



## Great Old Broads For Wilderness

Preserving Wilderness  
for Future Generations

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WATCH FOR OUR  
REDESIGNED WEB  
SITE THIS SPRING.

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS BROADSIDES

## LANDING HELICOPTERS IN IDAHO WILDERNESS? ‘I DON’T THINK SO!’

### BROADS JOIN WWP IN SEEKING INJUNCTION

In January, Great Old Broads for Wilderness joined Western Watersheds Project in filing suit to challenge the US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) “Wildlife Services” mismanagement of public land in central Idaho. Among the rather lengthy list of poor management practices is the Idaho Fish and Game plan to use helicopters to dart and collar wolves in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

“I don’t think so!” said Broads Executive Director Ronni Egan. “This is wrong on so many levels - starting with the landing of helicopters in wilderness and right on down to shooting at wildlife from the air. C’mon people!”

In December 2009, the US Forest Service (a division of the USDA) approved the use by Idaho Fish and Game of helicopters to capture and radio collar

wolves in the wilderness area, where machines are prohibited except in dire emergencies. In 2006, the Forest Service rejected a similar request, stating that an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement would be needed. The groups who filed suit argue that the Forest Service fast-tracked approval for the Fish and Game’s proposal and failed to examine other means to accomplish its effort, and that the approval violates the Forest Service’s obligation to protect the wilderness area.

*(continued on page 9)*



### In this issue:

In a Broad Sense	2
Feral Equine Horse Sense	3
Broads’ Beat	4
Calendar	6
Study A Broad	8
Broader Wilderness	10
Broadbands in Action	12
Farewell to Terry Shepherd	13
Wild for Wilderness Auction Thanks	15

Great Old Broads for Wilderness has recently taken a public stand on a couple of new issues, so perhaps it's time for a discussion on how we decide on what battles we'll jump into and which "side" we'll be on.

For starters, I must stress once again that Great Old Broads is not anti-anything except poor land management. That goes for ATVs, ranchers, cows, oil wells, and mountain bikes, to name but a few. As your grandma always told you, 'There's a place for everything and everything in its place.' But few public lands issues are black-and-white, and it's the nuances that cause us to take a step back and ponder. All wilderness bills, or all land management policies, are not created equal, it turns out.

### What's the issue?

The first and probably only really strict rule that we adhere to is that we only tackle public lands issues. Those public lands may be administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or National Park Service (NPS), or they might be state parks, national monuments, wildlife refuges or a number of other categories. Second, we don't take on what we call the "urban" environmental issues like toxic waste, environmental justice, sprawl, etc., except as they may pertain to wilderness or wild lands.

Broads is, after all, a small, albeit feisty, organization with limited staff and resources, and there are many larger and more specialized organizations dealing with those problems. In fact, one of our strengths is that we are lean and nimble enough (not usually words associated with little old ladies!) to react quickly and meaningfully



## IN A BROAD SENSE

### Choosing our Battles

to sudden opportunities for action.

A case in point is our quick response in 2003 when Great Old Broads heeded the call of the Winter Wildlands Alliance and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. We packed our gear and joined the "Stand Up for Yellowstone" event at the west entrance of Yellowstone National Park to protest the Bush Administration's rollback of the Clinton snowmobile ban in the park. Broads made up almost half of the 60 or so protesters in

the "free speech corral," where we were warned not to raise our voices (which was ludicrous given the racket the snow machines

made). The result of the rally and other activism was a ban on unguided snowmobiles in the Park and a required switch to cleaner, quieter 4-stroke machines. Not a total victory, but a vast improvement!

### Where's that Broadwalk?

A number of our Broadwalks focus attention on wild public lands that are not being proposed as designated Wilderness, but are, in our humble opinion, still worthy of protection. These include the Roan Plateau in Colorado, Otero Mesa and the Valle Vidal in New Mexico, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina. We also have a presence in southern Utah with our Recapture Utah! Campaign in San Juan and Kane counties and more recently in upcoming forest wilderness campaigns there.

Volunteers we've trained or helped to train are active in riparian area monitoring and restoration, and of course in many states, they are using our

(continued on page 11)



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*Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a non-profit, public lands organization that uses the voices and activism of elders to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Broads was conceived in 1989 by older women who loved wilderness and organized to protect it. The wisdom of their combined years told them that the Broads could bring 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 3,500 active 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!*

*Please credit Broads for any reprinted articles.*

# FERAL EQUINE HORSE SENSE

BY RONNI EGAN

As we enter a new decade our country and, indeed, our planet are faced with myriad challenges, including the degradation of vast areas of land negatively impacted by human activities. One of the most ubiquitous of these activities is the grazing of domestic livestock, which in the United States consist of cattle and sheep, (although I've recently noticed a small herd of Tibetan yaks near my southwest Colorado home; what a treat!). Another species of domestic herbivore is also present on our American public lands; the horse. "Wild" horses have been increasingly in the news lately due to the explosion of their population and the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) efforts to manage excess horses by removing them from the ranges that they are decimating. A bill before Congress, H.R. 1018, would make it even more difficult for the agency to control their numbers, much to the consternation of conservationists, but with the support of many horse lovers and celebrities.

Great Old Broads for Wilderness has established its position in support of proper land management, based on science, and we are opposed to H.R. 1018 because it encourages poor land management practices. We have not yet, however, taken a position on the larger "wild" horse issue, mainly because it is highly emotional and generally poorly understood. The purpose of this essay is to present the facts and allow the reader to reach her own conclusions.

I begin with a statement of full disclosure about my own background. As many of you already know, my LBB (Life Before Broads) centered around horses, as a breeder, trainer, instructor, packer and enjoyer of all things equestrian. In short, I LOVE horses! Neglect or abuse of equines is abhorrent to me! I also love abundant wildlife, clean water and air, and healthy ecosystems.

Photo courtesy of Sagebrush Sea Campaign.



Now for some horse history. When Europeans arrived in "The New World" in the 15th century there were no indigenous horses or burros. They were introduced by the Conquistadores of Spain, along with cattle, sheep and swine. What are now referred to as wild horses are, in fact, descendants of these animals, as well as of subsequent escaped, stolen or abandoned animals. They are not wildlife, they are feral domestic livestock. (Yes, there were equines in North America, more than 10,000 years ago, but these went extinct for unknown reasons.)

Introduced herbivores such as cattle, sheep and horses compete with native wildlife for scarce forage. Over time, our rangelands have become seriously degraded by poorly managed livestock grazing. Increasingly, conservation efforts led by groups such as Western Watersheds Project, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Sagebrush Sea Campaign and others are finding success by encouraging land managers to manage for true multiple use rather than elevating livestock production above all other uses, including wildlife. Yet despite all efforts to control their numbers, feral equines are literally eating themselves out of house and home. Left unchecked, they will surely begin to starve, as will the wildlife and cattle that share their range.

(continued on page 14)

## 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 found 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.*



## **San Diego County Broadwalk Focuses on Beauty Mountain/Agua Tibia Wilderness Expansions**

Broads is hosting a Broadwalk May 20-24, 2010 to add support to legislation introduced in mid-December by Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Vista that would extend federal wilderness designation to 21,000 acres adjacent to the recently established Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Areas. These rugged public lands near where San Diego County and Riverside County converge on Anza Borrego Desert State Park are included in his proposal.

"This bill preserves land while ensuring that the public can still enjoy it," Issa said. "It's a responsible and sensible step toward protecting a beautiful natural resource."

Broads is working with Friends of the River and others to host our May Broadwalk. Join us! Event info is on the calendar in this issue of Broadsides and on our web site: <http://www.greatoldbroads.org/events.htm>.

## **CO Hidden Gems Campaign Provides Roller Coaster Ride**

Adjustments to the wilderness proposal continue to be made as area ranchers, climbers, mountain bikers, state and federal agencies and local communities weigh in with their support and concerns. Outspoken supporters and opponents have come together to craft boundaries that balance existing recreation uses by mountain bikers and climbers with permanent land protection. Concerns of area ranchers in spite of pre-existing grazing rights being grandfathered in the Wilderness Act

designation of major new wilderness on lands that straddle an ecologically vital portion of the Upper Colorado River watershed. For more information about the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign, go to <http://www.wildernessworkshop.org/our-work.html?page=147>.

## **San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act Moves Forward**

After working extensively for two years to ensure the proposal had a broad base of support and with the endorsement of San Miguel, Ouray and San Juan Counties, in October, 2009, U.S. Rep. John Salazar introduced legislation to permanently protect more than 61,000 acres of pristine lands in and around the San Juan Mountains and San Miguel watershed in Colorado. Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet followed with companion legislation in the Senate.

# Broads' Beat

Updates on issues that have seen Broad action



This is no shut-the-door-to-humans move. The bill would establish a campground and trailhead on the margin. An existing county road and a spur to a popular campground would remain open.

Issa's bill, a relatively inexpensive measure to protect these resources, is endorsed by such organizations as Friends of the River, California Wilderness Coalition, The Wilderness Society, Campaign for America's Wilderness, Sierra Club, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and Wilderness4All.

have led to some proposal trade-offs. These types of community dialogues and boundary adjustments often occur in order to build sufficient local support for wilderness legislation to be introduced to Congress.

The Hidden Gems calls for more than 400,000 acres to be protected as wilderness with 14 new stand alone Wilderness Areas and 26 additions to existing Wilderness Areas. It includes land in Pitkin, Garfield, Eagle and Summit counties, and the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The effort has been led by the Carbondale-based Wilderness Workshop.

"The San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act (H.R. 3914) moved an important step closer to enactment (in late January) at a hearing of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands," said Marcia Argust, Campaign for America's Wilderness Policy Manager. The overwhelming support of diverse stakeholders such as ranchers, outfitters and thousands of local residents should help this bill move easily through the congressional process.

The bill includes various levels of protection for 61,682 acres of public lands on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison and San Juan National Forests and the San Juan Resource Area (BLM) providing new critical landscape protections and linkages. The San Juan Mountain range is one of the most geologically diverse ranges in the world and is home to the threatened or endangered Canada lynx, Gunnison sage grouse, and Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Broads held a Broadwalk in the Hidden Gems in July 2009 and we continue to work with the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign to seek

## **FINANCIAL ADVISORY HELP WANTED**

The board of directors seeks a Broad or Bro with financial acumen to volunteer in an advisory capacity from time to time. If you're qualified and willing, please contact Libby Ingalls, via email, [lingalls@igc.org](mailto:lingalls@igc.org) or phone 415-346-9672 or Karen Cox via email, [twokyuba@telis.org](mailto:twokyuba@telis.org).

Broads headquarters is snuggled in the bosom of the San Juan National Forest in Durango, Colorado. Our staff and local members have participated with the development of this wilderness proposal.

To learn more about the bill, go to <http://www.house.gov/salazar/sjmw.shtml>

### **Sportsmen Join the Hunt for Organ Mountain Wilderness in Southern New Mexico**

A group of Las Cruces, NM sportsmen that included chairman of the Southwestern New Mexico chapter of Quail Unlimited and the president of the Doña Ana County Associated Sportsmen, have asked U.S. Rep. Harry Teague, D-N.M., to support legislation that will add 259,000 acres to already protected areas in Doña Ana County. In 2009, U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., introduced the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Wilderness Act.

The campaign coordinator for the New Mexico Wildlife Federation noted, "There are 30 million acres to hunt on and only 1.6 million protected," he said. "With \$165 million spent on hunting and fishing per year in the state, keeping that land protected makes economic sense."

Meanwhile scoping comments for management of BLM lands within the newly established (2009) Prehistoric Trackways National Monument are being collected. The motorized recreation community is pushing to allow for competitive rock crawling events such as the Chili Challenge to continue to impact the areas paleontological and scenic resources.

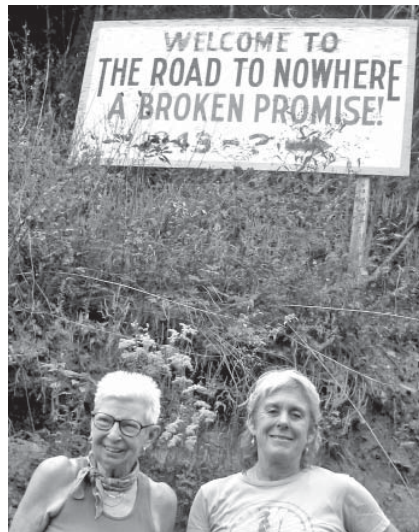
Broads hosted a Broadwalk in support of these New Mexico wilderness additions and land protections in October 2007. For more information, see the Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition website [www.donaanawild.org](http://www.donaanawild.org).

### **Swain County, NC Celebrates North Shore Road Settlement**

In a long-sought settlement, the National Park Service will pay Swain County, NC \$52 million, in lieu of constructing 29 to 34 miles of new road through the most remote and wild area of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park along the north shore of Fontana Lake. The

original county road was flooded in the 1940s when the lake filled and a replacement had been promised.

In 2005, Great Old Broads for Wilderness held a Broadwalk in support of this settlement, which provides Swain County a cash sum in return for permanently abandoning the environmentally damaging road proposal. An Environmental



*Sandra Hardenbrook and Broads ED Ronni Egan in Swain County, NC - 2005.*

Impact Statement, evaluating the natural and cultural resource impacts and costs of building the proposed road and four other alternatives, was completed by the park in 2007. Environmental and citizen groups have long argued for settlement to close the decades-long fight between the federal government and local officials.

In a ceremony on February 6, 2010 in Bryson City, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar finalized the deal, which was very welcome in this remote, rural part of North Carolina. See [southernenvironment.org/.../north\\_shore\\_road\\_settlement](http://southernenvironment.org/.../north_shore_road_settlement) for more info.

### **New Broads' web site in the works**

Broads will soon have a new web site thanks to the efforts of a few volunteers. Lyn Bain, of Chili Interactive, Inc., (<http://chiliinteractive.com>) organized the whole thing. She enlisted the help of Kathy Martinez and Fritz Duggan and we are hoping to get it up and running by late spring.

## **HeLP DIRECTOR LANDS AT GRAND CANYON TRUST**

Tim Peterson, the original director of the Healthy Lands Project (HeLP), has moved on to become the Utah Forest Wilderness Program Director for the Grand Canyon Trust. This position is a dream job for him, as he has spent over a decade on these very issues. Tim will stay in Durango, and will be consulting

on Utah forests with Great Old Broads as a member of our Advisory Board. Tim was highly instrumental in making BHP the important monitoring tool it has become, and we wish him every success in his new position. We know that Utah's wild forests couldn't find a better advocate!

## **BROADS KOKOPELLA EARRINGS**

Earrings designed especially for the Broads 20th Anniversary made their debut at the Escalante celebration. Kevin Abbot of the home-based, ecological product company Jabebo made the special design. "Usually we include the name of the organization, but in this case your Kokopella design is so terrific it was all that was needed," he said.

While many of their humorous animal designs are available in nature stores such as national parks, the Broads design is only available from our office. Being made from recycled cereal boxes, the earrings are light weight and comfortable to wear. The paper-based material has several coats of a water resistant and water-based finish that is suitable for intermittent exposure to water. Of soft shades of gold and purple, they are hung on surgical steel French hangers with ear nuts to help keep them from getting lost.

They are a great way to support Broads, and they make great gifts, too. You can view and order them on our website for \$12 per pair by clicking on Shop.



## Training

### Broadband Leader Boot Camp II

Dates: March 25-29, 2010

Location: Pack Creek Ranch, Moab, Utah

We will train a small group of Leaders in the Broads brand of advocacy - with focus on developing and maintaining a Broadband in your area.

Broadbands (our version of chapters) are groups of Broads members who seek connection with other like-minded souls for the purposes of advocating for wilderness and wild lands, sharing information,

Directors from our Board will represent Broads in workshops and by staffing a booth.

## Broadwalk

### North San Diego County Broadwalk

Dates: May 20-24, 2010

Location: Oak Grove, CA about 25 miles east of Temecula on Hwy 79

Cost: Member \$125, non-member \$150  
Broads will join the Friends of the River, the Sierra Club and other members of the North San Diego Wild Heritage Campaign in supporting Rep. Issa's bill to protect more than 21,000 acres of

To register send full payment to the Broads office or go to <https://app.etapestry.com/cart/GreatOldBroadsforWildernes/default/index.php>. Questions? Contact Rose at [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org) or 970-385-9577.

## River Trip

### San Juan River Float FUNdraiser, Southeastern Utah

Dates: June 15-19, 2010

Location: Bluff to Clay Hills Crossing, Utah

Cost: \$1,212 pp (Wild Rivers Expeditions will once again donate a considerable

# The Great Old Broads 2010 Calendar of Events

volunteering, and simply having fun with activities such as hiking or snowshoeing.

For more information, go to [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org). Interested members may nominate themselves for Boot Camp II by submitting an application at [www.greatoldbroads.org/bootcampapp.pdf](http://www.greatoldbroads.org/bootcampapp.pdf).

Questions? Contact Rose Chilcoat at 970-385-9577 or [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org)

## Conference

### Western Wilderness Conference

Date: April 1-11, 2010

Location: Univ. of California - Berkeley

Details: <http://westernwilderness.org/index.html>

The Western Wilderness Conference includes organizations from all 12 western states, including Alaska. Nearly 50 workshops, led by the nation's most effective advocates, will teach tools and strategies to strengthen wilderness advocacy campaigns.

This conference provides the tools, the connections, and the inspiration we all need to march onward toward better public land management. To register and for more information - <http://westernwilderness.org/index.html>

Broads is a sponsor of the 2010 Western Wilderness Conference and is on the conference planning committee.

Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia in north San Diego County as wilderness.

This is where Anza Borrego transitions to Beauty Mountain and its coastal sage coverings. It is home to scrub oaks right next to cactuses. Agua Tibia is even more diverse, with oaks, chapparal and conifer forests of fir and pine. It is an evolutionary hot spot that has attracted a San Diego State University research facility. These 21,000 acres are home to burrowing owls, California gnatcatchers, golden eagles, prairie falcons, an unusual variety of rattlesnake - the northern red diamond - deer, mountain lions and bobcats. Beyond flora and fauna, this land holds the rock formations that are markers of geologic time.

This is a classic Broadwalk with camping at the Cleveland National Forest's Oak Grove Campground, hikes into the wilderness proposal led by knowledgeable locals, service projects with the forest service, informational presentations on area resources and CA wilderness proposals, and lots of Broad socializing. The Sierra Club CA/NV Wilderness Committee will be meeting concurrently at Oak Grove that weekend providing extra opportunities for information exchange and fun. Cost includes camping at Oak Grove campground, delicious breakfasts and dinners each day, speakers, and more.

More details, are on our website. For details about the bill go to <http://www.friendsoftheriver.org/site/PageServer?pagename=NorthSanDiegoWilderness>.

portion of the proceeds of this float trip to Great Old Broads for Wilderness).

Join other Broads and staff in the incredibly beautiful red rock canyons of the San Juan River for this 58-mile wilderness float from Mexican Hat to Clay Hills Crossing. Wild Rivers' guides will interpret the river's exquisite Ancestral Puebloan culture and textbook geology while providing a fun experience of a lifetime. Trip orientation is the evening of June 14 at Wild Rivers in Bluff. Launch is June 15 and you will be returned to Bluff late afternoon June 19. Lodging June 14 is not included in the trip price.

Space is limited. Reserve your spot now by contacting Wild Rivers Expeditions at 800-422-7654 - [www.riversandruins.com](http://www.riversandruins.com).

## River Trip

### Gates of Lodore FUNdraiser River Trip

Dates: Jun 26-29, 2010

Location: Gates of Lodore, on the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument, Utah

Cost: \$845 per person

Holiday Expeditions is donating a portion of the proceeds of this amazing trip to Broads.

Join other Broads and staff! Your 44-mile trip starts at the "Gates of Lodore" where two 800-foot buttresses mark the beginning of a series of canyons. This trip takes you into the rugged backcountry of Dinosaur National Monument, past scenic vermilion cliffs and rainbow colored rock formations. Exciting rapids named by



John Wesley Powell and his men on their 1869 expedition will provide thrills. Disaster Falls, Triplet Falls and Hells Half Mile still challenge river runners today. You will see vermilion cliffs cut from Precambrian bedrock in Lodore Canyon, then leapfrog through time as you cross a geologic fault in Echo Park, and see rock reflect the colors of a rainbow on your last day at the entrance to Split Mountain Gorge.

To sign up for this Broad FUNdraiser or if you have questions, contact Holiday Expeditions at 1-800-624-6323. Trip info is at <http://www.bikeraft.com>.

\$125, non-member \$150

Broads is teaming with TN Wild, a coalition of organizations working toward wilderness designations on the Cherokee National Forest to offer a Broadwalk in Tennessee in an area that is ripe for wilderness legislation. Come experience the beauty of the southern hardwood forests and mountains as the fall colors peak. Details are in the works. This will be a classic Broadwalk with camping, breakfasts and dinners included in the cost. We'll update our website as the event is finalized. To register send full payment to the Broads office or go to <https://app>.

## On-Line Auction

### Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction

Dates: Oct 25-Nov14, 2010

Location: <http://auction.greatoldbroads.org>

Just in time for your holiday shopping or a bit of self-indulgence, Great Old Broads for Wilderness is hosting our sixth annual Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction fundraiser. Funds raised are used to support Great Old Broads' wilderness advocacy work.

It's not too early to donate an item! Go to <http://www.greatoldbroads.org/nadf.php>

## Broadwalk

### Tennessee Broadwalk

Dates: Sept 30-Oct 4

Location: Cherokee National Forest near Tellico Plains, TN

Cost: TBD but expected to be: member

[etapestry.com/cart/GreatOldBroadsforWildernes/default/index.php](http://etapestry.com/cart/GreatOldBroadsforWildernes/default/index.php). Questions? Contact Rose at [rose@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:rose@greatoldbroads.org) or 970-385-9577.

Preview the listings and plan your bidding strategy by going to <http://auction.greatoldbroads.org/soon>.

# 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.



© George Mathews

### • Bequest

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

### • 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!



# Study A Broad: Called by the Desert Wild - S

Broads grew up strong in the deserts of North America. Bros too. One Bro in particular cut his teeth in the shadows of saguaro, following lizard trails, digging in clay, and sifting through sand for childhood treasure.

Steve Allen grew up in Palo Alto, California. His mom was an archeologist and an M.D. "We were endlessly out in the western deserts – Washington, Nevada, Northern Mexico, Arizona – on digs," he said. His mother's sister, Betty Lee, was the

head of the archaeology department at S. Arizona University. Steve and his siblings got to tag along to "help" on the digs.

With a dad who was an avid backpacker and fisherman, and an archaeologist for a mom, Steve was destined to be a lover of the great-outdoors. "I grew up in a sleeping bag," he said. The first backpack trip Steve remembers was with his dad and two brothers into the Olympic Peninsula in Oregon. He was six or so. "We'd bag peaks while my dad fished."

His eyes set on the heights, he expected he'd be a mountaineer and went to work for a small guide school out of Telluride, Colorado during high school and college. He guided hiking and climbing trips around the Rocky Mountain region. Some of the trips took him into Utah for river trips on the Yampa and Green Rivers. "I was the first to do real slot canyoneering on Lake Powell, the San Rafael Swell, the Paria, and the Escalante," he said. "That's when I fell in love with the desert."

After a particularly fateful trip to the Weminuche Wilderness in the San Miguel Mountains of Colorado, he realized the desert was the place he wanted to be. On a solo winter trek, he had spent more than a week bivouacked on frozen mountain sides, reaching for summits from ice encrusted boulder fields. "There aren't avalanches in the desert," he noted quietly. "In the desert, every time you round a corner, there's something new – constructed stock trails, rock art,

inscriptions, another beautiful wall, or a gorgeous spring. It's a more immediate experience. In the mountains you can walk for hours rounding a hill in deep forest before you have a new view."

Steve has been visiting the southern Utah desert for 43 years. "For 20 years I sandwiched work in between trips to the desert. Then in 1988, I moved to the Utah desert full time, spending 9 months each year in the back country," he said. He wrote three guide books based on his experiences in that back country – in the slot canyons of southern Utah. Published by the University of Utah Press from 1997 – 2002, *Canyoneering*, *Canyoneering 2*, and *Canyoneering 3* guide the experienced back country canyoneer through the braided, twisting, "jigsaw puzzle of canyons, draws, gorges and washes" found in southern Utah.

Along with somewhat of a celebrity status in the canyoneering community, the guide books give Steve a distinction of authority in the environmental community. He has lived in, studied, and documented this arid region of the continent. Because of the books, he has been invited to present numerous slide shows on canyoneering - interlaced with requisite portions of desert geology, ecology, and archaeology



Steve "spots" Ronni Egan in some glorious canyon or other.



Steve and Jim Finch stroll on Staircase-Escalante National



# ‘Even in the far back country, there’s not a place without ORV tracks.’

## Steve Allen



the slickrock in Grand Monument.

- sometimes to packed houses with more than 500 in the audience.

At the moment, Steve is working on a chapter for Dr. Andrew Gulliford’s book on wilderness and ethics. He’s also completing the final edit of a 12-year book project about place names in southern Utah.

Steve met Ginger Harmon, one of the founding Broads, on a Utah backpack trip in the mid 1980s. He and Dale Johnson (Summer 2009 - Broads in the Background) were the first male

members of Broads. “At the beginning, there was some question whether or not men could be members,” Steve said. The original gang apparently saw the benefit of inclusion rather than exclusion and he and Dale signed up. “I was enthralled from the beginning,” Steve said. “Broads bring something different to the table – an older perspective that wasn’t being addressed.”

Though, he says, he can never seem to make the meetings, he’s been on and off the board of directors and/or advisory board since the inception of Great Old Broads for Wilderness in 1989. At the moment, he’s on Broads’ advisory board and organizes and/or guides one or two fundraising trips into his beloved desert for Broads each year. He has been known to work up to 10 donor trips in a year for various

advocacy groups.

The burrs under his skin these days could have come right out of a Broads’ advocacy manual: the escalation of illegal off-road vehicle (ORV) use and the destruction of vast tracts of land by the oil and gas industry. “Even in the far back country, there’s not a place without ORV tracks,” he noted. “The last administration said riding illegally was okay. And even recently in Kanab, the Federal powers that be allowed a mass ride into a gorgeous part of the Paria River that was absolutely illegal. They are letting the ORVers build and maintain trails all over southern Utah.”



Awash in Temple Wash.

“The Book Cliffs (on Utah’s border with northern Colorado) are quickly being destroyed,” Steve noted. The natural gas industry was given free hand to develop what the Environmental Working Group said is enough natural gas to supply the U.S. demand for only 257 DAYS. The industry has since carved roads, hauled noisy machinery, drilled wells, and spewed heaven knows what into the air and onto the land for less than a year’s worth of gas.

“Ultimately it comes down to politics,” Steve said. And Broads is all about letting the politicians know that we are willing and able to make the personal sacrifices for the good of the land – that Broad voices will be heard whether it’s at the gates of some hell they intend to create or in the voting booth.

- Anne Benson

## HELICOPTERS IN WILDERNESS

*(continued from page 1)*

In late February, Ronni and Broads Advisory Board members Ginger Harmon and Marcey Olajos took their objections to Idaho traveling to the Middle Fork Lodge for a first-hand look at the situation. With Idaho Fish and Game planning to start their collaring activities February 22, Broads was expected to be the first group on the ground there.

Broads have a history of beating off helicopters that try to land in wilderness. In 2006, Ginger was prepared to go to the press and/or

testify at a hearing to prevent the Forest Service from permitting Idaho Fish and Game to land helicopters in Wilderness, but the Forest Service backed down and Ginger lowered her hackles.

With luck, the Boise Federal Court issued the injunction on this latest round during the hearing scheduled for February 18 but as of this writing, it’s all still on the line.

For more information, go to the Western Watersheds Project site at <http://www.westernwatersheds.org>.

## U.S., Canada and Mexico Sign Wilderness Agreement

In what is being billed as an unprecedented commitment to wilderness conservation, officials from the U.S., Canada and Mexico signed an agreement in mid-November to collaborate to protect wilderness areas across North America.

The memorandum of understanding, signed during the WILD9 international wilderness congress, is the first multinational agreement and the first continental agreement on wilderness protection.

The cooperation agreement establishes an intergovernmental committee to exchange research and approaches that address challenges such as climate change, fire control, and invasive species in land, marine, and coastal protected areas.

With the agreement, ecological monitoring efforts such as migratory species tracking, air and water quality testing, and staff training will be better managed across the seven agencies responsible for such tasks in North America.

Mexico's Calderón administration has been pushing for a wilderness law, similar to the one adopted by the United States in 1964, and the new measure has wide support among federal lawmakers in Mexico. At this time, the only wilderness area in Mexico, created by CEMEX Corp, is the El Carmen Wilderness that borders Big Bend National Park in Texas.

For its part, the U.S. National Park Service plans to bring long-languishing wilderness proposals "off the shelf" and encourage Congress to adopt new wilderness measures, said Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service. The Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are

hopeful that enhancing cooperation across national boundaries will ensure greater connectivity between protected areas.

"Wilderness forms the essential core of protected areas, but wilderness alone will not suffice," said Sam Hamilton, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "These areas must be connected."

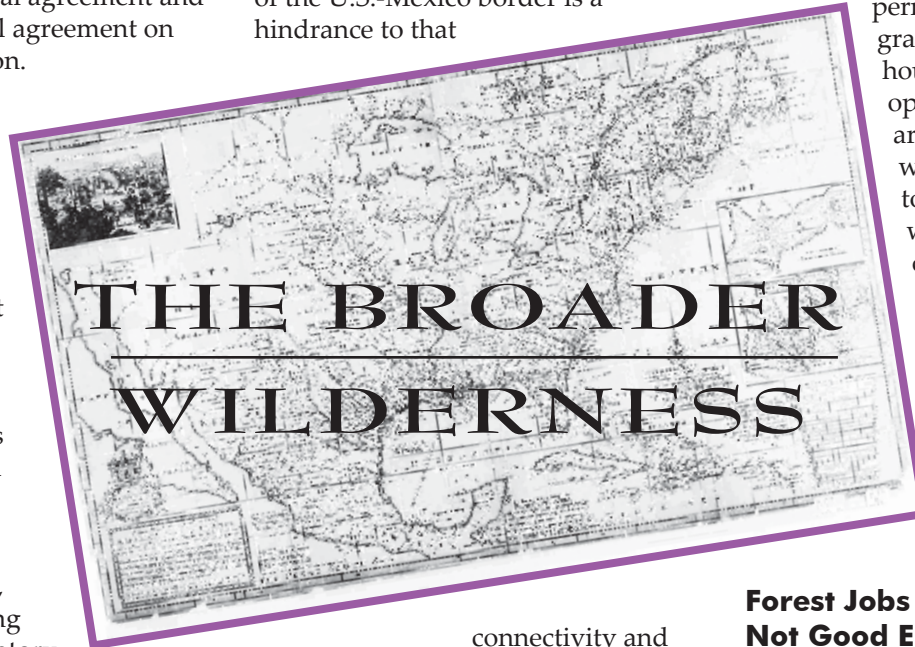
Hamilton and his co-signers acknowledged that the border fence recently erected along long segments of the U.S.-Mexico border is a hindrance to that

long Indian Creek Road. The citizen's proposal for wilderness would close this road at the first creek crossing. This is a tough compromise, but one the Coalition is willing to support.

However, significant opposition from some local groups remains. Pennington, Custer and Fall River county commissions have passed resolutions opposing the designation. Additionally, the Black Hills Multiple Use Coalition, which represents

ranchers who have grazing permits on the national grassland, as well as rock hounds and others, remain opposed. One of their overarching objections is that with no apparent threats to the national grasslands, why is wilderness designation needed.

For more information go to the South Dakota Wild Grassland Coalition website - <http://www.sdwildgrassland.org/default.asp>



connectivity and will pose challenges to achieving the goals of the new agreement. Mexico has "deep concern" about what he called "the wall" and has expressed hope that the wilderness MOU will focus further attention on the need to create cross-boundary passageways for wildlife.

## SD – Legislation Would Create First Wilderness Grassland

To the delight of the South Dakota Wild Grassland Coalition, in January, Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), introduced a bill to designate 40,000 to 50,000 acres of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland east of Rapid City as wilderness. The bill follows recommendations of the U.S. Forest Service to designate land in the Indian Creek, Red Shirt and Chalk Hills areas of the national grassland as wilderness but would, as recommended by the Forest Service, keep open the 6-mile-

## MT – Sen. Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act Not Good Enough

Great Old Broads for Wilderness has always steered clear of *quid pro quo* wilderness legislation. Having spent months studying Senator Tester's bill, Great Old Broads for Wilderness has decided we cannot support it in its current form.

The bill releases wilderness quality roadless acres to mandated logging quotas in a tradeoff for small wilderness designations, as well as designates permanent ATV trails. These are management decisions which should be made by the US Forest Service, in the name of all Americans.

The general public has not been given opportunity to voice its opinion through the NEPA process, yet select local "stakeholders" such as motorized enthusiasts, timber companies, and wilderness advocates were well represented in negotiations.



We hope that Congress will reject this harmful model for public land policy and allow the Forest planning process (with public involvement) to determine what areas can be logged and what will be open for motorized recreation.

### **CA – California Desert Protection Act of 2010 Introduced**

Introduced in late December, nearly 1.5 million acres of desert lands,

including Native American cultural areas, historic trails and a portion of historic Route 66, would be protected by Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-CA) California Desert Protection Act.

The proposed legislation will designate 394,807 acres of wilderness from the Avawatz Mountains near Death Valley to the largest Sonoran woodland in North America along the Colorado River. The legislation would also create two new national

monuments—the Mojave Trails and the Sand to Snow—and expand Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve. It will also protect important waterways such as the Amargosa River and Deep Creek as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The proposal has strong local support from a diverse group of stakeholders throughout the desert region. More info at [http://www.calwild.org/resources/Feinstein\\_Alert\\_12\\_09.htm](http://www.calwild.org/resources/Feinstein_Alert_12_09.htm)

## **Broad Sense: *Choosing our battles***

*(continued from page 2)*

Healthy Lands Project protocol and database to affect improvements in travel management. Also, we tend to hold our Broadwalks and monitoring projects in places where there is little or no local constituency for wild lands protection, in hopes of attracting and creating more advocates for those places.

Our Broadbands are gaining ground and becoming more active in their locales. Broads headquarters supports these local groups to work on issues that are within the Broads stated mission and purpose. The diversity of the communities that Broadbands inhabit – from urban to rural and from mountains to sea shore – means that their local issues vary widely. Broadbands have been known to host mini Broadwalks, conduct a wide range of service projects, and involve themselves in the political process by writing letters and visiting with elected officials.

### **Sue you say?**

Because our members have visited so many different places over the years, we are being asked more and more often to provide standing for litigation, such as in the Steens Mountain Wilderness, where the BLM illegally “improved” a road. In this instance we are partnering with the Oregon Natural Desert Association. We’ve partnered with the Rock Creek Alliance, Clark Fork Coalition, and The Wilderness Society to bring suit against Revett Minerals, which is proposing to mine

underneath the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in western Montana. Our Board of Directors works with staff to determine when our participation in litigation may be appropriate, and legal services are provided pro-bono by firms such as EarthJustice, Western Resource Advocates and Advocates for the West.

### **What’s in that bill?**

Finally, Great Old Broads for Wilderness is often asked to support, or oppose, various legislative proposals.



*Picture perfect - Montana wilds.*

Most recently, we have spent months studying Montana Senator John Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, and have found that it contains too many questionable points, such as congressionally mandated timber quotas and ATV routes, for us to support it. Great Old Broads has also recently supported the Calico Complex “wild horse gather” in Nevada, on the premise that left unchecked the population of feral equines are not only likely to begin starving to death, but

also compete with wildlife for scarce forage in an extremely arid and fragile environment.

We realize that these are controversial and emotional issues, but our vision and our mission compel us to support only those policies that promote healthy, intact wild landscapes with a full complement of wildlife, and opportunities for quiet, healthy recreation, solitude and personal freedom and that don't legislate consumptive or destructive uses.

Given the increasing clamor for resource extraction, expanding motorized recreation and other types of development, protecting our wild places requires vigilance and determination, and you can be sure that Great Old Broads for Wilderness is up for the task ahead!

### **Thank you, Broads members, for your continued support!**

None of our advocacy or outreach would be possible without the ongoing support of our fabulous membership. The results of our Year End Appeal are still coming in, and we know that you have all dug deep to support Great Old Broads this past year, even though times have been tough. Your generosity has been extremely gratifying to us, the staff and board of directors, and I just wish we had the time to call and thank everyone. Please know that every contribution, no matter the size, helps Great Old Broads for Wilderness remain strong and effective in the pursuit of permanent protection of our precious wild places!

## Boise (ID)

A dozen Broads met in January at a member's home for dinner. Discussions focused on the Idaho Fish & Game Dept's ill conceived plan to land helicopters in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness to capture and radio collar wolves. Trish Woodruff gave a snowshoe survival presentation. Future plans included the Annual Valentine's Day Snowshoe Event and another pot luck dinner with presentations on wolves and wolf management.



*On October 23, the Boise Broadband did their second clean-up of their assigned section of Hwy 55 north of Banks, ID followed by an overnight at a member's cabin.*

## Four Corners (border regions of CO, UT, NM, AZ)

With the Lakes Landscape Travel Management Plan finalized, the Four Corners Broadband is gearing up to help the San Juan Public Lands Office with trail maintenance and monitoring of adherence to the new rules. A special order has been put in place requiring motorized vehicles to stay on designated roads and trails, which means that cross-country motorized travel is no longer allowed in the Middle Mountain and East Florida areas. Motorized travel on trails in these areas is now allowed only where signs have been posted indicating motorized use is appropriate.

The Four Corners Broadband hosted the Eliza Gilkyson concert held in Durango last fall and will host Broads' Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival at the end of February.

## Wyoming

Jody Roche, of Pinedale, WY, rolled out a fledgling Broadband last September. The group adopted mile post 126 through 128 of State Highway 191 and are patiently awaiting the spring reveal. Jody will attend Boot Camp II and has great plans for her group this year.

## Florida

Florida Broads participated in two critical events in February. At the 2010 Rally for the Rivers that focused on the Ocklawaha and St. Johns rivers, the group helped to restore riverbank habitat. Then, on February 13, they united with thousands for "hands across the sands," a statewide effort to stop offshore drilling. Also, in March on International Women's Day, Broads Executive Director, Ronni Egan will join the Florida Band for a hike via ferry to Caladesi Island State Park, one of the last remaining wild barrier islands in Florida.



## Rio Grande (NM)

In late January, members braved inches of snow to join the Broads Board of Directors for a fun potluck dinner and conversation. Sue Gunkel shared info from her visit with Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) asking him to cosponsor Rep. Grijalva's (D-AZ) proposed voluntary grazing permit buyout demonstration project for AZ and expand it to include NM. Plans for monitoring and outings were discussed by the group.

**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!!





Terry Shepherd died February 10 in Anchorage, Alaska.

## CONSERVATION COMMUNITY LOSES A GOOD FRIEND

Terry Shepherd, former Executive Director of Red Rock Forests in Moab, UT and the new Director of the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies in Homer, AK, died from complications of the H1:N1 virus on February 10. Terry's tenure at Red Rock Forests brought the organization to prominence in the field of forest health protection in Utah. With Terry at the helm, Red Rock Forests was one of the most productive partner groups that Broads' Healthy Lands

Project has had to date. Dr. Andrew Gulliford of Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO said, "Her enthusiasm for eco-advocacy shone like a beacon." She may have been a bit shy of official "Broad" years, but she was a Great Old Broad through and through.

## BROADS WISH LIST

- ⇒ Passionate candidates (doers, donors, and door-openers) who will *apply for our Board of Directors*
  - ⇒ A Broad friend to donate a *digital video camera* that we can use to create YouTube type videos
  - ⇒ Members who will volunteer to become *Broadband leaders* (see sidebar on this page)
  - ⇒ Members who will *become actively 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 (contact Libby Ingalls at [lingalls@igc.org](mailto:lingalls@igc.org))
  - ⇒ 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
  - ⇒ 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 a Facebook fan* 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
  - ⇒ Our Ginger Harmon Wilderness *Essay Contest will attract sponsors*, mentoring teachers, and numerous student participants - go to [www.greatoldbroads.org/gingeressayinfo.pdf](http://www.greatoldbroads.org/gingeressayinfo.pdf) for information
  - ⇒ Healthy Lands Project (*HeLP*) *will boast numerous new partners* and our members will tell their local grassroots organizations all about how HeLP can help (visit [www.healthylands.org](http://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](mailto:broads@greatoldbroads.org).*

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## FERAL HORSES

(continued from page 3)

Feral horses were protected from abusive roundups and harassment under the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. Because there are no natural predators in the areas inhabited by most of them, principally in the arid western states, the act also provided for the management of excess animals “(1) which have been removed from an area by the Secretary (of the Interior) pursuant to application law or, (2) **which must be removed from an area in order to preserve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship in that area**” (emphasis added).

Since then, other legislation has been passed prohibiting the sale of horses (domestic or feral) for slaughter for either animal or human consumption, or the export of horses for that purpose. In the past sick, disabled and animals past their useful lives could be sold for pet food or for export, mainly to Europe. The absence of this option has led, in these harsh economic times, to the abandonment of thousands of unwanted domestic horses as well as the overpopulation of our public ranges with feral horses. Currently, the BLM must capture and then maintain excess animals on private property, mainly in the Midwest and East. The BLM's current estimate is that there are 37,000 wild horses and burros on public lands in the West, with nearly that many, 34,000, kept in government-run corrals and pastures. (Tribal representatives note that more than 20,000 wild horses on reservations were not counted in the Dept. of Interior population estimates.) In 1971, there were about 17,000 feral equines on public land. BLM spent more than

\$50 million to manage wild horses in 2009. Only a few young horses are ever adopted, most of those that are captured live out their lives in captivity, at taxpayer expense.



Photo courtesy of Sagebrush Sea Campaign.

The castration of stallions is currently prohibited because that could “disrupt the social order,” so birth control now consists of fertility control drugs administered to the mares after capture, a very expensive proposition that must be repeated every couple of years. H.R. 1018, the bill currently before the House of Representatives, would mandate, among other things, that horses captured in “gathers” designed to control numbers could only be held for 6 months, then presumably released back on to public lands. They still could not be sterilized. The bill also requires designation of “wild horse sanctuaries” on public lands, to be managed for the exclusive benefit of feral equines. (Horses, which, when left to their own resources, double in number every 4 to 5 years and will soon overgraze and expand into adjoining lands or starve.) Again, this is in direct contradiction of BLM's multiple-use mandate. Great Old Broads for Wilderness is on record in

opposition to H.R. 1018.

The Sierra Club position on feral equines is as follows: “Feral horses and burros should be eliminated from key wildlife habitat, including the desert bighorn habitat of the American Southwest, and from designated natural areas. In other situations, their numbers should be carefully regulated to minimize conflict with wildlife, livestock and other range values.” Because of pending legislation, rapidly deteriorating habitat in the arid west, and the prospect of global warming and increasing drought conditions, to say nothing of shrinking land management budgets, Great Old Broads for Wilderness has now adopted a similar stance on the “wild” horse issue. The facts simply do not support continued increase in equine numbers, either “at large” or maintained in captivity at taxpayer expense. It is certainly not humane to allow them to continue to increase, especially at a time when healthy, useful domestic animals are being abandoned by their cash-strapped owners.

Wild horse advocates insist that feral equines be considered as wildlife - that they are a majestic symbol of America's Western history. They have romantic images and sentiment on their side. But BLM Director Bob Abbey said, in an interview last summer, “If it were up to them, we would be allowing wild horses to starve to death, which is no way to honor an American icon.” If you still have doubts about how feral horses should be managed, I encourage you to seek more information. A few sources are listed below.

<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/WHandBArticle-comments.html>

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/december/calico\\_wild\\_horse.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/december/calico_wild_horse.html)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/rangelands/ecology/wildhorseburro/whb\\_faqs.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/rangelands/ecology/wildhorseburro/whb_faqs.shtml)



# 2009 Wild for Wilderness Donors!

Thanks to our many 2009 Wild for Wilderness On-line Auction donors, our fifth annual auction was a great success, netting nearly \$50,000 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.



To donate to our 2010 auction, e-mail [auction@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:auction@greatoldbroads.org) or visit our on-line donation page at [www.greatoldbroads.org/nadf.php](http://www.greatoldbroads.org/nadf.php). We are looking for corporate sponsorships as well as donations of adventure trips, outdoor gear, vacation stays, restaurant meals, and more.

Here are our amazing, wonderful, generous 2009 auction donors! Please support them as a thank you for their support of Broads.

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Born Free Safaris & Tours	Inn & Spa at Loretto	Nadine Enderlin	Terry & Bonnie Larson
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Coaching Your Future	Karen Cox & Kathleen Kershaw	Recapture Lodge	Virginia Maritime Heritage
College Drive Cafe	Karen Ryman	Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery	Foundation/ Schooner VIRGINIA
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A special thanks to our 2009 sponsors: Bank of Colorado and Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation.



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Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation has challenged Great Old Broads for Wilderness to raise \$30,000 from members and friends by the end of May. Stretch your support dollars by DONATING NOW! Go to [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org) and click on the "Join or Give" icon, e-mail us at [broads@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:broads@greatoldbroads.org), or call us at 970-385-9577.



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Dana and Dennis Waggoner of Escalante Outfitters were gracious hosts during Broads 20th Anniversary Broadwalk in Escalante, Utah last fall.

## BROADS PARAPHERNALIA

Item	Size	Cost	Qty
Broads Tee (natural-runs large)	S,M,L,XL	\$20	
Long Sleeve Tee (natural)	S,L,XL	\$22	
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Go to <http://www.greatoldbroads.org/shop.htm> to view items.

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