



BROADSIDES

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Great Old Broad Extraordinaire

Great Old Broad. Woman Wilderness Warrior. Passionate, compassionate, dedicated, strong, spunky, uncompromising, artistic, wise, cheerful, lovely, and loving. The list could go on, but there is only one woman who can fill such big shoes—Dottie Fox, Great Old Broad Extraordinaire.

After 14 years of dedication, leadership, and contributions beyond measure, Dottie has recently resigned from the Broads Board of Directors. In 1989, Dottie joined 13 other women to found Great Old Broads and commit themselves to defeating the argument that the elderly need roads to access wilderness.

Even then, there was no one better than Dottie to show Congress that the elderly didn't need roads into wilderness. Passionate for wilderness, uncompromising, and physically fit, Dottie was the archetypal Great Old Broad. Today, at 83,

Dottie is surely one of those who made me proud to be an OLD LADY and proud to be an Old Broad. —Ginger Harmon

she remains the same strong defender for wilderness and exemplar of a Great Old Broad.

How Dottie is manifests wilderness. To me, she is the best example that exists of a Great Old Broad. —Susan Tixier, past Executive Director of Broads

But long before Dottie became an

“Old Broad,” she was already working for wilderness protection. Her first serious endeavor began in the early 1970s in Aspen, Colorado, when she and two other women, Connie Harvey and Joy Caudill (the three musketeers



Dottie Fox. Photo by Stuart Ruckman

as some have called them), got together and decided that there were areas worthy of wilderness designation near Aspen. They started the Aspen Wilderness Workshop and as Dottie says, “went into it head first, feet first, and were very successful.” These three women were ultimately responsible for the wilderness designation of areas such as the Maroon Bells, Flat Top, Snowmass, the Frying Pan, and Hunter Creek.

“Dottie and her friends’ grassroots, place-based activism got these areas designated. These areas could not have been designated today,” said Bert Fingerhut, who is on the Board of Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) and past Board Chair of the Wilderness Society. “It is people like Dottie who leave us legacies that will last forever.”

Dottie’s an incredible role model. She has always said to us [her kids], rise above it. This is life. Quit whining. If you want to change something, go for it. —Jackie Chandler, daughter

Dottie’s love of wilderness extends from the high country of Colorado to the deserts of the Southwest, particularly the Grand Canyon and Southern Utah. She served for many years on the Board of Directors for SUWA and has spent countless hours hiking the canyon country. She and her partner Murray, along with her son Randy, have spent over 250 days hiking in the Grand Canyon, and in 2000 Dottie published the book, “Below the Rim,” on her adventures in the Grand Canyon.

Instantly, it’s unbelievably quiet. The Canyon lies around and below, mystical and eternal. I feel strangely detached. As the sun sinks lower, the
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2004 Events

- Otero Mesa Rally – Jan 31
- Stand Up for Yellowstone Rally - Feb 13-14 (or longer)
- Days in the Desert – May 20-23
- Gunnison Broadfloat – June 1-5
- Yaak Broadwalk – July 16-19
- Broads 15th Anniversary Broadwalk & OHV Workshop - Sept 30-Oct 4

*For details please see page 11 or visit us at www.greatoldbroads.org

Welcome to the Board



Diane Tracy from Salt Lake City, Utah has just joined Great Old Broads Board of Directors. She has been hiking and wandering the Southwest for

more than thirty years. As she puts it, “sand runs in my blood.”

Diane, who has a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation, brings to the Board of Directors not only an extensive knowledge of wilderness issues, but a passionate dedication for protecting our public lands.

She first became a Broad two years ago. Looking through a Great Old Broads brochure, she said that she was inspired by the older faces with wrinkles, knowing that she could relate to these women. “As I read the brochure I saw that these old women were fighting against statements like Utah Congressman Orrin Hatch’s that the elderly need roads into wilderness. I could tell these women would be out hiking until the end.”

Diane’s main focus will be in helping to direct Broads Off-Highway Vehicle program. We believe that she will be a tremendous strength in giving Great Old Broads the direction and determination to continue onward in our battle for protection of wild lands. Welcome, Diane.

Board Member Updates



In September Western Watershed Project hired Broads board member Katie Fite in a new position as the organization’s biodiversity director.

“One of my aims is to get more people out to areas like the Owyhee Canyonlands to show them firsthand what livestock are doing to their public lands and waters, from devouring sage grouse nesting cover to choking redband trout streams with sediment and waste,” said Katie.

Katie will be responsible for monitoring BLM and Forest Service management of public lands across southern Idaho, all of Nevada and eastern Oregon.



The Wilderness Society has recently launched an Eastern Forest Program to unite and support conservationists throughout the East. “With

millions of acres of private forest land up for sale, we have a huge opportunity to protect some of the wildest lands in the East,” explains Julie Wormser, who heads the conservation funding campaign and is also a member of Great Old Broads.

In conjunction with its new program, the Wilderness Society has opened the Eastern Forest Action Center, created to provide additional help for alliance partners. “A top priority,” notes policy analyst Mary Krueger, “is to help citizen activists to secure ecologically strong plans from the Forest Service.

Fran Hunt, who is on the Broads Board, has been hired as the new Center’s director. “Our staff will have ecological, economic, media, organizing, and land planning expertise. All of our tools will be made available to citizens working to protect eastern forests,” said Fran.

Staff

Veronica Egan, Executive Director
Rose Chilcoat, Programs Director
Becky Lindberg, *Broadsides* Editor
Larry Eads, Grantwriter

Board of Directors

Libby Ingalls, Chair, San Francisco, CA
Kathryn Robens, Sec’y, Santa Fe, NM
Karen Cox, Treasurer, Nevada City, CA
Karen Fischer, Fond du Lac, WI
Katie Fite, Boise, ID
Ginger Harmon, Ketchum, ID
Fran Hunt, Washington, DC
Cecelia Hurwich, Berkeley, CA
Edith Pierpont, Santa Fe, NM
Diane Tracy, Salt Lake City, UT

Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a non-profit, public lands organization that uses the voices and activism of elders to increase, protect, and preserve wilderness.

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness was conceived in 1989 by older women who loved wilderness and organized to protect it. The wisdom of their combined years (more than three centuries!) told them that the Broads could bring knowledge, commitment, high spirits, and humor to the movement to protect our last wild places on earth.

Today, the Great Old Broads has over 2,000 active members throughout the United States. 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!

In A Broad Sense

Winter is finally upon us, and the naked trees and sere grasses tell us the land has settled in for a long winter's rest. While the natural processes that support life have slowed down for the moment, the attacks upon our cherished public lands have not. In fact, they've increased dramatically.

Many of the initiatives promulgated by the Bush administration through acts of Congress, by executive orders, by agency regulatory changes, and through back-room deals with extractive interests and industry, have begun to take effect. The environmental community is reeling from the impacts of these assaults, which are not only rolling back hard-won protections for the health of our citizens and our natural resources, they are also seriously curtailing avenues for citizen participation in management decisions that affect our public lands.

With so many of our "official" mechanisms for input being cut off, grassroots activism is more important than ever. Great Old Broads has the good fortune to have created a number of opportunities for just such involvement. Our newest Board member, Diane Tracy of Salt Lake City, UT, has developed a very sophisticated but user-friendly system for monitoring Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) damage which can be used by citizens and agency personnel alike (see story in July 2003 BroadSides, or visit www.greatoldbroads.org). We will be seeking funding in 2004 to make this program available nationwide so that it will be possible for anyone going out on the land to document

conditions they find and record them in a central database for use in land management decisions. We'll be offering our first-ever OHV Monitoring Workshop in the fall of 2004, to train activists in this highly important task.

Livestock grazing continues to be one of the chief causes of damage to

Wilderness Protection



our Western public lands. We will once again be offering our Days in the Desert training for grazing activists. This year, we will have a new, easier to use system available, making citizen participation in grazing management plans more likely.

Great Old Broads is also a member of the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign, which has succeeded in getting the National Public Lands Voluntary Grazing Permit Buyout Bill introduced in Congress. This bill offers a generous \$175 per Animal Unit Month (the amount of forage needed for a cow and calf for one month) to holders of Federal Grazing Permits, to permanently retire their allotment from livestock grazing.

Perhaps the greatest threat to wilderness quality lands has been the Bush administration's energy policy. Although the energy bill has been put on hold until Congress reconvenes in January, it will certainly be high on the agenda at that time. Drilling in the

by **Ronni Egan**

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is not included at the moment, one of the environmental community's few "wins" in 2003, but the bill does contain numerous provisions to "expedite" and "streamline" energy development on federal lands. Among other things, it will force the Bureau of Land Management to make final decisions on drilling permit applications within 30 days, seriously compromising citizens' ability to scrutinize and/or challenge those decisions. It also exempts all "field activities or operations" associated with exploration and production of oil and gas from the Federal Water

VS. Wilderness Destruction



Pollution Control Act, which has far reaching implications for our public lands.

Wild lands that are squarely in the Administration's "sights" include all of Southern Utah's spectacular canyon country, a large portion of which has lost all wilderness protections since Interior Secretary Norton's No-More-Wilderness deal with former Utah Governor/current EPA Director Mike Leavitt. Colorado's awesome Roan Plateau and the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in the Four Corners are also targeted for rapid energy development. We are planning several "Broadband" activities in these areas next year. Stay tuned!

"Make no mistake about it," as our erstwhile President might say, the public's land, water, air, and wildlife are under direct attack from those who would use up as much of our resources as possible "while the gettin's good!"

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Tribute to Dottie Fox

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blazing reds become subdued and a purple haze rises to absorb the pink towers and buttes. An unreal hush covers all. A shiny black raven skims overhead with a soft swish of its wings. Time stands still. Silence is everywhere. —Dottie Fox, “Below the Rim”

The connection Dottie feels with the earth is evident in all she does, in her serenity, light-heartedness and groundedness.

—Libby Ingalls

But what stands out most about Dottie is not just her dedication to preserving wilderness, but the way that Dottie exudes wilderness in every part of her life. “Dottie’s passion for wilderness, when you say that in a sentence they appear to be three separate words,” says Susan, “but passion cannot be separate from Dottie, and Dottie cannot be separate from wilderness.”

Her passion for wilderness is unbounded. Passion doesn’t really describe it; it’s her air, food, blood.



Dottie with a big grin, despite the cuts and scrapes from a day of hiking.

Everything pales compared to it. Wilderness just feeds her. —Jackie

As a watercolor painter, Dottie’s artwork also helps to feed both her love of wilderness and her activism. “I paint what I love,” says Dottie. “If I can paint things like this [wilderness areas], hopefully people will be inspired to save it.”

However, Dottie’s art/activism doesn’t stop there. With a small laugh, Dottie acknowledges that she has continued to push her activism agenda at Colorado Mountain College, where she has taught watercolor painting for 20 years. “Even when I teach I slip in comments,” she says, “it’s a nice way of subtly and not so subtly getting the message across. If we don’t work to save these areas, they won’t be there to protect.”

Dottie is a dedicated activist who has seen the “big” picture for a long time and has put many hours into doing something about it.

—Karen Fischer

She’s skilled, but it’s more than that,” says Jackie, “She doesn’t paint from a picture, but from what she’s seen and felt—it comes from her heart. Wilderness, the canyonlands, just come alive when she paints.”

Her painting is somehow analogous to her wilderness work. Her watercolors are like a medium through which wilderness is expressed. —Susan

Perhaps though, the greatest gift that Dottie has given to Great Old Broads and others is her inspiration and her example of how to change the world. “I’m 54 now,” her daughter Jackie says, “and I would have thought that this would be my downslide, but my mother has shown me that this is just the beginning of life. You live each day to its fullest and each day you make a difference.” —BL

Broads Gather in Idaho



Ginger Harmon and Tom Pomeroy at the Ketchum, Idaho gathering.

This year’s annual Broads Board of Directors meeting was held in Ketchum, Idaho. Sybil Hansen generously donated the use of her house for a local Broads gathering and silent auction fundraiser in which Broads raised over \$1,500. A big thanks to all of our Idaho supporters!

Broad Sense

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Great Old Broads is a charitable organization, and therefore not permitted to advocate for any political candidates. There are no rules however, that prevent me from urging each and every Great Old Broad to become educated about issues important to you, and to stand up and speak out with all the Broadness that’s in you. Then, be sure to vote in the primaries and the general election. Take a friend with you. Better yet, start a Broadband, and go to the polls together!

Finally, this month your Board of Directors is saying farewell to one of our founding members, Dottie Fox of Aspen, Colorado, who is retiring “to let someone younger” onto the Board. An intrepid outdoorswoman, Dottie inspires everyone she meets with her wisdom, beauty, and talents. She is, indeed, the archetypal Great Old Broad, and we’ll miss her input on the Board.

Margaret Murie—The Great Old Grandmother of Wilderness

Known as the Grandmother of the Conservation Movement, Margaret (Mardy) Murie spent her life dedicated to the preservation of wild places and was a true example of a



Great Old Broad for Wilderness. She was made an honorary Great Old Broad for Wilderness on her 100th birthday and will continue to be a guiding force in the conservation movement and to all Great Old Broads.

Mardy was born in Seattle in 1902, but grew up in the frontier town of Fairbanks, Alaska, where she first developed a love for wild lands. In 1924, shortly after becoming the first woman to graduate from the University of Alaska, Mardy met her husband, Olaus Murie, a young biologist, who was studying the caribou for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They then embarked on a 550-mile honeymoon journey into the Arctic wilderness by boat and dogsled. From Olaus, Mardy gained a deeper understanding of the natural world, and she immersed herself in it.

For the next two decades Mardy and Olaus, often with their children, made many trips into the wilderness of Alaska and the mountains surrounding Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where Olaus had been sent to study the biology of North American elk.

They also worked tirelessly as advocates for wilderness. In 1944, Olaus retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to serve as Director, and later President, of The Wilderness Society.

The designation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1960 was a major victory and a fitting high point in Olaus' and Mardy's lifelong partnership dedicated to the protection of wild places. A second major victory was the Wilderness Act, signed into being in 1964.

Mardy worked for short periods of time for the Izaak Walton League, the Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society, but she always returned to the home she loved, her and Olaus' ranch in Moose, Wyoming, which is now the Murie Center—devoted to providing a place of insights and inspiration for all those dedicated to conservation. From that house in the woods in Moose, Wyoming, Mardy began to shine, writing letters and articles, traveling to hearings, making speeches. She returned to Alaska to survey potential wilderness areas for the National Park Service and worked on the Alaska



National Interest Lands Conservation Act that was signed by President Carter in 1980. Her tireless efforts as a conservation advocate preserved some of the most important wilderness areas left on the planet.

Mardy's strong belief in the value of wild places and her steadfast defense of them will be carried on by many. All who knew her will miss her humor, kindness and grace. Mardy's words at the end of *Two in the Far North* embody what we Great Old Broads continue to work for:

Do I dare to believe that one of my great-grandchildren may someday journey to the Sheenjek and still find the gray wolf trotting across the ice of Lobo Lake? Yes, I do still dare to believe!

—Information and photos provided by The Murie Center.

Broads Has a Whole New Look!

If you haven't visited us online at www.greatoldbroads.org recently, please do! Our new web site is easy to use and will keep you up-to-date on important wilderness issues and Broads events. Here are just a few of the things you can do online now:

- Donate – Give online using a credit card or our print and mail form.
- Memberships – Renew or give a gift membership online.
- Events – Find out all the details about our upcoming events.
- Newsletter – Now you can read *Broadsides* online.*
- Shop – It's easy to get a new Broads t-shirts, bags, and other goodies with our print and mail form.

*If you would like to be notified by email when Broadsides is available online and stop your regular printed publication of Broadsides, please email: rose@greatoldbroads.org

** If you have any difficulties with the web site, please email: becky@greatoldbroads.org

Vivid Memories of Vermont

A two-minute spot on the Vermont CBS affiliate nightly news and a front page story in the Rutland Herald, Vermont's statewide newspaper, have made Broads first foray to the eastern United States an enormous success, bringing wide-spread attention to important areas that need wilderness designation.

However, without a handful of Broad's members willing to start a Vermont Broadband, a supportive Congressional delegation willing to introduce legislation in Congress in 2004 for new Vermont Wilderness, and a broad grassroots coalition of wilderness supporters who have laid a strong foundation of public support within the state, our success at drawing attention to Vermont's wilderness needs would not have been possible.

Broad member Jan Waterman, recently moved to Vermont, and Julie Wormser, New England Regional Director for The Wilderness Society, took on pulling a Vermont Broadband together and generating ideas and

support for a Broadwalk. With a number of meetings during the past year, they helped us garner support, get the word out, and generate ideas for locations and speakers. What fabulous Broads and what a great example of what a dedicated Broadband can do for wilderness lands in their area!



Ellen Viereck, hiking in Vermont. Photo by Ann Gambrino

Our Broadwalk was based at Knoll Farm near Waitsfield, Vermont. Helen Whybrow and Peter Forbes acquired this historic farm (complete with fantastic huge old barn!) from the Vermont Land Trust and established The

Center for Whole Communities (wholecommunities.org). What gracious hosts! We camped on a hillside in a lovely grove of trees adjacent to a sloping meadow with stunning views of the Mad River Valley. While we had "what turned out to be THE rotten weekend of the fall," the cold, windy, rainy weather didn't dampen our spirits as we snuggled under blankets on comfy sofas in the unheated (but dry and warmer than outside!) barn to listen to our various speakers.

Our Broadwalk began on a Thursday afternoon in early October as we gathered, pitched tents, got acquainted, and settled into our lovely venue. Dinner that night was the first of days of fabulous feasts of locally grown, organic, healthful

food lovingly prepared for us by cook Elizabeth Jesdale and her assistant (and mother) Natalie. The third floor of the barn, sporting tables for a crowd, was our dining area. A huge pot of hot homemade soup accompanied each delectable dinner inspiring requests for copies of recipes. Our copious supply of Ben & Jerry's ice cream languished in the freezer as we completed our meals with Elizabeth's homemade dessert sensations. No cooking outside in the rain for this intrepid group of Broads!



This is clearly a job for C... has the passion and dedic... out of the wilderness?! PH

Jim Northup, Executive Director of Forest Watch, the regional conservation organization, joined us Thursday evening to give a presentation on the Vermont Wilderness Proposal. His appetite plummeted upon discovering he had left his computer on the roof of his car for the drive to the farm. Upon retracing his steps however, he found his computer unscathed on the ground where he had backed up his car enroute to the farm. Jim gave our group of Broads the background of wilderness in Vermont and introduced us to the concept of "restoring wilderness," as many of the areas in the proposed wilderness additions for Vermont had been intensively logged, but the land is



Now, it's up, up, and a... culvert. Photo by Ann



Broads gathered in the barn, snuggled under blankets ready to listen to an evening of great speakers. Photo by Ann Gambrino



*Old Broads—who else
would get this thing
moved? Photo by Ann Gambrino*

recovering and in need of permanent protection.

Friday morning dawned brisk, but clear. After a hearty breakfast we piled into cars to drive to Texas Falls where we met Jim Northup for our media event/work project. Jim arranged for Kristen Carlson with the statewide CBS affiliate, WCAX-TV, and Susan Smellheer of the Rutland Herald, the statewide newspaper, to meet with us. Our task was to remove a 20 foot long, 24 inch diameter piece of culvert that the U.S. Forest Service had abandoned over 20 years ago in an area now proposed as a wilderness addition. No small task!



*Way with that 'ole
Photo by Ann Gambrino*

But with 25 or so Broads, young and old, male and female, working cooperatively and creatively together we were able to move the beast from its resting place buried in decades of leaves and forest debris and carry it nearly a half a mile, including across a long narrow footbridge, to a place where it could more handily be cut up and removed.

Needless to say, this incredible feat provided plenty of photographic fodder for the press and we all spoke with passion about the need for wilderness protection. Our hard work was paid handsomely with a two-minute segment on the CBS Friday

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Ben & Jerry's Meets the Great Old Broads by Ronni Egan

The Vermont Broadwalk provided the perfect opportunity for Great Old Broads to make a visit to one of our funders, Ben and Jerry's of Burlington, Vermont. We had been the recipients of a generous grant earlier in the year and making a presentation at their corporate headquarters, during what they called a "Brown Bagger" lunch, attended by employees and by their grant-making Board, seemed a great way for us to let them see Great Old Broads in action.

The audience of nearly 60 munched happily on pizza and salad (ice cream to follow), as I extolled the virtues of "Broadness" and described Broadwalks, Broadfloats and our various monitoring activities.

After my presentation, Rose as the "Quizmaster," gave a wilderness quiz. Almost everyone stayed in the room to participate, and there were many who had questions and comments. Rebecca Golden, Director of the Ben and Jerry's Foundation, commented that they rarely got to meet the people their Foundation funds, and seemed genuinely pleased to see who we are and what we do. We had the opportunity to stop by the office on our way out of town after the Broadwalk and present them with copies of the front page story that

appeared in the Rutland Herald, illustrating that Broads had been very active right in their own backyard!

Possibly the most rewarding part of the whole experience was when,



A little shirt swapping, as Ben & Jerry employees don Broads tees and Broads pose in Ben & Jerry shirts, for once not minding the cows. Photo by Ann Gambrino

on our way out of the lobby, we were given several large shopping bags, directed to a large chest-type freezer near the door, and urged to "take all the ice cream we wanted!" For a person with a real "sugar addiction" this was a dream come true! We loaded up on Chunky Monkey, Chubby Hubby, Peace Pops and other delectables, and waddled out the door.

Upon returning to the home of Barbara Waters, our generous hostess in Burlington, we proceeded to fill her home freezer with our "booty" We took a lot of it to the Broadwalk, where we didn't consume a great deal of it, owing to the frigid temperatures outdoors! Poor Barbara is stuck with what appears to be a lifetime supply of Ben and Jerry's. I guess we'll just have to return next year and help her eat it!

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evening news and a Sunday front-page article in the Rutland Herald! The lead-in for the TV spot was, “It was the name, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, that caught our attention.”

Our sunny picnic lunch break included an interesting presentation by F.S. Recreation Planner, Pam Novitzky, about the Green Mountain National Forest’s forest plan revision process. A dilemma, wait the several years required in order to integrate the USFS recommendations for wilderness, or move forward with possible Congressional protection now. Protection now was our consensus.

With only a small window of good weather predicted, we decided to reward ourselves with a leaf splendid afternoon hike to an overlook in the Breadloaf Wilderness near Middlebury. Sharing the trail with Ellen Viereck, an 80-something true Vermonter Great Old Broad, was a real treat.

Saturday morning brought some choices: a hike led by published plant ecologist, Liz Thompson and Hillary Besse of the organization Keeping Track, to a newly protected area, Preston Pond, or for those opting for a warmer, drier activity we had Nona Estrin of Conservation Artists lead a group in nature sketching. For those who chose the ecology hike, our two knowledgeable guides passion for land protection and for sharing their vision kept us from wishing we were inside someplace warm and dry.

The morning’s cold steady soaking rain took its toll. Only 3 of us were crazy enough to want to continue to be outside but the lure of ancient huge hardwood trees was too much. We drove to meet famed Forest Watch staffer, Mollie Matteson (of *Welfare Ranching*), for our guided hike into the Battell remnant old growth forest. What an experience, hugging centuries old trees rising from mossy

Transported to Vermont

by Karen Fischer

Great Old Broads first ever Eastern Broadwalk was happening in Vermont and I wanted to be there. Having never been to Vermont, the lure of seeing the fall leaves and enjoying the wonderful company and cause of the Great Old Broads was too much to resist. The Greyhound bus offered a ticket price I could afford...but 31 hours one way? Being with the Broads I decided, old and new, was worth much more than the disruption of my comfort zone.



Barbara Waters shows off her freezer full of Ben & Jerry's. Photo by Ann Gambrino

My trip started off in Milwaukee, where I sat next to a 73 year old African-American woman. She had been in Milwaukee visiting her son who had been “buckshot” in the chest by a friend and hunting buddy who had mistaken him for a squirrel.

From there it was onto Ohio, Rochester to Syracuse, and then on to Albany, where the road was bumpy and there were lots of stops for toll booths. The Hudson River rolled alongside us for a while, glimmering with beautiful old ships in the harbor.

Albany to Burlington was the most beautiful part of the trip, with woods, mountains, and emerging fall colors. Bennington and Rutland

were delightfully well groomed little towns with well kept Victorian houses.

Pat from Sydney, Australia was on the final leg of the journey. She is in her late 60’s and a rower with the Sydney Masters Rowing Club. (Funny how these Great Old Broads keep turning up).

ARE WE THERE YET? The Burlington station was now in sight and right there are the Great Old Broads Rose, Ann, JoAnn and Barbara. What a comforting sight! After delicious food, drink, and conversation, it was off to Barbara Water’s house (our Burlington hostess), where we all became better acquainted and the laughter continued as photographs of a freezer full of Ben and Jerry’s ice cream were snapped. This trip was certainly going to be worth the ride!

berms and shrouded in foggy mists. Little red efts (salamander-like creatures) and the changing leaves provided spots of color in an otherwise very dark, rainy afternoon that was nonetheless magical.

Saturday evening we shared yet another delectable dinner with lively conversation and companionship. Local Broads, such as staffer Ruth Lovald from Senator Leahy’s office, joined us for the evening. Our program was an inspiring talk by Heather Dowey, The Wilderness

Society’s local staff person, about the current state of wilderness and the importance of being involved advocates for wild places.

Sunday brought somewhat improved weather and more choices of outings. A large contingent opted to explore the Battell Old Growth Preserve with Jim Northup. A smaller group had hoped for a ridgeline hike with stunning views, but found itself snowed out! Wisely we opted to lower our sights, and elevation, and chose a

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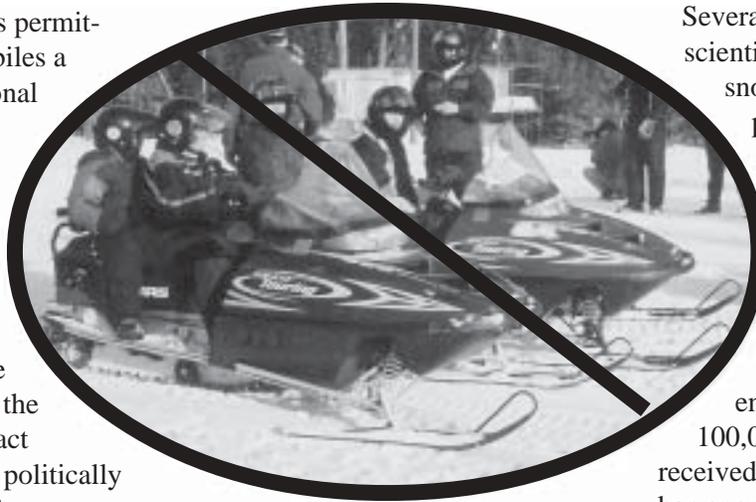
A Big Win for Yellowstone and Environmentalists

After a depressing year on the wilderness forefront, there is cause for celebration. On December 16th, the day before Yellowstone was slated to open to snowmobiles, a federal district judge struck down the Bush administration's regulations permitting almost 1,000 snowmobiles a day into Yellowstone National Park.

Judge Emmet Sullivan said the Clinton administration's decision to phase out snowmobile use in Yellowstone should not have been reversed. He indicated in a footnote that the revised environmental impact statement "was completely politically driven and result oriented."

Judge Sullivan wrote, "In 2001, the rule making process culminated in a finding that snowmobiling so adversely impacted the wildlife and resources of the parks that all snowmobile use must be halted." Yet, he continued, "a scant three years later,

the rule-making process culminated in the conclusion that nearly 1,000 snowmobiles would be allowed to enter the park each day." The ruling included a footnote saying that "there



is evidence in the record that there is no explanation for this change."

While Sullivan's ruling is a major breakthrough, it will not immediately close Yellowstone to snowmobiles. Under the Clinton rule, a two-year phase out of snowmobiles was to

implemented. This winter snowmobiles will be limited to about 490 a day, and if the judge's ruling stands, by next winter a full snowmobile ban will be in effect.

Several studies by Park Service scientists have found that banning snowmobiles is the best way to protect the park's wildlife, air quality, and natural quiet. Furthermore, in 2002, 360,000 public comments were received asking 4-1 that snowmobiles be banned. In a more recent public comment period that ended early this fall, over 100,000 public comments were received with almost a 99% request to ban snowmobiles.

Arguments by the Park Service that the Bush administration's plan was based on new, cleaner snowmobile engines that weren't considered when the earlier Clinton-era ban was drafted were dismissed by Sullivan. He wrote, "The prospect of new technology is not 'new,'" and noted that less-polluting machines were considered and rejected when the Clinton administration was deciding how to reduce the harmful effects of snowmobiling.

In countering the Park Service's argument that the Bush administration's plan would strike a balance between its dual mission of protecting the park while allowing visitors to enjoy it, Sullivan wrote, "Quite simply, [the National Park Service's] conservation mandate can rarely be trumped by other considerations." Sullivan's strong sentiments in defense of conservation-minded policies, as well as his recent ruling, will hopefully go a long way in protecting Yellowstone and other national parks.

Vermont Continued

lovely hike up the Clark Brook Trail into the Breadloaf Wilderness with Mick Petrie as our guide. After our hike, we explored our way back to Knoll Farm speaking with many tourists about Vermont Wilderness and asking them to sign letters of support.

More fabulous food and we all snuggled into our blankets for our last evening together—this time a program about wolves in the Northeast by Peggy Struhsacker of the National Wildlife Federation. So many interesting environmental issues, threatened resources (both plant and animal), incredible landscapes, and economic needs can be tied to our roadless wild areas. Small fragments

are not enough. We need to think in terms of ecoregions, connectedness of wild places to each other, of human and wildlife needs for space and solitude.

The less than 1% of Vermont that is protected as wilderness is not enough. More land, with strategic connections, needs to be set aside to protect and restore the region's diversity of native plants and wildlife. East or West, the need is great and there is much work to do.

-Rose Chilcoat is Program Director for Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Learn more about Vermont Wilderness at www.vermontwilderness.org.

—Information gathered from the Salt Lake Tribune and New York Times

Voluntary Grazing Buyout Bills Introduced

After a lot of hard work, vision, and persistence by many conservationists, a new bill advocating for the voluntary buyout of public lands grazing allotments could finally be the answer we've been looking for to protect federal public lands in the West from poor grazing land management.

Representative Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) and Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) have introduced legislation to enact a voluntary federal grazing permit buyout program that would compensate public lands ranchers and could eventually protect 257 million acres of federal public lands in the United States.

The Voluntary Grazing Permit Buyout Act (H.R. 3324) would allow federal public lands ranchers to waive their interest in grazing permits in exchange for compensation in the amount of \$175/animal unit month (or AUM, the amount of forage to sustain one cow and calf for one month). The bill authorizes \$100 million for the program, enough money to retire an estimated 7.8 million acres of federal lands grazed by domestic livestock. The Arizona Voluntary Grazing Permit Buyout Act is a similar bill that applies specifically to Arizona.

"Buying out federal grazing permits is good for western states and the entire nation," said Shays. "It benefits our nation's environment and budget, while providing a lucrative offer to ranchers who want to sell their permits."

"This legislation will go a long way toward resolving the ongoing and contentious debate on public lands grazing in the West," said Grijalva. "Congressman Shays and I have introduced a bill that will give much-needed relief to ranching families suffering the results of drought and other economic factors. At the same time, the bill will allow for the

restoration of public lands that are no longer suitable for grazing."

Under both bills, the public lands allotment associated with a grazing permit would be permanently retired from commercial livestock grazing and the forage re-allocated to wildlife and watersheds. The bills are designed as pilot programs to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the approach.

"It's a relief that Congress is finally seeing past all the theories and paying attention to the reality on the ground," said John Whitney III, a fourth-generation rancher who holds the largest U.S. Forest Service grazing permit in Arizona. Whitney's 158,000-acre Sunflower allotment in Tonto National Forest northeast of Phoenix has been closed for three years because of drought.

The buyout program was conceived by the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign, which seeks to end abusive livestock grazing on America's public lands. The goal of the NPLGC is to provide a solution to the largest conservation issue in the West—livestock grazing—and a financial alternative for cash-strapped public lands ranchers with investments stranded in grazing permits.

The buyout proposal was introduced to nearly 26,000 public lands ranchers in April 2002. It is endorsed by nearly 200 conservation groups, including Great Old Broads.

In a recent poll conducted by the Arizona Grazing Permit Buyout Campaign, 154 permittees (68 percent of all respondents) of the state's 870 federal public lands ranchers supported the bill. Eleven others have since added their support.

"We know this is just the tip of the iceberg," said John Whitney IV,

steering committee chairman of the Arizona buyout campaign. "A lot of permittees have told us they support a buyout, but they just couldn't believe it would ever happen. Well, now it is happening."

If all federal grazing permittees availed themselves of the buyout offer, the plan would effectively retire a federal welfare program that costs American taxpayers more than \$500 million annually in subsidies for public lands ranching operations. A



This new bill offers new hope that one day our public lands won't look like this!

complete buyout of all federal public lands grazed by livestock would cost taxpayers \$3.1 billion but provide a net savings of \$12.6 billion.

Federal public lands produce only 2 percent of the nation's total livestock feed and beef. Contributions from public lands grazing to state and local economies are miniscule. As the cost of ranching continues to increase, the capital value of federal grazing permits continues to decline.

The Shays-Grijalva bills would pay federal permittees well above market value to relinquish their grazing permits. Under the plan, a permittee with 300 cow/calf pairs that graze public lands for five months of the year would receive \$262,000.

—Information provided by the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign. For more information visit www.publiclandsranching.org

Great Old Broads 2004 Calendar of Events

Otero Mesa Rally – Kimo Theater, Albuquerque, NM

Date: January 31, 2-6pm (no cost)

Join other Broads and citizens to create a voice of support for preventing drilling in the Otero Mesa region of southern New Mexico. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is due out any day, leaving little time to prevent drilling in this ruggedly beautiful wild area. Senator Domenici needs to know how we feel – be there!

Stand Up for Yellowstone Rally

Date: Feb 13-14 (or longer)

Cost: On your own (meals, travel, lodging); can room-share to reduce cost

Although the court ruling on snowmobiles in Yellowstone, was in our favor, it is vulnerable to all sorts of appeals. To continue to voice our support for protecting the Park, we are returning to West Yellowstone, Montana to reinforce Judge's decision and show businesses of West Yellowstone that there are significant numbers of human-

powered visitors who will come if given a chance at a quality experience. We will gather Friday evening in West Yellowstone for a briefing and socializing. Saturday includes a pre-rally breakfast and sign making time, then rally from 8-10am. Afterwards, join other folks at the Old Faithful Snowlodge and ski the area or explore in West Yellowstone. Please consider joining us so our message remains strong!

Days in the Desert III – Moab, UT

Date: May 20-23

Cost: \$90 incl. meals and camping

Join Broads near Moab, Utah for our third annual training on how to determine the health of riparian areas. Become a trained observer and activist, able to effectively communicate the devastating effects of poor grazing.

Gunnison Broadfloat – Delta, CO

Date: June 1-5

Cost: \$125 incl. food, gear, & shuttles

The lower Gunnison River, an easy scenic float, provides access to the

canyons of Big and Little Dominguez Creeks. A new push for wilderness protection for these areas is underway. We will camp two nights at the mouth of Dominguez Canyon giving us ample time to hike and explore the many waterfalls, pools, and sweet spots so we may add our experienced voices to the call for its protection.

Yaak Broadwalk – Yaak, MT

Date: July 16-19

Cost: \$90 incl. meals and camping

Join us this summer in Montana's only rain forest, the Yaak Valley, where you will be captivated by this logging-scarred but unique and haunting landscape, which is currently threatened by increased ATV and snowmobile incursions. Hike its roadless areas, meet members of the Yaak Valley Forest Council, including well-known author and activist Rick Bass, and hear about how you can contribute to our efforts to achieve wilderness designation for Yaak roadless lands.

Broads' 15th Anniversary

Broadwalk/Conference & OHV Workshop – near St. George, UT

Date: September 30-Oct 4

Cost: \$125 incl. meals and camping

Broads is celebrating its 15th anniversary in southern Utah outside of St. George, Utah, at Snow Canyon State Park. Spectacular hiking, excellent speakers and presentations are scheduled. We will also be holding our first OHV Monitoring Workshop, where activists will be trained in monitoring and collecting data on OHV use (and abuse). Comfortable camping or motel accommodations are available. Join us in celebrating 15 years of wilderness advocacy and camaraderie.

—To reserve your spot for any of these events, send a \$50 deposit per person to Great Old Broads for Wilderness. More information is also available at www.greatoldbroads.org

Comments on Grazing Rules Needed

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has recently released proposed revisions to the current grazing regulations for public lands and a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for these changes. The public comment period is open until **March 2, 2004**. Please make sure to take the time to comment! Here are a few of the things we are concerned with:

- 1) Proposed grazing rules will perpetuate a subsidized industry and make it more difficult for the public to be involved in decisions.
- 2) The new rules remove an existing requirement to involve the interested public before managers issue, renew or modify a grazing permit.
- 3) The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that once BLM determines livestock are the cause of resource damage, land managers must change management before the next grazing season—new rules will do away with this.

Public comment meetings are scheduled 6-10:00pm in the following cities:

Jan. 27 - Salt Lake City, UT

Feb. 3 - Cheyenne, WY

Jan 28 - Phoenix, AZ

Feb. 5 - Washington, D.C.

Jan 31 - Boise, ID

*Mail comments to: Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, Attention: RIN 1004-AD42. Or email: WOCComment@blm.gov. For more info, please visit www.blm.gov.

Join The Great Old Broads Today!

Great Old Broads are passionate about preserving wilderness. Our hearts and wills are strong, even if our backs and legs are not! *Please join today!*

Check one: New Member Renewal

Basic membership is \$30 per year. But dare to be different. Think Broadly and make up your own amount.

- Basic membership \$30 Wild Broad \$50
 Outrageous Broad \$100 or more Over-the-top Broad \$1,000 or more

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please do not share my contact information with like-minded organizations.

*All contributions to Broads are tax-deductible. For contributions of \$100 or more, we'll send you a short-sleeve T-shirt. T-shirts are \$15; long-sleeve \$20. Circle size (they run large!): small med large x-large (slim-fit is true to size)
 Circle Type: Short-sleeve long-sleeve slim-fit (sage/short-sleeve only)

****Know someone whose got the "Broads" spirit? Give them a Broads membership!****

**Send with check or money order to:
 Great Old Broads for Wilderness, PO Box 2924, Durango, CO 81302**



Libby Ingalls and Sarah Michaels check out Broads new sage slim fit T-shirts. Get yours today!

- Round window sticker or round button with Great Old Broads logo. \$1.50 each
- Dung to Dust* booklet \$4.05 or the equivalent of 3 Animal Unit Months (AUM).

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