

# ALONG THE **CHAPARRAL TRAILS**

BY ANN RONALD

A personal account of the North San Diego County Broadwalk May 20-24, 2010

Great Old Broads from half a dozen western states and the District of Columbia began gathering on Thursday afternoon, May 20th. We camped in the chaparral of northern San Diego County, in a place with a perfect name to match the scenery—Oak Grove.

Our Spring 2010 Broadwalk got off to a foot-stompin' start, with local singer and songwriter Judy Taylor leading the way. For nearly an hour after dinner, Judy alternately belted out and crooned an array of western tunes tinged with overtones of the Louisiana Bayou. While she strummed and strutted on-stage, we Broads joined her for the

choruses and even yodeled a cowboy sweetheart twang or two. By the time Judy finished singing, the local Community Hall was sizzling with Great Old Broad energy.

But she wasn't done yet! It turned that Judy has other talents-

-rope twirling, then pistol spinning, and finally whip cracking. The air sizzled and snapped around us, while Judy performed her skillful tricks. Fired up by her energy, we were totally ready for the three-plus Broadwalk days ahead.

We got busy on Friday, when

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North San Diego County Broadwalkers. Photo by Elizabeth Hagen

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RONNI EGAN

The Telluride Mountainfilm Festival, held every Memorial Day weekend for the past 32 years, brings together filmmakers, writers, artists, and thinkers from around the world with an audience of everyone from climbing bums to bluehaired philanthropists. I have had the privilege of attending it for the past two years, and

this year I was profoundly moved by what I saw, heard, and felt.

The topic of the Friday Symposium was "The Sixth Great Extinction,"

which is occurring now. The following three days of films and events really brought home the message that the planet is in big trouble and that it will take a fundamental shift in human thinking

and behavior if we don't want to see life as we know it, and I mean all life, not just ours, to be radically changed by the end of this century. Hence, this Broad Sense is in some ways a movie review. You will need to watch closely for showings of the films (PBS and art theaters) or look for them on line. But please, do look for them, because all who saw them in Telluride felt that they ought to be required viewing for everyone in schools, city halls, Congress, and elsewhere. Mainstream media should make them top stories.

The most moving presentation was by Chris Jordan, an artist and photographer who photographed Laysan Albatross chicks on Midway Island, which is near the North Pacific Gyre. This vast circular ocean current now contains an estimated 600 million tons of plastic trash that is causing environmental havoc in that part of the Pacific.

Perhaps some of you have seen the photos of partially decomposed albatross



# Action Films (to nudge us into action)

chicks whose stomachs are packed with plastic bottle caps, disposable lighters, toothbrushes, and unidentifiable bits of plastic fed to them by their parents, who gathered them off of the sea's surface, having mistaken them for food. Mr. Jordan was literally in tears as he described his two weeks of photographing hundreds of the dead birds, knowing there was utterly nothing he could do about the situation. The trash in this gyre (there are 6 such gyres in the world at present) comes from the insatiable hunger for the cheap, the

disposable, the MORE STUFF that humanity craves. His work can be seen at

http://www.chrisjordan. com/current set2. php?id=11

(In a related video worth watching, Capt.

Charles Moore discusses the impact our trash is having on sea life in the Pacific. http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/capt\_ charles\_moore\_on\_the\_seas\_of\_plastic. html)

"Bag It!" is a film by Telluride filmmaker Susan Beraza about our throwaway society, with a clear message of "reduce, reuse and recycle." Although this film is thoroughly entertaining and engaging, it tells the sad truth that while recycling plastic might make us feel good, it is costly and accounts for only a tiny fraction of the plastic that is produced worldwide. Recyling alone cannot stem the tide of material that is poisoning our oceans. That's right, as plastics degrade, the tiny particles become sponges for toxins in the water and are consumed by creatures that would normally eat plankton, thus working their way up the food chain, and concentrating in the bodies of the things we like to eat, such

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national, non-profit organization that uses the voices and 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 (and not so able) Americans who want to protect their public lands 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.

Today, the Great Old Broads for Wilderness has more than 4,500 members. 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!

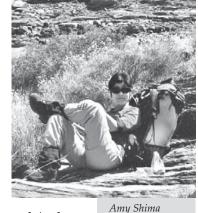
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# BROADS ON BOARD

We enlisted two new Directors this year bringing our Broads Board to eight and adding two new home states to the list. Amy Shima joins us from Rockville, Utah and Karen Ryman weighs in from Aspen, Colorado. Both found Broads through interaction with "original" Broads. And both women have their sites set on broadcasting Broads word to a broader audience and "activating" that audience to advocate for wilderness and wild lands.

### Amy

Amy Shima has been interested in and cared about wild animals and wild places for as long as she can remember. She grew up in Oak Park, Illinois - home of Ernest Hemingway and Frank Lloyd Wright - and fell in love with the desert southwest during her



first trip to Canyonlands and Arches NP in the late 1970s.

For most of Amy's professional career, she has practiced wildlife/zoo medicine. As a staff member of the San Diego Zoo, she was involved with the California Condor Recovery program as well as a number of other endangered species programs. She has also filled in for others as a temporary veterinarian at a number of zoos in the US and Australia. "I have always felt that it is a great privilege to be able to work with wild animals, whether they are in the wild (where we wish they could live but may not be able to safely due to the pressures created by too many people) or in captivity where their presence can serve to educate and enlighten people who now live far removed the natural world."

Amy found Great Old Broads for Wilderness at a SUWA Roundup in southern Utah. "I didn't know anyone and was a bit apprehensive," she said. "But then a very energetic, smiling lady (Ginger Harmon) wandered over to my campsite and started talking with me." Ginger encouraged her to join Great Old Broads for Wilderness and of course, she joined. "Great Old Broads has been a part of my life ever since."

Working with the Board of Directors (and as the newly minted leader of the Virgin Broadband - named for the Virgin River, which runs through southwestern Utah), Amy hopes to bring "Broadness" to more people. She wants to "encourage and empower people to get out, enjoy and do something with other Great Old Broads to help 'Mother' Nature."

### Karen

Karen Ryman fell in love with the great outdoors as a girl in California where she went on many Girl Scout camping trips in the San Bernardino Mountains. But her appreciation for the environments in which she hiked and camped was awakened and cultivated when she moved to Aspen, Colorado, and later by Great Old Broads for Wilderness

A KAREN RYMAN **FAVORITE QUOTE:** 

Now T SEF THE SECRET OF THE MAKING OF THE BEST PERSONS. IT IS TO GROW IN THE OPEN AIR AND TO EAT AND SLEEP WITH THE EAR TH.

- WALT WHITMAN, SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD

founder Dottie Fox. "We hiked and camped together and she'd talk about the land around her and her experiences with people she'd meet."



Karen Ryman

Karen hopes to give others the type of experience she had with Dottie. "I'd like to see that we communicate more with those who use the land – help them understand the value of the land that they are using."

As a volunteer Ranger with the Forest Conservancy at Maroon Bells Scenic Area and as a trail monitor in

White River National Forest, she has the opportunity to meet the people who use public lands. She is also a volunteer with the Wilderness Workshop - a group that is advocating for the protection of 363,000 acres of wild land in the Hidden Gems of Colorado.

"A Broad spirit is the ultimate goal," she said. "And we need to pass that on to the next generation so the passion doesn't stop."

### Groups help Utah Sen. Bob Bennett develop San Juan County Land Use Bill

Hoping to replicate the Washington County land use bill that passed in 2009, Utah's Senator Bob Bennett initiated an information gathering process this spring to begin the process of developing a San Juan County comprehensive land use bill that would consider ecological, cultural, social and economic values for preservation under various land use designations (including wilderness). While passage of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is the gold standard for statewide wilderness protection on BLM lands in Utah, the conservation community is cautiously optimistic that some valuable permanent protections could be obtained for the landscapes and cultural resources in San Juan County through this bill.

Broads Associate Director, Rose Chilcoat, is actively participating in this process. She has presented at all meetings advocating for the strongest protective measures on these unsurpassed wild public lands and consistently pushing back against San Juan County's stated priority of ensuring "access so the elderly and disabled can get to their public lands." Advocating for inclusion of grazing permit buyout language in the bill has been a strong focus of Broads and several area ranchers have communicated to us, and Senator Bennett's staff, their desire to "retire" from public lands ranching.

### Court rejects Rock Creek Mine in northwest Montana

In a major victory for bull trout, grizzly bears and the people of northwest Montana, a federal judge re-



jected the U.S. Forest Service's approval of a massive industrial mining operation on the edge of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area.

In March, the court ruled that the Forest Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the Forest Service Organic Act in approving the Rock Creek Mine, which would have bored under the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness in the

# Broads. **seat**

Updates on issues that have seen Broad action

Next steps in the process are

uncertain as

Senator Ben-

nett failed to

make it out of

the Republican

convention and

will not be up

However, his

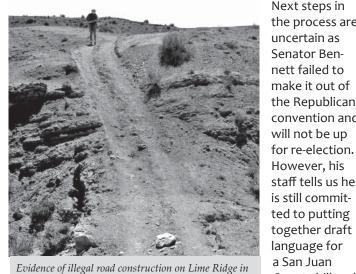
a San Juan

County bill and

staff tells us he

In response, staff from more than 30 local, regional, and national organizations, agencies, and businesses have made extraordinary efforts on very short notice to travel to Monticello, UT for six days of meetings to share our ideas, values and priorities for this bill. Notably absent from the meetings were oil & gas and mineral

interests. Also of concern is that San Juan County did not weigh in with any specifics regarding support or opposition of any of the various proposed designations thus making it difficult to consider how to resolve differences.



San Juan County, Utah.

that others in the Utah delegation are committed to carrying the bill forward. Field trips to look at areas of conflict were to be scheduled this summer. We await the Senator's direction.

midst of popular recreational areas and key habitat for bull trout, grizzly bears and other sensitive wildlife species.

The case marks the third time that lawsuits by members of the public have succeeded in invalidating federal agency approvals for the Rock Creek Mine project.

"This third strike against this mine should end the game," said Jim Costello of the Rock Creek Alliance, one of the groups involved in the lawsuits. "We've said all along that this mine simply cannot be built without contaminating the region's waters and pushing the Cabinet's fragile bull trout and grizzly bear population in Rock Creek to extinction. It's time for the government to stop this merry-go-round and start working to protect our region's waters, trout and bears."

The proposed mining operation would have removed 10,000 tons per day of

copper and silver ore from under the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness seven days a week for 35 years. The resulting loss of more than 7,000 acres of habitat would be devastating to the few grizzly bears that survive in the Cabinet Mountains.

The mine also would have dumped up to three million gallons of waste water each day into the Clark Fork River and threatened to destroy the bull trout population in Rock Creek, a tributary of the Clark Fork.

The groups that challenged the mine are Rock Creek Alliance, Cabinet Resource Group, Clark Fork Coalition, Earthworks, Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, Idaho Council of Trout Unlimited, Pacific Rivers Council, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Natural Resources Defense Council, Montana Wilderness Association, and Great Old Broads for Wilderness. The groups were represented by lawyers from EarthJustice and the Western Mining Action Project.

### Lawsuit targets harmful public-lands livestock subsidy

In early June, Great Old Broads for Wilderness joined with the Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds Project, WildEarth Guardians, and Oregon Natural Desert Association in a suit against the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to compel them to respond to a 2005 rulemaking petition that seeks to increase the fee for livestock grazing across 258 million acres of federal public land.

"The federal grazing program is as fiscally irresponsible as it is ecologically harmful," said Taylor McKinnon, public lands campaigns director for the Center for Biological Diversity. "In responding to our petition, the government must now choose between correcting and continuing the subsidized destruction of America's public land."

The current grazing fee does not recover even the administrative costs of operating the program, leaving U.S. taxpayers to pay the difference. The fee also falls short of paying for the environmental problems this land use causes, and instead enables high levels of livestock grazing that harm ecosystems, degrade watersheds, and cause species decline.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office found that the Bureau and Forest Service grazing fee decreased by 40 percent from 1980 to 2004, while grazing fees charged by private ranchers increased by 78 percent for the same period. In 2010, the government charges just \$1.35 per month to graze one cow and calf on public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, which is the lowest possible rate under the current fee formula.

### Congressman Polis holds meetings on Hidden Gems Wilderness proposal

U.S. Representative Jared Polis, Colo., hosted three public forums around the state on the Hidden Gems Wilderness Proposal. Proponents of the designation came out in full force to offer comment on the wilderness proposal that was submitted to him by a coalition of en-

vironmental organizations headed by Wilderness Workshop.

Polis is considering the introduction of a bill to get more land in western Colorado designated as Wilderness.



Broads ventured into the wilds of Idaho to protest the landing of helicopters to dart and collar wolves in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. Unfortunately, District Judge Lynn B. Winmill decided to allow the project to continue. His ruling contained a stern warning to the Forest Service, stating that it would be highly unlikely he'd permit such landings in the wilderness in the future.

The proposal identifies 379,000 acres in Eagle, Summit, Pitkin, and Gunnison counties as in need of protection.

Go to www.polis.house.gov/wilderness to view maps of the Hidden Gems proposal and submit comments.

Broads held a Broadwalk in the Hidden Gems with Wilderness Workshop in 2009.



Broadwalking the Hidden Gems in 2009.

"Whether retired by choice or by force, millions of smart and hard-working citizens retain the public-spiritedness and idealism of the 1960s. Create outlets for us to do good work, and we will sign up by the thousands."

- Stephen Trimble, in his essay "We need a new Civilian Conservation Corps"

# Broadwalking on Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia

Continued from page 1

Ken Coburn from the Palomar Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest put us to work. We car-pooled to the nearby Dripping Springs campground, which was closed until the first of June due to the endangered Arroyo toad's breeding season. There, we split into three groups—the big rock movers, the berm builders, and the bushwhackers.

The first group of Broads constructed a stream crossing by levering a series of bushel-size boulders into a creek. The second group used Pulaskis, shovels, and hoes to move dirt, building berms and water channels across the trail leading into the mountains. Meanwhile, the third group hiked further uphill while lopping away overgrown bushes and branches.

By afternoon, you could see our many accomplishments, though there remained much more trail rejuvenation to be done. Heavy winter and spring rains had done a lot of damage. So even though we were only scheduled for one day's work, we could easily have done more.

Later that afternoon, Steve Evans, of Friends of the River, spoke to us about wild and scenic rivers projects in the area, outlining how the rivers themselves provide corridors and necessary connections. That night, Joan Friedlander, Palomar District Ranger, talked of the many problems confronting the land in southern California. Fire—the most headline catching—is the worst, but other difficulties involve interlopers like the golden borer, which is attacking the oaks, illegal immigrants, drug traffickers, and marijuana growers.

Some of us went to bed after Joan's presentation, but other Broads still simmered with the first night's energy. Blue Feather—aka Sandra Hardenbrook-regaled the group with stories. I understand I missed a lot of great camaraderie!



Broads with Beauty Mountain in the background. Photo by Vicki Hoover

Saturday morning brought applause for the chefs-Michelle and Paul—who whipped up a delicious asparagus frittata. Every one of their meals was terrific, but that meal was especially superb. We ate every bite.

After breakfast, Geoffrey Smith, with the aid of his wife Camille Armstrong, diagrammed a wish list of San Diego

The first group of Broads constructed a stream crossing by levering a series of bushelsize boulders into a creek.

County wilderness areas. He pointed toward those areas earlier preserved through the efforts of Congresswoman Mary Bono-Mack, and acknowledged the current efforts of Congressman Darrell Issa to add 7,796 acres to the Agua Tibia Wilderness and 13,365 acres to the Beauty Mountain Wilderness. He also spoke of potential wilderness areas in the rugged Barker Valley and along the San Luis Rey wild and scenic river.

After Geoffrey finished his presentation, Vicki Hoover chaired a meeting of the Sierra Club's regional Wilderness Committee, under the auspices of the CNRCC (the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee). They met for the remainder of the day, while the Great Old Broads for Wilderness went trekking.

A few wandered off to Julian and some drove to Mount Palomar and hiked in the Agua Tibia Wilderness. My group of six decided to follow on the Pacific Crest Trail. Sunny, warm, we were surrounded by an array of flowers everywhere. There's something to be said for

seasons of heavy rain. Even though this year's California weather did damage to the local trails, those rains nursed an abundance of color. I lost count of the variety and quantity, but I think Carolyn Perry counted more than 50 different wildflowers on our walk and made a list of what we saw. The day was picture-perfect, to be sure.

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# More Broadwalking

Continued from page 6

Highwire made the day even better, with more home-grown music for our dinner hour. That night, we learned about what we'd been seeing and about how it might be preserved for our grandchildren. Rick Halsey, President of the California Chaparral Institute and author of Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California, used a sandwich analogy to explain how crucial the local ecosystem is in providing a layer between the ostensibly more glamorous mountains and the desert. Both witty and astute, he showed us how to look at this particular landscape in more sophisticated ways. I venture to say that all of us learned how to better appreciate its beauty.

Which leads us to Beauty Mountain, Sunday's centerpiece. Geoffrey Smith diagrammed the scenery in even more detail, and reiterated his preservation wish list. He urged all Broads to get involved in the Beauty Mountain preservation effort (see the sidebar to take action).

A couple of dozen San Diego Sierra Club members also joined us that morning, as we disbursed on four separate hikes. All four started from the same spot, along a dirt road in the midst of chaparral.

My particular group, led by Vicki Hoover and Anne Fege, headed for an abandoned mine on Beauty Mountain's slopes. To those of us accustomed to mountains and deserts, the vistas were quite a surprise. Long views toward the surrounding mountains-yes, they were covered with fresh snow that morning, and unlike the previous day, we were quite bundled up—filled the distances. Short views, with multiple shades of lime and moss and teal green plus countless spring flowers, lined the roads and trails of this transition zone. Although the weather was unseasonably windy and cold, we thoroughly enjoyed the day.

After dinner, we learned about a part of San Diego County we hadn't yet seen. Kathy Dice, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Superintendent, showed slides and spoke enthusiastically about the terrain just to the east (and at sea level, and warmer).

Karen Ryman, Lois Snedden, and I were so struck by her words and her photos that we went there as soon as the Broadwalk ended on Monday. We hunted for petroglyphs and pictographs, slid through a narrow slot canyon, and thoroughly enjoyed the post-Broadwalk sunshine. (In truth, Oak Grove's temperature seemed to be dropping about ten degrees every day and night we camped there. By the time we left, it was downright chilly!)

But we broke camp with just as much enthusiasm for the local landscape as we generated on Thursday with Judy Taylor's music. Ronni Egan and Rose Chilcoat, as always, outdid themselves in putting the San Diego County Broad experience together (with great advice and connections from local Pam Nelson).

The ensemble, from start to finish, was one of the best Broadwalks ever. And best of all, we learned ways we can help out. Go to the Californiawild.org web site http://www.californiawild.org/take-action to learn more.

Thanks to the JiJi Foundation for providing funding for the North San Diego County Broadwalk.

# BE AN AGELESS ADVOCATE FOR BEAUTY MOUNTAIN AND AGUA TIBIA

You can be part of Broads advocacy for the Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Act of 2009! It's easy as 1-2-3.

1 Identify your representative in Congress and get her or his e-mail address, district office address, or DC address. (www.usa.gov/Contact/ Elected.shtml for contact information for your federal and state representatives)

> Write and send a short personal **Z**note requesting that your representative become a Cosponsor of H.R. 4309. (These days, e-mail has the best chance of reaching its destination in a timely manner.) In your note, explain why the completion of these wilderness quality areas whose Riverside County portions were already dedicated as wilderness in the Omnibus bill of 2009 are important to you as a Great Old Broad -- hiking, backpacking, hunting. Let the member know that you or your Broad friends have recently hiked the area and found its wildflowers, trails, and beauty worthy of wilderness designation.

About two weeks later, call the representative's office and ask for the environmental staff member; ask if the member has now become a cosponsor and let him/her know you will be checking on the website or calling back. Leave a message. Keep calling.

And gather your hiking group, mah jong group, neighbors, family, anyone you know anywhere in the 435 available Congressional districts and ask them to do them same.



# Study A Broad:

# Walking the Wilds of Life

"You taught me that if I want to get somewhere, I can always walk." At the age of 13, Mary O'Brien's youngest son made that proclamation after walking from Santa Barbara to Los Angeles to rejoin his family after running away. Her older son walked from Mexico to Canada through the Sierra Nevadas during a winter of record snow. Mary's first backpack trip was a 30-day journey on the John Muir Trail from Yosemite Valley to Whitney in 1969. Thirty days! Her first trip! She asked her husband to carry her pack to the trailhead so she wouldn't know exactly what she was getting herself into beforehand. She has been on many, many others since then and counts "walking" as her number one passion.

The passion that takes a close second, Mary said, is public lands. It's easy to see the connection. Our public lands offer walkers an incredible diversity of ecosystems, wildlife, and unforgettable views. And, for Mary, it's not just the personal experiences found on public lands. She embraces the political process that's required to obtain and manage public lands. "From city parks to big wilderness," she says, "it's a democratic process by which the public can take care of the commons."

She has dedicated her life work to public lands – working as a staff scientist for toxics reform, environmental law, and public lands conservation organizations for 29 years. With a doctorate in botany, she has always worked in environmental law. She discovered a love for

grassroots organizing with her work as a staff scientist for the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (Eugene, OR) for eight years and for Hells Canyon Preservation Council (eastern OR and western ID). Since 2003, she has been the Utah Forests Program Manager for Grand Canyon Trust where she helps organize and co-coordinate the Three Forests Coalition (3FC) - a project that advocates for better care for native wildlife, vegetation, and ecosystems on southern Utah's three national forests: the Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal.

One particularly satisfying

project that will continue to bear fruit for many years is the Coalition's efforts to restore beavers to the forests of southern Utah. Because of 3FC's efforts, Utah now has its first beaver management plan. The coalition will be assessing all streams in these forests for suitable habitat. "We don't want to place beaver where elk and cattle are eating the willows and cottonwoods down to nubs. Beaver are pretty clever when it comes to dam building," she said. "They've even been known to use old tires in the structures. But they do need to eat - especially willow, cottonwood, and aspen to store underwater during winter."

Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a member of the Three Forests Coalition and has worked with Mary for the past 6 years on wilderness and grazing issues - the latest of which was a collaborative process to resolve



Happily assessing beaver habitat.

disputes related to cattle grazing allotments on the Tushar Range in the Fishlake National Forest. "Mary's tenacity and commitment to the health of the land are unparalleled and provide the environmental backbone for the collaboration," said Broads Associate Director Rose Chilcoat.

Mary's first face-to-face experience with Broads was in 1999 when she attended the Chix in the Stix Women and Wilderness Gathering in Tucson, Ariz. "I don't remember how I heard about Broads but my first sustained memory of the group was at that event."

"You have to love an organization named Great Old Broads for Wilderness," she said. "The impact of that name can't be overstated.

# "Nothing beats getting out on foot."

# with Mary O'Brien

Humor, adventure, feistiness, and age all in one title. I have a great affection for the Broads."

Mary currently volunteers for a number of organizations – editing and reviewing documents and going out on local work parties. She and her husband, O'B, live in Castle Valley, Utah, where they built a straw-bale home, but O'B still teaches a half year at the University of Oregon. They fell in love when Mary was 16 and "now I'm 64 and still think he's perfect," she said. "He really knows how to get a hiking partner," she added. "He always walks behind me because I'm slower."

And we know how she loves to walk. 'It's how I see other species and what's around me," she said. "It's a pace at which you can absorb the world. Even river trips are too fast for me. The world just goes by too fast. Nothing beats getting out on foot."

- Anne Benson

# Broadwalkers Visit Highpoint Lookout Tower

BY KAREN RYMAN

Volunteers in the Highpoint Lookout Tower on the summit of Palomar Mt. can see on a clear day all the way to Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. Following a hike on the Cutca Trail during our Broadwalk to the "chaparral country" of Southern California, a group of Broads drove further along the ridge road looking down on the proposed addition to the Agua Tibia Wilderness. What a revelation when we came upon a fire tower located just 2 miles from the well known Palomar Observatory.

After a short hike up to the bottom of the tower, we were greeted by a volunteer member of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, (ffla. org) who came down to talk with us and explain their work on this historic tower in the Cleveland National Forest. At one time 8,000 of these towers existed in our national forests. But due to budget cuts and new technology, they were abandoned in the 70s and 80s. Not all that technology has lived up to expectations say the experts, and people in lookouts searching for smoke remain reliable. Also, a

series of major fires has led officials in California to return to basics of detecting early smoke before the fire gets out of hand.

Highpoint Tower sits at an elevation of 6,142 ft. It has played a role in fire prevention for 75 years. The original structure was built in 1935, the one still standing was erected in 1964. Due to budget cuts, it was closed in 1992. In spring of 2008, the FFLA took interest in restoring it. They worked out an agreement with the Cleveland National Forest to use volunteers who are trained to monitor in the tower. Like a giant tree house, the lookout is perched on top of a metal tower that rises 67 feet above a rocky, brushy point. A victim of vandalism, the interior was gutted, then returned to its original finishes, right down to the seafoam green paint and Formica countertops and flooring. With the return of the lookout's original Osborne fire-finder, a circular instrument that incorporates a map of surrounding area, spotters can pinpoint the location of fires.

The volunteers call this "camping with a million-dollar view." After the massive 2007 fires in the area,



they feel like they are making a difference, providing a service, and giving themselves some relaxation and quiet time. Their next goal is to put back into commission two other lookouts in the area.

What fun on our Broadwalk, to meet volunteer "bros" from the Forest Fire Lookout Association, up there making a difference also!

### ID - New wilderness proposed for central Idaho

The Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (S. 3294/H.R. 5205, also referred to as CIEDRA) introduced this spring will create three new wilderness areas in the Sawtooth and Challis National Forests and the Challis District of the Bureau of Land Management - Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness, White Clouds Wilderness and Jerry Peak wilderness in the Boulder-White Clouds Mountains. This bill

would also "release" 131,616 acres

of wilderness study areas from

their interim protections and would Congressionally designate a motorized trail (Germania Creek) bisecting two of the wilderness areas.

Boulder-White Clouds is the largest unprotected wild roadless area in the national forests of the lower 48 states. Its broad range of elevations and habitats lends to the area's enormous biological and geographical diversity. Since the land is uninterrupted by roads, Boulder-White Clouds is a popular hunting and fishing destination, with spawning salmon and big game such as elk, moose, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, black bear, and cougar.

The bill that will permanently protect over 330,000 acres of wilderness in central Idaho was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Sen. Jim Risch (R-ID) and in the House Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Rep. Walt Minnick (D-ID). Broads has pushed for improvements to this proposal for years. The current iteration is much improved but still falls short of full protection.

# **UT – Utah watershed is target** of wilderness legislation

In April, Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT) introduced the Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act (H.R. 5009) to protect more than 26,000 acres of national forest land in the central Wasatch Mountains just outside of Salt Lake City.

The bill will protect the watershed that provides water for more than 60 percent of the Salt Lake City Region, designating 15,000 acres of wilderness

Young

and 11,000

acres of special management area. Learn more and take action at http://saveourcanyons.org/campaigns/

MI – Bill would protect 32,500 acres on Lake Michigan shore

wasatch\_wilderness\_campaign

On February 2, 2010 Representative Hoekstra (R-MI) introduced the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act (S. 2976/H.R. 4558) to protect more than 32,500 acres of wilderness in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. This area is on the mainland shore of Lake Michigan and is popular with hunters, anglers, hikers and boaters. Senators Carl Levin (D-MI) and Debbie Ann Stabenow (D-MI) introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

### AK - Delegation seeks to block new ANWR wilderness

Wilderness designation in The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could be threatened by AK's congressional delegation which wants to open the Arctic coastal plain to oil and gas drilling.

In a letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Alaska Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R), Mark Begich (D) and Rep. Don (R) said a review of

potential wilderness in the Arctic Refuge by the Interior Department was a waste of resources because the authority to finalize designations belongs to Congress. Instead of the new wilderness analysis, Interior should use its resources to conduct studies of the

refuge's oil and gas resources, the delegation said.

"The ANWR coastal plain likely contains the continent's largest onshore deposit of hydrocarbons and, given advancements in technology, it is possible to access those resources without any significant impact to the wildlife frequenting the coastal plain," the delegation wrote. (Yeah, right! Just ask the folks on the Gulf Coast about this.)

The review for new wilderness designations would come as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's revision of the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan, which was last updated in 1988. The 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act requires refuges to update their plans every 15 years.

Learn more/take action at http://www. alaskawild.org/

### **PA** - Wilderness coalition forms

Six conservation organizations have joined to advocate for wilderness designation on PA's only National Forest located in the northwest corner of the state - the Allegheny National Forest. Adam Hostetler of Lebanon, vice president of the Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America said, "Wilderness designation for some of the most pristine and wild areas on the Allegheny will leave a permanent natural legacy for future generations, so they can forever hike, hunt, camp and explore here."

The Coalition supports the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, crafted by Friends of Allegheny Wilderness in 2003, which identifies 54,460 acres of wilderness-quality lands on the ANF.

Currently two areas on the Allegheny National Forest are permanently protected as wilderness the Hickory Creek Wilderness with about 8,600 acres, and the Allegheny Islands Wilderness, totaling just under 400 acres. They represent a little less than 2 percent of 513,000-acre ANF.

"Clearly there is a shortage of designated wilderness on our National Forest," said Dave Rothrock, president of Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited. "The areas identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal are the remaining roadless and most untouched natural areas on the Allegheny National Forest. They are one of our greatest public assets and provide refuge for naturally reproducing brook trout. We need to ensure they remain wild for our children and grandchildren."

Learn more/take action at http://www. pawild.org/

### TN - Bill would add 20,000 acres to Tennessee wilderness

U.S. Senators Lamar Alexandar and Bob Corker, both Tennessee Republicans, introduced a bill June 9 to designate an additional 20,000 acres in six areas of the Cherokee National Forest as protected wilderness.

The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010 is the first expansion of East Tennesee's wilderness areas in 24 years. It creates one new wilderness area and expands the boundaries of five existing areas already located within the Cherokee National Forest. These areas are currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service as Wilderness Study Areas, thus the bill will have no effect on privately-owned lands and will cause no change in public access.

Thank the Senators and learn more at http://tnwild.org/get\_involved

# **Broad Sense:** Action Films

(continued from page 2)

as tuna, mackerel, and salmon, the apex predators. The film's producers are hoping to get "Bag It" into the mainstream media, but you can find it on line at http://www.bagitmovie. com. When you do, please buy a copy and show it at your local high school or library.

The final film I'll mention here is called, "I Am." It was produced by Tom Shadyac, who has won Oscars for films such as Ace Ventura and Bruce Almighty. His film asks the question, why, if we're more prosperous today, are we less happy than ever. In interviews with many wise men and women and with consummate cinematic skill, he has created a lively and thought provoking piece that challenges us to rethink what we hold valuable. We are led to a conclusion that is embodied in Broadness. Every individual, including all members of all species with whom we share the planet, is valuable and is connected to everyone, and everything else.

The festival left me both emotionally drained and spiritually energized.

As one who grew up in the 60s (yes, I DO remember the 60s), I have been increasingly dismayed at the lack of public involvement in issues of social justice and the environment, which is what drew me to Great Old Broads in the first place. I left Telluride with the feeling that there is a new energy abroad, and it's growing with every new insult to Mother Earth, most recently the heartbreaking tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico.

To see what these talented people in the arts are producing, and how powerfully they're using new communications techniques, was truly inspiring. We Old Broads, as the wise matriarchs, have a responsibility to teach and to lead, and we have at our disposal the work of many talented and dedicated artists and communicators.

Much of humanity is currently behaving like unruly, poorly broughtup children who can think only of increasing their own share, with no thought for others or for our emerald globe, our Mother. It's up to the mothers and grandmothers to

speak out, each in her own way, for whatever is her passion, whether it's attending meetings, writing letters, getting out to wild places with kids, or simply refusing to buy beverages in plastic bottles. (The Broads office is now officially plastic bottle and bag free.)There are many small, and some large acts that we all can perform, but act we must.

Tim De Christopher, he who brought a flawed gas drilling permit auction in Utah to a halt in December 2009 with his impromptu but courageous actions, remarked that "point and click" activism is no longer sufficient. We each need to take positive actions, private or public, to come to the defense of our mother, the Earth. The stakes are enormous and the window of opportunity diminishing daily.

I am so very proud of our members and our staff, because we are known for action, not just talk. So, I implore you, dear Broads and Bros, to be brave, step out of your comfort zones, and act on behalf of this great earthen sphere we call Mother.

# SAN

# BOOT CAMP II

Broads from across the US converged on Pack Creek Ranch for Broadband Leader Boot Camp II, held March 25-29. Jane and Ken Sleight (inspiration for Seldom Seen Smith from Ed Abbey's Monkey Wrench Gang) hosted the event at their beautiful ranch just outside of Moab, Utah. The location, participants, presenters and hosts could not have been more perfect.

Ten new Broadband leaders from Arizona, California, Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Utah were trained in grassroots organizing, communication, lobbying skills, wilderness history, documentation of on-the-ground abuses, and Broads' positions on issues such as grazing, off-road vehicles, and oil, gas, and mineral development. Broads staff, board members, and current Broadband leaders covered lots of material supplemented with sessions by presenters from The Wilderness Support Center (The Wilderness Society), Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and Red Rock Forests.

The newly minted Broadband leaders returned home prepared to recruit new members and host awareness-raising activities such as hikes and speaker-events, share information on wilderness issues, comment on issues and agency actions, communicate with the media, arrange for

monitoring trainings and legislative visits, and engage in service projects in the region. After the training, Broadband Leaders stay connected with staff and other Broadband

Campers took time to enjoy the granduer of the Moab landscape.

leaders to share ideas and inspiration.

Thanks to the New Land Foundation for their support of Broadbands and Boot Camp II.

"IT (BOOT CAMP II) HAS BEEN AN AMAZING, UNFORGET-TABLE EXPERIENCE, AND I FEEL SO BLESSED TO HAVE MET AND SPENT TIME WITH SO MANY AMAZING WOM-EN. I AM LEAVING WITH A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND WARM MEMORIES." - TRUE FLORES, BORREGO/SAN **DIEGO BROADBAND** 









Clockwise from top left: Palouse Broadband on a spring hike, Santa Cruz Broadband cleaning up, Northern Sierra Broadband tabling at the Western Wilderness Conference with help from a few Broad Directors, Four Corners Broadband tabling at the Relocal Fair in Durango, Sangre de Cristo Broadband on their annual spring cleanup.









Clockwise from top left: Florida Broadband on a mini Broadwalk to Caladesi Island on International Women's Day (yes, that's ED Ronni Egan in the front), WHALES Broadband (Wyoming) enjoying a hike in their spectacular part of the world, and Pueblo Broadband (Colorado) happily hiking in their neck of the woods.

# **BROADS WISH LIST**

- Donations of GPS units (Garmin's eTrex models would be great)
- ⇒ Passionate candidates (doers, donors, and door-openers) who will apply for our Board of Directors
- ⇒ Members who will volunteer to become Broadband leaders (see sidebar on this page)
- involved with their local Broadbands
- ⇒ A generous friend to donate a functional *office phone system* (or funds for one)
- ⇒ Members who will volunteer to help solicit donations for our Wild for Wilderness on-line auction
- ⇒ Members who will *recruit* 20 *friends* to become members of Great Old Broads for Wilderness
- ⇒ Members who will *give gift Broads memberships* to Broad-minded friends and family

- Members who will *host fundraising* house parties to support Broads
- Each of our members will *introduce* a young child (or two!) to a wild place. Then tell us about the adventure
- Members who will *become* Facebook fans of Great Old Broads for Wilderness and recruit 20 or more of their friends to become fans too
- 20 additional members who will support us with *sustaining memberships of \$20 a month* to help cover our monthly office overhead
- ⇒ Healthy Lands Project (*HLP*) will boast numerous new partners and our members will tell their local grassroots organizations all about how HLP can help (visit www.healthylands.org)

If you can fulfill any of our wishes - please let us know by calling Ronni or Rose at 970-385-9577 or e-mailing broads@ greatoldbroads.org.

OULD YOU LIKE TO START A BROADBAND IN YOUR AREA? LET US HELP. WE'RE TAKING **APPLICATIONS** FOR OUR NEXT BROADBAND LEADER BOOT CAMP.

OR CURRENT **BROADBAND** LOCATIONS AND CONTACTS, GO TO WWW. greatoldbroads. org/local broads.htm. **CONTACT ROSE** AT rose@ greatoldbroads. org or 970-385-7577 FOR MORE DETAILS.

ON FACEBOOK? Become a Fan of Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Search our name or go to http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Great-Old-Broads-for-Wilderness/ 181641605322?ref=ts Don't forget to invite all your friends!!

# BLM SEEKS COMMENT ON FERAL HORSE ISSUE

Wild horses have proliferated in many wild land habitats in the West, often causing serious impact to the land. Last December the Bureau of Land Management conducted several "gathers" to reduce their populations and



thus their impact. To say that these gathers were controversial is an understatement, with emotional outcries from their fans and applause from most conservationists.

Now the BLM has proposed a "new direction" in wild horse and burro management, including the designation of "treasured herds" and making more forage available to them. Costs for the program, particularly those for animals in holding facilities, have risen dramatically in the last several years. In fiscal year 2009,

for example, approximately \$29 million, or about 70 percent of the total wild horse and burro program budget of over \$40 million, was spent on animals held in corrals and pastures.

Great Old Broads for Wilderness is providing comments to the BLM regarding this "management" and we urge our members to do the

same. (To read Ronni Egan's stance on feral horses, go to page 3 of the last issue of Broadsides - www.greatoldbroads.org/ broadsides/2010\_Spring.pdf)

To gather feedback, the Strategy Development Document outlines specific areas where the BLM is seeking public input over a 60-day comment period. To access the document and provide the BLM with feedback, follow the link provided at www.blm.gov.

# Easy way to Support Broads

Our annual Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction has become a major source of funding for Broads Advocacy Programs.

If you are one of those who just find it easier to donate services, gift certificates, or products, we've found a way for you to do just that.

Also, if you find a product or service that you think other Broads would love, please consider asking for a donation.

Find details about the auction on our web site.

# 6th Annual Wild for Wilderness On-Line Auction October 25 - November 14, 2010

We're preparing our 6th annual on-line auction with offerings of art, photography, books, music, classes, services, jewelry, outdoor adventures, outdoor gear, footwear, unique experiences, and vacation stays.

This event raises funds to provide on-the-ground monitoring and stewardship of wild lands. It has become a holiday and vacation shopping tradition among more than 4,000 members and other supporters and is our largest annual fundraising effort. Our 2010 auction goal is \$60,000.



To donate, e-mail auction@greatoldbroads.org or visit our on-line donation page at www. greatoldbroads.org/nadf.php. We are looking for corporate sponsorships as well as donations. Information about the 2010 auction can be found at www.greatoldbroads.org/ auctiondonorinfo2010.pdf





Broads kick up their heals and walk the goats at Boot Camp II in Moab, Utah.

# MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE HEALTHY LANDS PROJECT

In June, Broads hired Gary Skiba to replace Tim Peterson as the Director of the Healthy Lands Project (HLP). Gary joins Broads after a 23-year career with the Colorado Division of Wildlife where he was the supervisor of

six Wildlife Conservation Biologists stationed throughout southwestern Colorado. In that position, he focused on conservation planning and management projects for threatened and endangered wildlife species.

Gary grew up in western Pennsylvania and received a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from the University of New Hampshire in 1978. He arrived in Colorado in 1978, earning an



M.S. degree in Wildlife Biology in 1981. He worked for 3 years as the manager of a private hunting area near Greeley, Colorado, and joined the Colorado Division of Wildlife in 1986 as Wildlife Technician.

He moved to Durango in 1987 as a Habitat Biologist, then to Denver in 1992 to work on the CDOW's role in ecosystem management, nongame wildlife management, and

biodiversity issues. He returned to the promised land of Durango in the spring of 2005 as the supervisor for the Southwestern region of the newly formed Wildlife Conservation section, focusing on conservation planning and management for threatened and endangered wildlife.

Gary has been actively involved with the La Plata County Democratic party, serving on their Executive Committee, and is a Board Member of the San Juan Citizens Alliance. He enjoys whitewater kayaking and rafting, hiking, and is training two miniature burros (Yin and Yang) for backcountry travel.

As Director of HLP, Gary organizes the resource monitoring efforts of more than 20 HLP partner organizations in nine western states and communicates with numerous public land managers.

HLP was developed by Great Old Broads for Wilderness to promote improved public land management by providing documentation of onthe-ground conditions to public land agencies. Working with partners across the west, HLP collects and stores maps, photos, and comments on the relative health of lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service. The database housing the monitoring data is managed by HLP and currently contains more than 200,000 records.

# PLANNED GIVING MEANS

# WILDERNESS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

### Future generations are depending on us.

If humans are to survive on this amazing blue planet, we need to get serious about leaving a legacy of a healthy environment. Resource development, recreation excesses, and just plain human encroachment all pose threats to biodiversity, climate stability, and peace of mind.

Your gift to Great Old Broads for Wilderness helps build a steady foundation for us as we stand firm in our advocacy of wild public lands. You may also save on estate taxes and be able to leave more to your heirs.



There are many mutually beneficial ways for you to support Great Old Broads for Wilderness through planned giving. 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
- Appreciated Securities Avoid capital gains tax by making a gift
- · Retirement Plan Name us on your plan and avoid income tax on the plan's assets
- **Real Estate Gifts** Stay in your home while avoiding capital gains tax and leaving more to your heirs
- Life Insurance

Write a new policy with Great Old Broads for Wilderness as a beneficiary or donate all or part of an existing policy

Other options to discuss with your Financial Advisor include:

- · Pooled Income Fund
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- · Charitable Remainder Unitrust

We'd love to know if you've included Broads in your estate plan!



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# Join the Great Old Broads Today!

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Boot Camp II host Ken Sleight poses with camper Janna Rankin.

# **BROADS PARAPHERNALIA**

Item	Size	Cost	Qty
Broads Tee (natural-runs large)	S,M,L,XL	\$20	
Long Sleeve Tee (natural)	S,M,L,XL, XXL	\$22	
Scoop-neck Tee (white)	S,XL	\$20	
Green Tee	S,M,L,XL	\$20	
Logo Earrings		\$12	
Button or sticker (circle)		\$1.50	
Coffee Mug		\$20	
Canvas Tote		\$20	
Anniv. Bandana		\$7.50	

 ${\tt Go\ to\ http://www.greatoldbroads.org/shop.htm\ to\ view\ items.}$ 

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