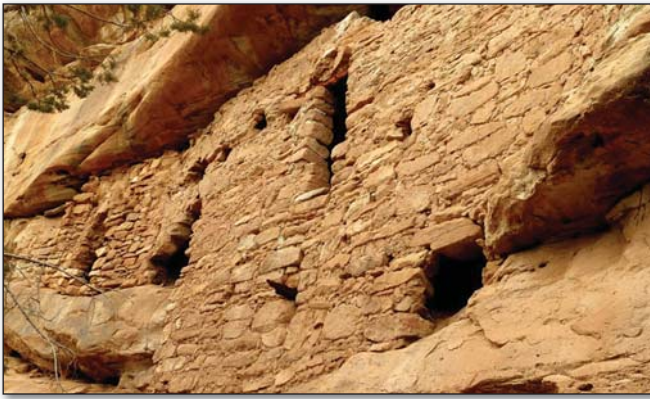
Just before Christmas, the Monticello Bureau of Land Management (BLM) gave the conservation community a lump of coal by requesting scoping comments within 40 days for San Juan County, Utah's request for 14.33 miles of ATV Trail Right of Way (ROW). This unfortunate timing launched the formal NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process. Thanks to those of you who responded to our email to provide input to the BLM.

An ROW grants rights and privileges to an entity for a specific piece of public land for certain projects for a given period of time. It can be denied for several reasons, including when not necessary, consistent with the public interest, with land management purposes, or with federal, state, or local laws.

Our work to protect Recapture Canyon prompted death threats against Great Old Broads in 2012 and has served as a poster child for the mismanagement of motorized recreation on SE Utah's

(continued page 11)





BLM lands. The ROW proposal gives no mention that the illegal construction of more than 22 miles of the so-called "existing routes" resulted in convictions of two persons and \$35,000 in fines. Nor does it mention the emergency closure of the canyon to motorized use after the route construction resulted in significant damage to archaeological resources. It does not mention that the BLM has regulatory requirements to "minimize" routes and impacts or that portions of the proposed ROW would fall in rare perennial riparian habitat, where beaver and a phenomenal diversity of birds abound. It does not mention that the Hopi Tribe has consistently asked for Recapture to remain permanently closed to motorized use due to the significant cultural resources in the canyon. We

fail to understand why these facts are not provided in the ROW proposal, or why recreational motorized access to a rare riparian habitat with abundant archaeological sites can be deemed "in the public interest".

Broads and our partners continue to be engaged with this issue. We believe BLM should

not be rewarding illegal behavior, which could lead to more "construct now, they'll approve it later" rogue behavior. Stay involved as the NEPA process unfolds.

For a great summary of the issue visit suwa.org/issues/recapture



WANTED

25 Ageless Advocates for Wilderness

Calling all members to nominate special women (or men) who have contributed significantly to protecting America's wilderness and wild lands! Send us details on unsung—or widely known—heroines whose time in the trenches produced conservation results. We will honor them at our 25th anniversary and create an exhibit to share their accomplishments as beacons of grassroots activism. Nominees should represent the ideals of Great Old Broads; we hope many are members (or would have joined had we existed in their time!)

Submit name, place of residence, lands s/he worked to protect, and why the nominee deserves to be a 2014 Ageless Advocate to: Shelley@greatoldbroads.org. Deadline is March 26.



Talk to your financial advisor about these options:

BEQUEST

- Include us in your will with a gift of cash, property, or a portion of the estate
- Appreciated Securities

RETIREMENT PLAN

- Name us on your plan and avoid income tax on the plan's assets
- Real Estate Gifts

LIFE INSURANCE

- Name Broads as a full or partial beneficiary on a new or existing policy

OTHER OPTIONS

- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder
- Unitrust
- Stock Options



PLANNED GIVING Wilderness for Generations to Come

Future generations are depending on us.

Ensure a wild future for all species, including our own. A planned gift or contribution of stock to Great Old Broads for Wilderness supports advocacy, education, and stewardship for wild public lands. You may also save on capital gains, estate taxes, and leave more to your heirs.

PLEASE INCLUDE BROADS IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN! (and let us know)





BROADBANDS IN ACTION

BROADS ON THE LOOSE ACROSS THE LAND

Broadbands in Action profiles bold, determined women getting in front of members of Congress and megaloads; guiding tribal leaders in a flyover of proposed wilderness with Lighthawk in New Mexico; adopting and restoring trails and wilderness areas; monitoring grazing, native plants, and OHV impacts. Broads from the Southwest to the Northwest, the Great Lakes to Florida and a lot of land in between, are finding their voice and speaking up for wildlife and wilderness in true Broads form.

The Broadband program continues to grow as the word gets out about Great Old Broads. Women who may previously have felt isolated in their concern for the wild are finding their people—others who care deeply about wild places. We currently have 36 Broadband leaders in 24 Broadbands across 13 states, effectively leading grassroots efforts engaged in wild lands advocacy, education, and stewardship.

In 2013, Broadband volunteer time approached 20,000 hours—almost \$416,000 in labor value. We gained two new Broadbands in Oregon (Bend and Portland), each with two co-leaders, and six new Broadbands across Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. A dozen Northwest Broad leaders are holding a regional gathering March 10th in Portland. They will plan for the USFS 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge, Wild Olympics advocacy and stewardship, Wilderness 50th celebrations, and more.



Oregon Cascade-Volcanoes Broadband members rally in front of Senator Wyden's office in opposition to the O&C lands proposal.

Broadbands (and Broads) would not exist but for you!

GET INVOLVED!

Find your nearest Broadband at
greatoldbroads.org/broadbands.



Governor of Pojoaque Pueblo George Rivera, Carol Johnson, Sangre de Cristo NM Broadband co-Leader; Lt. Gov. Joe Talachy, and Lighthawk pilot Barry Harper (l. to r.) after an overflight of the proposed Pecos wilderness additions.

OREGON • WASHINGTON



CASCADE-VOLCANOES BROADBAND

When Shirley Stageberg inquired at Broads HQ about starting a Broadband in the Portland area, she didn't know what to expect. She didn't realize that Portland and Southern Washington were ripe for a chapter of Great Old Broads, or that only 4% of Oregon lands are protected as wilderness. She didn't know that six people would come to a planning meeting and Micky Ryan would volunteer to be her co-leader. Or, that two months later she'd hold the Broads banner with her new friends in a public rally advocating for better forest stewardship and against proposed legislation to allow logging in the watersheds and wildlife habitats of Oregon's O&C lands. Or that ten days later, her new Broadband would hike with Oregon Wild staff along Cold Spring Creek through a steep, narrow canyon, to the spectacular 100-foot high—unprotected!—Tamanawas Falls. She didn't expect a one-on-one conversation with U.S. Senator Ron Wyden to urge protection of more of Oregon's wild places forever as wilderness.

Shirley's story is not unique. It binds Broads together as they step into new territory through their drive to make a difference for the wild places they call home. Shirley worked with the guidance of Broads and Oregon Wild staff. The Cascade-Volcanoes (Portland) Broadband members have translated their grassroots activism into Congressional lobbying, wilderness advocacy, hiking and learning about areas worthy of protection, and partnering with others to plant native trees and shrubs in the Columbia River Gorge with Friends of Cape Horn.

All this activity has revved up an already savvy group of mostly older women with backgrounds in science, law, education, public lands agencies, grassroots activism, and trail stewardship. This winter, the Cascade-Volcanoes Broadband is working to become better known and to expand membership through snowshoeing and skiing, spring wildflower hikes, tabling at public wilderness events, and working with youth.

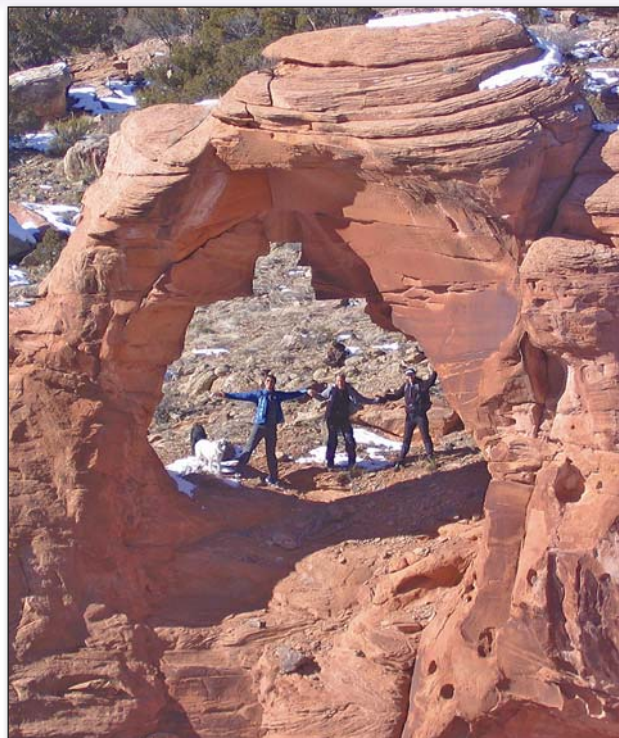




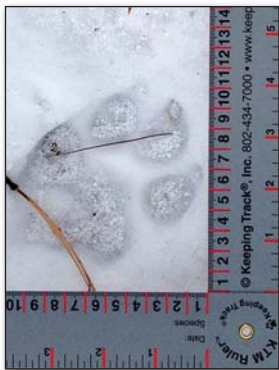
COLORADO

WANDER FOR WILDERNESS 50TH

Like most Broads, Grand Junction, Colorado Broads like to hike. As part of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act celebration, they are walking for Wilderness in 2014. They encourage others to follow suit by WANDERing in nearby wild lands, sharing the joy of visiting wild lands while promoting the importance of wild lands preservation. WANDER stands for "Wilderness, A Needed Defense of Ecological Resources". WANDERs may be scheduled group events, posted on the www.wilderness50th.org site, or just one or two people heading out to enjoy the solitude, serenity, and wonder of their local wild lands. The first WANDER hike held in October 2013 had an enthusiastic group hiking over 10 miles beneath the majestic red cliffs of Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area, within Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. Since, there have been six more hikes to visit a variety of wild lands around Grand Junction. During each WANDER, Broads take photographs and share them on a photo-sharing website. They collect quotes about wilderness and hope to produce a show and a book highlighting the best photos and quotes. Through these projects, they hope to inspire others to WANDER into wilderness.



WANDER project hike into Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area in McInnis Canyons NCA, Colorado.



ARIZONA

WILD WOMEN
WOLF ADVOCATES

Broadband Leaders from across Arizona convened in Pinetop, Arizona in early December to participate in a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service public hearing on the agency's proposal to maintain protection for the Mexican wolf as an endangered subspecies while delisting gray

wolves elsewhere. Among an equal mix of more than 400 wolf friends and foes, Nutrioso Broadband Leader and White Mountains Conservation League co-founder Billie Hughes drew on her personal experience as a young girl with her family in Arizona's White Mountains. She maintained that wolves are a key part of our national heritage and are critical to healthy, functioning ecosystems, noting that the success of the Mexican gray wolf recovery program is not just a local issue. Broads member Jean Ossorio (see Fall 2013 *Broadsides*) also spoke for wolves. Joining them were Broadband leaders from Scottsdale, Tucson, and Prescott.

Broads traveled the next day east of Escudilla Peak (focus of last summer's White Mountains Broadwalk) to track the Elkhorn Wolf Pack. Jean showed the Broads how to locate, measure, and photograph the wolf tracks they did indeed find. The Mexican wolf issue remains a high priority for Arizona Broads.

Their planning meeting generated several ideas of how to celebrate the 50th in Arizona including tracking workshops; construction of the Green Fire Trail; exploration and monitoring of Wilderness areas in partnership with the AZ Wilderness Coalition; continued advocacy for the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program; and advocating for the proposed expansion of the Escudilla Wilderness.

APPLY NOW!
DEADLINE MARCH 10TH

2014 BROADBAND LEADER
WILDERNESS ADVOCACY TRAINING

Boot Camp is scheduled for April 10–14 at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM. This year's training will include a one-day wilderness monitoring workshop open to all Broads, led by NM Wilderness Alliance. Do you wish there was a Broadband near you? Know any Great Old Broads interested in leading or co-leading a Broadband? Are you? Read about the great work of current leaders, get inspired, and get in touch with Ellen Stein, Broadband and Membership Coordinator, at ellen@greatoldbroads.org, or call (970) 385-9577.



contributed to successes like better winter use regulations at Yellowstone, holding the line on wilderness quality lands in Utah, stopping the North Shore Road in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina, and wilderness designations such as Ventana, California; Spring Basin, Oregon; Wild Sky, Washington; Dominguez Canyon, Colorado; Vermont and more. Always, we engage our members on the ground and follow campaigns over time, since wilderness designations do not come easily or quickly but require commitment year after year until the moment is ripe.

GROWING OUR BANDWIDTH

While we originated in Utah, our members always came from across the country. As the organization grew, members wanted a local way to engage. In a quantum leap, local chapters—Broadbands—were created with local and regional wild lands issues. In 2009, in her own inimitable style, Rose launched the Broadband Leader Wilderness Advocacy Boot Camp to train leaders in grassroots organizing skills, monitoring and stewardship tools, and the opportunity to inspire and encourage each other—all with our unique brand of fun. To date, we've trained 71 volunteer leaders. Our dynamic Broadband program, now in 13 states and led by energetic Broadband Coordinator Ellen Stein, depends on committed leaders (who might wonder if they should be "committed" for having volunteered!)

Through Broadbands, our members engage their voices and passion and add fuel to the work of conservation partners. The Polly Dyer-Cascadia Broadband, for instance, led a multi-year Citizen's Road Survey to assess conditions of decommissioned forest roads on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. The Four Corners Broadband monitors forage production and grazing abuses in south east Utah. Colorado's Grand Junction Broadband monitors damage from off-road vehicles and provides a strong and consistent voice for public lands

planning, and Idaho's Palouse Broadband fights Megaloads and the ill-advised Lochsa land transfer. Florida's Broadband is a voice for conservation in that beleaguered state.

PROMOTING HEALTHY LANDS – MONITORING AND LITIGATION

In 2003, Broads made a powerful foray into citizen science and advocacy through the Healthy Lands Project (HLP). Through monitoring protocols, an online database, and trainings across the west for members and conservation partners, we provided meaningful input to federal agency travel management planning. Working with partners such as the California Wilderness Coalition, Bear River Watershed Project, Sky Island Alliance, and others, the HLP provided the data to close rogue ATV trails and unnecessary routes across the west. Monitoring land use conditions and impacts is still a valuable tool in Broads

toolkit, enabling informed comments and input to management decisions. Empowering local citizens to improve local public lands management truly is democracy at work.

Broads love the land and become deeply acquainted with specific wild places, providing legal standing in litigation and appeals of management decisions. Though not our first line of defense, we recognize the power of administrative and judicial appeals, joining with such organizations as Grand Canyon Trust, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Western Resource Advocates, Sierra Club, Idaho Conservation League, and Western Watersheds Project—to name but a few. We have celebrated success through legal channels, such as:

- The 2013 court decision invalidating portions of Utah's Richfield BLM Resource Management Plan (the first of six RMPs challenged)
- The 2006 decision in *GOB vs Kempthorne* that the National Park Service failed to properly consider impacts on cultural resources in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.
- The 2007 appeal of a NEPA decision regarding grazing allotments (resulting in our participation in the multi-year

Tushar Collaboration to improve grazing management on the Fishlake National Forest and beyond)

- A 2010 court decision essentially preventing Idaho Fish & Game from landing helicopters in wilderness to manage wolves

ROOTED & BEARING FRUIT

Throughout our 25-year history, Broads held firm to our roots: protecting public lands through big "W" Congressionally authorized wilderness, national monument, or other designations; reducing threats and improving management of livestock grazing, off road vehicles, energy development, and other potentially destructive activities on our beloved wild lands. Of course urgent issues such as climate change, habitat loss, population, and resource consumption influence our work.

Stewardship has always been a key component of Broads work. Fierce advocate and long-time member Ginger Harmon calls it "wilderness tithing." We put boots on the ground and provide womanpower to agencies woefully lacking funding. We think of it as "hiking with a purpose"—monitoring land conditions, inventorying wilderness character, and educating others to the importance of public wild lands.

Our grassroots-driven efforts bear fruit: input on the San Juan National Forest's travel management plan led to physical closure of a route in Colorado where motorized users couldn't stop driving into designated wilderness. Testimony at the Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument Advisory Committee shook up discussions on grazing management. Through Citizen participation in collaborations, working groups, and coalitions from the Gallatin in Montana to the Pecos in New Mexico, Broads attempts to hold the line to protect all wilderness quality lands. And always, our members' voices add to myriad coalitions and Congressional lobbying efforts for wilderness and stronger land protections.

Each individual action may seem insignificant but together, they result in a groundswell of activism, permanent conservation designations, and better management for wild public lands. These actions weave strong threads in a priceless, exquisitely beautiful tapestry—that is, the American democratic process of Wilderness protection for future generations.



Broads founder Susan Tixier delights in finding a Great Old Broads adopt-a-highway sign as she travels across Wyoming in fall 2013.



BROADWALKS

Oh, the places we've been!

- 2013 - Wild Olympics, WA; Escudilla Wilderness, AZ
- 2012 - Weitas Wilderness, ID; Greater Canyonlands, UT
- 2011 - San Juan Mountains, CO; Big Cypress Swampwalk, FL
- 2010 - North San Diego County, CA; Tennessee Wilderness, TN
- 2009 - Hidden Gems, CO; Escalante, UT
- 2008 - Gold Butte, NV; Spring Basin, OR
- 2007 - Doña Ana County, NM; Scotchman Peaks, ID
- 2006 - Tumacacori, AZ; Manti La Sal, UT
- 2005 - North Shore Road - Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NC; Valle Vidal, NM; Wild Sky, WA
- 2004 - Dominguez Canyon - Gunnison River Broadfloat, CO; 15th Anniversary Celebration - Snow Canyon, UT; Yaak Valley, MT
- 2003 - Roan Plateau, CO; Vermont Wilderness, VT; Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Broadfloat - Hula Hula River, AK
- 2002 - Ventana Wilderness, CA; Black Ridge Wilderness- Ruby Horsethief Broadfloat, CO; Shawnee National Forest, IL
- 2001 - Restoration Safari - Moab, UT; Otero Mesa, NM
- 2000 - Nightingale Mountain, NV; Annual Wilderness Conference - Reno, NV
- 1999 - Chix in the Stix Women and Wilderness Gathering - Tucson, AZ
- 1998 - Eighth Annual Wilderness Conference - UT
- 1997 - Wilderness Conference & Broadwalk - Escalante, UT
- 1996 - Third Annual Broadwalk, Boulder Whiteclouds, Idaho; Sixth Annual Wilderness Conference - Ketchum, ID
- 1995 - Broadwalk Across Utah Wilderness; Fifth Annual Wilderness Conference - St George, UT
- 1994 - Grandmother Mountain, ID; Fourth Annual Wilderness Conference, Moab, UT
- 1993 - Third Annual Wilderness Conference, Brian Head, UT
- 1992 - Second Annual Wilderness Conference, Del Norte, CO
- 1991 - First Wilderness Conference, Eldora, CO

See more at: greatoldbroads.org/events/past-events/past-broadwalks/

we have plenty of broad-minded male members, as well as young women. Yet if it's true that a feminine approach to living on Earth might skew things towards better harmony, it is equally true that a woman's experience in Nature may be shaped by different cultural norms -- some of which we'd be better off leaving behind.

A year ago when I interviewed for the job as Executive Director, the committee asked me to share an experience in the wilderness. I hadn't anticipated the question, but a memory from a couple decades before popped into my mind. I was backpacking alone in the Superstition Wilderness, a vast and rugged wonderland of weathered volcanic formations in the Sonoran Desert. Designated a Primitive Area in 1939, the Superstition Wilderness now protects 160,200 acres on the edge of Phoenix. Just as I started my fire at sunset, two strangers walked into my camp. I immediately noticed a rifle in one man's hands and a pistol on the belt of the other. I kept my calm, and one man sat down on a rock at the fire and asked why I was here alone in such a dangerous place. As the other man sat a distance away and behind us, the first proceeded to rail at me with details of bodies found in the desert, battles between old miners and young intruders, and by the way, did I know that I was camped on a mining claim? He had seen death by rattlesnake, hypothermia, heat exhaustion and dehydration. As he proceeded to recount the dangers of scorpions, mountain lions, and bears, I became convinced he simply wanted to provoke a reaction, and I would not oblige. After a time, they both left. I ate my dinner and climbed into my sleeping bag.

In the middle of the night, I awoke with a sudden awareness that a bright light was shining on my face. I sensed it through my eyelids and dared not move a muscle. I could not hear a sound, but knew they were back again, the beam of their flashlight trained on my head. Eyes closed, I considered my options, but

"I felt determined not to let my fear keep me from doing what I love, where I find myself most fascinated and alive, and where I find spiritual fulfillment..."



Arizona's Superstition Wilderness, where Shelley Silbert encountered two unexpected visitors to her solo camp.

couldn't think of many. After what seemed like an eternity, I could stand it no longer. I had to face my tormentors. I opened my eyes, preparing to let out a scream to be heard throughout the wilderness. And then I saw it -- the full moon, rising over a cliff, its blessed light streaming full force onto my face.

It was then I knew how scared I was.

My experience in the Superstitions might have happened to any solo backpacker, man or woman, but my immediate interpretation was to question my wisdom of

backpacking alone as a woman near this sprawling megalopolis. Still, I felt determined not to let my fear keep me from doing what I love, where I find myself most fascinated and alive, and where I find spiritual fulfillment among the beauty of ecological intricacies.

It is with this same type of determination that so many Great Old Broads approach our work and our lives—we will staunchly defend what we love and what we know is essential to the survival of the complex workings of our planet. There is something inherently special about Broads as an organization led by women. Whether we have scaled the highest mountains, rappelled into the depths of unknown canyons, rafted raging rivers, or perhaps never spent a night outdoors, we are passionate about protecting wild places. And we seek the camaraderie of kindred souls, fighting together and individually, but knowing we fight as one. This is the beauty of Great Old Broads for Wilderness—using our strength of character and our years of experience as we work for wilderness; employing our fierceness as mothers and grandmothers and daughters to protect future generations of all species, and pairing humility, appreciation, and caring with fortitude, grit, sweat and humor to most effectively advocate for the Earth. It is who we are, and we are stronger together.

Next issue: current Broads activities and future directions.





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WE'RE 25!

Join Great Old Broads Today!

You do not have to be female, or old, (or even great for that matter!) to join—but you must be “bold” for wilderness. Please join us on the adventure. Wilderness needs your help!

- ☐ Basic Broad \$35 ☐ Outrageous Broad \$100+ ☐ Other \$ _____
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